

## DAY 2

### LESSON GUIDE



#### BIG IDEA

God gave us gifts to make a difference.

#### BIBLE

**Moses is Rescued:** Exodus 2:1–10

#### ABOUT THIS WEEK

The best dishes come together when everyone brings something to the table. Today, we'll see how Moses' mom, sister, and Pharaoh's daughter each used what they had to protect him, showing us that God can use anyone to do amazing things. When we use our talents to help others, we remember that **God gave us gifts to make a difference.**

#### WHAT? What are we talking about?

##### MUSIC | Flavors of Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to worship together with 2–3 songs that you and your kids love! For more music aligned with this VBS, check out [this playlist](#) we made for you!
- Welcome back to the kitchen, chefs! Get ready for another day of cookin' up new recipes—or maybe re-learning some old ones—for how to be close to God.
- When we cook, sometimes just a pinch of salt or a dash of spice can make all the difference in a recipe. Today, we'll discover how God works through us—even when it feels like we're only giving a little pinch or dash of what we have.
- Alright, chefs, the kitchen is open—let's fire it up and find out *What's Cookin'!*

##### ACTIVITY | Kitchen Change-Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This activity is a variation of Day 1's "Mise-en-Place Race" with an added challenge! You'll need a tray or small table and 15–20 kid-safe cooking-related items (measuring cups, utensils, bowls, plastic jars, toy food). Arrange the items neatly so they're visible to the group. Give everyone 20 seconds to observe the setup. Afterward, have one volunteer turn around or step outside briefly. While they're gone, move, remove, or swap a few items. Have the volunteer return and spot all the changes. For larger groups, set up more than one station or have kids play in teams.
- A seasoned chef can sense when even the smallest things are off about their kitchen or their food. In this game, some of the changes were big, but others were really small, yet they still made a difference!
- Sometimes, we think we have to do something huge or dramatic for it to matter. But just like moving a spoon or swapping a spice jar changed the whole tray, small actions in real life can have a big impact, too.



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### ACTIVITY | Build a Basket

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, provide a variety of basket-building materials such as strips of paper or [foam sheets](#), aluminum foil, cardboard, craft sticks, straws, paper plates or bowls, and waterproof fasteners such as string, yarn, or rubber bands. Place a large container or tub filled with water on top of a tarp or towels. Have kids work in teams to use the provided materials to create baskets that will float. Once their baskets are built, test them by placing each one gently in the water. Then add lightweight and heavier food items (or realistic play food), such as a croissant, apple, orange, or small loaf of bread, to see if the basket holds without sinking or falling apart.
- Baskets have lots of uses in a kitchen. They can store fruits, vegetables, bread, utensils,... even cleaning supplies. A basket might seem light, but if you make one correctly, it can carry things that are heavier than itself.
- In today's story, we'll see how one little basket made a huge difference and changed the history of the world!

### POLL | Real or Artificial Cooking Words?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a mix of artificial and real cooking words from the suggestions below to use in a poll. Call out one word at a time, and have kids make a "stirring the pot" motion with both hands if they think it's a made-up cooking word. If they think it's a real cooking word, have them do the "[chef's kiss](#)" motion! Here are some real and artificial words you can choose from!
  - **Real cooking terms:** Braise, broil, brown, caramelize, dice, fold it in, fry, garnish, glaze, julienne, knead, pan-fry, poach, reduce, roast, sauté, sear, simmer, steam, stir-fry, whisk, zest.
  - **Artificial words:** Beefening, breadify, butterfly, caramelize, chocolize, crispify, crumblate, eggify, foldinize, fryzzle, glazinate, pepperonization, quartate, simmerize, sweetenize, toastification, and zestify.
- In a big, busy kitchen, it's important for chefs to know all the words related to cooking. **How did you do, chefs?**
- Sometimes it was easy to tell which cooking words were real and which ones were totally made up. But other times, the difference was just one little change in the word! Even a tiny difference can change everything.
- In today's Bible story, we'll see how God made a big difference using people and actions that might have seemed small or easy to overlook.

### SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?



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### SCRIPTURE | Exodus 2:1–10 (Moses is Rescued)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage and retell the Bible story using the Scripture segments and talking points provided below. To tie in your storytelling with the theme, consider wearing a [toque](#) (chef's hat) and [apron](#) as you take on the persona of a head chef! As you are teaching, encourage kids to respond to you by saying "Yes, Chef!" or "No, Chef!" For today's teaching, you'll need a plastic plate and a dish rag.

- You can take the theme further in your teaching by introducing a "secret ingredient" as an object lesson during the Bible story.
- Place the secret ingredient (a clear cup or bottle of water) under the [serving dome](#) on the table ahead of time and get ready for a dramatic reveal as part of the lesson like in Day 1.
- Welcome back to the kitchen, chefs! Who's ready to turn up the heat and cook up today's story from the Bible?
  - It's a lot of wok running a big kitchen like this. **And do you know what one of the most important jobs is?** I'll give you a hint. (*Hold up a dish and pretend to dry it.*) That's right. The dishwasher!
  - Why? Think about it.
  - If there aren't clean pots, pans, dishes, and utensils ready to go, nothing else can happen! The grill chef can't cook, the pastry chef can't bake, and we definitely can't serve food to anyone. The whole kitchen slows down.
- In today's story, we'll see how God sometimes gives important jobs to people who might not seem like the first choice—the ones others might not notice. But just like in a kitchen, every role matters, and sometimes the quietest job turns out to be the most important.
  - **But before we begin, are you ready for today's secret ingredient?**
  - **The secret ingredient is...** (*lift the serving dome to reveal*) **water!** We'll find out soon how this secret ingredient works into today's story.
- Today's story begins in Egypt, where Jacob's family, the Hebrews, were living. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, was especially unkind to the Hebrews even though they were God's people. Pharaoh forced them to work very hard.
- But even though Pharaoh tried to wear them down, their families kept growing. So he gave a terrible order: every baby boy born to a Hebrew family had to be thrown into the Nile River.
  - Pharaoh did this because he wanted to stop the Hebrew families from growing. He thought that if there were too many Hebrews, they might become too powerful and decide to join together and fight back.
  - It was a very dark and scary time for God's people, but God had a plan.  
**Let's read Exodus 2:1–3.**
- One mother decided to show incredible courage. She knew Pharaoh's order, but she hid her baby for three whole months. Then, she made an even braver choice. She prepared a waterproof basket and gently placed her baby inside. She sent him floating down the river.
  - Imagine how scared she was. She had hidden her baby every day, hoping no one would find him. But now, she hoped someone kind would find and save him.
  - **Let's read Exodus 2:4–6 and see what happened next.**
- The baby had an older sister, who followed the floating basket from a distance. That took a lot of courage! She knew that if an Egyptian found the baby, they might follow Pharaoh's order and throw him into the water. She didn't know what would happen, so she kept watching... until something surprising happened.
- Pharaoh's daughter opened the basket and saw a crying baby. She felt sorry for the baby.

- Even though her own father ordered all Hebrew boys to be thrown into the water, she had compassion for the baby. She wanted to keep him safe.
- **Let's read Exodus 2: 7–9 to see what happens next.**
- The baby's sister bravely spoke to Pharaoh's daughter and cleverly arranged for her mother to take care of the baby—and Pharaoh's daughter agreed!
  - Now, the baby was safe, being cared for by his own mother. Pharaoh's daughter even paid her money! **Isn't God incredible, chefs?**
  - **Now, let's read Exodus 2:10 to see how it ends.**
- The baby was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and named Moses.
  - Pharaoh's cruel order didn't win. Moses was rescued and even became part of Pharaoh's own family!
  - God was working behind the scenes all along, using people to carry out a plan no one could have ever imagined.
- God gives all of us different abilities to carry out God's plans on this earth. Through the courage, cleverness, and compassion of the baby's mother, the baby's sister, and the Pharaoh's daughter, Moses' life was saved.
  - **Remember what the name Moses means, chefs?** "I drew him out of the water."
  - And water is today's secret ingredient. Water was meant for harm when Pharaoh issued the order to drown baby Hebrew boys. But water saved the baby's life by keeping him afloat and taking him downstream to Pharaoh's daughter.
  - There are so many things we wouldn't be able to cook without water. How would you boil an egg or cook pasta? How would you make soups and sauces? Water has so many uses and so much potential—that means it can do lots of amazing things! And so can we.
- And that's it from our kitchen today! Until we *meat* again, chefs... remember, whether you're chopping, stirring, or setting the table, every job matters—and God can work through you to make a real difference!



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### BIG IDEA | God gave us gifts that make a difference.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a small, sturdy shelf stocked with (or display on a table) various kitchen pantry items, such as canned goods, cereal boxes, ingredient jars, and pasta boxes, and a whiteboard or wall space. Write each word of today's Big Idea on separate small pieces of paper or pieces of tape. Place or tape each word under a different kitchen pantry item. Invite kids to search for the words. As words are found, read them aloud and display them on a whiteboard or wall in the order they're revealed. Once all the words have been found, challenge the group to rearrange the words to uncover the Big Idea.*
- God gave each of us something special! The Bible calls these gifts, but that doesn't mean a wrapped present. A gift is a special ability, talent, or quality that God gives us to use for good.
- Everyone can show things like kindness, courage, or creativity. But we know it's a gift from God when we use it to love others, help them, and point them toward God. That's what makes it different—it's not just being kind or brave for ourselves, it's God working through us to make a difference.

- Even if it feels small, when we use our gifts, they can make a big difference in the lives of others. **God gave us gifts that make a difference!**

### VIDEO | A Clip From *Paddington 2*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [this clip](#) (6:21-8:22) from [Paddington 2](#), or something similar, where Paddington convinces Chef Knuckles to notice the inmates happily eating, which leads to others to start sharing what they can contribute to the kitchen.
  - View the clip beforehand to ensure it's a good fit for your context. [Read this](#) for more information on legally using copyrighted material for educational purposes.
- In *Paddington 2*, Paddington is wrongfully accused of a crime and sent to prison. There, he meets the grumpy prison chef, Knuckles, and shows courage by teaching him how to make marmalade sandwiches. Paddington uses his gift of encouragement to help Chef Knuckles believe he can do good, and this act leads other prisoners to use their gifts of cooking, too.
- In today's Bible story, Moses' mother, sister, and Pharaoh's daughter all used their gifts to save Moses. His mother's love and courage kept him safe, his sister's quick thinking watched over him from afar, and Pharaoh's daughter's compassion and bravery gave him a new home.
- Each of them made a big difference by using the gifts God gave them, and we can, too. God gives each of us special gifts, like helpfulness, leadership, and creativity, that we can use to help others and make change.
- **God gave us gifts that make a difference!**



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Allergy warning!

### OBJECT LESSON | Taste Test

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, fill 4–5 pitchers of plain water ahead of time. Add slices of lemon, strawberry, orange, mint leaves, or cucumber (1 ingredient per pitcher), and stir well. Keep the ingredients a secret from the kids. During the object lesson, pour a small amount of flavored water into small cups for tasting. Ask the kids to taste the water in each cup and guess which ingredient was added. After everyone has guessed, reveal the answer. Repeat with each pitcher.
  - Check for fruit or mint allergies before tasting and adjust ingredients as needed.
- Water doesn't have any flavor of its own, but adding just a little bit of fruit or vegetable can make a big difference in how it tastes. This is a lot like the way God works through each of us. God gives each of us different combinations of special gifts—like encouraging, teaching, compassion, and patience—and even small actions, like saying something kind or reaching out to someone, can make a big difference in their life. Just like a small piece of fruit can make water sweeter, **God gave us gifts that make a difference!**

### VIDEO | Teaching Video (Day 2)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today's [episode](#) of Grow TV.

**NOW WHAT?** What does God want us to do about it?



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**REFLECTION | Your Place at the Table**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give each kid a paper plate, and have them write their name or draw a simple picture of themselves in the center. Then, pass the plates around the group. As each student receives a plate, they write a word or phrase of encouragement around the edge. Give a few examples to help kids get started: "You're kind," "You're good at telling jokes," "You're creative." When they get their plates back, have them spend a quiet moment reading through these words. You might want to include more leaders in this activity so everyone gets back plenty of kind affirmations.
- Sometimes we forget who we are and who God made us to be. But when that happens, guess what? We've got a reminder—right here on our plates! These words show little glimpses of the good stuff God already put inside you, things others can see, too! God made you creative, kind, brave, and full of ideas to share!
- And here's the best part—you don't have to wait to use those gifts. You can start today! Even a tiny act of caring can make a huge difference.
- Hold out your plate and remember, you bring a lot to the table... because **God gave us gifts to make a difference!**



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**RESPONSE | Recipe Box**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, each kid will need their "recipe box" from Day 1, a copy of today's [handout](#), scissors, a glue stick, and writing utensils. Provide extra recipe boxes for kids who are new today.
  - To prepare today's "recipe card," have kids fold the paper lengthwise (hot dog style), then glue the two halves together. Then have them fold it again widthwise (hamburger style) to create a quarter-page card with the "Use your gifts" tab on top. With the paper still folded, have kids cut out the shaded area to create a tabbed edge.
  - Next, encourage kids to write or draw their responses to the prompts. You can choose to let kids take their cards home each day or collect them in their boxes to take home at the end of VBS.
- Many chefs keep their best recipes in a box. We're building our own Recipe Boxes—not for food, but for how to grow with God. You'll write or draw what you learned and how you can live it out, and add it to your collection of spiritual recipes to take home!
- Today's recipe will help us remember that **God gave us gifts to make a difference!**
- **Ingredients.** Every recipe starts with the right ingredients. Let's get thinking about what we need to practice today's Big Idea.
  - **What are some gifts or talents you feel God has given you?**
  - **Who has helped you discover your gifts?**
- **Steps.** Recipes also have steps to follow. This helps us plan how we'll actually live out what we learned today.
  - **Choose one place where your gift could make a difference—where is it?**
  - **Who could you help this week with your gifts?**



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- **Stir-Ups.** Sometimes recipes get messy! We can take note of what might stir up challenges and think about how we can keep going.
  - **What is a gift or talent you don't have yet but would like to grow in? Why?**
  - **Who can help you grow in this gift?**
- **Taste Test.** Chefs taste their food to see how it turned out. After you use your gifts this week, you can look back at what you tried and write notes about it.
  - **What did you notice or feel when you used your gifts?**
  - **What will you remember for next time?**
- When you use your gifts according to this recipe, you'll help serve up God's goodness to others. Now that's *What's Cookin'!*

### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 34:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- **"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."**

### PRAYER

- God, thank you for giving us gifts that can help other people. Please help us notice when someone needs our help, then show us what we can do for them. Remind us every day that even a small word or act of kindness can change someone's life. Amen.