For years, Echoes curriculum has been one of the most widely used resources for African-American churches. Every lesson is easy to use, teacher friendly, strengthens the entire church body with a shared quarterly theme, and is certain to keep your classes engaged with relevant Scriptural content that applies to their everyday lives.

Features Include:

- Easy-to-use four-step lessons make teaching a snap
- Bible-based lessons encourage application in real-life situations
- Shared quarterly themes, across all age levels, tie the study of God’s Word together
- ISSL lessons offered to suit the needs of your adult classes
- Flexible and affordable to meet any church budget
- Free weekly downloads through EchoesDownloaded.com tie into current news stories and topics to take your class deeper into the lesson

Special Features Include:

- Quarterly Superintendent’s handbook helps leaders unify their Sunday school
- African-American Book Review presented in high school Blueprint
- Highlights in Black History featured quarterly in teacher’s guides for preschool through adult
- Ministry tips and ideas and quick references assist teachers in each lesson
- Appealing African-American artwork and engaging content for students of all ages
Lesson Overview

**Faith Calls for Perseverance**

The Boldness—

The Book of Hebrews tells us Christians can confidently stand before God and present their petitions to Him. All God's children have the privilege of pouring out their hearts to Him, talking with Him, and receiving personal answers.

The Blood—

Before Christ's death, a thick veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, the room in the temple symbolizing God's presence. If anyone were to go into the Most Holy Place other than the high priest, it meant certain death. The high priest entered once a year on the Day of Atonement with sacrificial animal blood on his hands. He was the only one who could enter, and this was the only way to approach God to ask for the removal of the people's sins (Lev. 16:11-17).

When Christ hung His head and died on the cross, the temple veil tore from top to bottom, without any human effort! It was as if God Himself declared, "My Son Jesus destroyed the dividing wall between Myself and man." No more sacrifices are needed to reconcile God to man. Instead we can come to Him with arms outstretched like a little child, saying, "Thank You, Daddy."

The Believers—

The Book of Hebrews encourages brothers and sisters in Christ, as much as possible, to gather together to encourage each other with the promises stated in the Bible. Jesus will return soon. Brothers and sisters need to constantly pray about ways to love and help each other stay committed and grow in the Lord.

The Ban—

The Gospel message is all over television, billboards, and the Internet, yet many people are still deceived and blinded. "I'll get into heaven my way," they think, by giving money, going to church, trying to be good—all manmade ways to try to reach heaven. But God is serious; there is only one way into His presence. The blood of Jesus has paid the price of our sins.

Suggested Material for As Your Students Arrive:

- A cross and something opaque to cover it with, such as a towel or a handkerchief
- 1 Life Need: Discuss ways that someone's perseverance was rewarded.
- 2 Bible Learning: Learn why we need to persevere in believing what we know to be true about Jesus.
- Suggested Material: Adult Teacher's Resource Kit:
  - Poster and reproducible sheet—Hebrews: A Definition of Faith
- 3 Bible Application: Discuss what we can do so we persevere in our faith.
- Suggested Material:
  - Adult Teacher's Resource Kit: Reproducible worksheet—Persevering Together
  - Two sheets of newsprint, colored markers, adhesive tape
- 4 Life Response: Make a commitment to persevere in your faith.

Lesson Scripture:

Hebrews 10:19-31

Lesson Focus:

Together we persevere in faith.

Church/Home Theme:

God Our Creator Calls Us Perfect for All Ages

With *Echoes*, you can select curriculum by a specific age level or customize it to provide one solution for all.

**Toddler** (18-36 months)

**Preschool** (3 years-Pre-Kindergarten)

**Early Elementary** (Kindergarten-1st Grade)

**Elementary** (2nd-3rd Grade)

**Upper Elementary** (4th-5th Grade)

**Middle School** (6th-8th Grade)

**High School** (9th-12th Grade)

**Adult** – Comprehensive Bible Study (ISSL)

**Adult** – Understanding the Bible (book-by-book study)

Scope & Sequence

**Toddler through Early Elementary** – 2 Year Cycle

**Elementary through High School** – 3 Year Cycle

**Adult Comprehensive Bible Study** – 6 Year Cycle

**Adult Understanding the Bible** – 8 Year Cycle

To view the complete Scope & Sequence visit www.DavidCCook.com/Echoes

Format

Family-friendly

Classroom model

Printed curriculum

Additional online resources available
Jesus Cares for a Lonely Woman

BIBLE BASIS
Jesus talks with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-26).

BIBLE TRUTH
Jesus cares for us even when we seem to be all alone.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE
He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

LESSON AIM
That your students will know that they are important to Jesus even when they feel all alone.

LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)
- Play a game to get to know each other
  Materials: A ball

BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)
- Teach with pictures about how Jesus called on a Samaritan woman when she was lonely, to tell her He cared about her
- Review with questions
  Materials: Bible, tape, craft sticks, “Jesus Talks with the Woman at the Well” Teaching Aid for Lesson 1

BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)
- Practice the Bible Memory Verse with a poem
- Color a picture of a father with his child; add teddy bear
  Materials: Preschool Make-It/Take-It project and add-on figure for Lesson 1, crayons, glue sticks, yarn, tape; Optional—soft fabric scraps

LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)
- Tell a story of a present-day child who feels alone and remembers that Jesus loves him
- Sing a song about Jesus’ love for each child
  Materials: My Sunday Pictures Lesson 1 and Family Card A, DisKit

This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.
Understanding the Bible

During Jesus’ time what we call the Holy Land (or Palestine) was divided into three sections. From north to south they were (1) Galilee—in the north (where Jesus spent most of His adult ministry); (2) Samaria—in the middle; and (3) Judea—in the south.

Jesus was en route from Judea to Galilee when He passed through the region of Samaria. Most Jews avoided this region when they went to Galilee because they thought the Samaritans were unclean. But Jesus deliberately chose to travel through Samaria where He made a special call on a Samaritan woman at a well.

When we come to the matter of the Jews and Samaritans, we face the old tension of differences, which still raise controversy even in modern times. There was a long hate history between Jews and Samaritans. Samaritans were usually considered by Jews to be people of the land who had intermarried in the past with the “enemy” (see 2 Kings 17:24). Male Jews in Jesus’ time prayed to God, thanking Him that they hadn’t been born Samaritans or women.

Jesus, however, who was Jewish (John 4:9; Heb. 7:14), did not hold those prejudices toward either a non-Jew or a woman.

Jesus came to Sychar, a small village near Shechem. Hundreds of years before this, Jacob bought land near Shechem (Gen. 33:18-19). Jacob’s well was also built near here.

When Jesus reached the well, about noon, He met this Samaritan woman. Most women went to draw their water near the end of the day when it was cooler. Because of her bad reputation, this woman chose to go to the well at a time when she would not be rejected by others.

The woman must have been surprised when she arrived at the well and saw a Jewish man sitting there, who asked her for a drink. Jewish people would not drink from anything that was handled by a Samaritan for fear of becoming unclean.

Jesus offered the woman a gift, the gift of “living water,” but she did not understand. Jesus tried to explain that the gift of living water was eternal life, but the woman still did not understand (John 4:13-15).

To help the woman see who He really was, Jesus revealed information about her past. Jewish law taught that people should be married only one time. She had been married five times and the man she was currently living with was not even her husband.

In spite of her reputation and sin, Jesus called out to her and offered her the Creator’s love and acceptance, meeting her greatest need.

Understanding Your Students

Language development is a major goal for your students. According to early childhood education experts, giving children opportunities to talk, listening to them, and giving them help with broadening their sentences is appropriate. With your help, students can explain their thoughts and feelings, even loneliness.

Teach them that Jesus can help them when they feel lonely.

Talk about situations such as when they want to play but others won’t, or a time of discipline. Your teaching can help your students learn that Jesus is with them when it seems that no one else is.

CLASSROOM TIPS

The tips below suggest ways to help children feel secure and know they are cared for at church.

- Help children enter their names on the attendance chart. Some may be able to write their name, others will need help. Use a pencil and have children draw a happy face or mark an X in the square. If you have small stickers, children can put a sticker in the square to mark their attendance.

- Help children get to know church family—the pastoral staff, choir members, ushers, and other members they see at church. Meeting these people and knowing them as church family will help give the children a feeling of security.

- If you plan to be gone one Sunday, try to introduce your substitute to your students the week before.

- If you see a child who is all alone, take time to talk with him or her. Encourage the child to participate in an activity. This helps them to feel loved and cared for.

WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Pray with your students. Ask God to help them in new situations and be with them when they feel lonely. Thank God that He always cares about us. Dear God, thank You for always loving and caring for us. We can talk to You when we’re with friends and when we’re alone. We love You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
Before Class

Give each child a personal greeting as they come to class. If you have any new students, introduce them to the others, one at a time. Help children mark the attendance chart provided in the Creative Teaching Aids packet. Because preschoolers lose small coins easily, collect any offerings right away.

Getting Started

You may play DisKit music as you prepare for class. Have one or more of the following activities available for your students to do while you are greeting their classmates at the door.

- **Bulletin Board:** Use the artwork from Make-It/Take-It page 3 to create a bulletin board. Children can color the people figures and the bus. You might draw a town with streets. A possible title might be, “We Are All Important to Jesus.” We will learn today that Jesus cares for us even when we seem to be all alone.

- **Blocks:** Play with blocks. Jesus cares about you when you play with friends and even when you play alone.

- **Books and Pictures:** Look at pictures of individual children. Do you like playing by yourself? Sometimes we’re alone, but Jesus is always with you!

Life Need

**Objective:** That your students will play a game and get to know each other to prepare for the Bible story.

Once the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, introduce the game. Playing a name game with introductions helps the children get to know each other and helps them feel important. It will prepare them to understand today’s Bible story when Jesus talked with the lonely Samaritan woman at the well and made her feel important.

Do you know who everyone in our class is? Today we are going to play a game to help us learn each other’s names. My name is [be sure to use the name you want the children to call you in class]. Each of you has a name that is very important.

Begin by saying the following rhyme as you roll the ball to a child.

- **My name is [name].**
- **How do you do?**
- **Tell us your name.**
- **We’d like to meet you.**

Have the child holding the ball roll it to another child substituting his or her name in the rhyme. Continue this game until everyone has had a turn. Put the ball away where the children won’t be distracted by it.

It was fun to learn who everyone is. Let’s learn more about each other. Be sure to allow time for each child to say something as you discuss the next two questions. This gives every child an opportunity to connect to the Bible story through his or her own experience.

**Who can tell us how old they are?** (Preschoolers love to share exactly how old they are. Some of the children will mention that they are four-and-a-half years old instead of being 4. Each passing year, and even half a year, helps them feel more independent and able to do “grown-up” things.)

**Who can tell us when their birthday is?** (Some children will know the month and even the day of their birthdays. Remember that time doesn’t mean much to them. They may think their birthday was yesterday when it really was last month).

Meeting each other and learning a little bit about each other helps us feel important and not lonely. Our Bible story is about a woman who was lonely but then she met Jesus and learned she was important to Him.
Before class, punch out the figures from “Jesus Talks with the Woman at the Well” Teaching Aid for Lesson 1. Tape figures 1, 3, and 4 to craft sticks or pencils to make a puppet. Loop the stand for the well in a circle and tape the ends together. Tape the circle on the back of the well to make the well stand up. Place the figures in the order you will use them. Open your Bible to John 4 as you tell the Bible story below.

**Bible Story**
The Bible tells us that Jesus and His disciples were on a long journey. They were on their way home through another country. (“Walk” Figure 1, the standing Jesus, in front of you. Have children pat their knees.) Left foot, right foot. Jesus had been walking a long time. It was about noon and He was tired and thirsty.

(Stand Figure 2, the well, in front of you. Move Jesus, Figure 1, toward the well.)

Soon Jesus came to a place with a well. That’s where Bible-time people got water. Jesus decided to stop and rest by the well. (Replace the standing Jesus, Figure 1, with the sitting Jesus, Figure 3.) Jesus’ disciples went to the nearby town to buy food.

Soon a Samaritan woman came to the well to get water. (Have children pat their knees. “Walk” the woman, Figure 4, to the well, Figure 2.) She brought a jar so she could bring water home from the well. She was all alone and very lonely.

(Have Jesus, Figure 3, face the woman, Figure 4.)

Jesus asked the woman, “Will you give me a drink of water?”

The woman was surprised. She said, “How can you ask me for a drink? You are from a different country. People from Your country usually don’t talk to us.”

Jesus told the woman, “You don’t know who is asking you for a drink of water. If you did, you would have asked Him for something better than the water from this well.” Jesus knew that God knew about the woman and cared for her. He wanted to help her know about God.

Jesus also told the woman about wrong things she had done. Again the woman was surprised. Jesus knew all about her and He still cared about her. She knew then that Jesus was someone very special.

She listened carefully as Jesus told her about something wonderful. Jesus told her that He was the Savior God had promised to send into the world.

That was why Jesus knew about her! Jesus, the Son of God, knew who she was. The woman left her jar at the well and ran back to the town. She told her neighbors all about Jesus. (Remove the woman, Figure 4. Pat your knees.)

Jesus knew all about the lonely Samaritan woman. Jesus knows and cares about us too.

**Bible Story Review**
Let your students move the figures from “Jesus and the Samaritan Woman” Teaching Aid as you review.

1. Jesus was walking when He came to a well. He was very thirsty. What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for? (A drink of water.)
2. Was the woman lonely? (Yes.)
3. Jesus didn’t have a jar to get water from the well. He asked the woman to get water for Him. The woman didn’t know why Jesus was asking her for water since the people from her country and Jesus’ countries weren’t friends.
4. What did the woman say to Jesus? (“Why are You asking me for a drink?”)
5. Why did Jesus talk to the woman? (He cared for the lonely woman. He wanted to tell her that He was the Savior God had promised.)
6. Did that make the woman happy? (Yes.)
7. What did the woman do? (She ran to tell others about Jesus.)
8. Do you think the woman was still lonely? (No.)
**Bible Application**

**10 minutes**

**Objective:** That your students will know that Jesus cares for them even when they seem to be all alone.

---

**Bible Memory Verse**

As you say the following action rhyme, have your students listen for the Bible Memory Verse, “He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:7). Ask children to raise their hands when they hear the Bible Memory Verse in the rhyme below.

**Jesus Cares**

Jesus cares if you cry,  
(Touch cheeks.)
If you’re tall or small.  
(Reach high, then low.)
He wants you to be happy.  
(Point to smile.)
He cares for you all.  
(Point to children.)

Jesus does care for you. The Bible tells us that “He cares for you.” It makes us feel very good to know that we are important to Jesus.

**Handcraft**

In advance, remove Lesson 1 and the add-on figure for Lesson 1 from the center section of Make-It/Take-It. Cut an eight-inch piece of yarn for each child.

Pass out the projects and let each child do his or her best coloring of the picture of the father and his son. It does not matter if some children scribble. That is appropriate for their age. Or they may only want to focus on the add-on figure. Help them tape or glue the add-on teddy bear to the X on the picture. **Optional**—provide soft fabric scraps such as flannel for the children to paste onto the child’s clothes or to take home to finish their projects.

When your students are finished, tape a piece of yarn at the tops of their pictures. Encourage them to take their pictures home to complete and to hang in their bedrooms.

**Jesus talked to the woman at a well when she was all alone. Can you tell about some times when you might feel all alone and frightened?**  
(Allow students to respond. Children may say at bedtime, when it is dark, when they are in a new class at school or church)

**We don’t need to feel lonely or scared because Jesus cares about us and is with us even when no other person is nearby.** You can hang this picture by your bed. It will remind you that Jesus loves you, that you are important to Him, and He will always care for you.
**Life Response**

10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will believe that they are important to Jesus and that He cares.

Read aloud to your students “The Cookie Jar” from *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 1, back.

**Present-Day Story**

Curtis’s mama was on the phone with Beverly, the next-door neighbor. Curtis reached into the cookie jar. *(Have children pretend to tip-toe, sneaking.)*

“Curtis! Go sit in that chair!” Mrs. Johnson yelled. *How did she know? She couldn’t see me. She was in the other room,* Curtis thought. Curtis sat in the chair. He felt all alone. *(Have children hang their heads.)*

Curtis started humming the Sunday school song he had learned:

- Jesus cares if you cry,
- If you’re tall or small.
- He wants you to be happy.
- He cares for you all.
- He felt better. *(Smile.)* Knowing Jesus loves and cares for him made Curtis happy.

Just then, Curtis’s daddy came home from work. Curtis’s mother finished cooking dinner. The family sat down at the kitchen table. They prayed to God and gave thanks. Curtis said he was sorry for trying to take a cookie.

Curtis and his family ate cookies for dessert. This was much better than eating a cookie alone!

**Closing Activities**

**Did Jesus care for Curtis when he felt lonely?** *(Yes.)* Jesus cares for everyone who is alone.

**What made Curtis feel better?** *(Singing the song he learned in Sunday school.)*

**Jesus cares for each of us. We are important to Him.**

Show children the Bible picture story on *My Sunday Pictures. Did Jesus care for the lonely Samaritan woman?* *(Yes.)*

Remind your students that Jesus cares about them as you play a DisKit song or sing “Jesus Loves Me.” Choose one child to stand in the middle while the others sing. When you sing “Jesus loves you,” substitute the name of the child who is standing in the middle. Continue in this fashion until all of your students have heard that Jesus cares for them.

End with a prayer to thank the Lord for His care. Have children repeat after you. *Dear Jesus, thank You for caring about us when we are lonely. And thank You that You always love us. Thank You for helping us know that we are important to You. We believe this. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Make certain that each child has his or her Make-It/Take-It handcraft projects as well as *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 1 card. You will also send home the *My Sunday Pictures* Family Card A. Explain to parents that the Family Card gives them information on what their child will be studying in Sunday school, the action rhyme they are learning in class to help them memorize the verse, as well as ideas for activities to do with their child.

Say a personal good-bye to each student. *Whenever you feel like you’re all alone, remember that Jesus cares about you very much. You are important to Him.*
He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7
FOR PARENTS

In class today your child heard about the time when Jesus talked with a Samaritan woman who felt all alone (John 4:4-26).

At home this week, help your child realize that Jesus is with us even when no other person is nearby. Generally, young children are most afraid of being alone at bedtime. Say a comforting prayer together each night and thank Jesus for being with us all of the time. You may wish to hang this project above your child’s bed as a prayer reminder.

Practice the Bible memory verse together: “He cares for you” 1 Peter 5:7.
Jesus was sitting by a well. He was resting. He was tired and very thirsty.

There was water in the well. But Jesus needed a jar to get the water out.

Soon a woman who was carrying a jar walked up to the well. Jesus told the woman, “I’m thirsty. Will you give Me a drink of water?”

The woman was quiet. She knew that she and Jesus were from two different countries. The people from those two places were not friends.

So the woman asked, “Why are You asking me for a drink?”

Jesus said, “I came to be a friend to everyone. I am God’s Son. If you love Me, I will always be your friend. You will never be alone.”

The woman was happy. She knew that Jesus cared about her. She ran to tell others about Jesus.
Curtis’s mama was on the phone with Beverly, the next-door neighbor. Curtis reached into the cookie jar.

“Curtis! Go sit in that chair!” Mrs. Johnson yelled. How did she know? She could not see me. She was in the other room, Curtis thought. Curtis sat in the chair. He felt all alone. Curtis started humming the Sunday school song he had learned:

“Jesus cares if you cry,
If you’re tall or small,
He wants you to feel happy.
He cares for you all.”

He felt better. Knowing Jesus loves and cares for him made Curtis happy.

Just then, Curtis’s daddy came home from work. Curtis’s mother finished cooking dinner. The family sat down at the kitchen table. They prayed to God and gave thanks. Curtis said he was sorry for trying to take a cookie.

Curtis and his family ate cookies for dessert. This was much better than eating a cookie alone!

**Bible Memory Verse**

He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

**Family Time** Feeling alone is frightening to a child. You can use this week’s Bible story to reassure your child that Jesus is always with him. To review the story, use toy figures and a bowl of water. You take the role of Jesus, and your child can be the Samaritan woman. As the woman is getting water from the well, have Jesus say, “Please don’t be lonely. Remember that I am with you and care about you.” Encourage your child to pray when he feels alone. Review the Bible memory verse.
Echoes for preschoolers presents a Sunday school experience that is alive with activity, creativity, and learning. Through interactive storytelling, music, crafts, and more, you’ll be able to keep the attention of your kids while building a foundation of faith.

**Teacher’s Commentary**

Thirteen easy-to-teach lessons guide teacher preparation and student application, both in class and at home. In every lesson, you’ll find Bible background information, tips on understanding and teaching preschoolers, and the Bible story—complete with review questions, activities, and application.

*One per teacher recommended.*

**Creative Teaching Aids**

An essential resource for teaching preschoolers, the Creative Teaching Aids include a quarterly attendance chart, Bible-art posters and figures, games, and a music CD.

*One per class recommended.*

**Make-It Take-It**

With simple classroom supplies, the crafts in this book help the Bible lessons learned at church to be meaningful throughout the week at home.

*One per student recommended.*

**My Sunday Pictures**

Weekly take-home cards present the Bible story and family activities to incorporate the Bible lesson at home.

*One per student recommended.*