

KIDS DISCOVER
WHERE JESUS WENT,
WHAT JESUS TAUGHT,
AND HOW IT IS
RELEVANT TODAY

Gospel Light's
KIDS@TIME

JOURNEY WITH JESUS



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Founder, Dr. Henrietta Mears • **Publisher**, William T. Greig • **Senior Consulting Publisher**, Dr. Elmer L. Towns • **Senior Consulting Editor**, Wesley Haystead, M.S.Ed. • **Senior Editor, Biblical and Theological Issues**, Bayard Taylor, M.Div.

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How to Use This Guide

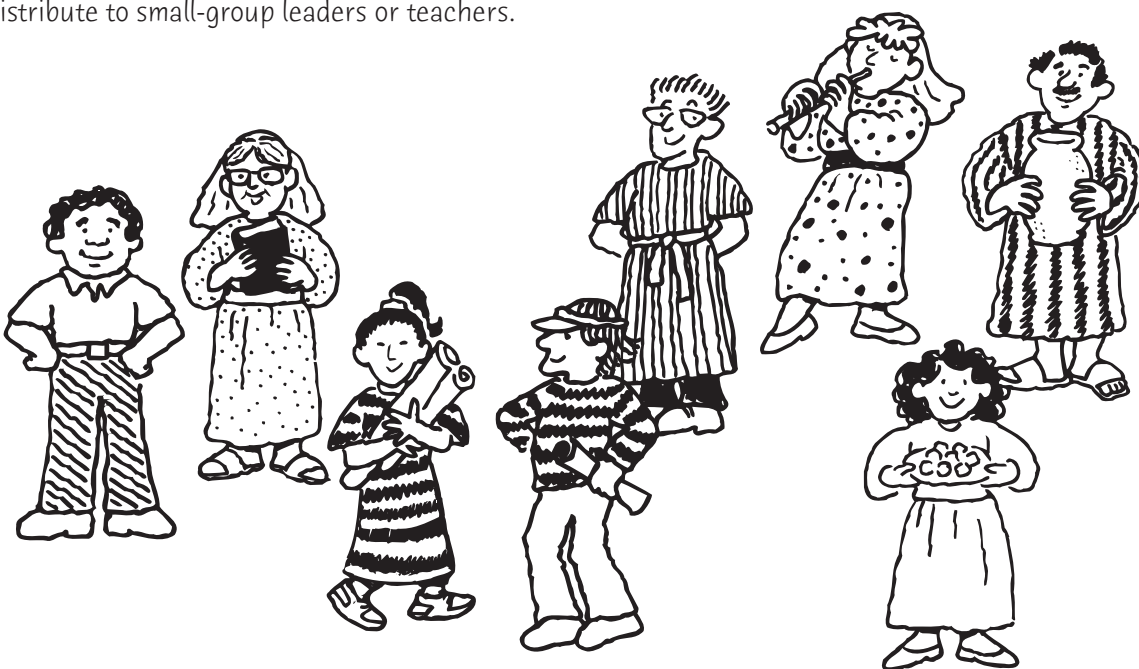
If you are a teacher or a small-group leader, follow these simple steps to lead your class in a journey through the cities where Jesus' ministry came alive.

1. Read "Journey with Jesus Overview" on pages 9-10 and the "Scope and Sequence" on page 11 to get an understanding of the purpose and goals of this curriculum.
2. Look at "Advice and Answers for Schedule Planning" on pages 14-18, choose the schedule that best fits your situation and decide which centers you will include.
3. Read the teaching tips articles (pp. 34-42) for each center you will lead, taking note of the ways you can make each center an effective learning experience for the kids in your group.

If you are the children's director or coordinator of *Journey with Jesus*, follow the above steps and add a few more!

1. Pay special attention to "Getting and Keeping the Very Best Staff" on pages 19-21. Remember to start recruiting early—several months before *Journey with Jesus* begins.
2. Read "Outreach Ideas," "Partnering with Parents," "Decorating Ideas" and "Theme Ideas" on pages 26-33 for exciting ideas to motivate interest in *Journey with Jesus*, special ways to involve parents, eye-catching decorating ideas and more!
3. Photocopy the materials you need for each session and distribute to small-group leaders or teachers.

**Combining preschoolers and elementary-age children in one small group of children?
Get advice for effective teaching of mixed ages by reading "Teaching Preschoolers and Elementary Children Together" on pages 24-25.**

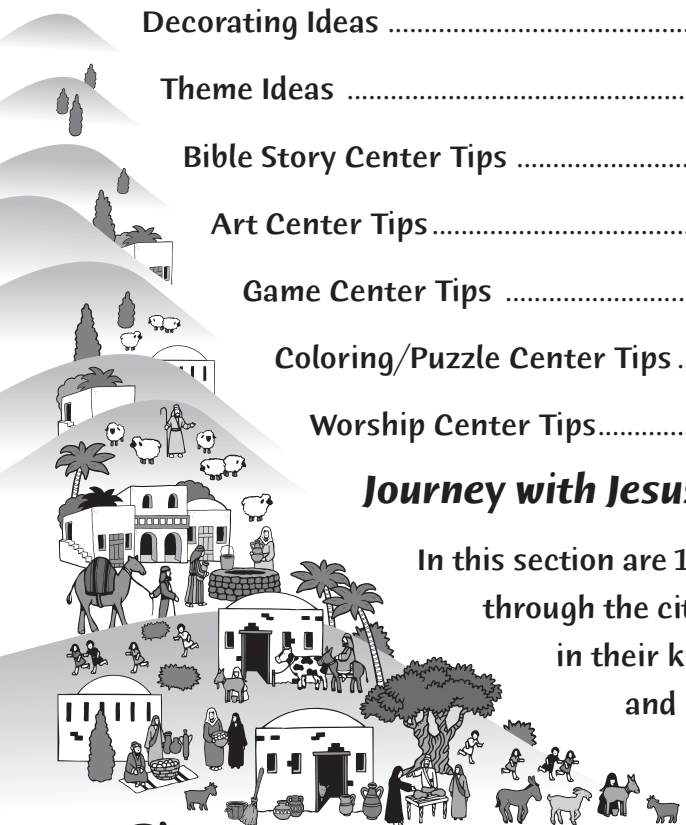


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In this section are 13 lessons to lead your students in a journey through the cities where Jesus' ministry came alive, growing in their knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is and how to live as His follower.

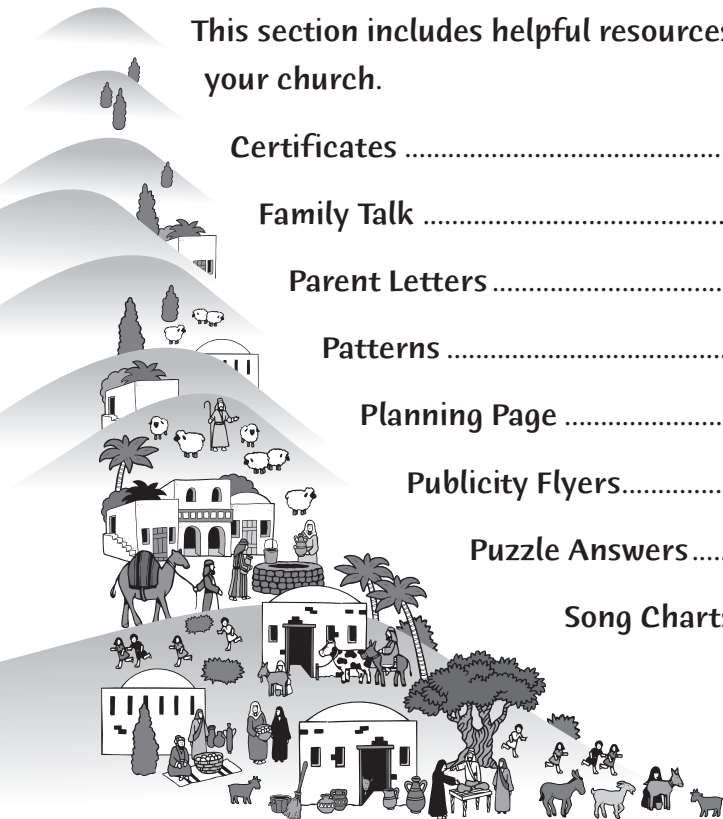
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Coordinator Information

This section contains concise and practical information that can help you plan and lead the *Journey with Jesus* program. Included in this section is an overview of the course, the scope and sequence, guidelines for recruiting, publicity suggestions, as well as tips for each of the activity centers in this program.

Journey with Jesus Overview

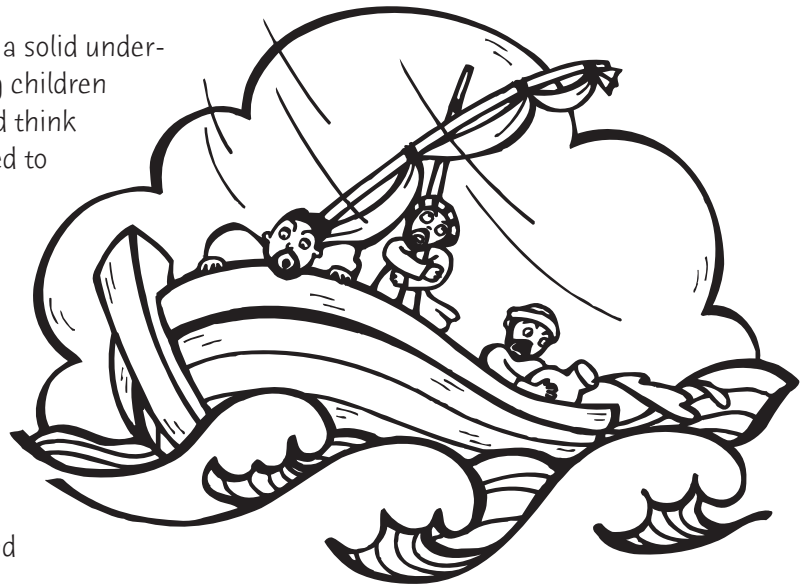
Welcome to *Journey with Jesus*, a 13-lesson adventure for children ages 3-12. The fun of traveling with Jesus through the cities where His ministry came alive is combined with the discovery of who Jesus is.

The Purpose and Goals

The purpose of *Journey with Jesus* is to give children a solid understanding of Jesus' life and ministry. Even very young children find it easy to respond to Jesus in a positive way and think of Him as their loving friend. This course is designed to help both preschool- and elementary-age children connect their daily lives with what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Each session provides the opportunity to guide children in experiencing Jesus' life and ministry firsthand. In all, children are introduced to 13 places Jesus walked and lived. As children study His attitudes and actions in-depth they will begin to develop an understanding of how to follow Him in their own lives (see p. 11 for a complete scope and sequence).

The study of Jesus' experience in each city will lead children to discover a key way in which they can be followers of Jesus. For example, children will celebrate with Jesus at a wedding party as they learn that they can put their confidence in Jesus. They will sail with Jesus on a stormy sea that ends with a dramatic rescue as they discover they can always call on Jesus for help. They will walk in the footsteps of Jesus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and then the Mount of Olives as they hear of Jesus' birth, death, resurrection and ascension as the great story of God's love for His children.

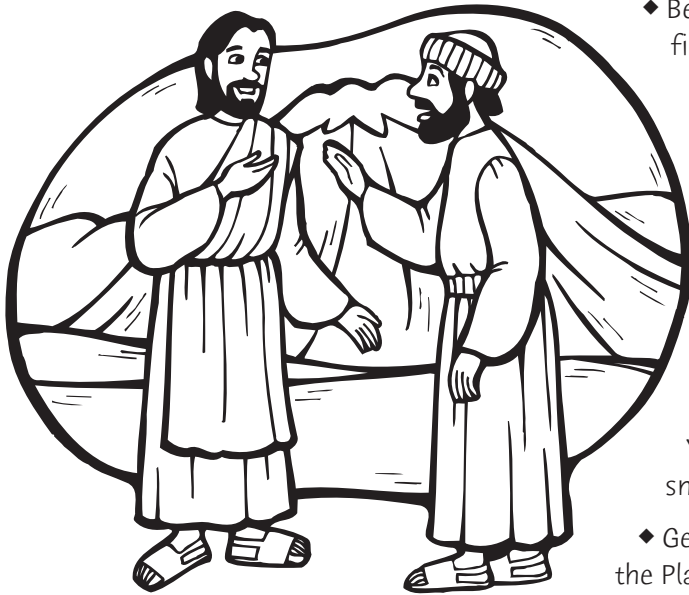


As children journey with Jesus, they will be led to consider the ways in which they can follow His example. Each lesson's Bible verse gives children a truth on which to base their actions. Children will learn such truths as the difference that believing in God's promises can make, the power of receiving God's forgiveness and the security that comes from talking to God in prayer.

After 13 *Journey with Jesus* sessions, your children will be well on their way to discovering the big picture of God's love and His plan of salvation shown through His Son, Jesus.

Special Features

◆ Each Bible story offers creative storytelling techniques to involve children in an active way. In addition, a unique Journey Option gives the teacher of elementary-age children a fun code or puzzle to help children focus on the Bible truth presented in the lesson.



◆ Because children learn in diverse ways, *Journey with Jesus* is filled with variety to appeal to kids' many learning styles. In each session, the students may participate in active games and creative art activities that will help them express what they are learning.

◆ The Worship Center provides ideas for worship and prayer as well as large-group participation in lively, kid-appealing games and songs.

◆ In each lesson, Bonus Theme Ideas are suggested to help create even more tour excitement for your students and leaders—and keep attendance and enthusiasm high. You'll find a variety of Bible times ideas, decorating ideas, snacks, games and more!

◆ Get a quick overview of each lesson's activities by referring to the Planning Page. This page can also function as a supply list for quickly collecting the materials your leaders and teachers need.

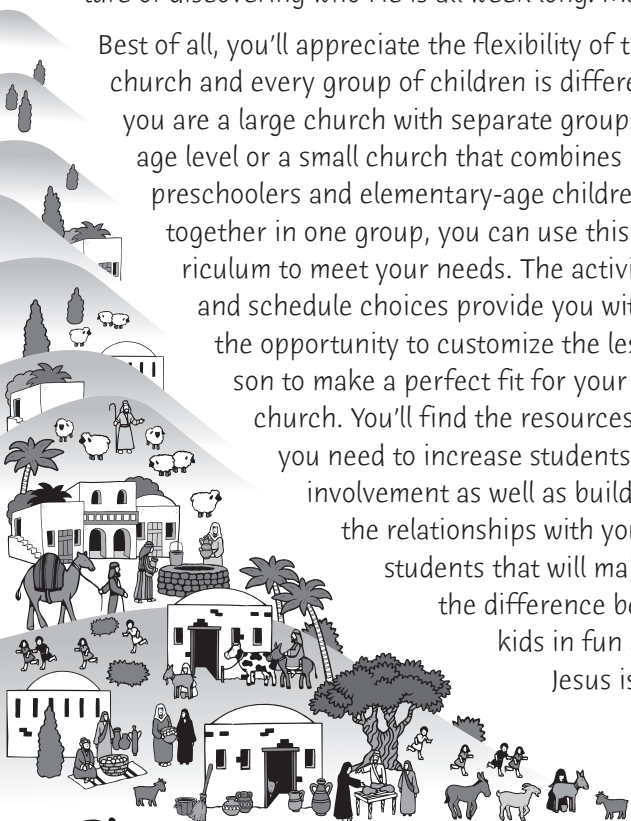
◆ *Journey with Jesus* Music CD offers fresh and fun music that will keep your kids singing about God and the adventure of discovering who He is all week long. Make a copy for every child to take home!

Best of all, you'll appreciate the flexibility of this course! Every church and every group of children is different. Whether you are a large church with separate groups for each age level or a small church that combines preschoolers and elementary-age children together in one group, you can use this curriculum to meet your needs. The activity and schedule choices provide you with the opportunity to customize the lesson to make a perfect fit for your church. You'll find the resources you need to increase students' involvement as well as build the relationships with your students that will make



the difference between simply leading

kids in fun activities and guiding them in a life-changing discovery of who Jesus is and what it means to be His followers.



Journey with Jesus Scope and Sequence

	Place	Life Focus	Bible Story	Memory Verse	Early Childhood Adaptation
1	Bethlehem: Amazing Arrival	God's promises always come true.	Luke 2:1-20	"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed." Joshua 23:14	"You know that not one of the good promises God gave you has failed."
2	Jordan: Supernatural Sighting	God's Word gives me strength to do right.	Matthew 3:13-4:11	"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13	"God is faithful."
3	Cana: Wedding Party Rescued	Put your confidence in Jesus.	John 2:1-11	"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him." Jeremiah 17:7	"Trust in the Lord."
4	Nazareth: Teacher Upsets Crowd	Thank Jesus for who He is and what He came to do.	Luke 4:14-30	"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16	"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."
5	Capernaum: Roof Collapses	Jesus takes away the punishment for our sins.	Mark 2:1-12	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9	"If we confess our sins, he will forgive us."
6	Galilee: Storm Rocks Boat	Call on Jesus for help.	Mark 4:35-41	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6	"Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."
7	Bethsaida: Blind No More	Jesus meets our needs in ways that are immeasurable!	Mark 8:22-26	"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19	"My God will meet all your needs."
8	Caesarea Philippi: Truth Revealed	Believing in Jesus is the only way to salvation.	Matthew 16:13-20	"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9	"Jesus is Lord."
9	Jericho: Tax Man Gets Big Return	Obedying God's commands gives us joy!	Luke 19:1-10	"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight." Psalm 119:35	"Direct me in . . . your commands."
10	Bethany: Dead Man Walks Out of Tomb	Because Jesus is our friend we can talk to Him about everything.	John 11:1-45	"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5	"The Lord is good."
11	Jerusalem: Week Changes World	Jesus' love leads to service.	John 13:1-17	"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4	"Look . . . also to the interests of others."
12	Jerusalem: Seeing Is Believing	Jesus wants us to believe in Him!	John 20:19-31	"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31	"Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God."
13	Mount of Olives: Awesome Ascension	Don't keep the good news of Jesus' love to yourself!	Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11	"Go and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always." Matthew 28:19-20	"I am with you always."

Leading a Child to Christ

Many adult Christians look back to their childhood years as the time when they accepted Christ as Savior. As children mature, they will grow in their understanding of the difference between right and wrong. They will also develop a sense of their own need for forgiveness and feel a growing desire to have a personal relationship with God.

However, the younger the child is the more limited he or she will be in understanding abstract terms. Children of all ages are likely to be inconsistent in following through on their intentions and commitments. Therefore, they need thoughtful, patient guidance in coming to know Christ personally and continuing to grow in Him.

Pray

Ask God to prepare the students in your group to receive the good news about Jesus and prepare you to communicate effectively with them.



Present the Good News

Use words and phrases that students understand. Avoid symbolism that will confuse these literal-minded thinkers. Remember that each child's learning will be at different places on the spectrum of understanding. Discuss these points slowly enough to allow time for thinking and comprehending.

- a. God wants you to become His child. Do you know why God wants you in His family? (See 1 John 3:1.)
- b. You and I and all the people in the world have done wrong things. The Bible word for doing wrong is "sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin? (See Romans 6:23.)
- c. God loves you so much, He sent His Son to die on the cross for your sins. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sins. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 4:14.) On the third day after Jesus died, God brought Him back to life.
- d. Are you sorry for your sins? Tell God that you are. Do you believe Jesus died to take the punishment for your sins? If you tell God you are sorry for your sins and tell Him you do believe and accept Jesus' death to take away your sins, God forgives all your sin. (See 1 John 1:9.)
- e. The Bible says that when you believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He is alive today, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. This means God is with you now and forever. (See John 3:16.)

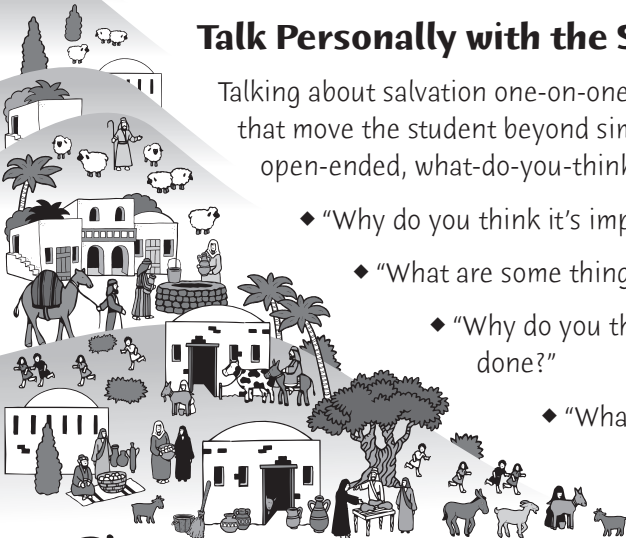
Give students many opportunities to think about what it means to be a Christian; expose them to a variety of lessons and descriptions of the meaning of salvation to aid their understanding.

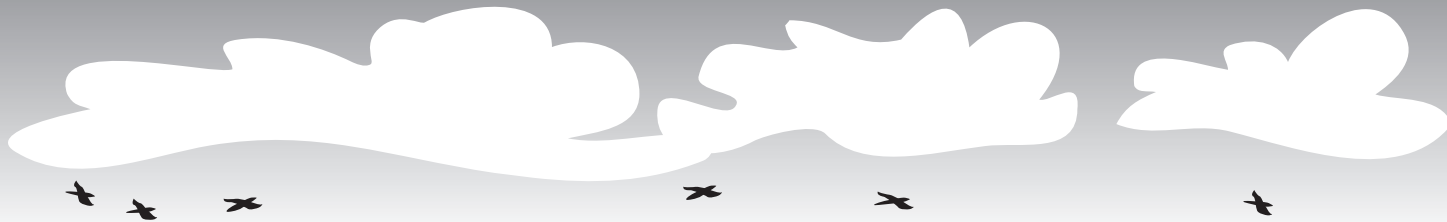
Talk Personally with the Student

Talking about salvation one-on-one creates the opportunity to ask and answer questions. Ask questions that move the student beyond simple yes or no answers or recitation of memorized information. Ask open-ended, what-do-you-think questions such as:

- ◆ "Why do you think it's important to . . . ?"
- ◆ "What are some things you really like about Jesus?"
- ◆ "Why do you think that Jesus had to die because of wrong things you and I have done?"
- ◆ "What difference do you think it makes for a person to be forgiven?"

When students use abstract terms or phrases they have learned previously, such as "accepting Christ into my heart," ask





them to tell you what the term or phrase means in different words. Answers to these open-ended questions will help you discern how much the student does or does not understand.

Offer Opportunities Without Pressure

Children normally desire to please adults. This characteristic makes them vulnerable to being unintentionally manipulated by well-meaning adults. A good way to guard against coercing a student's response is to simply pause periodically and ask, "Would you like to hear more about this now or at another time?" Loving acceptance of the student, even when he or she is not fully interested in pursuing the matter, is crucial in building and maintaining positive attitudes toward becoming part of God's family.

Give Time to Think and Pray

There is great value in encouraging a student to think and pray about what you have said before making a response. Also allow moments for quiet thinking about questions you have asked.

Respect the Student's Response

Whether or not a student declares faith in Jesus Christ, there is a need for adults to accept the student's action. There is also a need to realize that a student's initial responses to Jesus are just the beginning of a lifelong process of growing in the faith.

Guide the Student in Further Growth

There are several important parts in the nurturing process.

- Talk regularly about your relationship with God. As you talk about your relationship, the student will begin to feel that it's OK to talk about such things. Then you can comfortably ask the student to share his or her thoughts and feelings, and you can encourage the student to ask questions of you.
- Prepare the student to deal with doubts. Emphasize that certainty about salvation is not dependent on our feelings or doing enough good deeds. Show the student places in God's Word that clearly declare that salvation comes by grace through faith. (See John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 11:6; 1 John 5:11.)
- Teach the student to confess all sins. This means agreeing with God that we really have sinned. Assure the student that confession always results in forgiveness. (See 1 John 1:9.)

The Preschool Child and Salvation

- ◆ The young child is easily attracted to Jesus. Jesus is a warm, sympathetic person who obviously likes children, and children readily like Him. These early perceptions prepare the foundation for the child to receive Christ as Savior and to desire to follow His example in godly living. While some preschoolers may indeed pray to become a member of God's family, accepting Jesus as their Savior, expect wide variation in children's readiness for this important step. Allow the Holy Spirit room to work within His own timetable.
 - ◆ Talk simply. Phrases such as "born again" or "Jesus in my heart" are symbolic and far beyond a young child's understanding. Focus on how God makes people a part of His family.
 - ◆ Present the love of Jesus by both your actions and your words in order to lay a foundation for a child to receive Christ as Savior. Look for opportunities in every lesson to talk with a young child who wants to know more about Jesus.

Advice and Answers for Schedule Planning

Begin your planning for *Journey with Jesus* by choosing when you will schedule the program. This 13-lesson curriculum can be used effectively for second-hour programs, midweek programs or Sunday School. Because this program focuses on the life of Jesus, *Journey with Jesus* is perfect for children's programs between Christmas and Easter.

No matter when or where *Journey with Jesus* takes place, there are two main format options—Self-Contained Groups and the Learning Center Plan. Read the following descriptions and select the learning format that fits your needs.

Self-Contained Groups

If you are confined to a single room or have a small number of children, Self-Contained Groups may be your best option. In this format, groups of six to eight students are formed. Each group has a teacher who leads his or her group in the activities. (If the size of the group is larger, additional teachers or helpers are needed.)

The greatest benefit of Self-Contained Groups is that teachers are able to form meaningful relationships with the students since they remain together during the entire session.

Self-Contained Groups are often a good option for small churches.

Learning Center Plan

The Learning Center Plan offers an exciting recruiting and schedule variation for *Journey with Jesus*. In this plan, each teacher prepares and leads only one activity. Tour guides (adults, teenagers or even responsible seventh and eighth graders) lead groups of students to rotate between the centers. In other words, each teacher leads only one part

of the lesson. This specialization simplifies teacher preparation and often improves teaching effectiveness, as well as making it easier to recruit teachers. The Learning Center Plan also keeps inexperienced teachers from feeling overwhelmed. Teachers who don't enjoy leading games or who are apprehensive about telling Bible stories can leave those tasks to others more skilled in those areas.

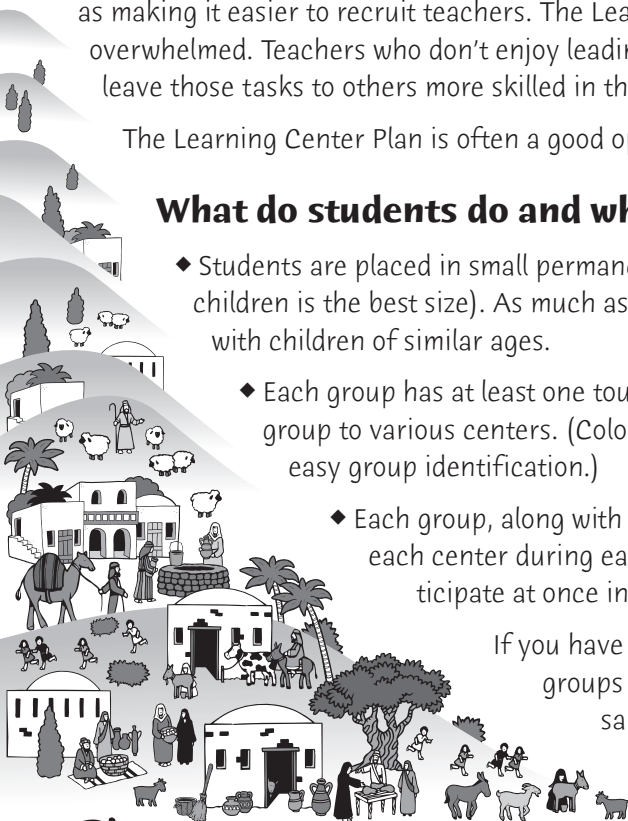
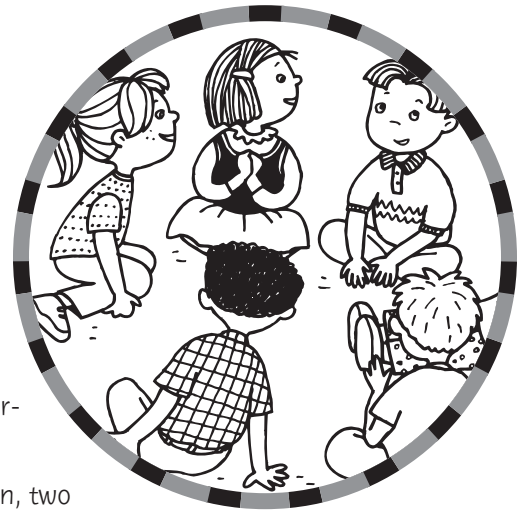
The Learning Center Plan is often a good option for medium or large churches.

If you want to combine preschool and elementary children in the same group, read "Teaching Preschoolers and Elementary Children Together" on pages 24-25.

What do students do and who leads them?

- ◆ Students are placed in small permanent groups (six to eight children is the best size). As much as possible, form groups with children of similar ages.
- ◆ Each group has at least one tour guide who leads the group to various centers. (Color code name tags for easy group identification.)
- ◆ Each group, along with its tour guide(s), visits each center during each session. All groups participate at once in the Worship Center.

If you have large numbers of children, two groups may participate in one center at the same time.

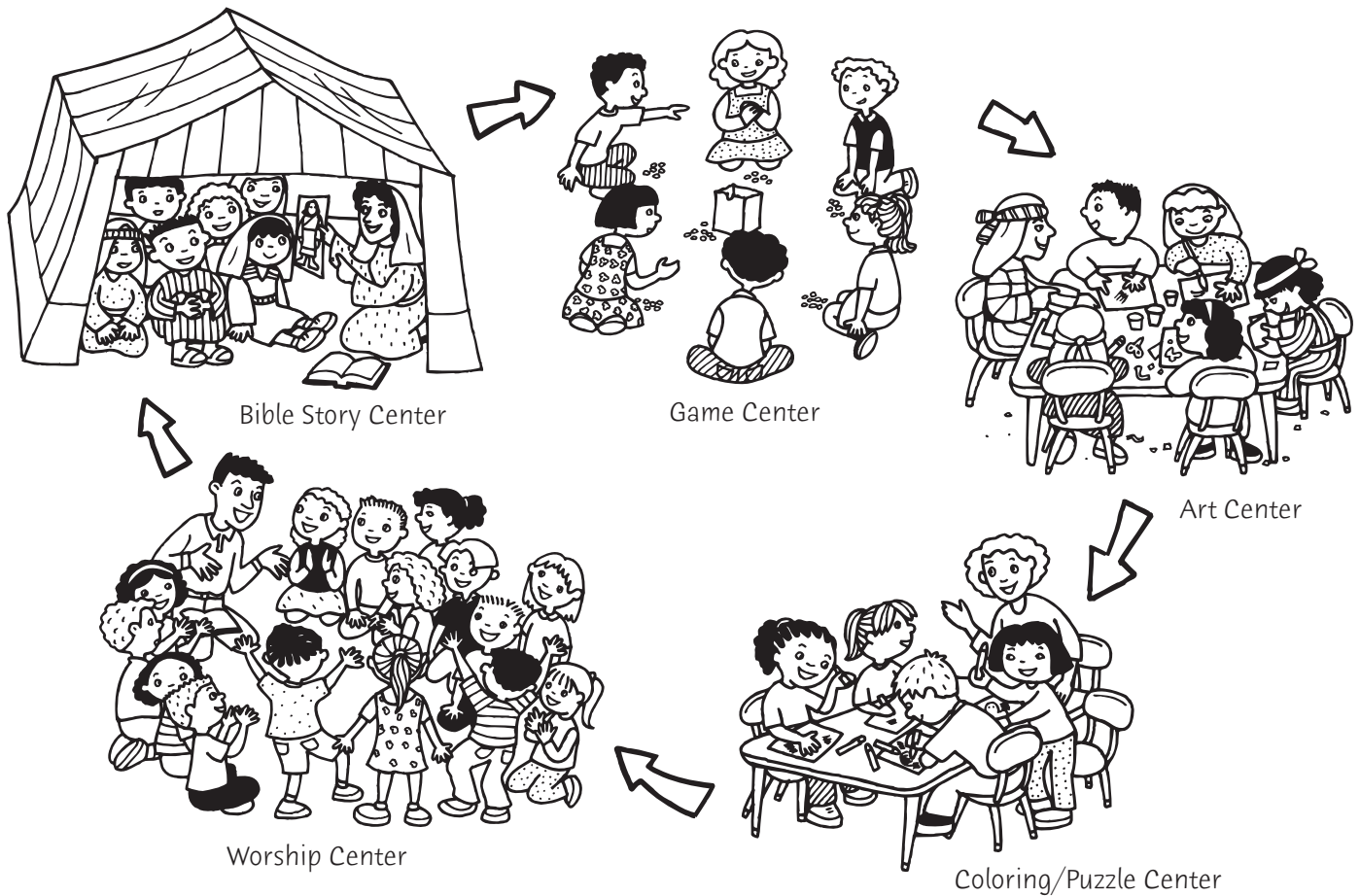


What do teachers do?

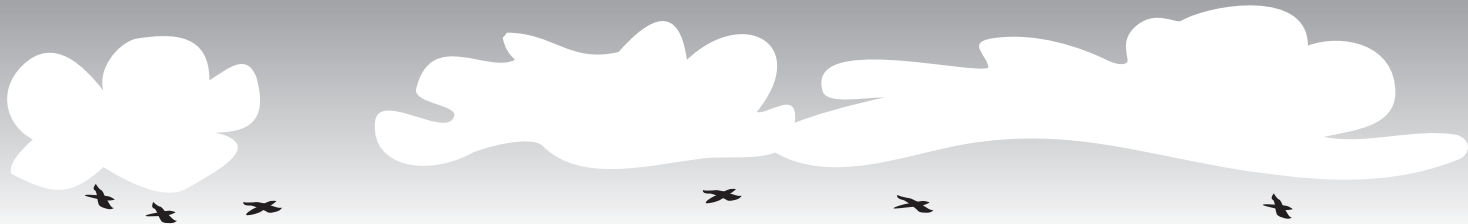
- ◆ Each teacher takes responsibility for one center, remaining at the center and instructing each group as it visits the center. (Note: If both preschool and elementary-aged children will visit the same center, teachers modify activities as shown in each lesson.)
- ◆ During the Worship Center, teachers (and tour guides) sit with students and participate with them in the activities.

What are the centers?

- ◆ One room or outside area is designated for each of the *Journey with Jesus* learning centers. Post a large sign to identify each center.
- ◆ Decorate centers (see *Decorating Ideas* on pp. 29-32) and give centers fun, interesting names: The Synagogue (for the Bible Story Center), The Marketplace (for the Art Center), Jordan Crossing (for the Game Center), Samuel's House (for the Coloring/Puzzle Center) or Bethlehem Village (for the Worship Center). Choose from the centers suggested in the following diagram:



(Optional: The Bonus Theme Ideas offered in each session can be used as an additional learning center.)

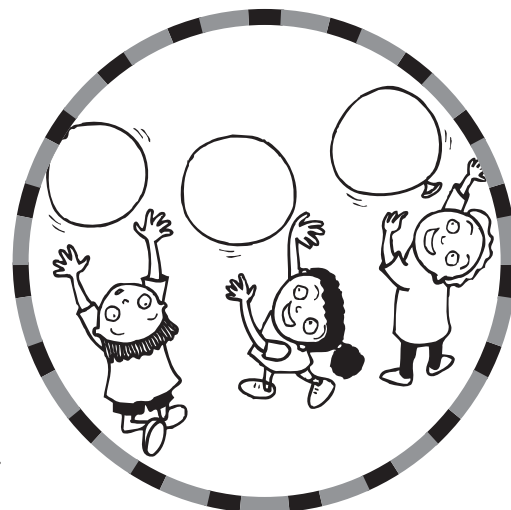


How do I plan the time schedule?

- ◆ The centers in *Journey with Jesus* can be taught in any order, but each center should last the same amount of time. For example, in a one-hour program, groups would remain in each center for 15 minutes and groups would be able to participate in three centers. (Add 5 minutes to the first center each group attends to provide for a brief welcome time.)
- ◆ Allow 5 minutes for groups to move from center to center, following a preestablished route.

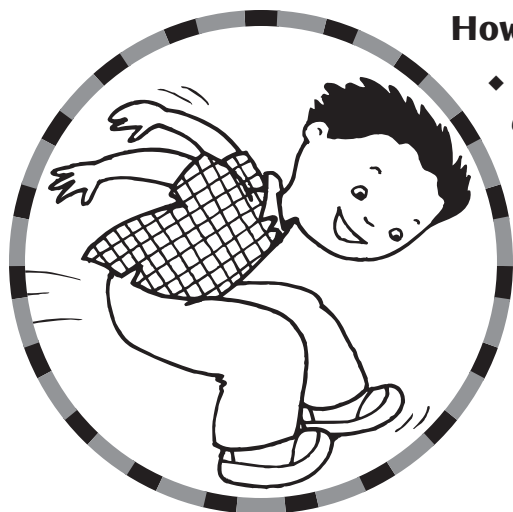
If you have more than one hour for each session, additional centers may be added or the time in each center may be lengthened (generally it is best to limit the time in each center to a maximum of 25 minutes in order to keep student interest high). If you have less than one hour for each session, use the Bible Story Center and one or two other centers of your own choosing.

Use the chart below as an example of how to schedule groups. (Note: As the number of children in your program grows, add teachers or helpers to each center to maintain a ratio of one leader for every six to eight children. You may also add duplicate centers.)



Sample One-Hour Schedule

	11:00-11:20	11:25-11:40	11:45-12:00
Group 1	Welcome and Bible Story Center	Worship Center	Game Center
Group 2	Welcome and Game Center	Bible Story Center	Worship Center



How do I make the Learning Center Plan run smoothly?

- ◆ Predetermine the route each group will travel, including room and building entrances and exits. Ask tour guides to walk their routes in advance to become familiar with all locations.
- ◆ Establish a signal for notifying groups when it's time to move to the next center.
- ◆ Provide labeled tables or other areas where students may leave their projects and belongings during the session.
- ◆ Provide color-coded name tags to identify each group.

Schedule Options

You can adapt the above sample schedule to the needs and interests of your church. Other centers can be added or substituted in order to meet the needs of younger or older students. In addition to the centers suggested in this course, many churches include centers for such things as snacks, recreational outdoor games (soccer, baseball, volleyball), children's choir and elective classes (cooking, woodworking, etc.).

When planning the schedule, remember to include a variety of activities in an order that will meet the needs of children. For example, if students have been sitting in the adult worship service before coming to *Journey with Jesus*, plan an active center at the beginning of the session. If students attend *Journey with Jesus* after being in Sunday School, provide a snack at the beginning of the session.

For help in planning each session's schedule, give each leader and teacher a copy of the planning page on page 238.



Journey with Jesus
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Date(s) _____

Lesson Number and Title _____

Teaching Team _____

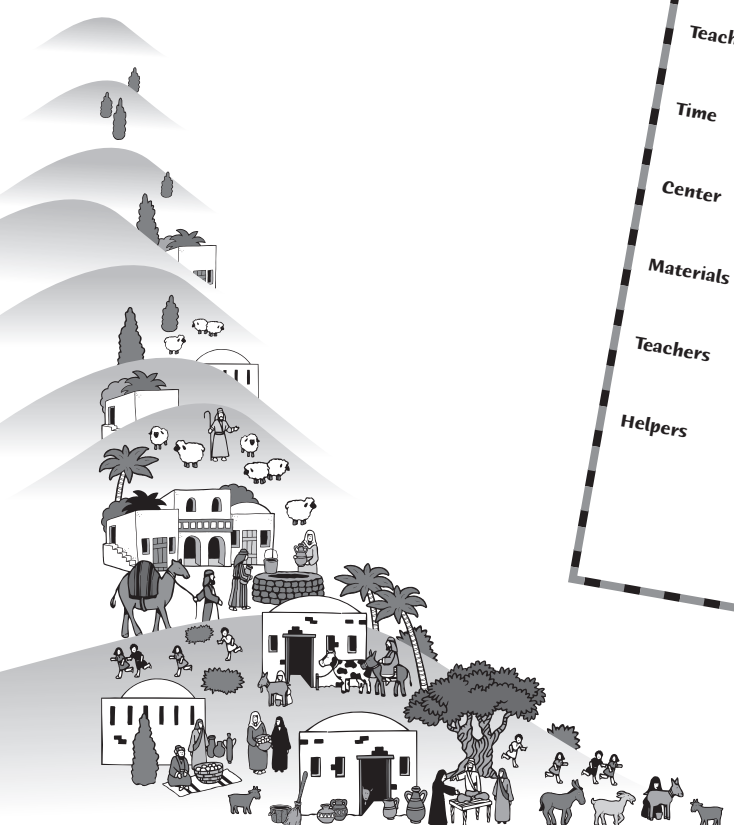
Time _____

Center _____

Materials _____

Teachers _____

Helpers _____

An illustration of Jesus with a beard and long hair, wearing a robe, standing and holding two children. One child is a girl with dark hair, and the other is a boy with short hair. They are all smiling.



Option 1
(45-60 minutes)

Worship Center
15 minutes

Bible Story Center
15-20 minutes

Game or Art Center
15-20 minutes

Option 2
(60-75 minutes)

Worship Center
15 minutes

Bible Story Center
15-20 minutes

Game Center
15-20 minutes

Art Center
15-20 minutes

Option 3
(75-90 minutes)

Adult Worship Service
15 minutes

Game Center
15-20 minutes

Bible Story Center
15-20 minutes

Art Center
15-20 minutes

Worship Center
15 minutes



Option 4
(75-90 minutes)

Game Center
15-20 minutes

Bible Story Center
15-20 minutes

Art Center
15-20 minutes

Worship Center
15 minutes

Snack Time
15 minutes



Getting and Keeping the Very Best Staff

One of the most important elements in staffing a successful program is planning how you will recruit and organize your staff. However you do it, keep in mind that the best learning and the most fun take place when there is a teacher or helper for every six to eight children.

If you are using *Journey with Jesus* with preschoolers, they will benefit greatly from consistent teachers. Young children need the security of familiar faces. This security creates a familiar and positive atmosphere, resulting in fewer separation and/or discipline problems and more positive learning!

The optimum plan for staffing is to have the same teachers in place for the entire course. Both teachers and children benefit from regular interaction. Having long-term teachers creates a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth in students as they build relationships with adults who are faithful in demonstrating God's love.

Although it may be easier to recruit teachers to teach one session at a time, such short-term staffing creates other problems. Many churches have found that rotating teachers frequently not only makes learning and growth difficult for children, but it also creates a heavy workload in administration (distributing curriculum, orienting a constant stream of new teachers, etc.).

Here are some options if long-term commitment is difficult in your situation.

- ◆ Ask teachers to teach for a shorter time period—four weeks at a time instead of 13 weeks.
- ◆ Find two teams of teachers and helpers who will each teach for two weeks at a time. Then plan to rotate the two teams so that they alternate teaching two weeks at a time. Over the course of the program, teachers and children become familiar with each other and can benefit from regular interaction.
- ◆ If you must rotate some teachers on a weekly basis, make sure that you have a number of consistent people who can greet and interact with children and parents on a weekly basis.

Recruiting Tips

Recruiting teachers and helpers is one of the key tasks to making *Journey with Jesus* an effective and fun learning experience for the children of your church and community. Keep the following tips in mind as you seek the volunteers and then match their talents to the tasks to be done:

- ◆ Pray for guidance in finding the people God wants to serve in this ministry.
- ◆ Start early—at least three months before the *Journey with Jesus* program begins!
- ◆ Keep all the leaders of all your children's ministries aware of and praying about staffing needs.

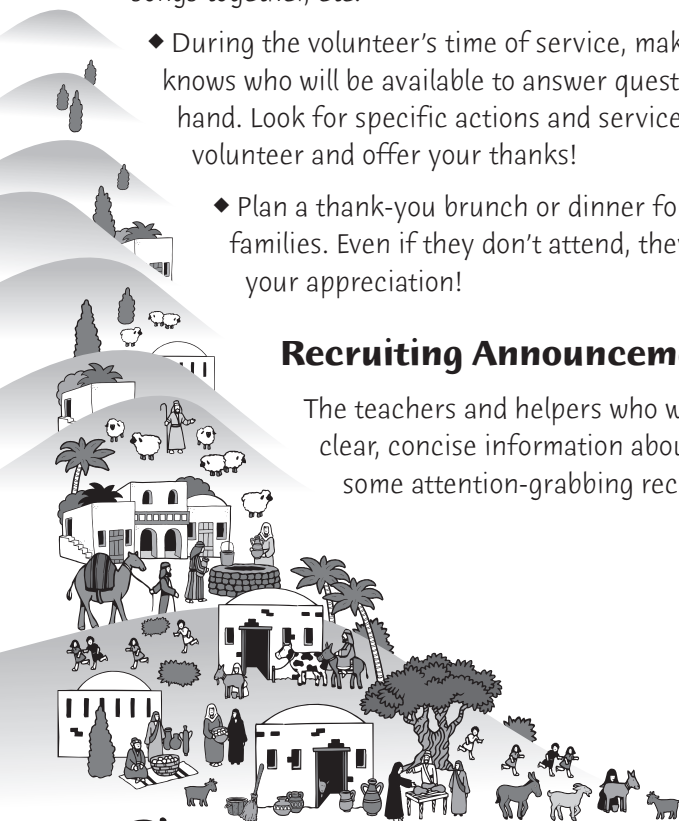


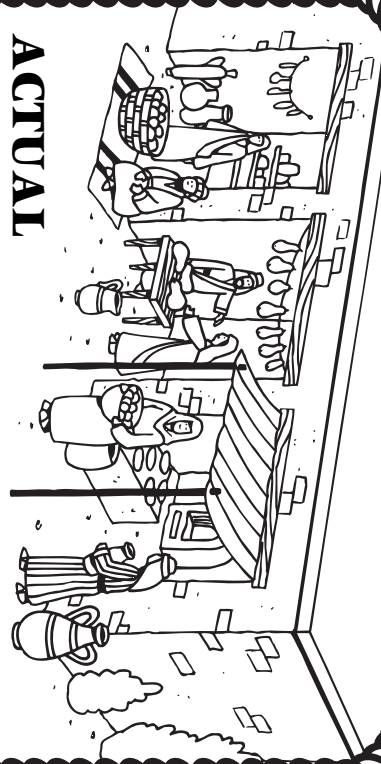
- ◆ Develop a written job description for each staff position.
- ◆ Make a list of potential teachers and helpers. Consider a wide variety of sources for volunteers: church membership list, new members' classes, suggestions from adult teachers or leaders, lists of previous and current teachers, and survey forms. Get recommendations from present teachers. Don't overlook singles, senior citizens, youth and collegians. Some churches ask parents to teach during the summer months, giving school-year teachers a break. Be sure to follow your church's established procedures for screening volunteers.
- ◆ Look for team members with interests and abilities in specific areas. For example, the teaching team for 24 children might consist of three adults: one who prepares and leads the Bible Story Center each week, one who prepares and guides the Game Center and a third adult who prepares and leads the Worship Center. While each team member has the primary responsibility to lead only one center, all team members are involved throughout the session as helpers.
- ◆ Recruit a separate team of teachers and leaders for each center. Each team might consist of two or more adults who enjoy teaching together, or consider asking a family with teenagers to work together to form a teaching team.
- ◆ Prayerfully prioritize your prospect list. Determine which job description best fits each person's strengths and gifts.
- ◆ Personally contact the prospects. Sending a personal letter or a flyer (see p. 21) to each prospect or calling the prospect are good first steps. Follow up to answer any questions or to see if the prospect has made a decision. Show the prospect the *Journey with Jesus* manual and *Journey with Jesus Music* CD. Ask the prospective volunteer what he or she would most enjoy doing as a leader or teacher in *Journey with Jesus*.
- ◆ Provide new volunteers with all the needed materials, forms, helpful hints and training that will help them to succeed. For all teachers and helpers, you may want to schedule one or more training meetings at which you distribute curriculum, review the schedule and procedures, sing the songs together, etc.
- ◆ During the volunteer's time of service, make sure the volunteer knows who will be available to answer questions or lend a helping hand. Look for specific actions and services contributed by the volunteer and offer your thanks!
- ◆ Plan a thank-you brunch or dinner for teachers and their families. Even if they don't attend, they'll be grateful for your appreciation!



Recruiting Announcements

The teachers and helpers who will be your *Journey with Jesus* teachers and helpers will appreciate clear, concise information about the program—and a little added inspiration couldn't hurt! Here are some attention-grabbing recruiting announcements.





ACTUAL TOUR GUIDES NEEDED FOR VIRTUAL TOUR!

YES, YOU CAN BECOME A TOUR GUIDE!
Join us on a fabulous virtual tour to some of the places in Israel where Jesus walked. We're now taking applications for tour guides who know how to show God's love to kids, use their imaginations and generally have fun learning more about Jesus!

THE JOURNEY WITH JESUS TOUR
will be available from _____ (date)
through _____ (date)
at _____ (times)

GRAB YOUR IMAGINATIONS AND GET READY
for an exciting tour where Jesus' ministry will come to life right before your eyes! New songs, Bible-times crafts, exciting games—all of these and more are included in our tour package; and the entire tour package is free! Act now to ensure your spot as a guide on this life-changing tour!



GUIDE A TOUR THROUGH THE HOLY LAND!

**You
can
do
it!**

Just when you thought you could never afford such a costly vacation, here it is—a chance to lead a tour group on a journey through Bible-times Israel—FREE! Best of all, this **JOURNEY WITH JESUS** tour is brought to you right here at our church! You won't even have to leave your job or use valuable vacation time!

Weekend guides needed for _____ (dates/times)
to help guide tours to places where Jesus performed His miracles.
Come along with us for fun, excitement, learning—and maybe even a few modern-day miracles!

See _____ (name) for more details.

Sign up NOW before all tour guide positions are filled!



Publicity Guidelines and Schedule

Well-planned publicity is critical to the success of any event, so take time to carefully schedule each part of your publicity plan. Publicity ideas are endless (bulletin board displays, banners, coloring poster contests, parent letters, etc.), but be sure to include these basics: church bulletin and newsletter announcements, posters and flyers. Here is a suggested schedule:

Publicity Schedule

12 Weeks Before:

- ◆ Determine the exact dates on which each publicity piece will be released.
- ◆ Assign publicity tasks.

8 Weeks Before:

- ◆ Print a teaser announcement in your church bulletin and/or newsletter.

6 Weeks Before:

- ◆ Display posters in well-traveled areas at your church facility and in your community.

4 Weeks Before:

- ◆ Print information about *Journey with Jesus* in your church newsletter and mail flyers to children.
- ◆ Print announcements in your church bulletin on a weekly basis.

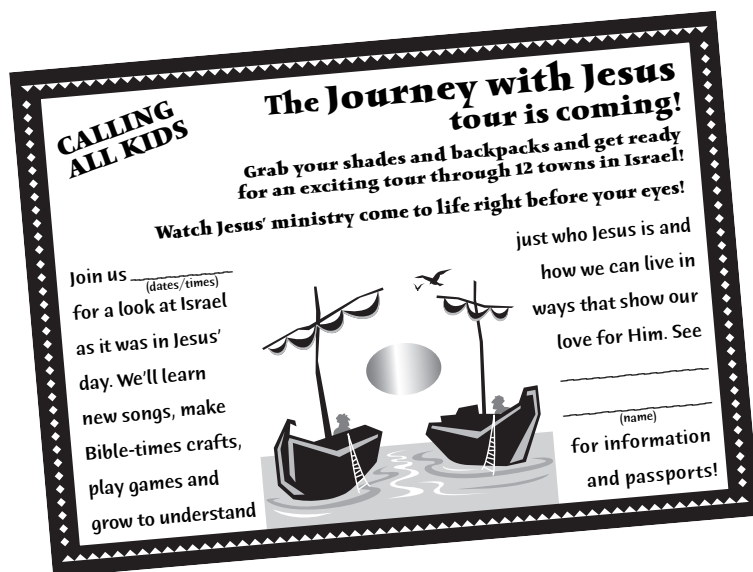
1 to 3 Weeks Before:

- ◆ Continue bulletin announcements.
- ◆ Make verbal announcements during church worship services.

Publicity Ideas

Posters and Flyers

Use the posters and flyers on pages 239-241 to get the attention of children and families and invite them to participate in *Journey with Jesus*. You may also use the art on pages 234-237 to make your own posters and flyers, telling information about *Journey with Jesus*. Display the posters in a variety of locations around your church.



Church Website

Add information about *Journey with Jesus* to your church's website. Consider adding an online registration feature and a course outline and schedule that will help parents become familiar with the course. Create interest in *Journey with Jesus* by adding a photo of several kids and teachers dressed in Bible-times clothing.

Information Booth

Decorate a booth or table in the church lobby from which to recruit teachers and helpers and preregister children. Decorate the booth or table with a Bible-times motif (see "Decorating Ideas" on pp. 29-32). Prepare promotional flyers, registration forms and volunteer sign-up sheets for use at the booth.

Kickoff Event

Prepare for and publicize the upcoming *Journey with Jesus* course with a kickoff event. Schedule the kickoff event two to three weeks before *Journey with Jesus* begins. Invite children and their parents to discover what the fun is all about. Publicize the event by distributing flyers to families in your church and community. Transform your church parking lot or a large multi-purpose room into a Bible-times marketplace. Set up three or four fun Bible-times games or activities and offer a snack or two. Choose ideas from the Bonus Theme Ideas suggested in each lesson. Place a registration booth near the center of all the action so it is convenient for parents to register their children. Display flyers and posters at the booth.



- ◆ Each activity needs at least one adult or older teenager to be in charge. Encourage all adult and teen helpers to dress in Bible-times clothing.
- ◆ Consider asking individual families in your church to sponsor activities. Each family would be responsible for purchasing supplies, setting up the activity and leading the activity during the event. In addition to having people who lead activities, have several helpers greet parents and encourage children to try an activity that is lacking participation.
- ◆ Each activity needs a designated area. In most situations, the activities can be set up outside, preferably on a lawn. One simple way to mark each area is with stakes in each corner. Then tie a rope from stake to stake, marking the boundaries of the area. If using a parking lot, draw boundaries for each area with chalk. Each activity area needs a large sign identifying the activity. Awnings and tents may also be used to create your marketplace. Restrooms need to be open and clearly marked.

Teaching Preschoolers and Elementary Children Together

Whenever possible, it's recommended that you group preschool- and elementary-age children separately for *Journey with Jesus*. Teaching is most effective when children are grouped with others at similar developmental levels. While there is some benefit in mixing children of various ages together, it is difficult to prevent the oldest children from feeling that the activities are "baby" stuff because the younger kids are also involved. Even among children of similar ages, you are likely to find a variety of skills and abilities.

However, if there aren't enough children to form separate groups for preschool- and elementary-age children, you may need to combine children of both age levels together. The tips and ideas in *Journey with Jesus* will help you combine children from a wide variety of ages and still provide effective teaching.

Game and Art Center Tips

- ◆ Use the games and art activity ideas suggested for the age level of the majority of children in your class. If needed, modify the games and art activities as suggested in each lesson for either older (elementary) or younger (preschool) children. The modifications use the same or similar materials so that you don't have to collect and prepare an entirely new set of materials.
- ◆ Use the Bible memory verse that corresponds to the age of the majority of children in the group. However, in individual conversations with children, use the age-appropriate Bible memory verse, suggestions and discussion questions found in the lesson.
- ◆ Have the older children help lead the games or have younger children cheer on their teams as the older children play.

Bible Story Center Tips

- ◆ Even if children of varying ages are combined for art and game activities, consider keeping the Bible Story Center as a center through which small groups of children of similar ages rotate. Then the leader of the center can tailor the story to each particular group, ensuring that all children are taught the Bible story on their own level.
- ◆ If you have primarily elementary-age children, use the Bible Story Center Option for Older Children. However, provide for preschoolers the lesson's coloring page as a way to involve them and extend their interest in the story.

Game Center

for older children

Lesson 1
Luke 2:1-20

Collect
Bibles, fabric strips, ruler, scissors, masking tape.


Prepare
Cut one 2x10-inch (5x25.5-cm) fabric strip for each student. Mark off a large area of the classroom with tape. Mark some of the following verses in Bibles so that children can find them quickly: Deuteronomy 31:8; Psalm 34:17; 100:5; Isaiah 41:10; Jeremiah 31:3; 32:27; John 1:12; 14:23; Hebrews 13:8; 1 John 1:9; 5:14.

Do

- Lead children to play a game called "Sheep's Tail." **How does the title of this game remind you of Bethlehem?** (The area around Bethlehem was filled with many sheep and shepherds.) Each child attaches a fabric strip ("sheep's tail") to the back of his or her clothing with masking tape. At your signal, children try to capture each other's tails (see sketch) while moving only within the boundaries ("sheep pen"). When a child's tail gets taken, he or she moves outside the sheep pen until the next game begins.
- The last child with his or her tail in place reads aloud a verse from one of the Bibles you have marked, telling one of God's promises to His children. **What promise does this verse tell about?** Children play as many rounds of the game as time allows.

Talk About

- Which of God's promises do you want to thank Him for today?
- When might a kid your age need to remember this promise?
- How might someone show he or she believes God will keep this promise?
- What are some reasons we have for trusting in God's promises? Read aloud Joshua 23:14.



God's Word
"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."
Joshua 23:14

For Younger Children:
"Not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."
God's Word & Me
God's promises always come true.


For Younger Children

You or another adult take the role of the Shepherd. Children wear sheep's tails and walk around the playing area. Call out a number between 2 and 4. Shepherd helps children form groups of the appropriate number. Repeat several times, inviting children to move in different ways (walk, hop, crawl, take giant steps, etc.) to form new groups.

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Lesson 1 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Jesus is born.
Luke 2:1-20



Who kept His promise to send Jesus?

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◆ If you have mostly preschoolers, use the Bible Story Center Option for Younger Children. Invite elementary-age children to participate by acting out the story or drawing Bible story murals.

Worship Center Tips

◆ While preschoolers are not likely to feel comfortable volunteering for the fun team games and other activities, they will still enjoy cheering for their teams.

◆ Make sure that the teachers and helpers of the preschoolers sit among the children to provide security and attention.

◆ Set aside space for preschoolers to sit at the front of the Worship Center area so that they are able to see.

◆ Make a copy of the *Journey with Jesus Music CD* for each child to take home.

Familiarity with the songs will help preschoolers feel comfortable in the large-group setting. Although preschoolers may not be able to remember all the words of a song, they will easily catch on to and sing the song's chorus and can still participate by doing the song's motions and/or by clapping or by playing rhythm instruments such as maracas. If a song doesn't include motions or clapping, add them.



Outreach Ideas

Because *Journey with Jesus* is packed with loads of exciting hands-on learning activities, you won't want any student to miss it! And because this program is also a great place for unchurched kids to learn about God in a relaxed, inviting atmosphere, you'll want to publicize it—even beyond your church! Here are ideas to help you not only plan to invite children to participate in *Journey with Jesus* but also to follow up on visitors.



Invitation Ideas

- ◆ Keep accurate enrollment records for your ongoing children's programs. Several weeks prior to the beginning of *Journey with Jesus*, send flyers (see pp. 239-241) or make phone calls to children who have either stopped attending your church or who have visited recently.
- ◆ Offer a small prize to any child who brings a friend to attend *Journey with Jesus*. (Note: Adapt one of the flyers on pp. 239-241 for use as an invitation children can give to friends.) Each week be prepared to welcome visitors by having a greeter(s) who can help visitors find the appropriate classrooms, make name tags available, and record contact information on registration forms. Consider recognizing visitors each session during the Worship Center. (Note: Prepare enough name tags so that visitors have same tags as other children.)
- ◆ Plan with the adult ministry coordinator to offer a parenting or other special-interest class at the same time children will be participating in *Journey with Jesus*.
- ◆ Make a large outdoor banner or paint a large sign and hang it in a visible place outside your church.
- ◆ Mount flyers in businesses frequented by children and their families (grocery stores, laundromats, etc.) and on community bulletin boards.

Follow-Up

- ◆ Invite parents to attend a special celebration as part of the final *Journey with Jesus* session (see invitation on p. 233). Children sing songs for their parents, families may tour classrooms and everyone enjoys a Bible-times snack or potluck meal. Encourage teachers and leaders to make a special effort to introduce themselves to parents and look for natural opportunities to build friendships, answer questions about the church, etc.
- ◆ During the 13 weeks of *Journey with Jesus*, encourage teachers and leaders to contact their students, including absentees, visitors or irregular attendees. Provide already-stamped postcards, prepared mailing labels, and address and phone lists.
- ◆ Take one or more photos of children during *Journey with Jesus* and ask leaders and teachers to personally deliver photos to children's homes at the end of the program. (Obtain parent permission for use of photos.)
- ◆ Make a *Journey with Jesus* Memory CD with lots of photos showing the variety of activities in which children participated. Send each CD to children who attended and include an invitation to other upcoming church programs.
- ◆ Pray for the teachers, leaders and helpers and remind them to pray for the children in their groups, asking God to bring to their minds appropriate ways to keep in touch with the children and to nurture them in Christ.



Partnering with Parents

In Deuteronomy 6:7, God commanded parents to teach their children about Him “when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” The most important learning in life takes place not in churches, schools or scout troops but in families. The hours and days parents and children spend together are the prime opportunities for building long-lasting spiritual foundations!

Choose one or more of the following ideas for ways you can help parents in their awesome responsibility of spiritually teaching their children.

- ◆ Send home the Parent Letter (p. 232) to each parent at the beginning of the program and include a copy of the *Journey with Jesus* Scope and Sequence so that parents are aware of the content and goals of this course.
- ◆ Offer a free or low-cost kid-friendly Bible to parents when they register their children for *Journey with Jesus*. Especially if your program will attract visitors or unchurched children, it's wise not to assume that every family will have a kid-friendly Bible.
- ◆ If you don't use the Coloring Page or Puzzle Page in each session, send them home with children each week. Include an introductory letter with the first lesson's Coloring or Puzzle Page, explaining that these pages can provide an opportunity for parent and child to talk about the way in which Bible people came to know more about Jesus and how to be his followers.
- ◆ Make a copy of the *Journey with Jesus* Music CD for families to listen to at home or in the car.
- ◆ Consider giving each parent a copy of the first page of each session. As parents read the devotional, they will develop an understanding not only of how they can model and demonstrate the focus of the session but also how they can talk with their children about the session's Bible truth.

- ◆ Ask parents to support *Journey with Jesus* by providing a special snack or by preparing the materials for an art activity or game. Invite the parent to join in on the fun! (See invitation on p. 233.) Observing the way in which teachers and leaders talk with children about the session's Bible content will model for parents effective ways of spiritual education. (Note: You may want to invite each parent to schedule a session when they will observe a full class session with his or her child.)

Parent Letters

Help parents become familiar with *Journey with Jesus* and encourage their child's attendance by sending a letter to each family several weeks before the program begins. Use this sample letter as inspiration to create your own letter. On page 233 you'll find two invitations you can modify to invite parents to join in on the fun at *Journey with Jesus*.

Dear Parents,

Plan now to have your child participate in a unique and exciting tour of the places in Israel where Jesus actually walked! All the action will take place on the 13-week Journey With Jesus tour.

Each Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. in the Children's Ministry Building your child is invited to a time of songs, games, Bible stories, creative art and more!

Tour guides are waiting to lead your child in the adventure of the summer.


***Journey with Jesus* begins Sunday, June 20th!**

Sign up today by calling the church office at 555-5555 or by e-mailing jean@yourchurch.org.

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Lesson 1

Bethlehem: Amazing Arrival



Bible Story Luke 2:1-20

Teacher's Devotional

Welcome to a journey of discovery! The next 13 weeks will take us on a whirlwind tour of the land where Jesus walked. As we travel through cities where Jesus' ministry came alive, our aim is to grow in our knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is and how to live in ways that show love for Him.

Bethlehem, the first stop on our tour, is an ancient town whose name means "house of bread." Mentioned first in Genesis as the burial place of Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel, it was also the hometown to which Naomi returned after her many years in Moab. She, who had left the "house of bread" when there was no bread, returned to seek redemption. It came through her loving daughter-in-law Ruth when Boaz redeemed the family land and married Ruth, making her an ancestor of the promised Great Redeemer.

David, the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz, was called from shepherding in the Bethlehem hills to be anointed king of Israel. Bethlehem was remembered as the city of David. When Micah prophesied that Bethlehem would be the place where the Everlasting King would be born (see Micah 5:2), it was clear that Bethlehem would forever be known as a place of promise!


God's Word

"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."
JOSHUA 23:14

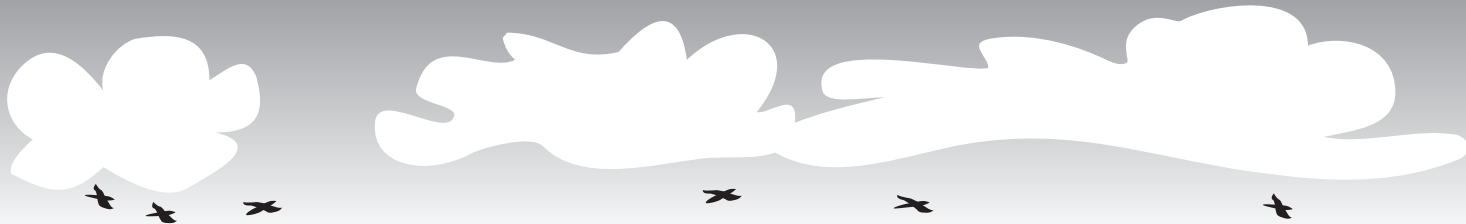
For Younger Children:

"You know that not one of all the good promises God gave you has failed."
God's Word & Me
God's promises always come true.

At last, the Great Redeemer was born in Bethlehem. The bread of life was born in the "house of bread." He is the ultimate fulfillment of every one of God's promises! Think of ways to help yourself and your students celebrate all the Promised One has done for us!



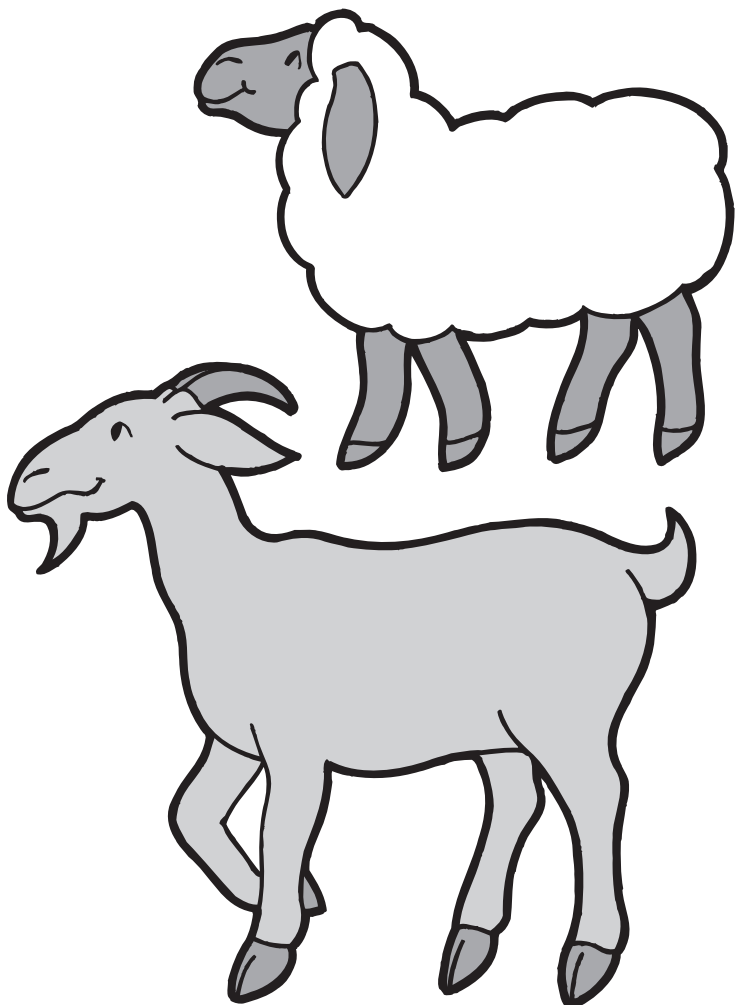
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◆ For the length of *Journey with Jesus*, invite parents to attend a parent support/prayer group that meets together twice a month or weekly to pray for their children, their teachers and each other. Enlist several parents to serve as hosts for this group. Hosts call parents to invite them to participate, arrange meeting space (homes, if possible), provide snacks, etc.

◆ Establish a group Bible memory verse contest in which all parents and children work together to memorize a certain number of the memory verses from *Journey with Jesus*. If the goal is met, promise a Bible-times party celebration at which children eat Bible-times snacks and play fun Bible-times games (see Bonus Theme Ideas in each lesson). Using the patterns on pages 234-237, make a fun poster on which to record the number of verses memorized (large outdoor mural to which each parent and each child who can say a verse adds a Bible-times animal, or a large scroll to which small scrolls are added for each verse memorized). (Avoid identifying individual memory efforts.) Display the poster in a central area and have several people serve as Bible memory listeners. During arrival or dismissal, parents and children repeat verses.

◆ Give parents of elementary-age children a copy of the Family Talk page (p. 231) and the *Journey with Jesus* Scope and Sequence page (p. 11). Encourage parents to use these with their children each week to read and study either the session's Bible story references or the Bible Memory Verse.



Family Talk Treasure Today's date _____

What we read _____

One thing we already knew _____

One thing we did not know _____

One truth about Jesus _____

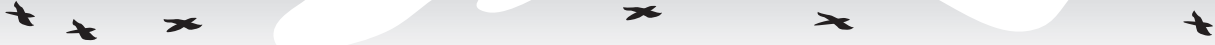
One way we can follow Jesus' example _____

One thing to thank God for _____

One thing to ask God for _____

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Decorating Ideas



No matter where you choose to hold your program, decorating the rooms where the action will take place can add fun and excitement to the proceedings! Children and teachers both will enjoy spending time in a Bible-times atmosphere. A few simple decorations can transform an ordinary classroom into part of *Journey with Jesus*. Use a variety of real items and/or painted backdrops. Use the art patterns on pages 234-237 to help you create the perfect atmosphere for both fun and learning. Recruit people who love to plan and prepare for a party as your decorating team.

Before the program begins, invite your congregation to loan or donate Bible-times-related items. Include any or all of the following: artificial palm trees or plants, clay pots, baskets, artificial fruit and vegetables, pillows, colorful fabric, wall hangings and/or stuffed animals or fish.

If you cannot leave decorations on the walls from week to week, consider simply attaching Bible-times items to rolling bulletin boards to be brought in during the sessions. You may also make murals on large sheets of butcher paper. Roll up murals after each session.

Create a Place

Name and label one or more rooms, especially if you are using a center method with this course. Places such as The Marketplace, Samuel's House, Bethlehem Village, River, etc., can create enthusiasm for this course. Decorate each room (or outdoor location) appropriately. Here are three ideas (see sketches on pages 30-32):

• The Marketplace

Create a room with all the eye-catching sights of a busy Bible-times marketplace. Collect several low tables and cover them with colorful fabric. Arrange baskets on the tables full of artificial vegetables and fruits. Display earthenware pottery at another table. Jewelry, Bible-times instruments (shakers, tambourines, etc.), sandals, candles, robes and cotton fishnets may also be displayed.

Play instrumental track from *Journey with Jesus Music CD* in the background as children enter and exit this area.

Set out several potted real or artificial plants, or use patterns to make palm-tree cutouts to display around the marketplace. Animal cutouts or stuffed animals can be added for more interest.

Arrange rocks in a circle to make a Bible-times well. Tie a rope onto the handle of a bucket and set it on or near the well.

Depending on the size of your room, you may make one or more awnings to attach to walls. Mix plaster of paris or cement with water in buckets or cans according to package directions. When mixture begins to set, insert wooden posts and hold vertically until dry. Place posts about four feet (1.2 m) apart near wall. Tie wire to tops of posts to form a line between posts. Attach fabric to wall and drape over line to form awnings.

• Samuel's House

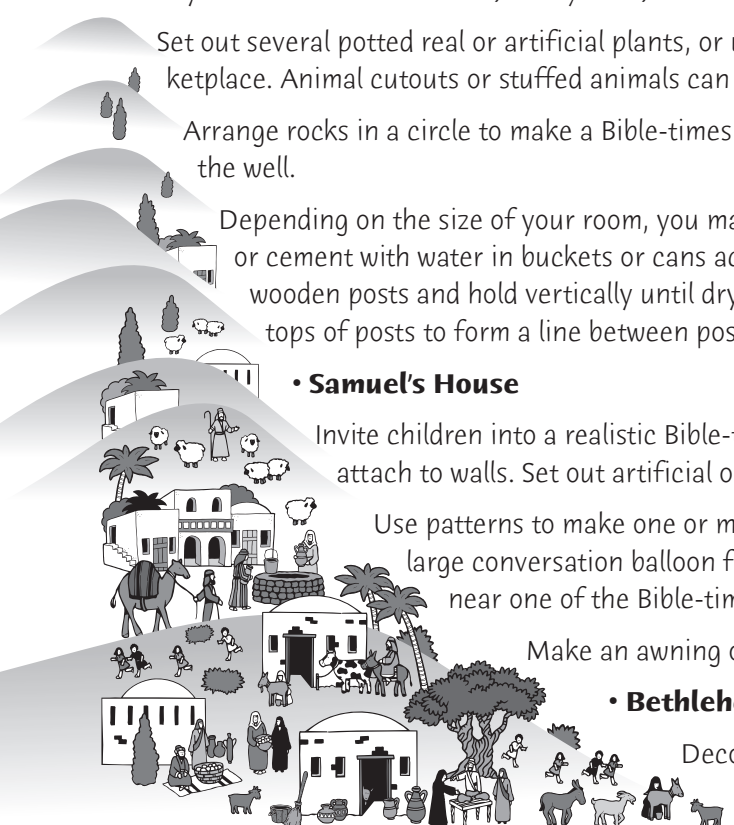
Invite children into a realistic Bible-times home. Cover the floor with rugs, colorful fabric or mats, or attach to walls. Set out artificial or real plants, pots, pillows and baskets to create a home-like setting.

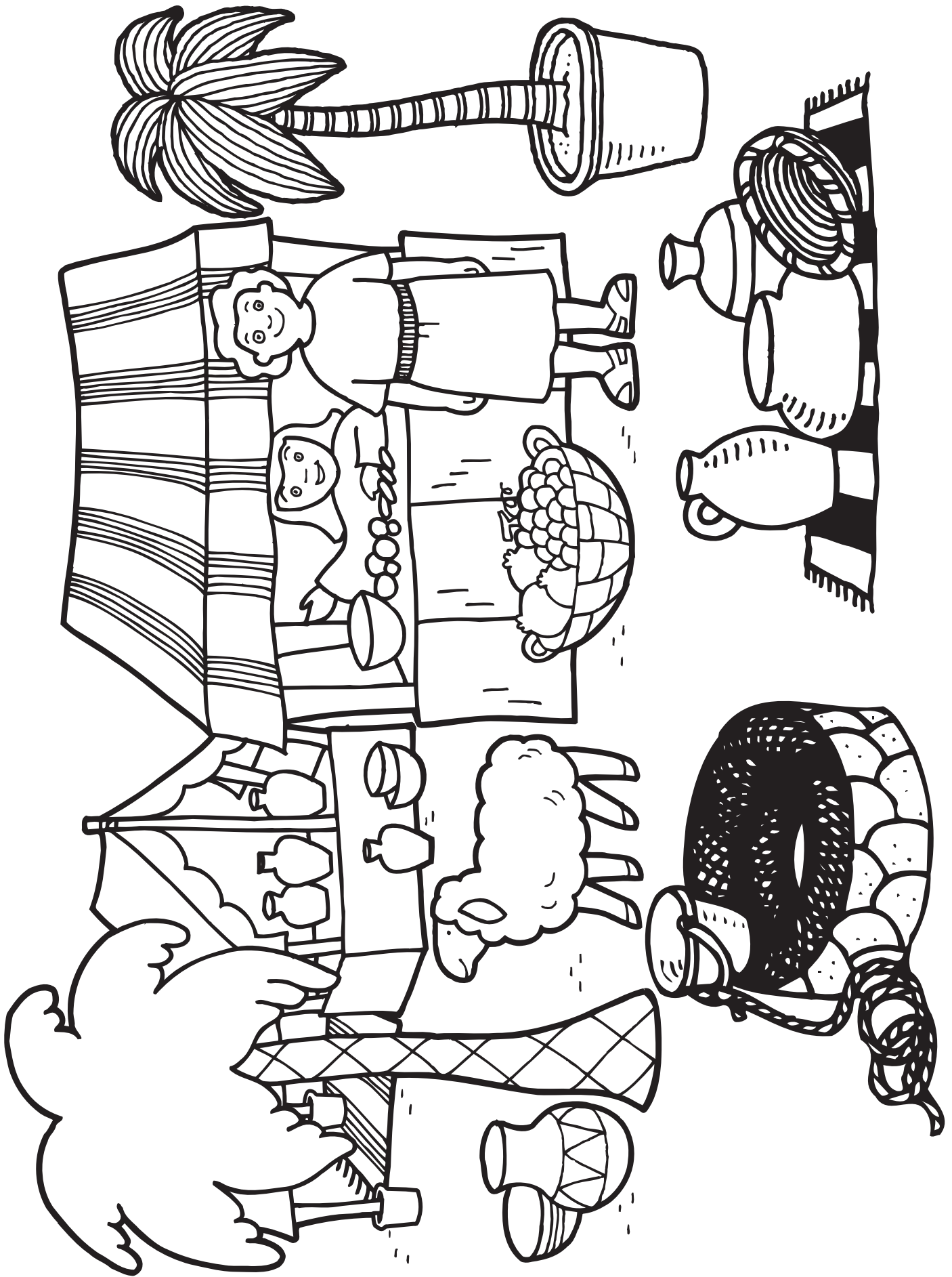
Use patterns to make one or more Bible-times people welcoming visitors to the home. Make a large conversation balloon from paper and print "Shalom!" on it. Display conversation balloon near one of the Bible-times people.

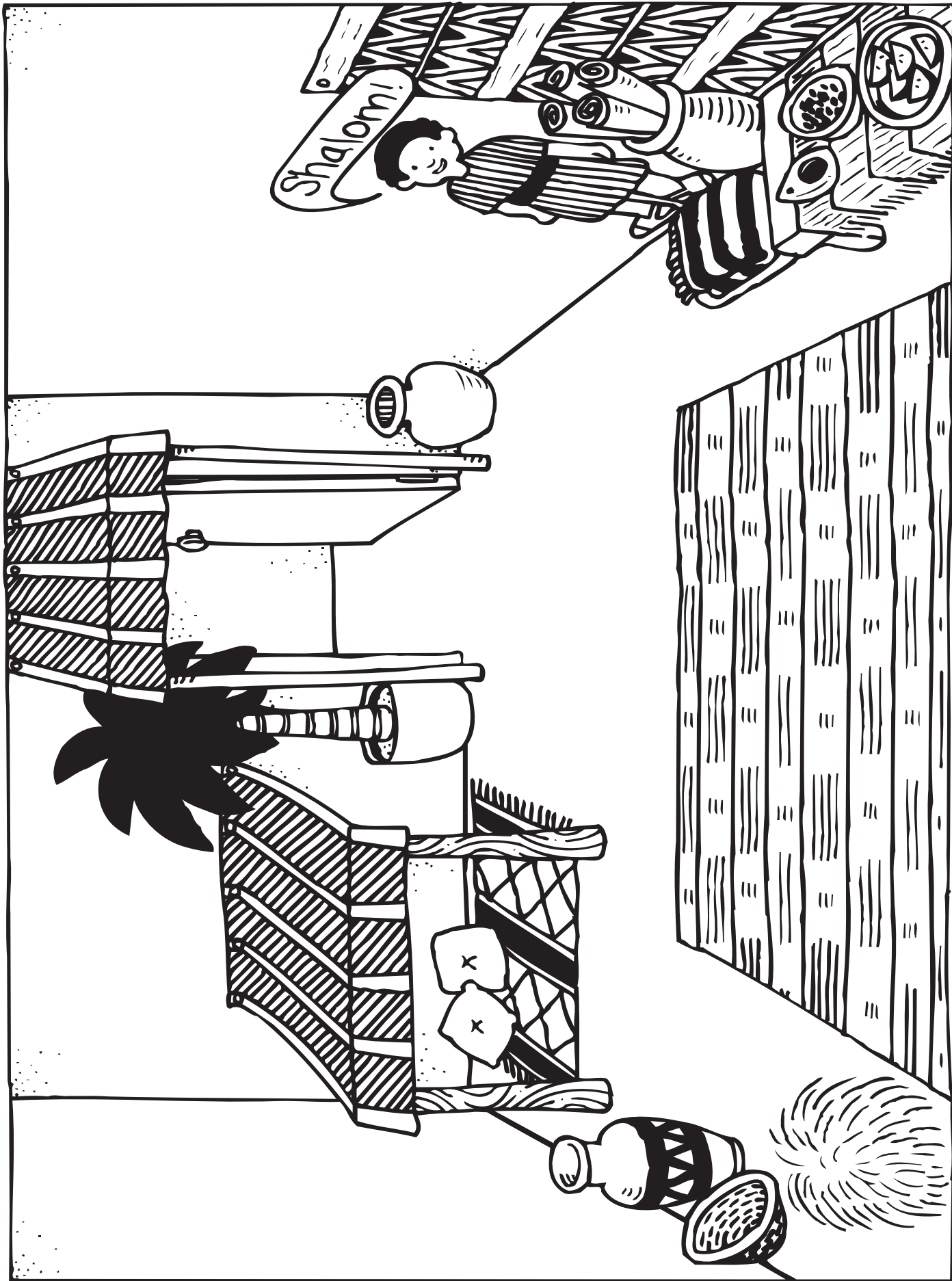
Make an awning over door (follow directions above).

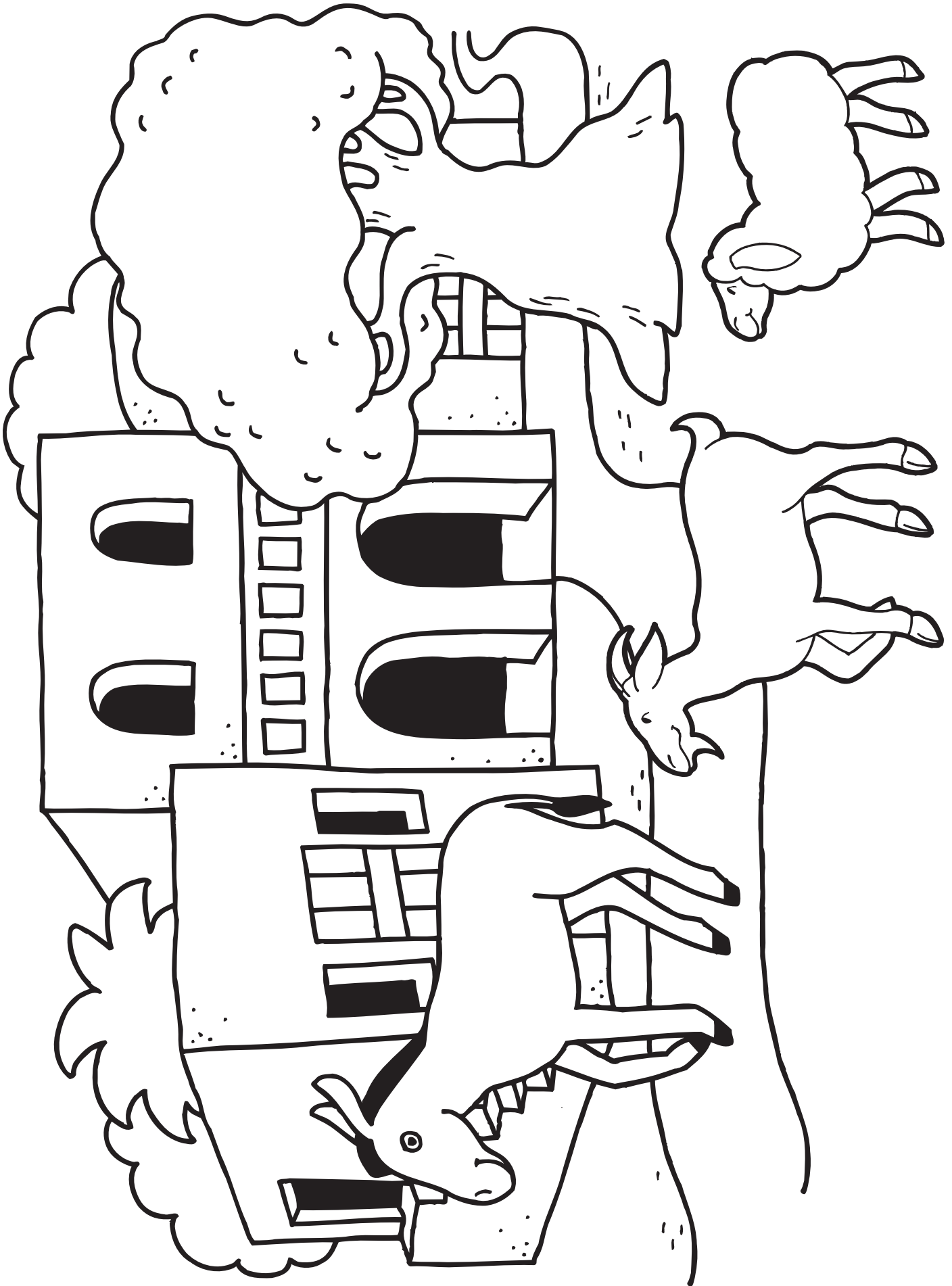
• Bethlehem Village

Decorate a room or large area as a Bible-times village. Use house, tree and animal patterns to create a village backdrop.









Theme Ideas

The Bonus Theme Ideas offered in every session will add an unforgettable dimension to *Journey with Jesus*. Here are additional ways to fill your church with the sights and sounds of the Holy Land.

Scenery

Use the decorating ideas on pages 29-32 to decorate the classrooms and activity centers. Enlarge the map on page 237 and display it in a central location. Also enlarge and laminate the tour bus pattern on page 234. Invite children to move the bus each week, attaching it to the appropriate place on the map.

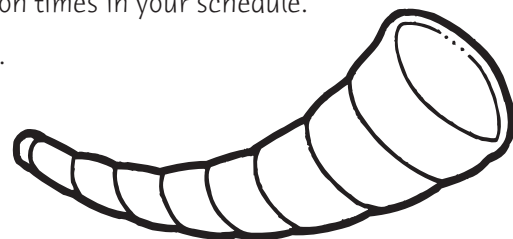
Sounds

The *Journey with Jesus Music* CD provides lively songs to help your students learn Bible truths. These memorable songs help students and adults alike discover life in Bible times. Use the instrumental music as background music during quiet activities, as students enter or at any time you want to create an authentic Middle Eastern mood!

At the beginning and end of each Worship Center segment, ask a volunteer to dress in Bible-times clothing and blow on a trumpet or rams horn. You may also use this sound to signal transition times in your schedule.

Arrange for a brief musical performance using Hebrew music and dance. Musicians can describe the instruments and then perform songs.

Groups of children will enjoy creating their own chants or cheers to say while moving between centers or while entering the assembly area.



Special Days

Build interest and create enthusiasm for *Journey with Jesus* by asking students, teachers and helpers to bring in or wear items to enhance the fun. Consider doing one or more of the following:

- ◆ **Bible-Times Day** Provide simple Bible-times costumes for children to wear (headbands, sashes, tunics, etc.). Create a Bible-times tunic by providing a large fabric piece with a slit cut in the center to fit over the head. Additional costume items can be found from personal items at home (sandals, hoop earrings, bead necklaces, etc.).
- ◆ **Tour Adventure Day** Give each participant a visor to wear along with other adventure-themed clothing (vest, hiking boots, etc.).
- ◆ **Wacky Sunglasses Day** Encourage everyone to wear sunglasses—the more colorful the better!

Invite someone who makes balloon animals to come in and demonstrate how to make several Bible-times animals (goats, cows, sheep, camels).

Invite a local zoo or the owner of goats, cows or sheep to bring animals and tell students about them.

Staff Names and Group Names

Shepherd: Director

Tour Guides: Teachers and Helpers

Adventurers: Students

Bible Times Towns (Jerusalem, Bethany, Cana, etc.) or Occupations (Musicians, Merchants, Potters, Scribes, Goldsmiths, Brickmakers, Shepherds, etc.): Groups

Curriculum Resources

Familiarize yourself with the theme-related ideas provided throughout the curriculum. Each session includes a page of ideas for decorating, snacks, additional games, etc.

Bible Story Center Tips

Most of us can still remember a childhood story told by a good storyteller. What makes a good storyteller so memorable? A good storyteller draws listeners into the story, helping them imagine the story themselves and thus making it their own. You may not feel like one of the world's great storytellers, but fortunately, effective storytelling is a skill that you can develop by following the suggestions in this curriculum and by practicing a few simple principles. Here are some ideas and tips to help you become more confident and memorable!

A Good Beginning and Ending

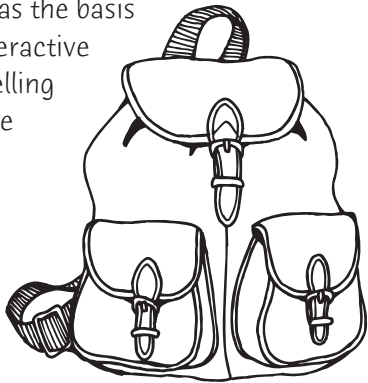
A good beginning is essential, because it is much easier to capture an audience than it is to recapture them after their attention has wandered.

Bible Story Introduction

To help you make the most of the opening minutes of the Bible story, each story in *Journey with Jesus* begins with an introduction. In the introduction, you will find a question or comment that connects an element of the Bible story with a familiar childhood experience. In addition, to help you keep the interest of older children, a creative Bible storytelling technique is suggested for each lesson. As children are involved in making sound effects, role-playing, using storytelling props, etc., they will be motivated to follow along with the story action.

Journey Option Activity

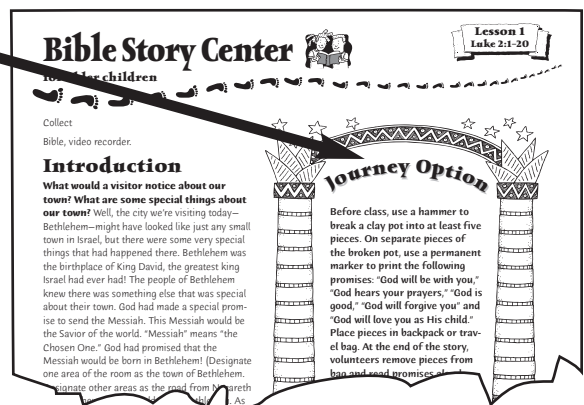
To enhance the Bible-times tour theme of this course, each Bible story also gives directions for an optional Journey Option activity that makes use of a backpack or travel bag. In the Bible story for younger children, the object(s) in the backpack or travel bag is (are) used as the basis for an interactive way of telling the Bible story.



The Journey Option activity for older children provides one or more creative clues that are removed from the backpack or travel bag at the end of the story. As you guide children to solve the clues (a rebus, a puzzle, a code, etc.), children will discover what they need to know in order to be followers of Jesus.

Suggested Materials for Younger Children's Journey Option

- Lesson 1: Nativity scene figures
- Lesson 2: Shoes, water bottle, small bag of sand, rock, Bible
- Lesson 3: Party hats, empty pitcher
- Lesson 4: Paper plates, marker
- Lesson 5: Small rectangle of fabric, marker, craft stick, several blocks
- Lesson 6: Masking tape, spray bottle filled with water, paper cups
- Lesson 7: Lesson 7 Pattern Page (p. 140), card stock, scissors, masking tape
- Lesson 8: Lunch-sized paper bags, marker
- Lesson 9: Chocolate coins
- Lesson 10: Paper plates, marker
- Lesson 11: Large bowl, bottle of water, towel
- Lesson 12: Lesson 12 Pattern Page (p. 210), card stock, scissors
- Lesson 13: Bible-times costume or head covering



Suggested Materials for Older Children's Journey Option

Lesson 1: Hammer, clay pot, permanent marker, masking tape

Lesson 2: Seven small flat rocks, permanent marker

Lesson 3: Money, alarm clock, lock, bike helmet, deodorant, cross or picture of Jesus

Lesson 4: A variety of thank-you notes, marker

Lesson 5: Construction paper, scissors, marker

Lesson 6: Lesson 6 Pattern Page (p. 126), large sheet of paper, marker

Lesson 7: Large sheet of paper, marker

Lesson 8: Marker, index cards

Lesson 9: Marker, index cards, masking tape, a variety of objects that might bring joy

Lesson 10: Lesson 10 Pattern Page (p. 182), scissors, large sheet of paper, marker

Lesson 11: Lesson 11 Pattern Page (p. 196), scissors, small Post-it Notes

Lesson 12: Paper, marker

Lesson 13: Lesson 13 Pattern Page (p. 224), marker, scissors, file folder

Bible Story Conclusion

Each story also provides a conclusion—a brief summary of the basic focus of the story and how the Bible truth presented in the story connects with everyday life. This conclusion is called God's Word and Me. In the conclusion, one or more discussion questions are provided for you to use in helping children express their understanding of the lesson's focus and the Bible verse. A concluding prayer is suggested for elementary-age children. If the Bible story is told in a large group of 12 to 16 children, form small groups for the discussion time.

Storytelling Tips

- Practice telling the story aloud. Tell your story to yourself or someone in your family. Make notes or briefly outline the story.
- Have your open Bible at hand while you are telling the story. Occasionally referring to the Bible reinforces the idea that the Bible stories are true and are found in the Bible. With preschoolers, frequently repeat that the stories are true and are written in the Bible for us to read.
- While the Bible story is being told, other teachers and helpers sit separately among the children. Encourage them to fully participate with children, reacting appropriately and having fun! Their listening presence will encourage children to listen attentively as well, and they can help redirect children's attention back to the storyteller if needed.
- Use dramatic facial expressions and vary your tone of voice according to the story action.
- If students indicate a familiarity with the story, ask volunteers to tell some of the story action. Be sure to clarify and supplement information as needed.
- Keep your story brief. A good rule of thumb for a beginning teacher is to limit your story to one minute for each year of the children's age. If you have more than one age level in your group, target for the middle of the group, but be ready to shorten the story if the younger ones are restless.
- Work at maintaining eye contact with your children throughout the story. Know your story well enough that you can glance at your Bible and your notes and then look up.

Art Center Tips

The Art Center is a place where children can become absorbed in a creative activity as a way of expressing their understanding of how the lesson's focus relates to their lives. Each art activity incorporates discussion of being a follower of Jesus and/or the Bible story and the lesson's Bible verse. Some art activities may involve children in creating visual reminders of the Bible story action. In each art activity, the questions you ask and the comments you make will encourage students to apply Bible truth to everyday life. When students' hands are busy, they often talk freely!

Choose the Appropriate Activity

In each session, an art activity is provided for older children (elementary age) and for younger children (preschool age). Provide two centers, one for each age level. If you cannot provide two centers, choose the activity for which you have the most children. Each activity also includes a way to modify the activity (using the same or similar materials) for either younger or older children.

Before You Begin

Preparation is the key to making an art experience a joyful, creative one. No one enjoys a long stretch of waiting for a stapler or scissors. So make sure you have the following supplies on hand: newspaper (to protect surfaces), functional scissors, usable glue bottles and sticks, working markers, usable crayons and chalk, an adequate supply of tape, paint smocks (or men's old shirts) and butcher paper or newsprint end rolls (ask at your local newspaper office).

Before Every Activity

Before students arrive at your center, cover the work table(s) with newspaper or plastic table cover securing it with masking tape, if needed. Set out materials in an orderly fashion, making sure you have enough materials for the number of children who will visit the Art Center.

If table space is limited, set out materials on a nearby shelf or supply table. Allow students to get and return materials to the appropriate places. If most of your students are younger, use older students as helpers (for distributing supplies, stapling, etc.) during the Art Center time.

As Children Create

While children are working on their art creations, look for natural opportunities to ask the questions listed at the bottom of each Art Center page to help children relate the lesson focus to their daily lives. As children create, they are relaxed and eager to talk. Guided discussion will take the activity beyond art to discovery of Bible truth.

Avoid making value judgments as children create ("That's nice" or "How pretty!"). First, any child who then doesn't hear such a positive judgment will be crushed. Second and most important, focusing on the visual appeal of the artwork will not help children better understand the lesson. How a child's work looks is far less important than the child's process of creating that work and how the child can better understand the lesson. Comment on colors, lines and ideas you see represented. **Jenna, I see you used lots of colors on your project. Tell me about your work.** As you invite children to tell you about their work, many opportunities will arise for you to ask the discussion questions printed in bold type at the bottom of the page or to make comments that will help children understand the lesson focus.

Lesson 7
Mark 8:22-26

Art Center

for younger children

Collect
Bible, construction paper, crayons or markers, tape, tes bags.

Prepare
For each child, fold a sheet of construction paper in half to make a card. Print "My God will meet all your needs. Philippians 4:19" inside each card.

Do
Give each child a card you prepared. **Jesus loves us so much that He gives us what we need. We can help and encourage others by reminding them of Jesus' love for them.** Tell children that they will make cards to give to grandparents in your church. Children use crayons or markers to decorate cards. Help children tape a tea bag to the inside of each card. Help interested children to sign their names on cards. If possible, take children to a senior adult class to distribute the completed cards.

Talk About

- In our Bible story today, Jesus helped a man who couldn't see. Jesus loves and helps us, too.
- I'm glad that Jesus loves and helps us. He gives us food to eat and people who love us. Jesus gives us what we need. Our Bible says, "My God will meet all your needs."
- We can help people, too. What are some things we can do to help people at our church?

For Older Children
Children work together to create a care package for a senior adult who is no longer able to attend church. Children write letters describing what they have been learning in class and decorate a box to hold gift items. Then children brainstorm items they could collect that would be encouraging (tea cups with tea bags, pictures from recent church events, video or audio recording of recent church services, posted plant, etc.). Plan a time for children to bring items and to deliver the cards and the box.

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Game Center Tips

The Game Center can be the perfect place for your students to let off steam, work out the wiggles and be open to guided discussion that relates the lesson focus to students' lives.

Choose the Appropriate Game

In each session, a game is provided for older children (elementary age) and for younger children (preschool age). Provide two centers, one for each age level. If you cannot provide two centers, choose the game for which you have the most children. Each game also includes a suggested modification (using the same or similar materials) for either younger or older children.

Creating a Play Area

Before leading a game, give yourself ample time to set up the play area. You may have little space in your classroom for a play area, so consider alternatives: outdoors, a gymnasium or a vacant area of the church from which sound will not carry to disturb other programs.

Once you have chosen the area, plan what you will need.

- ◆ Will you need to move furniture?
- ◆ Will you need to mark boundaries? Use chalk or rope outdoors; yarn or masking tape works indoors. (Remove masking tape from carpets after each session.)
- ◆ How much space will you need? Carefully review the game procedures to plan what amount and shape of space will be needed.

Game Center

for younger children

Lesson 1
Luke 21-30

Collect

Bible, masking tape, a variety of Bible-times dress-up clothes, two or more backpacks.

Do

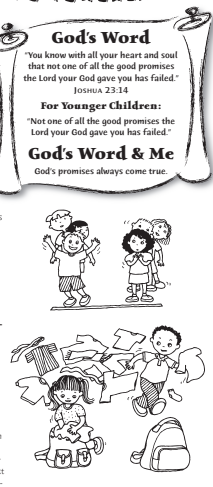
- In our Bible story today, Mary and Joseph had to go on a long trip. Let's play a game to pack for a trip.** Children stand behind the masking-tape line. Place open backpacks on the other side of the playing area. Scatter dress-up clothes on the floor in the playing area.
- Say, Boys wearing blue, it's time to pack!** Children described pick up one or more dress-up items, walk to the backpacks, place the items inside and then return to the masking-tape line. Repeat, calling out different groups of children and making sure that each child has several turns to pack clothes.

Talk About

- ◆ Sami, where do you like to go? God is with you when you go to Aunt Debbie's house.
- ◆ Jessica, when are you glad that God is with you?
- ◆ God loves you. He promises to be with us wherever we go. The Bible says, "Not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed." God always keeps His promises.

For Older Children

Divide group into two teams. Teams line up behind masking-tape line. Place a pile of Bible-times costumes (one item per child) across the room from each team. Give the first child in each team a backpack. At your signal, first child in each team passes backpack to next child in line to hold it and then runs to the costumes, puts on an item and then runs back to his or her team. Child takes off costume item and gives it to the next child in line who puts costume item in backpack, passes backpack to next child and then runs to put on another item and bring it back to the next person in line. Continue until both teams have packed all the costumes.



God's Word

"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."
Joshua 23:14

For Younger Children:

"Not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."
God's promises always come true.

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From time to time, take stock of your classroom area. Is it time to remove that large table or unused bookshelf? Should the chairs be rearranged or the rug put in a different place? Small changes in arrangement can result in more usable space!

Forming Groups or Teams

To keep students' interest high and to keep cliques from forming, use a variety of ways to determine teams or groups.

- ◆ Group teams by clothing color or other clothing features (wearing a sweater, wearing tennis shoes, etc.).
- ◆ Place equal numbers of two colors of paper squares in a bag. Students shake the bag and draw out a square to determine teams.
- ◆ Group teams by birthday month (for two teams, January through June and July through December); adjust as needed to make numbers even.
- ◆ Group teams by the alphabetical order of their first or last names.
- ◆ Group teams by telling them to stand on one foot: Those standing on a right foot form one team; those standing on a left foot form the other team.

After playing a round or two of a game, announce that the person on each team who is wearing the most (red) should rotate to another team. Then play the game again. As you repeat this rotation process, vary the method of rotation so that students play with several different students each time.

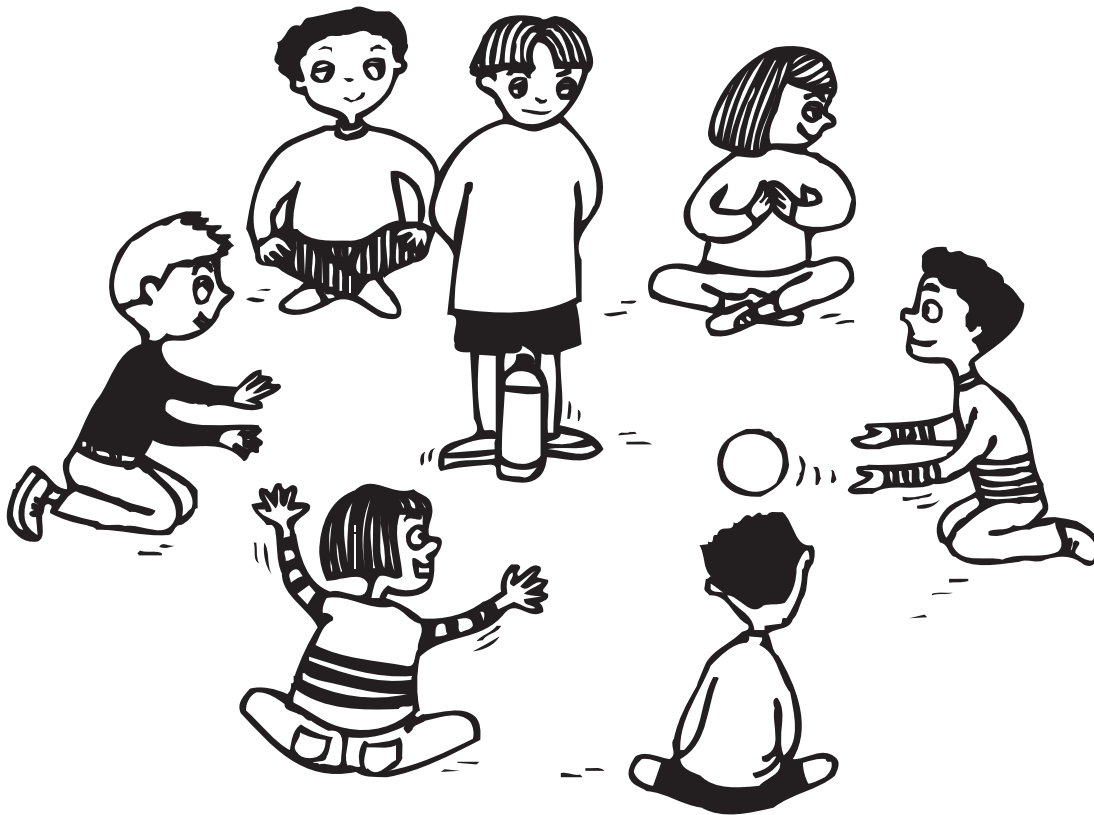
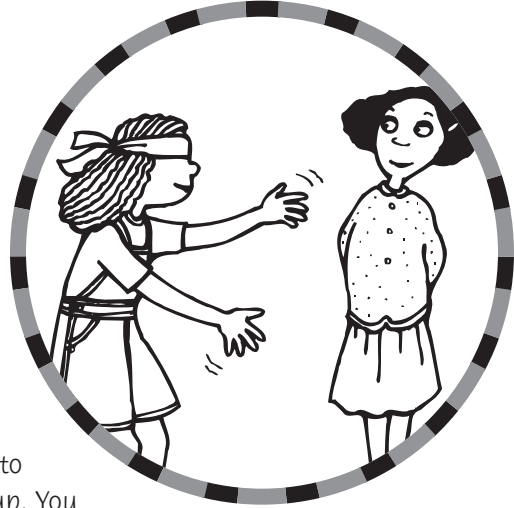
Leading the Game

Explain rules clearly and simply. It's helpful to write out the rules to the game. Make sure you explain rules step-by-step.

Offer a practice round. When playing a game for the first time with your group, play it a few times just for practice. Students will learn the game's structure and rules best by actually playing the game.

Guiding Conversation

Using guided conversation turns a game activity into discovery learning! Make use of the discussion questions provided in the curriculum throughout the game time. You might ask a game's winners to answer questions or to consult with each other and answer as a group. You might discuss three questions between the rounds of a game or ask a question at the beginning of the round, inviting answers when the round is over.



Coloring/Puzzle Center Tips

The Bible story or verse coloring and puzzle pages provided for each lesson in *Journey with Jesus* provide an activity that you can use in several ways. These pages may be used as the basis of a separate activity center in which the youngest children (preschoolers and early elementary age) complete the coloring page and the older children (older elementary age) work on the puzzle. The coloring and puzzle pages often directly connect with a lesson's Bible story or verse, or sometimes provide additional Bible information. In order to complete the puzzle pages, students need Bibles for reference.

Alternatively, these pages can be used to supplement an existing center. For example, a Bible story coloring page can be provided for younger children to extend their interest in the Bible story. Or children who complete an art activity before others can be challenged to complete the coloring or puzzle page. Coloring and puzzle pages can also be kept for use when an activity runs short.

The coloring and puzzle pages may also be sent home with children on a weekly basis as a way of extending their Bible learning into the home. In addition, the coloring pages can be copied onto transparencies, projected and traced onto butcher paper and used for wall murals or bulletin boards.

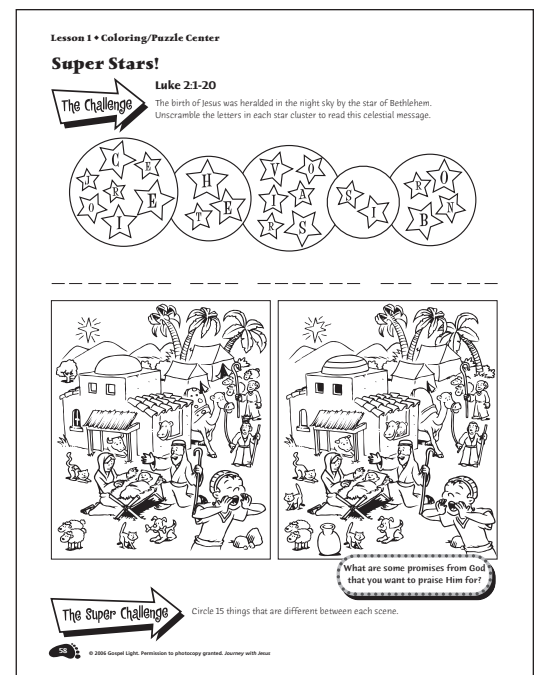
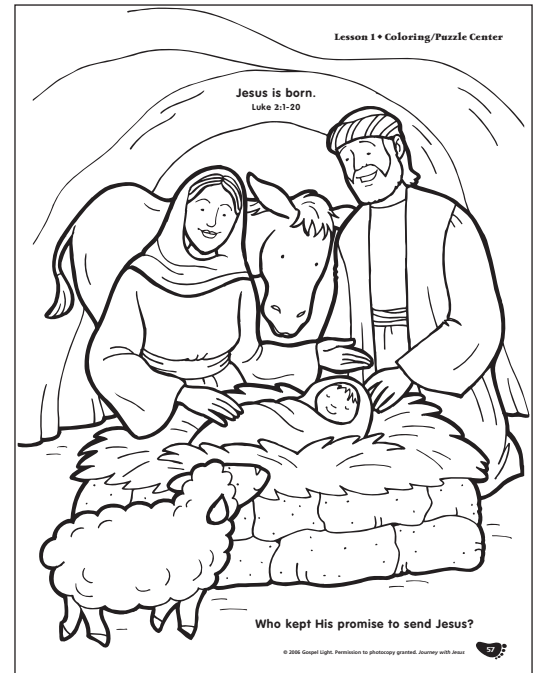
Preparation

- ◆ It's easiest to copy at one time all the pages needed rather than photocopying on a weekly basis. Store the pages in marked folders for easy use.
- ◆ If you plan to use markers for the coloring pages, photocopy those pages onto heavier stock to avoid marker bleed-through.
- ◆ Provide a variety of art materials for coloring; in addition to crayons and markers, colored pencils and watercolors add interest.
- ◆ Have the puzzle answer sheets (pp. 242-245) available for children who are working on the Bible puzzle pages.

Discussion Opportunities

While students are coloring or working on the puzzles, ask the questions suggested on the coloring or puzzle pages. Using these questions will help you connect the coloring or puzzle activity to the lesson focus. Encourage student participation by introducing each question with a statement such as **I'm looking for four students wearing red to answer this question.** Another way to attract the interest of students is to say, **Someone whose name begins with the letter J can answer this question.**

Consider storing each child's coloring and/or puzzle pages in a folder. As time permits, refer to these pages as a way of reviewing past lessons. At the end of *Journey with Jesus*, give pages to children to take home.



Worship Center Tips

The Worship Center is a large-group gathering time that is best scheduled at the beginning or the end of each session. The goal is to help children participate in meaningful worship and build enthusiasm for discovering more about who Jesus is and how to be His followers. Fun games, lesson-related music, saying or reading God's Word and prayer are all provided in the Worship Center.

Plan to have an enthusiastic youth-group-type leader guide the Worship Center activities. Ask him or her to dress as an explorer or tour guide—perhaps with a unique hat or vest to help establish his or her character. Consider giving a name to the leader (Jerusalem John, Tour Director Bill, Adventurer Dakota Jones, etc.) to catch kids' attention.

Playing either "Shalom" or "Town by Town" as children gather for the Worship Center will help set the mood for *Journey with Jesus*.



Games

Each week a wacky game is suggested that will catch everyone's attention and involve children in team-building camaraderie. Sometimes the games connect to the Bible story and sometimes they do not. Often the game requires representatives from two or more teams. The number of children on a team may vary, depending on group size. While not all children (especially preschoolers) will feel comfortable getting up in front to lead or participate in a game, they will enjoy being part of a team and cheering for their teammates.

Worship Times

Adults sometimes see children's worship time as occupying kids with frenzied repetitions of "Father Abraham" or as simply teaching children to worship in the same way as adults. But children need informal worship opportunities at their own level of understanding. Worship experiences designed to meet children's needs help them respond in love and praise to their heavenly Father.

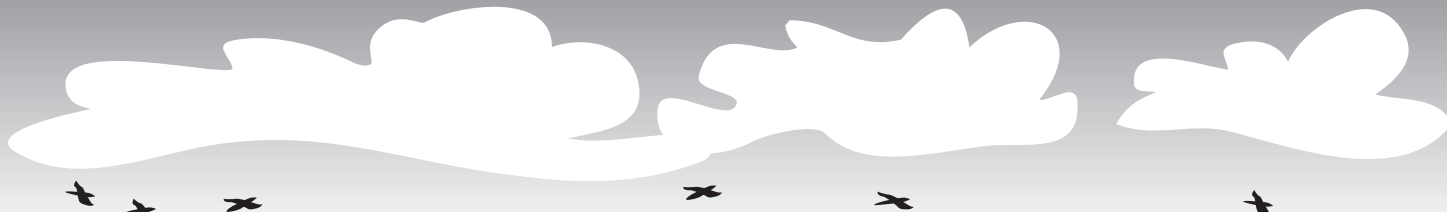
Worship is indeed a time to show reverence and respect for God, but it doesn't mean always sitting still and being quiet. The activities offered in the Worship Center involve children and help them interact with each other and with teachers in singing praise to God and hearing His Word.

A Place of Worship

Worship is also enhanced by setting apart a place especially for praising Him. To create a space in your classroom for the Worship Center, prayerfully consider the ages and abilities of the children in your group, the kind of worship experience appropriate for them and the time and space available.

Consider ideas such as displaying a contemporary picture of





Jesus, spreading a rug on the floor upon which children sit, and playing a theme-related song as a signal to begin worship. If taking an offering, singing a particular response or placing candles on an altarpiece are part of your church's adult worship, occasionally add those elements to the Worship Center as well. Give a simple explanation to help children understand why each of these acts is part of worship.

Keep in mind that the Worship Center is not just a place for entertainment or observation; your goal is to see every child participate in a positive way that is in keeping with his or her development.

Music Just for You!

Consider making copies of the *Journey with Jesus Music CD* to help your students become familiar with the songs used during *Journey with Jesus*. A variety of musical styles are represented, making it easy for you to customize your worship time to include your students' favorites.

Leading Songs

Each of the upbeat songs on the *Journey with Jesus Music CD* is designed to relate to who Jesus is, ways we can be His followers or to the Bible-times theme of the course.

Children may participate by singing, clapping, playing rhythm instruments, holding up word charts, operating the overhead projector or adjusting the CD player. Help children understand that all these activities have one goal: to honor and praise God. Your example of sincere worship sets the tone—it is the strongest teaching about worship the children will receive.

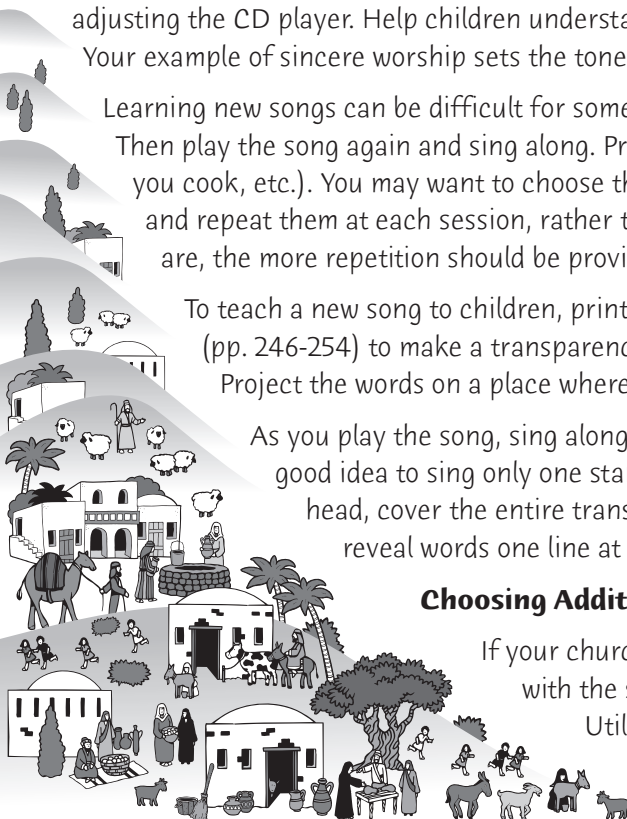
Learning new songs can be difficult for some teachers. Listen to the song on the *Journey with Jesus Music CD*. Then play the song again and sing along. Practice it several times (listen to it while driving in the car, while you cook, etc.). You may want to choose three or four favorite songs from the *Journey with Jesus Music CD* and repeat them at each session, rather than teaching a variety of new songs. The younger the children are, the more repetition should be provided.


To teach a new song to children, print the words on a large chart or use the song charts in this book (pp. 246-254) to make a transparency to project on an overhead projector or to make PowerPoint slides. Project the words on a place where they may be seen easily by all the children.

As you play the song, sing along with the song, inviting children to join in with you. It is usually a good idea to sing only one stanza and/or chorus the first time through. If you are using an overhead, cover the entire transparency with a blank sheet of paper. As you sing, move the paper to reveal words one line at a time.

Choosing Additional Songs

If your church chooses to lead students in additional worship songs, select songs with the same prayer and sensitivity with which you'd plan adult worship. Utilizing simple worship choruses and hymns from among your own church's favorites will prepare children for the transition to





adult-level worship in a gradual, age-appropriate manner. In this way, children will become familiar with a body of songs used in adult worship.

Whatever songs you use, be sure to explain any words or concepts that are unfamiliar to children. If unfamiliar words are used, take the time to give a brief definition of the word. Use a children's Bible dictionary if needed. For example, **The word "holy" means to be chosen or set apart. When we sing that God is holy, it means that He is perfect and without sin.** If you cannot put the words or concepts of a song in terms a child can truly understand, recognize that the song is probably appropriate only for adult worship.

Bible Verse

The simple verse activity provided encourages students to hear and/or say the Scripture in a creative way that invites their participation. Although children may often memorize the verse as part of this activity, Bible memory is not the primary goal. Instead, the goal is simply the interactive reading or hearing of God's Word.

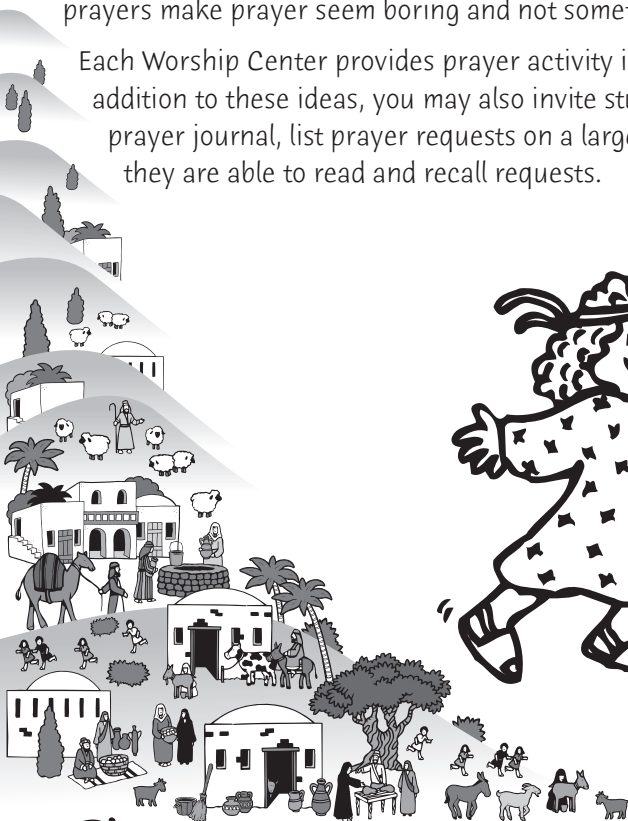
If the reading abilities of children and the number of teachers permit, children may find and read the verse in Bibles as part of this activity.

Consider printing out each week's verse on a computer banner for easy reading.

Prayer Time

Prayer is an integral part of worship. Don't deny children this privilege because they seem unable to hold still with folded hands and bowed heads for long periods of time. Instead, involve children in prayer in ways that will help them understand that prayer is something they can do. Don't insist that students pray in a particular posture; keep prayer times short and make them times of high involvement. Remember that your prayers give the students in your class a model for prayer that they will follow. Keep your prayers brief and use simple words. Long sentences and long prayers make prayer seem boring and not something for a child.

Each Worship Center provides prayer activity ideas for a large-group prayer at the end of the Worship time. In addition to these ideas, you may also invite students to say sentence prayers, record requests and answers in a prayer journal, list prayer requests on a large sheet of paper, and allow children to pray with eyes open so that they are able to read and recall requests.

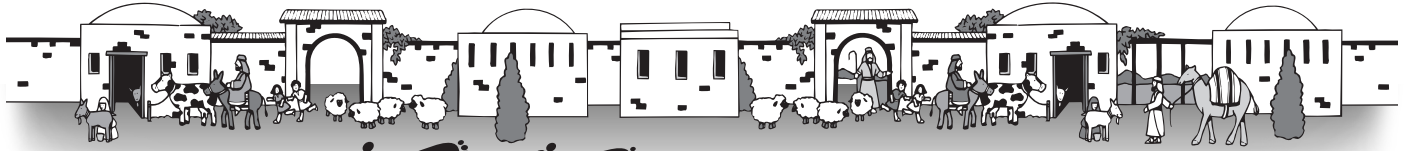




Journey with Jesus Lessons

**In this section are each lesson's instructions.
Before each session, photocopy and distribute
the lesson to each teacher and leader.**

Bethlehem: Amazing Arrival



Bible Story Luke 2:1-20

Teacher's Devotional

Welcome to a journey of discovery! The next 13 weeks will take us on a whirlwind tour of the land where Jesus walked. As we travel through cities where Jesus' ministry came alive, our aim is to grow in our knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is and how to live in ways that show love for Him.

Bethlehem, the first stop on our tour, is an ancient town whose name means "house of bread." Mentioned first in Genesis as the burial place of Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel, it was also the hometown to which Naomi returned after her many years in Moab. She, who had left the "house of bread" when there was no bread, returned to seek redemption. It came through her loving daughter-in-law Ruth when Boaz redeemed the family land and married Ruth, making her an ancestor of the promised Great Redeemer.

David, the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz, was called from shepherding in the Bethlehem hills to be anointed king of Israel. Bethlehem was remembered as the city of David. When Micah prophesied that Bethlehem would be the place where the Everlasting King would be born (see Micah 5:2), it was clear that Bethlehem would forever be known as a place of promise!



At last, the Great Redeemer was born in Bethlehem. The bread of life was born in the "house of bread." He is the ultimate fulfillment of every one of God's promises! Think of ways to help yourself and your students celebrate all the Promised One has done for us!

God's Word

"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

JOSHUA 23:14

For Younger Children:

"You know that not one of all the good promises God gave you has failed."

God's Word & Me

God's promises always come true.

Planning Page

Lesson 1
Luke 2:1-20

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Bethlehem: Amazing Arrival • Luke 2:1-20

Younger Child Option

Move nativity figures to show story action

Older Child Option

Discover God's promises written on pottery shards

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Participate in a packing relay race and talk about God's promises

Materials

Bible, masking tape, a variety of Bible-times dress-up clothes, two or more backpacks

Older Child Option

Play a game like tag to discuss some of God's promises to us

Materials

Bible, fabric strips, ruler, scissors, masking tape

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus* Music CD and player, song charts (pp. 247, 251), balloon, butcher paper, marker

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Create a Bethlehem village and talk about ways God keeps His promises

Materials

Bible, Lesson 1 Pattern Page (p. 56), white card stock, butcher paper, tape, crayons, scissors

Older Child Option

Create and experiment with Bible-times instruments and talk about promises God has made

Materials

Bible, scissors, a variety of small boxes, butcher paper, tape, unsharpened pencils, a variety of rubber bands

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 1 Coloring Page (p. 57) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 1 Puzzle Page (p. 58) for each student, pencils

Bonus Theme Ideas



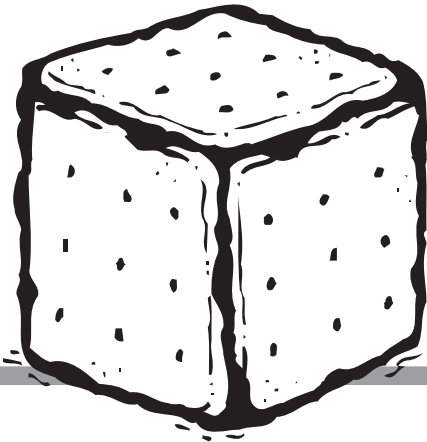
Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Bethlehem

Today we begin our tour of the places where Jesus lived and traveled. The first stop on our tour is Bethlehem, the city where Jesus was born. If you had traveled to Bethlehem in Bible times, you would have seen many flat-roofed houses. The name

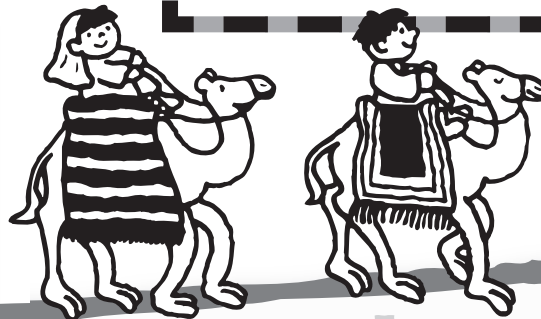
“Bethlehem” means “house of bread.” Today you can make your own “house of bread.” Distribute five or more crackers, a knife and a square of waxed paper to each student. Students construct Bible-times houses using the crackers and peanut butter (see sketch). Students eat extra crackers and peanut butter as a snack. Provide water to drink.



Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Bread Dough Sculptures

Give each student a fist-sized lump of refrigerated bread/biscuit dough. Students dip fingers in water and mold thin pieces of dough into shapes that remind them that God keeps His promises. Bake the shapes according to package directions. Students add jelly or honey and eat.



Photocopy Tour Bus pattern (p. 234) onto card stock. Photocopy the Bible-Times Map pattern (p. 237) onto an overhead transparency. In class, project the image onto a large sheet of butcher paper. Students trace the image onto the butcher paper and color it as desired. Students also color and cut out the tour bus and attach the bus to the finished map at Bethlehem. On a sheet of card stock print “God always keeps His promises to me” and attach to the map near Bethlehem. Each week, add a sign showing what students learn and invite students to move the tour bus to the location being discussed.



Map Mania



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

What do you see when you look at the sky at night? Listen to find out what some shepherds saw in the sky on one very special night.

Tell the Story

Some shepherds were in the fields at night outside of the little town of Bethlehem. They were watching their sheep. All the sheep were sleeping. Stars twinkled high in the nighttime sky. Everything was still and quiet.

Suddenly, the shepherds saw a bright light in the dark sky. *What could this be?* they wondered. Then they saw an angel! The shepherds were very afraid.

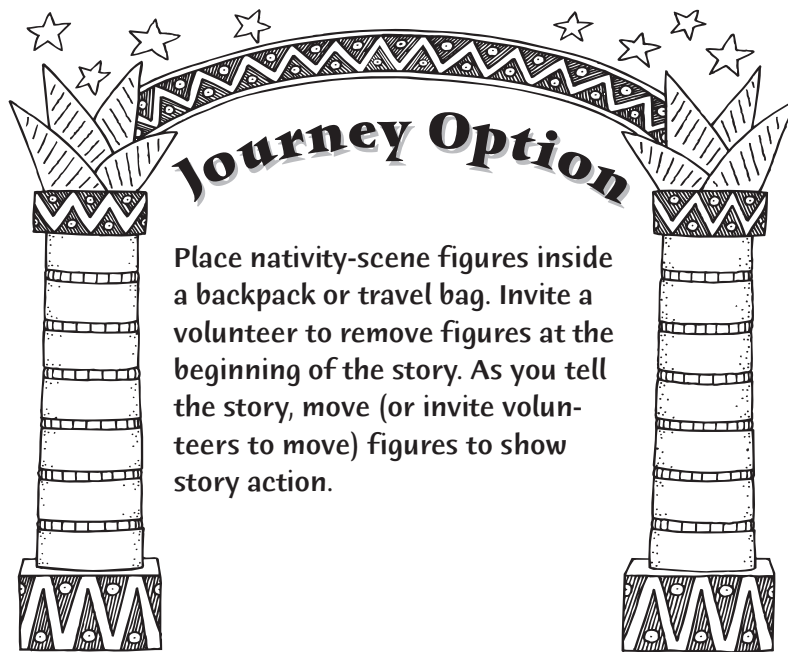
"Do not be afraid," the angel said. "I have good news to tell you. Today in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born for you. You will find this special baby lying in a manger." Before the shepherds could say a word, the sky was FULL of angels. The angels thanked God that Jesus was born. Then the angels left and went back to heaven. The nighttime sky grew dark and quiet again.

The shepherds said, "Let's go right now and find this special baby." The shepherds hurried as fast as they could go. They ran down the hillside. Then they ran along the road to Bethlehem. When they came to the stable, they saw Mary and Joseph. Quietly the shepherds came near to see the baby. And in the manger lay baby Jesus, just as the angel had said.

The shepherds were excited and happy about baby Jesus. "Jesus is born!" they told everyone they saw. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep. And all the while they praised and thanked God for sending His Son, Jesus.

God's Word & Me

After visiting the baby Jesus, what did the shepherds do? (Told others that Jesus was born.) **The shepherds were so thankful that Jesus was born, they told everyone they saw! We can tell others about Jesus, too! Who can you tell about Jesus' birth? Let's tell God "thank You" for sending Jesus.** Pray briefly with children.





Collect

Bible, video recorder.

Introduction

What would a visitor notice about our town? What are some special things about our town?

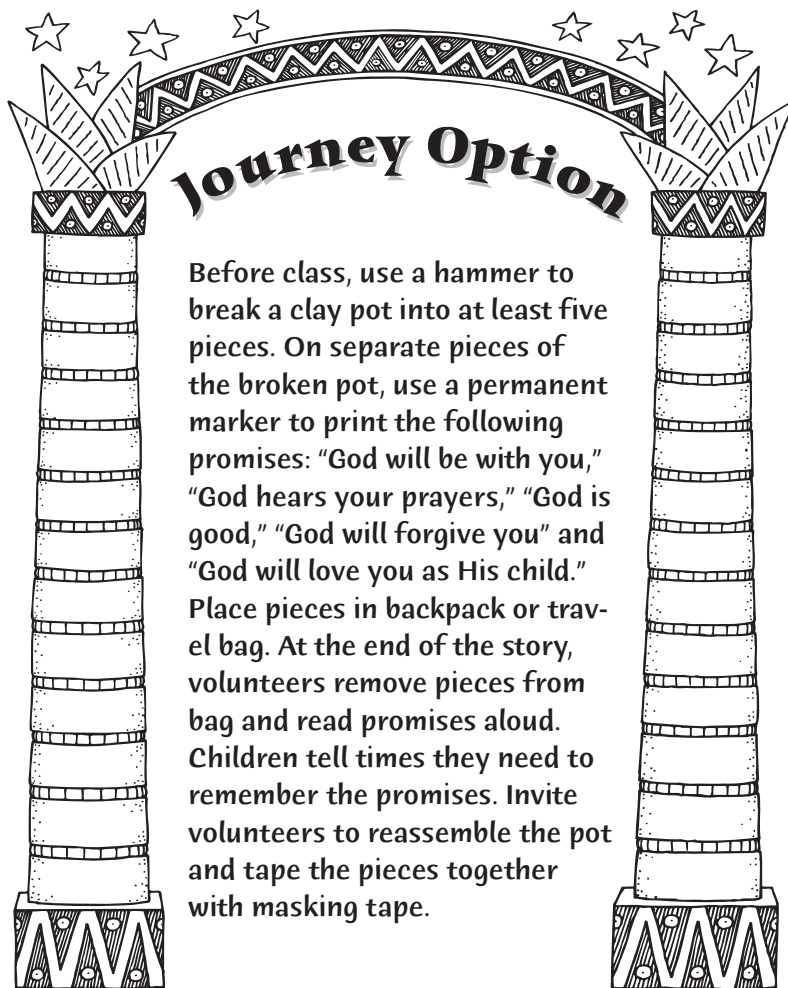
Well, the city we're visiting today—Bethlehem—might have looked like just any small town in Israel, but there were some very special things that had happened there. Bethlehem was the birthplace of King David, the greatest king Israel had ever had! The people of Bethlehem knew there was something else that was special about their town. God had made a special promise to send the Messiah. This Messiah would be the Savior of the world. "Messiah" means "the Chosen One." God had promised that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem! (Designate one area of the room as the town of Bethlehem. Designate other areas as the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the fields near Bethlehem. As you tell the story, guide volunteers to play the parts of Mary and Joseph, the innkeeper, census taker, shepherds and townspeople. Videotape students and show video at the end of the story.)

Tell the Story

At the time our story takes place, the people of Bethlehem were probably wondering when or if God would send the Messiah. They certainly must have hoped it would be soon, because they wanted the Messiah to get rid of the Romans who were ruling their country! One rule the Romans made said that everyone had to go to the city where their ancestors were from in order to be counted for paying taxes. As a result, the town of Bethlehem was full of people! There were people staying in friends' and relatives' houses. There was one place that was so crowded that not one more person could be squeezed in—the inn! Imagine how the tired innkeeper felt when he saw another man and woman coming to his inn, looking for a place to stay.

Those two people were Mary and Joseph. They desperately needed a place to stay because Mary was about to have a baby. The innkeeper shook his head sadly as Joseph asked for a quiet place to stay. "I haven't got a speck of space left. And the only quiet place I've got is the stable," the innkeeper might have said.

"We'll stay there if you'll let us," Joseph may have said. So Mary and Joseph went to the stable. It wasn't long before Mary's baby was born. **What do you think Mary might have said about her baby?** After the baby



Before class, use a hammer to break a clay pot into at least five pieces. On separate pieces of the broken pot, use a permanent marker to print the following promises: "God will be with you," "God hears your prayers," "God is good," "God will forgive you" and "God will love you as His child." Place pieces in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the story, volunteers remove pieces from bag and read promises aloud. Children tell times they need to remember the promises. Invite volunteers to reassemble the pot and tape the pieces together with masking tape.



was born, Mary wrapped Him tightly in strips of cloth to keep the baby safe and warm.

Now, like all Bible-times towns, Bethlehem had lots of shepherds. These shepherds were out in the fields watching the sheep—probably very glad to be away from all the hustle and bustle going on in Bethlehem. Yes, a nice quiet evening looking at the stars was what they expected. But suddenly, the field was flooded with bright light; and a special messenger made that quiet field outside of Bethlehem the most exciting place to be! **How might a shepherd have described what he saw and heard? Who was the special messenger?**

“Do not be afraid!” said the angel, which was a good first thing to say because the shepherds were probably very frightened—they’d never seen an angel before! The shepherds may have thought, *It must be something really good or something really bad. Whatever it is, it’s important—God wouldn’t send an angel for anything small.*

“I have good news for you and for all people!” the angel continued. “Today a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.” “Christ” is the Greek name for “Messiah.” And that was who the baby was—the Savior of the world, the Messiah! The angel told the shepherds that the Messiah whom God had promised had arrived! What incredible news!

Then the angel told the shepherds EXACTLY how to find this baby: He would be the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, in an animal’s feeding trough. Imagine what the shepherds must have thought. *The Messiah, born in a stable and lying in a manger? Why, He should be in a palace or at least a nice house!* Then, the sky was filled with hundreds of angels saying, “Glory to God!” It must have sounded as if the whole world was rejoicing. God had kept His promise. The Messiah was born!

Of course, the shepherds quickly hurried to the stable to see this baby for themselves. And then they went back to their sheep, singing praises to God and telling everyone what they saw. And Mary, who knew all about seeing angels, rocked her tiny baby and thought quietly about all the promises that came true that night.

God’s Word & Me

Bethlehem was the scene of the amazing arrival of Jesus—the Messiah God had promised to send. Because God kept His promise to send a Savior, we can be confident that He will keep all His promises to us—especially His promise to accept us into His family, making us His own children. Talk with interested students about salvation. (See “Leading a Child to Christ” on p. 12.)

- ◆ Read Joshua 23:14. **What do you learn about God and His promises from this verse?**
- ◆ **What has God promised to do when we believe in Jesus?** (In John 3:16, God promises to give us eternal life when we believe.) **What does God promise when we ask for forgiveness?** (In 1 John 1:9, He promises to forgive us when we admit that we have done wrong things.)
- ◆ **How can we find out about God’s promises?** (Read the Bible. Talk to others who love God.)
- ◆ **Of the five promises we discovered** (see Journey Option), **which promise do you think most kids your age need to remember? Why?** Pray with children, thanking God for the promises they mention.

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, masking tape, a variety of Bible-times dress-up clothes, two or more backpacks.

Do

1. **In our Bible story today, Mary and Joseph had to go on a long trip. Let's play a game to pack for a trip.** Children stand behind the masking-tape line. Place open backpacks on the other side of the playing area. Scatter dress-up clothes on the floor in the playing area.

2. Say, **Boys wearing blue, it's time to pack!** Children described pick up one or more dress-up items, walk to the backpacks, place the items inside and then return to the masking-tape line. Repeat, calling out different groups of children and making sure that each child has several turns to pack clothes.

Talk About

- ◆ **Sami, where do you like to go? God is with you when you go to Aunt Debbie's house.**
- ◆ **Jessica, when are you glad that God is with you?**
- ◆ **God loves you. He promises to be with us wherever we go. The Bible says, "Not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed." God always keeps His promises.**

For Older Children

Divide group into two teams. Teams line up behind masking-tape line. Place a pile of Bible-times costumes (one item per child) across the room from each team. Give the first child in each team a backpack. At your signal, first child in each team passes backpack to next child in line to hold it and then runs to the costumes, puts on an item and then runs back to his or her team. Child takes off costume item and gives it to the next child in line who puts costume item in backpack, passes backpack to next child and then runs to put on another item and bring it back to the next person in line. Continue until both teams have packed all the costumes.

God's Word

"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

JOSHUA 23:14

For Younger Children:

"Not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

God's Word & Me

God's promises always come true.



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 1
Luke 2:1-20



Collect

Bibles, fabric strips, ruler, scissors, masking tape.

Prepare

Cut one 2x10-inch (5x25.5-cm) fabric strip for each student. Mark off a large area of the classroom with tape. Mark some of the following verses in Bibles so that children can find them quickly: Deuteronomy 31:8; Psalm 34:17; 100:5; Isaiah 41:10; Jeremiah 31:3; 32:27; John 1:12; 14:23; Hebrews 13:8; 1 John 1:9; 5:14.

Do

1. Lead children to play a game called "Sheep's Tail."

How does the title of this game remind you of Bethlehem? (The area around Bethlehem was filled

with many sheep and shepherds.) Each child attaches a fabric strip ("sheep's tail") to the back of his or her clothing with masking tape. At your signal, children try to capture each other's tails (see sketch) while moving only within the boundaries ("sheep pen"). When a child's tail gets taken, he or she moves outside the sheep pen until the next game begins.

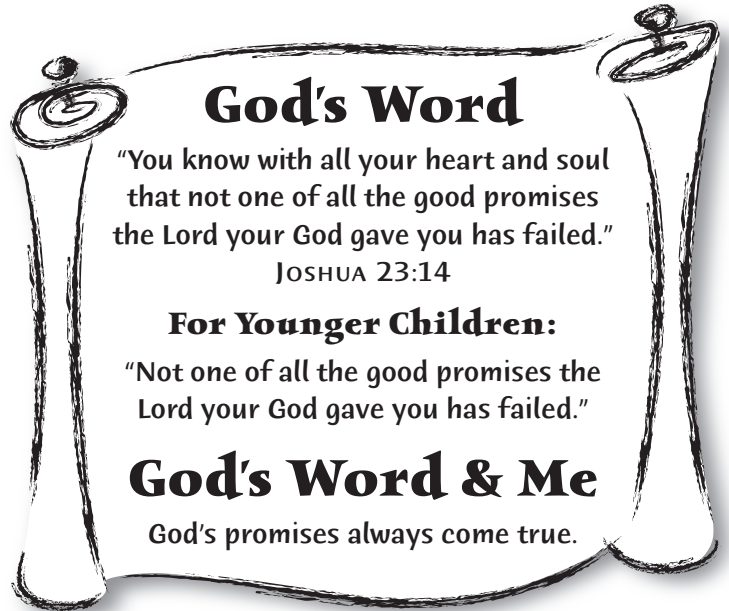
2. The last child with his or her tail in place reads aloud a verse from one of the Bibles you have marked, telling one of God's promises to His children. **What promise does this verse tell about?** Children play as many rounds of the game as time allows.

Talk About

- ◆ Which of God's promises do you want to thank Him for today?
- ◆ When might a kid your age need to remember this promise?
- ◆ How might someone show he or she believes God will keep this promise?
- ◆ What are some reasons we have for trusting in God's promises? Read aloud Joshua 23:14.

For Younger Children

You or another adult take the role of the Shepherd. Children wear sheep's tails and walk around the playing area. Call out a number between 2 and 4. Shepherd helps children form groups of the appropriate number. Repeat several times, inviting children to move in different ways (walk, hop, crawl, take giant steps, etc.) to form new groups.



Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 Pattern Page (p. 56), white card stock, butcher paper, tape, crayons, scissors; optional—toy people and animals.

Prepare

For each child in the class: Photocopy Lesson 1 Pattern Page (p. 56) onto a sheet of card stock. Cover table with butcher paper and tape in place.

Do

1. Distribute Lesson 1 Pattern Pages. Children color pages and then cut pages along solid lines and fold on the dotted lines. Help children tape their pages together to make Bible-times houses.
2. Children arrange their houses on butcher paper and draw roads, trees, hills and other details on the butcher paper. (Optional: Children play with toy people and animals in the Bible-times town they created.)

Talk About

- ◆ **When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, most people lived in small houses with flat roofs. Kenny, what does the roof of your house look like?**
- ◆ **Sara, where do you live? What does your apartment building look like?**
- ◆ **God loves you and is with you at your home. God promises to always love you! We can trust God's promises. Our Bible tells us, "Not one of the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."**

For Older Children

Show pictures of Bible-times towns from Bible dictionaries or other resource books. Provide a variety of boxes, paint, fabric scraps, glue, clay and paper. Referring to pictures for ideas, children use the items to create a large 3-D Bible-times town display on a long sheet of butcher paper or cardboard.

God's Word

"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

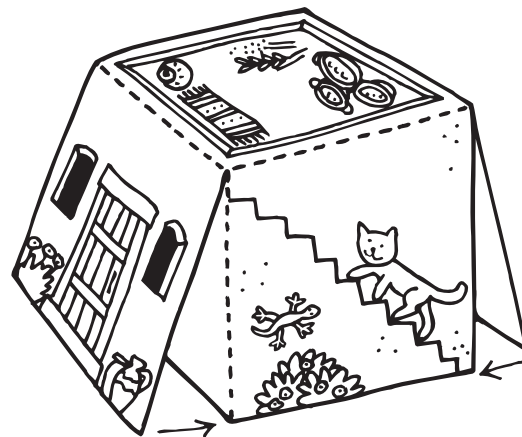
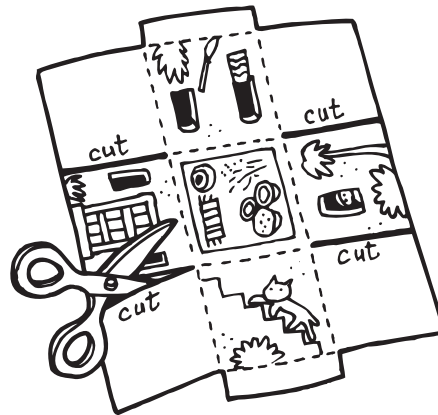
JOSHUA 23:14

For Younger Children:

"Not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

God's Word & Me

God's promises always come true.





Collect

Bible, scissors, a variety of small boxes (one for yourself and each child), butcher paper, tape, unsharpened pencils, a variety of rubber bands.

Prepare

Cut a rectangle out of the top or front of each box, leaving a 2-inch (5-cm) edge on each side (see sketch a). Make a sample lyre following the directions below.

Do

1. Show the sample lyre you made. **What kind of instrument does this remind you of?** (Guitar. Harp.) **In Bible times, musicians played an instrument called a lyre. Lyres were small wooden harps. David played a lyre when he was a boy taking care of his father's sheep in the fields around Bethlehem. We are going to make lyres today.**

2. Give each student a box. Students wrap boxes with butcher paper and tape, leaving holes uncovered. Give each student two pencils and four or five rubber bands. Students stretch rubber bands around boxes lengthwise and insert pencils underneath rubber bands on each end of the cut-out area (see sketch b).

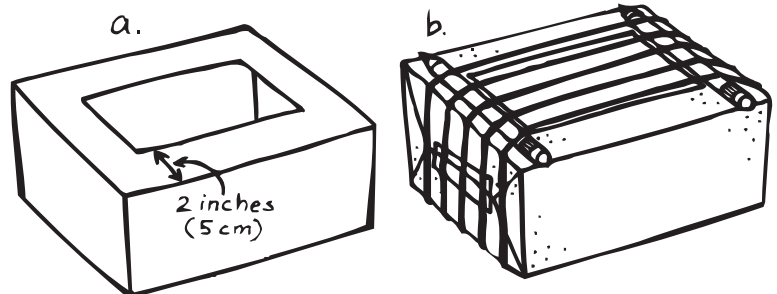
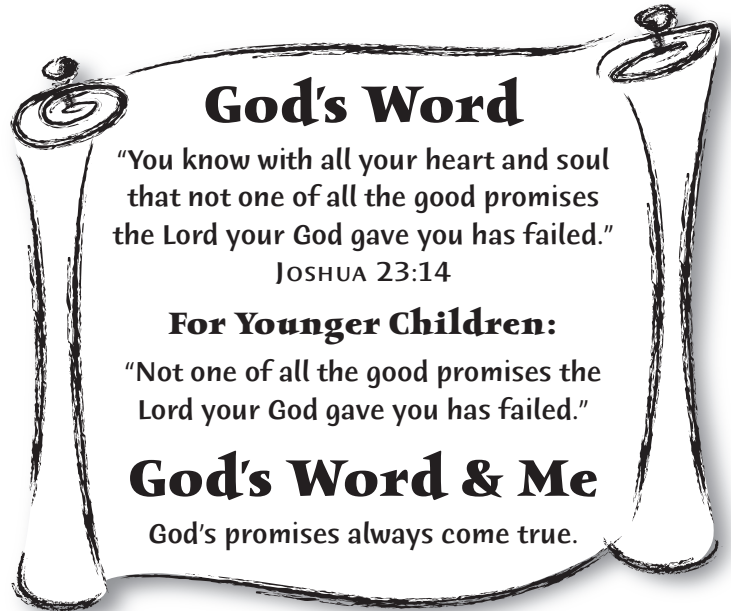
3. Students practice strumming their lyres. Encourage students to experiment with the sounds produced by using different-sized rubber bands, different-sized boxes and by removing or changing the placement of the pencils.

Talk About

- ◆ **In Bible times, people played lyres to praise God.** Read Joshua 23:14. **We can praise God because His promises always come true.**
- ◆ **What are some of God's promises you want to praise Him for?**
- ◆ **Why are you glad for that promise?**
- ◆ **In what situations do kids your age especially need to remember that God always keeps His promises?**

For Younger Children

Wrap boxes ahead of time. Children use markers to decorate boxes before they add rubber bands.



Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247, 251), balloon, butcher paper, marker.

Prepare

Inflate and tie a balloon.

Team Game

Send an adult helper out of the room. Lead children to choose one character from the Bible story (Mary, Joseph, angel, shepherd). Invite the helper back into the room. Helper tries to guess the chosen person by pantomiming actions of the Bible story characters. Children clap or cheer to show when helper is pantomiming the correct character. Repeat with other helpers or student volunteers as time permits.

Bible Verse Game

God kept His promise to send His Son. We know that He keeps ALL His promises to us! Lead children in repeating Joshua 23:14. Toss a balloon into the air as you say the first word of Joshua 23:14. Children keep balloon in the air by tapping it with their heads. Each time a child taps the balloon into the air, everyone says the next word of the verse. Continue until the verse is completed. Repeat verse several times in this manner.

Song

Lead children in singing "The Gift" and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

Think of one of God's promises to us that we talked about today. Invite volunteers to pray, completing the sentence, "Thank You, God, for Your promise to . . ." End the prayer time by thanking God for keeping all the promises He makes to us, especially the promise to send a Savior.

Song

Play "Psalm 130:7-8." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.

God's Word

"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

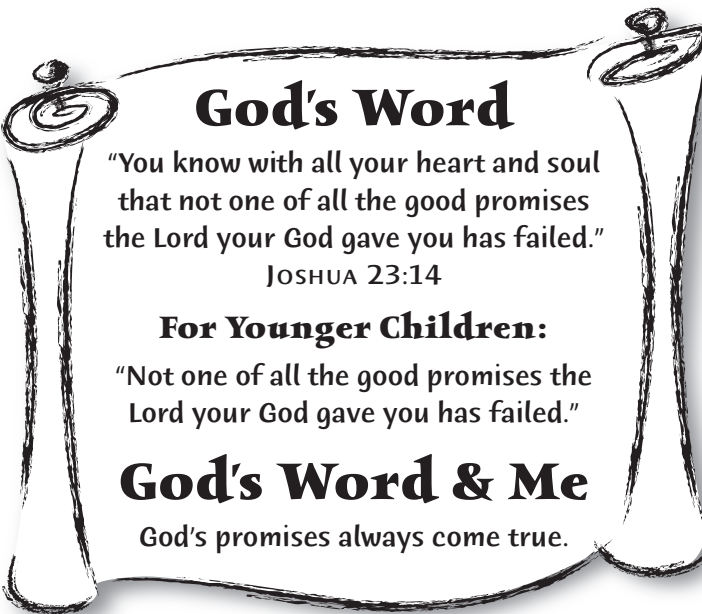
JOSHUA 23:14

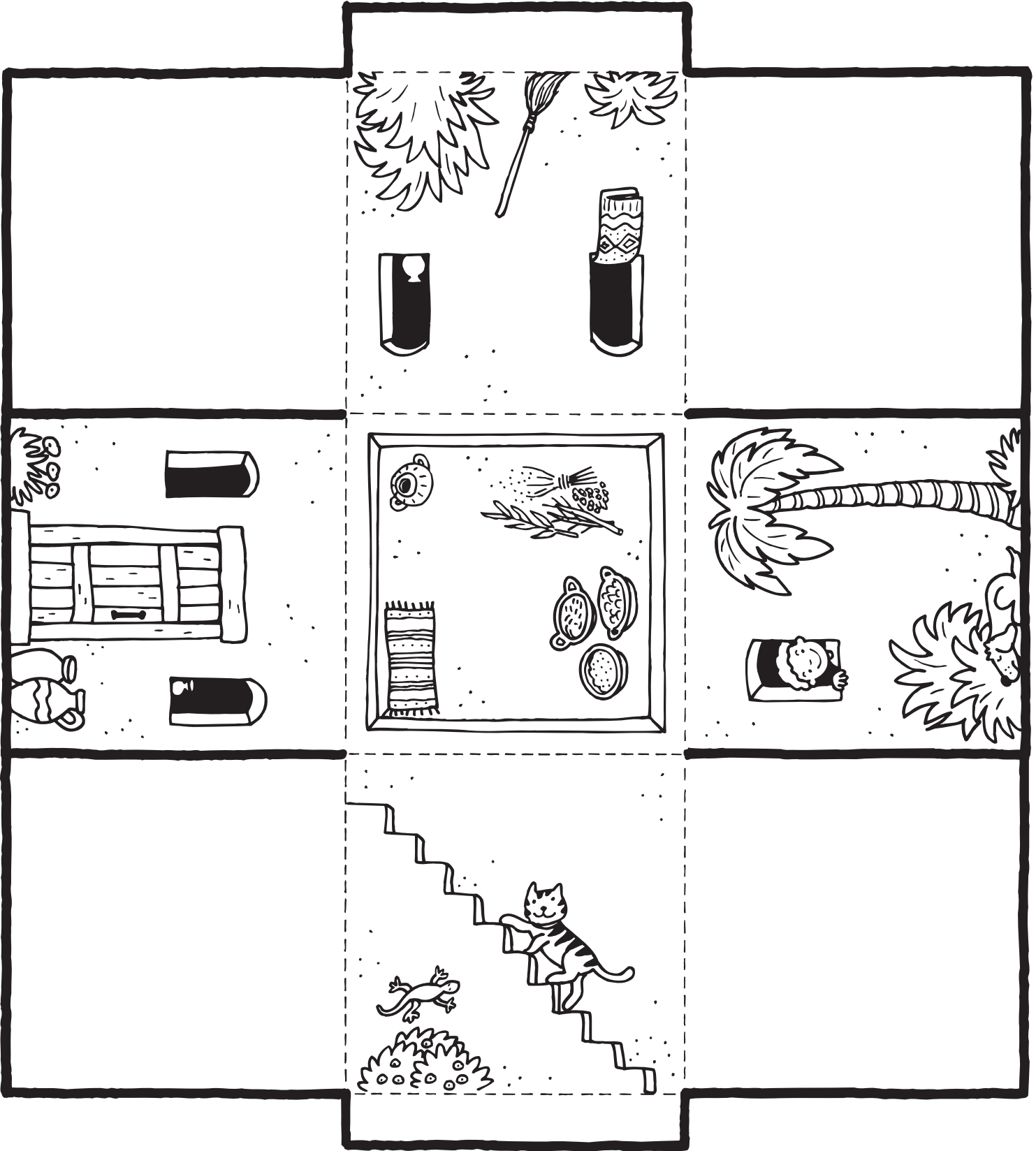
For Younger Children:

"Not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

God's Word & Me

God's promises always come true.





Jesus is born.
Luke 2:1-20



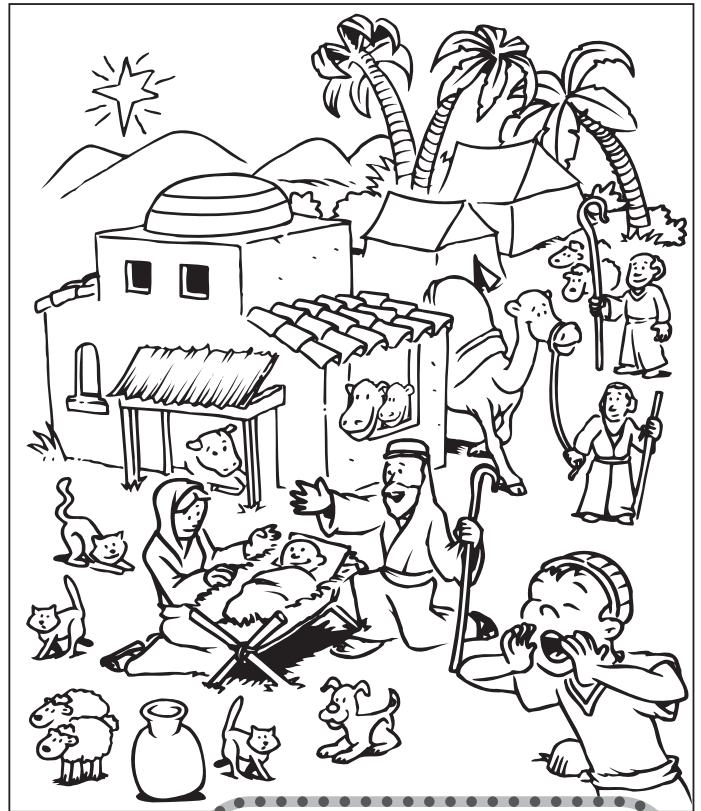
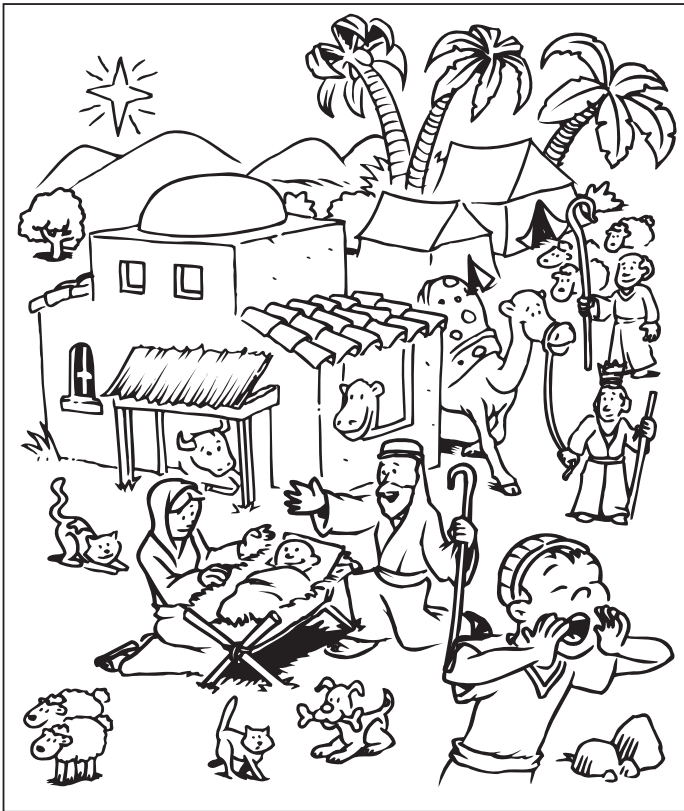
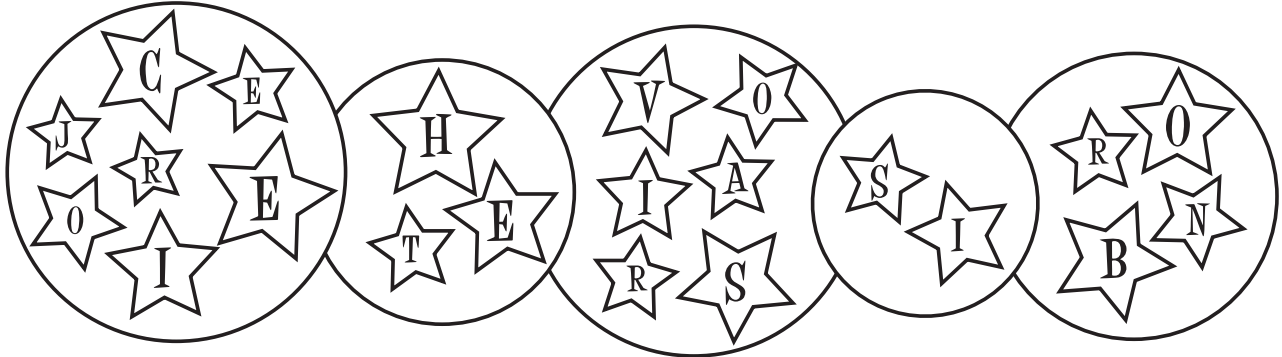
Who kept His promise to send Jesus?

Super Stars!



Luke 2:1-20

The birth of Jesus was heralded in the night sky by the star of Bethlehem. Unscramble the letters in each star cluster to read this celestial message.

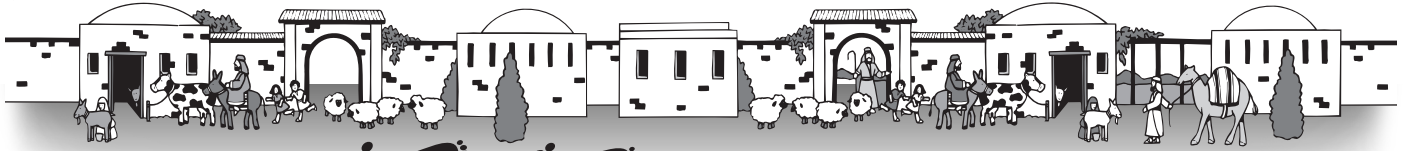


What are some promises from God that you want to praise Him for?



Circle 15 things that are different between each scene.

Jordan: Supernatural Sighting



Bible Story Matthew 3:13—4:11

Teacher's Devotional

How many of the world's great rivers can you name? Perhaps not many! But people often know the name of the main river in Israel. The Jordan is significant both in its geography and its history. It meanders through the Jordan Valley, descending to nearly 1,334 feet (400 m) below sea level at its southern end—the lowest point on Earth!

The Jordan is an integral part of biblical history. Lot settled on its well-watered plain and the Hebrews crossed it to possess the land God had promised them. Even today, the phrase "crossing the Jordan" is a metaphor for death and entry into heaven.

Perhaps the most important day of the Jordan's history was the day Jesus was baptized there by John and publicly declared to be the Messiah. Shortly after His baptism, Jesus went alone to the desert and fasted for forty days. Satan saw this as an opportune time to tempt Jesus. However, the forty-day fast had not weakened



God's Word

"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

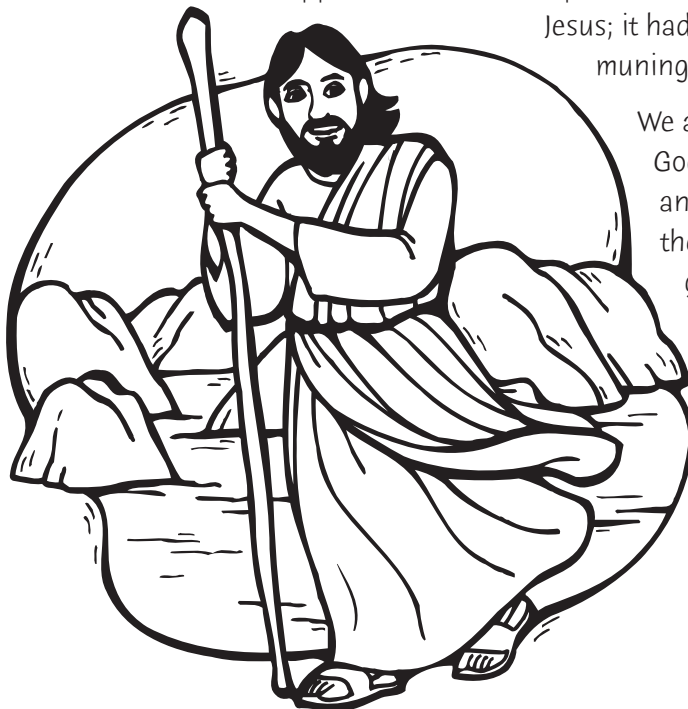
For Younger Children:

"God is faithful."

God's Word & Me

God's Word gives me strength to do right.

Jesus; it had made Him strong, for He gave Himself to communing with His Father.



We all have our "Jordans": times of clearly knowing God's direction, of basking in His presence. Dry and desolate "desert times" may come soon after these! But just as Jesus used His "desert time" to grow strong in His Father's might, He invites us in our most desolate times to give our attention to our Father and learn how He can strengthen us. Then He promises us that no temptation will be more than we can bear. He promises to walk with us, providing a way to endure the trial so we are strong and complete in Him.

Planning Page

Lesson 2
Matthew 3:13—4:11

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Jordan: Supernatural Sighting • Matthew 3:13—4:11

Younger Child Option

Show objects that illustrate the story

Older Child Option

Arrange words on rocks to discover a message

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Create sandpaintings and talk about obeying God's Word

Materials

Bible, large trays, small containers of glue, cotton swabs, sand in a variety of colors, spoons, card stock

Older Child Option

Make Bible-times belts and discuss verses from God's Word that can help when we are tempted

Materials

Bible, materials for the type of belt you choose

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus* Music CD and player, song charts (pp. 249-250), slips of paper, marker, balloons

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Use water bottles in a race and talk about obeying God's Word

Materials

Bible, 8 to 10 filled water bottles, two wrapping-paper tubes, small ball

Older Child Option

Play a game similar to Steal the Bacon to discuss verses that can help when we are tempted to do wrong things

Materials

Bible, Lesson 2 Pattern Page (p. 70) for yourself and each child, pencils, scissors, tape, ribbon or yarn, large sheet of paper, marker

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 2 Coloring Page (p. 71) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 2 Puzzle Page (p. 72) for each student, pencils

Bonus Theme Ideas

Lesson 2
Matthew 3:13—4:11

 Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring the Jordan

One of the places Jesus visited was the Jordan River. Children locate Jordan River on map (p. 237). **Let's find out how long the river is.** Distribute 20 10-inch (25-cm) lengths of yarn equally among children. **Each piece of yarn represents 10 miles (16 km).** Tell children a landmark 10 miles (16 km) from your church. Volunteers place seven lengths of yarn in a line. One volunteer writes "Sea of Galilee" on a sheet of paper and tapes paper to the floor at one end of the line. Another volunteer writes "Dead Sea" on another paper and tapes it at the other end of the line. **The Jordan River flows between these two seas which are about 70 miles (112 km) apart. But the Jordan River is really much longer! Because of all its twists and turns, if you were to travel all the way down the Jordan River, you would travel about 200 miles (320 km)!** Children tape all 20 yarn lengths together and arrange the yarn to twist and turn between the two seas.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Pita and Cheese

- Children use plastic knives to cut pita bread into triangles. Children open their pita-bread triangles and spread softened cream cheese inside.
- Children serve pita triangles on napkins.
- Provide water or grape juice for children to drink.



Guide children to create passports for their tour of the places Jesus traveled. Give each child two sheets of paper. Child cuts paper in half and then folds the four half-sheets together and staples them to make a 16-page booklet. On booklet cover, child prints "(Name's) Passport". On next page, child draws a picture of him- or herself. On remaining pages, child prints the names of places you will visit on your tour (see lesson titles in this book). Each week, children add information about the places they visit and what they learned about Jesus in each place. Children decorate passports as desired.

Tour Passport

Bible Story Center



for younger children

Lesson 2
Matthew 3:13—4:11



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

What are some wrong things children might do? (Take someone's toy. Say mean words.) **Our story today is about when someone tried to get Jesus to do things that were wrong.**

Tell the Story

One day Jesus walked to the cool Jordan River. Jesus went into the river to be baptized. God said, "This is My Son. I love Him."

Jesus must have been glad to hear God's voice! He left the river and walked to a quiet place in the desert. Jesus talked to God in the desert. Jesus stayed in the desert for 40 days. Forty days is a LONG time. The whole time Jesus was thinking and praying, He did not eat ANYTHING!

At the end of 40 days, God's enemy, Satan, came to see Jesus. Satan didn't want Jesus to do Jesus' important job for God. Satan wanted Jesus to do something that was wrong. Satan knew Jesus was very hungry. Satan showed Jesus a stone. "If You want to, You can turn this stone into bread," Satan said to Jesus.

Jesus was very, very hungry. Some nice fresh bread would taste SO good! But Jesus said, "No! No! That's not God's way! I will only do what GOD wants Me to do. The Bible says obeying God's Word is even more important than eating."

Satan did not give up. Satan took Jesus to the top of a very tall building. "You can prove to everyone You are God's Son," Satan said. "If You jump off this building, angels will come and save You. It would be really amazing!"

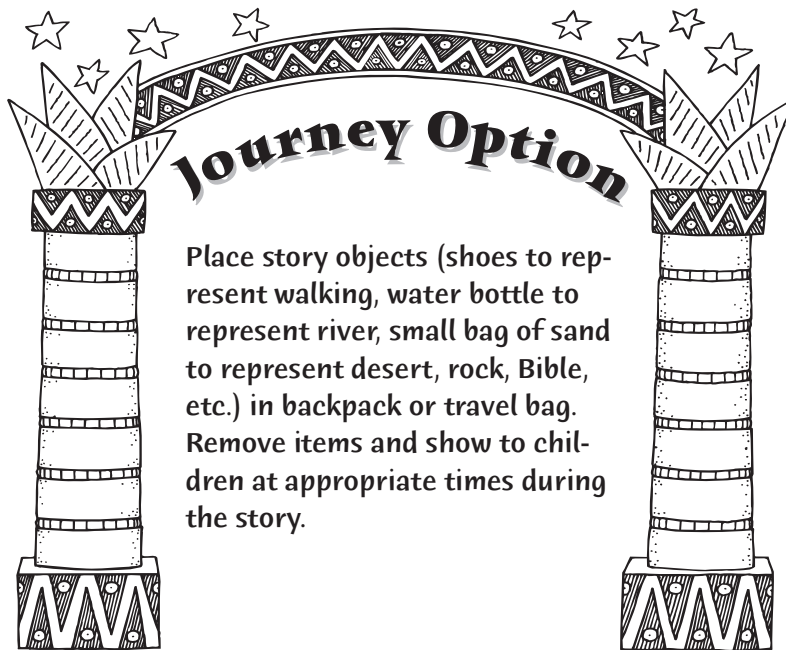
Jesus knew some people would not believe Him. But Jesus said, "No! No! That's not God's way! I will only do what God wants me to do. The Bible says people shouldn't ask God to prove that He loves us."

Satan STILL did not give up. Satan took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. He showed Jesus the whole world. "If You worship me, instead of God, I will give You this whole world," Satan said to Jesus.

Jesus knew it would be easy to do what Satan wanted Him to do. But Jesus said, "No! No! That's not God's way! I will only do what God wants Me to do. The Bible says people should only worship God. Now go away, Satan, and stop bothering Me!"

God's Word & Me

Even though Satan tempted Jesus to disobey God, Jesus did what was right and obeyed God. God loves us, and He will help us to do what is right, too. Our Bible says, "God is faithful." He will keep His promise to help us! Pray, Thank You, God, for keeping Your promises!



Place story objects (shoes to represent walking, water bottle to represent river, small bag of sand to represent desert, rock, Bible, etc.) in backpack or travel bag. Remove items and show to children at appropriate times during the story.

Bible Story Center

for older children



Lesson 2
Matthew 3:13—4:11



Collect

Bible, paper, markers.

Introduction

Why might someone want to go to a river? (To swim. To ride in a canoe.) **In Bible times, people might have come to the Jordan River to see some beautiful waterfalls or to take baths in hot springs, which are like natural hot tubs. But in our story today, crowds of people were coming to the Jordan River for a very different reason.** (Distribute paper and markers. Assign students different story-related items to draw. Students draw pictures of a river, a dove, rocks, desert, the Temple, a mountain and a Bible. More than one child may draw each picture. Children show pictures as you mention the items during the story.)

Tell the Story

Out at the edge of the Judean desert on the banks of the Jordan River, large crowds of people came every day to hear a man called John the Baptist. John told his listeners to start obeying God because God was going to do something special very soon. He was going to send the promised Messiah. John told the people they needed to get ready for the Messiah to come. John baptized people in the Jordan River, using the water to show that they were sorry for the wrong things they had done.

One day, Jesus came to see John. Jesus said, "John, I want you to baptize Me."

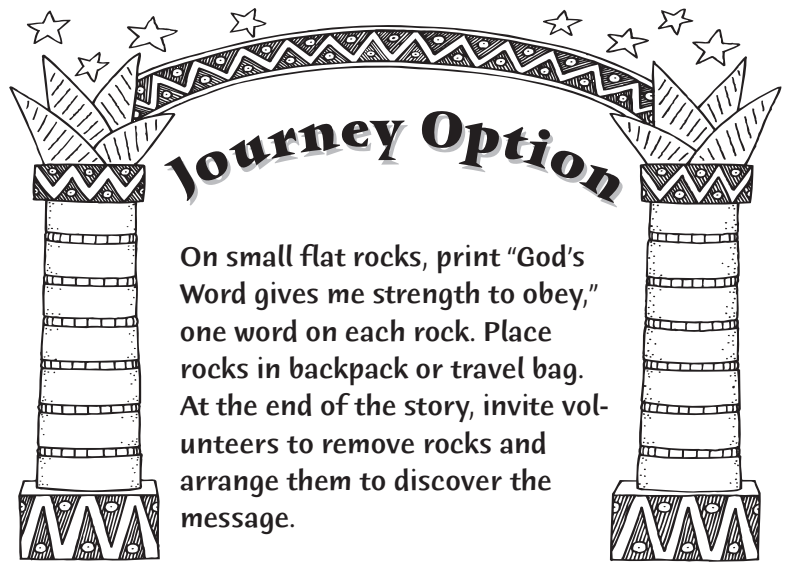
"I can't baptize You," answered John. "You should be baptizing me!"

"No," Jesus said. "I want to show that I am willing to follow God in everything." So John baptized Jesus.

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the Bible says that God's Spirit appeared like a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son whom I love. I am pleased with Him." **What do you think John thought when he heard the voice? What do you think Jesus thought?**

NOW Jesus knew it was time to begin the special job God had planned for Him to do. You might think that Jesus would start preaching and doing miracles right away. But God's Spirit led Jesus away from the crowds and out into the desert. **What are most deserts like?** This desert was covered with sandy, rocky mountains. This desert didn't have any houses or water or food. Jesus stayed out in this lonely desert to think and pray and get ready to do His job! For 40 days and 40 nights He didn't eat any food. He was hungry!

Meanwhile, Satan, God's enemy, knew that Jesus was alone in the desert. Satan also knew Jesus was God's Son. God had a plan to forgive people for all the wrong things—the sins—they had done. Satan wanted to STOP God's plan because Satan didn't want people to start obeying God. So Satan made a plan of his own—a plan to trick Jesus. If Satan could get Jesus to do something wrong—even ONCE—God's wonderful, perfect plan would be





destroyed. Satan decided he would tempt Jesus; he would try to get Jesus to disobey God.

So now that Jesus was very hungry and tired, Satan came to Jesus. “Jesus, if you are really God’s Son, turn these stones into bread.” Jesus answered Satan, “God’s Word says that people don’t need just bread to live. They find life in every word that comes from God.” Jesus was telling Satan that obeying God’s Word was even more important than eating food!

Satan tried again. He took Jesus to the very highest point of the Temple. As they looked down to the ground far below, Satan turned to Jesus. “You still haven’t proven that You are God’s Son,” Satan said. “Jump off this Temple; and IF You are REALLY the Son of God, He’ll keep You from getting hurt.” Satan continued, “It says in the BIBLE that God’s angels will rescue You. You wouldn’t even get a scratch!”

If He fell from that great height and remained unharmed, people might be convinced that Jesus was God; but Jesus knew it wasn’t in God’s plan. Jesus said, “The Bible ALSO says ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Jesus loved and trusted God. He was not going to do ANYTHING that wasn’t in God’s plan, not even to prove that God would take care of Him.

But Satan STILL wasn’t finished. This time Satan took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. Somehow, they could see the whole world spread below. Jesus had come to Earth to save the people in all those nations. Jesus knew that someday He would be the absolute ruler of all these countries, but first He would have to suffer and die to pay the terrible penalty for all of the world’s sins.

As they looked at the world, Satan slyly suggested, “I can give all this to You NOW. All You have to do is worship me. Just kneel and worship me.” **What do you think Jesus did?**

“Satan,” Jesus answered, “get away from Me! God’s Word says to worship and obey ONLY the Lord God.” Jesus knew no other person or thing came close to deserving worship.

So Satan left in defeat. No matter how hard Satan tried to ruin God’s plan by tempting Jesus to do wrong, Satan could not do it. Each time Satan tried to trick Jesus, Jesus answered with truth from God’s Word. Because Jesus knew and obeyed God’s Word, Satan’s plans were destroyed.

God’s Word & Me

Sometimes we think that because Jesus was God’s Son, it was easy for Him to always do right. But Jesus was tempted just as we are! And remembering God’s Word helped Jesus turn away from Satan’s temptations. The instructions in God’s Word can help us, too, when we are tempted to sin. God promises us that every time we are tempted He will help us do what’s right.

- ◆ Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. **What does this verse say God will do when we are tempted?** (He will give us what we need to escape temptation and obey Him.)
- ◆ **When are some times that kids your age are tempted to do wrong? How might remembering God’s Word help a kid in that situation?**
- ◆ **What might a kid say to God when he or she is tempted to do something wrong? I’m glad to know that God will help me do what is right when I am tempted.** Lead children in prayer, thanking God for His promise to help when we are tempted.

Game Center

for younger children



Lesson 2
Matthew 3:13—4:11

Collect

Bible, 8 to 10 filled water bottles, two wrapping-paper tubes, small ball.

Prepare

Arrange water bottles in a row, about 2 feet (0.6 m) apart.

Do

Children stand on either side of the water-bottle row. Give first two children a tube. Place small ball on the floor near first child. Child uses tube to putt the ball between the first two water bottles toward the child standing across from him or her. That child then putts the ball to the next child on the opposite side. Children give tubes to the next children in line. Children continue putting through the entire row. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ◆ **Playing the game so that everyone has a turn is a right thing to do. Jeremy, you did what was right when you putted the ball to Keisha. When are some other times we can do what is right?**
- ◆ **Sometimes it is hard to do what is right and obey God. God will help you when it is hard to do what is right. The Bible tells us, "God is faithful." That means we can trust Him to help us.**
- ◆ **We can ask God to help us. Pray, Dear God, please help us to do what is right.**

For Older Children

Print words of 1 Corinthians 10:13 on index cards, two or three words on each card. Tape cards to water bottles and place bottles randomly around the room. Each child takes a turn to putt the ball, tapping each water bottle in verse order (several children may play at one time). If space allows, set up multiple courses.

God's Word

"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

For Younger Children:

"God is faithful."

God's Word & Me

God's Word gives me strength to do right.



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 2
Matthew 3:13—4:11



Collect

Bible, Lesson 2 Pattern Page (p. 70) for yourself and each child, pencils, scissors, tape, ribbon or yarn, large sheet of paper, marker.

Prepare

Print Romans 12:9-10,12-13 on your copy of the pattern page. Cut out the scroll, roll up and tie as a scroll.

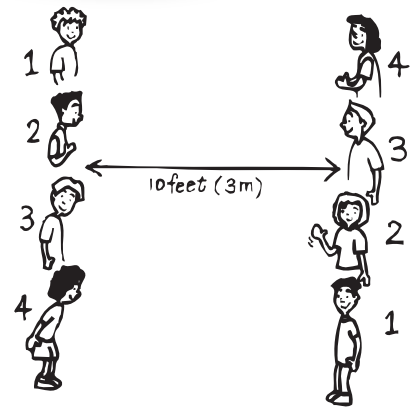
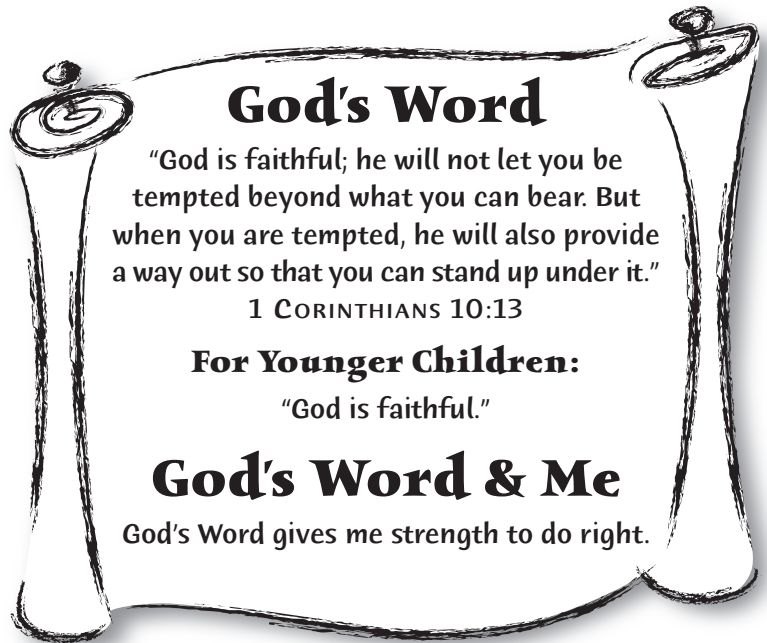
Do

1. Show scroll you prepared. Open the scroll and ask volunteers to read the Bible passage aloud. **These verses help us know some ways to obey God when we're tempted to do wrong. What do these verses tell us to do?** As children answer, print their ideas on large sheet of paper.

2. Distribute pattern pages and pencils. Assign each instruction on the large sheet of paper to a child. Child writes the instruction on his or her page. Children cut out scrolls, roll up and tie as shown on page.

3. Children play a game similar to Steal the Bacon. Divide class into two equal teams. Each team stands in a straight line facing the other team, leaving about 10 feet (3 m) between the teams. One team numbers off from one end of the line, while the other team numbers off from the opposite end. Volunteer places his or her scroll in the center of the playing area.

4. Call a number. Child with that number on each team runs to grab the scroll. Child who gets the scroll opens it and reads the instruction written on it. **When can a kid your age obey this instruction?**



Talk About

- ◆ **What is the promise God gives us in 1 Corinthians 10:13?**
- ◆ **What are some ways that God might help a kid who is tempted to do what is wrong?** (Remind the kid of what is right. Provide an adult for the kid to talk to.)
- ◆ **How has God helped you do what is right in the past?** Tell a personal example.

For Younger Children

Print instructions on separate scrolls and hide scrolls around the room. Children hunt for scrolls. After several minutes, help children open scrolls they found. Read aloud the instructions written on the scrolls. Repeat hiding and finding activity as time permits.



Collect

Bible, large trays, small containers of glue, cotton swabs, sand in a variety of colors, spoons, card stock.

Prepare

Place trays on table. Place glue containers, cotton swabs, sand and spoons near trays. (If possible, plan to do this activity outside.)

Do

1. **What is in the desert?** (Children respond.)

There is LOTS of sand in the desert! Let's make some desert sand pictures. Distribute card stock. Children place card stock in large trays and then use cotton swabs to paint a glue design.

2. Children spoon one color of sand over glue design and shake off excess sand into tray. Children add more glue and use additional colors of sand as desired.

Talk About

- ◆ **Becca, have you ever been to a desert? What did you see in the desert? Jesus went to a desert to pray to God.**
- ◆ **When have you prayed to God? We can pray to God when we need help to obey Him and do what is right. God promises to help us. We can trust God's promises. The Bible says, "God is faithful."**
- ◆ Invite children to name places they go to complete the following prayer: **Dear God, help me to do what is right at (the grocery store).**

For Older Children

Children read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and choose key words from the verse. On card stock, children print words in large block letters. Then children create designs on letters with glue and cover glue with colored sand. Display completed words in verse order in your classroom.

God's Word

"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

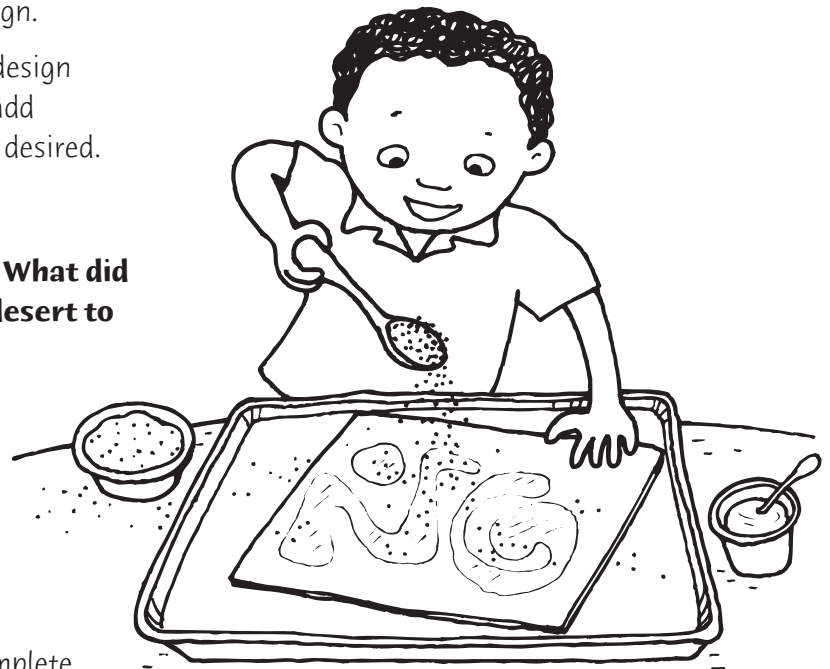
1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

For Younger Children:

"God is faithful."

God's Word & Me

God's Word gives me strength to do right.





Collect

Bible, materials for the type of belt you choose.

Prepare

Make a sample belt.

Do

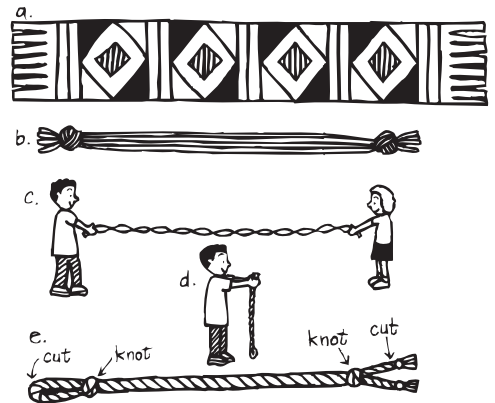
Show students the sample belt you made. **In Bible times, people wore clothes called tunics. Tunics needed belts so they would fit closely and not get in the way when people moved. Let's make some Bible-times belts.** Lead students to make one of the belts described below.

Cloth Belt

Cut solid light-colored fabric into 9x30-inch (22.5x75-cm) rectangles, one for each student. Children use permanent markers to draw designs onto fabric (see sketch a). Children use scissors to fringe belt ends.

Twisted Yarn Belt

Cut yarn into 3-yard (2.7-m) lengths—four for each child. Give each pair of children four lengths of yarn. Children tie yarn together with a knot at each end (sketch b). Pairs stand facing one another and hold ends of yarn, pulling it taut. Children twist the yarn clockwise (to the right) until the yarn is tightly twisted (sketch c). One child holds both ends of yarn. The other child pulls on the center of the yarn and then lets go. The yarn should twist itself together, forming a rope (sketch d). (If yarn does not twist, partners twist yarn clockwise again, twisting yarn even tighter.) Tie knots 2 inches (5 cm) from each end. Then cut off ends to form tassels (sketch e). Repeat to make belt for the second child.



Talk About

- ◆ **When are some times that kids your age are tempted to do wrong?** Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. **What does this verse say that God will do when we are tempted? When have you been tempted to do wrong and remembered something from the Bible that helped you?** Tell about a verse that helped when you were tempted to do wrong.
- ◆ **What are some other ways God helps us obey Him when we're tempted to sin?** (Answers prayers. Gives us parents and teachers to teach us.)

For Younger Children

Children decorate cloth belts. Fringe belt ends for children.



Worship Center



Lesson 2
Matthew 3:13—4:11

for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 249-250), slips of paper, marker, balloons.

Prepare

On four separate slips of paper, print one of the following instructions: leap like a frog, waddle like a penguin, hop like a kangaroo, strut like a peacock. Roll up slips of paper and slide into separate balloons. Blow up and tie balloons.

Team Game

Divide group into four teams. Place balloons on the floor at the front of the room. Invite one volunteer from each team to run to the front of the room, choose a balloon and use his or her foot to pop the balloon. Volunteer finds the paper you placed in the balloon, runs back to his or her team and reads the instruction to the team. Team follows the instruction, continuing until you signal "Stop." If time permits, repeat activity several times.

Song

Play "My True Friend." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.

Bible Verse Game

Lead children in repeating 1 Corinthians 10:13 several times. Invite volunteers to create large, full-body motions for several words in the verse (for "God," point up high; for "faithful," stomp feet and put hands on hips; for "not," shake head and turn around; for "you," point to several people; etc.). Repeat verse again, using the large motions. If time permits, invite teams or small groups to create their own motions and take turns doing motions and repeating verse for the entire group.

Song

Reading and memorizing verses in the Bible will help us do what is right. Let's sing a song about memorizing God's Word, or hiding in our hearts. You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Psalm 119:10-12."

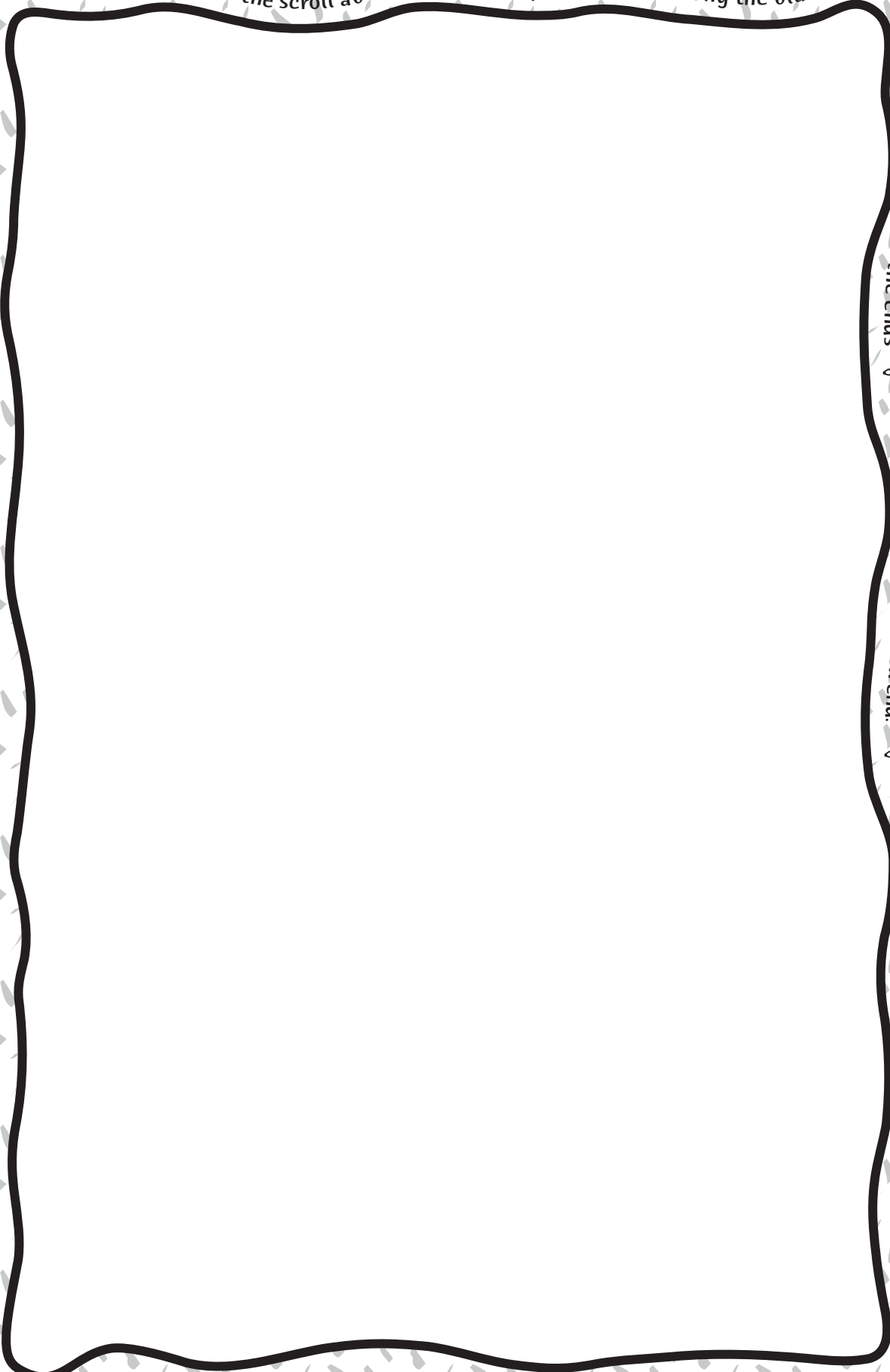
Prayer

When are some times kids your age might be tempted to do wrong this week? Children tell times. **Let's ask God to help us remember His Word and choose to obey Him when we're tempted to do wrong.** Invite several volunteers to pray, asking God for help in obeying Him during the week.

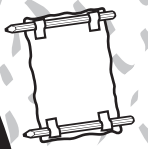


Lesson 2 ♦ Pattern Page

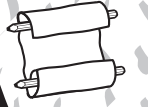
1. Write a sentence on the scroll about a way to obey God. 2. Cut along the black line.



3. Tape pencils to the ends



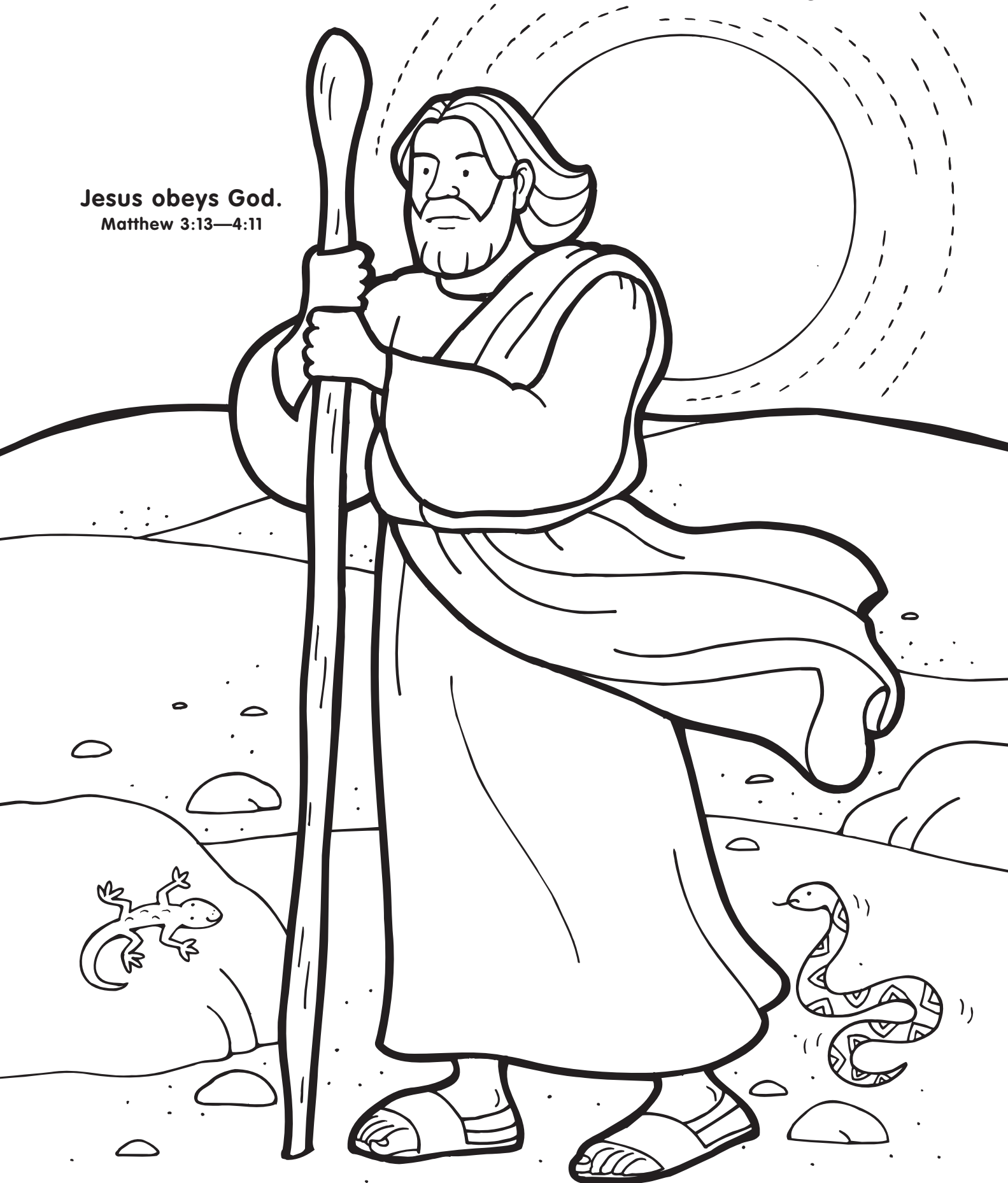
and roll up from each end.



4. Tie the scroll closed with yarn or ribbon as shown.



Jesus obeys God.
Matthew 3:13—4:11



What can you do to obey God?

Lost in a Maze



Andrew and Danielle need God's Word to make right choices each day!
Help them find their way to the Bible.

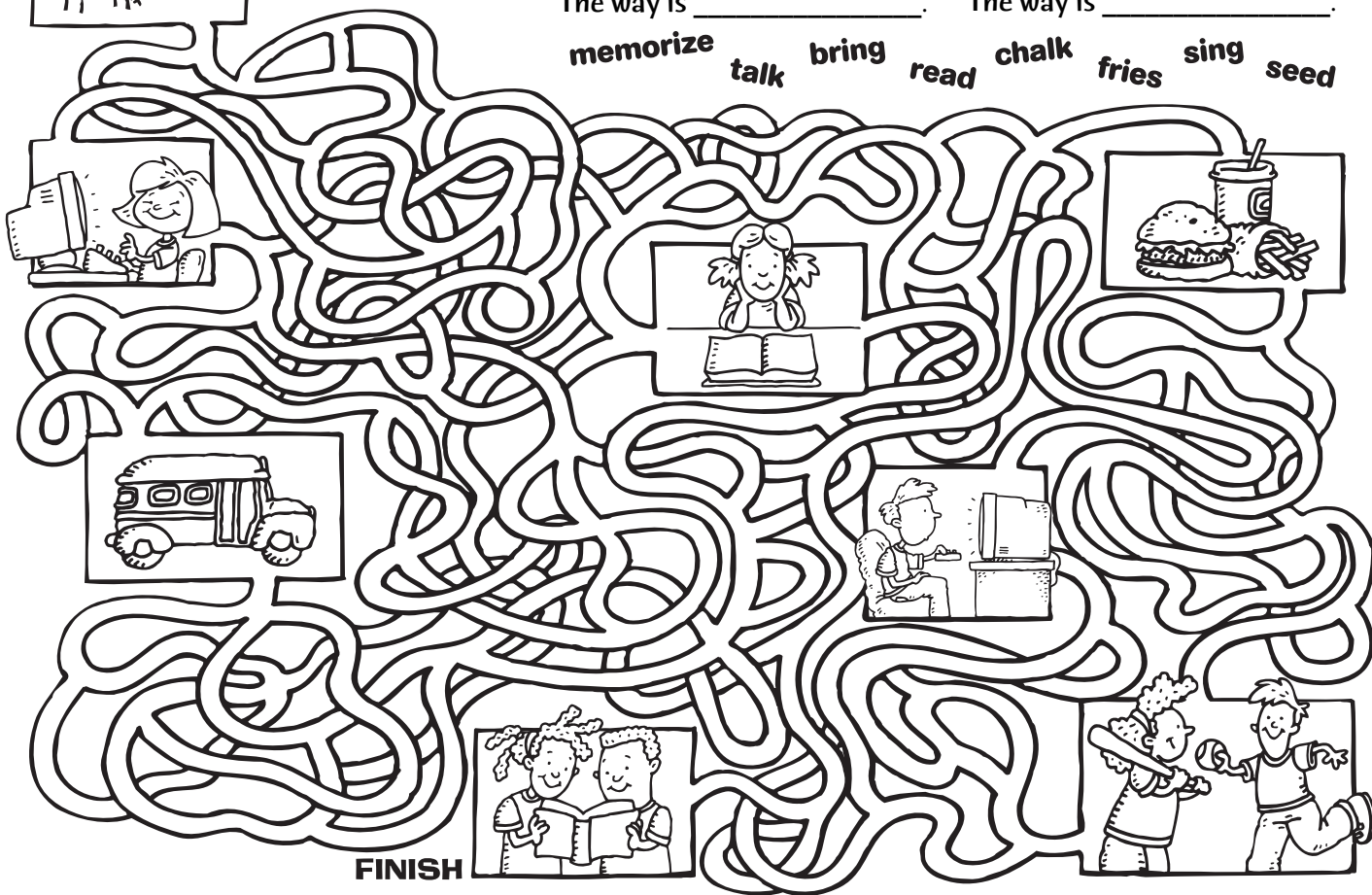
What Is It?

Complete the rhymes to find four ways to learn and remember God's instructions for us.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. It has four letters,
It rhymes with ring,
It needs some music,
The way is _____. | 3. It has four letters,
It rhymes with walk,
It needs a friend,
The way is _____. |
| 2. It has four letters,
It rhymes with bead,
It needs a book,
The way is _____. | 4. It has eight letters,
It rhymes with exercise,
It needs some practice,
The way is _____. |

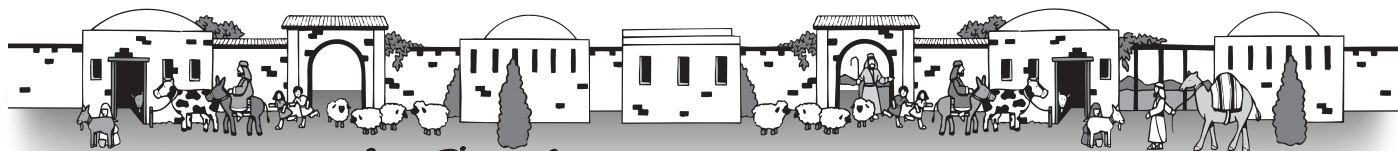
DRAW YOUR LINE THROUGH ALL THE BOXES. THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE PATH.

memorize talk bring read chalk fries sing seed



What did Jesus do when He was tempted? What can we do when we are tempted to disobey God?

Cana: Wedding Party Rescued



Bible Story John 2:1-11

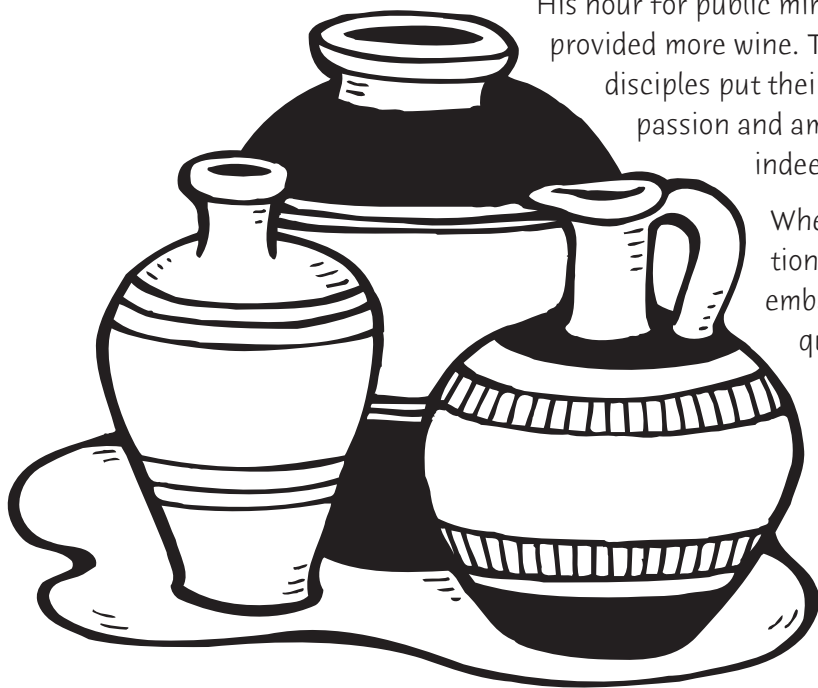
Teacher's Devotional

The Bible includes many warnings about the misuse of wine and the problems that come from that misuse. As a result, many people believe that the best approach is to stay away from drinking. It is important for your students to understand the dangers of drinking.

In Bible times, however, wine was a common beverage. Having enough wine to drink at a wedding celebration was crucial, no matter how long the party lasted! Running out would be a breach of hospitality that would disgrace the entire family! So when Jesus was at a wedding at which there was not enough wine, His mother quietly mentioned the embarrassing problem to her Son.

Consider Jesus' actions. He was available to these people when they had come up disgracefully short. Although His hour for public miracles had not yet come, He, out of compassion, provided more wine. Thus He showed His power and glory and His disciples put their faith in Him. This quiet miracle of simple compassion and amazing power convinced them that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

When we are caught short, when all our preparations and plans go awry, we can tell Jesus our most embarrassing problems, too. We can obey Him as quickly as the servants did, as fully confident as Mary was that He will have compassion on us and take action on our behalf!



God's Word

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him."

JEREMIAH 17:7

For Younger Children:

"Trust in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

Put your confidence in Jesus!

Planning Page

Lesson 3
John 2:1-11

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Cana: Wedding Party Rescued • John 2:1-11

Younger Child Option

Use party items to talk about wedding parties

Older Child Option

Discover things people put their confidence in

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Create party placemats and talk about trusting Jesus

Materials

Bible, clear Con-Tact paper, scissors, card stock, party napkins or wrapping-paper scraps, glue sticks

Older Child Option

Make beaded bands similar to what Bible-times people would have worn to wedding celebrations and talk about reasons for trusting Jesus

Materials

Bible, scissors, stringing material, measuring stick, a variety of beads, small bowls

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Participate in a water relay and talk about Jesus' help

Materials

Bible, two bowls of water, two empty bowls, small sponges

Older Child Option

Toss coins onto targets to discuss times and ways Jesus can help us

Materials

Bible, Lesson 3 Pattern Page (p. 84) for each child, pencils, coins

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 3 Coloring Page (p. 85) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 3 Puzzle Page (p. 86) for each student, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus* Music CD and player, song charts (pp. 248-249), toilet paper, trash bags

Bonus Theme Ideas



Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Cana

Print "town of Cana" on index cards, one letter on each card. Make two sets of the cards. (For non-readers, print numbers on back of cards in order from 1 to 10.) Make two masking-tape starting lines next to each other on the floor. Place a mixed-up set of cards across the room from each starting line. Ask, How did women carry water from a well back to their homes in Bible times? (In jugs on their heads.) To find out what city we are visiting today, we are going to have a relay carrying water like Bible-times people. Divide group into two teams. Pour water into a plastic pitcher or bowl for each team. First student from each team places pitcher on his or her head, holds onto it with one hand and walks across the classroom to his or her team's stack of index cards. Student takes a card and returns to line, passing the pitcher to the next student. Game continues in relay fashion until all the cards are picked up and teams are able to figure out the name of today's town. Students locate Cana on map (p. 237).



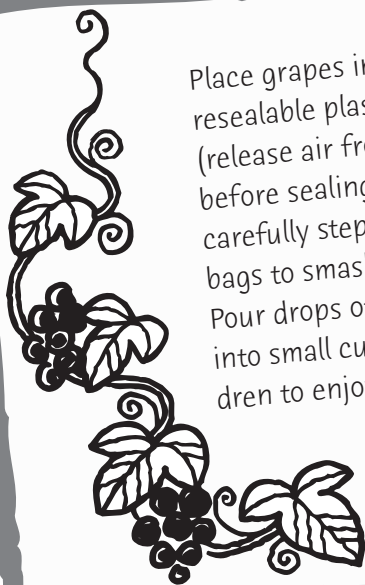
Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Fruit & Nut Mix

Place $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of each of the following ingredients in separate bowls: dried pitted prunes, dried apricots, dried pears, banana chips, unsalted peanuts, cashews, almonds and walnuts. Also set out ground cinnamon and ground cloves. Students take turns adding ingredients to large mixing bowl, adding small amounts of cinnamon and cloves to taste. Children stir until mixture is evenly mixed. Serve to children in small cups or bowls.



Place grapes inside small resealable plastic bags (release air from bags before sealing). Children carefully step on plastic bags to smash grapes. Pour drops of grape juice into small cups for children to enjoy.



Grape Stomp



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

What's your favorite thing to do at a party? What do you like to eat or drink at a party? (Volunteers answer.) Today our Bible story is about something unusual that happened at a party in the town of Cana.

Tell the Story

One day Jesus and His friends went to a big party. It was a wedding! Many people were there. Jesus' mother, Mary, was there, too. The people laughed and talked and enjoyed the music. They ate good food and drank wine. Everyone was happy for the man and woman who were getting married.

But after the wedding had gone on for a while, something embarrassing happened. There was nothing to drink. The people in charge of the wedding didn't know what to do. They couldn't go to the store and buy more drinks. But Mary knew what to do.

Mary walked over to her Son, Jesus. "They have no more wine," she said. Then Mary went right over to the servants who were standing together. "Do whatever He tells you!" she said.

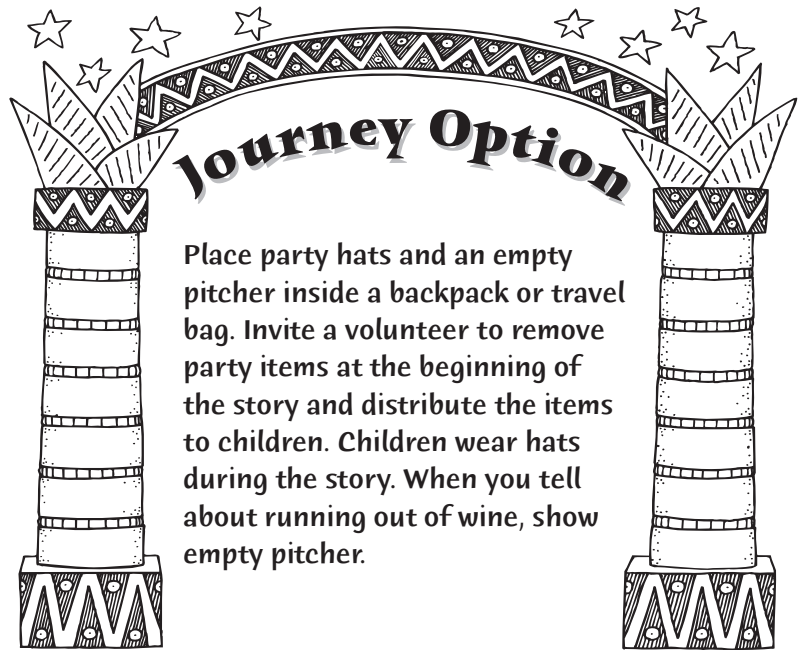
Jesus told the servants to fill some big jars with water. This water was good for washing, but not for drinking. But the servants filled the jars. Then Jesus said, "Now take some out of the jars and take it to the man who is in charge of the wedding."

The servants carried a cup of the water from the big jars to the man in charge. They didn't tell him where it came from. Slowly, he drank from the cup. "Wow! This is the very best wine!" he said.

Jesus' friends saw what Jesus had done. He had turned water into wine! They saw that Jesus was very powerful. They believed that God had sent Him!

God's Word & Me

Jesus used His power to care for some people who needed help. Jesus showed His love and His power when He turned water into wine. We can trust Jesus' love and power. He will always love and help us. The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord." Let's tell Jesus that we want to trust Him. Pray with children, Dear Jesus, we want to trust You. Please help us to remember that You love us. Amen.



Bible Story Center

for older children



Lesson 3
John 2:1-11



Collect

Bible, black permanent marker, clear plastic cup, red food coloring, party decorations (balloons, crepe-paper streamers and/or flowers), water.

Prepare

Use black marker to darken the bottom of clear plastic cup. Place one or two drops of red food coloring in the bottom of the cup.

Introduction

What's your favorite thing to do at a party? What do you like to eat or drink at a party? (Volunteers answer.) **Today our Bible story is about something unusual that happened at a party in the town of Cana. The largest building in Cana is now a church that was built to help people remember the important event in our story. Let's find out what happened.**

(Invite students to decorate the classroom for a wedding party. During the story, when you tell about the servants taking the water to the master of the banquet, pour water into the cup you prepared. Show children the water that turned red.)

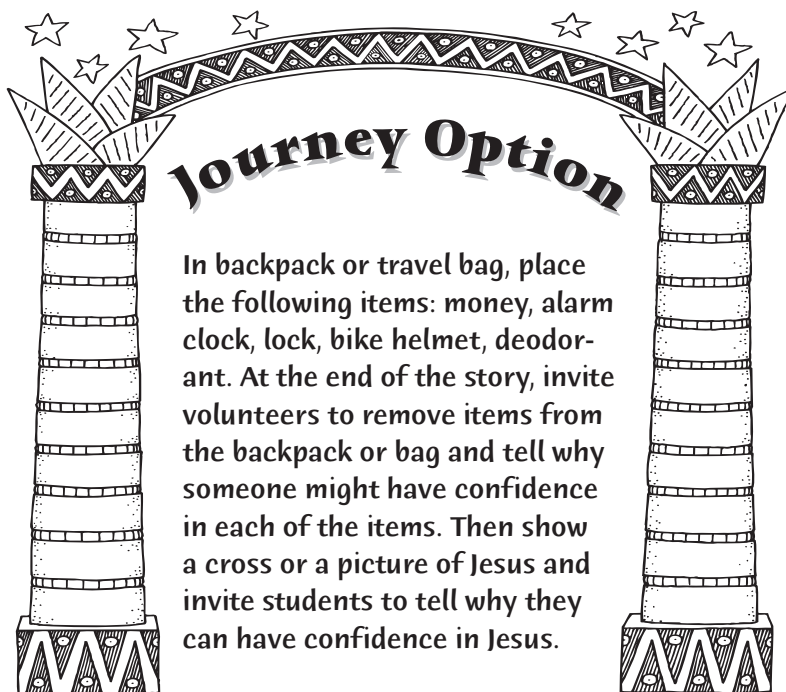
Tell the Story

When Jesus lived on Earth, a wedding was just about the biggest party any family would ever have! A Bible-times wedding was not like a modern wedding—a quiet ceremony with a party afterwards. The weddings were big celebrations. Feasting and games and dancing might last for days! The bride's and groom's families spent many months preparing for such a wedding, storing up special food and drink so that everyone—relatives, neighbors, friends and even friends of friends—might have plenty to eat and drink for as long as the wedding party lasted. The wedding guests would be insulted if the food or drink ran out. And the family who had invited them would be VERY embarrassed. For years and years, people might tell stories of that wedding where they ran out of food or wine! (In Bible times many people drank wine with their meals.)

Jesus, His mother and His disciples had been invited to a wedding like this. As they walked through the little village of Cana, the whole town must have been buzzing with excited preparations! Because houses did not have running water, huge stone water jars were filled and stood outside the door. Bread was baked, floors were swept, special clothes were set out and drinks were poured.

When the bride arrived at the groom's house, the wedding party began. Such a party you never have seen—it was like a Christmas dinner, a huge birthday party and a week at grandma's house all rolled into one!

But after the wedding had gone on for a while, as people were eating and drinking and enjoying the music, something AWFUL happened. The wine was all gone! Perhaps more people came to the wedding than the families had planned. Perhaps someone had made a mistake by not buying enough. But whatever the reason, there



In backpack or travel bag, place the following items: money, alarm clock, lock, bike helmet, deodorant. At the end of the story, invite volunteers to remove items from the backpack or bag and tell why someone might have confidence in each of the items. Then show a cross or a picture of Jesus and invite students to tell why they can have confidence in Jesus.



was no more wine to serve to the wedding guests. We don't know how Mary found out about this problem, but we DO know that Mary knew where to go when she needed help for an unexpected problem! **Who do you think she talked to first? What would you have done?**

Mary went to Jesus and probably leaned over to speak very quietly. "They have no more wine," she said. She knew how embarrassing this could be for the families, so she must not have wanted anyone else to hear about this terrible problem.

But Jesus said, "My time has not yet come." Jesus was telling Mary that the time when He would begin to do miracles in public hadn't started yet.

But Jesus' mother was confident that Jesus had a way to solve this most unexpected and embarrassing problem! Mary went right over to the servants who were standing together. "Do whatever He tells you!" she said.

Jesus DID know what to do. He pointed to some jars and told the servants to fill them with water. Those big stone jars held a LOT of water! When the servants filled them, Jesus said, "Now take some out of the jars and take it to the master of the banquet." Every wedding banquet had a man who acted as the master. He was the one who made sure everything went smoothly, and no doubt he was VERY worried about how to get more wine! **What do you think the servants were thinking?**

When the servants took the wine to the master of the banquet, they didn't tell him where it came from. Slowly, he tasted the wine. This wine was MUCH better than the very first wine that had been served! Although that first wine had been the very best the family could buy, THIS wine was the best of the feast! **What do you think the servants thought now?**

The families of the bride and groom had done their best to be ready for the wedding, and they were surprised that the wine ran out. But Mary knew Jesus could help them, even with this big, embarrassing problem! Jesus helped them and gave them the very best, better than anything they had ever tasted! When He turned the water into wine, Jesus' disciples saw how powerful Jesus was, and they believed in His love and power.

God's Word & Me

Jesus still wants us to believe in His love and power and ask for His help, especially when we have an unexpected problem. We can be confident that He will hear us. We can tell Him anything and know that, because of His power, He will give us the very best help there is!

- ◆ **Read Jeremiah 17:7. What does this verse tell us to do? What does "trust in God" mean?** (Depend on God to always love and care for us. Believe God will keep His promises.) Tell students about a time you trusted in Jesus.
- ◆ **When do you feel like you need help? Who do you usually ask for help? Why?**
- ◆ **When is a time you've worked hard to get ready for something, such as studying for a spelling test? Why should we still ask Jesus for help when we have worked hard to prepare on our own and feel confident in what we did?** (We always need Jesus' help to do our best.)
- ◆ **Why would you want to ask Jesus for His help? How might He help you?** Briefly pray with children about situations they mention.

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, two bowls of water, two empty bowls, small sponges.

Do

1. Divide group into two teams. Teams line up on one side of the room. Place a bowl of water near each team. Place an empty bowl opposite each team.
2. Give the first child in each line a sponge. Children dip sponge in the bowl of water, walk to the empty bowl and squeeze water into the bowl. Children walk back to the line and give the sponge to the next child in line. That child repeats the action. Continue until most of the water is moved to the second bowl. Children use sponges to wipe up spills. Repeat game as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ◆ **In Bible times, people had to carry their water from a well to their houses. What do you think would be hard about carrying water? What are some other jobs that might be hard to do? We can trust Jesus to help us when we have something hard to do.**
- ◆ **Bobby, you can trust Jesus to love you and help you whatever you do. Our Bible says, "Trust in the Lord."**
- ◆ **Let's thank Jesus that we can trust Him all the time!** Lead children in a short prayer of thanks.

For Older Children

Play water relay outside and make it more challenging by using cups with small holes punched in the bottoms. Children transport water, trying to keep as much as possible in the cup.

God's Word

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him."

JEREMIAH 17:7

For Younger Children:

"Trust in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

Put your confidence in Jesus!



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 3
John 2:1-11



Collect

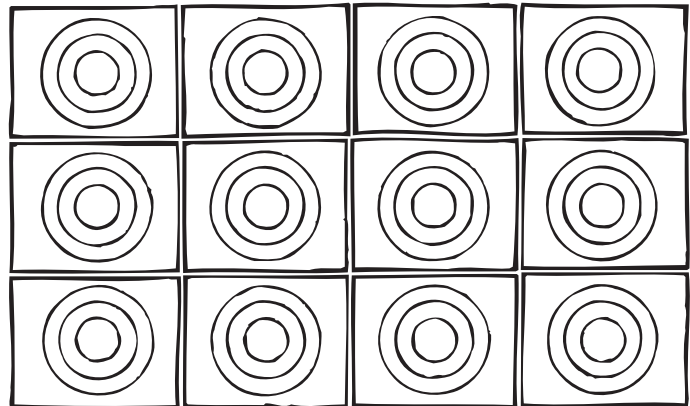
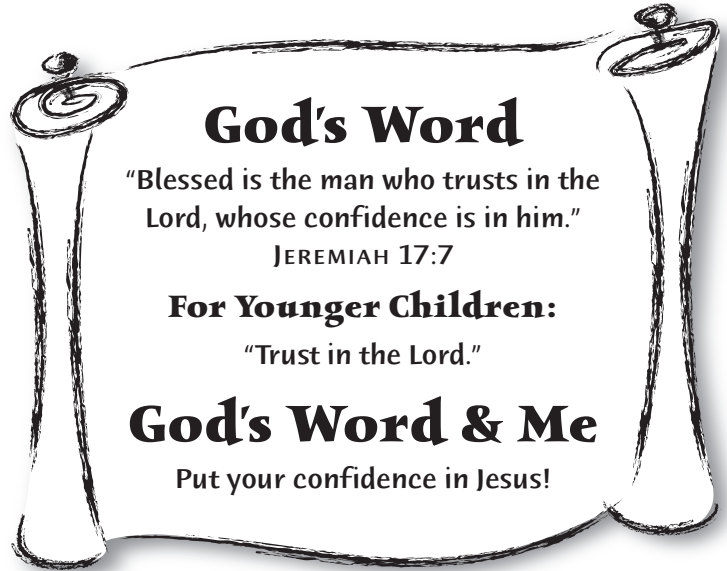
Bible, Lesson 3 Pattern Page (p. 84) for each child, pencils, coins.

Do

1. **We are going to play a game to think of times we can ask Jesus for help.** Give a Lesson 3 Pattern Page and coin to each child.
2. Children place targets on floor next to each other in rows as shown and stand about 3 feet (.9 m) from nearest target. Children take turns tossing coins at the targets. If child's coin lands nearest an H on the targets, child thinks of a word or phrase starting with H that reminds him or her of a time Jesus' help might be needed (hospital, home alone, etc.). Then child explains a way he or she can depend on Jesus' help in that situation. Continue play as time permits.

Talk About

- ◆ Read Jeremiah 17:7. **Why should we be confident in Jesus' help?** (Because of His power and His love for us.)
- ◆ **What do you know about Jesus that makes you sure you can depend on Him?** (He answers prayer. He is caring. He is God's Son.)
- ◆ **In what ways can Jesus help you?** (Help me know what to do. Help me make good choices.)



For Younger Children

Children take turns tossing coin onto targets. Each time a coin lands on target, teacher leads children in clapping (or doing other motions) while repeating the words of the Bible verse.

Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, clear Con-Tact paper, scissors, card stock, party napkins or wrapping-paper scraps, glue sticks.

Prepare

For each child, cut Con-Tact paper into a rectangle large enough to cover a sheet of card stock.

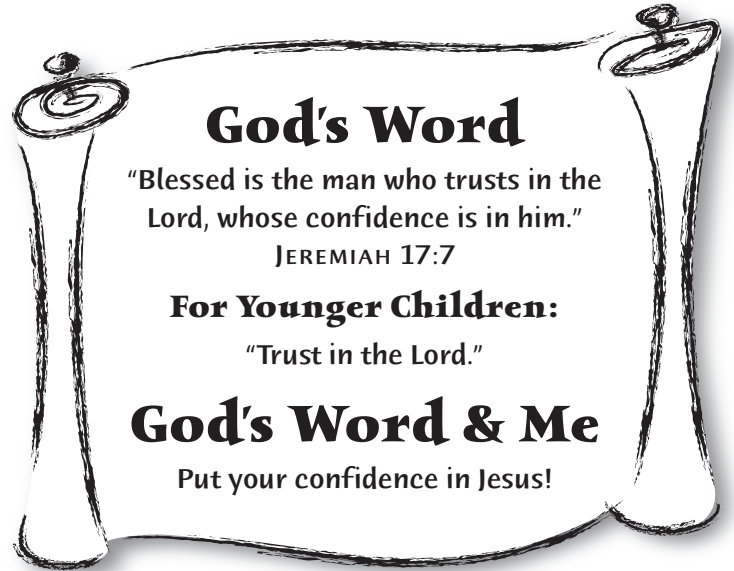
Do

1. **Let's make party placemats. The placemats can remind us that Jesus helped people at a party. Jesus helps us, too!** Give each child a sheet of card stock. Children tear or cut out designs from party napkins or wrapping-paper scraps and glue designs onto card-stock sheets.

2. Help children cover placemats with clear Con-Tact paper and trim edges.

Talk About

- ◆ **Jose, when have you been to a party? What did you do at the party? Jesus loves you and will help you anytime—no matter where you are.**
- ◆ **We can trust Jesus to help us all the time. The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord."**
- ◆ **Kelli, when we trust in the Lord, it means we know Jesus will always love and help us. Jesus loves (Lily).** Repeat sentence, using names of other children.



For Older Children

In addition to making placemats, children decorate the entire room for a party and prepare simple snacks (cheese cubes and crackers, fruit slices, juice, cookies, etc.). Children enjoy snacks and listen to music from the *Journey with Jesus Music CD*.



Collect

Bible, scissors, stringing material (gold or silver chenille wires, yarn, string or narrow leather strips), measuring stick, a variety of beads (metallic pony beads, acrylic faceted beads, etc.), small bowls.

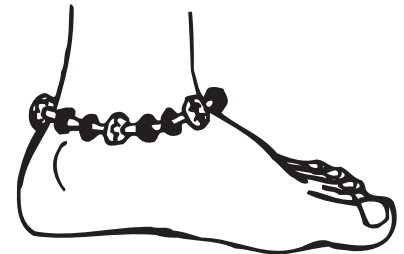
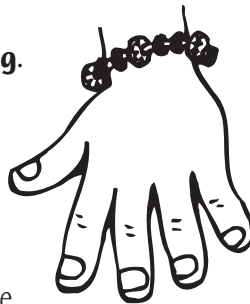
Prepare

Cut the stringing material into 12-inch (30-cm) lengths. You may want to provide more than one length for each student so that students can make wristbands and ankle bands. Place beads in bowls.

Do

When people in Bible times dressed up for a wedding feast, they often wore beaded wristbands and ankle bands with their simple clothing.

Today we are going to make beaded bands like Bible-times people wore. Distribute stringing material and set bowls of beads on table. Encourage students to experiment with a variety of bead patterns before stringing the beads. To finish band, either tie the stringing material into a knot or, if using chenille wires, twist the ends of each wire together. Cut off any excess.

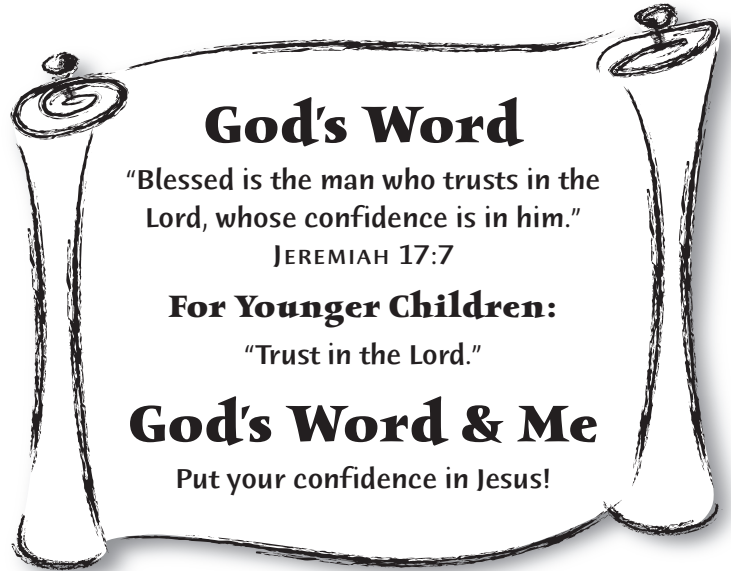


Talk About

- ◆ **What would be a good thing to remember whenever you wear or look at your band?** (To ask Jesus for help in every situation.)
- ◆ Read Jeremiah 17:7. **What are some reasons we have for trusting, or putting our confidence, in Jesus?**
- ◆ **When are some times kids your age need to trust in Jesus? When do teenagers need to trust Him? Your parents?**

For Younger Children

Children string circle-shaped cereal onto long lengths of yarn or elastic. Help children tie yarn or elastic to make necklaces. Children eat cereal as desired.



God's Word

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him."

JEREMIAH 17:7

For Younger Children:

"Trust in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

Put your confidence in Jesus!

Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 248-249), toilet paper, trash bags.

Team Game

Divide group into teams of five or six children each. Give each team a roll of toilet paper. Volunteer on each team stands still while other team members unroll toilet paper and wrap volunteer, attempting to create a wedding dress or tuxedo costume. After several moments, children stop. Lead all children to vote on the funniest or most complete wedding clothes. Lead group in cleaning up, putting paper into trash bags.

Bible Verse Game

Pantomime the actions of a football player, throwing a football. Children guess who you were acting like. Then lead children in repeating Jeremiah 17:7, saying "football player" in place of the word "man" in Jeremiah 17:7: "Blessed is the (football player) who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him." Repeat with other people (grandma, baby, cheerleader, soccer player, etc.).

Song

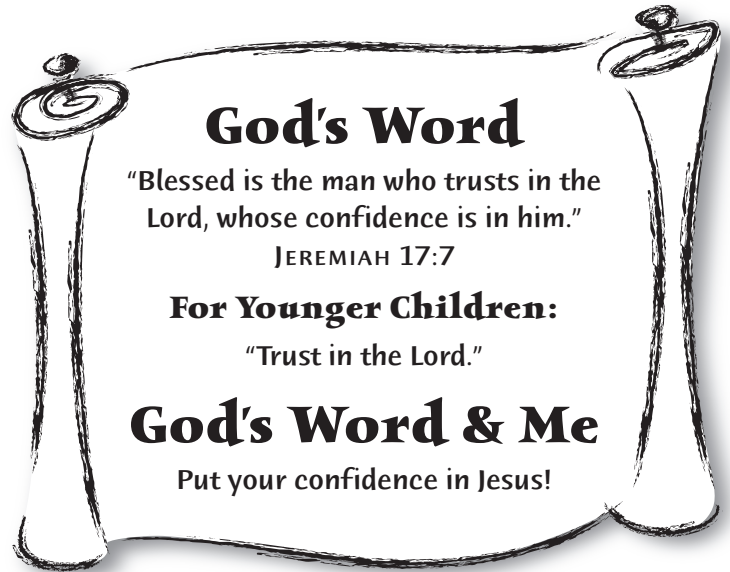
You, or another leader, lead children in singing "My True Friend" and doing suggested motions.

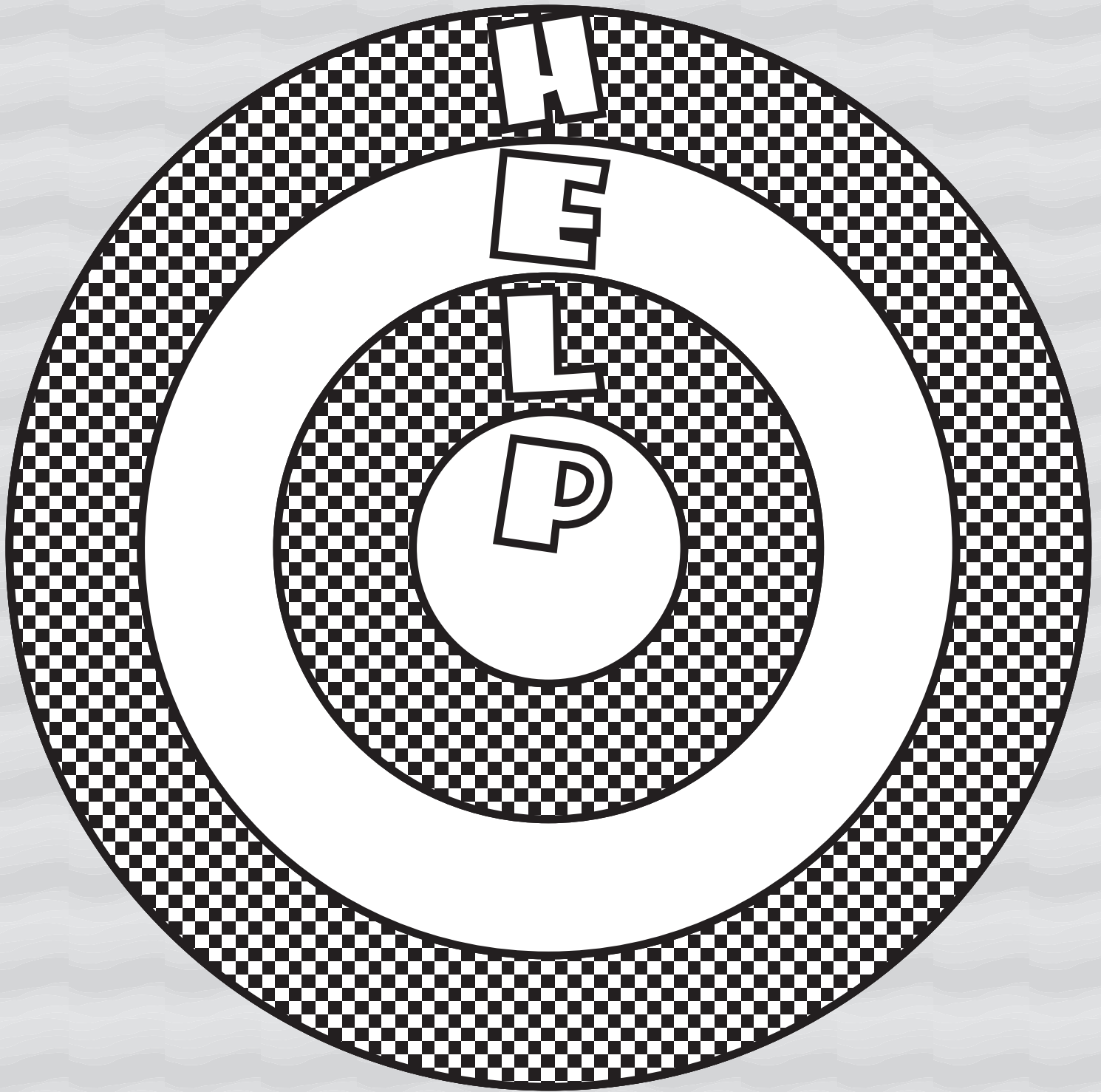
Prayer

When we remember ways that God has helped us in the past, it encourages us to ask Him for help in the future and believe that He will really help us. When has God helped you at school? With your friends? With your family? Tell children a time when God has helped you in a situation in which children can identify. Ask several children to thank God for His help in the past and the help He will give us in the future. (Optional: On separate slips of paper, print short sentences about students' descriptions of God's help. Give papers to volunteers to use in prayer time.)

Song

Play "Jesus' Love." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.







Jesus helps others at a party.
John 2:1-11

Where do you like to go? Jesus helps us anywhere we go.

Blankity Blanks



Jeremiah 17:7

This is a real code-breaker puzzle. Each letter of the alphabet has been given a number, but only a few of the letters have been given to you. Write the letters you have been given in the alphabet key. Then see if you can figure out the code and write in the rest of the letters. Use the key to discover the words of the verse.

Alphabet Key:

28

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S

T U V W X Y Z

" B E

4	24	10	38	38	10	8
18	38		40	16	10	

46	16	30	38	10
6	30	28	12	18
8	10	28	6	10

A

26	2	28			
46	16	30			
40	36	42	38	40	38



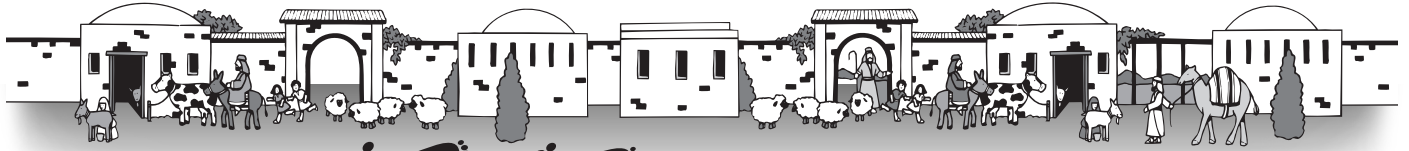
18	28	40	16	10
24	30	36	8	



18	38	18	28
16	18	26	"

How can you show that you trust in Jesus?

Nazareth: Teacher Upsets Crowd



Bible Story Luke 4:14-30

Teacher's Devotional

Nazareth, Jesus' home during most of His childhood and youth, was the place to which Joseph's family had migrated from Bethlehem at an earlier time. Nazareth's ancient site was near major trade routes, yet it seems to have not been involved in trade; rather, it was a bit off the beaten track. To the most observant Jews, the people of Nazareth might have seemed to be bumpkins ignorant of the finer points of the Law. Perhaps this accounts for Nathanael's wry question, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (see John 1:46).

Certainly, the people of Nazareth knew Jesus, as people of any small town know its children. But when Jesus returned to Nazareth after His baptism and temptation, reports of His teaching and healing came with Him. These people may have felt He would be especially generous with miracles and teachings here at home. But after Jesus read His portion in the synagogue, He announced, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). His hometown neighbors were impressed, until they realized that He was declaring Himself to be the Messiah and Savior of the world. Eventually, the incensed crowd tried to throw Him off a cliff.



God's Word

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

For Younger Children:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

God's Word & Me

Thank Jesus for who He is and what He came to do.

In a world where so many misconceptions exist about Jesus, your children may not have developed a true picture of who Jesus is and why He came to Earth. Use this lesson to clarify and explain the life-changing truths of Jesus' life on Earth.

Planning Page

Lesson 4
Luke 4:14-30

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Nazareth: Teacher Upsets Crowd • Luke 4:14-30

Younger Child Option

Show faces to illustrate feelings of people in the story

Older Child Option

Describe reasons for thanking Jesus

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Make a play mat and thank Jesus for who He is and for being with us wherever we go

Materials

Bible, large sheets of paper, crayons

Older Child Option

Make prayer boxes to hold prayers to Jesus

Materials

Bible, Lesson 4 Pattern Page (p. 98) for each child, brown ribbon or yarn, measuring stick, scissors, large sheet of paper, marker, 2x3-inch (5x7.5-cm) pieces of paper, pencils

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Jump over hurdles to tell that Jesus is God's Son

Materials

Bible, blocks

Older Child Option

Pop balloons and put words of a psalm in order; then write a personalized version of the psalm to praise Jesus

Materials

Bible, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, slips of paper, red and black markers, balloons, tape

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 4 Coloring Page (p. 99) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 4 Puzzle Page (p. 100) for each child, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 248, 251), two large containers, four or more beanbags

Bonus Theme Ideas



Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Nazareth

Today we're visiting the town in which Jesus grew up—Nazareth. When people go to Nazareth today, they can see a well called "Mary's Well." It is believed that Jesus' mother

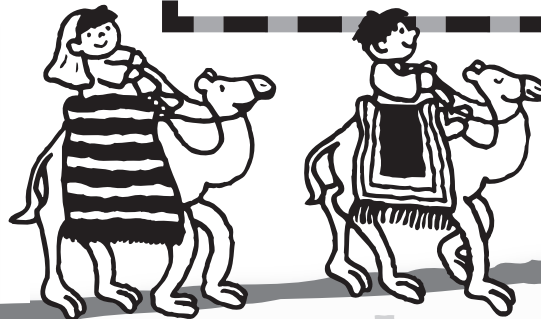
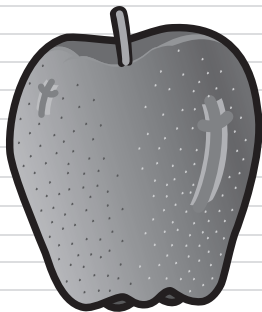
used this well to get water for her family. Children work together to crumple newspaper sheets, stuff them into bags and slip empty paper bags over the open ends to create paper-bag "bricks" (see sketch). **Why did a well have bricks or rocks piled around it?** (To keep dirt from being kicked into the well.) **A town well wasn't just for getting water. The well was also the town meeting place.** Children stack and arrange bricks to build a well.



Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Spicy Apple Yogurt

Children mix plain yogurt and apple-pie filling in a large bowl. Children spoon mixture into paper cups and sprinkle the mixture with granola. Serve with spoons and napkins.



Provide Bible-times costumes for children to dress up in for souvenir photos. Create a photo backdrop by painting a Bible-times scene on a large sheet of butcher paper (see sketch).



"You Are There" Photos



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

When do you like to listen to someone read? Volunteers respond. **Listen to our story to find out about a time Jesus read from the Bible.**

Tell the Story

Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth. One day, when He was a grown-up, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth. The synagogue was the place where people came together to learn about and worship God. The men were taking turns reading God's Word aloud. The people must have been happy.

When it was Jesus' turn, Jesus read God's words written by the prophet Isaiah. The words said that God's Son, the Savior, would come to Earth and show God's love to people. The Savior would help

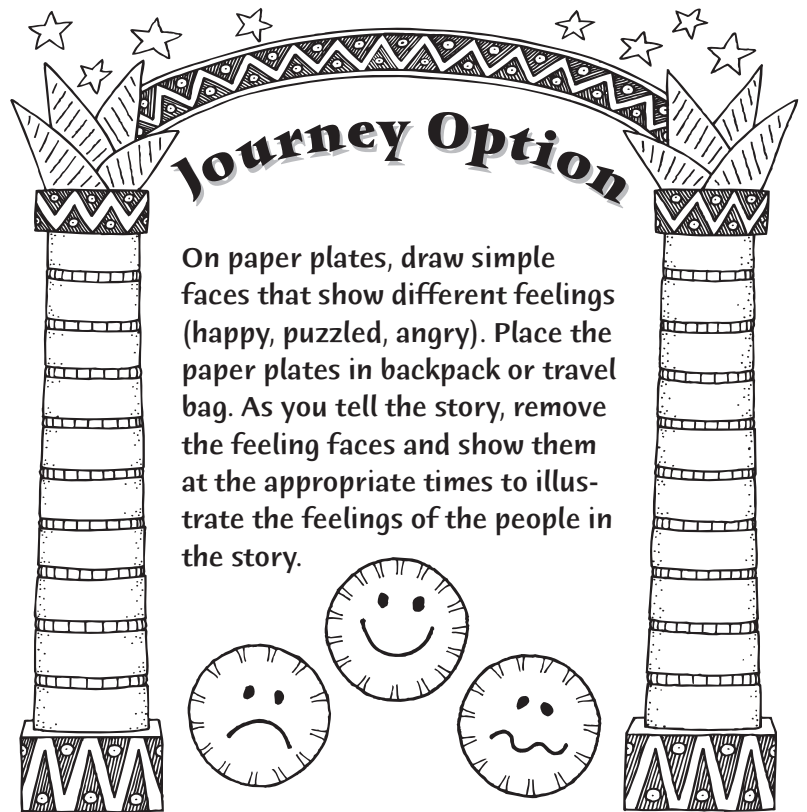
the poor and set people free from the punishment for the wrong things they had done. He would make sick people well and blind people able to see. When Jesus stopped reading, He said, "Today these words have come true."

The people were puzzled! *Did Jesus mean He was the Savior?* But the people did NOT believe Jesus was the Savior God had promised to send. They did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. Jesus' words made the people angry.

The people became so angry that they took Jesus out of the synagogue. They wanted to hurt Jesus. But Jesus walked away from the angry crowd. He went safely on His way to tell people in other places who He was and why He had come to Earth.

God's Word & Me

Jesus wanted the people in Nazareth to know that He is God's Son. Jesus wants us to know that He is God's Son, too. He loves us very much. The Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." We can thank Jesus for loving us and being God's Son. Pray briefly with children.





Collect

Bible, video recorder.

Introduction

What kinds of things have you seen people do at our church? (Volunteers tell answers: read Bible, play and sing music, pray, eat food, etc.) **When Jesus lived on Earth, people worshiped God in places called synagogues. As part of their worship, people in a synagogue read from what we call the Old Testament in the Bible. Today in our story we'll hear what happened when Jesus read from God's Word in the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth.** (At the end of the story, invite volunteers to respond to interview questions as if they were characters in the story. For example, ask, "Jesus, what were Your thoughts while You read the verses from Isaiah?" A child might answer, "I wanted the people to believe in Me.")

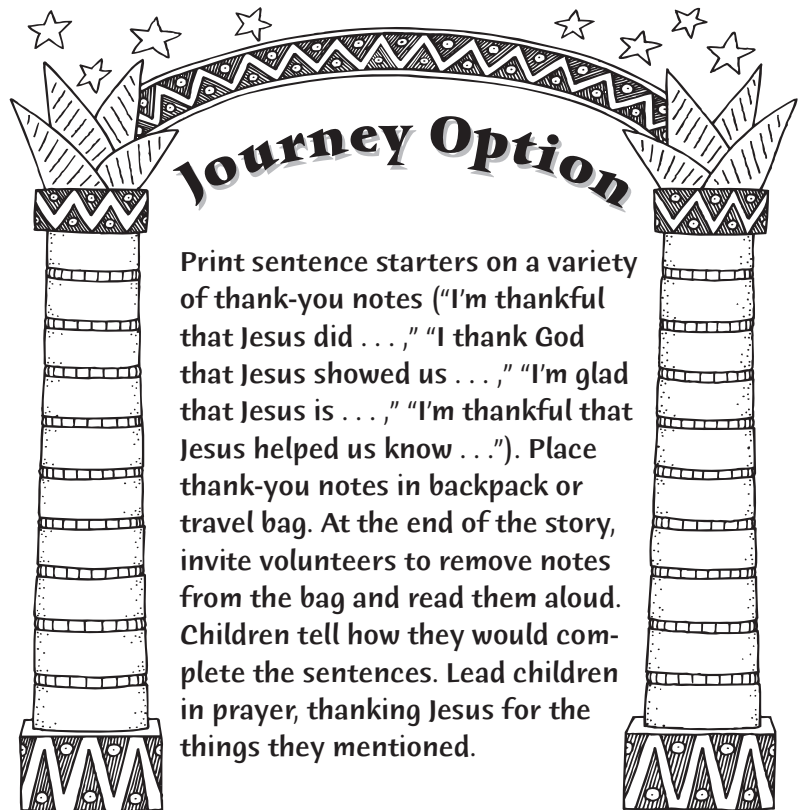
Tell the Story

Jesus grew up in the small town of Nazareth. As a boy, He probably climbed up a nearby hilltop and saw all of Nazareth spread out in the valley below. In this same valley some of Israel's history had taken place—a prophetess named Deborah had encouraged a soldier named Barak to fight against Israel's enemies, and the famous prophets Elijah and Elisha had lived here.

There were people in Nazareth who had watched Jesus grow from a little boy to a big kid to a young adult and, finally, to a full-grown man. **Who are some people who have known you since you were little?**

When Jesus was living in Nazareth, the Bible wasn't yet printed in a book like yours and mine. **What was it written on?** The Old Testament had been hand-copied onto scrolls. The New Testament didn't even exist! People didn't keep scrolls at home like we keep Bibles at our houses. Instead, people would go to the synagogue to hear God's Word read aloud.

One day in the synagogue at Nazareth, several men took their turns reading passages from the Bible. Then it was Jesus' turn to read. He went forward, received the scroll of Isaiah, unrolled it to a particular place and read the words. The words that Jesus read had been written by the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years earlier. Isaiah's words described some of the things the Savior, God's Son, would do when He came to Earth. The verses said that this person would preach to everyone about what God was doing. He would heal the sick and the blind and set people free from the punishment for the wrong things they had done.



Print sentence starters on a variety of thank-you notes ("I'm thankful that Jesus did . . .," "I thank God that Jesus showed us . . .," "I'm glad that Jesus is . . .," "I'm thankful that Jesus helped us know . . ."). Place thank-you notes in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the story, invite volunteers to remove notes from the bag and read them aloud. Children tell how they would complete the sentences. Lead children in prayer, thanking Jesus for the things they mentioned.



When Jesus finished reading these verses from Isaiah, He rolled the scroll up and put it away. Usually the reader would explain the words he had just read. But Jesus simply said, “Today these words have come true.” **What do you think the people said?**

The people listening to Jesus were amazed by what they heard. Some of them probably asked each other, “What did Jesus just say? He didn’t mean that He’s the One who would save us, did He? He’s going to do all these things?” Eventually, they realized that Jesus had said just that—He was the Savior, the Messiah, for whom the Israelites had waited for hundreds of years!

Jesus knew it was difficult for these people who had watched Him grow up as a kid to suddenly believe that He was the Savior. Jesus had watched these people all His life, too. He knew they probably expected the Savior to look and act strong and powerful, someone who would overthrow the Roman government that caused them so much trouble. That’s what they thought Isaiah was talking about. Jesus hadn’t done anything to change the government or to set any prisoners free, so they could not see how He could be the Savior. They didn’t understand what the words of Isaiah really meant—that the Savior would set people free from SIN, not from the Romans.

Then Jesus said something else the people didn’t want to hear. Jesus reminded them that no one had believed the prophets Elijah and Elisha when they were alive. Jesus wanted them to make a different choice this time and believe Him. He wanted them—and all people of all nationalities—to receive the love and salvation that God wanted to give. But the people in Nazareth didn’t believe what Jesus was saying. The people were ANGRY! They pushed and shoved Jesus right out of the synagogue. They wanted to throw Him off the cliff and kill Him!

Jesus walked right through the angry crowd and went on His way to other places and other people. It wasn’t God’s plan for Jesus to die yet. Jesus had to tell and show many others who He is and why He had come to Earth. And God had planned many more opportunities for these people in Nazareth to hear and believe that Jesus was the Savior. Jesus wanted everyone to know He had come to bring salvation.

God’s Word & Me

Jesus wants us to know who He is and why He came to Earth, too. When He lived on Earth, He showed people that He was God’s Son by His actions and by His words. As we read the stories of His life from the Bible, we learn about Jesus. And whether you’ve been hearing about Jesus since you were a young child or you are learning about Him for the first time, the best thing to know about Jesus is that He is the One God sent to save us. Talk with interested children about salvation. (See “Leading a Child to Christ” on p. 12.)

◆ **What does John 3:16 tell us about God? About Jesus? What does God promise us in this verse?**

Invite a volunteer to read the verse aloud and other volunteers to answer questions.

◆ **What did Jesus say about Himself in our story today?** (Jesus announced that He is the One God had promised to send to show God’s love and to save all the people of the world from their sins.)

◆ **What are some other things you know about Jesus? What are some things you can thank Jesus for?** Lead children in prayer, inviting volunteers to say short sentence prayers thanking Jesus for who He is and what He has done.

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, blocks.

Do

1. **Let's play a game to help us remember some good things about Jesus!** Place several blocks on the floor in an open area of your classroom. Children stand with you near the blocks. Children take turns jumping over the blocks and saying, "Jesus is God's Son!"
2. After a few moments, stack another block on top of each original block. Children take turns jumping over blocks and repeating statement again. Repeat several times, adding another stack of blocks for each round. After several rounds, lead children in saying other statements about Jesus ("Jesus loves me," "Jesus listens when I pray," "Jesus is with me," etc.) while they jump over blocks.

Talk About

- ◆ **Our Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." I'm glad for God's love and for His Son, Jesus!**
- ◆ **What are some things we know about Jesus?**
- ◆ **What can we say to thank God for Jesus?**
Pray with children, using the words they suggest.

For Older Children

Groups of no more than four children arrange blocks (provide a variety of sizes) to create mazes. At the end of each maze, children place paper and markers. After mazes are created, groups take turns using straws to blow ping-pong balls through other groups' mazes. When a maze is completed, each child writes on paper a reason he or she is thankful to Jesus.

God's Word

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

For Younger Children:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

God's Word & Me

Thank Jesus for who He is and what He came to do.



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 4
Luke 4:14-30



Collect

Bible, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, slips of paper, red and black markers, balloons, tape.

Prepare

Print words or phrases of Psalm 28:7-9 on separate slips of paper, writing the words "strength," "shield," "heart," "song," "fortress," "anointed one," "people," "inheritance," "shepherd" and "carry" in red ink. (Make at least one paper for each child, repeating words or phrases as needed.) Blow up balloons and insert a rolled paper into each balloon before tying.

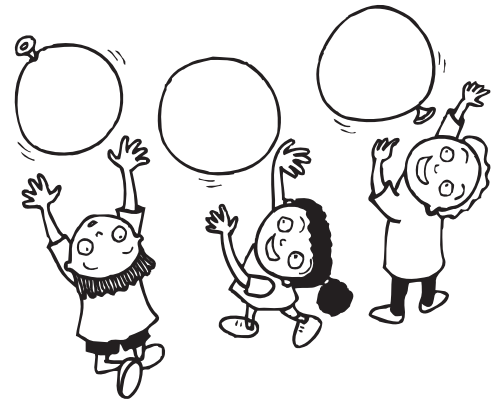
Do

1. Children stand together in an open area of your classroom. As you play "Town by Town" from CD, toss balloons, one at a time, toward children. Children bat balloons up into the air, trying to keep the balloons off the ground. When you stop the music, each child grabs the balloon closest to him or her. **In each of your balloons is a part of a psalm (a prayer) from the Bible. This psalm gives us some ideas of ways to talk to God about who He is and what He does.** Children pop balloons.

2. Children unroll papers and work together to put verses in order, taping papers together. Volunteer reads Psalm 28:7-9 aloud. **This is an example of a prayer from the book of Psalms. Let's use some of these words to write our own prayer, thanking Jesus for who He is and what He has done for us.** Lead children to write their own prayer by substituting words of their own choosing for each of the red-colored words. Using a black marker, children print suggested words on the slips of paper above the red-colored words. Children read prayer aloud.

Talk About

- ◆ **Why did Jesus come to Earth?** (Jesus came to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven for the wrong things we have done and be able to live forever with Jesus when we trust in Him.)
- ◆ **What do you think is the best part about knowing Jesus?** Briefly tell why you are glad to be a Christian.



God's Word

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

For Younger Children:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

God's Word & Me

Thank Jesus for who He is and what He came to do.

For Younger Children

As you play "Town by Town," children walk around the room. After several seconds, stop music. Children freeze in place. Lead children in a short echo prayer, thanking Jesus for who He is (Dear Jesus . . . thank You . . . for being God's Son. . . Amen. . .). Continue starting and stopping music while children move and then freeze in place. Each time you stop the music, lead children in prayer, thanking Jesus for different things.

Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, large sheets of paper, crayons; optional—toy cars.

Prepare

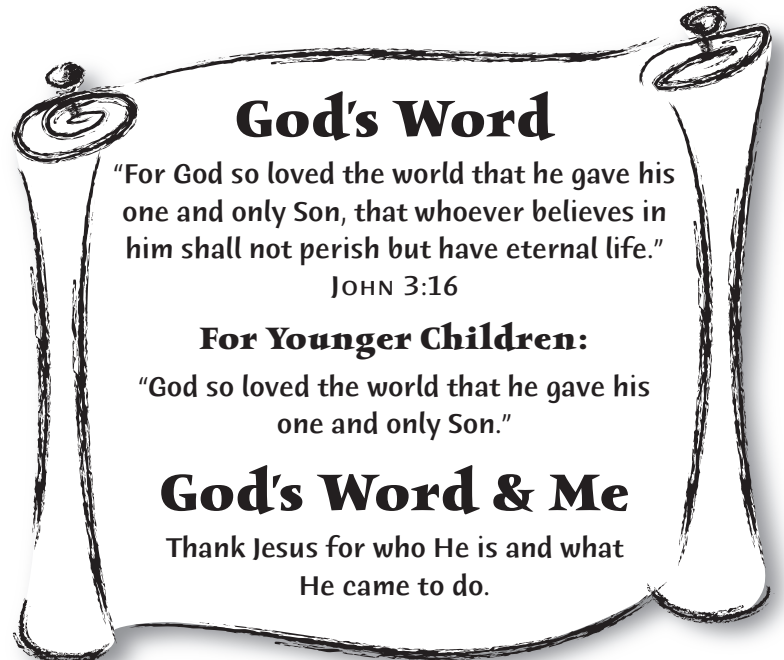
Draw simple streets on large sheet of paper, making a simple neighborhood play mat. Prepare one play mat for each group of four to six children.

Do

Divide class into groups of four to six children. Give each group a play mat you prepared. Children draw houses, trees and people along the streets you drew. (Optional: Children play with toy cars on completed play mat.)

Talk About

- ◆ **Our Bible says, “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.” Jordan, who is God’s Son?** (Jesus.) **That’s right! Jesus is God’s Son!**
- ◆ **What are some other things we know about Jesus?** (Jesus loves us. He listens when we pray. Jesus will always be with us. Jesus forgives us when we do wrong things. Jesus died for us and came back to life again. Jesus is alive today.) **I’m so glad that Jesus is God’s Son and that He came to love us! He is with us wherever we go.**
- ◆ **Where do you like to go with your mom? Where do you like to go with your grandpa?** **Jesus loves you and is with you at the park and at the grocery store.**
- ◆ **We can thank Jesus that He is God’s Son and that He loves us.** Pray with children, thanking Jesus for who He is.



For Older Children

Children make maps of their neighborhood or community, drawing streets, houses and other landmarks.



Collect

Bible, Lesson 4 Pattern page (p. 98) for each child, brown ribbon or yarn, measuring stick, scissors, large sheet of paper, marker, 2x3-inch (5x7.5-cm) pieces of paper, pencils.

Prepare

Cut ribbon or yarn into 30-inch (75-cm) lengths, one for each child. Make sample prayer box following the directions below.

Do

1. **We're going to make boxes today and write prayers to keep inside them.** Children cut out and assemble prayer boxes using pattern page.

2. Children brainstorm words and phrases that describe who Jesus is and what He came to do. List their responses on a large sheet of paper. Using ideas from large sheet of paper, children write short prayers on small pieces of paper, thanking Jesus for who He is and what He came to do. Children roll or fold papers and then place papers in boxes.

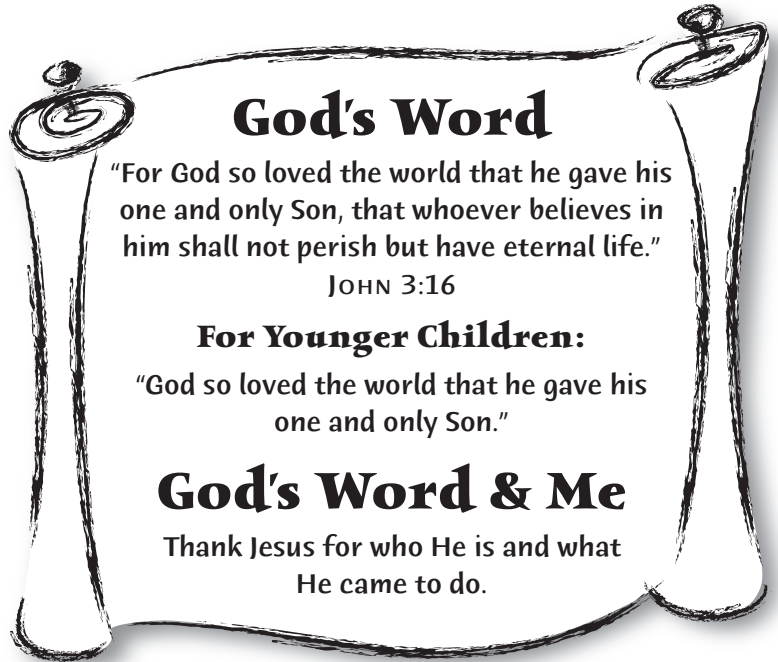
3. Children run length of ribbon or yarn under the top box flap (gently squeeze sides of box to make top gap). Children tie to arms or foreheads or take home as prayer boxes.

Talk About

- ◆ **In Bible times, many Jewish men wore small leather boxes strapped to their arms or their foreheads. These boxes are called phylacteries (ful-LAK-tur-eez). Phylacteries contain little slips of paper with God's commandments written on them.**
- ◆ **Today some Jewish men wear these small boxes in order to help them obey God's command to keep God's Word with them at all times. How do we keep God's Word with us?** (Memorize Bible verses. During the day, think about Bible verses we know.)
- ◆ **John 3:16 is a great Bible verse to remember.** Read verse aloud. **What does this verse tell us about God's love?** Talk with interested children about salvation. Refer to "Leading a Child to Christ" on page 12.

For Younger Children

Children use markers to decorate small premade boxes. Children dictate prayers to be placed in their boxes.



God's Word

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

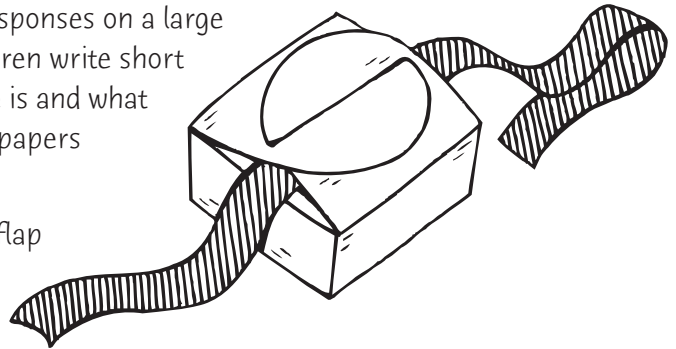
JOHN 3:16

For Younger Children:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

God's Word & Me

Thank Jesus for who He is and what He came to do.



Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 248, 251), two large containers (boxes, waste baskets, etc.), four or more beanbags.

Team Game

Divide group into two teams. One volunteer from each team stands at the front of the room, holding a container. Place beanbags on the floor about 10 feet (3 m) from volunteers holding containers. At your signal, another volunteer from each team stands near beanbags and tries to toss the beanbags into container, retrieving beanbags as needed. Children cheer for their team's volunteer. Count the number of times a beanbag lands in each team's box. After 5 to 10 seconds, signal children to stop. Repeat with other volunteers as time permits.

Bible Verse Game

Lead children in repeating the first phrase of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world." Assign each word in the phrase to a group of children. Repeat phrase again with each assigned group standing and saying aloud its word and then sitting down again to make a verse wave. Repeat verse in this manner several times, increasing the speed a little each time. After several rounds, add additional phrases of the verse, continuing until group can create a wave with the entire verse.

Song

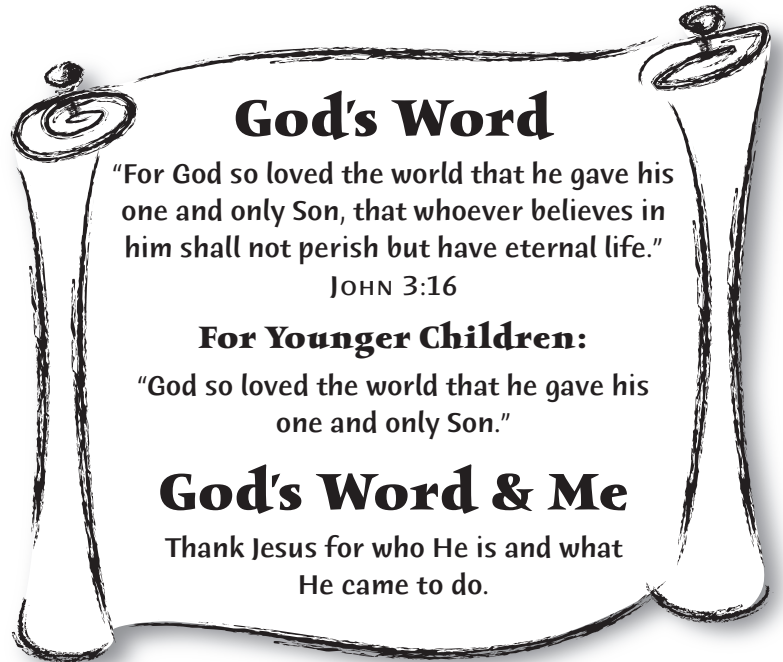
You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Psalm 130:7-8" and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

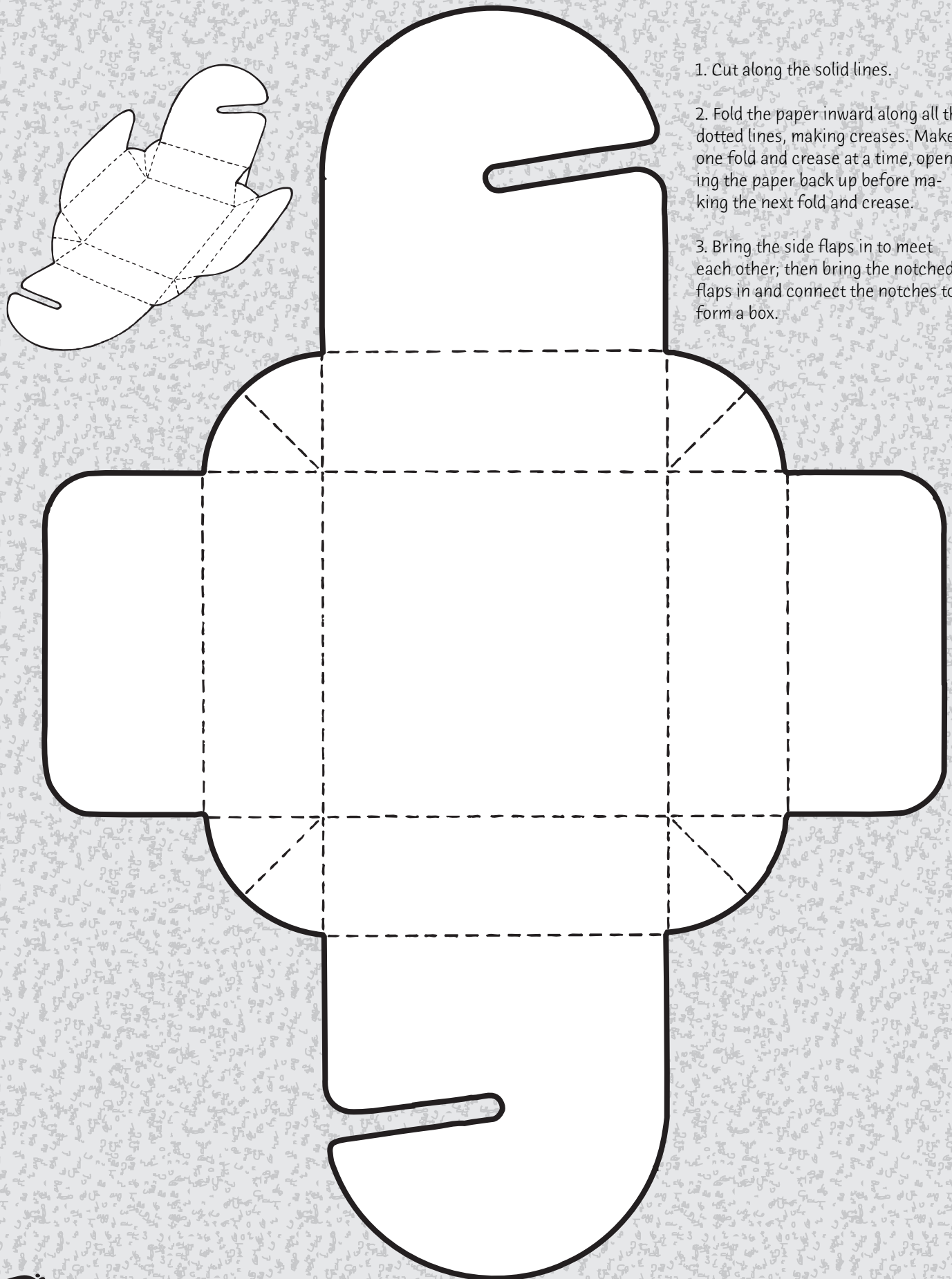
I'm thankful to know who Jesus is and that He came to Earth to show His love for us and make it possible for us to live forever with Him. I hope you're thankful, too. Think of one word that you would use to describe Jesus. (Good. Loving. Forgiving. God's Son. The Savior.) Lead children in a prayer where each child says, "Jesus, thank You that You are . . ." Close prayer by thanking Jesus that He is the Savior sent by God to offer love and salvation.

Song

Play "Jesus' Love." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.



Lesson 4 ♦ Pattern Page

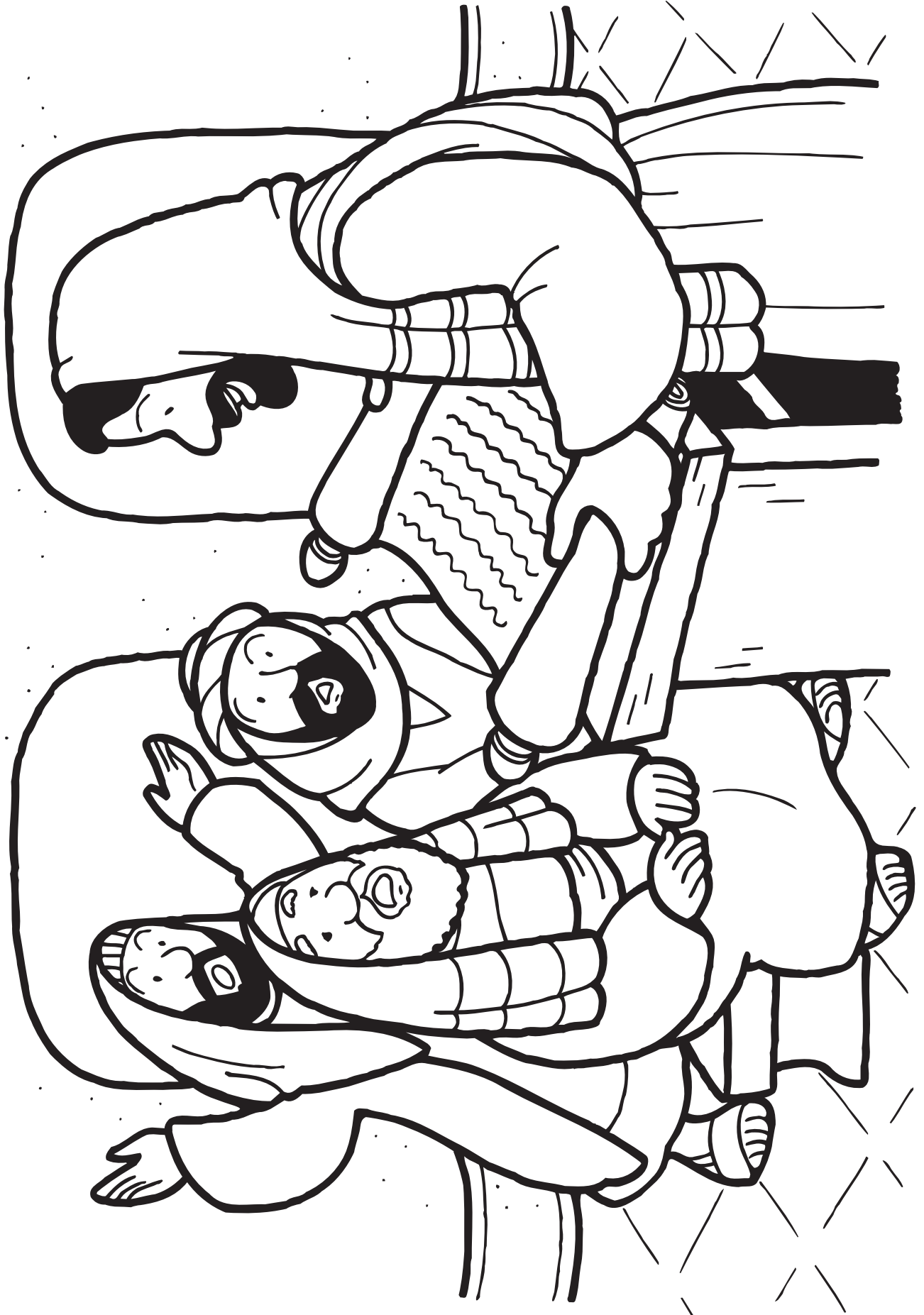


1. Cut along the solid lines.

2. Fold the paper inward along all the dotted lines, making creases. Make one fold and crease at a time, opening the paper back up before making the next fold and crease.

3. Bring the side flaps in to meet each other; then bring the notched flaps in and connect the notches to form a box.

Jesus teaches about God.
Luke 4:14-30



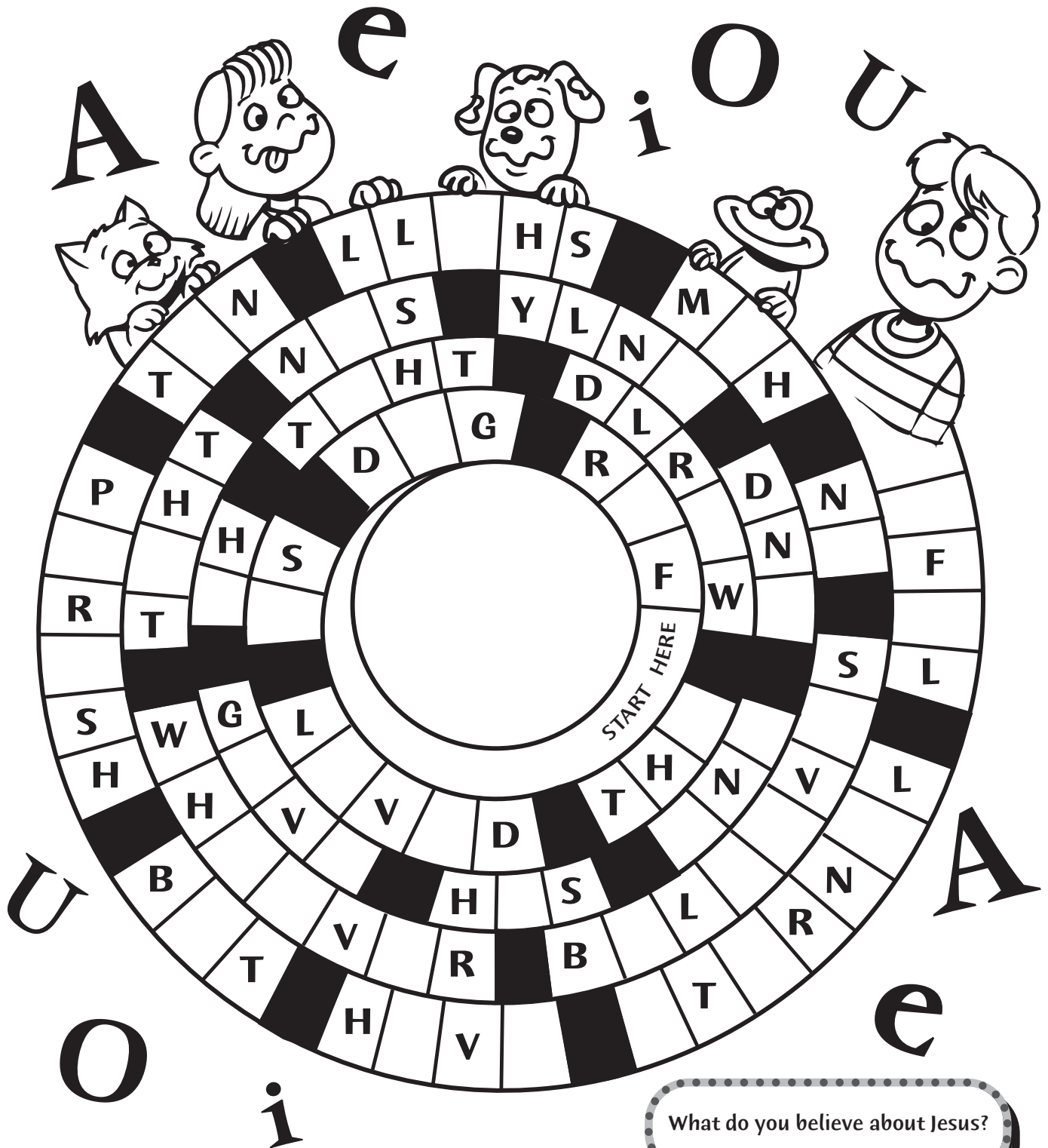
Complete the prayer: Dear God, thank You that Jesus is . . .

Dizzy Spells!

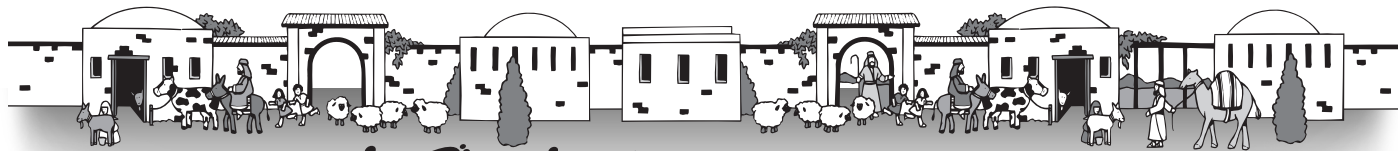


John 3:16

These kids are getting dizzy trying to solve this puzzle! Start at the center of the spiral and fill in the missing vowels. After you do, memorize the verse. (Hint: Read the verse in your Bible for help.)



Capernaum: Roof Collapses



Bible Story Mark 2:1-12

Teacher's Devotional

Capernaum lay on Galilee's northwestern shore on a major highway at the border of Herod's territory. Here, ships docked, traders paid tariffs at the custom house and Roman soldiers were stationed. Jesus made this diverse town His home base in the Galilee region. More of His miracles and teachings are recorded as occurring in Capernaum than anywhere else.

Mark 2:3 says that when Jesus taught at Capernaum, four men arrived carrying their paralyzed friend. But they couldn't get close to Jesus. Carrying the mat up the outside stairs to the roof, they pulled at the thatch and mud until they had opened a hole through which to lower their friend. No doubt their actions got everyone's attention!



Jesus wasn't put off by this disturbance at all; He clearly saw the faith revealed by their actions and said to the man on the mat, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5). This rankled the local religious authorities. After all, who can forgive sin except God Himself? Jesus proved His authority to forgive sin by healing the man, saying, "Pick up your mat and go home." As one Bible scholar wisely said, "He did the miracle which they could see so that they might know that He had done the one that they could not see."

The only true solution for our sin is Jesus' miraculous forgiveness. His forgiveness is just as real today as it was that day in Capernaum! As we pray for each child by name this week, let's ask God to help each one respond to His forgiveness. He loves and longs to forgive every one of us.

God's Word

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 JOHN 1:9

For Younger Children:

"If we confess our sins, he will forgive us."

God's Word & Me

Jesus takes away the punishment for our sins.

Planning Page

Lesson 5
Mark 2:1-12

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Capernaum: Roof Collapses • Mark 2:1-12

Younger Child Option

Use props to show story action

Older Child Option

Match puzzle pieces to discover a message

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Make puppets to use in acting out the Bible story and talk about ways Jesus showed love

Materials

Bible, Lesson 5 Pattern Page (p. 112), card stock, scissors, glue sticks, lengths of hair-colored yarn, crayons

Older Child Option

Weave a mat like the paralyzed man might have used and talk about Jesus' love and forgiveness

Materials

Bible, paper twist, measuring stick, scissors, chenille wires, tape

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a Follow the Leader game and talk about Jesus' love for us

Materials

Bible, masking tape

Older Child Option

Play a relay game and talk about ways Jesus shows His love for us

Materials

Bible, masking tape, several beach towels, a variety of small items

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 5 Coloring Page (p. 113) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option

Talk about the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 5 Puzzle Page (p. 114) for each child, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus* Music CD and player, song charts (pp. 247-248, 251)

Bonus Theme Ideas

Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Capernaum

Before class, collect a variety of different snack items and stickers. For each child, insert three or four of the same snack items or stickers into a baggie. In class, children select baggies. **In Bible times, people traded what they had to get what they needed. Capernaum was located on a busy road, so a lot of trading took place there.** Children begin trading with each other for things they want. Each

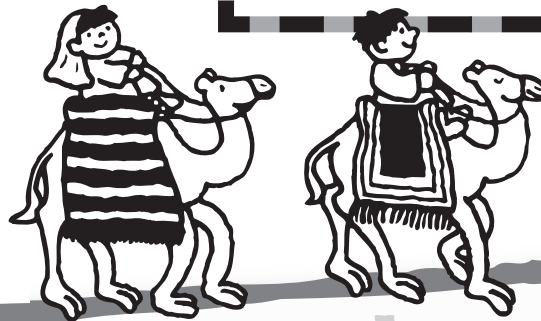
child must acquire at least two items different from what he or she had at first. After several minutes, volunteers tell items for which they traded.



Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Fruit Twists

Children fill tall glasses with ice cubes. Thinly slice an orange, lemon or lime and remove any seeds. Children add a few fruit slices to each glass. In a large pitcher, stir together one 12-ounce thawed can of orange juice concentrate with a 1-liter bottle of unflavored seltzer water. Pour into glasses over the fruit and ice. Serve immediately. Serves six.



Children use permanent markers to write their names and then decorate craft-foam visors (available at craft stores). Children take home visors, or keep them at church so that children may wear them during each session of *Journey with Jesus*.



Tour Gear



Bible Story Center



Lesson 5
Mark 2:1-12

for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

When have you been in a crowd of people? Why were all the people there? Listen to hear about a time a lot of people went to a house to see Jesus.

Tell the Story

Our Bible tells about a man who was paralyzed. He couldn't walk. He couldn't even stand up! He could only lie on his mat and wait for his kind friends to help him. The sick man wanted to be well—to sit up, to stand and to walk all by himself!

One day this man's four friends heard that Jesus was in their town. "If only he could go to see Jesus," the friends must have said to each other. "Surely Jesus can make our friend well!"

So the four friends picked up the man on his mat. They carried him as they walked down the road to see Jesus. But when they got to the house where Jesus was talking, it was packed full of people. Many people wanted to see Jesus. There was hardly any room inside! People were standing in the doorway, trying to get into the house. Other people stood outside, looking in the window.

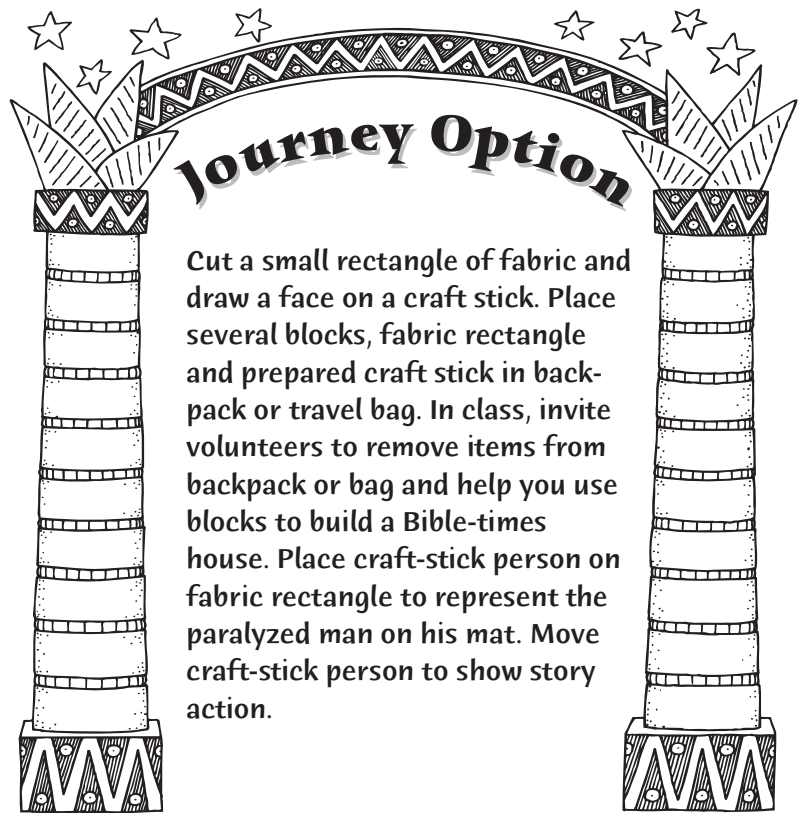
The four friends must have felt sad. There was just no way to get in—not even for one person, and especially not for the four of them and their friend lying on his mat.

Then the friends remembered the flat roof on top of the house. The friends climbed the stairs outside the house to the roof. They carried their friend with them. The four friends began to pull away pieces of the roof. Finally the hole was big enough! Carefully the friends lowered the man down, down into the house. Soon he was right in front of Jesus.

Jesus loved the man. Jesus told him, "Your sins are forgiven. Stand up, take your mat and walk." And the man did just that! How happy he was that Jesus had forgiven him and made him well. How thankful he was for his kind friends. All the people in the house were surprised! The people thanked God.

God's Word & Me

How did the man's friends help him? (They took him to see Jesus.) **Jesus made the man well. Jesus loved and forgave the man. Jesus loves you, too. He will forgive you when you do wrong things. Our Bible says, "If we will confess our sins, he will forgive us." Let's thank Jesus for loving and forgiving us.** Pray briefly with children.





Collect

Bible, blanket.

Introduction

What's the worst thing about being sick? When you are sick, how do people treat you? What are some ways people help you? Volunteers answer. **Today we'll find out how one man's friends helped him when he was sick. This man lived in Capernaum, an important city near the Sea of Galilee. It was a fishing and trade center. There was also a synagogue where Jesus taught.** (Ask a smaller child to act as the paralyzed man and lie on a blanket. Four volunteers carefully move the "paralyzed" child around the room at the appropriate time in the story.)

Tell the Story

The Bible doesn't tell us the name of the man in our story, but we'll call him Joel. Joel was paralyzed—this means his legs couldn't move. (It may have also meant his arms and hands couldn't move.) Poor Joel lived in the beautiful city of Capernaum, but he couldn't get around to see it. Someone had to carry him everywhere he needed to go—there were no wheelchairs in Bible times! And since Joel couldn't work, he probably had to beg for food. **How do you think Joel felt about his life?** It may have been that the only good thing Joel could say about his life was that he had four good friends who were willing to help him.

Joel may have overheard some people talking about someone else who lived in Capernaum—a fisherman named Simon. (Simon was later called Peter.) "Did you hear? Simon's become the disciple of a man named Jesus," one person said.

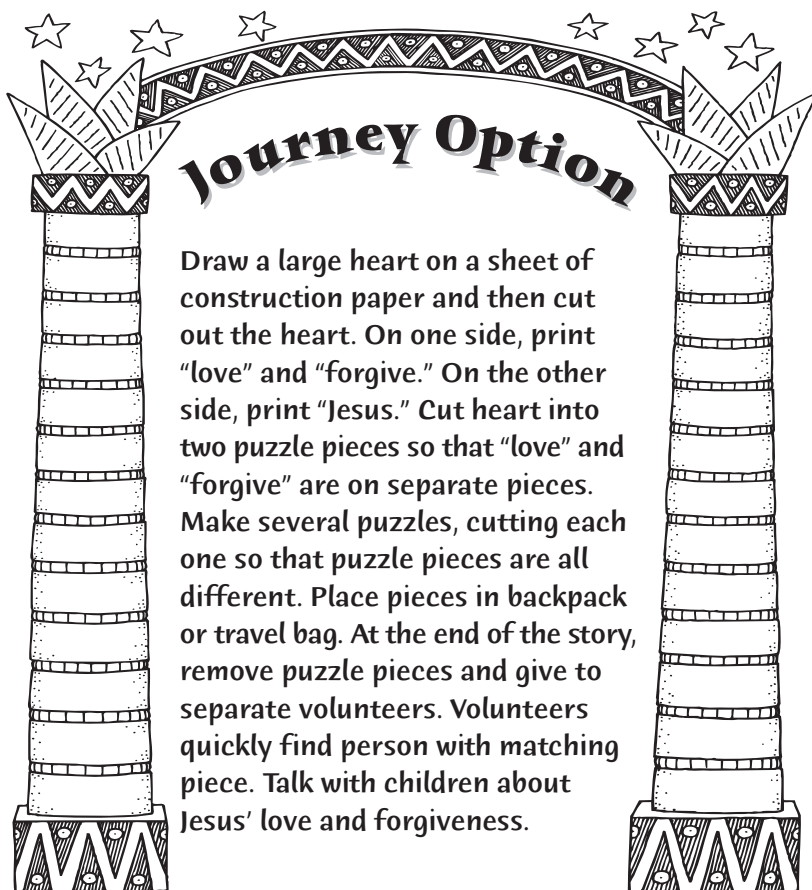
A second person answered, "Yes, I know. And did you hear what happened at Simon's house not too long ago? His mother-in-law was dreadfully sick and this Jesus just went in and spoke to her and healed her! She got right up out of bed and fixed dinner for everyone!"

"I've heard Jesus healed other people, too," the first man replied.

Well, Joel's friends heard all about Jesus, too. And soon after, they came to Joel and said, "Jesus is in town and we are going to take you to see Him!"

"Are you sure He'll agree to help someone like me?" Joel might have asked.

"We hear He loves to help people. And who needs His help as much as you do, Joel?" one friend answered. So the





four friends picked up Joel's mat with Joel on it and headed off to the house where Jesus was staying.

When Joel and his friends arrived at the house, they saw LOTS of people! There was no way to get close enough to even SEE Jesus! **If you were Joel's friends, what would you have done?** Joel's friends had an idea. They gently carried Joel up the stairs on the outside of the house. Then they carefully pulled pieces of the roof off the house, making a big hole!

"What on Earth!?" one person inside may have exclaimed as a bit of roof dropped on her head. A large hole appeared in the roof; and carefully, inch-by-inch, Joel was lowered into the room where Jesus was teaching.

"Those men picked a terrible time to repair the roof! They're interrupting Jesus!" one person may have complained to a friend nearby. **How do you think Jesus responded to this interruption?** Jesus probably looked up at Joel's friends and smiled. Then Jesus said to Joel, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

His sins are forgiven?! What does Jesus mean that this man's sins are forgiven? Who does Jesus think He is, anyway? Only God can forgive sins! The thoughts of the people standing around in the room were almost loud enough to hear! And Jesus knew what these people were thinking. Jesus also knew that the people didn't understand who He was, so He asked a question.

"Is it harder to heal a man or forgive his sins?" Jesus asked the crowd. No one could answer Jesus. "Very well," said Jesus, "I will prove to you that I have the authority to do both." And Jesus told Joel, "Get up! Take your mat and go home."

Suddenly Joel knew something was different. He realized that his brain was sending messages to the muscles in his legs and they were obeying. He could move! Joel stood up and picked up his mat. He began to walk—right through the crowd and out of the house!

Joel could feel the astonished stares of the people as he walked past. And he could hear them muttering as he went by, "In all my days, I've never seen anything like this! Who is this Jesus?" Joel must have smiled and thought to himself, *I know who Jesus is! He is the One who heals AND forgives sins!*

God's Word & Me

It's hard to imagine how much Jesus' love meant to the man in our story today. And it's hard to imagine how much Jesus loves each person in the whole world! Jesus shows His love for us in many ways—especially by offering us forgiveness when we've sinned and disobeyed God. The punishment we all deserve because of our sins was taken by Jesus when He died on the cross. When we admit our sins to God and tell Him we want to do what's right, He forgives us. Talk with interested children about salvation, referring to "Leading a Child to Christ" on p. 12.

- ◆ **Read 1 John 1:9. What does it mean to confess our sins?** (Tell God what we've done wrong.) **What does 1 John 1:9 say will happen when we confess our sins? How might a person show he or she is truly sorry for a wrong action?**
- ◆ **What has Jesus done to show love for you? How does knowing about Jesus' forgiveness help us?** (Jesus' forgiveness helps us make a fresh start. He promises to help us do right.) Pray with children, thanking Jesus for His forgiveness.

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, masking tape.

Prepare

Use masking tape to make start and finish lines on either side of the playing area.

Do

1. **What are some things you can do with your legs? Let's use our legs to follow the leader.** Guide children to line up behind you.

2. Begin to walk across the room, inviting children to follow you. After a moment, change the way you move by beginning to hop. Guide children to copy your movement. Continue with other movements (baby steps, giant steps, walking sideways, etc.). After several minutes, invite a volunteer to become the new leader. Continue as time and interest allow, inviting other children to take turns being the leader.

Talk About

- ◆ **Natalie, what is another way we can move our legs? Jesus loves you and made you able to jump. There are many ways Jesus shows His love to us!**
- ◆ **Jesus loves you when you do good things. He also loves you when you do wrong things. The Bible says, "He will forgive us." That is good news!**
- ◆ **Pray with children. Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us and forgiving us when we do wrong things.**

For Older Children

Instead of having a volunteer demonstrate ways to move, begin a relay race with children running to the finish line and back. Randomly call out directions that the children who are running must quickly follow before returning to the start line to tag the next child in line (go backwards, crawl, stop and turn around three times, write your name on the chalkboard, etc.).

God's Word

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

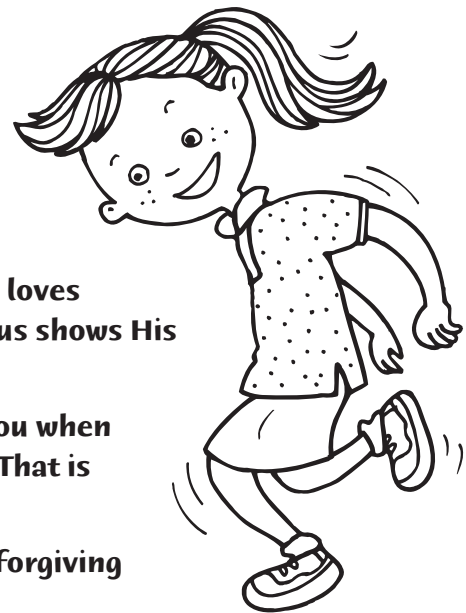
1 JOHN 1:9

For Younger Children:

"If we confess our sins, he will forgive us."

God's Word & Me

Jesus takes away the punishment for our sins.



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 5
Mark 2:1-12

Collect

Bible, masking tape, several beach towels, a variety of small items (eraser, ball, book, stuffed animal, etc.).

Prepare

Use masking tape to make start and finish lines on the floor on opposite sides of an open area in your classroom.

Do

In our Bible story today, some men carried a friend who couldn't walk to see Jesus. Let's play a game to carry things the way those men carried their friend. Divide group into two or more teams. Four volunteers from each team stand behind

start line and hold corners of a beach towel. Place one of the small items you collected on each towel. Volunteers race to transport the item on their towel to the finish line and then return to the start line to collect another item. Continue until each team has transported several items. (If space is limited, one group at a time transports items, racing against the clock.)

Talk About

- ◆ **What are some things Jesus did to show His love for others?** (He taught others about God. He healed people. He died to take the punishment for our sins.)
- ◆ **What does He do now to show His love?** (He forgives our sins. He hears and answers our prayers.)
- ◆ **When are some times kids your age need Jesus' forgiveness?** Read aloud 1 John 1:9. **What does 1 John 1:9 say will happen when we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness?**

For Younger Children

Bring enough towels so that all children can participate at one time without having to wait for a turn. Encourage children to move slowly and carefully instead of racing, so that items on their towels are safe.

God's Word

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

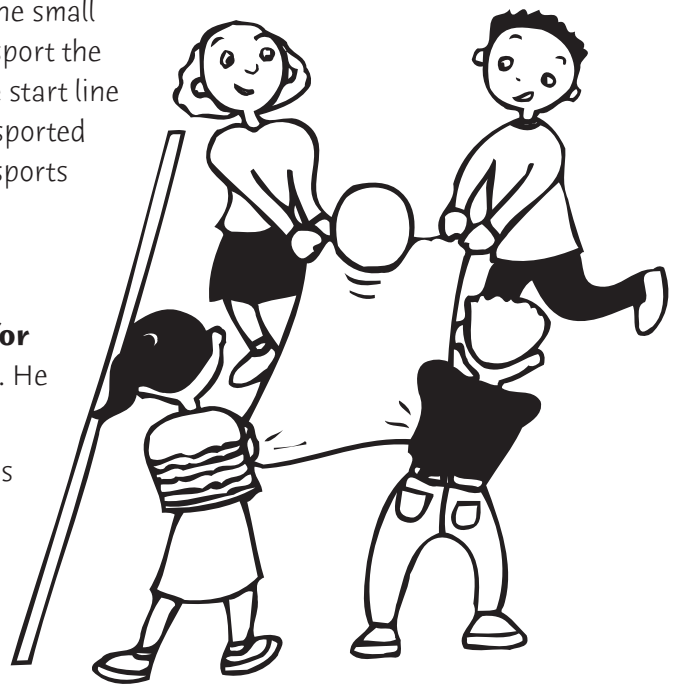
1 JOHN 1:9

For Younger Children:

"If we confess our sins, he will forgive us."

God's Word & Me

Jesus takes away the punishment for our sins.



Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, Lesson 5 Pattern Page (p. 112), card stock, scissors, glue sticks, lengths of hair-colored yarn (yellow, black, brown and orange), crayons.

Prepare

Photocopy Lesson 5 Pattern Page onto card stock, making one copy for each child. From each pattern page, cut out puppets and holes for children's fingers.

Do

1. Give cut-out puppets to each child. Children draw faces with crayons to make puppets of Jesus and the man who couldn't walk in the Bible story. Children glue on yarn to represent hair and draw clothes to decorate puppets. Children decorate other puppets to represent other people in the Bible story as time permits.

2. Guide children to put their fingers in holes as puppet legs and use their puppets to show story action as you read aloud Mark 2:11-12 from your Bible or briefly tell the story in your own words.

Talk About

- ◆ **Nathan, how did Jesus show love to the man in our Bible story today? Jesus loves us, too.**
- ◆ **Jesus forgives us when we do wrong things. Our Bible tells us, "He will forgive us."**
- ◆ **We can thank Jesus for forgiving us.** Invite children to repeat the following prayer: **Thank You, Jesus, for forgiving us when we do wrong things.**

For Older Children

Provide a variety of materials for children to use in creating puppets of Bible story characters (paper bags, socks, construction-paper scraps, paper plates, wiggle eyes, fabric scraps, etc.). Children create puppets as desired and then use puppets to retell the Bible story.

God's Word

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 JOHN 1:9

For Younger Children:

"If we confess our sins, he will forgive us."

God's Word & Me

Jesus takes away the punishment for our sins.





Collect

Bible, paper twist (available at craft or hobby stores), measuring stick, scissors, chenille wires, tape.

Prepare

Cut paper twist into 2-foot (.6-m) long sections. Each child will need approximately six sections of paper twist and nine chenille wires. Make a sample mat following directions below.

Do

1. **In Bible times, people made mats by weaving reeds together. Let's make some mats that look like the ones used in Bible times.** Give each child nine chenille wires. Children arrange wires approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart from each other, placing them parallel on the table (see sketch a). Tape the tops of the wires firmly to the table. Give each child six lengths of paper twist to unwrap.

2. Child weaves a length of unwrapped paper twist over and under the wires, beginning at one corner near the tape (see sketch b). At the end of a row, child wraps the paper around the wire and continues weaving the next row in the opposite direction. When first section of paper twist comes to an end, child continues weaving with another section, overlapping about 1 inch (2.5 cm) of first paper twist with the new section.

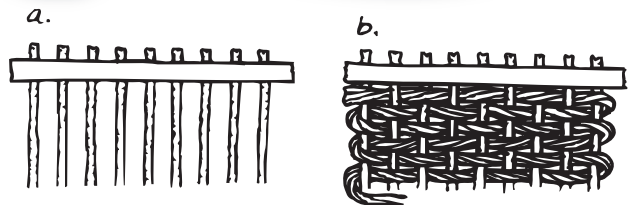
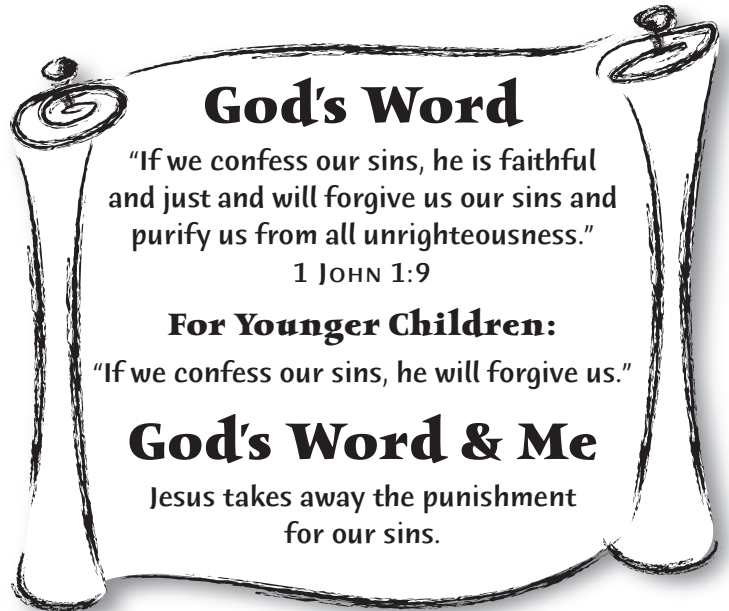
3. When children are finished weaving through all the wires, remove tape from wires and firmly bend wire ends over the paper at the top and bottom of the mat. The finished mats should be approximately 10-inch (25-cm) squares.

Talk About

- ♦ **What part of today's story do these mats remind you of? What did Jesus do for the man who had to lie on a mat all the time?** (Jesus healed him and forgave his sins.)
- ♦ **What's an example of a time a kid might ask for and receive Jesus' forgiveness for a wrong action but still have to make up for the wrong action?** (A kid who has stolen money has to pay it back. A kid who lied about doing chores has to do extra chores.) **Think about something for which you need to be forgiven.** Give children time to think silently and then close in prayer, thanking Jesus for forgiving children.

For Younger Children

To simplify the activity, fold sheets of construction paper in half and cut slits from the fold. Make slits 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart and leave 1-inch (2.5-cm) borders. Also cut long strips of 1-inch (2.5-cm) wide construction paper. Children open folded paper, weave strips through slits in papers and tape in place to create their mats.



Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247-248, 251).

Prepare

Photocopy the song chart for "Jesus' Love" (p. 248) for each child.

Team Game

Distribute word charts as you play "Jesus' Love." Children sing along, reading words and practicing motions as you play song several times. Divide group into two teams. Teams stand on opposite sides of the classroom. Volunteer from each team runs to the middle of the room. In a whisper, describe a motion from the song to the two volunteers. Volunteers run back to their teams and do the motion. Teams quickly guess the word for that motion and send another volunteer to the middle of the room for a description of another motion. Teams continue guessing motions until all the motions have been guessed or as time permits.

Bible Verse Game

One of the greatest ways Jesus shows His love for us is by forgiving us for the wrong things we do.

Assign a key word of 1 John 1:9 to each of five volunteers ("confess," "faithful," "just," "forgive" and "purify"). Volunteers make up motions for their assigned words (clap, wave arms, turn around, use sign language, etc.). Lead children in repeating 1 John 1:9 as volunteers do motions for their words. Repeat several times, increasing the speed with which you lead children in saying words each time.

Song

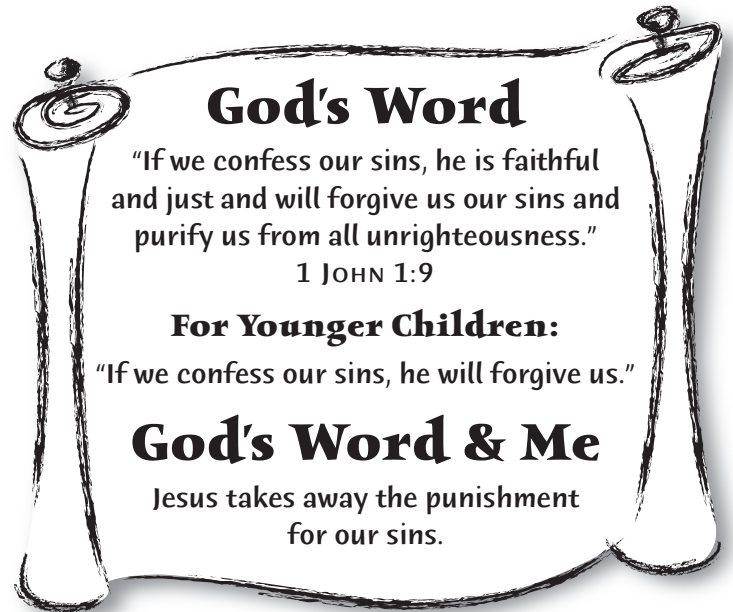
You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Psalm 130:7-8" and doing suggested motions.

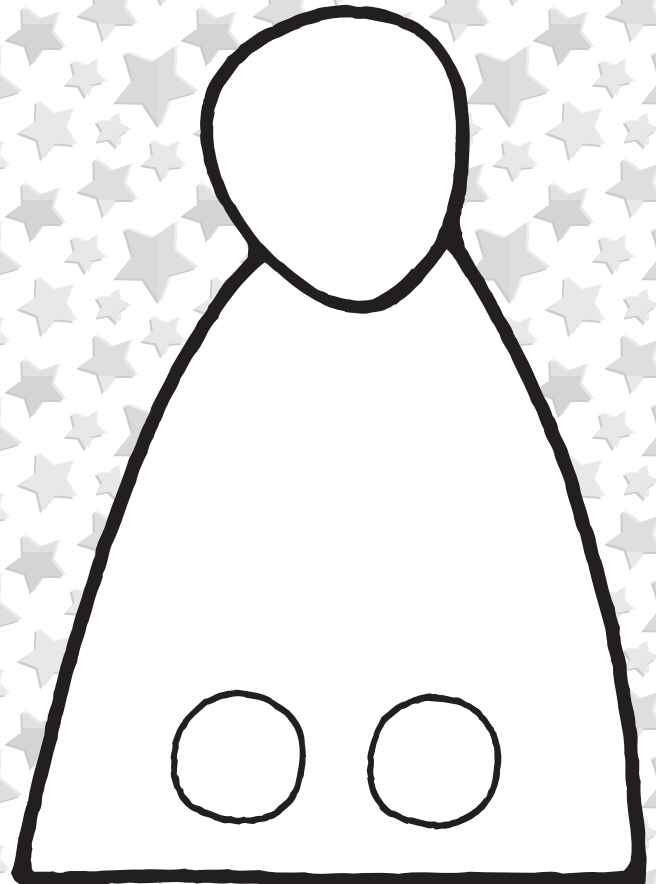
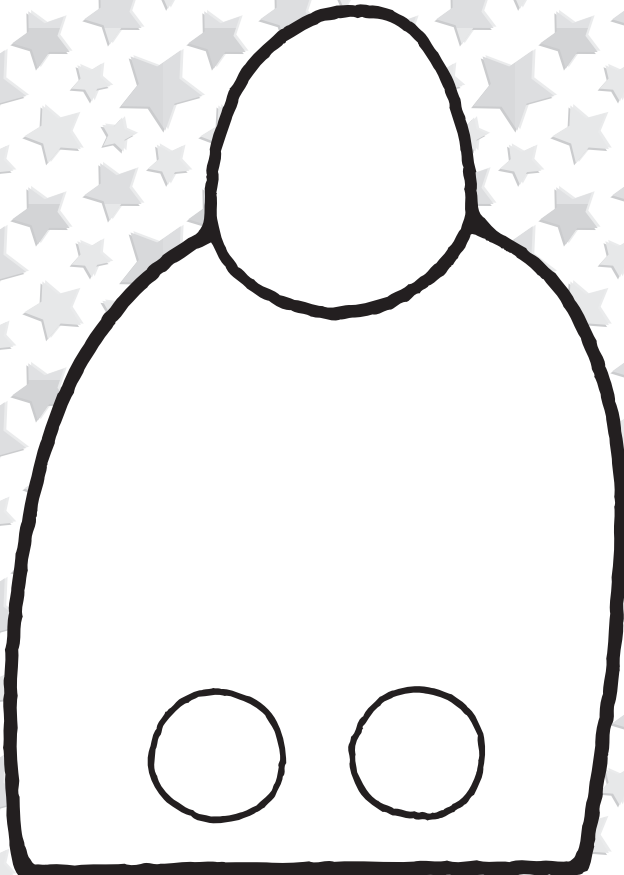
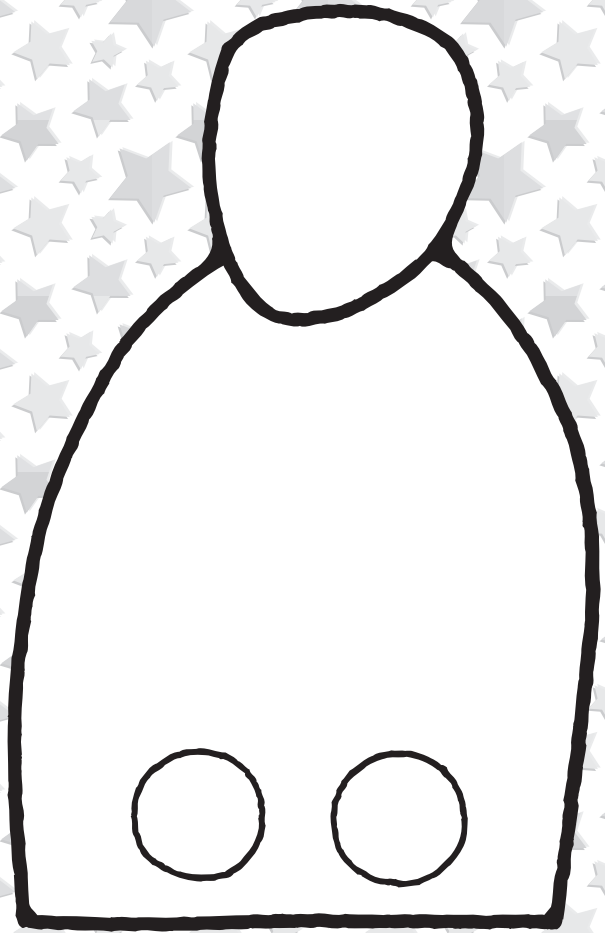
Prayer

When we've done wrong, what's the good news in 1 John 1:9? (If we confess our sins, Jesus will forgive us.) Briefly tell children about a time you asked Jesus to forgive you. Then ask children to pray silently, asking forgiveness for times they have disobeyed God. Close prayer time by thanking Jesus for His forgiveness and love.

Song

Play "The Gift." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.







Jesus loves and helps a man
who could not walk.

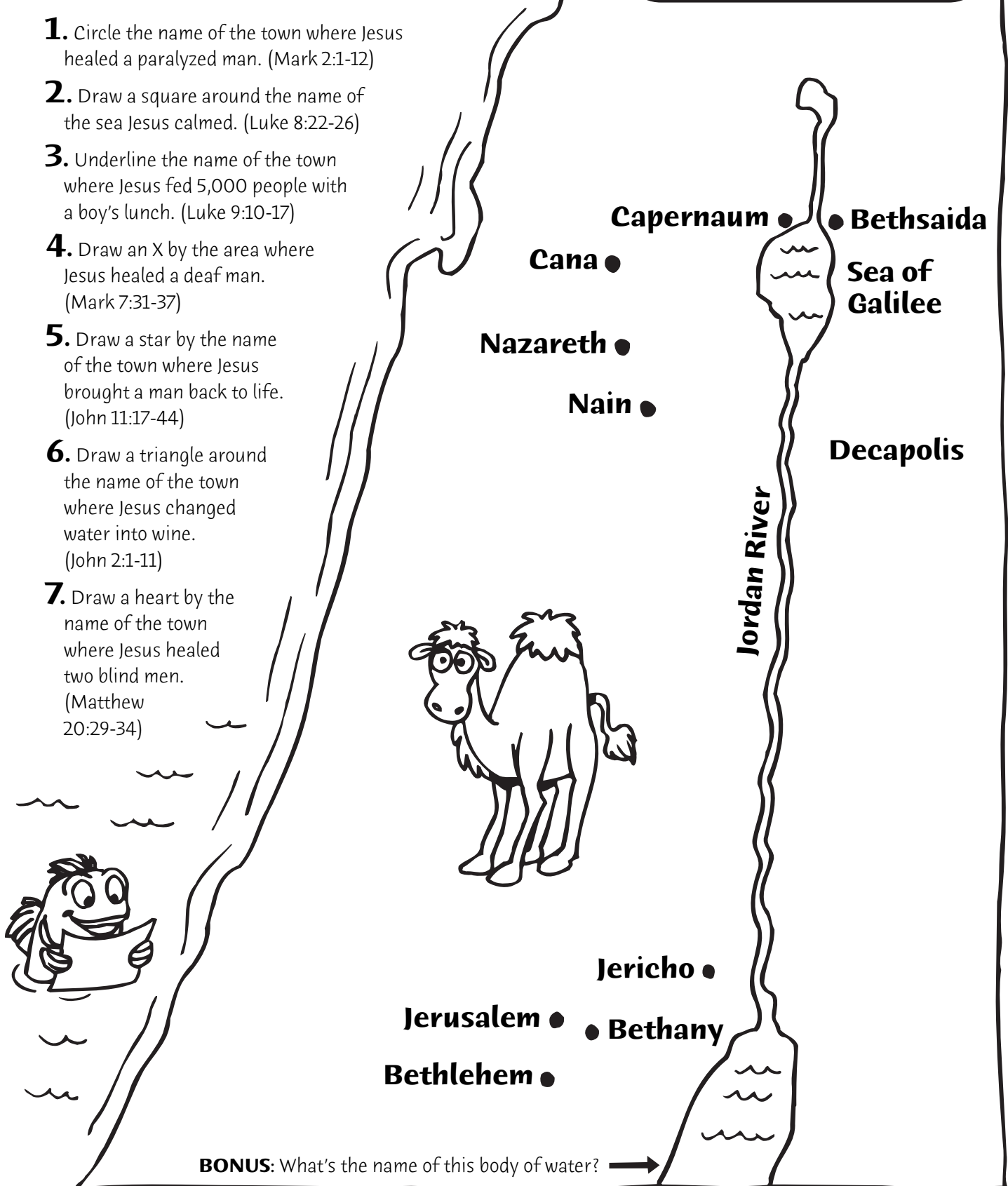
Mark 2:1-12

Jesus loves you! What can you say
to thank Jesus for His love?

Map of Miracles

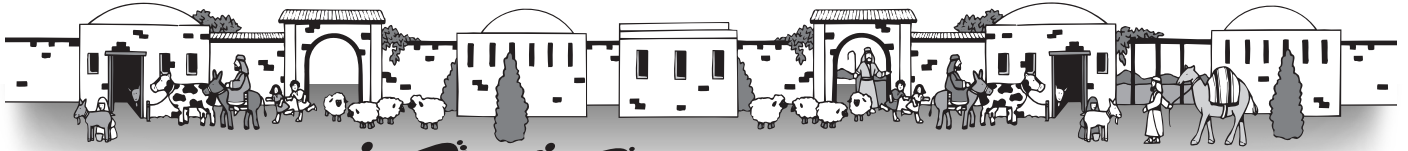
1. Circle the name of the town where Jesus healed a paralyzed man. (Mark 2:1-12)
2. Draw a square around the name of the sea Jesus calmed. (Luke 8:22-26)
3. Underline the name of the town where Jesus fed 5,000 people with a boy's lunch. (Luke 9:10-17)
4. Draw an X by the area where Jesus healed a deaf man. (Mark 7:31-37)
5. Draw a star by the name of the town where Jesus brought a man back to life. (John 11:17-44)
6. Draw a triangle around the name of the town where Jesus changed water into wine. (John 2:1-11)
7. Draw a heart by the name of the town where Jesus healed two blind men. (Matthew 20:29-34)

Because Jesus did so many miracles, what do you learn about Him?



BONUS: What's the name of this body of water? →

Galilee: Storm Rocks Boat



Bible Story Mark 4:35-41

Teacher's Devotional

The Sea of Galilee is a freshwater lake through which the Jordan River flows from its headwaters southward to the Dead Sea. Through time it has also been known as Chinnereth (in the Old Testament), Gennesaret, the Sea of Tiberias (in the New Testament) and Yam Kinneret today. It has always been a center for commerce, travel and fishing in Israel.

Due to the area's geography, violent winds and sudden storms that create large waves are quite common. Imagine being on such waves in a small boat loaded with people. Although some were experienced fishermen, Jesus' disciples were in a panic. The storm gripped them with such force that they shouted to Jesus, "Don't You care if we drown?!"

Asleep in the boat, Jesus' sound sleep showed that the storm was in His control. When roused, He stopped the wind and the waves with a few words, leaving His disciples in openmouthed astonishment!



When our lives surge out of control and our personal "boats" are in danger of becoming swamped, we may panic, too. It's not that the waves aren't real or the problems aren't huge—they may well be. But we must never forget who is with us. And He tells us to rest in Him. As the old hymn puts it, "Be still, my soul; the wind and waves still know His voice, who ruled them while He dwelt below." Give Him whatever problem you have been carrying. Then you will be able to share with your students how they, too, can find rest in their storms—because Jesus is with them.

God's Word

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

For Younger Children:

"Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."

God's Word & Me

Call on Jesus for help.

Planning Page

Lesson 6
Mark 4:35-41

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Galilee: Storm Rocks Boat • Mark 4:35-41

Younger Child Option

Use props to pretend to be part of the story

Older Child Option

Decode a numeric message to discover who to call on for help

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a moving shape game and talk about Jesus' love and help in scary situations

Materials

Bible, masking tape

Older Child Option

Play a game to knock over a protected bottle and tell ways Jesus helps people

Materials

Bible, index cards, marker, empty 2-liter plastic water bottle, soft sponge ball

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus* Music CD and player, song charts (pp. 249, 253), masking tape, scrap paper

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Paint with marbles and talk about Jesus' help

Materials

Bible, scissors, paper, several shallow gift boxes or baking pans, several colors of tempera paints in cups, plastic spoons, small items that can roll

Older Child Option

Use dough to make scenes of the Sea of Galilee, and discuss talking to Jesus in scary situations

Materials

Bible, mixing spoon, flour, salt, water, measuring cups, bowl, food coloring, sturdy cardboard, newspapers

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 6 Coloring Page (p. 127) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 6 Puzzle Page (p. 128) for each student, pencils

Bonus Theme Ideas

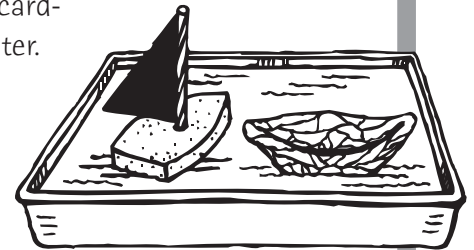


Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Galilee

Today in our tour of the places Jesus lived and traveled, we are visiting the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is a beautiful blue lake surrounded by mountains. The way the wind blows from the mountains to the lake often causes sudden and severe storms. Storms on the Sea of Galilee make fishing a dangerous job. But many fishermen in Jesus' time bravely went out on the lake in small boats night after night. Let's see if we can make some boats that will float even in a storm. Students use recyclable materials (plastic bottles, cardboard tubes, etc.), glue and tape to create boats that will float in tubs of water. Invite students to test boats' stability by blowing the water to make waves.



Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Honeyed Melon

Before class, combine 1 cup water, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white grape juice and 1 tablespoon honey in a saucepan. Heat gently. Let cool and refrigerate. In class, students use melon ballers to make bite-sized balls of watermelon or other melon. Place melon balls in large bowl and pour sauce over them. Serve in paper cups with spoons. (Makes enough sauce for 12 servings.)



Tape large sheets of construction paper or newsprint to a fence or wall outside. With a water gun, attempt to write something that would help children build a relationship with Jesus (pray, read Bible, talk with other Christians, etc.). Children guess the words being written. Person who guesses correctly writes another word for others to guess. Continue as time and interest permit.



Water Words



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

What happens in a very big storm? Listen to find out how Jesus stopped a very big storm.

Tell the Story

One night Jesus and His friends were sailing across the lake in their boat. Jesus was very tired. He lay down in the back of the boat. Soon He was asleep.

Suddenly, the wind began to blow. Ooooooo! Ooooooo! The wind blew harder and harder. The little waves got bigger and bigger. Splish-splash! Splish-splash! The big waves hit hard against the little boat. Water splashed into the boat. Splash! Splash! The boat began filling with water.

"I'm afraid!" one of Jesus' friends might have shouted.

"Jesus! Help us!" shouted another friend. "Don't You care that our boat is sinking?"

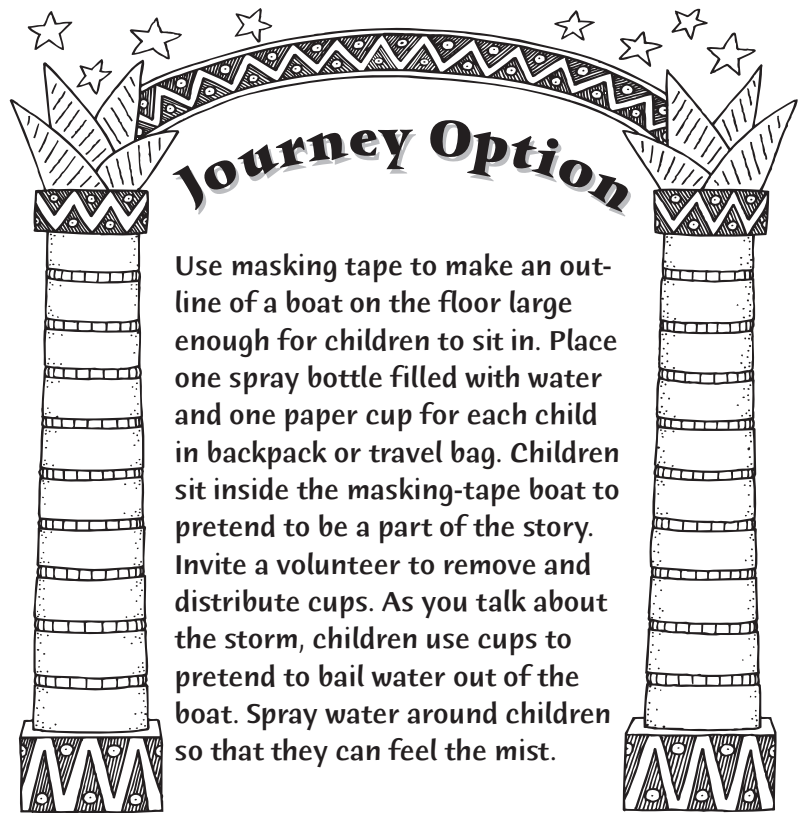
Jesus woke up. He felt the strong winds blowing. He saw the big waves splashing. Jesus stood up and said, "Quiet! Be still!" And just like that, the wind stopped blowing. The big waves stopped splashing. Splish. Splish. The little waves rocked the boat gently again.

"Why were you so afraid?" Jesus asked His friends. "Don't you know that I love you?"

Jesus' friends were very surprised! The winds and the waves had obeyed Jesus! Jesus' friends were glad Jesus helped them when they were afraid.

God's Word & Me

What did Jesus do to help His friends? (Jesus stopped a very big storm.) **Jesus helped His friends when they were afraid. Jesus has great power. We can ask Jesus for help, too! When are some times you are afraid? Whenever you're afraid, you can ask Jesus to help you! The Bible says, "Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."** Invite children to tell things they want to pray about. Lead children in a brief prayer.



Bible Story Center

for older children



Lesson 6
Mark 4:35-41

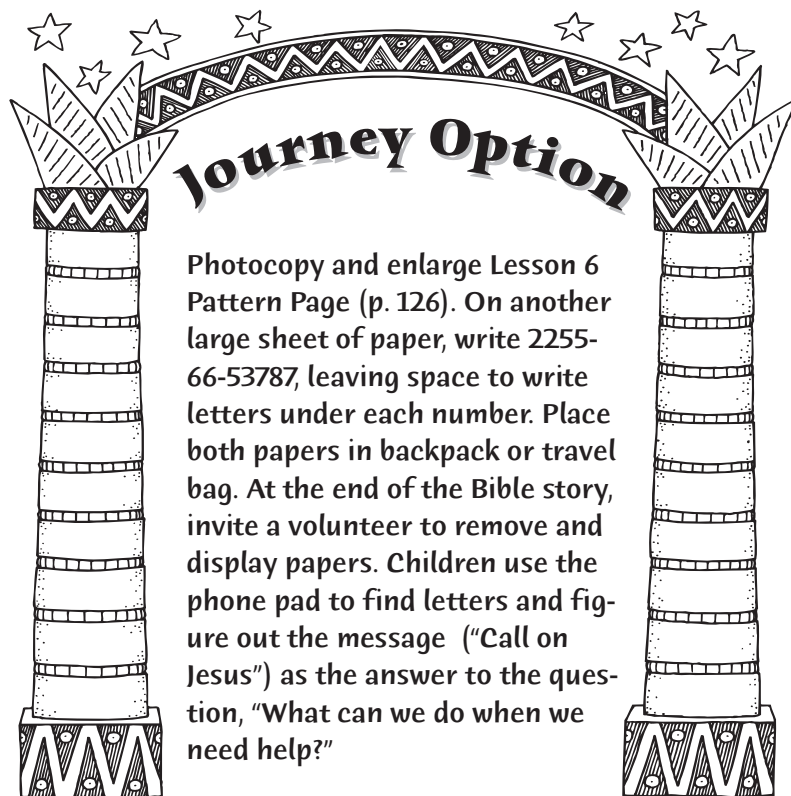


Collect

Bible, paper fans, cookie sheets, flashlights, pairs of dowels or pencils; optional—map (p. 237).

Introduction

The Sea of Galilee was also called the Sea of Chinnereth. “Chinnereth” means “harp-shaped.” Why do you think the sea was called by this name? (Optional: Show map so that children can see shape of sea.) **This sea often has sudden storms. When have you been in a really big storm?** Volunteers respond. **Today we are going to hear about some men who were caught in a big storm on the Sea of Galilee.** (As you tell the story, children make special effects. For example, when the wind is described, give two children paper fans to wave, creating wind. When the storm is described, give two children cookie sheets to bang together, creating thunder-like sounds. Give other children flashlights to turn on and off, representing lightning, and pairs of dowels or pencils to rub together, representing the creaking of the boat.)



Photocopy and enlarge Lesson 6 Pattern Page (p. 126). On another large sheet of paper, write 2255-66-53787, leaving space to write letters under each number. Place both papers in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the Bible story, invite a volunteer to remove and display papers. Children use the phone pad to find letters and figure out the message (“Call on Jesus”) as the answer to the question, “What can we do when we need help?”

Tell the Story

Let’s pretend that one of the men caught in the storm is telling the story.

Hi! My name is Peter. I’m one of Jesus’ disciples. I’m sure you’ve heard of Jesus. He’s the Son of God. I’ll admit, I didn’t always know that. But there was ONE time when I should have realized it. I’ll tell you about that time.

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching and healing people, mostly in the area near the Sea of Galilee. This particular day had been a VERY long one for all of us. People had come from all over to hear Jesus talk and to ask Him for healing. I could tell Jesus was exhausted, but the people just wouldn’t go away. Towards night Jesus suggested that we take some fishing boats and go across the Sea of Galilee to the other side. That sure sounded like a good idea to me—that way maybe we ALL could get some rest before the crowd caught up with us.

Now, fishing boats weren’t too big. We could only fit six or eight people in a boat, so we needed several boats to get all of us across. Jesus was in my boat. He lay down on a bench in the stern and fell fast asleep.

Sailing at night was no big deal to me. We fishermen did most of our fishing at night—it’s the best time to catch fish in the Sea of Galilee. While we sailed, we talked about Jesus. “You think maybe He’s the Messiah?” asked one of us.

“Sure is hard to believe that, looking at Him sleeping,” said another. “He looks pretty ordinary.”

“I’ve never seen an ordinary person who could perform miracles the way Jesus can,” I said. “Remember that man who couldn’t walk? Jesus just said, ‘Get up and walk,’ and the man did!”



“Yeah,” said another. “I couldn’t believe the hole in the roof of the house!” We all laughed; and then I said, “Jesus sure is different from any ordinary person I know. I’m glad He picked me as His follower.” **If you’d been with us in the boat that night, what would you have remembered about what Jesus said or did?**

Well, we kinda talked on like that for a bit, when suddenly there was a great gust of wind. We KNEW we were in trouble! The Sea of Galilee is in this valley between some fairly steep mountains; and when the wind comes blowing through, we get some really fierce storms.

First the wind knocked us back and forth. Then the waves came whooshing up, slapping the boat sideways. It was AWFUL! The boat began to fill with water! **What do you think we did to try and save ourselves?** Those of us who weren’t fighting to keep the boat steady were bailing out buckets of water as fast as our arms would go! But we weren’t fast enough or strong enough. The boat was going down!

And guess who was SLEEPING through all of this? Jesus! You would have thought with all the noise the wind and the waves were making, He’d wake. But He just kept on sleeping!

Finally we yelled for Him. “Don’t You care that we are all going to DROWN?!”

Then Jesus just stood up and TALKED to the wind and the waves! “Quiet! Be still!” He said. And that’s exactly what happened! Suddenly, the sea was completely calm. We were shocked! We sat there just staring at Jesus with our mouths open. He had stopped the wind with His WORDS!

“After listening to all I’ve said and seeing all I’ve done, you still don’t have much faith!” Jesus said. “Don’t you know you can trust Me to take care of you?”

I know now how silly it was for us to be surprised, but we didn’t really know ALL about Jesus then. We knew that only God could control the wind and the sea. But we didn’t understand yet that Jesus is God’s Son!

Now when I’m afraid, I try to remember Jesus and that storm. I’ve learned that even though bad things happen sometimes, Jesus is always there to help me know what to do. I don’t have to be afraid.

God’s Word & Me

We’re not often in really scary situations like storms or car accidents, but there are always times when we need help. Sometimes we might worry about problems at school or in our neighborhoods. Sometimes we might worry, afraid of something scary that may happen in the future. Because Jesus is God’s Son, He is the best source of help. Jesus will always help us think of what to do, and He also gives us parents and teachers to help us. We know that when we pray to Jesus for help, He’ll answer our prayers in ways that are best for us.

- ◆ **Read Philippians 4:6. What does this verse tell us to do when we are worried or anxious? Why do you think it is a good idea to tell Jesus our requests?** (He will answer our prayers in the best ways.)
- ◆ **When are some times kids your age are worried or afraid? How could talking to Jesus help kids who are worried or afraid? How might Jesus help someone who is in a scary situation?** (Give courage. Help the person think of a wise action. Provide another person to help.)
- ◆ **What are some things we can pray about today?** Children tell prayer requests. Pray briefly with children, mentioning their requests.

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, masking tape.

Prepare

Use masking tape to outline a square, a circle and a triangle on the floor—each large enough so that four or five children can stand inside each one. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after the session.)

Do

1. **Let's pretend these shapes on the floor are boats.** Children make swimming motions as they move randomly around the room. When you call out, "Find your boat," each child "swims" to the nearest boat and stands inside it.

2. A volunteer in each boat tells the shape of his or her boat. Give children in each boat a different motion to perform.

Everyone in the square boat touch your toes. Everyone in the circle boat put your hands on your head.

Everyone in the triangle boat put your hands on your ears. Repeat activity as interest allows.

Talk About

- ◆ **When have you been in a storm? Jesus and His friends rode in a boat in the middle of a storm. Jesus loved and cared for His friends in the storm.**
- ◆ **Sometimes it's fun to be out in the rain, but sometimes it can be scary! Why might a storm be scary?**
- ◆ **Our Bible says, "Do not worry about anything, but pray to God." We can ask God for help whenever we feel afraid.**
- ◆ Pray, **Thank You God for loving us and helping us when we feel afraid.**

For Older Children

Each round, call out one of the shapes. Children in that shape are eliminated and sit down outside of the playing area. Continue until only three to five children are left. Those children tell times kids their age might want to call on Jesus for help. Repeat as time and interest allow.

God's Word

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

For Younger Children:

"Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."

God's Word & Me

Call on Jesus for help.



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 6
Mark 4:35-41

Collect

Bible, index cards, marker, empty 2-liter plastic water or soda bottle, soft sponge ball.

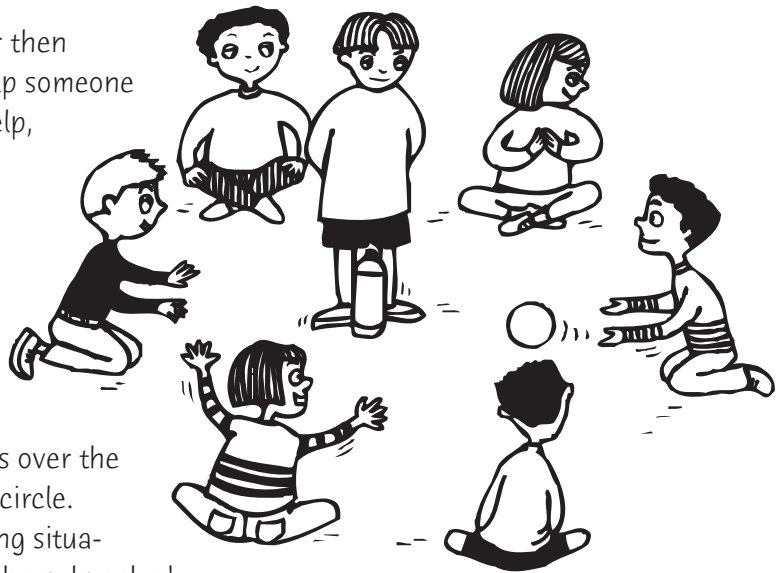
Prepare

On separate index cards print a variety of places your students might go ("home," "mall," "school," "park," "grocery store," "woods," "lake," "beach," "soccer field," "pool," "amusement park," "city," etc.).

Do

1. Children sit in a circle on the floor. (Note: If you have more than eight to ten children, make additional circles.) Place plastic bottle upright in the center of the circle. Invite a volunteer to select a card you prepared. Volunteer tells a time a kid his or her age might be afraid or worried in that place. Volunteer then chooses another child to tell a way Jesus might help someone in that situation (provide a parent or teacher to help, remind of a Bible verse, help to remember a good thing to do, etc.).

2. Same volunteer stands over the bottle, guarding it with his or her feet, hands, etc. while children sitting in the circle take turns throwing the sponge ball, attempting to knock over the bottle. Remind children that they must remain seated during the game. Child who successfully knocks over the bottle takes volunteer's place in the center of the circle. Repeat process with new child selecting card, telling situation and guarding the bottle. (If the bottle has not been knocked over after 30 seconds of throwing, begin a new round of play.)



God's Word

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

For Younger Children:

"Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."

God's Word & Me

Call on Jesus for help.

Talk About

- ◆ Read Philippians 4:6. **When might a kid your age need to obey this verse?**
- ◆ **How has Jesus helped you when you have been afraid or worried about something?**
- ◆ **What are some problems we can ask Jesus to help us with right now?**

For Younger Children

To simplify the activity, play the game without the volunteer guarding the bottle.

Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, scissors, paper, several shallow gift boxes or baking pans, several colors of tempera paints in cups, plastic spoons, small items that can roll (walnuts, bolts, marbles, small balls, etc.).

Prepare

Cut paper to fit the bottoms of the boxes or pans.

Do

What kind of motion does a boat make on the water? Lead children in rocking back and forth. **Let's paint some pictures by moving the way a boat moves.** Child places prepared paper into box or pan and then uses spoons to drop several small puddles of paint onto the paper. Child places one item that can roll onto the paper and then tilts box or pan as desired to paint designs. Repeat with other items. Help child remove paper and set aside to dry.

Talk About

- ◆ **Our Bible story today is about a big storm. Jesus and His friends were in a boat during the storm. The waves were SO big that Jesus' friends were scared. They asked Jesus for help and He stopped the storm.**
- ◆ **Our Bible says, "Do not worry about anything, but pray to God." God loves us and will help us when we are afraid.**
- ◆ **When might we be afraid? We can ask God to help us when we're afraid.**

For Older Children

Children help you list scenes from the Bible story (Jesus and disciples getting into fishing boats, disciples talking in boat, Jesus sleeping in boat, storm starting, storm getting worse, disciples afraid, disciples waking up Jesus, Jesus talking to the wind and waves, disciples amazed). Divide class into several groups. Assign a story scene to each group. Group works together to paint the scene on a large sheet of paper. Display completed pictures in story order.

God's Word

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

For Younger Children:

"Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."

God's Word & Me

Call on Jesus for help.



Art Center

for older children



Lesson 6
Mark 4:35-41

Collect

Bible, mixing spoon, flour, salt, water, measuring cups, bowl, food coloring, sturdy cardboard, newspapers.

Prepare

Make dough using the recipe below. Make one recipe for each group of no more than five students.

Salt Dough: Mix $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup salt and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water together in a bowl. Knead into a soft dough, adding water if needed. Divide dough into four pieces and knead a different food coloring (blue, green, red, yellow) into each piece.

Do

1. **With our dough, let's make scenes that will remind us of how Jesus helped His friends when they were afraid.** (If children have not yet heard the Bible story, read aloud Mark 4:35-41 or briefly tell the Bible story.) Divide class into groups of no more than five. Give each group a piece of sturdy cardboard, a portion of several colors of dough and newspaper to cover work area. **How could you use the dough to show a storm on a lake?** Groups mold storm scenes on cardboard (waves, boat, fish, seaweed, etc.).

2. Invite groups to show and tell about scenes.

Talk About

- ♦ **What do you think it would be like to live near a big lake or a sea? What would you see? What would you do?**
- ♦ **What scary thing happened on the Sea of Galilee in our story today?** (There was a terrible storm.) **What are some reasons people today might be afraid or worried?**
- ♦ **What would you want Jesus to do if you were in a storm or other scary situation? How might Jesus help you?** (Give me courage. Help me think of a wise action. Provide someone to help me.)

For Younger Children

Children work individually to make their own storm scenes.

God's Word

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

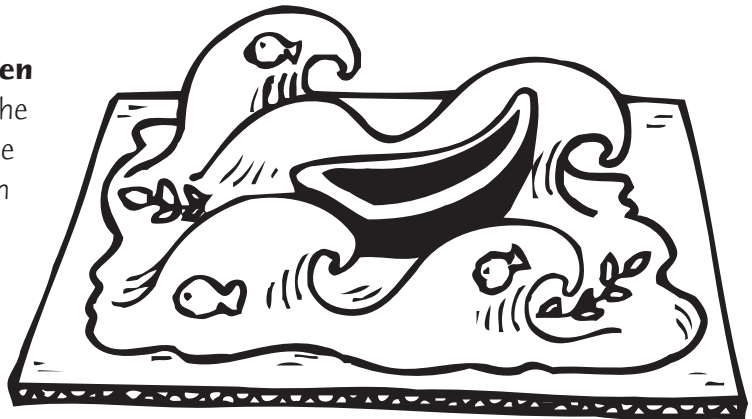
PHILIPPIANS 4:6

For Younger Children:

"Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."

God's Word & Me

Call on Jesus for help.



Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 249, 253), masking tape, scrap paper.

Prepare

Place a long strip of masking tape down the middle of the room.

Team Game

If you were in a boat that was filling with water, what would you do? (Bail out the water.)

Let's play Paper Ball Bail Out! Divide group in half. Give each child a sheet of scrap paper. Children crumple paper to make paper balls. At your signal, children begin tossing paper balls out of their area and into the area occupied by the other half of the group. Children keep tossing paper balls until you call

"Freeze." Children stop and count paper balls on their side of the room. Repeat with children tossing paper balls into large garbage bags held by volunteers or adult helpers. Lead children in cheering for the bag that is the fullest.

Bible Verse Game

Divide group into three teams. Assign a phrase of Philippians 4:6 to each team ("Do not be anxious about anything," "but in everything, by prayer and petition," "with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."). You and other leaders help each team create a way to say its phrase (clapping or snapping on each word, stomping after every two words, singing phrase to a familiar tune, etc.). After several moments, teams take turns saying phrases in verse order. Repeat verse several times in this manner.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Singing Together."

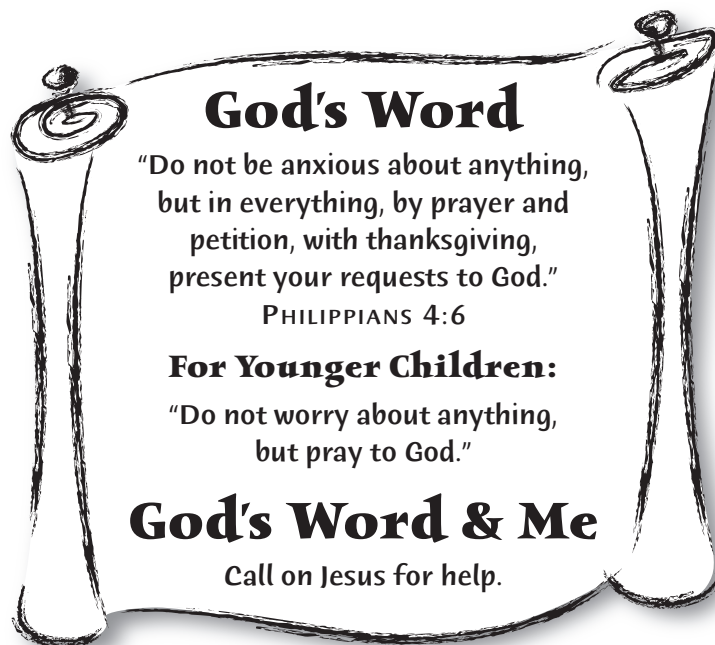
Prayer

We may not always see what Jesus does to help us, but we can know that He is always with us and will always help us. Invite children to tell prayer requests about problems they or people they know have.

Invite several volunteers to pray, asking God to help in the situations mentioned. Close prayer time by thanking God for His help. Remind children that you will be praying for them during the coming week.

Song

Play "My True Friend." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.



God's Word

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

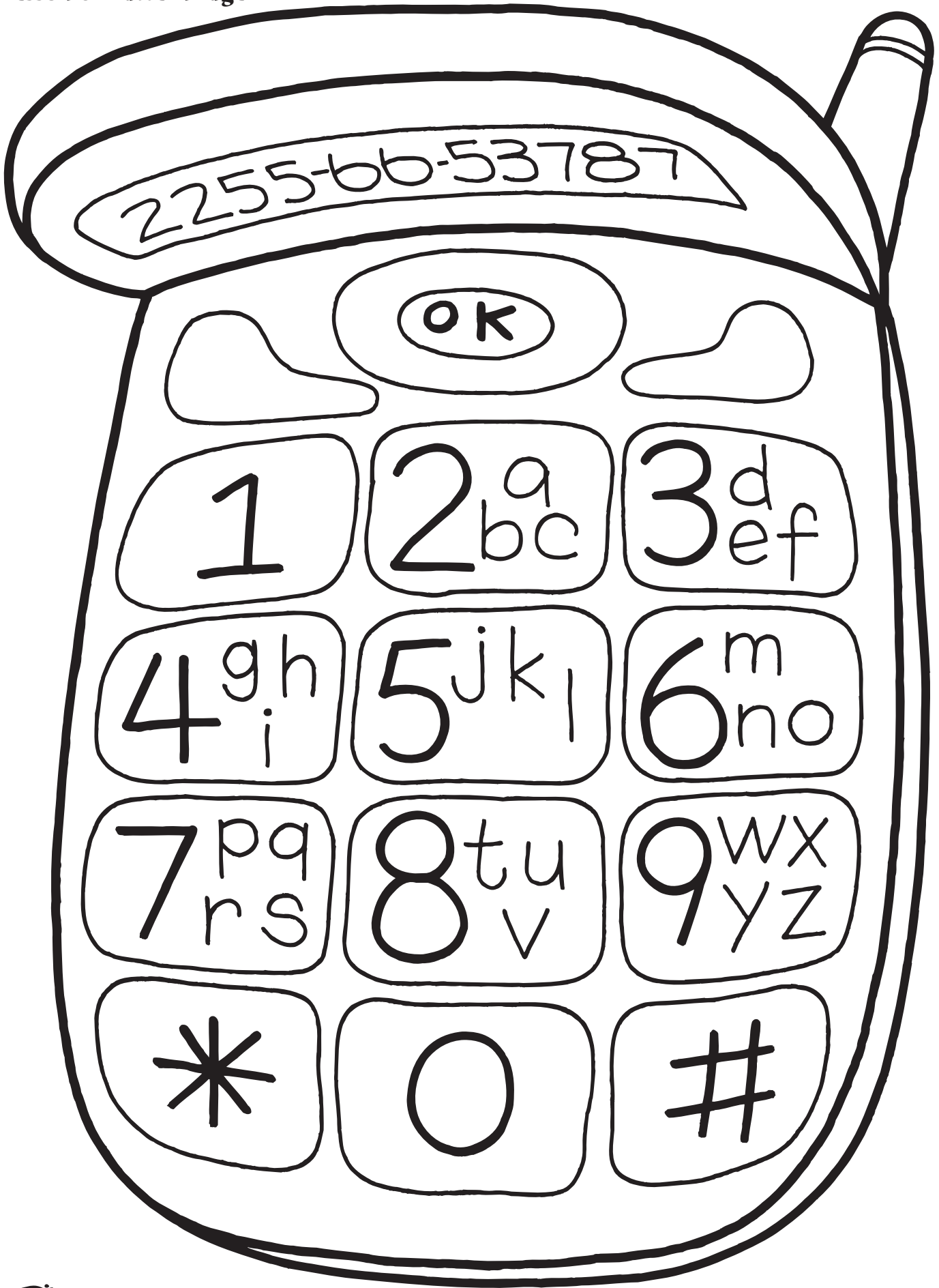
PHILIPPIANS 4:6

For Younger Children:

"Do not worry about anything, but pray to God."

God's Word & Me

Call on Jesus for help.



Jesus stopped a storm when
His friends were afraid.

Mark 4:35-41



When might you be afraid and
need to ask Jesus for help?

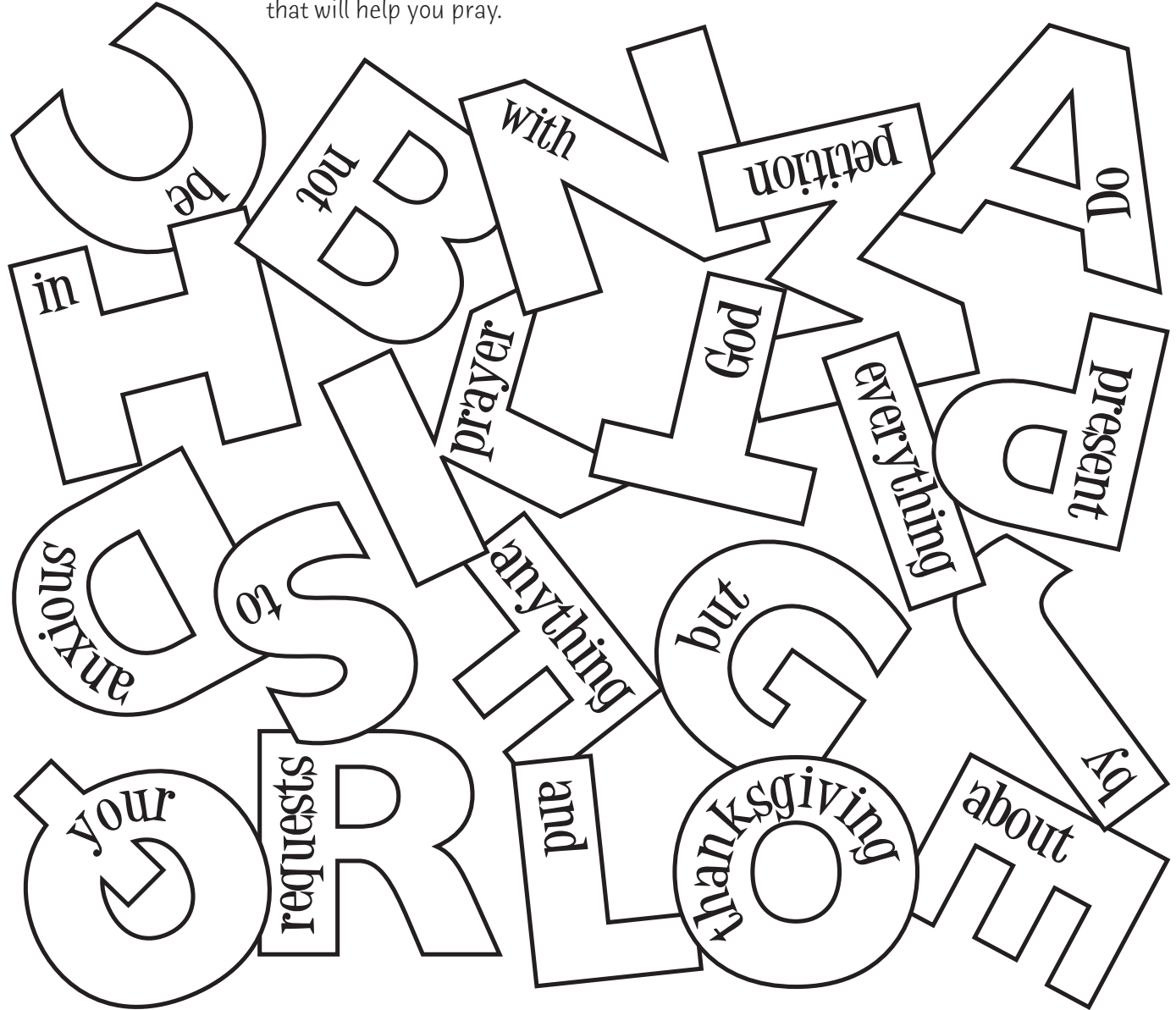
What is something you feel worried about? Talk to Jesus about it!

Alphabetical Order



Philippians 4:6

Work your way through the alphabet magnets. Write the word you read on the letter A in the first blank below and then write the word you read on the B in the second blank below. Go through the alphabet, filling in the blanks as you go, to find a Bible verse that will help you pray.

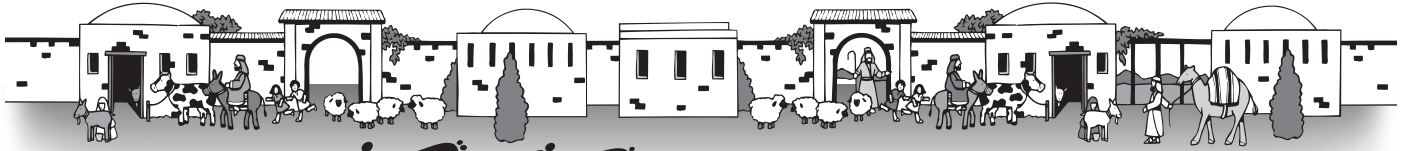


"

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
H	I	J	K	L	M	N		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
O	P	Q	R	S	T			

"

Bethsaida: Blind No More



Bible Story Mark 8:22-26

Teacher's Devotional

Bethsaida ("house of fish") was a fishing center on the Sea of Galilee. Ruled by Philip Antipas and considered by Jews to be a fairly pagan region, it was the hometown of Jesus' disciples Philip, Andrew and Peter (see John 1:44).

Jesus' response to the blind man in Bethsaida was unique among all accounts of His miracles. He led the man away from his friends—only outside the town walls did Jesus stop to spit on the man's eyes and lay His hands on him. He asked if the man saw anything, indicating He expected the man's vision not yet to be clear, just as the man described. Jesus laid hands on him a second time and the man saw clearly.

Jesus then told him not to go back into Bethsaida, not even to rejoice with his friends! Jesus' actions possibly had something to do with Bethsaida itself, for Jesus later lists Bethsaida as a town that had not repented or heeded His words, although He had done miracles there. He said that if such miracles had been done in the

pagan cities of Tyre and Sidon, those people would have repented in sackcloth and ashes (see Matthew 11:21)! Jesus' love and provision for Bethsaida was boundless, yet the people did not see the purpose beyond His miracles. They wanted His miracles but not His message.

As we think about our own needs and "blind spots," let us carefully consider both Jesus' boundless provision and His stern rebuke to this town. We are all likely to clamor for His miracles in our lives, yet ignore His Word. He has greater purpose in helping and healing us than just our physical comfort and convenience: He wants us both to be healed and heed Him so He can conform us to His image.



God's Word

"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

For Younger Children:

"My God will meet all your needs."

God's Word & Me

Jesus meets our needs in ways that are immeasurable!

Planning Page

Lesson 7
Mark 8:22-26

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Bethsaida: Blind No More • Mark 8:22-26

Younger Child Option

Wear name cards and act out the Bible story

Older Child Option

Play Hangman to discover the message, "Jesus meets our needs"

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Make cards to encourage others with the good news that Jesus meets our needs

Materials

Bible, construction paper, crayons or markers, tape, tea bags

Older Child Option

Experiment with dyeing fabric like people did in Bible times and talk about reasons to praise Jesus

Materials

Bible, white felt, fabric scissors, ruler, newspaper, vegetable graters, two-cup measuring cups, paper plates, paper towels, markers, beets, carrots, red cabbage, coffee maker, water, mixing bowls, strainers, tongs

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Participate in an obstacle course and talk about Jesus' help

Materials

Bible, a variety of pillows and stuffed animals

Older Child Option

Play a relay game, racing to write things God has given us to meet our needs

Materials

Bible, large sheets of paper, two red and two blue markers, masking tape

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 7 Coloring Page (p. 141) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 7 Puzzle Page (p. 142) for each student, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 248-249), several large sheets of paper, markers, tape, blindfold, beach ball, large Post-it Notes

Bonus Theme Ideas

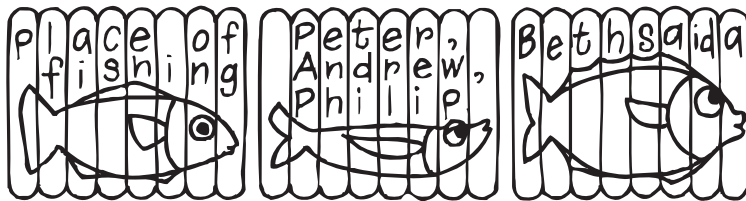


Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Bethsaida

Use a permanent marker to draw a fish shape and print "place of fishing" across eight craft sticks (see sketch). Do the same for "Peter, Andrew and Philip" and "Bethsaida." Tape a penny to the back of each craft stick to make it sink. Place craft sticks saying "place of fishing" in a tub of water. Children use their hands to fish for sticks in the tub of water and then work together to arrange sticks to make fish shape and read message. **The name of the town we are visiting today means "house of fish." What do you think this town was known for?**



you think this town was known for? (Fishing.) Put in other sets of sticks and repeat process to find names of disciples who lived in the town and the name of the town. Children find Bethsaida on map (p. 237).

Fish Sandwiches

"Bethsaida" means "house of fish." Bethsaida was a town near the Sea of Galilee. Let's make a snack with fish today! Children use plastic knives to cut bread into fish shapes. Children spread tuna on fish shapes. Children eat fish sandwiches together.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.



Create a lake backdrop (see sketch). Let children stand in an imaginary boat and cast lines with clothespin "hooks" into a "lake." Have a behind-the-scenes helper attach a small bag of fish-shaped crackers to each line, using the clothespin.



A Good Catch



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

When have you heard about something exciting? Listen to find out what some people were very excited about.

Tell the Story

The people in Bethsaida were excited! Just a little while before, Jesus had done something amazing near this town! Jesus had made lunch for many, many people from just a few loaves of bread and a few fish. Now the people were excited to hear that Jesus was coming back!

As Jesus and His friends walked down the road in Bethsaida, many people probably crowded around Jesus. Some people led a man who couldn't see through the crowd right up to Jesus.

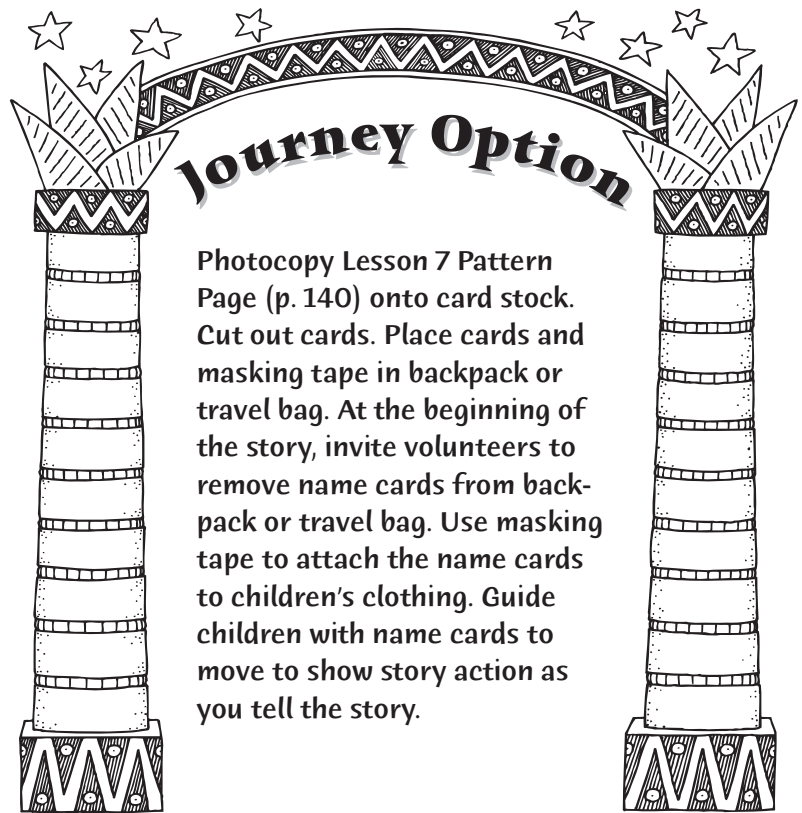
"Please, Jesus, please touch this man," the people begged. "You have done so many wonderful things! We want You to make him see! Please help him!"

Jesus wanted to be alone with the blind man. Jesus took the blind man by the hand. Jesus led the man outside of the town. Now they were away from all the crowds. Jesus put His hand on the blind man's eyes. Then Jesus asked the man what he could see.

The man said that he could see some, but not very clearly. Jesus put His hands over the man's eyes again. This time the man was able to see perfectly! **How do you think the man felt? What do you think he wanted to do?** He must have been very happy that Jesus made him able to see!

God's Word & Me

Jesus showed God's love to many people. He made the blind man able to see. Jesus helped many other people, too. He gave them what they needed. Jesus helps us have what we need, too. Our Bible says, "My God will meet all your needs." Let's thank God for giving us all that we need. Pray briefly with children.



Photocopy Lesson 7 Pattern Page (p. 140) onto card stock. Cut out cards. Place cards and masking tape in backpack or travel bag. At the beginning of the story, invite volunteers to remove name cards from backpack or travel bag. Use masking tape to attach the name cards to children's clothing. Guide children with name cards to move to show story action as you tell the story.



Collect

Bible, Bible-times costume, map (p. 237).

Introduction

Bethsaida was a small fishing village near the Sea of Galilee. Today in our story we're going to learn about a man who lived in Bethsaida but who could not see what it looked like. (Invite a guest to dress in Bible-times costume and tell the story as if he or she was the blind man in the story.)

Tell the Story

Bethsaida was a very small fishing town that people probably didn't think much about. **On the shore of what lake or sea was Bethsaida located?** (Students locate Bethsaida and Sea of Galilee on map.)

The region of Bethsaida was abuzz with people telling each other how Jesus had fed more than 5,000 of them from just five loaves of bread and a few fish. That had happened just outside their town.

When Jesus and His disciples returned to Bethsaida, the streets were probably crowded. People may have been hoping Jesus would feed them again or do other miracles for them.

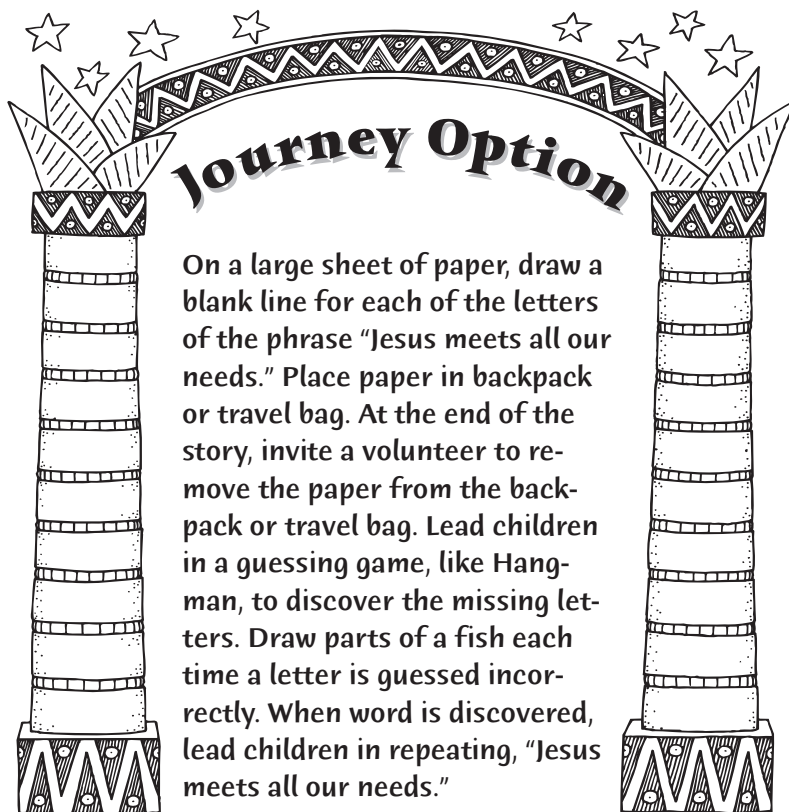
Jesus and His friends probably didn't see that there was a man by the side of the road, because of the crowd pressing in on them. And this man couldn't see Jesus either, because he was blind. But this blind man must have heard the crowds talking about Jesus. **What do you think this man might have heard about Jesus?**

The man probably had heard about Jesus feeding all those people. Maybe he heard about some of the people Jesus had healed. He might have heard some of the things Jesus had said. He may have wondered if Jesus would heal him, too. But the blind man wasn't the only one who wondered if Jesus could give him sight. Some people helped the blind man up. They took him through the crowd, right up to Jesus.

"Please, Jesus, please touch this man," they begged. "You have done so many wonderful things! We want You to make him see! Please help him!"

Jesus looked at the blind man. Then Jesus took him by the hand and led him out of the village, away from the crowds of people. Jesus didn't want to put on a show or impress the crowds. And even though it may seem strange to us, Jesus knew best how to heal the man. Jesus spit on the man's eyes and put His hands on him. Jesus said, "What do you see?"

At first the blind man could only see shapes. The man said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."





Jesus put His hands over the man's eyes again. This time the man was able to see clearly! **How do you think the man felt? What do you think he wanted to do?** He must have been very grateful to Jesus for making him able to see!

The man probably wanted to run and tell everyone what Jesus had done. But Jesus told the man to go home, not into the village. Jesus wanted to teach His disciples and show God's love to people. He wasn't there to put on a show. He didn't want people following Him just to see amazing miracles.

Jesus met the needs of many, many other people. **What are some other miracles Jesus did that you recall? What might have been the needs of the person (or people) Jesus helped?** (Optional: If students need help thinking of miracles Jesus performed, students read Luke 7:11-15 and Luke 17:11-19 to find out about how Jesus helped a widow whose son had died and 10 men who had leprosy.)

After hearing about all these ways in which Jesus cared for people and provided for their needs, what words would you use to describe Jesus? How did Jesus show immeasurable love for people?

God's Word & Me

Because we know that Jesus took care of these people and their needs, we can also know that Jesus will take care of us and our needs. He provides the things that are best for us and gives us even more than what we expect! Because of Jesus' love, we can talk to Him about the things we need and want and be confident that He will answer our requests in the best way possible!

- ◆ **What does Philippians 4:19 say God will do? How does God provide for our needs?**
- ◆ **How has Jesus helped you or someone you know?** Tell students about a time Jesus met a need for you or your family.
- ◆ **How might a family be different if each person believed God would provide for their needs?**
- ◆ **What is a need you want to talk to God about?** Pray briefly with children about needs they mention.

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, a variety of pillows and stuffed animals.

Do

1. **Jesus helped a man who couldn't see. People who can't see use their hands to feel things to find out what they are. Let's play a game to find out what things are without looking at them.**

2. Invite two or three children to close their eyes. Place stuffed animals and pillows in an open area on the floor. Children with eyes closed slowly crawl across the open area, keeping their eyes closed. Whenever a child comes to a pillow or stuffed animal, child feels item and guesses what it is before opening eyes to see it. Repeat with other children, moving pillows and stuffed animals between rounds.

Talk About

- ◆ **In our story today, Jesus helped a man who needed to see. Jesus made him able to see again! Jesus gives us what we need, too. Our Bible says, "My God will meet all your needs."**
- ◆ **Lauren, what are some ways that you need help every day at home? What do you need when you come to church? What do you need when you ride in the car?**
- ◆ **We can ask Jesus to help us. Jesus gives us people who love us and help us. Jesus will give us just what we need.**



God's Word

"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

For Younger Children:

"My God will meet all your needs."

God's Word & Me

Jesus meets our needs in ways that are immeasurable!

For Older Children

Two children at a time wear blindfolds to move across the room, feeling their way through the pillows and stuffed animals. Other children call out directions to help guide blindfolded children across the room.

Game Center

for older children



Lesson 7
Mark 8:22-26



Collect

Bible, large sheets of paper, two red and two blue markers, masking tape.

Prepare

On the top of separate sheets of paper, print "Food," "Clothing," "People" and "Nature" (one word on each paper). Place papers on a table on one side of the room. Place a masking-tape line on the floor on the other side of the room (see sketch.)

Do

1. Show papers you prepared. **Let's talk about some of the ways Jesus provides for us.** Lead children to suggest ideas for each category listed on papers.

2. Divide group into two equal teams. Teams line up behind masking-tape line for a relay. Give first two children in first line blue markers. Give first two children in the other line red markers. At your signal, children with markers run to the papers you prepared. Each child uses team's marker to write something in the category listed on any of the sheets of paper. When a child is finished writing one item, he or she runs back to his or her team and gives marker to the next child. Children continue taking turns two at a time, running and writing until you call time.

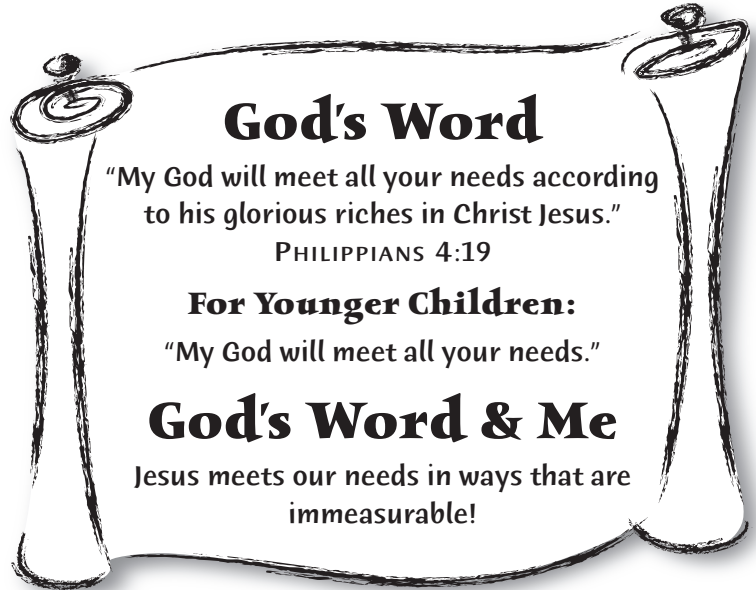
3. Call time after several minutes. Invite a volunteer from each team to count the number of items written in his or her team's color. Team with the most items tells a way Jesus meets our needs.

Talk About

- ◆ **What's the difference between something we need and something we want? What's an example of something you need that Jesus has helped you have? Something you want?**
- ◆ **Why do you think it sometimes seems that Jesus does not meet our needs?** (Because the answers don't come right away. Because we don't always get what we ask for.)
- ◆ **What can we do when we feel that our needs are not being met?** (Ask God for help. Remember His promises. Wait patiently. Remember that God always keeps His promises. Trust Him to love and care for you.)

For Younger Children

Before class, cut out magazine pictures of food, clothing, people and nature items. In class, children take turns taping pictures to large sheet of paper. When done, lead children in prayer, thanking God for items on the large sheet of paper.



God's Word

"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

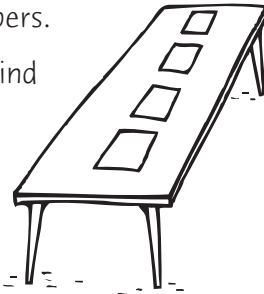
PHILIPPIANS 4:19

For Younger Children:

"My God will meet all your needs."

God's Word & Me

Jesus meets our needs in ways that are immeasurable!



Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, construction paper, crayons or markers, tape, tea bags.

Prepare

For each child, fold a sheet of construction paper in half to make a card. Print "My God will meet all your needs. Philippians 4:19" inside each card.

Do

Give each child a card you prepared. **Jesus loves us so much that He gives us what we need. We can help and encourage others by reminding them of Jesus' love for them.** Tell children that they will make cards to give to grandparents in your church. Children use crayons or markers to decorate cards. Help children tape a tea bag to the inside of each card. Help interested children to sign their names on cards. If possible, take children to a senior adult class to distribute the completed cards.

Talk About

- ◆ In our Bible story today, Jesus helped a man who couldn't see. Jesus loves and helps us, too.
- ◆ I'm glad that Jesus loves and helps us. He gives us food to eat and people who love us. Jesus gives us what we need. Our Bible says, "My God will meet all your needs."
- ◆ We can help people, too. What are some things we can do to help people at our church?

For Older Children

Children work together to create a care package for a senior adult who is no longer able to attend church. Children write letters describing what they have been learning in class and decorate a box to hold gift items. Then children brainstorm items they could collect that would be encouraging (tea cup with tea bags, pictures from recent church events, video or audio recording of recent church services, potted plant, etc.). Plan a time for children to bring items and to deliver the cards and the box.

God's Word

"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

For Younger Children:

"My God will meet all your needs."

God's Word & Me

Jesus meets our needs in ways that are immeasurable!





Collect

Bible, white felt, fabric scissors, ruler, newspaper, vegetable graters, two-cup measuring cups, paper plates, paper towels, markers, beets, carrots, red cabbage, coffee maker, water, mixing bowls, strainers, tongs.

Prepare

Cut felt into three 1x2-inch (2.5x5-cm) rectangles for each child. Cover tables with newspaper. At each table set a grater, measuring cup, paper plate, mixing bowl, strainer, tongs, paper towels, a marker and one kind of vegetable. Set up coffee maker out of children's reach and use it to heat water.

Do

1. **What color clothes do you like to wear? In Bible times, cloth was dyed various colors by boiling it in a pot of water with bark, nuts, vegetables, leaves or berries. Let's experiment with some vegetable dyes.**

Divide class into groups. Each group makes one kind of vegetable dye. Group members take turns grating their vegetable onto a paper plate. Children fill measuring cup with either one cup of beets or two cups of cabbage or carrots. Teacher pours hot water over vegetables to the top of the measuring cups (do NOT allow children to pour hot water). Steep grated vegetables for at least five minutes.

2. Groups pour vegetables and water through strainers into mixing bowls to make liquid dye. Each child writes his or her name on a paper towel. Then each child submerges one piece of felt in vegetable dye, removes with tongs, squeezes extra dye into mixing bowl and sets on his or her paper towel to dry. Children visit other tables to dip remaining felt squares in other dye colors and set felt pieces on paper towels to dry.



God's Word

"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

For Younger Children:

"My God will meet all your needs."

God's Word & Me

Jesus meets our needs in ways that are immeasurable!

Talk About

- ◆ **We all need clothes to wear. What are some other things that you need?** Read Philippians 4:19 aloud. **What does this verse tell us that God will do with our needs?**
- ◆ **When is a time kids your age might need friends? How might God help meet that need?**
- ◆ **God's promise to meet our needs is a great reason to praise and thank Him. What are some things you have that you would like to thank God for?**

For Younger Children

Instead of dyeing fabric, children use crayons or markers to color on large squares of muslin fabric.

Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 248-249), several large sheets of paper, markers, tape, blindfold, beach ball, large Post-it Notes.

Prepare

Print Philippians 4:19 on a large sheet of paper. Tape paper to wall so that it can be seen by children.

Team Game

Blindfold an adult volunteer. Give one child a Bible to hold without letting blindfolded adult know where the child is. Blindfolded adult attempts to find child with Bible by moving slowly around the room while other children give clues by calling out "hot" or "cold." When child with the Bible is found, adult removes his or her blindfold and then finds and reads aloud Philippians 4:19 in the Bible.

Bible Verse Game

Let's see if we can remember this verse. Show verse paper you prepared and lead children in repeating Philippians 4:19. Play "Town by Town" on CD while children toss a beach ball around the room. After a few seconds, stop the music. Child holding the ball when the music stops uses Post-it Notes to cover one of the words on the verse paper and then leads other children in repeating verse, filling in the missing word by memory. Then continue music and ball toss, giving additional children the opportunity to cover words and lead others in repeating the verse. Continue until all the words are covered or as time permits.

Song

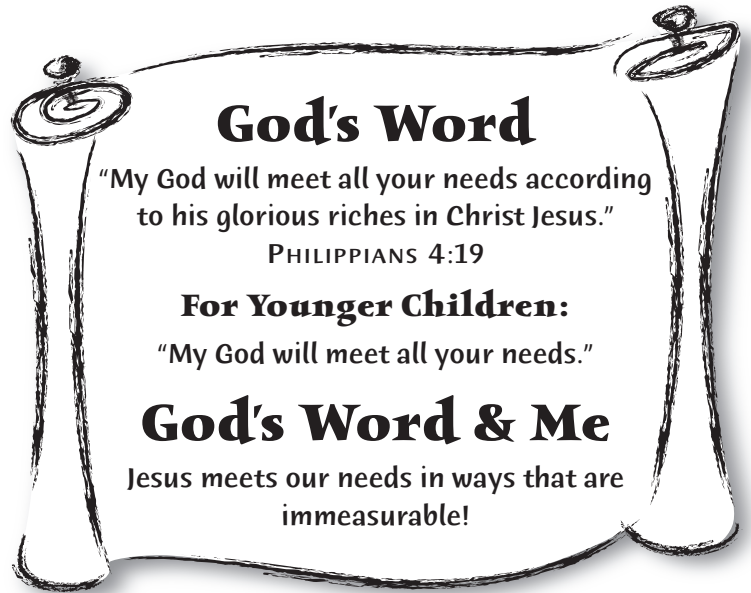
I'm so glad that Jesus meets our needs. He cares for us as our true friend. You, or another leader, lead children in singing "My True Friend" and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

Give each small-group leader a large sheet of paper and a marker. Children sit in circles with their small-group leaders. (Note: If you do not have assigned small-group leaders, each adult volunteer takes a small group of children for the prayer time.) Leaders guide children in writing prayers to Jesus by asking, "How can we thank Jesus for His loving care? What are some things you need that you want to ask Jesus for?" After several minutes, close prayer time by thanking God for His loving care. Encourage small-group leaders to keep papers as prayer request lists, adding additional requests and praises during coming sessions.

Song

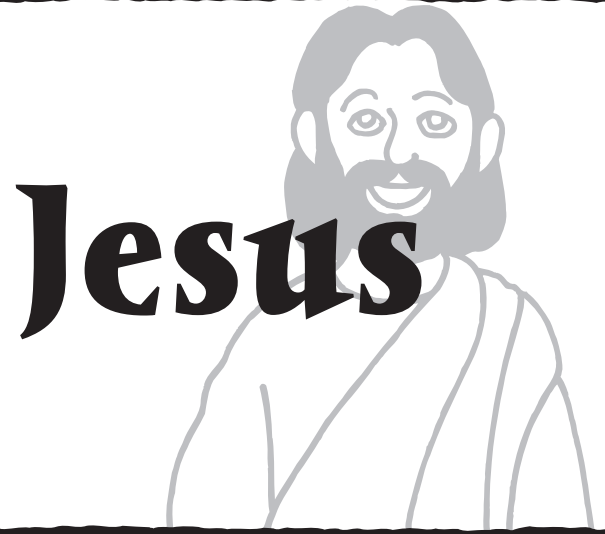
Play "Jesus' Love." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.



Friend 3



Blind Man



Jesus



Friend 1



Friend 2

Jesus helps a blind man see.
Mark 8:22-26



What will you thank
God for giving to you?

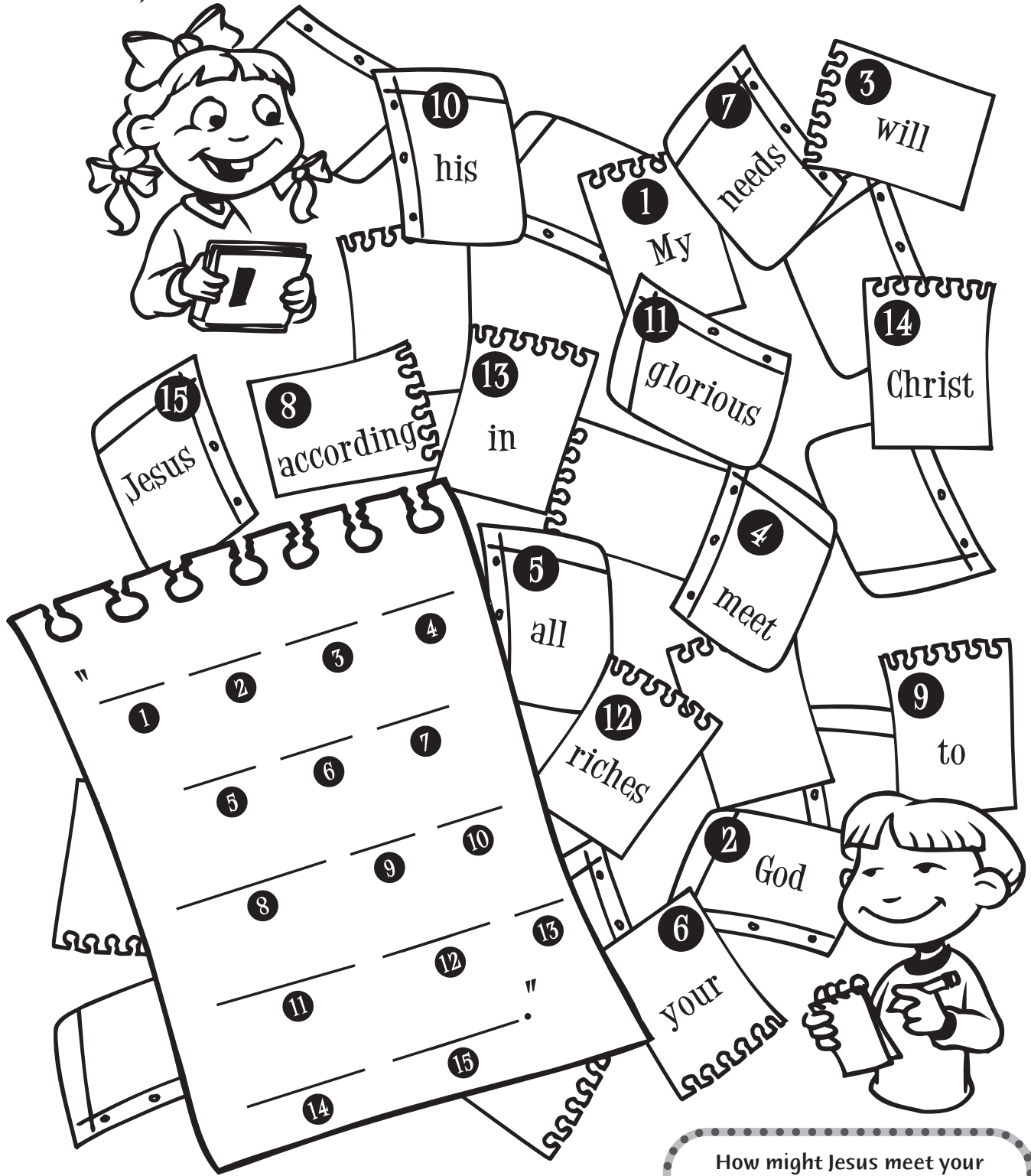
God Feeds Needs!

Philippians 4:19



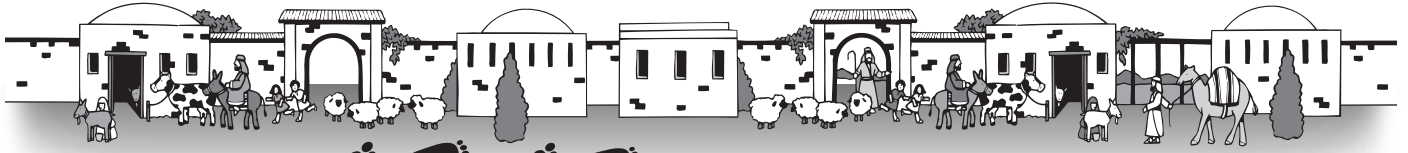
The Challenge

These papers have gotten all mixed up, but if you write the words from each paper in order on the numbered lines below, you will find the Bible verse.



How might Jesus meet your needs this week?

Caesarea Philippi: Truth Revealed

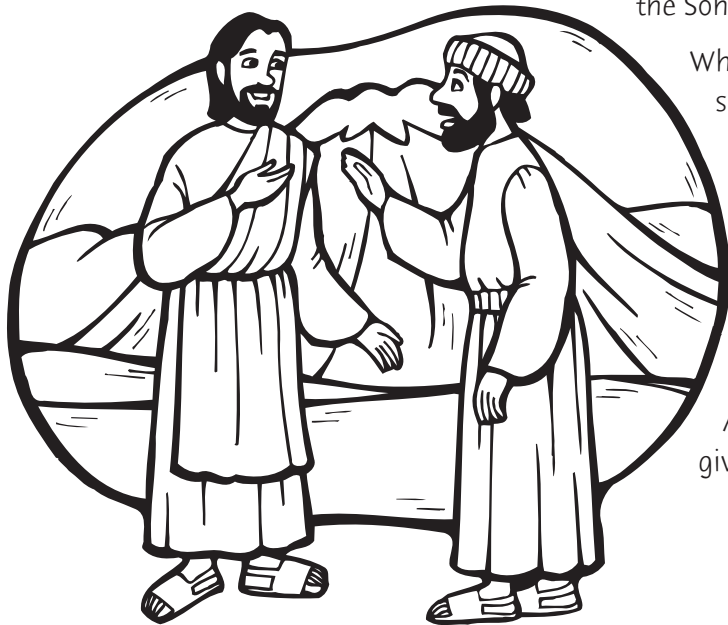


Bible Story Matthew 16:13-20

Teacher's Devotional

At the foot of Mount Hermon, about 25 miles (40 km) north of the Galilee region, stands the town of Banias. Probably the site of Old Testament Baalgad, named for the Canaanite deity, it was later named Paneas by the Greeks to honor their god Pan. The Romans named it Caesarea to honor the Caesar. In Jesus' day, it was named Caesarea Philippi—Philip's Caesarea. This distinguished it from a town Herod had also named Caesarea, to honor (and flatter) Rome's Emperor, the "divine" Caesar. Caesarea Philippi was named and renamed to salute one god after another. And here (of all places) Jesus wanted to know what name people were giving Him!

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?" He asked (Matthew 16:13). His friends gave a variety of names: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or another prophet. Then He asked, "But what about you? Who do you say that I am?" And there, where the names of false gods had so often been honored, Peter boldly declared: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"



God's Word

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

ROMANS 10:9

For Younger Children:

"Jesus is Lord."

God's Word & Me

Believing in Jesus is the only way to salvation.

What name do you give Jesus? Friend? Lover of your soul? King of glory? Take some time this week to list His names which mean the most to you. Consider these names and meditate on them during your personal worship. Then share these names with your class and share the ways God has helped you understand more about Jesus through these names. His name is truly above any other name, for as Peter later declared in Acts 4:12, "There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Planning Page

Lesson 8
Matthew 16:13-20

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Caesarea Philippi: Truth Revealed • Matthew 16:13-20

Younger Child Option

Use paper-bag puppets to show story action

Older Child Option

Decode and unscramble letters to find the word "believe"

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Create posters of Jesus' name and talk about Jesus

Materials

Bible, masking tape, white card stock, crayons

Older Child Option

Make paper mosaics as reminders of who Jesus is

Materials

Bible, colored paper, scissors, glue, plastic containers, paintbrushes, large sheets of paper

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a game to uncover a picture of Jesus and talk about who Jesus is

Materials

Bible, Lesson 8 Pattern Page (p. 154), Post-it Notes, tape, container, beanbag

Older Child Option

Play a game similar to Marco Polo to name descriptions of Jesus

Materials

Bible, large sheet of paper, marker, blindfold

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 8 Coloring Page (p. 155) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option

Talk about the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 8 Puzzle Page (p. 156) for each child, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247, 251), marker, index cards of two different colors, 10 clear water bottles with labels removed

Bonus Theme Ideas

Lesson 8
Matthew 16:13-20

Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Caesarea Philippi



Cut cardboard into 2-inch (5-cm.) circles, one for each child. **Today we are visiting Caesarea Philippi. It was north of the cities that Jesus usually visited. Caesarea Philippi was the capital of the area ruled by a Roman named Philip.** Children locate Caesarea Philippi on map (p. 237). **Roman rulers made coins with their faces on them or with designs that represented themselves. We are going to make coins that represent us.** Each child uses a glue stick to glue a piece of heavy string, forming the first letter of his or her name, onto a cardboard circle. Child then covers the circle with aluminum foil, wrapping it firmly around the coin and pressing foil down around the string so that the letter is visible.

Cheesy Idea

Provide small amounts of feta cheese and other kinds of cheese for children to taste on pita bread or crackers.

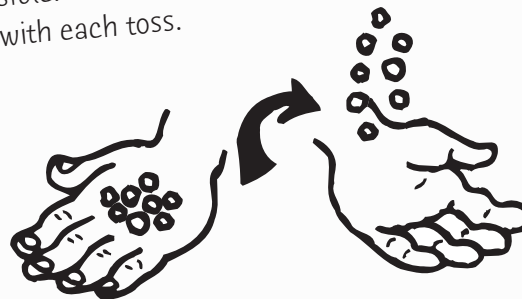
(If possible, provide several varieties of feta cheese.)

Explain to children that people in Bible times made cheese from goat's milk.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.



Children play a game that was played by children in Bible times. Each child places two or more pebbles on the back of one hand, tosses them up, flips hand over and tries to catch as many as possible. Child may add additional pebbles with each toss.



Pebble Toss





for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

What is something you like to do or are good at doing? In our Bible story, Jesus told one of His friends that he had done a good job. Let's find out what happened.

Tell the Story

Jesus and His friends were on a long walk. They went to a town called Caesarea Philippi. While they were there, Jesus asked His friends, "Who do people say I am?"

"Some people say You are John the Baptist or Elijah," some of Jesus' friends answered. "And some people say You are one of the prophets come back to life."

Then Jesus asked them another question. "Who do YOU say that I am?"

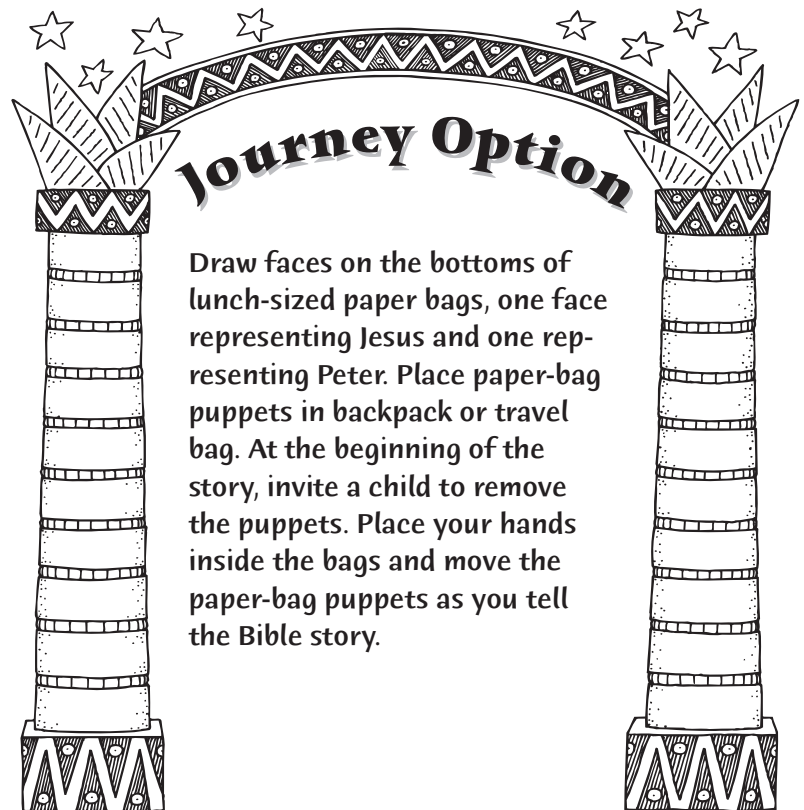
Jesus' friends thought about what to answer. Then one of Jesus' friends, Simon Peter, remembered all the wonderful things Jesus had said and done. God helped Simon Peter know the truth. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," he answered.

Jesus said, "Well done." Then Jesus told Simon Peter that one day he would be a leader of the people who believed in Jesus.

All of Jesus' friends must have been thankful to hear and know this good news about Jesus, the Son of God.

God's Word & Me

It is good to know that Jesus is God's Son. It is also good to know that Jesus loves us very much! Jesus made it possible for us to become part of God's family. Jesus wants us to love and obey Him. Our Bible says, "Jesus is Lord." Let's thank God for Jesus! Pray, Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that we can be part of Your family. In Jesus' name, amen.





Collect

Bible, large sheets of paper, scissors, marker.

Prepare

Cut six to eight large conversation balloons from paper.

Introduction

How many of you know what your name means or why you were given that name?

If you could choose a new name, what would it be? Why? Volunteers tell ideas.

Today we are going to talk about how one man was called by a different name because of what he believed about Jesus.

This all happened in a place called Caesarea Philippi. Caesarea Philippi was near a spring of water that is one of the sources of the Jordan River.

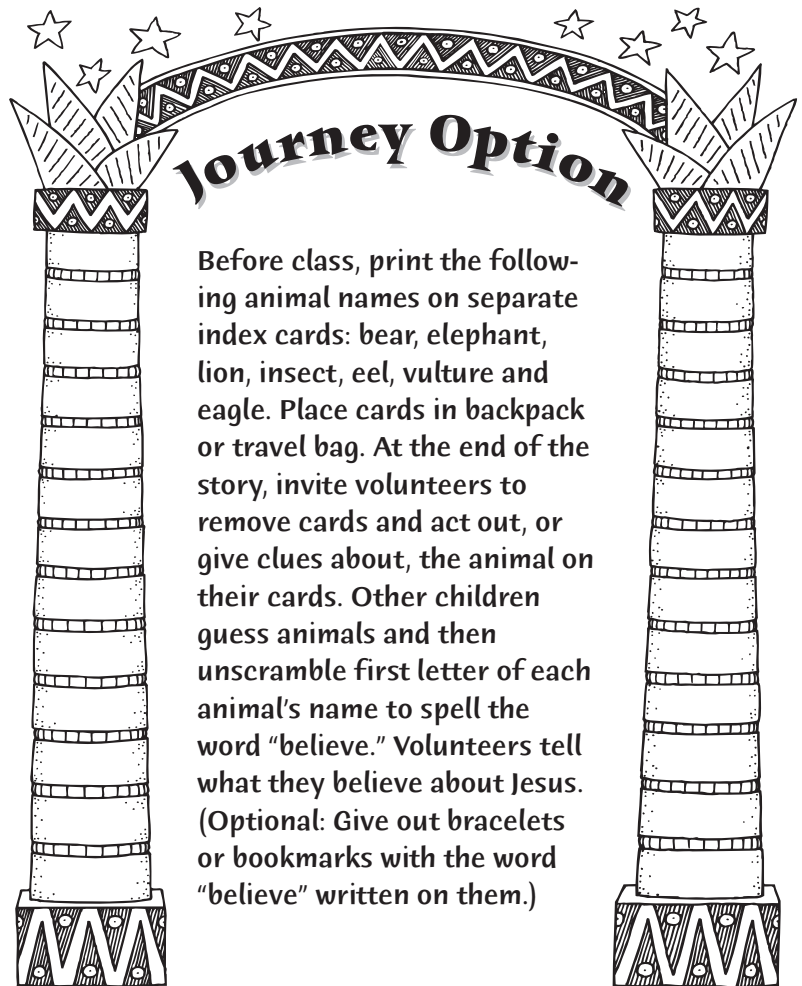
(At the beginning of the story, divide class into two groups. Give three to four conversation balloons and markers to each group. When children in the first group hear a question Jesus asked, guide a volunteer from the group to write the question in a conversation balloon. When children in the second group hear something one of the disciples answered, volunteer from group writes the answer in a conversation balloon. Display balloons on classroom walls.)

Tell the Story

One day in the midst of His travels from city to city, Jesus and His disciples traveled all the way to Caesarea Philippi—at least that was its name then. It used to be called Paneas. That was when it was a Greek town and it was named to honor the false god Pan. Now it was a Roman town—named “Caesarea” to honor the Roman emperor Caesar and “Philippi” to indicate that it was the governor Philip who’d named this city Caesarea to honor the Caesar. Whew! And if you think that was confusing, you should have seen all the temples in town. There was one for just about every false god people could think up, including the ancient false god Baal. In fact, the biggest, most beautiful building in town was a huge marble temple built to honor the Roman ruler Caesar. These mixed-up people treated their leaders like gods!

The disciples may have wondered why Jesus had traveled all the way to this city—since it wasn’t even a Jewish city. They probably thought Jesus should just teach the Jewish people who lived back home.

But in this out-of-the-way city, Jesus and His disciples had time to talk. Jesus could take the time to make sure



Before class, print the following animal names on separate index cards: bear, elephant, lion, insect, eel, vulture and eagle. Place cards in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the story, invite volunteers to remove cards and act out, or give clues about, the animal on their cards. Other children guess animals and then unscramble first letter of each animal's name to spell the word “believe.” Volunteers tell what they believe about Jesus. (Optional: Give out bracelets or bookmarks with the word “believe” written on them.)



His disciples had learned what was most important. It was sort of like taking a test at the end of the school year to find out how much you've learned. "Who do people say I am?" asked Jesus.

The disciples said, "The people say you are John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." The disciples probably didn't mean that people actually thought Jesus was one of these great heroes, only that Jesus was as great as these other people were. This was the highest praise the people could give another person!

"I see," said Jesus. The disciples probably thought they'd done pretty well on that question. "But what about you?" Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" **How would you have answered this question?**

OK, now this is a tougher question! the disciples must have thought. It was easy to talk about what other people thought, but to say what they themselves believed was harder to do! Simon looked at Jesus carefully. He thought about all the things Jesus had said and done. Suddenly God helped him realize the truth. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus smiled. "Well done, Simon," Jesus said. "God showed this truth to you." Jesus went on to say that Simon would now be called Peter, which means "rock." Simon's new name and the other instructions Jesus gave him showed that Simon Peter would be one of the leaders of Jesus' followers. And a few years later, this is exactly what happened.

Just imagine what was going on in the minds of the disciples when they heard Simon Peter say what he believed about Jesus. *Of course! Everything makes sense now. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the One whom God had promised to send, the One who will save us from our sins!* **What do you think the disciples might have wanted to do next? What would you have wanted to do next?**

Jesus looked at His disciples. "It is not yet time to tell the people who I am. That time will come soon enough. But, in the meantime, there is still much for you to learn."

Simon Peter must have been proud of his new name. It would always remind him of Jesus, the One he would love and obey for the rest of his life.

God's Word & Me

Even today, people have different ideas about who Jesus is. But the Bible tells us what is really true about Jesus: He is God's Son whom God sent to provide forgiveness of sins and make it possible for us to become members of God's family. Talk with interested children about salvation. (See "Leading a Child to Christ" on p. 12.)

- ◆ **What does Romans 10:9 tell us about believing who Jesus is and what He has done?** (When we trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him because He died to forgive us for our sins and rose again, He will save us.)
What does this verse invite us to do? (Say that Jesus is Lord and believe that He will save us from our sins.)
- ◆ **What do you think is the most important description of Jesus people should know? Let's thank God that we can know and believe in Jesus.** Invite volunteers to pray short sentence prayers of thanks to God. Close prayer time by thanking God for His love and forgiveness through Jesus.

Game Center

for younger children



Lesson 8
Matthew 16:13-20



Collect

Bible, Lesson 8 Pattern Page (p. 154), Post-it Notes, tape, container (basket, box, etc.), beanbag.

Prepare

Photocopy the Lesson 8 Pattern Page, enlarging it to make a poster-sized picture. Cover picture with Post-it Notes. Tape picture to wall.

Do

Point to picture covered with Post-it Notes. **What do you think is under these notes? Let's play a game to find out!** Place container on the floor in an open area of your classroom. Stand with children several feet away from the container. Children take turns tossing beanbag into the container. When beanbag lands inside container, child removes a Post-it Note from the picture. Child who removes the last Post-it Note tells who is in the picture (Jesus!).

Talk About

- ◆ **Emma, whose Son is Jesus? What are some other things you know about Jesus?**
- ◆ **I'm glad that Jesus is God's Son and that He loves us! Jesus made it possible for us to become part of God's family. That is very good news!**
- ◆ **Our Bible says, "Jesus is Lord." We can love and obey Jesus because we know that He is God's Son and because He loves us. Pray briefly, Thank You, Jesus, for loving (Tanya). Repeat prayer, naming each child in the class.**



God's Word

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

ROMANS 10:9

For Younger Children:

"Jesus is Lord."

God's Word & Me

Believing in Jesus is the only way to salvation.

For Older Children

Instead of removing Post-it Notes, children take turns tossing beanbag into container from at least 5 feet (1.5 m) away. When beanbag lands in the container, child writes on a Post-it Note something he or she knows about Jesus and attaches the note to the picture. Continue until each child has had a turn or until picture is covered. End the activity by inviting a volunteer to remove all the notes. Guide children to use the notes in a prayer of thanks.

Game Center

for older children



Lesson 8
Matthew 16:13-20

Collect

Bible, large sheet of paper, marker, blindfold.

Do

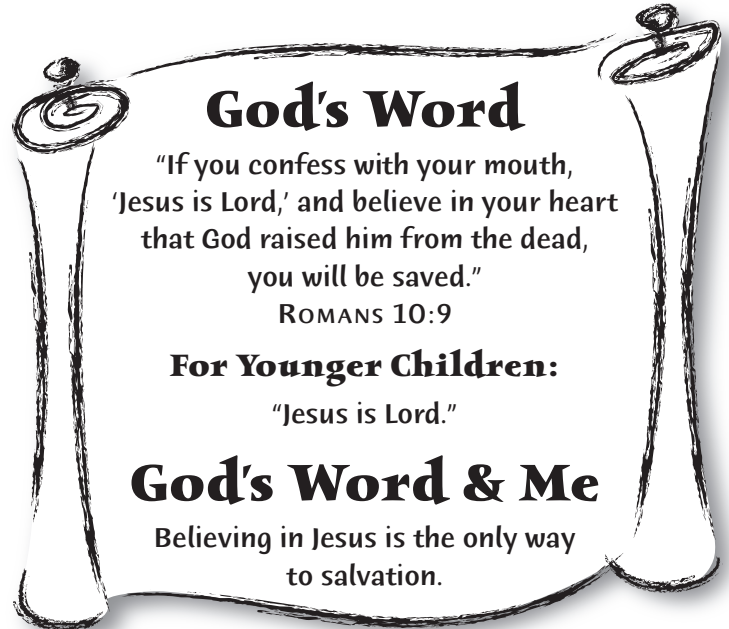
1. **Let's see how many words we can think of to describe Jesus.** List children's ideas on large sheet of paper (Savior, friend, God's Son).
2. Play a game like Marco Polo. Ask a volunteer to stand on one side of the room. Blindfold the volunteer. With the other children watching, point to one of the words or phrases on the large sheet of paper. Children quietly position themselves around the room. Tell blindfolded volunteer he or she can begin asking, "Who is Jesus?" Rest of children begin answering with the word or phrase you showed them.
3. Blindfolded volunteer moves toward students by listening to their voices. He or she may continue asking "Who is Jesus?" and children around the room must respond each time. When the volunteer finds and tags a child, that child takes the blindfold or chooses someone else to be blindfolded for the next round. Continue game as time permits, using a new word or phrase to describe Jesus in each round.

Talk About

- ◆ **How have you shown that you believe God sent Jesus to forgive us for our sins?** Tell children how you have shown that you believe in Jesus.
- ◆ **Why is it important to know who Jesus is?** Tell children how knowing who Jesus is has helped you.
- ◆ **What are some of the ways you have heard Jesus being described?**
- ◆ **Who has helped you learn about Jesus? How? Who is someone you can help learn about Jesus? How?**

For Younger Children

Children close their eyes instead of wearing a blindfold (but remember, it's OK to peek!).



Art Center

for younger children



Lesson 8
Matthew 16:13-20



Collect

Bible, masking tape, white card stock, crayons.

Prepare

Use masking tape to form letters of the word "Jesus" on separate sheets of card stock. Make at least one paper for each child. (Optional: Form letters for the entire sentence "Jesus is Lord.")

Do

Give each child a paper you prepared, identifying the letter on the paper. Child colors over tape and paper, using a variety of colors and designs. Then help each child carefully peel off the masking tape. Place letters in order to form the word "Jesus" and make word posters. Display posters on classroom walls.

Talk About

- ◆ **Our Bible says, "Jesus is Lord." "Lord" is another word for ruler or leader. Jesus is Lord of everything because He is God's Son. What are some other things we know about Jesus?** (Jesus loves us. He listens when we pray. Jesus will always be with us. Jesus forgives us when we do wrong things. Jesus died for us and came back to life again. Jesus is alive today.) **I'm so glad that Jesus is God's Son and that He came to love us!**
- ◆ **We can thank Jesus that He is God's Son and that He loves us.** Pray with children, thanking Jesus for who He is.

For Older Children

Children work in groups. Assign each group a word or phrase from Romans 10:9. Each child in group uses masking tape to form one or more letters on card stock as described above. Children display words together in classroom in verse order.

God's Word

"If you confess with your mouth,
'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved."

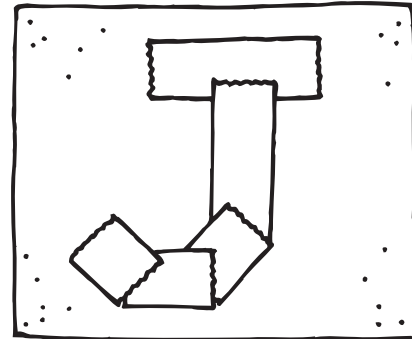
ROMANS 10:9

For Younger Children:

"Jesus is Lord."

God's Word & Me

Believing in Jesus is the only way
to salvation.





Collect

Bibles, colored paper, scissors, glue, plastic containers, paintbrushes, large sheets of paper; optional—pencils, glue sticks.

Prepare

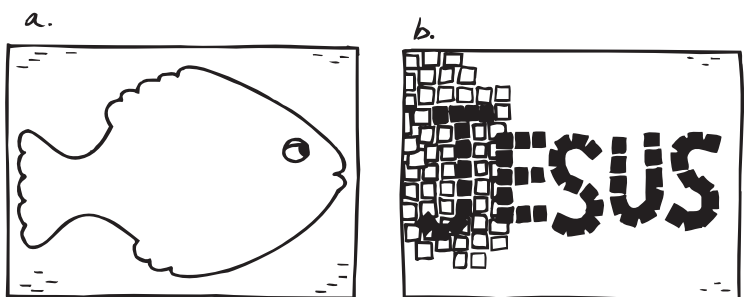
Cut colored paper into many 1-inch (2.5-cm.) squares. Pour clear-drying glue in containers for children.

Do

1. **Today we're going to make mosaics like the Romans did. Our mosaics will show pictures of things which symbolize who Jesus is and what He has done for us. What could some of those pictures be?** (Cross. Fish. Jesus' name in block letters. Heart.) **How do these pictures remind you of Jesus?**

2. Each child chooses a picture that reminds him or her of Jesus (see sketch a). On large sheet of paper, child uses paintbrush to apply glue in the shape of the picture he or she chose and uses one or two colors of paper to fill in design of the picture. (Optional: Each child sketches a mosaic plan on large sheet of paper, noting which colors of paper will be glued in each area of the mosaic.)

3. Children apply glue to the rest of their papers and use another color of paper to create the background of the mosaic (see sketch b). Display mosaics in classroom.



Talk About

- ◆ **Our Bible story today takes place in a Roman city. The Romans made mosaics picturing people who were famous, battles they won or activities they enjoyed. Sometimes the mosaics were made as decorations on floors and walls. Mosaics were usually made of stone tiles, but ours are made of paper.**
- ◆ Read Romans 10:9. **What do some kids your age believe about Jesus? What do you believe? The Bible tells us that believing in Jesus and trusting Him as the Savior is the only way to be saved and become part of God's family.**

For Younger Children

Before class, draw cross, fish or heart picture on sheets of paper. In class, children use glue sticks to glue squares to papers to fill in shapes.

Worship Center



Lesson 8
Matthew 16:13-20

for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247, 251), marker, index cards of two different colors, 10 clear (and empty) water bottles with labels removed.

Prepare

Divide Romans 10:9 into five phrases and write each phrase on separate index cards of the same color. Make another set of verse cards on index cards of another color. Roll each index card so that the words are facing outward. Insert rolled index cards into separate water bottles.

Team Game

Divide group into teams of five or six students. At your signal, team members quickly arrange themselves in a line according to alphabetical order of their first names. Quickest team to arrange themselves in correct order wins!

Bible Verse Game

You did a great job with getting in alphabetical order. Now let's see how you do with Bible-verse order! Toss out prepared water bottles to volunteers around the room. Children with bottles run to the front of the room and quickly group themselves with others whose bottles hold the same color of index cards. Each group works together to arrange verse cards in order. Once cards are in correct order, group reads verse aloud.

Song

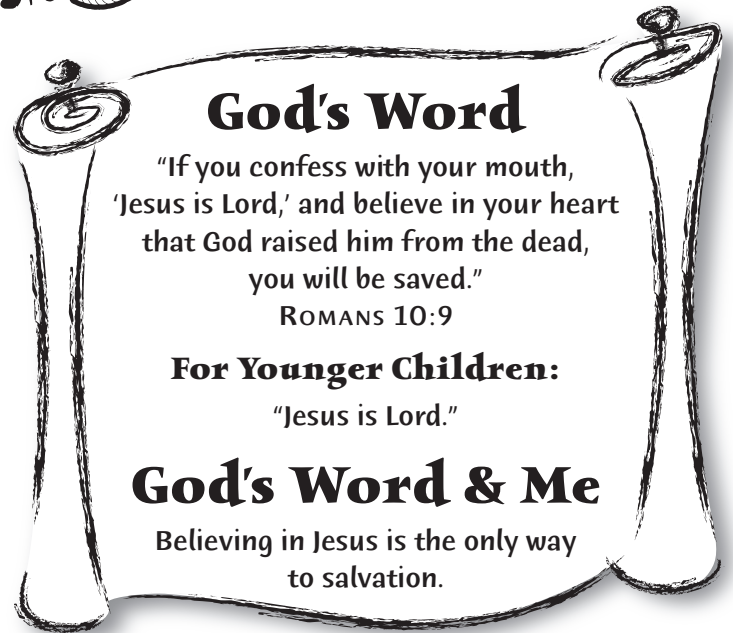
Jesus is Lord! We can trust Him in every situation. You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Psalm 130:7-8" and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

What are some things you know about Jesus that you are thankful for? Volunteers respond. Lead children in a prayer of thanks for the things they have suggested. Close prayer by thanking Jesus for His love and forgiveness.

Song

Play "The Gift." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.



God's Word

"If you confess with your mouth,
'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved."

ROMANS 10:9

For Younger Children:

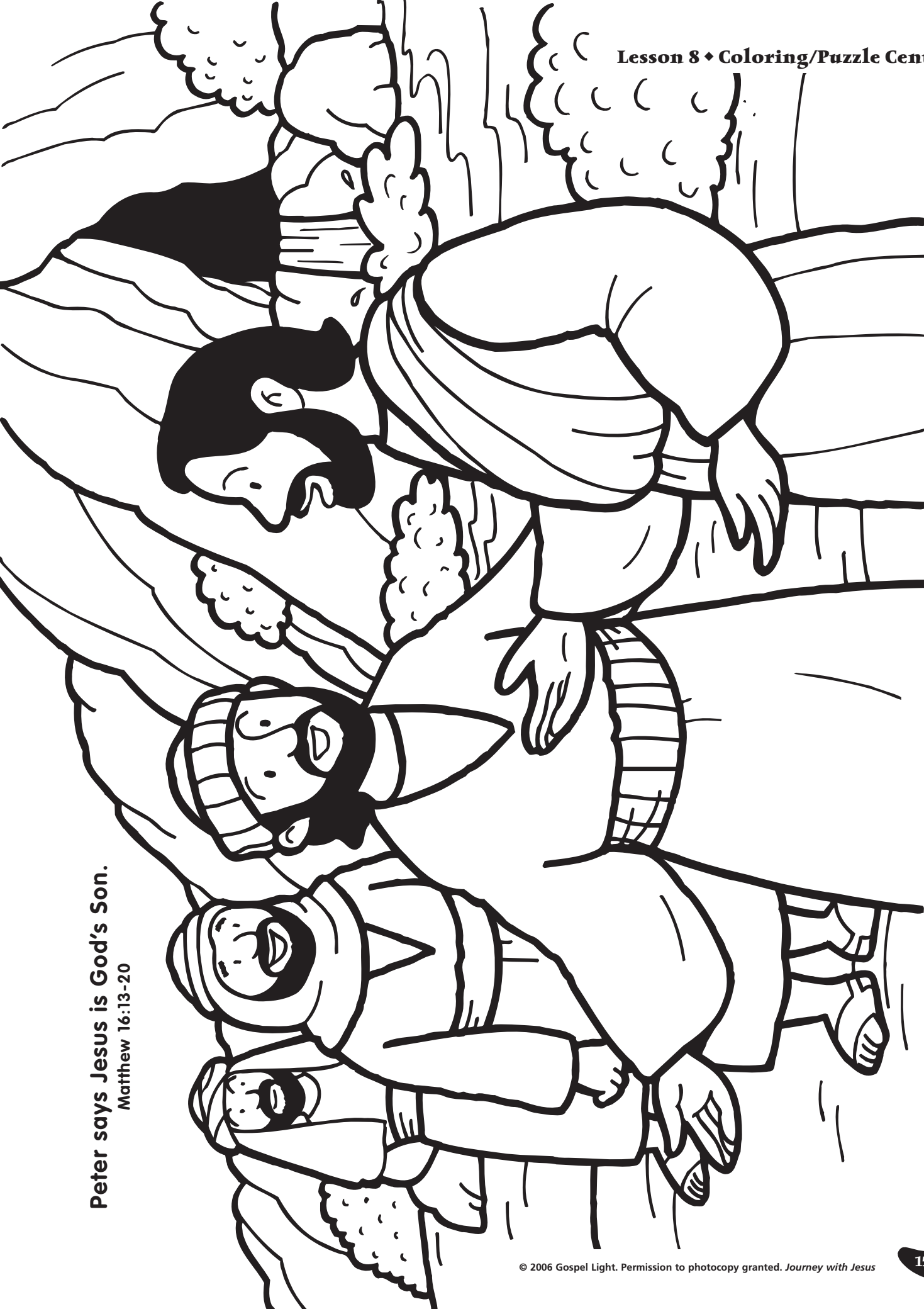
"Jesus is Lord."

God's Word & Me

Believing in Jesus is the only way
to salvation.



Peter says Jesus is God's Son.
Matthew 16:13-20



Who do you believe Jesus is?

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9

Rhyme Time



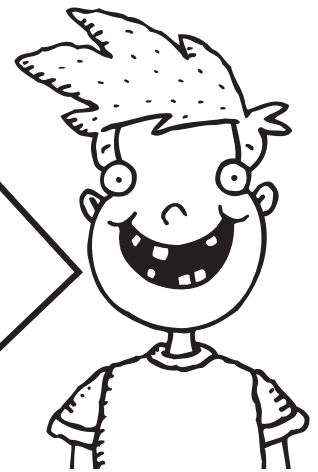
Romans 10:9

Cross out the words that rhyme in each row. Read the remaining words to find one thing that a lot of people say they believe.

Brushing	Song	Wrong	Gong
beat	treat	your	street
shirt	dirt	teeth	skirt
every	out	scout	bout
sky	day	my	buy
sell	will	dell	yell
tip	snip	help	yip
scare	prevent	prepare	snare
boot	suit	tooth	toot
red	decay	bed	said

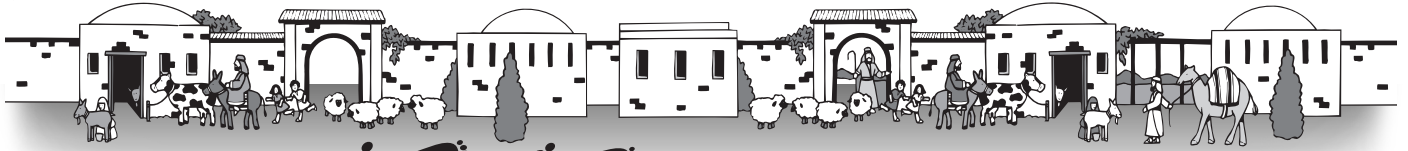


Which person shown here really believes this?
How can you tell?



What does Romans 10:9 tell us to believe about Jesus? How can you show that you believe Jesus is Lord?

Jericho: Tax Man Gets Big Return

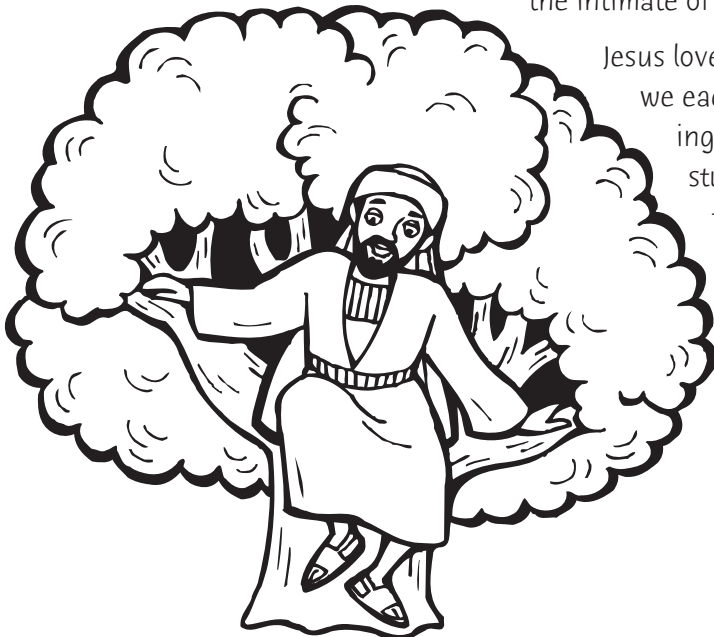


Bible Story Luke 19:1-10

Teacher's Devotional

Jericho is one of the oldest settled areas in Israel. A steady spring on the site creates an oasis, so people have long settled there. In Deuteronomy, it was called "the city of palm trees," and it was well-known in Jesus' day as a place of date palms and balsam groves. Two Herods built winter palaces there, along with ornamental gardens. A city where Roman influence became strong, it may have been that taxes were collected there with more-than-usual vigor—and Zacchaeus was perhaps among the most enthusiastic tax collectors! He aided the Roman oppressors and had many opportunities to add to his wealth at the expense of his people by taking more than was due.

However, Zacchaeus had a "redeeming feature": he wanted to see Jesus. To his amazement, Jesus also wanted to see him—and have intimate fellowship with him! When his Jewish neighbors complained, "Jesus is going to be the guest of a sinner!" (see Luke 19:7), Zacchaeus publicly declared that he would make right all his wrongs. His repentance was public, his obedience was total! Thus Zacchaeus the outcast became the intimate of Jesus, living a life of joy in Him.



Jesus loves each of us as deeply as He loved Zacchaeus. And we each are just as undeserving of His love as any cheating tax-collector. As we pray for ourselves and our students this week, let's ask God to help us discover the joy with which He longs to flood our lives as we choose to live in obedience to Him!

God's Word

"Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight."

PSALM 119:35

For Younger Children:

"Direct me in . . . your commands."

God's Word & Me

Obeying God's commands gives us joy!

Planning Page

Lesson 9
Luke 19:1-10

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Jericho: Tax Man Gets Big Return • Luke 19:1-10

Younger Child Option

Receive “money” from Zacchaeus

Older Child Option

Use objects that bring joy to discover a message

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Create rhythm instruments to use in thanking God for His good commands

Materials

Bible, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, sturdy paper plates, pony beads, staplers, a variety of stickers, markers

Older Child Option

Make money pouches like people used in Bible times and talk about obeying God’s commands

Materials

Bible, vinyl fabric or felt, measuring sticks, markers, scissors, hole punch, leather lacing or heavy yarn, two slips of paper, pencil

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a game similar to Pin the Tail on the Donkey to talk about obeying God

Materials

Bible, large sheet of paper, marker, index cards, tape

Older Child Option

Participate in a coin toss to talk about God’s commands and our choices

Materials

Bible, Lesson 9 Pattern Page (p. 168) for each student, scissors, masking tape, paper cups, coins

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 9 Coloring Page (p. 169) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 9 Puzzle Page (p. 170) for each student, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 249-250)

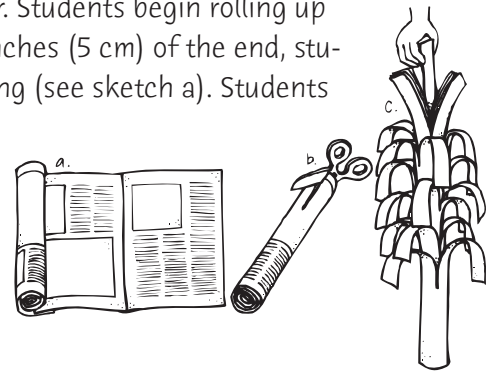
Bonus Theme Ideas

Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Jericho

Today we are going to visit Jericho, a very, very ancient town. Jericho is often called "the city of palm trees." Students locate Jericho on map (p. 237). **Let's make our own palm trees to remind us of Jericho.** Give each student four to six sheets of newspaper. Students begin rolling up sheets of newspaper. When they have rolled one sheet within 2 inches (5 cm) of the end, students put another sheet onto the unrolled part and continue rolling (see sketch a). Students repeat process until all sheets of paper are firmly rolled together. Students cut halfway down the side of the roll in three different places (see sketch b) and then hold the newspapers at the uncut end and shake gently to separate the newspaper "leaves." Pull out several of the leaves at the center to create the palm tree (see sketch c).



Date-Walnut Candy

Children use a wooden spoon to mash together 2 cups finely chopped dates (with pits removed) and 2 cups finely chopped walnuts. Press mixture evenly onto a buttered cookie sheet. Let mixture dry and then cut into small squares. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.



Use music to help create the atmosphere of a Bible-times marketplace and emphasize the theme of your tour. If possible, invite musicians to perform live Israeli music. If you can't arrange for live music, play the music from the *Journey with Jesus Music CD* or other Middle Eastern music. If someone in your congregation knows simple folk-dance movements, ask him or her to teach steps to children.



Sounds of Israel





for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

What would you buy if you had lots of money? Let's listen to hear about a man who had lots of money.

Tell the Story

Zacchaeus had A LOT of money. He had a lot of money because he took money that did NOT belong to him! Zacchaeus had done wrong when he took this money. People did not like him because of the times he had taken money that was not his.

One day Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived. *I want to go see Jesus*, he decided. Off he hurried to the road where Jesus was walking. A large crowd of people had come to see Jesus. So when Zacchaeus got there he couldn't see Jesus! Zacchaeus was very short. Even on tiptoe he could not see over the crowd of people.

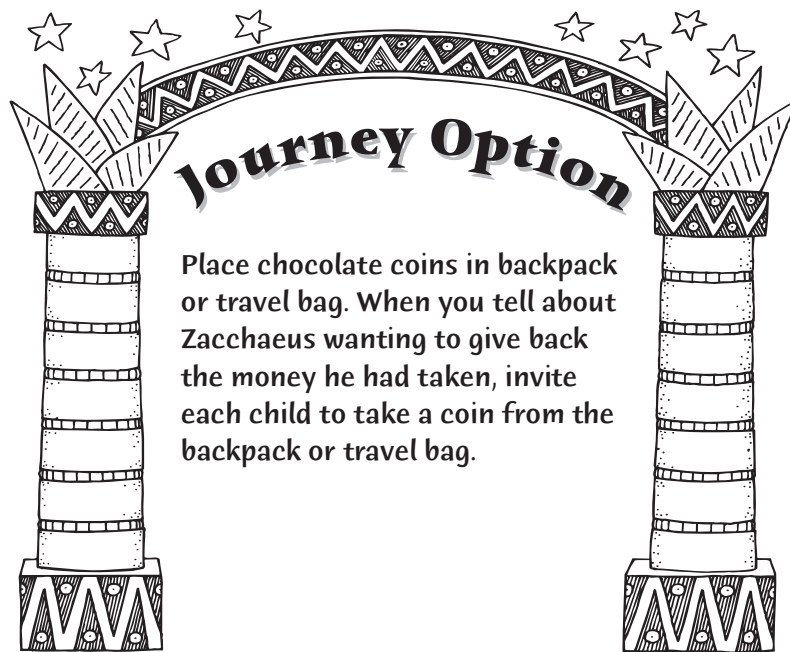
But then Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran to a big tree. And he climbed up-up-UP the tree. Now he could see over all the people! Zacchaeus could see Jesus. Jesus came closer and closer—until Jesus was right under the tree! Jesus stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus.

"Come down, Zacchaeus," said Jesus. "I want to stay at your house today." Zacchaeus climbed down-down-down from that tree. He was surprised that Jesus knew his name! But Zacchaeus was very glad to have Jesus come to his house.

Jesus loves me! Zacchaeus must have thought. He thought about the wrong things he had done in his life. He thought about the money he had wrongly taken away from people. Zacchaeus was sorry he had taken the money. Zacchaeus told Jesus he wanted to give back any money he had wrongly taken. And he wanted to give half of all his money to the poor people, too! Zacchaeus had learned to love Jesus. Jesus was not angry at him, even though Zacchaeus had done wrong things. Jesus was kind and forgiving to him.

God's Word & Me

What wrong thing did Zacchaeus do? (Zacchaeus had taken money that did not belong to him.) **In the Bible, God tells us not to take things that don't belong to us. When we do what God says, it makes us glad. Our Bible says, "Direct me in . . . your commands." We can ask Jesus to help us know how to obey His commands.** Pray briefly with children, **Dear Jesus, please help us obey You. Amen.**



Bible Story Center

for older children



Lesson 9
Luke 19:1-10



Collect

Bible, length of butcher paper, markers.

Introduction

Tell me about the biggest tree you've ever climbed. Where was it? Students respond.

Today we're going to find out about a man named Zacchaeus who climbed a tree in the city of Jericho. (Spread out a length of butcher paper on floor or tabletop. Assign students Bible story scenes to draw on the paper: flat-topped houses in Jericho, road through the city, Jesus and crowd alongside the road, Zacchaeus in large tree, Zacchaeus's house. As children draw pictures, tell the story of Jesus' meeting of Zacchaeus.)

Tell the Story

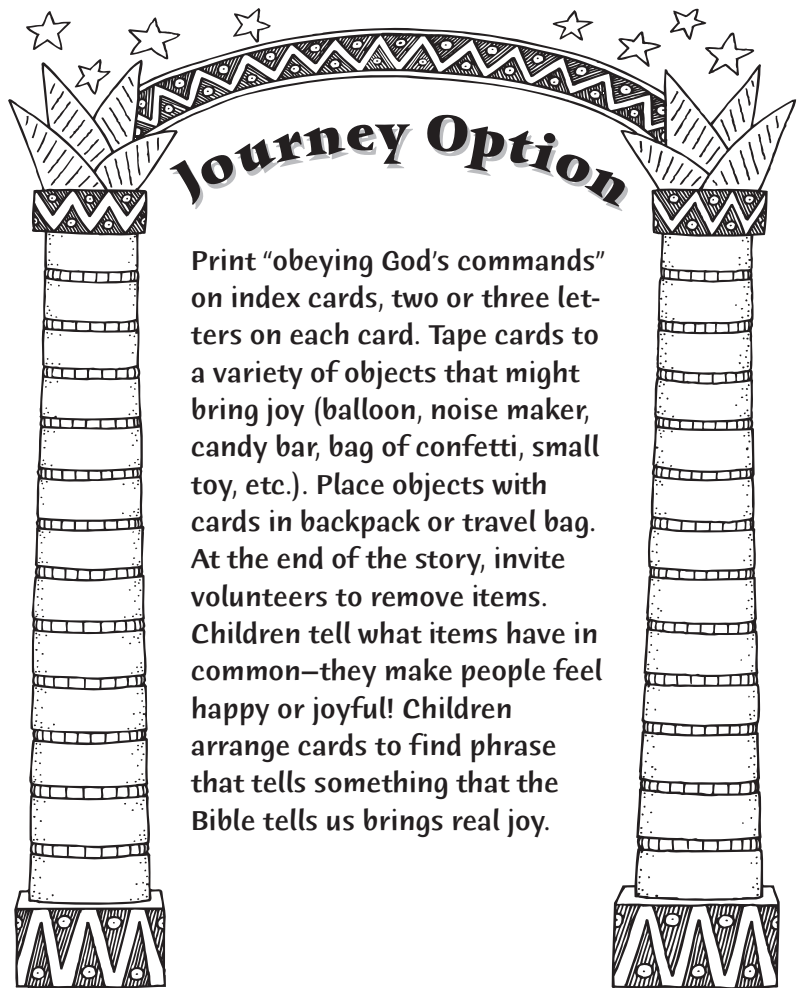
Jericho was a city where traders came from near and far to buy and sell goods. The Roman government taxed all of this business. There were taxes on buying, taxes on selling—it was a taxing place to be! Of course, tax collectors could make it even WORSE if they charged the taxpayers more money than they should have. And they often did! They were considered thieves by the Jewish people.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector in Jericho, which meant that he had LOTS of power. He could take any amount of money from people that he wanted! He had become rich by taking other people's hard-earned money.

Everyone hated tax collectors! The Jewish people also disliked tax collectors because the tax money was given to the Roman army who had taken over their country by force. **Although Zacchaeus had money and power, what do you think he didn't have?**

One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his city. He was curious about Jesus. Zacchaeus had probably heard about some of the things Jesus had done. Zacchaeus may have even heard that one of Jesus' disciples was a tax collector! *Jesus even cared about a tax collector!* Zacchaeus may have thought to himself, *What kind of man is this?*

Zacchaeus decided to see this Jesus for himself. So out he went into the huge crowd gathered to see Jesus. He tried to slip in here and there, but people weren't about to make room for a disliked tax collector! Besides that, Zacchaeus had another problem: He was too short to see over the crowd! **What did Zacchaeus do?** There was a large sycamore tree nearby. Sycamore trees were easy to climb because they had short trunks and strong



Print "obeying God's commands" on index cards, two or three letters on each card. Tape cards to a variety of objects that might bring joy (balloon, noise maker, candy bar, bag of confetti, small toy, etc.). Place objects with cards in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the story, invite volunteers to remove items. Children tell what items have in common—they make people feel happy or joyful! Children arrange cards to find phrase that tells something that the Bible tells us brings real joy.



branches that spread way out. From his perch up in the sycamore tree, Zacchaeus would be able to see Jesus coming, AND he would be out of the way of the crowd.

As Jesus came down the road into Jericho, everyone was talking about what He would say and do. “He’ll have dinner with a really important person—maybe even one of the religious leaders in the town,” someone might have said. The crowd must have thought that Jesus, who taught all about God and doing good, would have dinner with people who did good things.

But when Jesus got to the sycamore tree, He stopped and looked right up at Zacchaeus! Jesus told Zacchaeus that He was going to have dinner with him—with Zacchaeus the tax-collecting thief! Zacchaeus climbed down immediately. **How do you think Zacchaeus might have felt?**

The people were shocked! “Why is Jesus having dinner with that guy?” someone muttered. “Doesn’t Jesus know he’s a thief who works for the Romans?”

But the crowd was in for an even greater surprise! Right then and there, Zacchaeus declared he would give half of what he had to the poor. AND Zacchaeus chose to give back four times the amount he had cheated from anyone! Right there in front of everyone, he showed he had changed! **If he had stolen a dollar from someone, how much would he give back to them?**

The people in the crowd could hardly believe what they heard and saw. “What happened to Zacchaeus?” they asked each other. “He used to steal from us and now he’s giving us back four times what he took!” They were amazed!

Jesus knew why Zacchaeus had turned away from his wrong actions and was choosing to do what was right. Jesus had helped Zacchaeus know that God loved him and forgave him in spite of the wrong things he had done and would help him choose to do right.

God’s Word & Me

Jesus helps us know about His love and forgiveness, just like He helped Zacchaeus. God loves us no matter what we have done in the past, and He will help us choose to do what is right as we learn more about Him and spend time talking to Him. His commands help us know the best choices to make. Because of this, we can be glad for God’s commands. They show us the best way to live!

- ◆ Read Psalm 119:35. **What does this verse say happens when we obey God’s commands? What does “find delight” mean?**
- ◆ **Why do you think it’s good to know and follow God’s commands?**
- ◆ **When have you seen someone obey God’s command to be honest? To end an argument? What happened?**
- ◆ **What will you do to learn more about following God’s commands this week?** Give children time to think quietly. Then lead children in prayer, **Thank You, God, for helping us know the best way to live. Please help us to obey You every day. And thank You for loving and forgiving us when we do not obey You. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, large sheet of paper, marker, index cards, tape.

Prepare

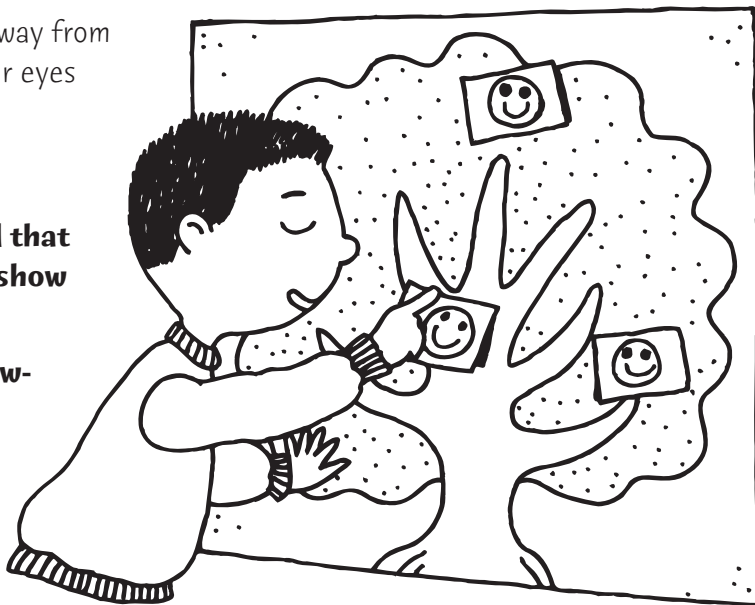
On large sheet of paper, draw a large tree. For each child, draw a happy face on a separate index card. Tape paper to wall in your classroom. Attach a loop of tape to the back of each index card.

Do

Zacchaeus was a man who wanted to see over a crowd. He climbed a tree so that he could see Jesus. Let's play a game to put Zacchaeus in the tree. Children stand with you several feet away from the large sheet of paper and take turns closing their eyes and trying to attach their index cards to the tree.

Talk About

- ◆ **In our Bible story today, Zacchaeus learned that Jesus loved him. And Zacchaeus wanted to show love for Jesus, too!**
- ◆ **When we obey God's commands, we are showing love for Jesus. We can ask Jesus to help us know how to obey His commands.**
- ◆ **Our Bible says, "Direct me in . . . your commands." Let's say this as a prayer to Jesus.** Lead children in repeating verse as a prayer.



For Older Children

Divide tree into at least 10 sections. Print words or phrases from the Bible story ("Zacchaeus," "Jesus," "sycamore tree," "crowds," "taxes," "give to the poor", etc.) in some of the sections. Print other words ("cow," "sports car," "computer," "movie star," etc.) in other sections. Children take turns wearing a blindfold and attempting to attach card to the paper. Child removes blindfold to see if he or she made a hit (landing on a word or phrase from the Bible story) or a miss (landing on a word or phrase not from the story). After several rounds, invite children who have made hits to tell ways kids today can obey God's commands or to use words in sentences that tell about the Bible story.

Game Center

for older children



Lesson 9
Luke 19:1-10



Collect

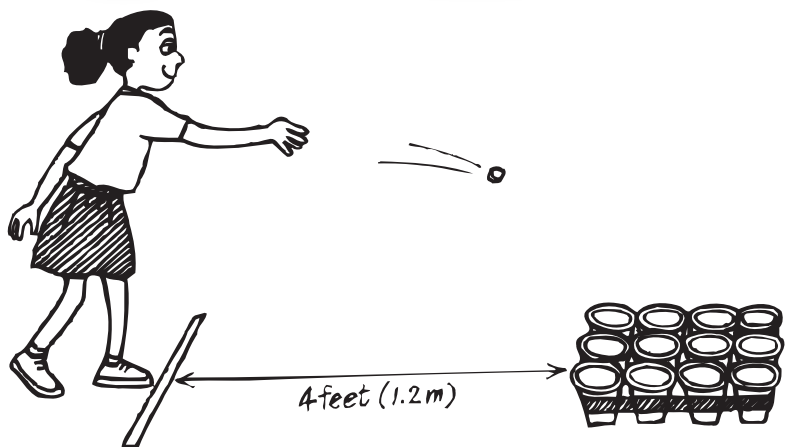
Bible, Lesson 9 Pattern Page (p. 168), scissors, masking tape, paper cups, coins.

Prepare

Cut apart Situation cards from Lesson 9 Pattern Page. Use masking tape to tape together 12 paper cups in rows (see sketch). Put one Situation card in each cup and place on floor. Make a masking-tape line on floor about 4 feet (1.2 m) from the cups.

Do

1. Children line up behind the line and take turns tossing coins at the cups. When a child gets a coin into a cup, child removes card from that cup and reads it aloud. Another child tells what choice needs to be made in the situation.
2. Lead children to discuss how God's commands could help someone make a good choice in that situation. Invite a volunteer to find and read aloud the verse written on the card. **What would be a good choice to make in this situation?** Repeat as time and interest allow.



Talk About

- ◆ Read Psalm 119:35. **According to this verse, what is the result of obeying God's commands?**
- ◆ **What do you know about God that might make you glad to follow His commands?** (He loves us. He is powerful. He knows what is best.)
- ◆ **What are some commands that are easy to obey? What are some commands that are harder to obey? What can you do when it is hard to obey?**

For Younger Children

Substitute happy-face stickers for cards. Children take turns tossing coins into cups. When a coin lands in a cup, child takes a sticker and says "I can obey God."

Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, *Journey with Jesus Music CD* and player, sturdy paper plates (two for each child), pony beads, staplers, a variety of stickers, markers.

Do

1. Give each child two paper plates. Child chooses 10 to 15 pony beads to place on one plate. Help each child staple together the plates with right sides facing so the beads inside plates shake. Children attach stickers and draw designs to decorate shakers.
2. Play "Singing Together" from *Journey with Jesus Music CD*. Children play shakers as they sing along.

Talk About

- ◆ Our Bible says, "Direct me in . . . your commands." When we obey God's commands, we can be truly happy. God loves us and wants to show us the best way to live.
- ◆ I'm glad to know that God loves me! We can use our shakers while we sing and thank God for loving us and giving us good commands to obey.

For Older Children

Instead of stapling edges together, children use hole punch to make 10 to 12 holes around edges of plates. Thread string through one of the holes, tying securely in place, and then add two to three beads to the string before threading string through the next hole and tying string securely again. Children continue adding beads and tying the thread securely at each hole.

God's Word

"Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight."

PSALM 119:35

For Younger Children:

"Direct me in . . . your commands."

God's Word & Me

Obeying God's commands gives us joy!





Collect

Bibles, vinyl fabric or felt, measuring sticks, markers, scissors, hole punch, leather lacing or heavy yarn, two slips of paper, pencil.

Prepare

Draw a 12-inch (30-cm) diameter circle on vinyl or felt for each child. Cut lacing or yarn into 1 ½-yard (1.35-m) lengths, two for each student. Make a sample money pouch following directions below. Print two of the questions below on separate slips of paper. Put papers into sample pouch.

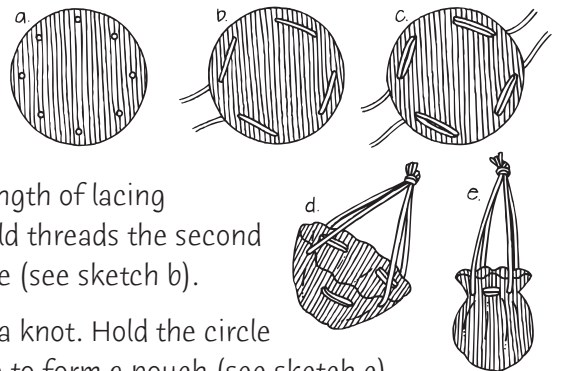
Do

1. **Today we're going to make bags to hold money and food like people did in Bible times.** Show sample pouch. **In our Bible story today, Zacchaeus might have carried a pouch like this.** Ask two children to remove slips of paper from sample pouch and read questions aloud. Volunteers tell answers.

2. Give each student a fabric or felt circle. Children cut out circles and then take turns using measuring sticks, markers and hole punch to mark and make holes around the circle, about 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the edge and 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart (see sketch a).

3. Give two lengths of lacing or yarn to each child. Child threads one length of lacing through the holes, going up one hole and down the next hole. Then child threads the second length of lacing through the same holes, starting from the opposite side (see sketch b).

4. Gather all four ends of lacing, making sure they are even, and tie in a knot. Hold the circle in one hand and pull on lacing with the other hand. The circle will close to form a pouch (see sketch c).



God's Word

"Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight."

PSALM 119:35

For Younger Children:

"Direct me in . . . your commands."

God's Word & Me

Obeying God's commands gives us joy!

Talk About

- ♦ **What are some good choices kids your age can make?** (To tell the truth. To treat others fairly. To be friendly to someone others dislike.) **In what situation might someone need to know God's commands to help make a right choice?** Briefly tell students about a time you followed one of God's commands to make a right decision.
- ♦ **Why might a kid your age find it difficult to make good choices? How can you find God's commands to help you make good choices?**

For Younger Children

Cut out pouches and punch holes ahead of time. Children weave yarn or lacing through holes. If using yarn, put a small amount of transparent tape around the end of each yarn length for easier weaving.

Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 249-250); optional—instant camera.

Team Game

Divide class into groups of five to ten children each. Children in each group stand together in different ways to spell out the word “joy.” (Optional: Photograph children making the word.) **What are some things that give people joy? Let’s find out what the Bible says will give us joy, or delight.**

Bible Verse Game

Lead children in repeating Psalm 119:35 several times, doing motions for keywords (point forward for “direct,” hands in open book shape for “commands,” jump up and down for “delight”). Children quickly find a partner. Partners say verse together, doing the motions you demonstrated together or coming up with their own motions to do as partners.

Song

The entire chapter of Psalm 119 tells how good God’s commands are. Let’s sing some verses from that chapter that tell what God’s commands will help us do—they help us to not sin, or do wrong things! You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Psalm 119:10-12.”

Prayer

Lead children in a prayer asking for God’s help to remember and obey His commands when children have choices to make. Thank God that He helps us make good choices.

Song

Even when we don’t obey God’s commands, we can count on Jesus’ love and forgiveness. He will always be with us to help and guide us. Play “My True Friend.” Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.



<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>
<p>You broke your sister's jewelry box. She asks you if your little brother did it. What do you do? Exodus 20:16</p>	<p>Some friends tell you they are going to try to beat up a kid who is always mean to you. What do you do? Matthew 5:43-44</p>	<p>You are at a friend's house and your friend wants to watch a TV show your parents never let you watch. What do you do? Exodus 20:12</p>
<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>
<p>You are taking a spelling test at school and you get stuck on a word. You can easily see your neighbor's test. What do you do? Titus 3:1</p>	<p>Your dad told you to be home by 5 o'clock, but it's your turn to bat and it is two minutes to five. What do you do? Ephesians 6:1</p>	<p>You are at the grocery store and are very thirsty, but you don't have enough money for a drink. What do you do? Deuteronomy 5:19</p>
<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>
<p>Your brother asks for a bite of your candy bar. Your candy bar is almost gone, but you remember that he usually shares with you. What do you do? Matthew 7:12</p>	<p>Your friend asks to borrow your new skateboard to try it out. He wants to go around the block. What do you do? Matthew 5:42</p>	<p>Your mom tells you you can't go to your friend's birthday party this weekend. What do you do? James 1:19</p>
<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>	<p>Situation</p>
<p>You would like to keep a good book from the school library. It's the last day of school and the librarian hasn't asked you for the book back. What do you do? Exodus 20:15</p>	<p>Your little brother ruined your game and you are very mad at him. When you try to pray before bed, you feel bad. What do you do? Mark 11:25</p>	<p>All week you have been trying to show Jesus you love Him. Now your mom asks you to dry the dishes, but you would rather watch TV. What do you do? Colossians 3:20</p>

Zacchaeus chooses to
obey Jesus.
Luke 19:1-10

What can you do to obey Jesus?



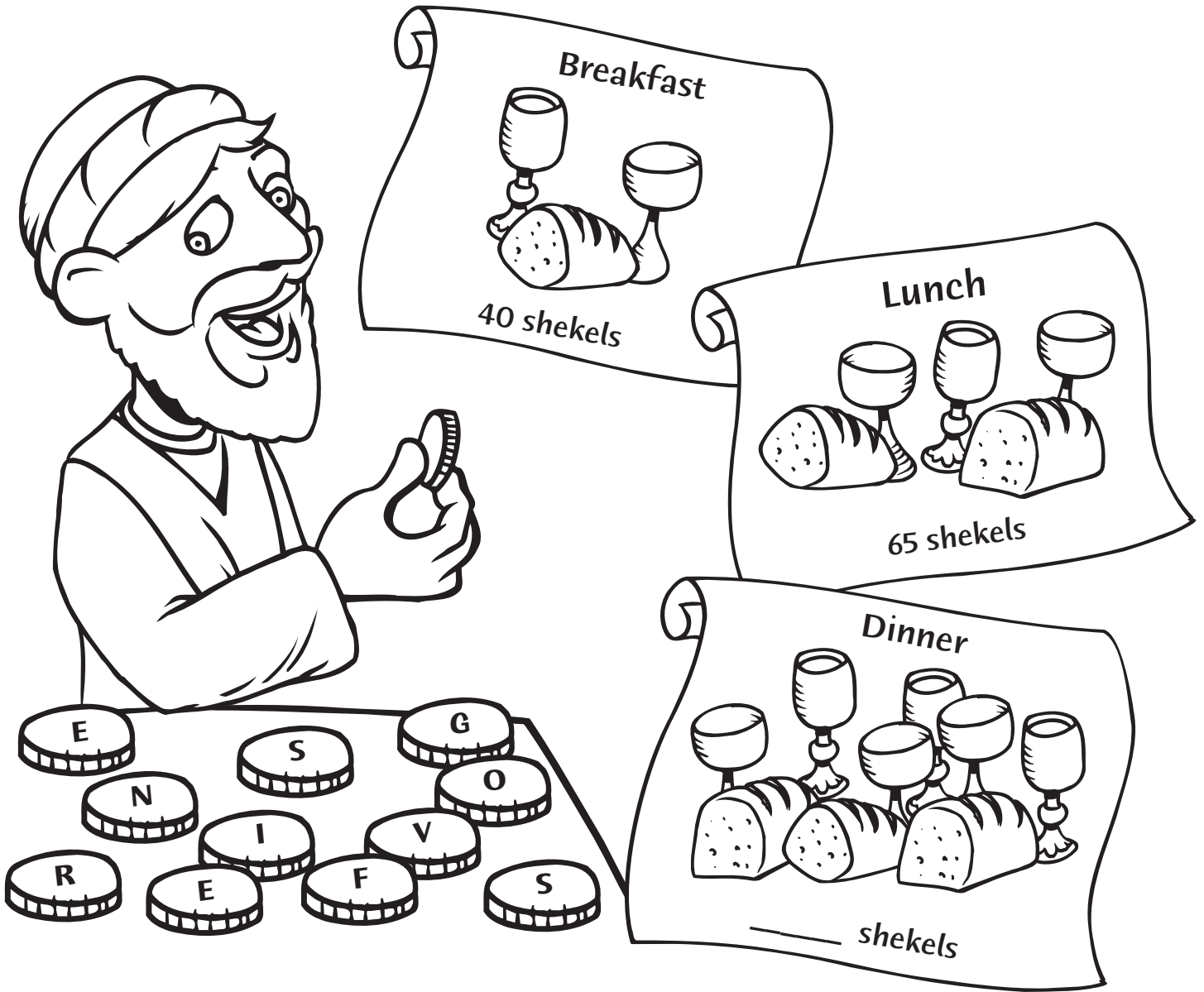
A Taxing Situation!

How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus' love and forgiveness? What will you do to respond to Jesus' love for you?

The Challenge

Luke 19:1-10

Unscramble the letters on Zacchaeus's coins to find a word that tells a way God shows love for us. Write the letters on the blank lines. (Hint: It's something Zacchaeus experienced!)



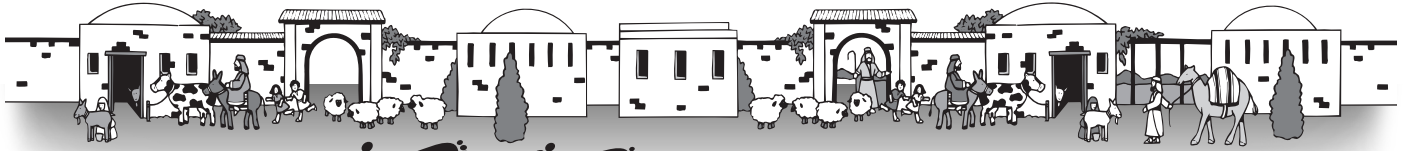
The Super Challenge

Zacchaeus bought 2 goblets of water and a loaf of bread for breakfast. He paid 40 shekels. At lunchtime he bought 3 goblets of water and 2 loaves of bread. Lunch cost him 65 shekels.

How much did a goblet of water cost? _____

How much did he pay for dinner? _____

Bethany: Dead Man Walks Out of Tomb



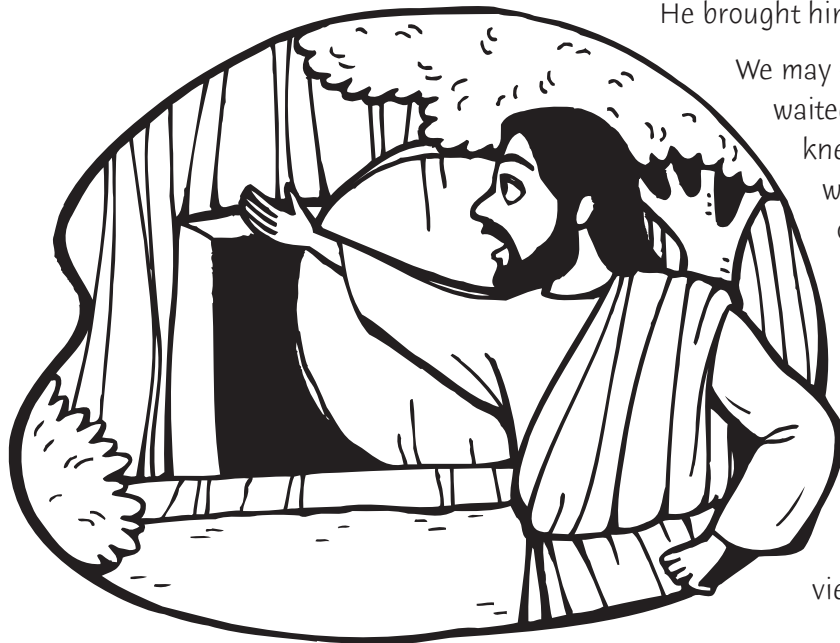
Bible Story John 11:1-45

Teacher's Devotional

There is little to distinguish the village of Bethany. Located several miles from Jerusalem, on the far side of the Mount of Olives and on the road to Jericho, it had not been the site of ancient conquests or mighty cities. Its name means "house of poverty"! But into this "house of poverty" Jesus came. His loving friendship with Mary, Martha and Lazarus changed their lives completely, making them rich beyond their wildest expectations!

Certainly when Lazarus became ill, Mary and Martha were confident that Jesus would heal him. When Jesus did not come, they were mystified, perhaps even hurt. Their brother had died and their wonderful friend

didn't seem to care! But of course, Jesus never leaves us—even when we feel most abandoned. He came in His perfect time to do a greater miracle than healing Lazarus's illness. He brought him back from death itself!



God's Word

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

PSALM 100:5

For Younger Children:

"The Lord is good."

God's Word & Me

Because Jesus is our friend, we can talk to Him about everything.

We may often feel as abandoned as the sisters who waited in vain for Jesus' expected healing. They knew the problem; they knew the solution; they were full of faith! But our dearest friend, the one true lover of our souls, doesn't always come in our time, in our way, on our conditions. He knows that our best solution may only disappoint in the end. So He waits, in order that He might show Himself even more glorious when He does answer, in His perfect time and way. His goal is not only to see us happy in the short run but to see us conformed to His image in the long view—to the benefit of our eternal souls.

Planning Page

Lesson 10
John 11:1-45

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Bethany: Dead Man Walks Out of Tomb • John 11:1-45

Younger Child Option

Show faces to illustrate feelings of people in the story

Older Child Option

Assemble a crossword puzzle to find an important word

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Create friendship bracelets and talk about Jesus, our friend

Materials

Bible, letter-sized envelopes, crayons, stamps, stickers, scissors, ruler

Older Child Option

Make lamps similar to lamps used in Bible times and discuss ways to talk to God

Materials

Bible, air-drying or self-hardening clay, pencils

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose and talk about praying to Jesus

Materials

Bible

Older Child Option

Play game like 20 Questions and discuss situations about which we can talk to God

Materials

Bible, index cards, colored markers, tape

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 10 Coloring Page (p. 183) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Talk about the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 10 Puzzle Page (p. 184) for each student, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247, 249), paper, marker, two chairs

Bonus Theme Ideas



Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Bethany

Today we are visiting one of Jesus' favorite places—a small town named Bethany. Bethany was just outside of Jerusalem and was the home of three of Jesus' good friends. Students locate Bethany on map (p. 237). Assign meal preparation jobs to students while they wash their hands: wash table for food preparation, cut pita bread into triangle shapes and place them on a paper plate, spoon hummus or bean dip into serving bowl, spread a rug on the floor and place serving bowl in the middle of the rug. Students complete jobs and then sit on the floor around the bowl to eat. **People in Bethany sat like this to eat most of their meals. Only wealthy people sat at tables. Before eating, the people thanked God for their food by saying a prayer such as, "Oh God, our King. You are holy. You give us life. You are the maker of our food and all we need to live."** Students repeat prayer. Give each student a piece of pita bread. Students use pita bread to scoop dip out of the bowl.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Costume Box

Provide a box full of a variety of Bible-times costumes and lengths of fabric. Children try on costumes and use fabric to make head coverings and other costume items.

If possible, provide books showing people in Bible-times clothing. Place a full-length mirror nearby so that children can see themselves in costume. If possible, photograph children and send the pictures home with them.



Invite a church member who owns animals to bring and show several animals to children. Children will enjoy taking turns riding a donkey, petting a goat or sheep or feeding ducks or chickens. Be sure to limit the number of children interacting with the animals at a time so that the animals are relaxed. Also, provide a place for children to wash their hands before and after petting animals.



Bible Animals



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

When have you been to a friend's house? Jesus liked to visit His friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha in the town of Bethany. Let's find out what happened to Jesus' friends one day.

Tell the Story

When Jesus lived on Earth, most people were happy to see Him. One day when Jesus was walking and talking with His friends, some men ran to Jesus. "Your friend, Lazarus, is very sick. Please come and make him well."

Jesus must have been sad that Lazarus was sick. Jesus wanted to help Lazarus. But instead of going right away to Bethany to see Lazarus, Jesus waited. Then Jesus told His friends, "Let's go see Lazarus."

Jesus and His friends walked a long way. They finally got to the place where Lazarus lived. Lazarus's sister Martha went out to meet Jesus.

Martha was sad. "Oh, Jesus," she said, "if you had been here my brother would not have died!"

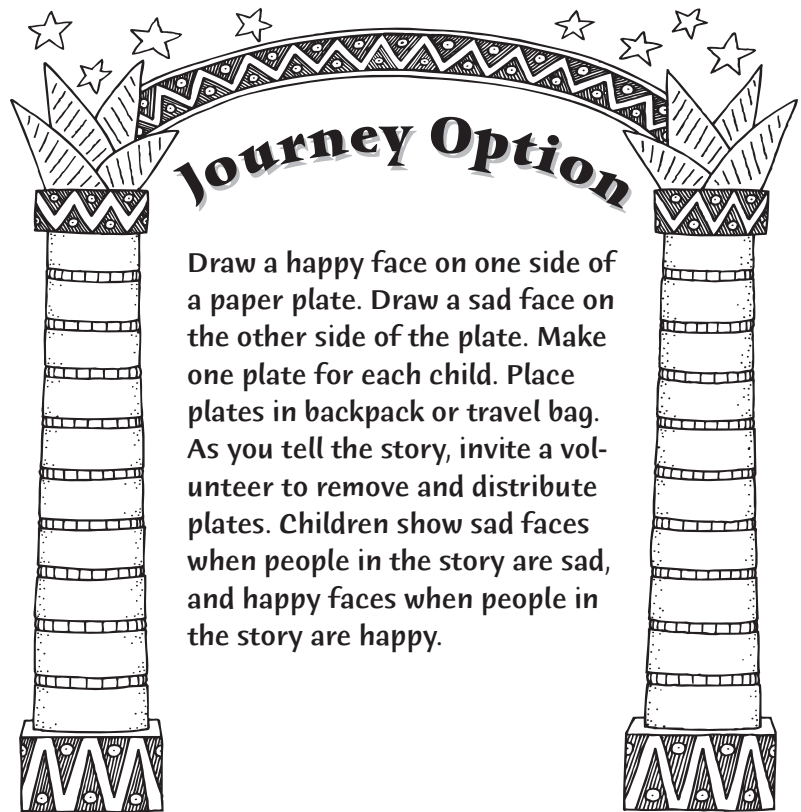
Martha's sister Mary and many other people were sad, too, because Lazarus had died. Many of them were crying. Jesus saw all the sad people. He cried, too.

Jesus and all the people went to the tomb where they had put Lazarus's body. It had been there for four days. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Jesus prayed. Then Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus came out of the tomb. Lazarus wasn't dead anymore! He was alive because Jesus raised him from the dead! **How do you think the people felt?** They were happy!

God's Word & Me

Mary and Martha knew that Jesus was their friend. They knew they could ask Him for help. Even though they didn't understand why Jesus didn't help Lazarus right away, they learned that Jesus loved them. Jesus would help them all the time. Jesus is our friend, too. We can talk to Jesus about anything. The Bible says, "The Lord is good." Invite children to repeat the following prayer: **Dear Jesus, . . . thank You . . . for loving us. . . Amen.**



Draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate. Draw a sad face on the other side of the plate. Make one plate for each child. Place plates in backpack or travel bag. As you tell the story, invite a volunteer to remove and distribute plates. Children show sad faces when people in the story are sad, and happy faces when people in the story are happy.



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

Whose house do you like to visit? At what friend's house do you like to stay overnight? Volunteers tell answers. **Our story today is about three good friends Jesus loved to visit. Their names were Mary, Martha and Lazarus. These friends lived in Bethany, a quiet little town near Jerusalem. Jesus didn't have a home of His own, so He must have been glad that His friends welcomed Him to their home.**

(Guide children to pantomime story events as you tell the story aloud. Before telling the story, assign parts to children: Jesus, several disciples, Mary, Martha, Lazarus and grieving friends. As you tell the story, children move according to the story action.)

Tell the Story

Jesus and His disciples were quite far from Bethany when Jesus received a message from His good friends who lived there. Lazarus had become terribly sick. Mary and Martha knew how much their friend Jesus loved them. They were certain that if Jesus knew Lazarus was sick, He would come right away to heal him. But Jesus didn't go to Bethany right away. **Why do you think Jesus didn't go right away?**

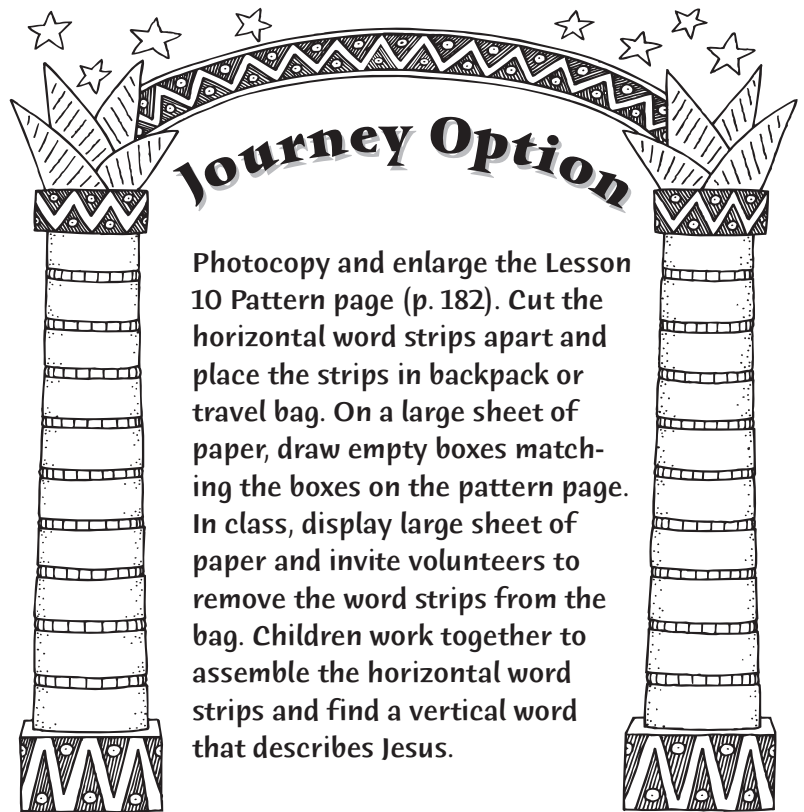
Instead, Jesus told His disciples, "This sickness won't end in death. God's power is going to be shown because of what happens."

Several days passed. Jesus' disciples must have wondered why Jesus was in no hurry to go help His friend! But they were also worried about going back to Bethany. The last time they had been there, people had tried to kill Jesus! They wondered, *Why would Jesus return to a place where some people had tried to hurt Him?*

Jesus explained. "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep," Jesus said. "And I'm going to go wake him up."

Jesus' disciples were even more confused! *If Lazarus sleeps, shouldn't he be getting better?* Jesus explained that Lazarus had died and that He wanted to help His disciples and His good friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus learn something very important. **What do you think the disciples thought now?**

Even though the disciples thought traveling to Bethany was dangerous and even though they didn't really understand why they were going, the disciples were loyal to their friend Jesus and went with Him back to Bethany. Thomas, one of the disciples, even said, "Let's go with Jesus and die with Him!"





When Jesus and His disciples arrived, Martha hurried out to meet Jesus. She said, “Jesus, if You had been here my brother wouldn’t have died!”

Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would rise again. Martha believed what Jesus said. Martha thought Jesus meant that she would see Lazarus in heaven after she died. But Jesus meant even more than that!

Mary hadn’t come out to meet Jesus at all. She was inside, perhaps too sad to even welcome her friend, Jesus. Martha went to Mary and told her that Jesus was asking for her. Mary hurried out to Jesus. There were many people in the house with her. When they saw Mary leave, they thought she was going to the tomb to cry and they followed her.

Mary reached Jesus. She was so sad she fell at His feet and cried, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died!”

How do you think Jesus felt? Jesus started to cry. Everyone could see that Jesus loved His friends very much. Their sadness made Him sad, too. Jesus asked where Lazarus’s body had been buried, and Mary and Martha took Him to the grave. Jesus said, “Take away the stone that covers the entrance to the grave.”

Martha thought that Jesus didn’t realize how long Lazarus had been dead. She reminded Him that by now there would be a terrible smell—Lazarus had been dead for four days! But Jesus insisted!

So the stone was moved. Jesus prayed aloud saying, “Father, I thank You that You always hear Me, but I want everyone here to know that You hear. And I want them to know that You have sent Me.”

When Jesus finished praying, He looked up and called, “Lazarus, come out!”

Lazarus did just what Jesus said! He was alive again! Jesus told the people near Lazarus to unwind his grave clothes and let him go! Everyone was astonished and enormously happy—especially Mary and Martha! Their best friend, Jesus, had not only cared for them by returning their brother to life, but He had also helped them understand just how strong God’s incredible power is—stronger than death!

God’s Word & Me

We all have friends who we like to be with and who treat us in good ways. But no matter how good our friends are, they can’t always understand us or do what is best for us. Jesus is our perfect friend who always understands how we feel and cares for us in ways that are the very best. Jesus loves us so much, He wants us to get to know Him better and talk with Him about everything! He promises to listen and answer our prayers! Lead children in a brief prayer time, thanking Jesus for His love and for hearing our prayers.

- ◆ Read Psalm 100:5. **How does this verse describe the Lord?** (He is good. His love lasts forever. His love will never change.)
- ◆ **How does this verse say the Lord treats us—His friends?** (He shows love to us.)
- ◆ **How might it help kids your age to know that Jesus is their friend?**

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Do

1. Sit with children in a circle on the floor to play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose. Volunteer walks around the outside of the circle and taps other children on the head while you say "Jesus is (Emma's) and (Jacob's) friend," naming the volunteer and one other child sitting in the circle. Children named run around the circle in opposite directions. When they meet, children stop and shake hands and then sit down in the circle again.

2. Repeat with other children as time and interest permit, being sure to name each child at least once.

Talk About

- ◆ **I'm glad that Jesus is our friend! We can talk to Jesus about anything. Jason, when can you talk to Jesus? You can pray to Jesus and ask Him to help you when you feel sad.**
- ◆ **Our Bible says, "The Lord is good." Jesus loves you and He is good. He will always love and care for you. He will always be your friend.**

For Older Children

Instead of playing a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose, whisper a sentence starter to one child in the circle ("I can ask Jesus to . . .," "When I'm at school, I can talk to Jesus about . . .," "I can talk to Jesus when I . . ."). Child silently chooses a way to complete the sentence and then whispers his or her sentence to the child on his or her right. Children pass the sentence around the circle as in Telephone. Last child to hear the sentence says it aloud. First child corrects sentence as needed. Repeat several times, whispering different sentence starters to different children.

God's Word

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

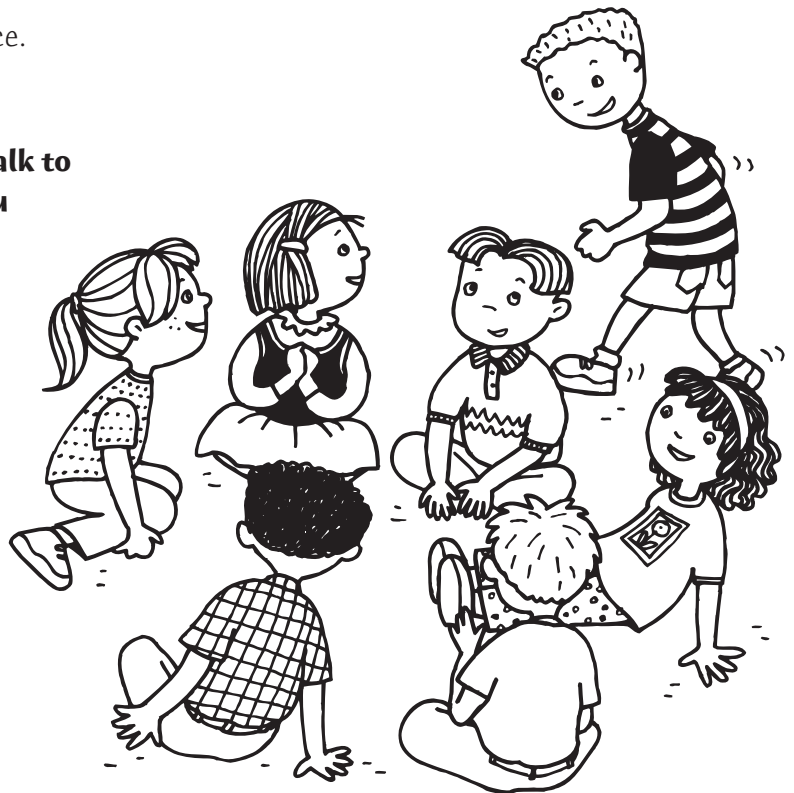
PSALM 100:5

For Younger Children:

"The Lord is good."

God's Word & Me

Because Jesus is our friend, we can talk to Him about everything.



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 10
John 11:1-45



Collect

Bibles, index cards, colored markers, tape.

Prepare

Print each letter of the word "friend" on a separate index card. Make one set of cards for each group of three to six children, using a different colored marker for each set.

Do

1. Divide class into groups of three to six children. On each child's back, tape one or two of the cards you prepared. (Note: If any child has more than one letter on his or her back, make sure letters are the same color and in the correct order.)
2. Children walk around the room asking other students "yes" or "no" questions to try to determine which letters of the word "friend" are on their own backs, as well as the color of the letters.
3. When a child has determined color and letter(s) on his or her back, he or she finds other children with the same color. Children arrange themselves in order to spell "friend." Children in the first group to arrange themselves in order tell something they can talk to Jesus about. (Thank Him for His loving care and friendship. Ask for His help.) Encourage children to mention specific situations. Repeat game as time permits, redistributing cards each time.

God's Word

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

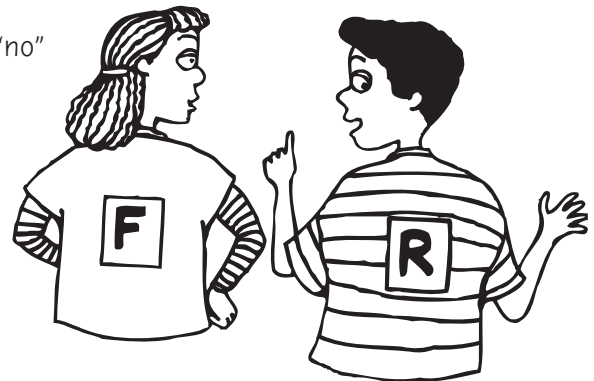
PSALM 100:5

For Younger Children:

"The Lord is good."

God's Word & Me

Because Jesus is our friend, we can talk to Him about everything.



Talk About

- ♦ **What do you know about your friend, Jesus? What is He like? What makes Him the perfect friend?** Read Psalm 100:5. **How does this verse describe Jesus?**
- ♦ **What do you talk to your friends about? What can you talk to your friend Jesus about? What might be some sad things? Exciting things? Happy things?**
- ♦ **How can you show friendship to Jesus and get to know Him better?** (Read His Word. Talk to Him often. Think about things He said in the Bible.)

For Younger Children

Hide one set of "friend" cards around the classroom. Children search for cards and then, with your help, put the cards in order to find the word "friend." Discuss ways that Jesus is a friend to them and list things about which they can talk to Jesus.

Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, letter-sized envelopes, crayons, stamps, stickers, scissors, ruler.

Do

1. Children seal envelopes and then color, stamp or add stickers all over the envelopes.
2. Demonstrate how to cut the ends off the envelopes and then cut the envelopes into 2-inch (5-cm) strips (see sketch) to make several bracelets. Children cut envelopes apart and give bracelets to family members or friends, making as many bracelets as desired.

Talk About

- ◆ **Steven, who are your friends? I'm glad that Marcus and Isaiah are your friends. What do you talk to your friends about?**
- ◆ **Even though we can't see Jesus, you can talk to Jesus about anything. He is our friend, too. Jesus loves us and will always care for us. The Bible says, "The Lord is good."**
- ◆ **Because Jesus is your friend, You can talk to Jesus about anything. You can talk to Jesus by praying. He will listen and love you, no matter what!**

For Older Children

Children use yarn, leather lacing or embroidery floss to make friendship bracelets, adding beads as desired.

God's Word

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

PSALM 100:5

For Younger Children:

"The Lord is good."

God's Word & Me

Because Jesus is our friend, we can talk to Him about everything.





Collect

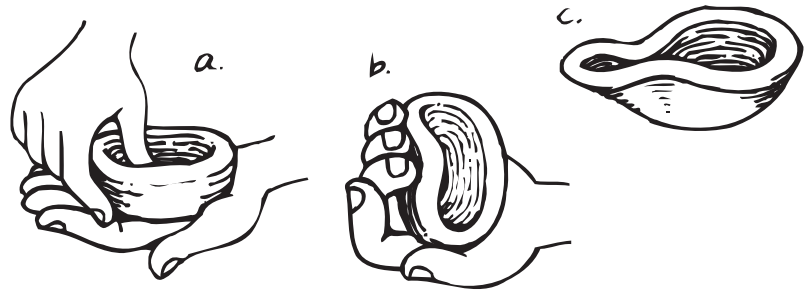
Bibles, air-drying or self-hardening clay, pencils.

Do

1. **In Bible times, there was no electricity. There weren't even any flashlights! People used specially shaped clay pots as oil lamps. Usually these lamps were very small. People carried them in the palms of their hands. Let's make some lamps like the ones people in Bible times would have used.**

2. Give each child a fist-sized lump of clay. Each child kneads clay to soften it and then forms a ball. Child presses thumb into center of clay ball. Leaving thumb in clay, child uses other fingers to pull clay up to form a circular pot (see sketch a). Holding pot in palm of hand, child gently squeezes sides of pot together at one end to form lamp (see sketches b and c).

3. Children use pencils to etch designs in the sides of their lamps. Children take clay lamps home and allow them to dry in the sun for several days.



God's Word

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

PSALM 100:5

For Younger Children:

"The Lord is good."

God's Word & Me

Because Jesus is our friend, we can talk to Him about everything.

Talk About

- ◆ **How would you describe God's love and friendship? How is His love described in Psalm 100:5?** Read verse aloud.
- ◆ **Why are you glad that Jesus is your friend?** Tell your own answer before asking children to respond.
- ◆ **How is Jesus like your friends? How is Jesus' friendship different from friendship with other people?**
- ◆ **What can you do this week to get to know your friend Jesus more? What will you talk to Him about?**

For Younger Children

Children use clay to make objects of their own choosing. Talk with children about Jesus' love and care as they play with clay.

Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247, 249), paper, marker, two chairs.

Prepare

On separate sheets of paper, print phrases from Psalm 100:5 ("The Lord is good," "his love endures forever").

Team Game

Divide group into two or more teams. Invite two volunteers from each team to come to the front of the room and stand back-to-back, linking their elbows. Another child from the team stands several feet away from the linked pair. Place a paper with a phrase from Psalm 100:5 printed on it on the floor near each pair. At your signal, pairs attempt to sit down together to pick up paper and then stand up again and give paper to the other child on their team. That child reads the phrase to his or her team. Team repeats the phrase together. If time permits, repeat with new volunteers.

Bible Verse Game

Children remain in teams. Place two chairs on one side of an open area. Six to eight volunteers from each team line up opposite chairs on other side of the open area. First child from each line runs to chair, sits in chair and says first word of Psalm 100:5 and then runs back to tag next player. Game continues until the entire verse is said. **Who is "the Lord" in this verse?** (Jesus.) **It is good to know that Jesus is good and that His love and faithfulness last forever!**

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "My True Friend" and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

Why are you glad Jesus is your friend? Tell children some reasons you're glad Jesus is your friend. **What do you want to talk to Jesus about?** Children tell prayer requests and items for which they want to thank Jesus. Invite volunteers to pray. Close the prayer time by thanking Jesus for always listening to our prayers and understanding our feelings.

Song

Play "The Gift." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.

God's Word

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

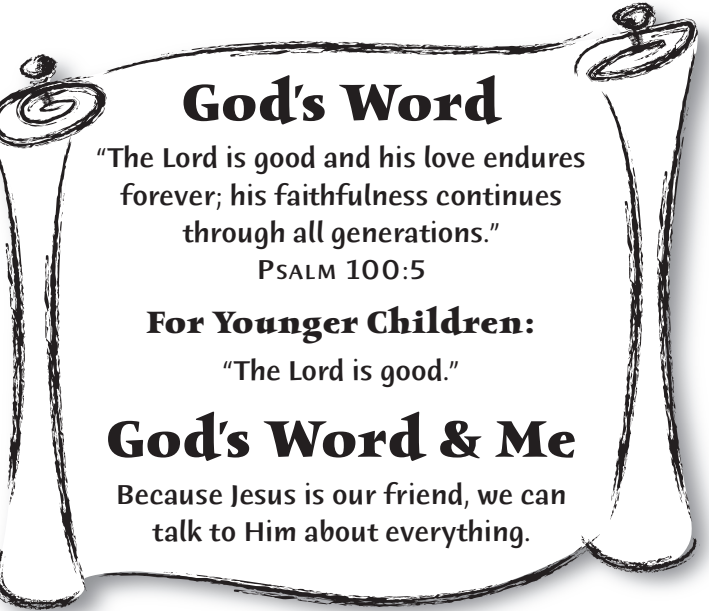
PSALM 100:5

For Younger Children:

"The Lord is good."

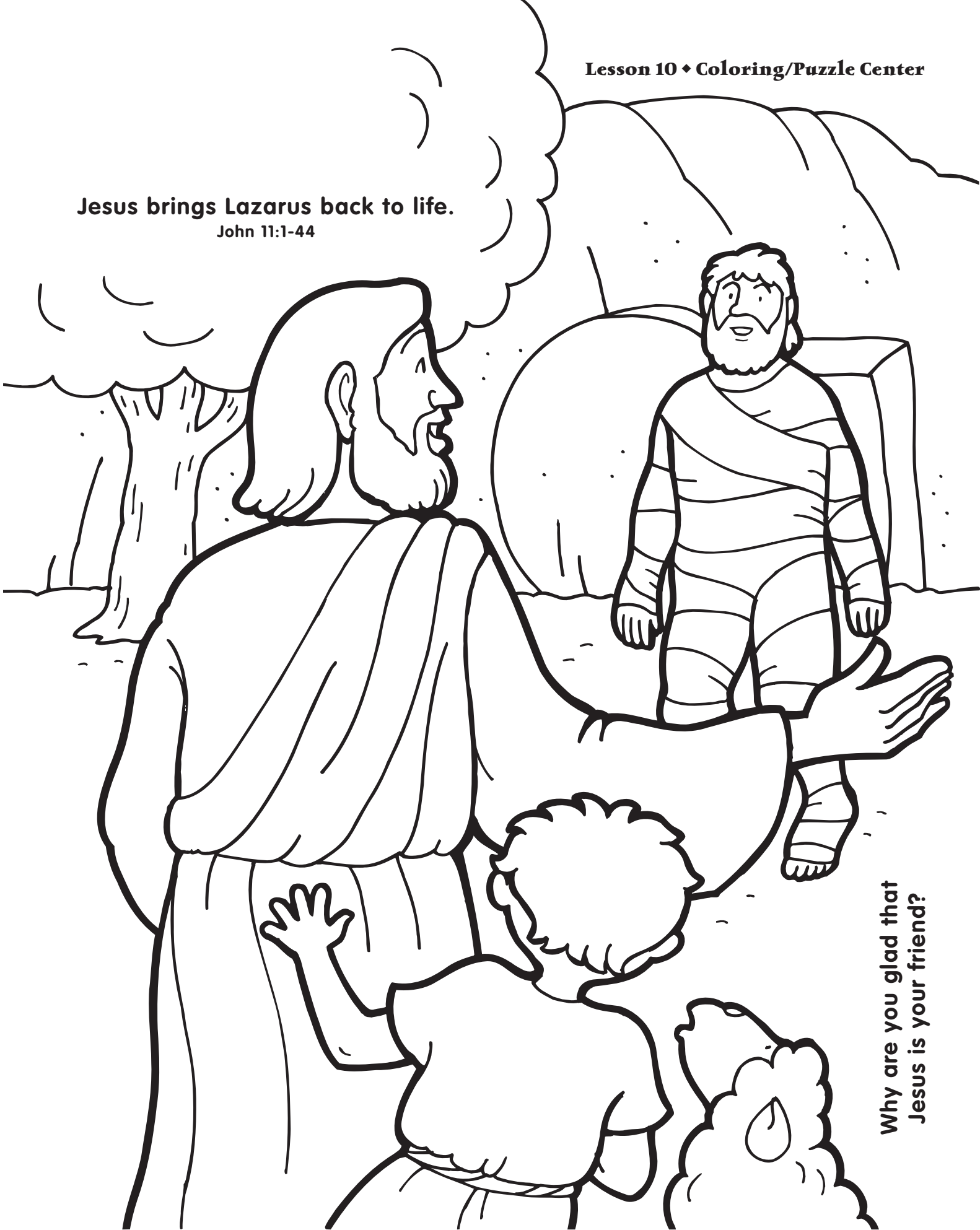
God's Word & Me

Because Jesus is our friend, we can talk to Him about everything.



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Jesus brings Lazarus back to life.
John 11:1-44



Why are you glad that
Jesus is your friend?

Puzzling Problem



Read the clues and write the answers in the boxes to find something we all have.



1.

First letter of what you need to write.



2.

First letter of what came out of the sky and ruined the picnic.



3.

First letter of what you say when you stub your toe.

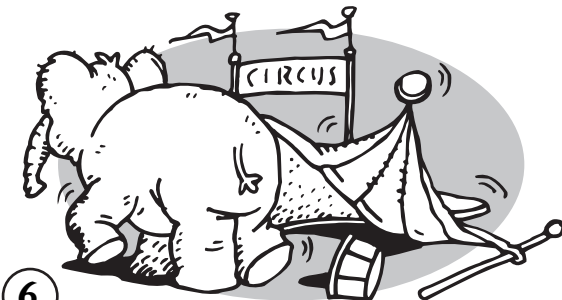


4.

Letter that sounds like an insect that stings.

5.

First letter of where you would go to rent a boat.



6.

First letter of the animal that made a big mess at the circus.



7.

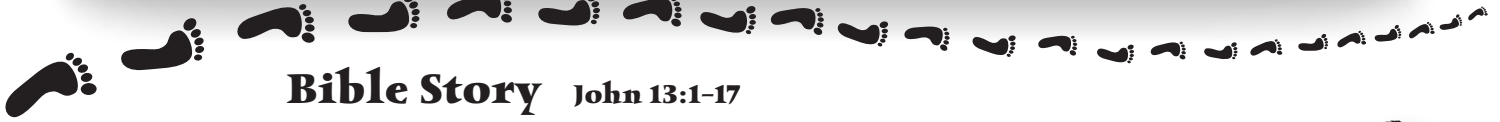
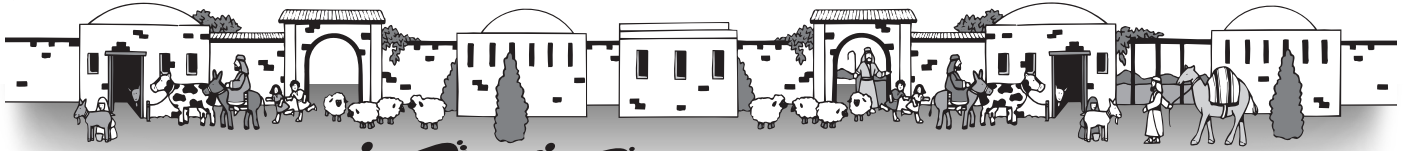
First letter of wet dirt that gets on your shoes and all over the floor.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	S
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

What are some problems kids your age have?

What problem did Mary and Martha have in today's Bible story? What did they do about their problem? What problems can you talk to Jesus about?

Jerusalem: Week Changes World

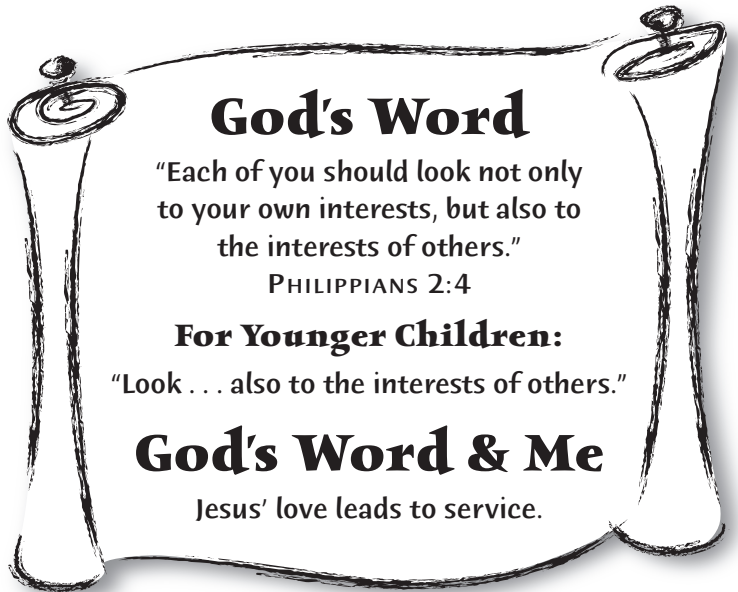


Bible Story John 13:1-17

Teacher's Devotional

Jerusalem! No city in the world is more central in its significance, more turbulent in its history or more glorious in its future. Set on a south-facing promontory, dazzling white as the sun hits its stonework, Jerusalem is a magnet for terrorists and tourists alike. To us, Jerusalem represents everything God has promised through the ages: Jerusalem was the center of ancient Israel's worship once the Temple was built there; it is the place where Jesus brought all of redemption together; and the prophets declare it will again be the center of all celebration when Christ reigns there.

But truly, Jerusalem is dearest to us because of what Jesus did there. Here, He entered on a donkey, an act which declared He had come to be the king of peace ("Jerusalem" means "possession of peace"). Here, He washed His disciples' feet, tenderly serving even the one who would betray Him to death. Here, He offered Himself to Roman slaughter, allowing torture and humiliation



God's Word

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

For Younger Children:

"Look . . . also to the interests of others."

God's Word & Me

Jesus' love leads to service.

beyond our comprehension, so that He might die as the prophets had declared He would and take away the penalty of sin for all who trust in Him. And here in Jerusalem, He conquered death, declaring by rising again that death was no longer the fearful master; He is now Lord of all. Indeed, that Passover week changed Jerusalem and the world forever! Ask God to deepen your awareness of all Jesus has done and to help you effectively share that awareness with your students, so that He, the Peace of Jerusalem, may become Prince of Peace in the life of each student as well!

Planning Page

Lesson 11
John 13:1-17

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Jerusalem: Week Changes World • John 13:1-17

Younger Child Option

Experience foot washing

Older Child Option

Decode symbols to discover a message about Jesus' love

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a ball-rolling game to talk about ways to help others

Materials

Bible, ball

Older Child Option

Play a relay game, passing a ball down a line to tell ways to serve others in different situations

Materials

Bible, masking tape, chairs, two playground balls or volleyballs

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 246, 248), balloon

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Create crayon rubbings of heart shapes and talk about Jesus' love for us and to others

Materials

Bible; a variety of heart shapes cut from paper, cardboard, craft foam or other material; white construction paper; crayons

Older Child Option

Make Bible-times sandals and talk about helping to meet the needs of others

Materials

Bible, cardboard, measuring stick, scissors, brown felt, black markers, craft knife, 3 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (1.9-cm) brown ribbon or bias tape for each child, glue

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 11 Coloring Page (p. 197) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 11 Puzzle Page (p. 198) for each student, pencils

Bonus Theme Ideas



Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Jerusalem

On large sheets of paper print the following names, one name on each paper: "Beautiful Gate," "Fish Gate," "Fountain Gate," "Horse Gate," "King's Gate" and "Sheep Gate." **What kind of a place do you think would have gates with these names? The city we are visiting today on our tour of the places Jesus visited had gates with these names. The name of this city is Jerusalem. Jerusalem was surrounded by a large wall, just like most cities in Bible times. The gates were used for different reasons. Who do you think mainly used the Fish Gate?** (Fishermen and fish sellers.) **The Fountain Gate?** (People coming to get water.) Children tell who they think used each gate. Divide class into six groups and assign a paper to each group. Groups draw what they think their gate would look like. (Optional: Children draw stone walls on additional papers.) Tape completed papers on classroom walls.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Haroset

Haroset is served as part of Passover, an important Jewish holiday that Jesus celebrated with His friends. Passover is still celebrated today.

- Children core and chop three or four large apples into very small pieces.
- Children mix apples with 1 cup chopped walnuts (or almonds), 1 tablespoon honey, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup grape juice. Children spread mixture on matzos or other crackers to eat.



Invite people from your church or community with skills in various jobs people did in Bible times to visit your class (potter, weaver, spinner, carpenter, baker, etc.). Guests demonstrate their skills and, if possible, allow children to examine tools or do simple projects with the guests.



Job Skills



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

When have you been to a special party or celebration? What did you do to get ready for the party? Jesus and His friends had a special party in the city of Jerusalem.

Tell the Story

Jesus said it was time to get ready for the Passover. The Passover was a very special dinner that helped Jesus and His friends remember God's love for them! Peter and John went to buy food and prepare for the dinner. They made sure the room was clean. They made sure the food was ready to eat.

When everything was ready, Jesus and His friends walked up, up, up the stairs to the room Peter and John had prepared.

Jesus' friends were glad to come to the dinner! But their feet were dirty. They needed to be washed! No one wanted to wash other people's feet. That was a job for a servant!

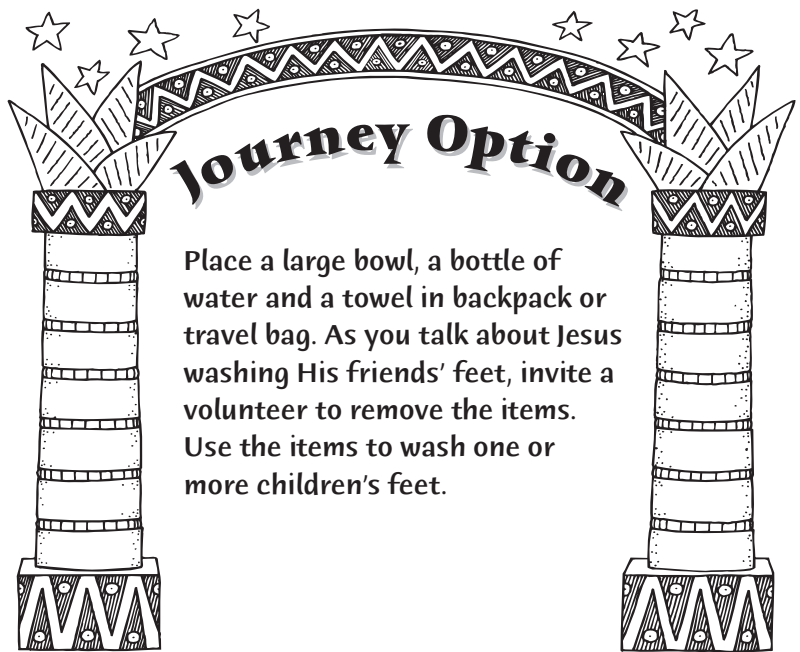
Jesus waited until the food was on the table. Then Jesus got up and wrapped a towel around His waist. Jesus poured water into a large bowl and began to wash His friends' feet.

Peter felt embarrassed. Peter knew that he should have offered to wash Jesus' feet. But Jesus told Peter that he needed Jesus to wash his feet for him.

"Follow My example," Jesus said. He wanted them to show love and help each other, even with things they didn't like doing.

God's Word & Me

Jesus helped His friends and showed love to them. Jesus wants us to follow His example. He wants us to help others, too! The Bible says, "Look also to the interests of others." When we help others, we are showing Jesus' love to them. Pray with children, asking Jesus' help in showing His love to others.



Place a large bowl, a bottle of water and a towel in backpack or travel bag. As you talk about Jesus washing His friends' feet, invite a volunteer to remove the items. Use the items to wash one or more children's feet.



Collect

Bible, instant camera.

Introduction

What kinds of chores do kids your age try to avoid? Volunteers tell ideas. **Today we're going to find out about a chore people in Bible times often had to do—even in the big city of Jerusalem.** (After you tell each section of the story, assign characters to different volunteers. Volunteers pose, illustrating the action of that section of the story. Use an instant camera to photograph children posing. Display photographs in story order.)

Tell the Story

People came to visit Jerusalem for many different reasons. Several times a year people came from all over Israel to worship God at the Temple.

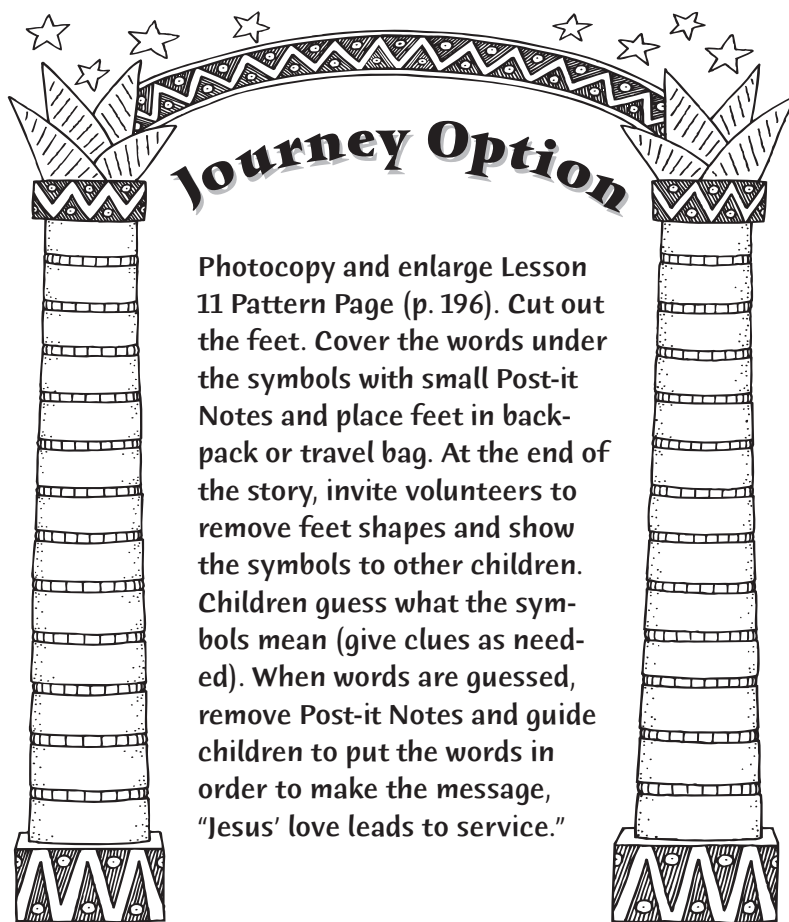
People also came to see the chariot races in the sports stadium that one of the Roman rulers had built. In our story today, Jerusalem was particularly busy because people from all over had come to celebrate Passover, a time of remembering the day the Hebrew people escaped from slavery in Egypt.

What do you remember about Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? (Crowds of people welcomed Him, but the religious leaders made plans to kill Him.) Just a few days later, Jesus was looking forward to celebrating the Passover dinner with His disciples. He asked Peter and John to go ahead and prepare for the dinner.

Peter and John gathered what was needed for the Passover and began to prepare for the meal. When everything was ready, they joined the others and guided them to the room. All the disciples must have been glad to come to the dinner. They wanted to be with Jesus away from the crowds and hear what He had to say. No one wanted to miss out on anything.

Now the streets were often messy in those days because animals traveled the same roads as people. The roads could be muddy, too. And when they weren't muddy, they were dusty! People wore shoes that were a type of sandal—a thin bottom with straps to hold the shoe on. Everyone who walked on the roads got their feet quite dirty, no matter how much they tried to stay clean!

Usually, a servant washed people's feet as they arrived from walking in the street. But at this dinner, there was no servant. And Peter must have noticed as they walked into the room that no one offered to wash the feet of the others. Peter knew that they all had dirty feet and needed their feet washed. But one disciple after another walked past the bowl of water and towel that was ready for foot washing.



Photocopy and enlarge Lesson 11 Pattern Page (p. 196). Cut out the feet. Cover the words under the symbols with small Post-it Notes and place feet in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the story, invite volunteers to remove feet shapes and show the symbols to other children. Children guess what the symbols mean (give clues as needed). When words are guessed, remove Post-it Notes and guide children to put the words in order to make the message, "Jesus' love leads to service."



No one wants to get stuck with the job, Peter may have thought. Well, I don't either! Not tonight. Gradually, they all took their places around the table.

But Jesus was different! Jesus stood up and took off his outer robe, as a servant would before performing some task. Then Jesus wrapped the towel around His waist and began to wash the disciples' feet. **How do you think the disciples felt about the way in which Jesus served them?**

The room became completely silent as each one's feet were washed and dried. Peter was getting more and more uncomfortable as Jesus approached Him. *This can't be right, Peter thought. I won't let Jesus wash my feet. I won't!* **Why do you think Peter felt this way?**

Jesus said to Peter, "You don't understand why I'm doing this right now. But later you will understand." So Peter let Jesus wash his feet.

When He finished washing their feet, Jesus asked, "Do you understand what I have done?" **What would you have answered Jesus?** Jesus explained that He wanted His disciples to know how very important it was to love and serve others. Even a person with a very important position was to be willing to love and serve others. Jesus wanted His disciples to follow His example in the way they treated other people.

In the next few days, how else did Jesus show His willingness to love and serve others? What happened in Jerusalem the rest of that week? (Briefly tell or let students tell that Jesus allowed people to arrest Him and sentence Him to death even though He had done nothing wrong. Jesus died by being crucified on a cross.) Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for the wrong things we have done. He loves us so much that He was willing to die for us so we could have the opportunity to be forgiven. But the story of Jesus' love doesn't end there. After three days, God used His power to raise Jesus from the dead! Because Jesus is alive today, He can help us show His love to others.

God's Word & Me

You've probably heard since you were little that you should be kind to others and help them. Even though the idea of showing Jesus' love by serving others is not new to you, every day you can discover new ways to obey this important command. The very first followers of Jesus were known for the way in which they cared for each other and for others around them. As Jesus' followers today, our acts of serving others can help people see Jesus' love.

- ◆ **What did Jesus do to put others first and meet others' needs instead of His own?** (He washed His disciples' feet when no one else was willing to.) **What has Jesus done for each of us?** (He died on the cross to pay for our sins and then He came back to life. He made it possible for us to live forever with Him.)
- ◆ Read Philippians 2:4. **What does this verse say we should do? What does it mean to "look to the interests of others"?** (Notice what other people are feeling. Help others get what they need instead of just getting what you need. Think about others first.)
- ◆ **What can you do this week to help and serve others? Let's ask Jesus for help in showing His love to others.** Children pray silently for a moment. Close by praying, **Dear Jesus, thank You for the love that You show to us. Please help us to show Your love by helping others this week. Amen.**

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, ball.

Do

What are some ways we can help other people? When you catch the ball, tell me a way to help someone at your house. Sit with children in a circle. Roll ball to a child in the circle. Child tells a way he or she can help at home and then rolls ball back to you. Repeat with other children. (Note: Help very young children express ways they can help others by saying, “[Joey] can help his mom by . . .” and then pausing for the child to complete the sentence. As needed, invite children to repeat after you ways they can help [“pick up my toys,” “listen to my grandma,” etc.].) Continue game as time and interest allow, naming other places children can help others (playground, church, in the car, etc.).

Talk About

- ◆ **Nikki, when have you helped your mom? When can you help your friend Ryan?**
- ◆ **Jesus loves us and helps us. He wants us to help other people, too. Our Bible says, “Look . . . also to the interests of others.”**
- ◆ **Thank you, Kelsey. You helped Morgan by getting the ball for her.**

For Older Children

Children stand in a circle with their legs apart. Give ball to one child. Child tells a way to serve someone at home and then quickly attempts to roll the ball through the legs of a child standing in the circle. If child catches ball before it rolls out of the circle, he or she tells another way to serve others and quickly rolls ball. If child does not catch the ball in time, he or she retrieves ball and gives it to the child on his or her right. Continue game as time and interest permit, challenging children to tell ways to serve others in different places they go (school, park, shopping mall, amusement park, etc.).

God's Word

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

For Younger Children:

“Look . . . also to the interests of others.”

God's Word & Me

Jesus' love leads to service.



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 11
John 13:1-17



Collect

Bibles, masking tape, chairs, two playground balls or volleyballs.

Prepare

Make masking-tape start and finish lines at least 10 feet (3 m) apart on the floor of your classroom.

Do

1. Divide group into two teams. Children place chairs facing each other in two rows between start line and finish line, setting up several more chairs in each row than children on the team. Children sit in chairs nearest the start line with legs stretched out in front so their feet touch each other (see sketches).

2. Place a ball on the shins of the first child in each row. At your signal, children begin passing the balls to the next children in the rows without using their hands. If a ball falls, the person who dropped the ball picks it up, places it on his or her shins again and attempts to pass it on. As each child passes the ball, he or she moves to the empty chair next to the last child to continue passing the ball toward the finish line.

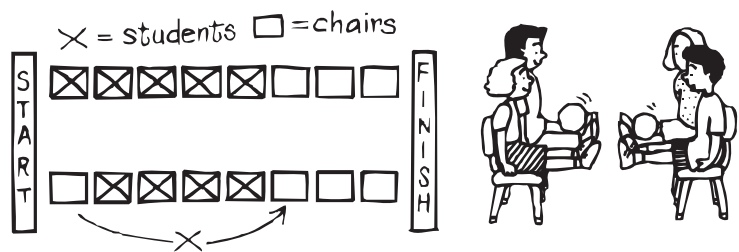
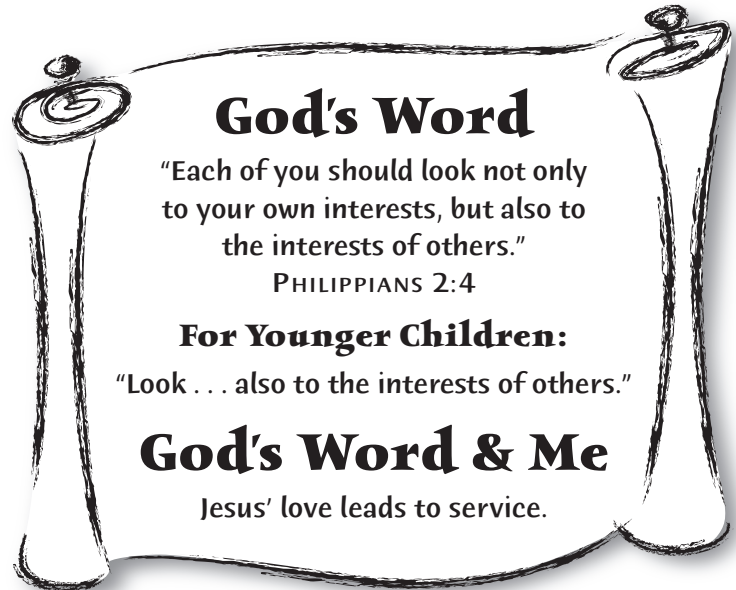
3. First team to get its ball to the finish line tells a situation in which someone has a need. Other team tells a way a kid their age could show Jesus' love by serving someone in that situation. Repeat activity as time permits.

Talk About

- ◆ Read Philippians 2:4. **What are some things your friends might need help with? How could you obey Philippians 2:4 and care about your friends' interests?**
- ◆ **Why might we not want to think about the needs or concerns of others?**
- ◆ **Who is someone you can serve and help this week?**

For Younger Children

To simplify this game, children pass the ball down the line with their hands instead of their feet. First team to finish tells names of people they can help.



Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible; a variety of heart shapes cut from paper, cardboard, craft foam or other material; white construction paper; crayons.

Do

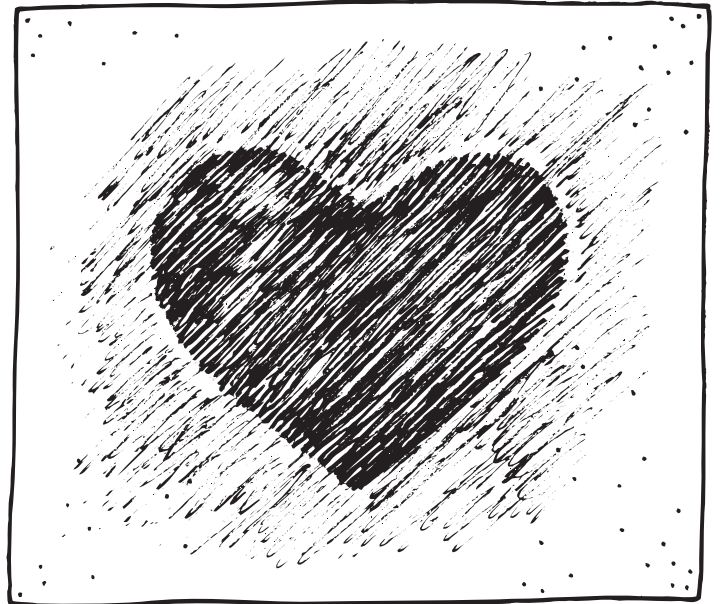
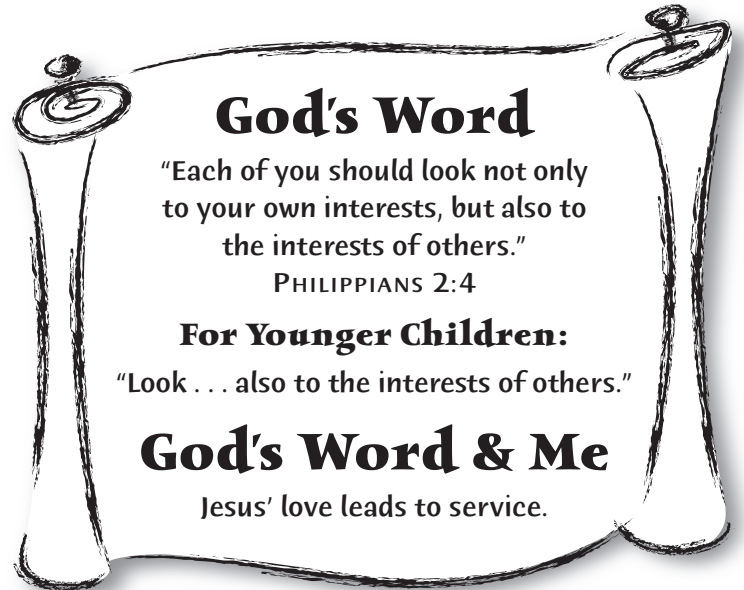
1. Place several heart shapes under a sheet of construction paper and use the side of a crayon to gently color over the paper. **What do you see on my paper? Hearts remind me of Jesus' love for us. You can make some heart papers to remind you of Jesus' love, too.**
2. Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Children place heart shapes under paper and use crayons to color over pages. Encourage children to rearrange hearts as desired and use different colors to make unique designs.

Talk About

- ◆ **I'm glad that Jesus loves me and you! Because Jesus loves us, we can love and help other people.**
- ◆ **Penni, who can you help at your house? Who can you help at church? It is good to help others. The Bible tells us to help others. Hold open Bible. The Bible says, "Look . . . also to the interests of others."**
- ◆ **Lily, who helped you this morning at your house? What did your (brother) help you do?**

For Older Children

Children use markers to print Philippians 2:4 on construction paper. Then children make crayon rubbings on the construction paper to create their own designs.





Collect

Bibles, cardboard, measuring stick, scissors, brown felt, black markers, craft knife, 3 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (1.9-cm) brown ribbon or bias tape for each child, glue.

Prepare

Cut cardboard into 10-inch (25-cm) squares—one for each child. Cut felt into 10-inch (25-cm) squares—one for each child. Cut ribbon or tape into 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -yard (1.35-m) lengths—two for each child. Make a sample sandal.

Do

1. Show sample sandal. **How does this sandal remind you of today's Bible story? How did Jesus show love by serving His disciples in our story today? Let's make some sandals to help us remember the way Jesus served His disciples by washing their feet.**

2. Distribute cardboard squares, markers and scissors to children. Children trace around shoes onto cardboard squares and cut out.

3. Cut six slits in each shoe with a craft knife as shown (sketch a). Slits should be $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (1.9-cm) long and at least $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (.6-cm) from edge of cardboard.

4. Beginning at toes, children thread ribbon or tape from under cardboard through slits (see sketch b). Children complete lacing of both sandals as shown (sketches c and d).

5. Children trace cardboard shoe shapes onto felt and cut out felt shapes. Children glue felt to cardboard to make sandal soles (see sketch e).

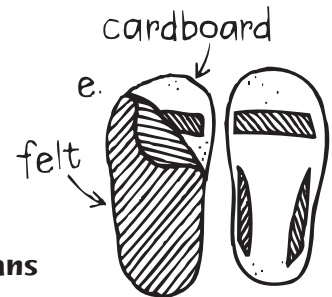
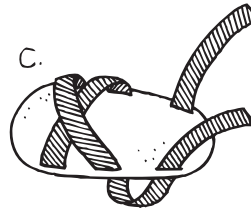
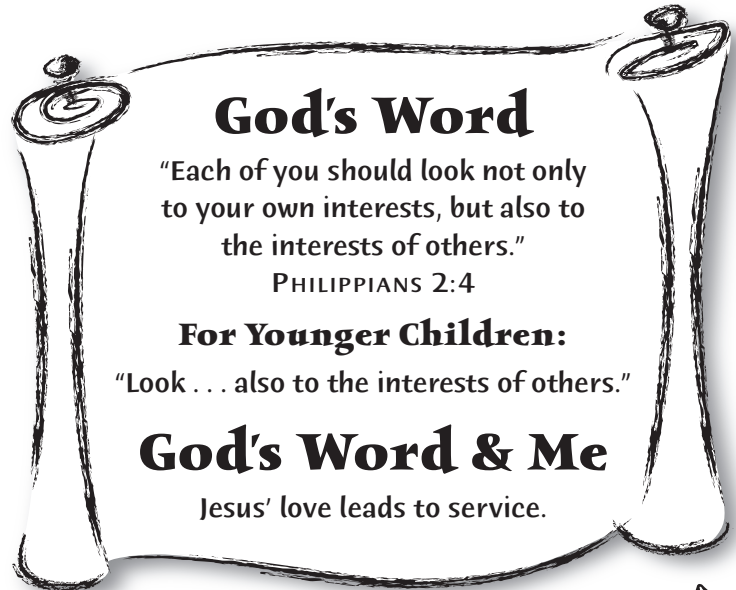
Talk About

♦ **What are some things that kids your age worry about? What does Philippians 2:4 tell us to do when a friend is worried or needs help?** Read verse aloud.

♦ **How can you help a friend with his or her worries or needs? How can you help meet the needs of someone older than you? Younger than you? Same age as you?**

For Younger Children

Instead of leading children in making complete Bible-times sandals, prepare only the lengths of brown ribbon or bias tape for each child. Children wrap ribbon around their shoes and ankles as though they are lacing sandals on their feet (see sketches c and d).



Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 246, 248), balloon.

Team Game

Toss a balloon into the air. Children work together to keep the balloon in the air. Every five to ten seconds, call out descriptions of people who may touch the balloon (everyone who is wearing shoelaces, boys wearing red, anyone with short hair, all the girls, everyone with a sister, etc.). Children who do not fit the description remain still, while other children continue tapping the balloon to keep it in the air. To end the game, call out a description that only applies to you or another adult leader.

Bible Verse Game

Children stand in rows. First two children in the row say the first word of Philippians 2:4 in unison and then sit down. Next two children in the row quickly say the second word of the verse and then sit down. Game continues with each pair of children saying the next word of the verse and then sitting down. Continue until each pair has had a turn. Repeat, giving new instructions each round. (Say words of the verse in slow motion. Give a high-five as you say a word of the verse before sitting down. Call out words holding hands to mouth like a megaphone.) (Optional: Display words of the verse for children to refer to in the first few rounds of the game.)

Song

Jesus showed His love in many ways. Let's sing about some of the ways Jesus showed love while He lived on Earth. You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Jesus' Love" and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

Because Jesus loves us, we can show His love to others. Divide class into two groups. Groups take turns either naming a category of people (grandparents, teacher, neighbors) or ways of serving people in one of the categories. After several minutes, invite children to each think of one person he or she can serve. Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus' help in showing His love by serving others.

Song

Play "All Men Will Know." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.

God's Word

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

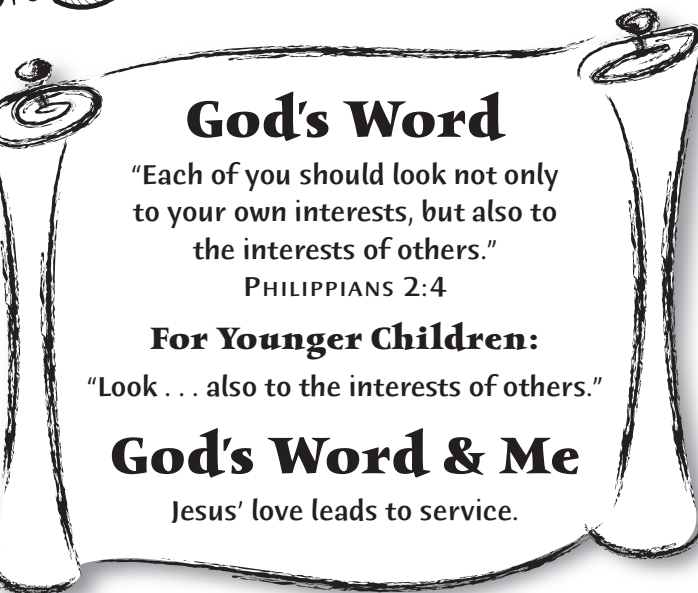
PHILIPPIANS 2:4

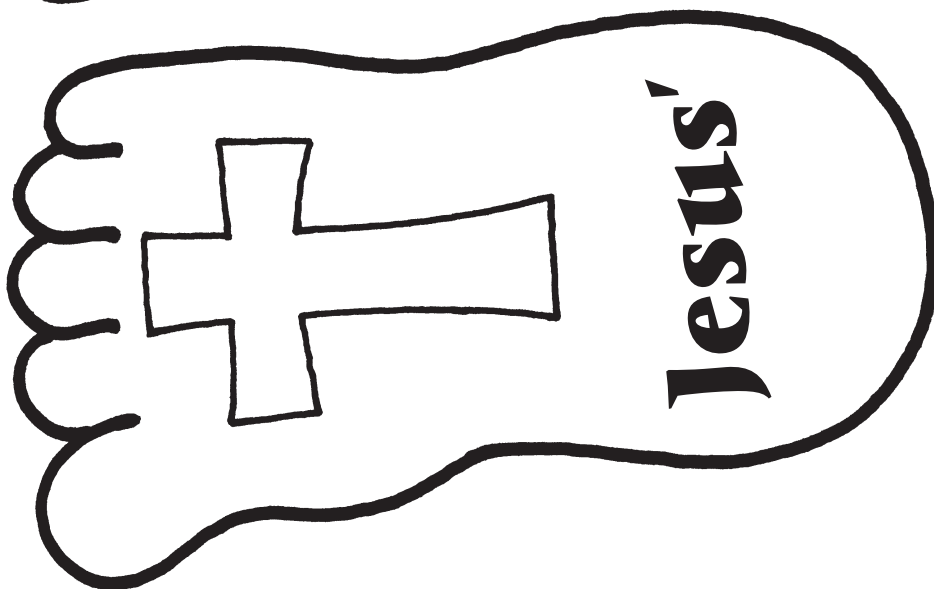
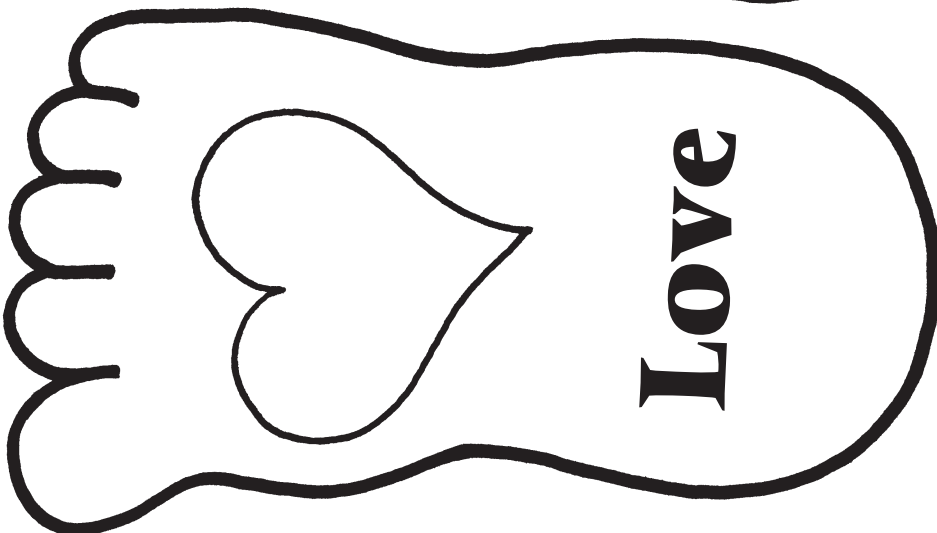
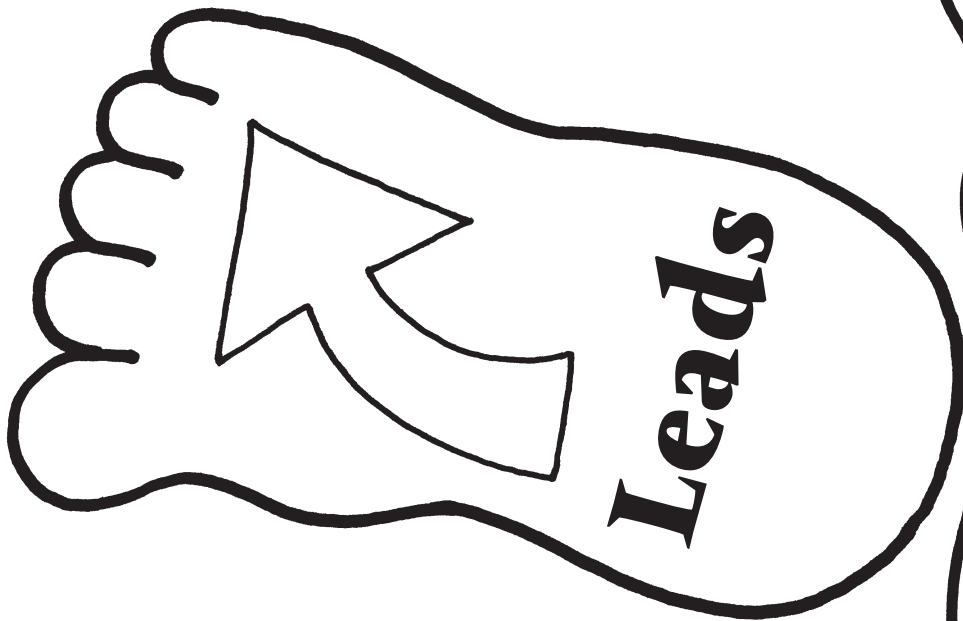
For Younger Children:

"Look . . . also to the interests of others."

God's Word & Me

Jesus' love leads to service.





Jesus washes His friends' feet.

John 13:1-17



Who can you help?

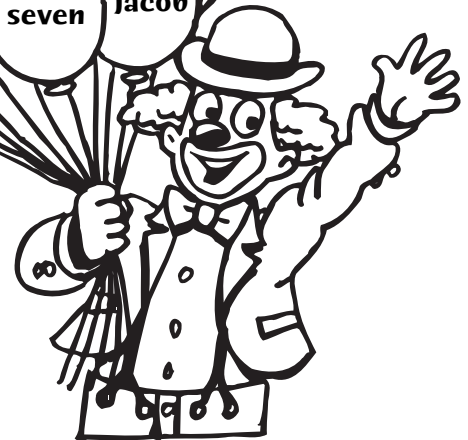
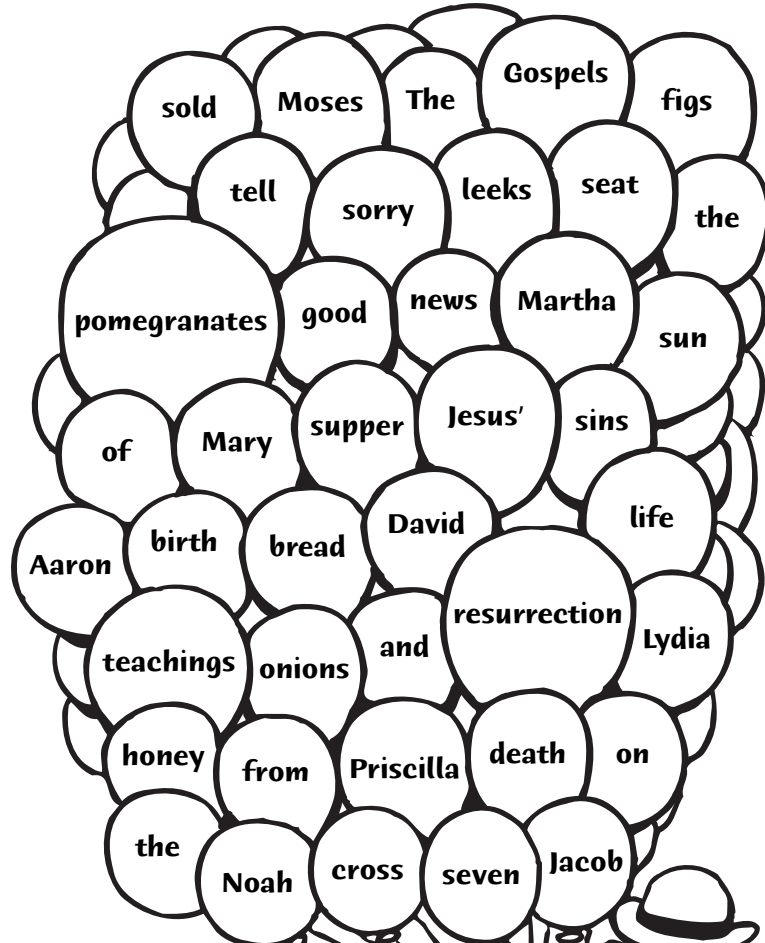
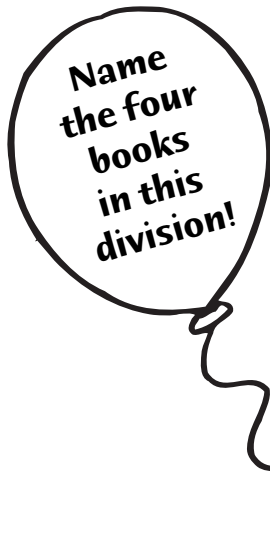
Balloon Pop



If you follow the directions below, you'll find out what the first division of New Testament books tell

Use an X to pop all balloons with

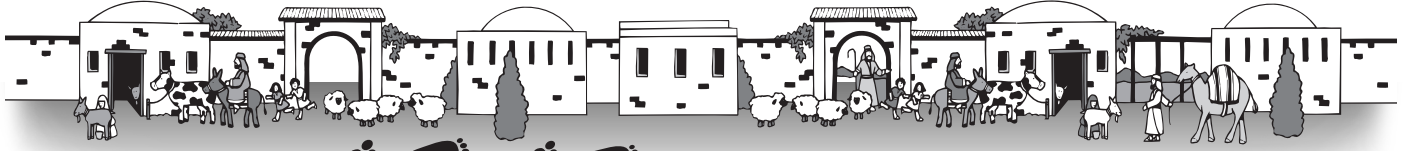
1. names of men from the Old Testament;
2. words beginning with S;
3. names of women from the New Testament;
4. names of foods eaten in Bible times.



Write the remaining words in order on the blank lines.

How did Jesus show His love for us?

Jerusalem: Seeing Is Believing



Bible Story John 20:19-31

Teacher's Devotional

Jerusalem means “foundation of peace” or “possession of peace.” But to those tense disciples waiting there after Jesus’ death, Jerusalem was not a possession of peace—it was a hotbed of insecurity! They had fled; they had feared; the worst had happened. How could they ever know peace again?

But Jesus rose! He appeared to His beloved ones and peace came to them in a new and overwhelming way! However, when He appeared, Thomas wasn’t there. Whether Thomas was still hiding in fear or had given up and gone home, peace was not yet in his possession. The word of the others wasn’t enough for him; instead, he declared that he would believe only when he placed his hand on Jesus’ side and nailprints.

Nothing less would do! As a result, he spent a week of gut-wrenching uncertainty! But Jesus did mercifully appear again, inviting Thomas to touch, to see, to do what he needed to fully trust Jesus and find peace.



We are often like Thomas! Spiritually, peace is truly our possession; but we can choose not to take hold of that peace and rest in God. If we choose not to trust, we then live with the insecurity and uncertainty that follow our decision! As we prepare to teach this week, let’s ask God to show us areas of our lives where we do not possess peace within. Then let’s give those areas to Him and invite Him to take away those insecurities and uncertainties, so we can rest in Him!

God's Word

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

JOHN 20:31

For Younger Children:

“Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God.”

God's Word & Me

Jesus wants us to believe in Him!

Planning Page

Lesson 12
John 20:19-31

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Jerusalem: Seeing Is Believing • John 20:19-31

Younger Child Option

Move figures of story characters to show story action

Older Child Option

Fill in missing letters to discover a message

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Make texture collages and talk about who Jesus is

Materials

Bible, a variety of textured materials, scissors, paper plates, glue sticks

Older Child Option

Make Bible-times headbands and talk about believing in Jesus

Materials

Bible, plastic drinking straws, measuring stick, scissors, string, thin yarn or plastic lacing, transparent tape

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a game to identify objects and talk about believing in Jesus

Materials

Bible, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, paper bag, a variety of objects

Older Child Option

Play game similar to Dreidel to discuss beliefs about Jesus

Materials

Bible, small slips of paper, marker, small paper bags, small objects to use as game markers

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 12 Coloring Page (p. 211) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 12 Puzzle Page (p. 212) for each student, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247-248), large bath towels or beach towels, large sheet of paper, marker

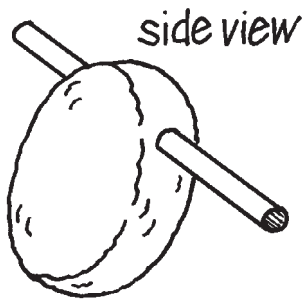
Bonus Theme Ideas

Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Jerusalem

Cut leather lacing into 2-foot (60-cm) lengths, one for each student. **What are some symbols or pictures that stand for peace?** (Dove. Two fingers held in V shape.) **The name of the city we are visiting today means "possession of peace." It is the same city we visited last class. What is the city's name?** Students locate Jerusalem on map (p. 237). Give each student



a fist-sized lump of air-drying clay. Student rounds it into a ball, flattens to ½-inch (1.25-cm) thickness for a medallion and uses a straw to make a hole through the top of the medallion (see sketch). Students thread leather lacing through hole. With sharp pencils, students draw letters or symbols on the medallion to remind them of Jerusalem and God's peace. Students take home medallions on paper plates and let dry in sun.

Cinnamon Spread

In a mixing bowl, children mix ½ pound of softened cream cheese with 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon and 1 teaspoon honey until smooth. Children spread mixture on melba toast or crackers and serve on paper plates.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.



Two teams of children play a relay game. Give first player on each team a plastic gallon milk jug (with top cut off). Players dip jug into "well" (large bucket of water) and then hold jug on their heads and race from "well" to team's "house" (an empty bucket) and back. After each child has had a turn to collect a jug of water, compare the amount of water in the "house" buckets to determine the winner.



Water-Jug Relay



for younger children



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

When have you been sad? Who helped you feel better? Listen to our Bible story to hear how Jesus helped His friend Thomas when Thomas was sad.

Tell the Story

One night some of Jesus' friends were eating together in a house. They were very sad. Their friend Jesus had been killed three days ago. They knew Jesus' body was not in the tomb. People said they had seen Jesus and that He was alive! But some of them were having a hard time believing that Jesus was really alive. Then Jesus came into the room. Jesus' friends were surprised and a little afraid.

Jesus must have smiled at them. "Why are you afraid?" Jesus asked. Jesus held out His hands, so His friends could see the hurt places on them. Jesus asked for something to eat. Then the friends knew He was really alive and they were not afraid anymore.

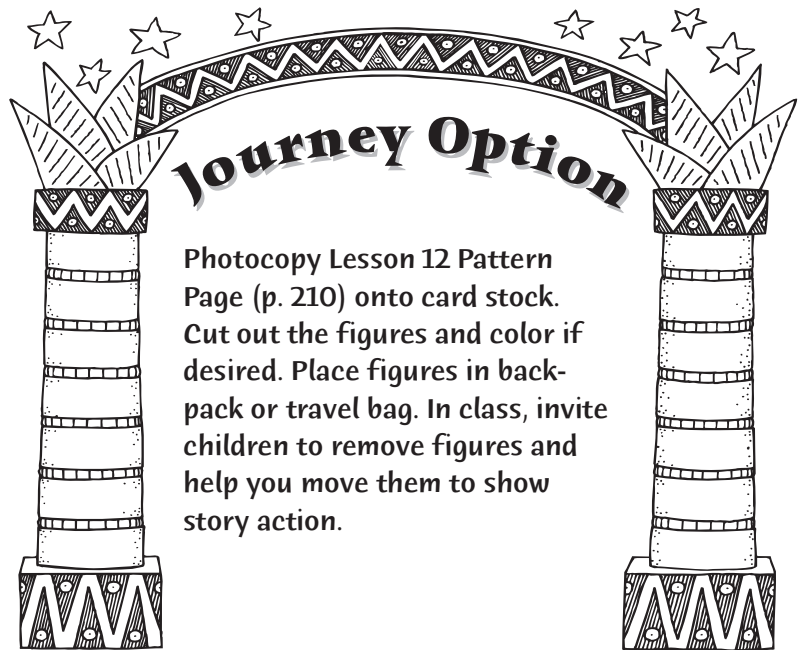
But Jesus' friend named Thomas was not there when Jesus came. Later, Jesus' other friends told Thomas that Jesus was alive, but Thomas shook his head. Thomas told the friends, "I will not believe that Jesus is alive unless I see Him and touch Him."

A week later, all the friends and Thomas were together in the same house again. Suddenly, Jesus came into the room, just as He had done before. Jesus knew that Thomas still didn't believe He was really alive. "Thomas," Jesus said, "Look at My hands. Touch them. I want you to know that I am alive."

Thomas loved Jesus. He looked at Jesus and said, "My Lord and my God!" Now Thomas knew for sure that Jesus is alive. And he was very glad!

God's Word & Me

How did Thomas feel when he saw Jesus alive? (Very glad.) Jesus wants us to know that He is alive and that He is God's Son. Our Bible tells us, "Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God." Knowing that Jesus is alive makes us glad! Pray, Dear Jesus, we are glad that You are the Son of God. We are glad that You are alive. Amen.



Photocopy Lesson 12 Pattern Page (p. 210) onto card stock. Cut out the figures and color if desired. Place figures in backpack or travel bag. In class, invite children to remove figures and help you move them to show story action.



Collect

Bible, Bible-times costume.

Introduction

What nickname would you like to have?

Volunteers tell ideas. **The city we're visiting today has a nickname: Jerusalem is sometimes called the city of David. Why is it called that?** (David, one of Israel's most famous kings, made Jerusalem the capital of Israel.)

Today in our Bible story we're going to hear about a man who was given a nickname because of something he did in Jerusalem. Listen to find out what his nickname was. (Invite a man in your church to wear a Bible-times costume and tell the story as if he were Thomas. After the story, volunteers interview Thomas, asking the following questions:

"Why had you chosen to follow Jesus and become one of His disciples?" "Why was it so hard to believe Jesus had come back to life?"

"How has your life changed because Jesus came back to life?" "What do you believe about Jesus? Why?")

Tell the Story

We don't really know what Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, did in the days right after Jesus died on the cross. But we know he must have been REALLY upset about the events that had taken place a few days before. And he was VERY confused. He had followed Jesus as a disciple for three years. They were the best three years of his life.

What had happened to make Thomas so upset and sad?

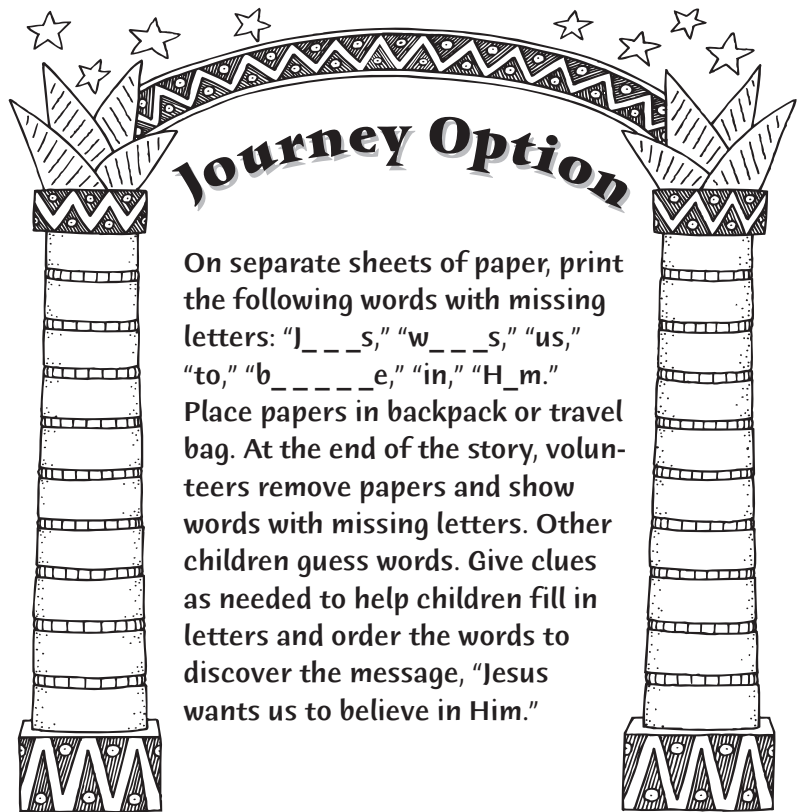
Jesus, Thomas' best friend and his teacher, had been crucified and was dead! But a few days later Thomas heard amazing news. Maybe he heard the running footsteps and shouting of Mary, another of Jesus' friends.

"He's gone! Jesus' body is gone!" she yelled as she ran into the house where the disciples were staying. Moments later Peter, John and Mary came racing out of the house back toward the place where Jesus had been buried.

No! Thomas probably wanted to scream. *Jesus' enemies can't even leave His body alone. I bet they've taken Him somewhere just to make sure we can't properly mourn Him.*

It was dark before Thomas returned to where the other disciples were hiding out. They were probably hiding in the same room where they had celebrated the Passover meal with Jesus the week before. As Thomas walked in the door, all the other disciples started talking at once.

"Jesus is alive, Thomas! He's alive! We have seen Him!"



On separate sheets of paper, print the following words with missing letters: "J__s," "w__s," "us," "to," "b____e," "in," "H_m." Place papers in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the story, volunteers remove papers and show words with missing letters. Other children guess words. Give clues as needed to help children fill in letters and order the words to discover the message, "Jesus wants us to believe in Him."



Thomas looked at the eager faces of the disciples. They sure seemed to believe they'd seen Jesus, but Thomas wasn't at all sure about it. "You just thought you saw Jesus," Thomas might have said.

"Thomas, it was Him! Jesus is alive! Don't you understand?" said one disciple.

But Thomas shook his head. "Unless I see Him and touch Him, I won't believe that He's alive."

About a week later, the disciples were all gathered together again. This time they had the doors to the room bolted. The disciples were afraid the Romans might try to arrest them for being friends of Jesus. And Thomas was there, too. Thomas was suddenly aware there was another person in the room. Then he heard a familiar voice say, "Peace be with you." Imagine the look on Thomas's face when he saw Jesus standing in the room!

"Thomas," Jesus said, "come here. Stop doubting and believe." **What do you think Jesus wanted Thomas to do? What would you have done if you had been Thomas?**

There was no doubt about it; it was Jesus—alive, not dead! Thomas knelt before Jesus with his head bowed, "My Lord and my God!" he exclaimed. All of Thomas's doubts were gone. He KNEW that Jesus, God's Son, was alive! AND Thomas was ready to follow Jesus, no matter what.

"Thomas, you believe because you have seen Me," Jesus said. "Those who believe without seeing Me will be blessed." Thomas nodded his head. *How could I have ever doubted that Jesus, the Son of God, is truly alive?* he may have thought. Although Thomas did believe that Jesus was alive and served Jesus for the rest of his life, he still has the nickname "Doubting Thomas"—the disciple who wouldn't believe without seeing.

God's Word & Me

When Jesus talked about the people who would believe in Him even though they had not seen Him alive on Earth, He was talking about you and me! We haven't seen Jesus, yet we have chosen to believe He is God's Son and that He is alive today. You might think that just because your parents have chosen to believe in Jesus, that it doesn't matter what you choose to do. But it's important for each person to know what he or she believes about Jesus and then choose to follow Him by becoming a member of God's family. Talk with interested students about salvation. (See "Leading a Child to Christ" on p. 12.)

- ◆ **What does John 20:31 say is something that will help us believe in Jesus?** (God's Word tells the truth about His life on Earth and tells us everything we need to know to have a relationship with Jesus and live forever with Him.)
- ◆ **What did Jesus do to help Thomas believe in Him?** (He let Thomas see and touch Him.) **When was a time someone helped you believe in Jesus?**
- ◆ **Let's take a moment to tell Jesus what we believe about Him. You can pray silently.** Pause for children to pray silently for a few seconds. Close prayer time by thanking Jesus for loving and accepting each child in your class.

Game Center

for younger children



Collect

Bible, *Journey with Jesus* Music CD and player, paper bag, a variety of objects (small ball, hair brush, Easter egg, toy car, small stuffed animal, etc.).

Prepare

Place one of the objects in paper bag.

Do

Children sit in a circle. Play "Singing Together" as children pass bag. When music stops, child holding the bag puts hand in bag to feel item and tries to guess what the item is without looking at it. Repeat game, placing a different item in the bag for each round.

Talk About

- ◆ We can use our hands to touch things and know what they are. In our Bible story, Thomas wanted to touch Jesus' hands before he would believe that Jesus is alive.
- ◆ Jesus wants us to know that He is alive and that He is God's Son, even though we can't see Him or touch Him. Hold open Bible. Our Bible says, "Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God."
- ◆ It is good to know that Jesus is alive! He loves you and me very much. Let's thank God for Jesus. Pray briefly with children.

For Older Children

Place a variety of items in different bags. Children attempt to identify items by looking at the shape of the bags, without touching bags. After children tell guesses, invite them to guess again by touching outside of bags and then by touching items in bags. Children change their guesses as desired.

God's Word

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

JOHN 20:31

For Younger Children:

"Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God."

God's Word & Me

Jesus wants us to believe in Him!



Game Center

for older children



Lesson 12
John 20:19-31



Collect

Bibles, small slips of paper, marker, small paper bags, small objects to use as game markers (pennies, paper clips, pieces of construction paper, buttons, etc).

Prepare

Print each of the following phrases on a separate small slip of paper: "nothing," "take all," "give one," "take half." Put slips of paper into small paper bag. Make one bag for each group of two to five children.

Do

1. Divide class into groups of two to five children. Give each child an equal number of game markers (10 or more). Give each group a bag you prepared. Group forms a circle around its bag.
2. To play, each child places a game marker in the center of the group. First player in each group takes a paper from group's bag. If the paper says "nothing," player returns paper to the bag. If the paper says "take all," player takes the markers in the center and adds them to his or her pile of markers. If the paper says "take half," player takes half of the markers in the center and adds that number of markers to his or her pile. (If there is an odd number, child takes one less than half.) If the paper says "give one," player places a marker from his or her pile in the center.
3. Each child places another marker in the center. Next player takes a paper from the bag and follows the directions above. Continue with other children. After several minutes, child with the most markers in each group tells something he or she believes about Jesus. Repeat game as time permits.

God's Word

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

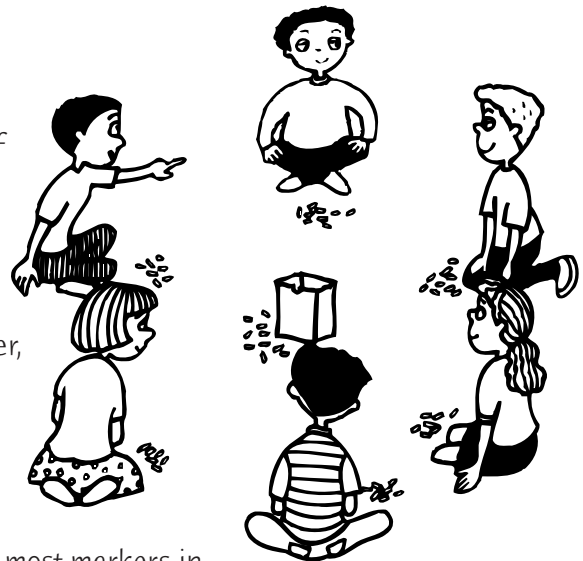
JOHN 20:31

For Younger Children:

"Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God."

God's Word & Me

Jesus wants us to believe in Him!



Talk About

- ◆ What do other kids you know believe about Jesus?
- ◆ Read John 20:31. Why do you think believing in and trusting Jesus is important?

For Younger Children

Prepare only two slips of paper, printing "all" on one and "nothing" on the other. Place slips in paper bag. On each child's turn, he or she places a marker in the center and takes a slip of paper. When "all" is selected, all children jump once for each marker in the center. When "nothing" is selected, next child takes a turn.

Art Center



for younger children



Collect

Bible, a variety of textured materials (sandpaper, foil, crepe paper, fabric scraps, fake fur, cotton batting, a variety of paper, ribbon, yarn, etc.), scissors, paper plates, glue sticks.

Prepare

Cut textured materials into a variety of small shapes, making at least 10 shapes for each child.

Do

Give a paper plate to each child. Children choose a variety of textured items and then glue the items to their plates to make texture collages. Encourage children to describe the different textures on their collages.

Talk About

- ◆ Today in our Bible story, Thomas said he wouldn't believe Jesus was alive until he touched Jesus' hands.
- ◆ When Thomas touched Jesus, he said, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas believed that Jesus is alive and that Jesus is God's Son.
- ◆ It is such good news that Jesus is alive! We can believe in Jesus. Our Bible says, "Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God."

For Older Children

Children use textured materials to create large block letters and then arrange them to make a poster that says "Jesus is the Son of God!"

God's Word

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

JOHN 20:31

For Younger Children:

"Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God."

God's Word & Me

Jesus wants us to believe in Him!





Collect

Bibles, jute or twine, measuring stick, scissors, pony beads (six for each child).

Prepare

For each child, cut jute or twine into two 1-yard (.9-m) lengths and two 3-yard (2.7-m) lengths.

Do

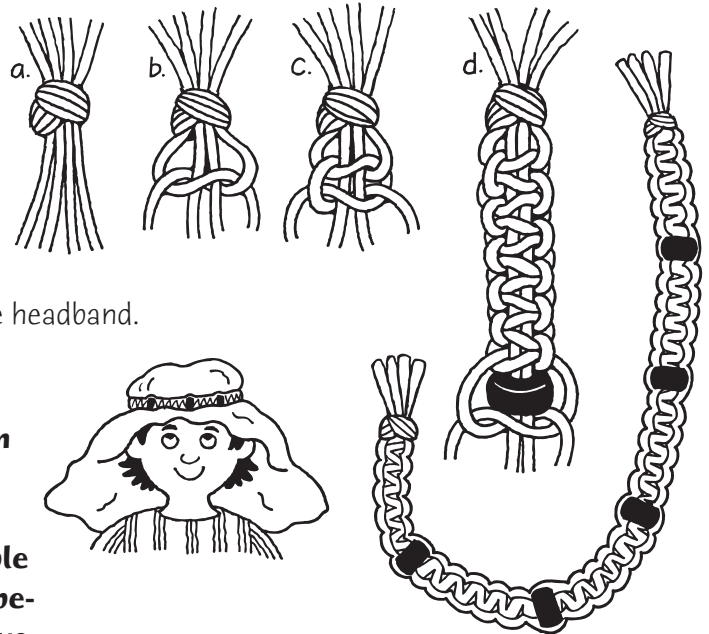
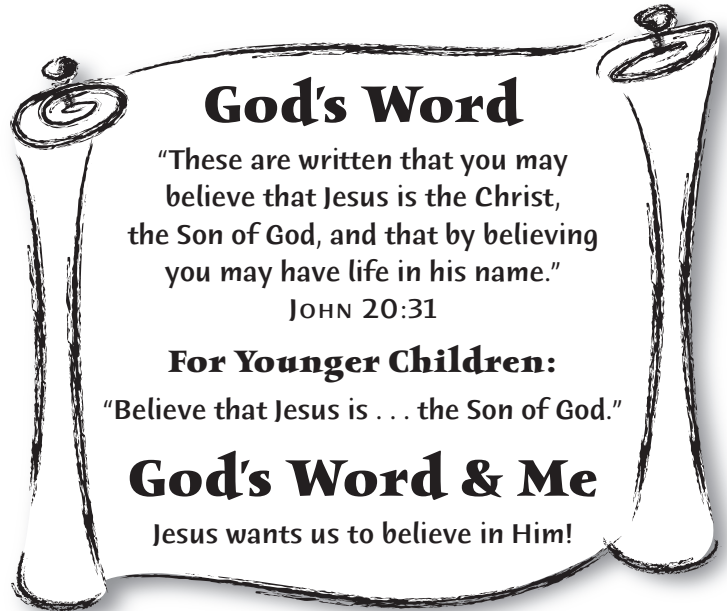
1. Guide children to line up four lengths of jute or twine (two long and two short) and tie an overhand knot about 6 inches (15 cm) from end (see sketch a). With the two longer strands on outside and the two shorter strands on inside, child ties a square knot (see sketches b and c).

2. Child ties five more square knots, keeping shorter strands on the inside. Then child slides one bead onto the center two strands of jute or twine. Child slides bead up to knot (see sketch d).

3. Child repeats the previous step until all six beads have been used. After putting on the sixth bead, child ties six square knots and one overhand knot to complete headband.

Talk About

- ◆ **What type of hat do you wear when you're out in the sun? In Bible times, most people wore some kind of cloth to protect their heads from the heat of the sun. To keep the cloth in place, people wore headbands. The people who followed and believed in Jesus while He lived on Earth might have worn headbands similar to the ones you are making.**
- ◆ **What do you believe about Jesus? Read John 20:31.**
- ◆ **How would you describe Jesus to someone who has never heard about Him?**
- ◆ **Why might a kid your age find it hard to believe in Jesus? Who has helped you learn about Jesus?**



For Younger Children

Children use markers to decorate narrow strips of fabric. Help children tie fabric around their heads to make headbands.

Worship Center



for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 247-248), large bath towels or beach towels, large sheet of paper, marker.

Team Game

Divide group into three teams. Give one or two towels to each team. Several volunteers from each team race to form each letter of the word “believe” using towels, rolling them up and forming them into letter shapes. After each letter shape is made, team calls out the letter. First team to complete the word shouts, “Believe that Jesus is God’s Son!” Repeat with other keywords from the verse.

Bible Verse Game

Children remain in teams. Call out a phrase of John 20:31 as you point to first team to echo the phrase loudly. Point to second team to echo the phrase with normal voices. Point to the third team to echo the phrase in a whisper. Continue with other phrases of the verse with the same echo effect. Repeat verse several times, increasing the speed of echoing the verse in each round.

Song

When we believe in Jesus, God promises us a great gift—eternal life in Christ Jesus! That means that we can live now and forever as part of God’s family. You, or another leader, lead children in singing “The Gift” and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

Invite volunteers to suggest sentences to be used in a group prayer thanking Jesus for who He is. Print sentences on large sheet of paper. Volunteers may include personal prayer requests as part of the group prayer. Then read the prayer aloud together.

Song

Play “Jesus’ Love.” Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.

God’s Word

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

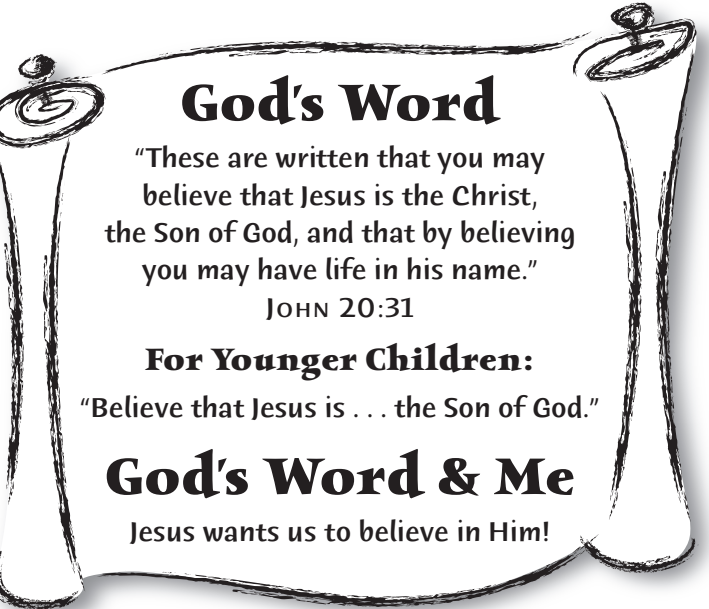
JOHN 20:31

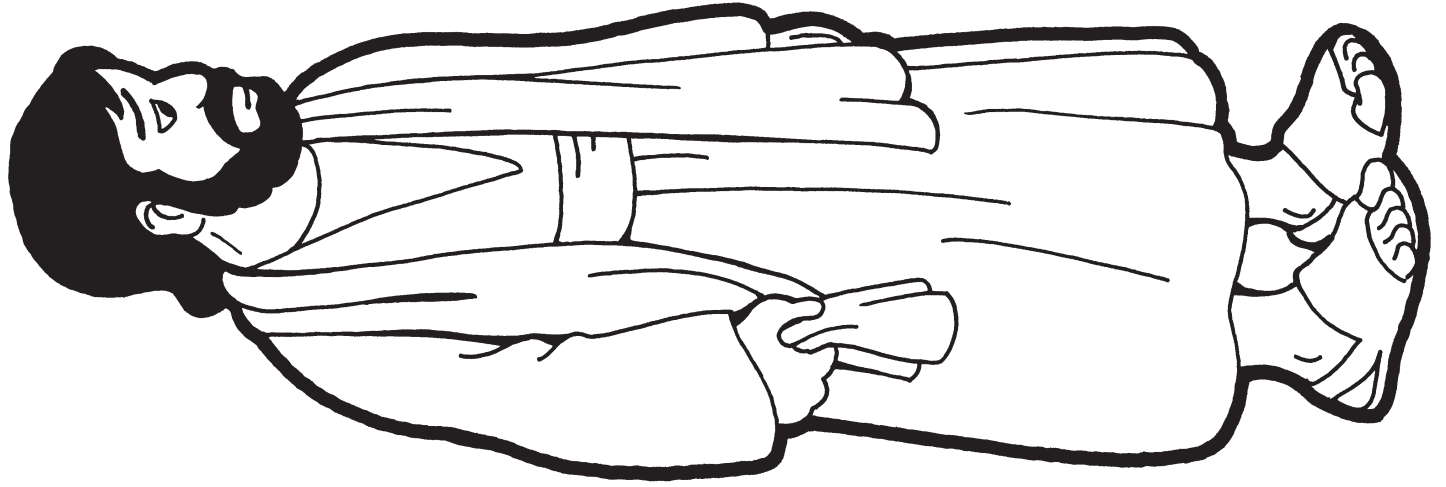
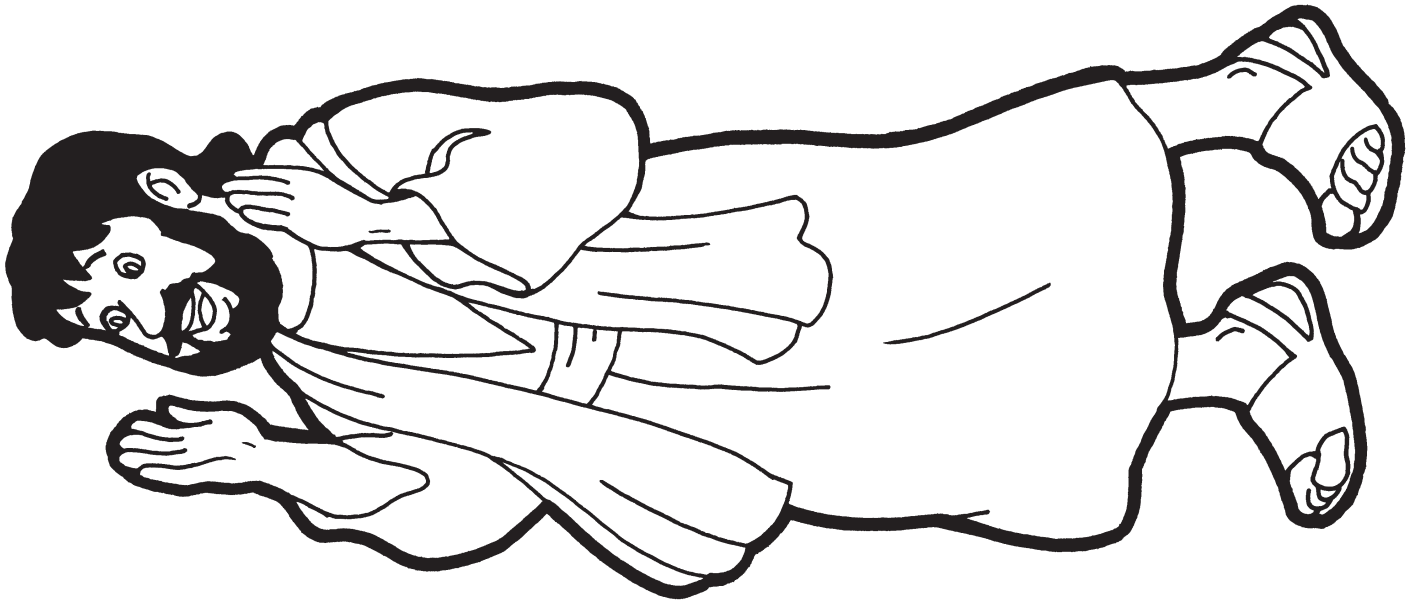
For Younger Children:

“Believe that Jesus is . . . the Son of God.”

God’s Word & Me

Jesus wants us to believe in Him!







What do you believe about Jesus?

What are the results of believing in Jesus?

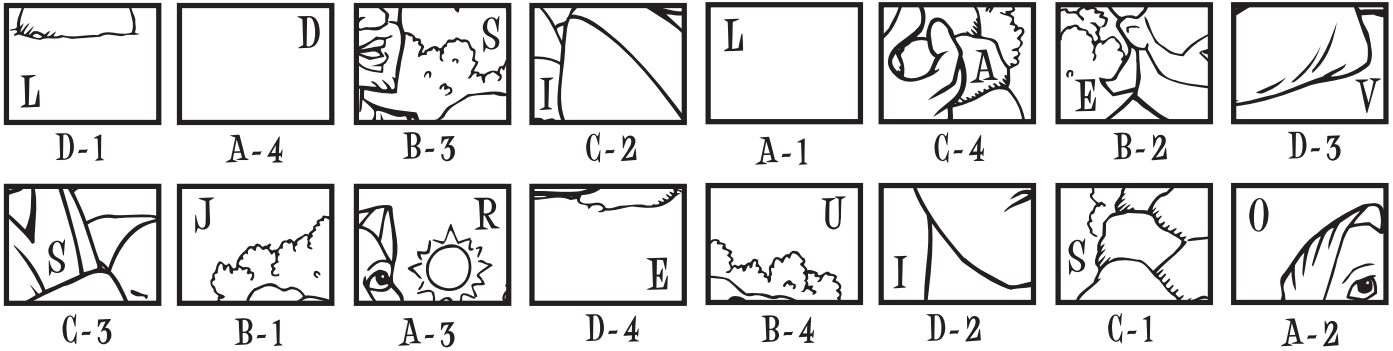
Seeing Is Believing

John 20:19-31



The Challenge

Draw the picture parts in the grid below to see what Thomas saw after Jesus died on the cross. Don't forget to put the letters in for the Super Challenge!



1 2 3 4

A				
B				
C				
D				

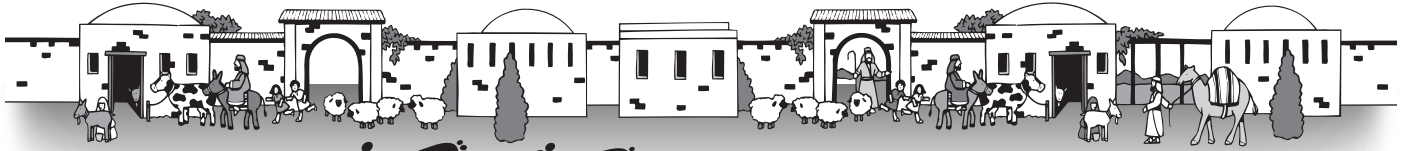


The Super Challenge

Write the letters in order on the blanks below to find out what Thomas might have said after what he saw.

_____ !

Mount of Olives: Awesome Ascension



Bible Story Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11

Teacher's Devotional

The Mount of Olives is actually just a small ridge of hills overlooking Jerusalem from the east. None of the peaks really qualifies as a mountain, although they do offer a good view of Jerusalem. Thickly wooded in Jesus' day, this ridge provided a retreat when Jesus was in Jerusalem. It was here He agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane. From this ridge, He commissioned His disciples and then ascended into heaven. The angels told the astonished disciples that He would return in the same way as He had gone. And Zechariah (the Old Testament prophet) declared that when Jesus does return, this ridge will split to form a valley. Although it may not be much to look at now, the Mount of Olives is indeed an important place!

Were it not for Jesus, the Mount of Olives would be just another undistinguished piece of ground. Only in relation to Jesus does it become a place with a memorable past and a fascinating future. That's a bit like us, isn't it? As you prepare this session, take time to list the things



God's Word

"Go and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:19-20

For Younger Children:

"I am with you always."

God's Word & Me

Don't keep the good news of Jesus' love to yourself!

Jesus has done in your life that have set you apart from the rest of the world. Powerful and amazing, aren't they? Then take some time to consider just what Jesus has promised for you in the future. Like that line of hills, it is only through relationship to Jesus that any of this is possible! We have a powerful past and a unique future, too! Take that excitement with you as you teach, for just like the disciples, Jesus' commission to us is to tell what wonderful things are possible through relationship with Him.

Planning Page

Lesson 13
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story

Mount of Olives: Awesome Ascension • Matthew 28:16-20;
Acts 1:1-11

Younger Child Option

Listen to a person in Bible-times costume tell the story

Older Child Option

Assemble a puzzle to discover a message

Game Center

Younger Child Option

Play a Cake Walk game to find a picture of Jesus

Materials

Bible, picture of Jesus, paper plates

Older Child Option

Play a musical pairing game to discuss ways to help others learn about Jesus

Materials

Bible, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, construction paper, markers, small slips of paper, tape, paper bag

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child

Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 246-247), balloons

Art Center

Younger Child Option

Paint sky pictures and talk about the Bible story

Materials

Bible, white tempera paint, shallow containers, newspaper, large sheets of blue construction paper, cotton balls

Older Child Option

Create scrolls and discuss ways to help others learn about Jesus

Materials

Bible, scissors, brown paper grocery bags, markers, yarn

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing coloring page

Materials

Lesson 13 Coloring Page (p. 225) for each student, crayons

Older Child Option

Review the Bible story while completing puzzle page

Materials

Lesson 13 Puzzle Page (p. 226) for each student, pencils

Bonus Theme Ideas

Lesson 13
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11

Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added tour excitement.



Touring Mount of Olives

Today is the last stop on our tour of the places Jesus visited. This place is named for the kind of tree that grew there. Show olives and olive oil. What kind of trees do these things come from? (Olive trees.) The place we are visiting today is just outside of Jerusalem and is called the Mount of Olives. Students locate Mount of Olives on map (p. 237). Olive groves grew on this hilly ridge. Farmers harvested the olives by beating the trees with sticks until the olives fell. Then farmers would either smash the olives in an olive press to make oil or mix them with salt, water and spices to pickle them for eating. Let's use some olives to make some pizza. Split and toast English muffins. Students may brush olive oil on muffin halves. Students add grated cheese and olives to their pizzas. (Optional: Heat in toaster oven to melt cheese.) Students eat olive pizzas.

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Olive Exploration

Provide a variety of olives. Children taste olives. If possible, show pictures of olive trees and bring in information about growing olives (search for information online).



Play a silly game with olive pits. Children stand about a foot away from a container and take turn tossing an olive pit into the container. Each time the pit lands in the container, child takes a step back. Children see how many steps away they can get from the container.



Pit Pitching



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

When have you seen a fish? Where did you see the fish? Listen to hear what happened one time when Jesus' friends were fishing.

Tell the Story

After Jesus died and then rose again from death, Jesus' friends were so happy Jesus was alive! Jesus stayed with His friends for many days. Jesus talked with them about many things. He loved His friends!

Once when they were fishing, Jesus helped them catch lots of fish. Their nets were so full of fish the friends could barely lift them up from the water! That same day Jesus cooked some breakfast for His friends. Jesus told them that someday soon He would be going back to heaven.

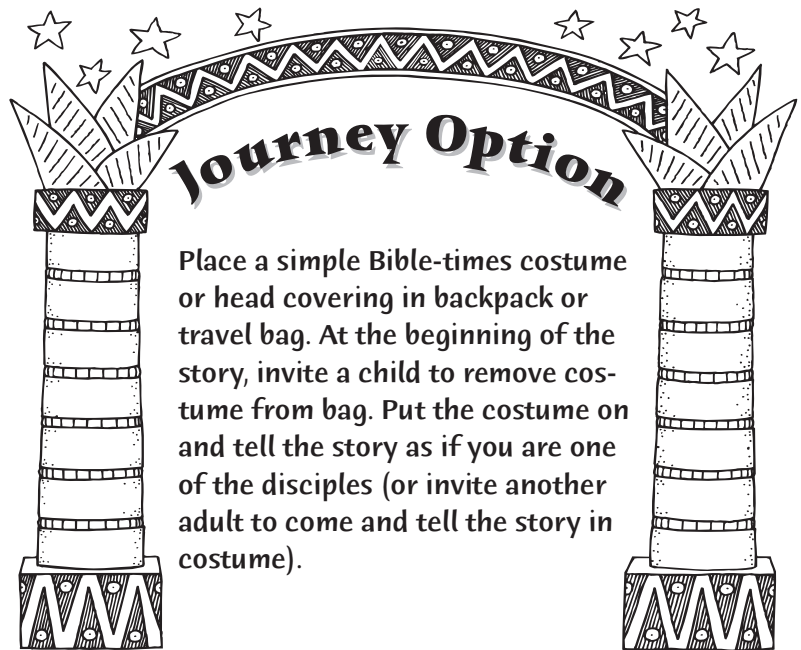
Then the day came when it was time for Jesus to go back to heaven. He walked with His friends to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to His friends, "Remember that I am with you always. I will watch over you and take care of you. Someday I will come back, and we will be together in heaven." Jesus wanted them to know that even though they wouldn't see Jesus with their eyes, He was still with them. Jesus' friends listened quietly. "After I am gone," Jesus said, "go and tell people everywhere that I love them."

Then Jesus rose up off the ground! Jesus' friends must have been surprised! Jesus went up and up and UP, until He was in the clouds, and then His friends couldn't see Him anymore. They stood there looking up.

Suddenly, there were two angels standing beside the friends. The angels said, "Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has gone to heaven! Jesus will come back again someday." Jesus' friends were very glad! Now they knew Jesus was going to come back, just as He had promised. And they were glad because Jesus had promised to always be with them. And He will always be with us, too!

God's Word & Me

What did Jesus tell His friends He would do? (Come back. Always be with them.) Our Bible tells the words Jesus said, "I am with you always." I am glad Jesus loves me and is always with me! Jesus wants us to tell others that He loves them, too! Pray, Dear Jesus, please help us tell other people the good news that You love them. In Your name, amen.



Place a simple Bible-times costume or head covering in backpack or travel bag. At the beginning of the story, invite a child to remove costume from bag. Put the costume on and tell the story as if you are one of the disciples (or invite another adult to come and tell the story in costume).



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

Where do you like to hike or walk?

What's the longest hike you've been on?

(Volunteers tell answer.) Today we're visiting the Mount of Olives, which was a short hike or walk from the city of Jerusalem. Tell students a location which is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2 km) from your church facility.

Listen to find out about the incredible event that took place at the Mount of Olives. (As you tell about the disciples walking to the Mount of Olives, lead children to an outdoor location at your church facility. Finish telling the story after you arrive at the designated location.)

Tell the Story

For 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus met with His disciples, teaching them everything they needed to know to help others learn about His love. After many days, Jesus asked His disciples to meet Him on the Mount of Olives. As the disciples walked up the hill, they must have talked about many things.

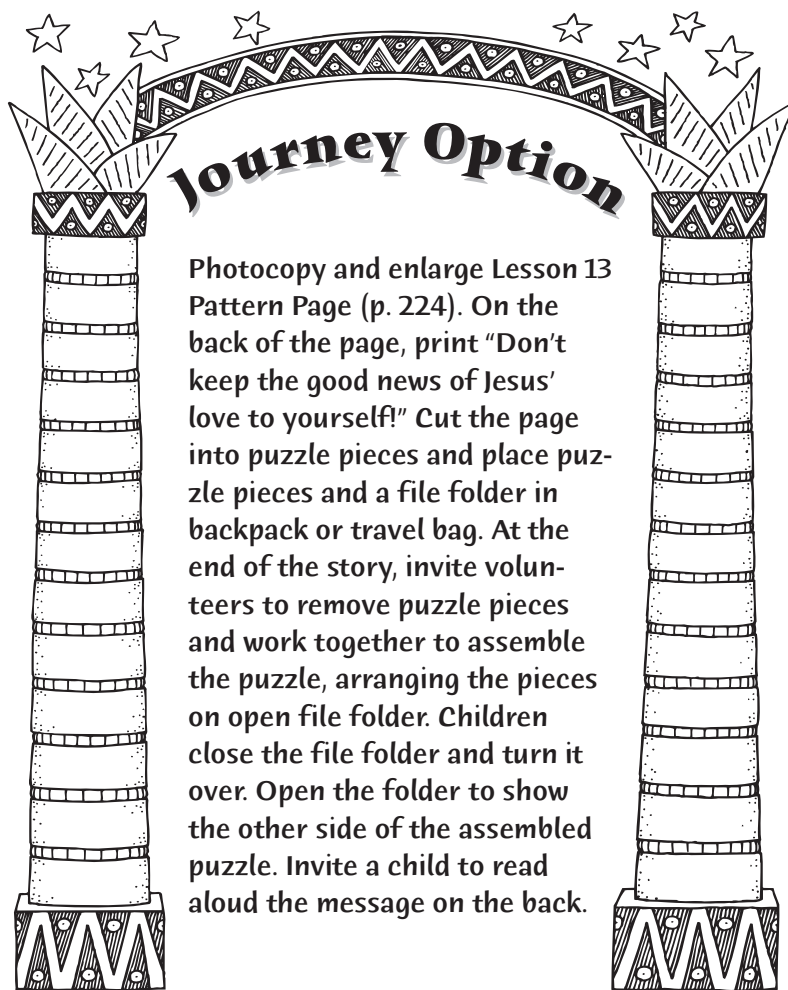
"When Jesus died, I was so sad; I thought the world would come to an end," said one disciple.

"Yes, but we should have realized He would rise again; He told us so many times," another may have said.

"The last 40 days have been the happiest of our lives," Matthew may have said. He'd been a tax collector, so he was pretty good at keeping track of numbers like 40 days.

"Yes," laughed John, "but Jesus has spent those last 40 days re-explaining everything He did. Obviously, we didn't quite get it the first time." Everyone laughed at that. **If you had been walking up the mountain with the disciples, what are some things you might have remembered about Jesus?**

The disciples walked past the Garden of Gethsemane—the place where Jesus had prayed right before He was arrested. Not too far away was Bethany, where Jesus had spent time with His friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. That's where the great parade had started when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Some people had thought Jesus had come to throw out all the Romans and start a new government. But most of the disciples knew better now. Jesus had gone to Jerusalem to rescue people from something far worse than the Romans. Jesus had died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. What a wonderful gift!



Photocopy and enlarge Lesson 13 Pattern Page (p. 224). On the back of the page, print "Don't keep the good news of Jesus' love to yourself!" Cut the page into puzzle pieces and place puzzle pieces and a file folder in backpack or travel bag. At the end of the story, invite volunteers to remove puzzle pieces and work together to assemble the puzzle, arranging the pieces on open file folder. Children close the file folder and turn it over. Open the folder to show the other side of the assembled puzzle. Invite a child to read aloud the message on the back.



Finally, the disciples reached the spot where Jesus had asked them to meet Him. Jesus told them some very important things. Jesus told them that He is God. He is in charge of EVERYTHING! Then Jesus told them what He wanted them to do. **What do you think Jesus wanted His disciples to do?**

The disciples were to tell people all over the world all the wonderful things they had learned about Jesus. And they were to keep on telling until everyone knew the good news about Jesus!

Some of the disciples must have been thinking to themselves, *He wants us to tell the WHOLE WORLD about Him?! That's A LOT of people! How do we do that?*

As always, Jesus knew what they were thinking. So Jesus gave them a very important promise. Jesus promised to always be with them. The disciples could do the job Jesus gave them to do because Jesus would ALWAYS be with them. Jesus also promised that God would send His Holy Spirit to guide the disciples and give them strength and power to do their job.

Then an amazing thing happened! Jesus rose up into the sky, right before their very eyes! The disciples watched in amazement as Jesus rose higher and higher until He disappeared into a cloud.

As the disciples stood there with their mouths gaping open, they heard two voices. The voices asked, "Why are you standing here looking at the sky? Jesus has gone to heaven, but one day He will come back in the same way."

The disciples stopped looking up at the sky and looked at the two men who had spoken. They were dressed in brilliant white clothing. The disciples knew they were angels!

Well, just imagine all the disciples had to talk about on their way back down the hill! **What do you think they talked about?** There was no doubt that Jesus was the Son of God and now they knew that this good news was for EVERYONE!

God's Word & Me

History tells us that the disciples all committed their lives to obeying Jesus' command to tell others about Him. Some wrote parts of the Bible that tell about Jesus' life and how Jesus wants us to live. Most traveled to different places, preaching and teaching. Jesus invites us to continue the job His first disciples began. We can tell others what we learn about Jesus and invite them to learn along with us. Jesus was with His disciples, and He promises to be with us today, too!

- ◆ **What did Jesus tell His disciples to do in Matthew 28:19-20?** Students read verses in their Bibles. **What can we do to obey these verses?**
- ◆ **Why is it important for others to hear the good news about Jesus?**
- ◆ **What is an action that could help someone learn about Jesus' love? When is a good time to tell someone about Jesus' love?** Pray with children, asking Jesus' help in telling others about Him.

Game Center

for younger children



Lesson 13
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11



Collect

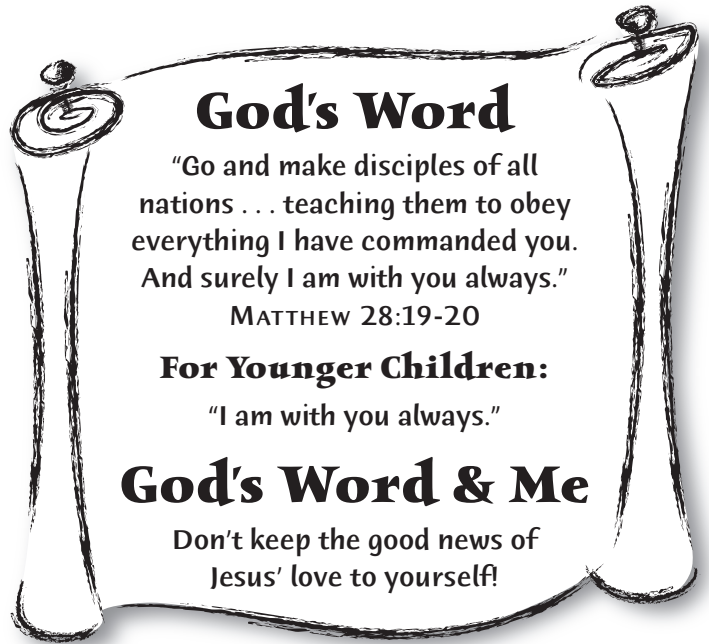
Bible, picture of Jesus, paper plates (one for each child).

Do

1. Place paper plates on floor in a circle, hiding the picture of Jesus underneath one plate. Children walk around the circle.
2. After approximately 10 seconds, call out "Stop." Each child turns over the nearest paper plate. Child who finds the picture of Jesus holds picture up as you lead children in repeating Jesus' words: "I am with you always." Repeat game, hiding picture under a different plate each time.

Talk About

- ◆ Hold your open Bible. **Jesus said, "I am with you always." Jesus said these words right before He went to heaven. Even though we can't see Jesus, we know He is with us and loves us wherever we are. We can tell others about Jesus' love.**
- ◆ **Karen, where do you like to play? Jesus is with you when you play at your grandma's house. You can tell your grandma that Jesus loves her.**
- ◆ **Anna, where is some place you went yesterday? Jesus loves you and is with you at the pizza restaurant.**
- ◆ Pray, **Thank You, Jesus, for loving us wherever we are.**



For Older Children

Place picture of Jesus on one side of the room. Children stand several feet from picture and toss paper plates like Frisbees, attempting to make paper plates land on the picture. Child whose plate lands closest to the picture leads other children in repeating Matthew 28:19-20. Repeat several times.

Game Center

for older children



Lesson 13
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11

Collect

Bible, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, construction paper, marker, small slips of paper, tape, paper bag.

Prepare

Number 10 sheets of construction paper and 10 small slips of paper 1 through 10. Tape papers to the classroom walls in various locations. Place slips of paper in a paper bag.

Do

1. Children walk randomly around the room as the music plays. When music stops, children quickly pair up back to back (or arms linked). Pairs quickly move to put their hands on a number on the wall. If someone is already touching paper, pair must move together to find a different paper.

2. Select a number from the bag. Pair with hands on that number tells a way to help others learn about the good news of Jesus' love. If there is no group touching the number called, select another number from the bag. Repeat game as time permits.

Talk About

- ◆ **What do you think others should know about Jesus?**
- ◆ **What are some ways you can help your friends know more about Jesus' love? How can you help your family know more about Him?**
- ◆ Read Matthew 28:19-20. **Why do you think Jesus promised to always be with us? How do we know that He is with us?**

For Younger Children

Children play game without pairing up. Children touching the number you call tell names of people Jesus loves.

God's Word

"Go and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:19-20

For Younger Children:

"I am with you always."

God's Word & Me

Don't keep the good news of Jesus' love to yourself!



Art Center

for younger children



Lesson 13
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11



Collect

Bible, white tempera paint, shallow containers, newspaper, large sheets of blue construction paper, cotton balls; optional—clothespins.

Prepare

Pour small amounts of white tempera paint into shallow containers. Cover table with newspaper.

Do

Give each child a sheet of blue construction paper and a cotton ball. Children dip cotton balls into white paint and use the cotton balls to paint clouds on construction paper. (Optional: Children use clothespins to hold cotton balls as they paint.)

Talk About

- ◆ In our Bible story today, Jesus talked to His friends. He promised to be with them always and to help them tell the good news about Him. Then Jesus went up into the sky. A cloud covered Him up. Jesus went back to heaven.
- ◆ The Bible tells us something Jesus said: "I am with you always." I am glad to know that Jesus is with me all the time. I'm glad that Jesus loves me. Kenny, who is someone Jesus loves?
- ◆ Let's thank God for the good news that Jesus is with us always and loves us. Pray with children.



God's Word

"Go and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:19-20

For Younger Children:

"I am with you always."

God's Word & Me

Don't keep the good news of Jesus' love to yourself!

For Older Children

Children paint a mural of the Bible story. On a large sheet of butcher paper, children paint the sky and clouds, Mount of Olives and the disciples, looking up into the sky.

Art Center

for older children



Lesson 13
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11

Collect

Bible, scissors, brown paper grocery bags, large sheet of paper, markers, yarn.

Prepare

Cut bags to make a large rectangular piece for each child. Print the Hebrew letters for the word "shalom" on large sheet of paper (see sketch).

Do

1. Show paper you prepared. **This is the Hebrew word "shalom." The word "shalom" means "peace." Jesus' love and promise to always be with us can give us peace. What can we tell others to help them know about Jesus and His love?** Children tell messages they could write to friends or family members to tell them about Jesus' love. Print children's suggestions on large sheet of paper along with the Hebrew letters.

2. Give each child a piece of brown paper. Child crumples paper and smooths it out. Repeat crumpling process several times to soften paper and give it an ancient look. Each child copies the Hebrew letters onto his or her paper and then chooses a message from the large sheet of paper to add.

3. Cut yarn into 1-foot (30-cm) lengths. Children roll up their papers and tie them with yarn to make scrolls. Encourage children to give their scrolls to friends or family members.

Talk About

- ◆ **In Bible times, people had to copy written messages by hand because there were no copy machines or printing presses. This job was done by people called scribes. They carefully copied the Bible so that other people would always be able to know and read God's Word.**
- ◆ Read Matthew 28:19-20. **What do these verses tell us to do? What does Jesus promise in these verses?**
- ◆ **What are some ways people tell the good news about Jesus' love?** (Talk. Teach. Choose to obey Him. Write books and letters. Paint pictures. Sing.) **How did the scribes who copied God's Word a long, long time ago help us learn the good news of Jesus' love?** (They worked carefully to avoid making mistakes so that we would be able to know what God's Word really said.)

For Younger Children

Instead of writing messages about Jesus, children draw pictures of Jesus to give to family members.

God's Word

"Go and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:19-20

For Younger Children:

"I am with you always."

God's Word & Me

Don't keep the good news of Jesus' love to yourself!



שָׁלוֹם
shalom

Worship Center



Lesson 13
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11

for younger and older children



Collect

Bibles, *Journey with Jesus Music* CD and player, song charts (pp. 246-247), balloons.

Team Game

Divide group into five teams. Give a balloon to one volunteer from each team. Volunteer from each team stands at one end of the room and blows up balloon. At your signal, each of the volunteers releases balloon and then runs to the place where balloon landed. Volunteer quickly blows up and releases balloon again from the place on which the balloon landed, attempting to get balloon to travel all the way to the other side of the room. Teams cheer for volunteers as they blow up and release balloons.

Bible Verse Game

Children remain in teams. Assign a number to each team. Instruct Team 1 to say "Go and make disciples" when you hold up your right arm. Instruct Team 2 to say "of all nations" when you hold up your left arm. Instruct Team 3 to say "teaching them to obey" when you hold up your right leg. Instruct Team 4 to say "everything I have commanded you" when you hold up your left leg. Instruct Team 5 to say "And surely I am with you always" when you nod your head. Each time you move arm, leg or head, the appropriate team says their phrase of the verse. Practice several times so that each team remembers when it's their turn. Quicken the pace after several rounds.

Song

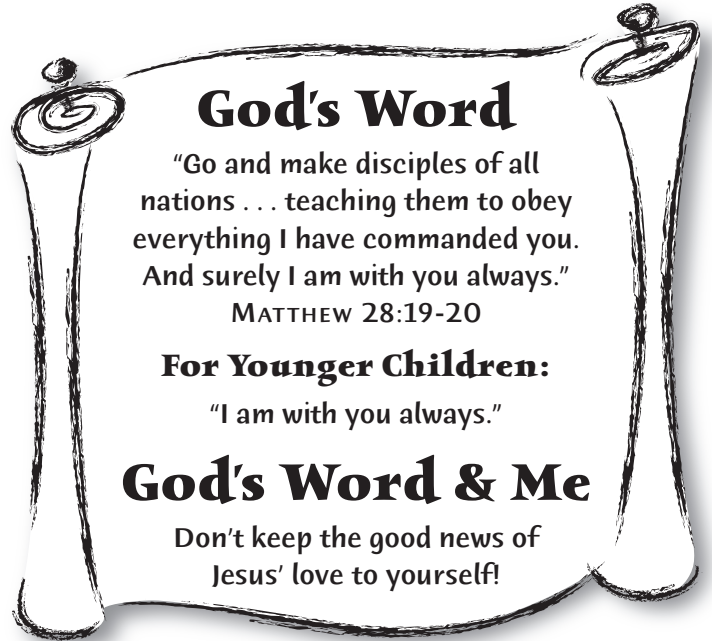
One way we can let other people know about Jesus' love is to show His love to others. You, or another leader, lead children in singing "All Men Will Know" and doing suggested motions.

Prayer

Think about someone you know who needs to hear about the good news of Jesus. Volunteers tell names of people they want to pray for and tell about Jesus. **Let's ask God to help us tell these people about Jesus and His love.** Invite several volunteers to pray for one or more of the people mentioned. Close prayer time by thanking God for His love and asking Him to help you and your children help others learn about Him.

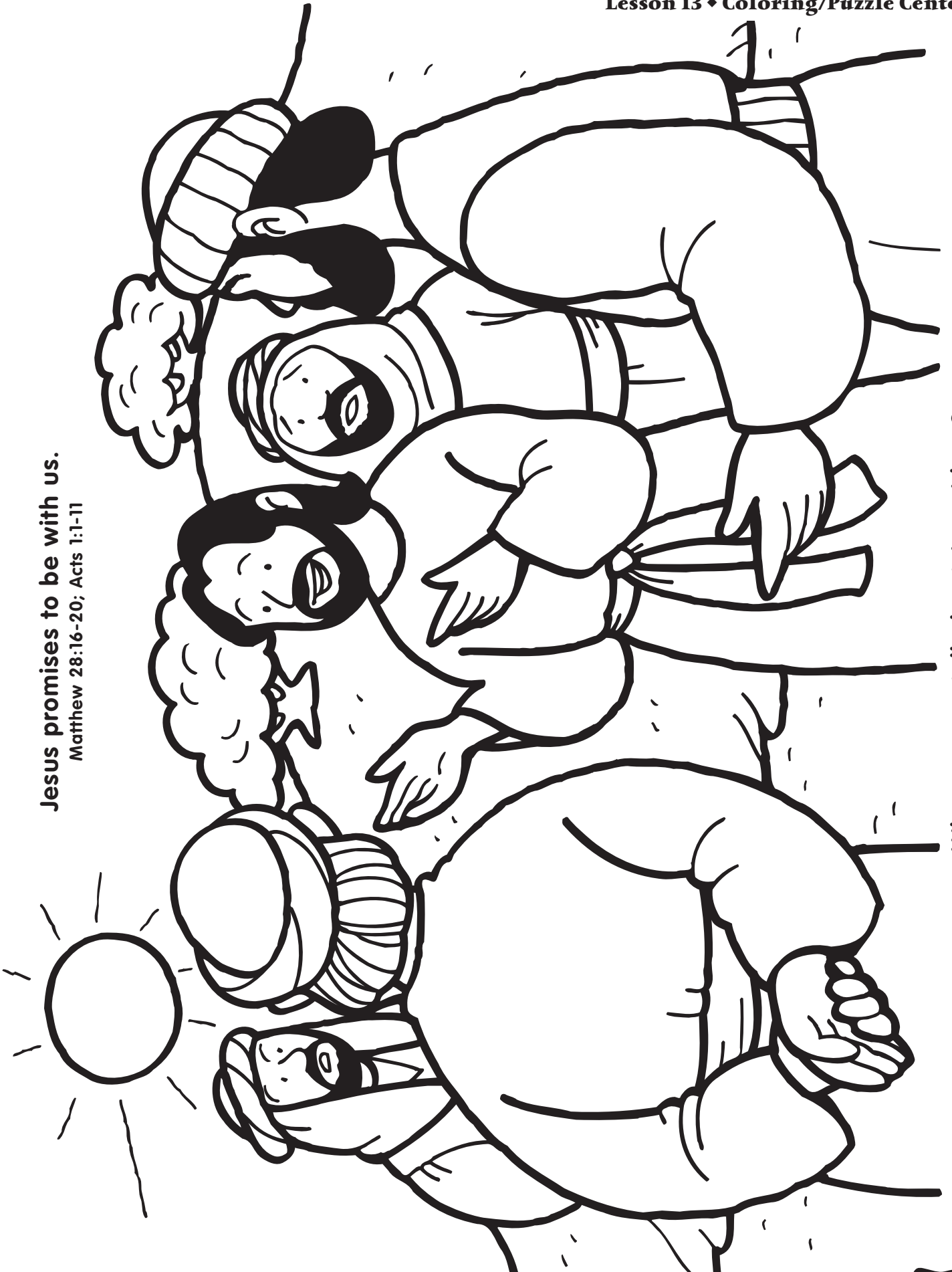
Song

Let's sing about the good news we can tell to others! Play "The Gift." Lead children in singing and doing suggested motions.





Jesus promises to be with us.
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11



Who can you tell about Jesus' love?

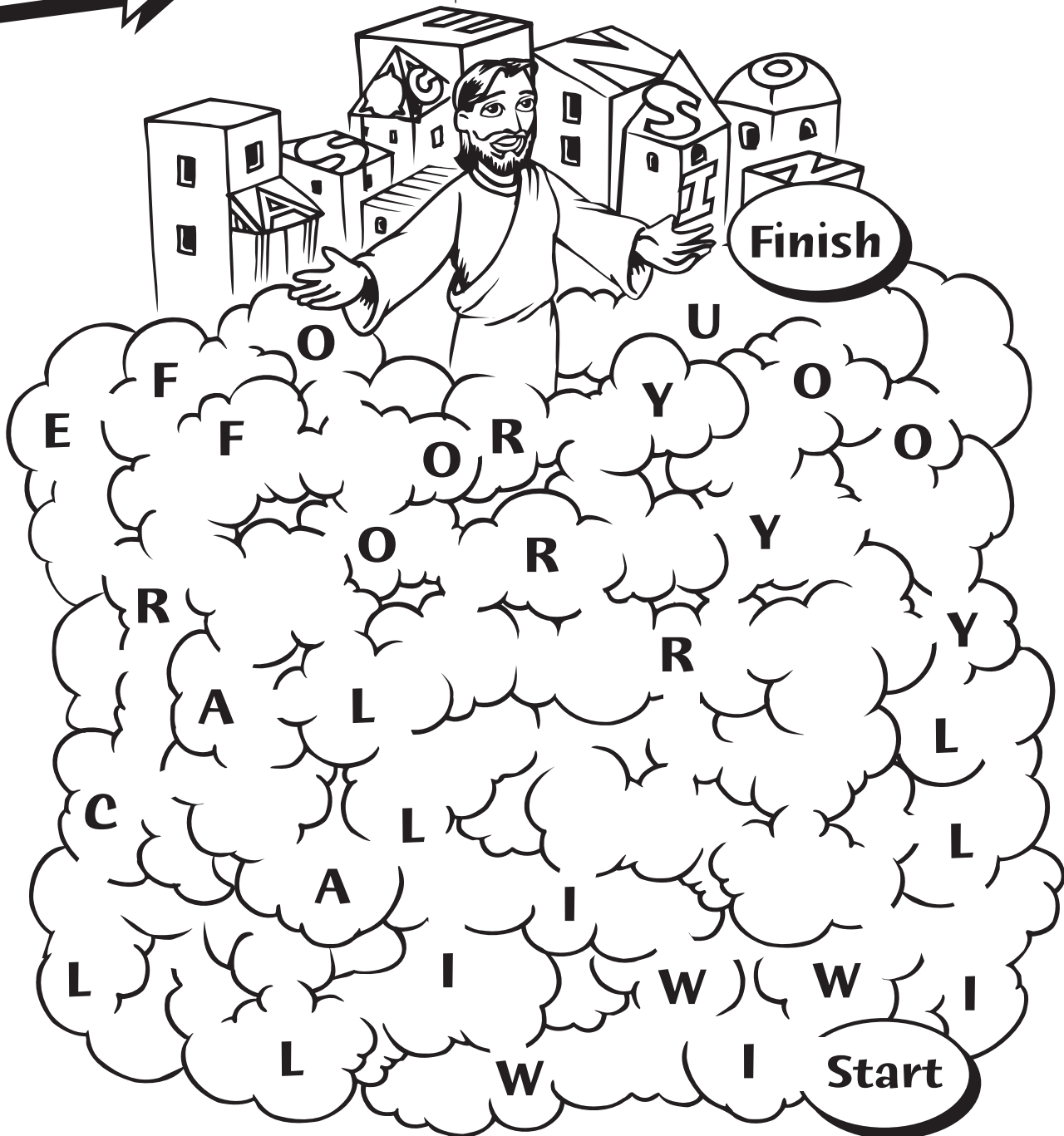
What can you do to tell your friends about Jesus?

On Cloud Nine!

Matthew 28:16-20

The Challenge

Starting at the letter I and finishing at Jesus, go through the maze to find out what Jesus promised before He went to heaven.



The Super Challenge

Find nine letters hidden in the buildings to spell a word that describes when Jesus went to heaven.



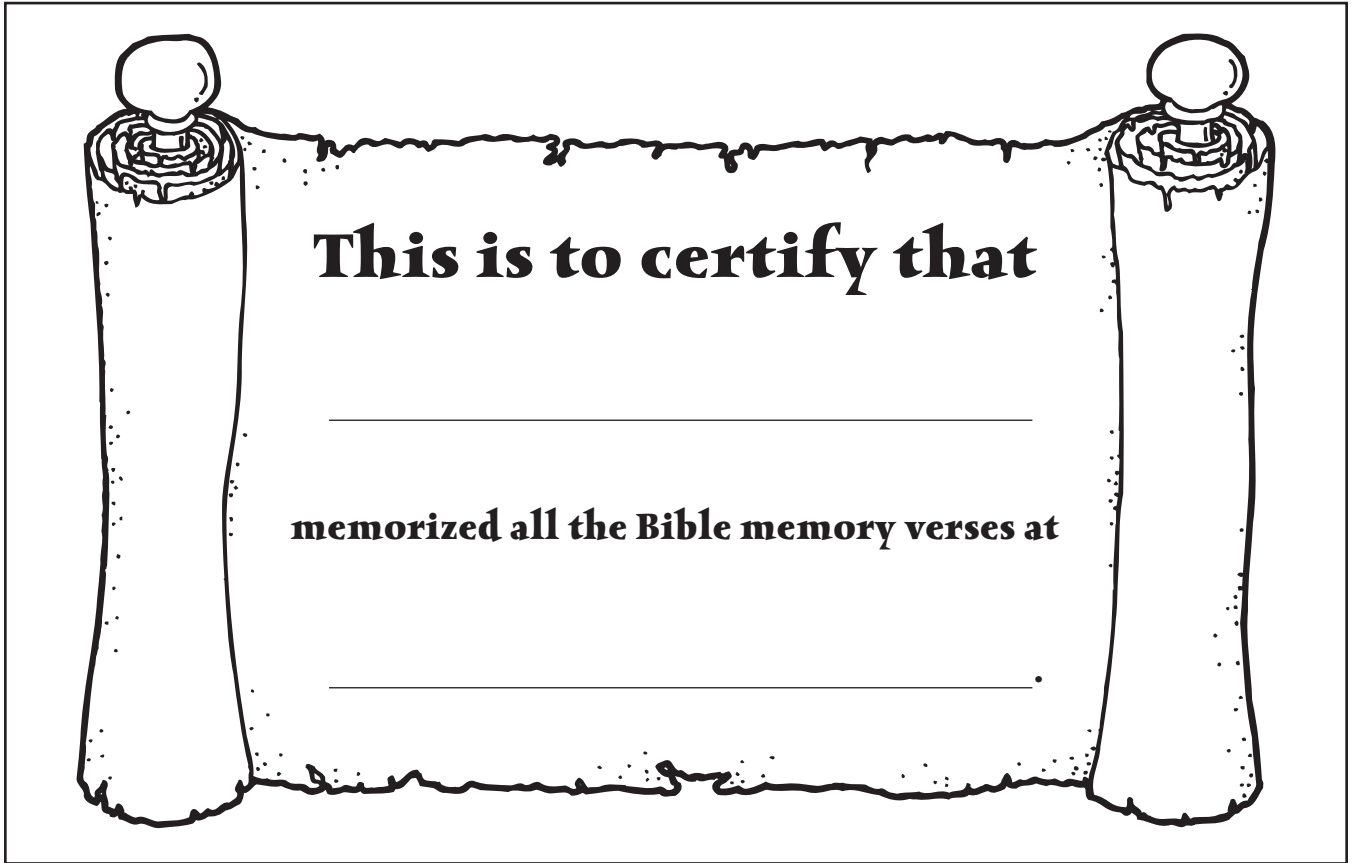
Resources

Look in this section to find helpful resources that you can customize for use in your church.

You will find theme-related art, decorating patterns, a lesson-planning page, song charts, publicity flyers and more!

Certificates

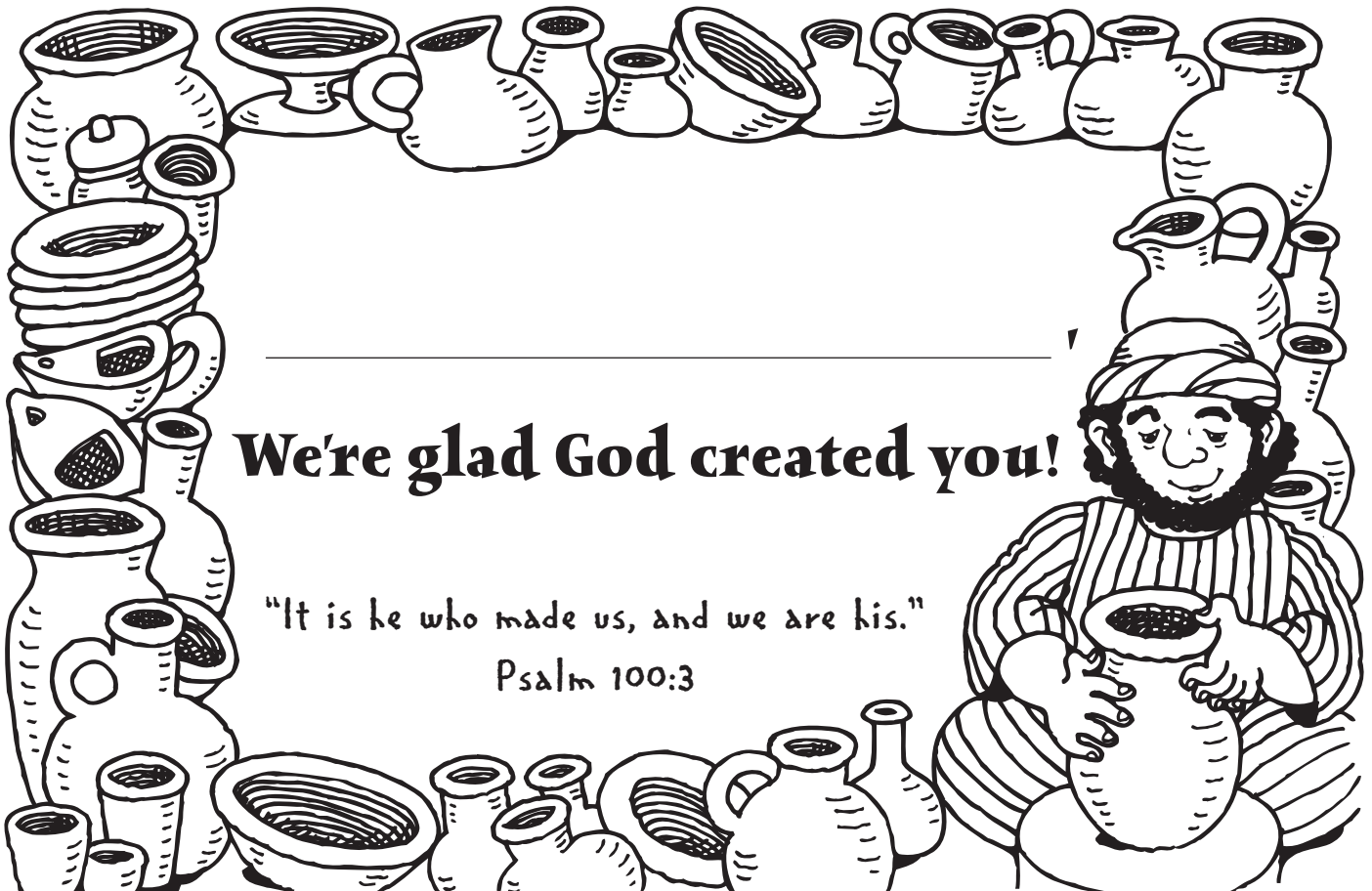
Use these certificates to recognize and honor children, teachers and helpers.



Shalom



We're glad you came to



We're glad God created you!

"It is he who made us, and we are his."

Psalm 100:3

Family Talk Treasure

Today's date

What we read

One thing we already knew

One thing we did not know

One truth about Jesus

One way we can follow Jesus' example

One thing to thank God for

One thing to ask God for



Parent Letters

Help parents become familiar with *Journey with Jesus* and encourage their child's attendance by sending a letter to each family several weeks before the program begins. Use this sample letter as inspiration to create your own letter. On page 233 you'll find two invitations you can modify to invite parents to join in on the fun at *Journey with Jesus*.

Dear Parents,

Plan now to have your child participate in a unique and exciting tour of the places in Israel where Jesus actually walked! All the action will take place on the 13-week *Journey with Jesus* tour.

Each Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. in the Children's Ministry Building your child is invited to a time of songs, games, Bible stories, creative art and more!
Tour guides are waiting to lead your child in the adventure of the summer.

***Journey with Jesus* begins Sunday, June 20th!
Sign up today by calling the church office
at 555-5555 or by e-mailing
jean@yourchurch.org.**



Ready for a day of discovery?

We're inviting you to a special celebration!

Follow the footprints to find your way!



Date _____

Time _____

Place _____



You're invited to

Family Day at

Journey with Jesus!



Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

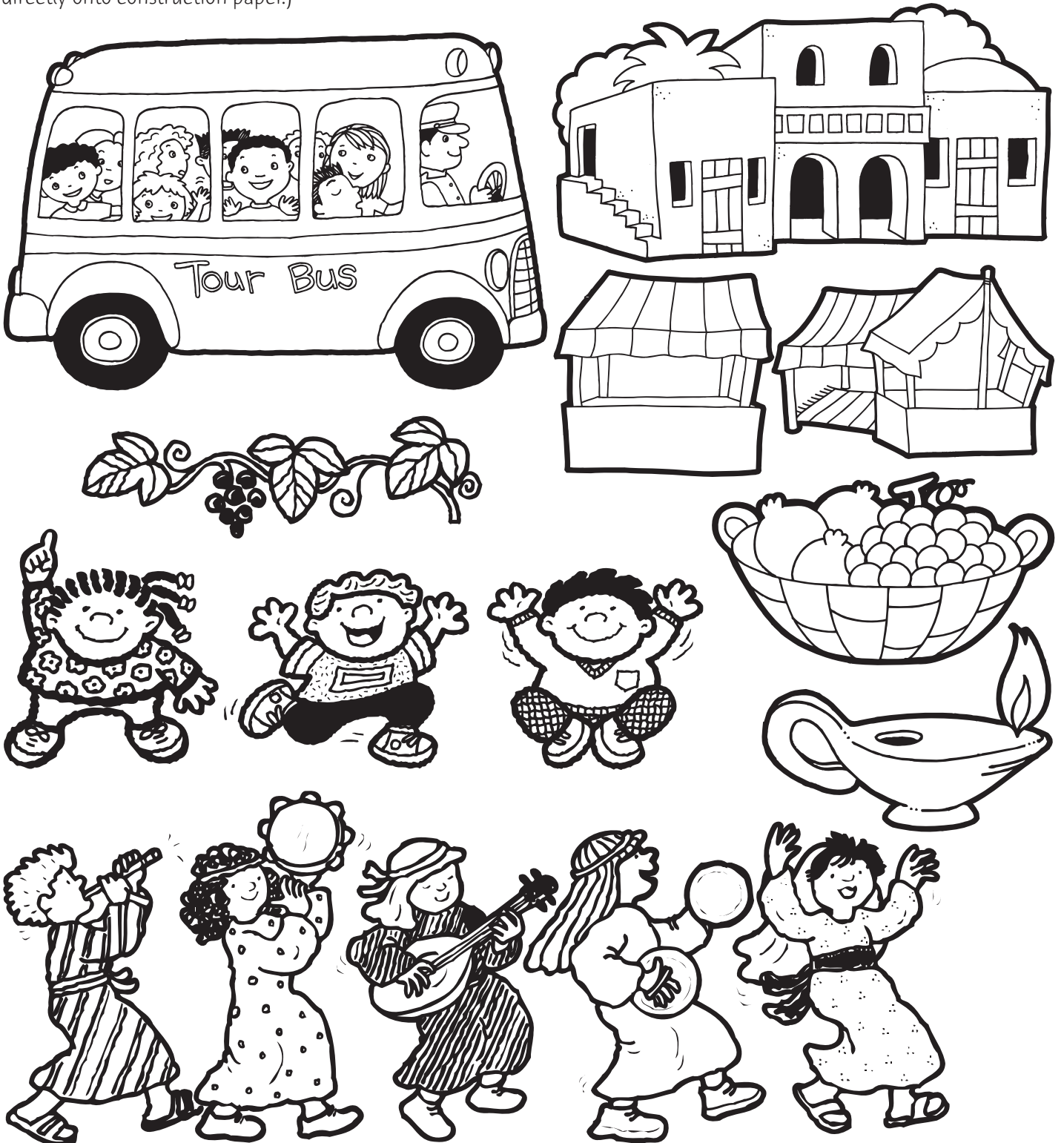
Come join your kids on a
visit to the cities where
Jesus' ministry came alive!

Call Jean Brown at 555-5555
for more information.

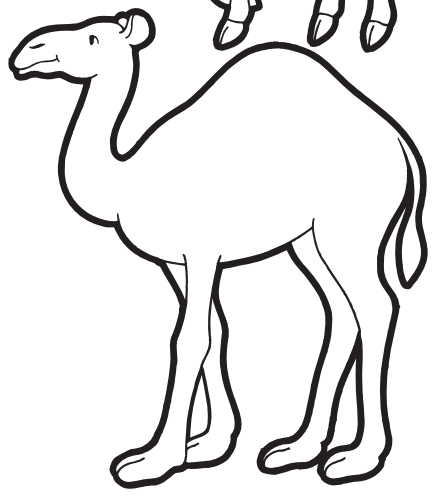
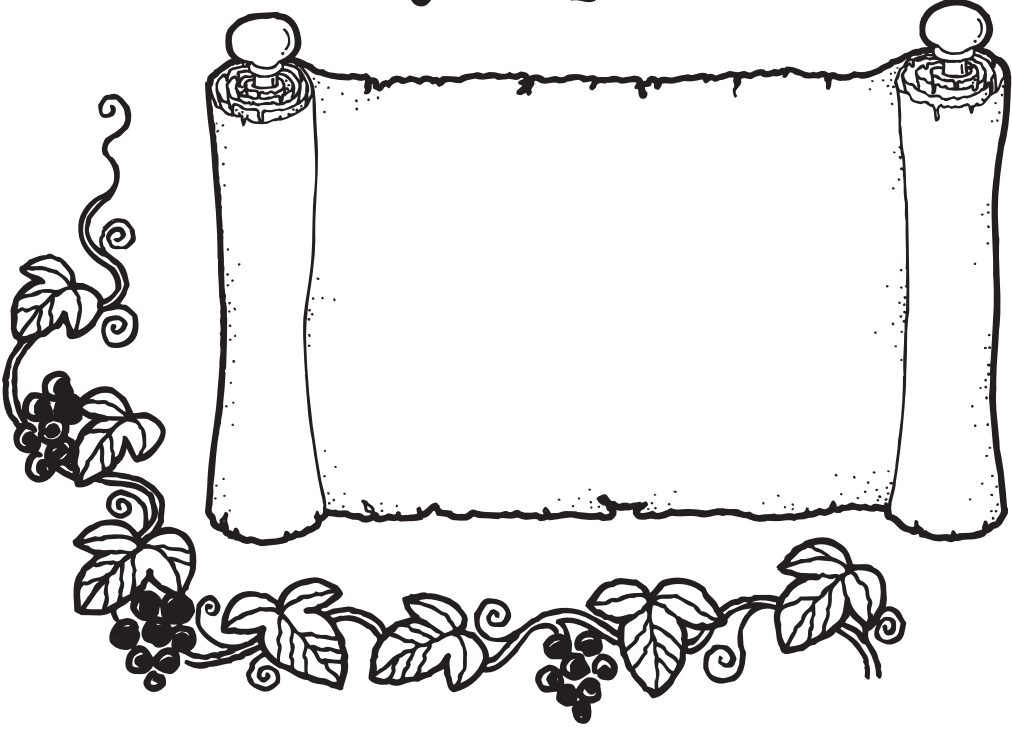
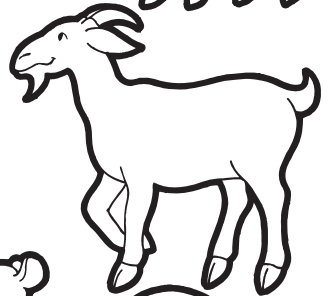
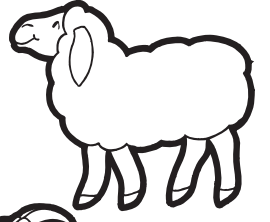
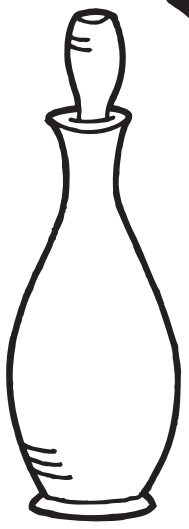
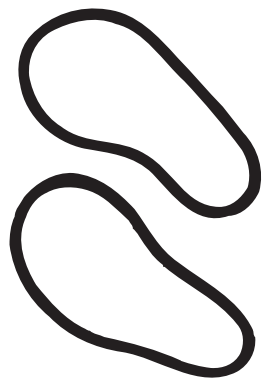
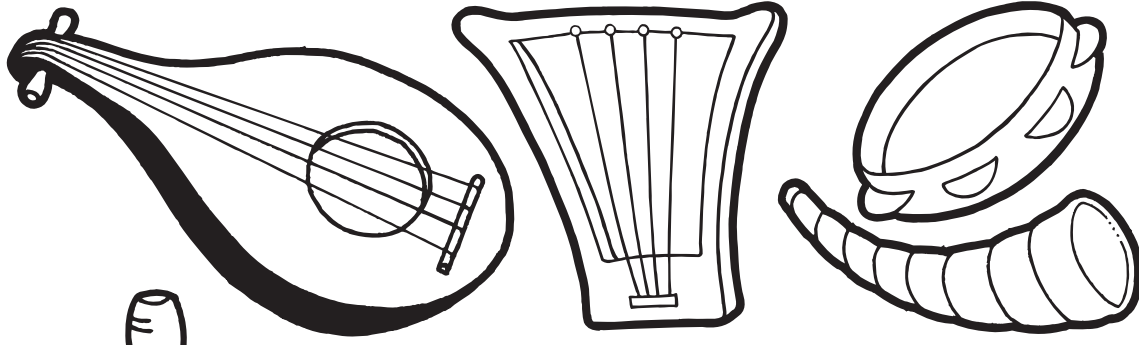
Patterns

Use these patterns to enhance bulletin announcements, forms and flyers. Pattern can also be used to decorate bulletin boards, classrooms, hallways and church buildings. Follow these three easy steps to enlarge patterns:

1. Make overhead transparencies of the patterns using a photocopier and project patterns onto butcher paper taped onto wall or onto portions of large appliance boxes.
2. Trace patterns with pencil.
3. Cut out patterns and then use markers or paint to color them. (Hint: To save time, you may also project patterns directly onto construction paper.)

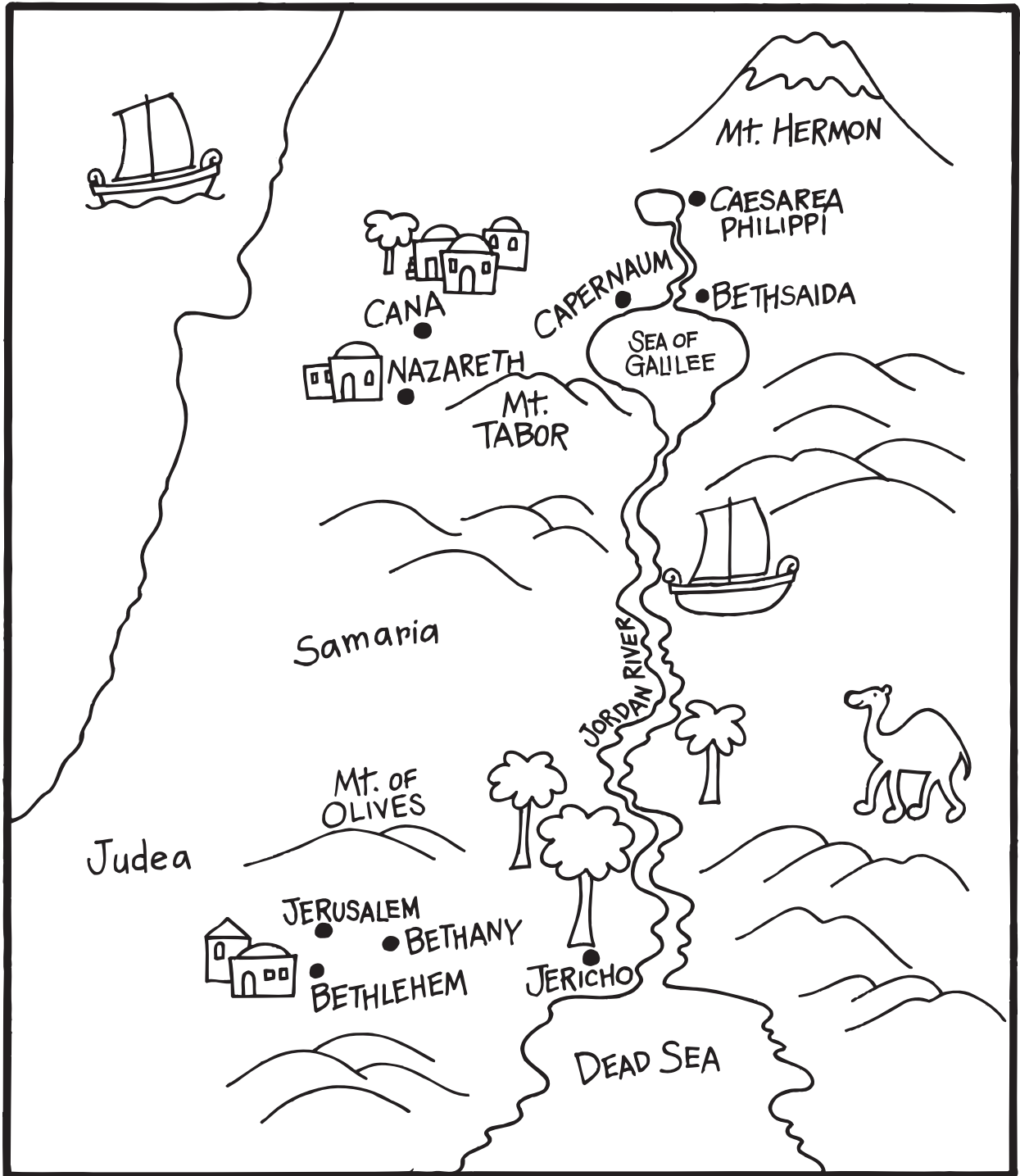








Journey with Jesus



Journey with Jesus



Date(s) _____

Lesson # and Title _____

Teaching Team _____

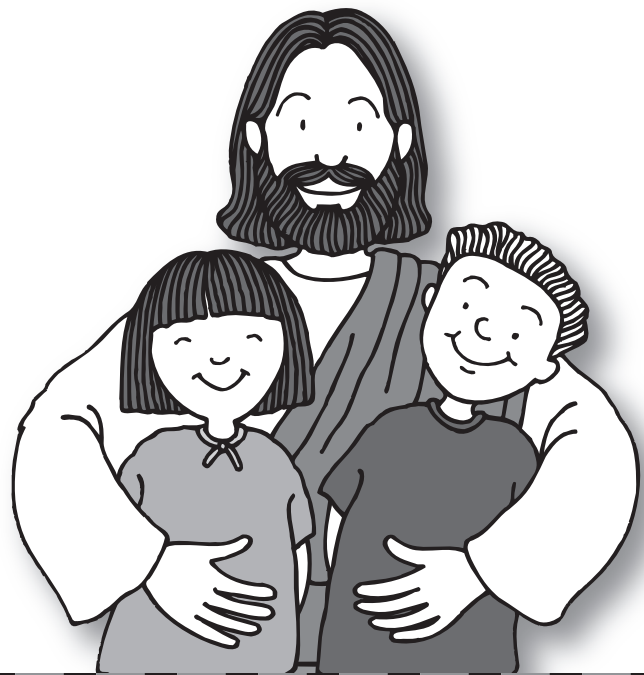
Time

Center

Materials

Teachers

Helpers



KIDS TAKE NOTE

FREE TOUR OF PLACES WHERE JESUS WALKED!

Always wanted to see those famous places
where Jesus performed His miracles?

Now you can!

It's not an impossible dream!
You, too, can see and experience
life in Bible lands—in Bible times!

The *JOURNEY WITH JESUS*
Tour begins soon!

Grab your imaginations for an exciting journey
through 12 towns in Israel where Jesus' ministry
will come to life right before your eyes!
Join us for a look at Israel as it was in Jesus' day.
We're going to learn new songs, make Bible-times
crafts, play games and grow to understand
just who Jesus is and how we can live
in ways that show our love for Him.

The Journey with Jesus tour
will only be available

from _____ (date)

through _____ (date)

at _____ (time)!

Sign up now to reserve your place on the tour!

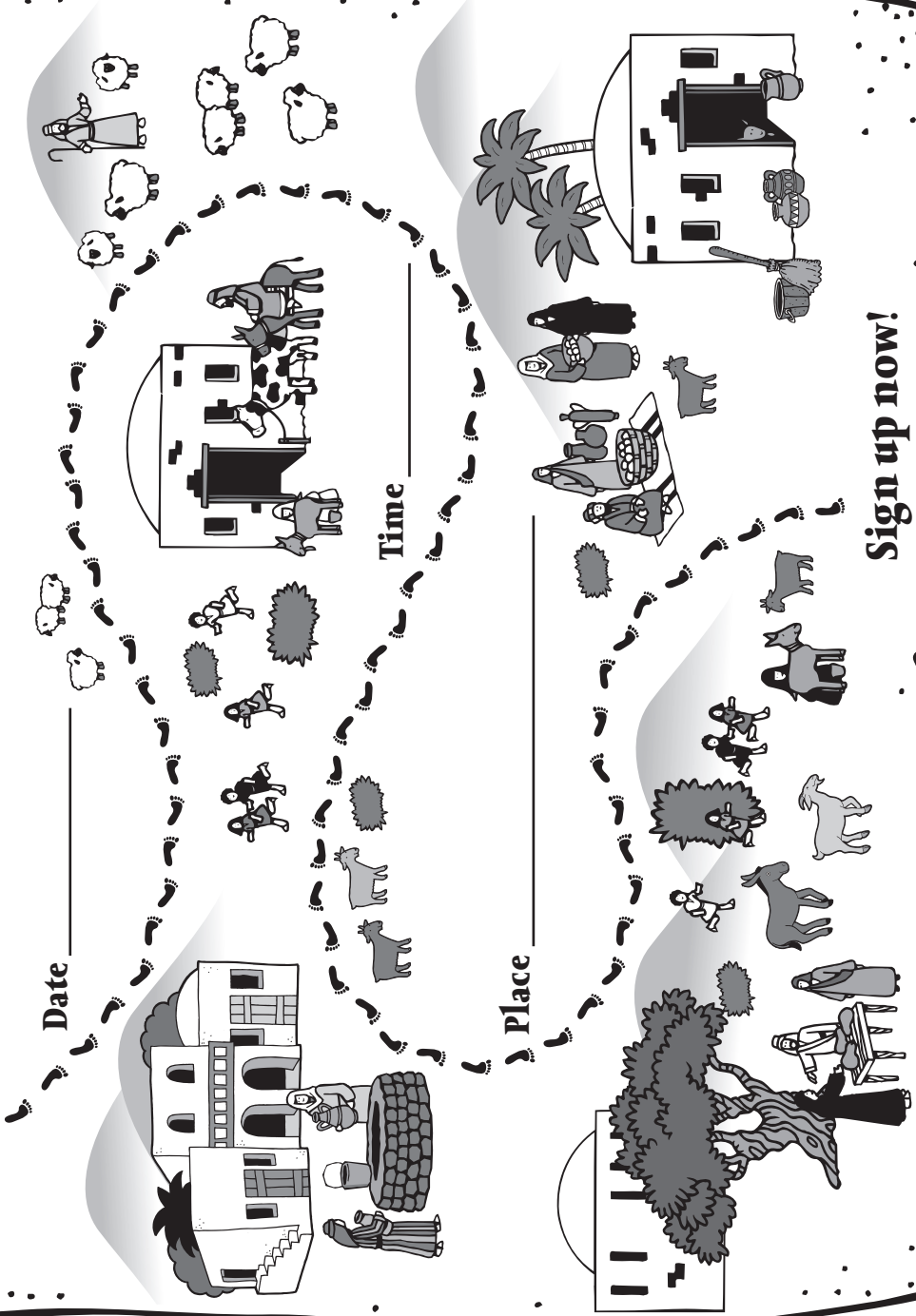
Journey with Jesus on a tour of the cities where He lived!

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

Sign up now!



LOOK WHAT'S COMING!

FABULOUS FREE TOUR OF ISRAEL!

Yes, you read that correctly!

Just when you thought you could never afford such a costly vacation—
the fabulous Journey with Jesus tour is coming to you!

Grab your imaginations and get ready for an exciting journey through 12 towns in Israel! Watch Jesus' ministry come to life right before your eyes!

Join us _____ as we take
(dates/times)

a look at Israel in Jesus' day. But wait—there's more! We're going to learn new songs, make Bible-times crafts, play games and grow to understand just who Jesus is and how we can live in ways that show our love for Him.

To get your passports, see _____
(name)



**CALLING
ALL KIDS**

The Journey with Jesus tour is coming!

**Grab your shades and backpacks and get ready
for an exciting tour through 12 towns in Israel!**

Watch Jesus' ministry come to life right before your eyes!

Join us _____
(dates/times)

for a look at Israel

as it was in Jesus'

day. We'll learn

new songs, make

Bible-times crafts,

play games and

grow to understand



just who Jesus is and

how we can live in

ways that show our

love for Him. See

(name)

for information

and passports!

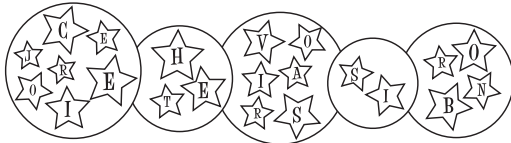
Lesson 1 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Super Stars!

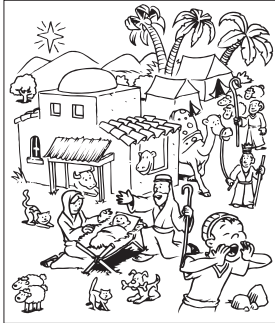
Luke 2:1-20

The Challenge

The birth of Jesus was heralded in the night sky by the star of Bethlehem. Unscramble the letters in each star cluster to read this celestial message.



REJOICE THE SAVIOR IS BORN



What are some promises from God that you want to praise Him for?

The Super Challenge

Circle 15 things that are different between each scene.
20 THINGS ARE DIFFERENT ON THE SECOND SCENE

Lesson 2 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Lost in a Maze

The Challenge

Andrew and Danielle need God's Word to make right choices each day! Help them find their way to the Bible.

What Is It?

Complete the rhymes to find four ways to learn and remember God's instructions for us.

1. It has four letters,
It rhymes with ring,
It needs some music,
The way is sing.

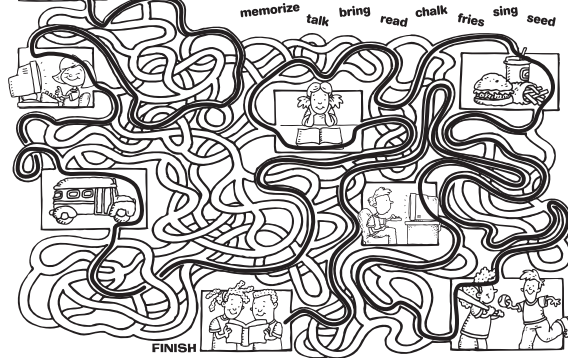
3. It has four letters,
It rhymes with walk,
It needs a friend,
The way is talk.

START

DRAW YOUR LINE THROUGH ALL THE BOXES. THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE PATH.

2. It has four letters,
It rhymes with bead,
It needs a book,
The way is read.

4. It has eight letters,
It rhymes with exercise,
It needs some practice,
The way is memorize.



FINISH

What did Jesus do when He was tempted? What can we do when we are tempted to disobey God?

Lesson 3 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Blankity Blanks

Jeremiah 17:7

The Challenge

This is a real code-breaker puzzle. Each letter of the alphabet has been given a number, but only a few of the letters have been given to you. Write the letters you have been given in the alphabet key. Then see if you can figure out the code and write in the rest of the letters. Use the key to discover the words of the verse.

Alphabet Key:

2	4	6	8	10	11	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	28	30	32	34	36	38
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
40	42	44	46	48	50	52	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z					

"B L E S S E D
I S T H E

W H O S E
C O N F I -
D E N C E

M A N
W H O
T R U S T S

I N T H E
L O R D ,

I S I N
H I M ."



How can you show that you trust in Jesus?

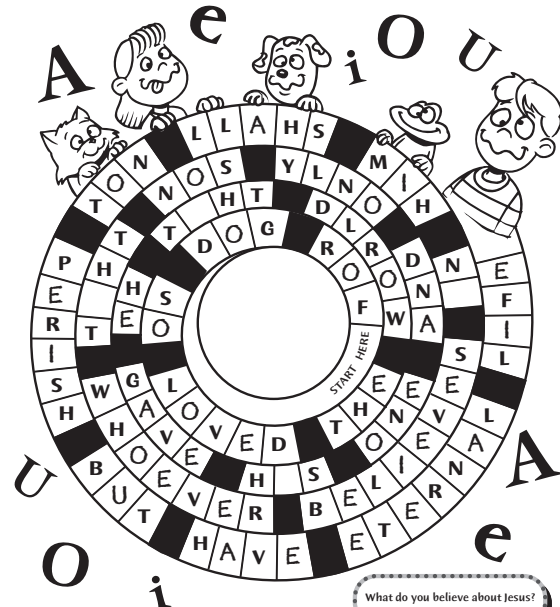
Lesson 4 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Dizzy Spells!

John 3:16

The Challenge

These kids are getting dizzy trying to solve this puzzle! Start at the center of the spiral and fill in the missing vowels. After you do, memorize the verse. (Hint: Read the verse in your Bible for help.)



What do you believe about Jesus?

Lesson 5 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Map of Miracles

Because Jesus did so many miracles, what do you learn about Him?

- Circle the name of the town where Jesus healed a paralyzed man. (Mark 2:1-12)
- Draw a square around the name of the sea Jesus calmed. (Luke 8:22-26)
- Underline the name of the town where Jesus fed 5,000 people with a boy's lunch. (Luke 9:10-17)
- Draw an X by the area where Jesus healed a deaf man. (Mark 7:31-37)
- Draw a star by the name of the town where Jesus brought a man back to life. (John 11:17-44)
- Draw a triangle around the name of the town where Jesus changed water into wine. (John 2:1-11)
- Draw a heart by the name of the town where Jesus healed two blind men. (Matthew 20:29-34)

BONUS: What's the name of this body of water? →

Lesson 6 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Alphabetical Order

What is something you feel worried about? Talk to Jesus about it!

Philippians 4:6

The Challenge Work your way through the alphabet magnets. Write the word you read on the letter A in the first blank below and then write the word you read on the B in the second blank below. Go through the alphabet, filling in the blanks as you go, to find a Bible verse that will help you pray.

" Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T

Lesson 7 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

God Feeds Needs!

What is something you feel worried about? Talk to Jesus about it!

Philippians 4:19

The Challenge These papers have gotten all mixed up, but if you write the words from each paper in order on the numbered lines below, you will find the Bible verse.

"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

How might Jesus meet your needs this week?

Lesson 8 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Rhyme Time

What is something you feel worried about? Talk to Jesus about it!

Romans 10:9

The Challenge Cross out the words that rhyme in each row. Read the remaining words to find one thing that a lot of people say they believe.

Brushing	Song	Wrong	Gong
beat	treat	your	street
shut	dirt	teeth	start
every	out	scout	but
sky	day	by	buy
sell	will	doll	will
tip	simp	help	up
score	prevent	prepare	spare
boot	sut	tooth	dot
red	decay	had	sad

Which person shown here really believes this? How can you tell?

What does Romans 10:9 tell us to believe about Jesus? How can you show that you believe Jesus is Lord?

Lesson 9 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

A Taxing Situation!

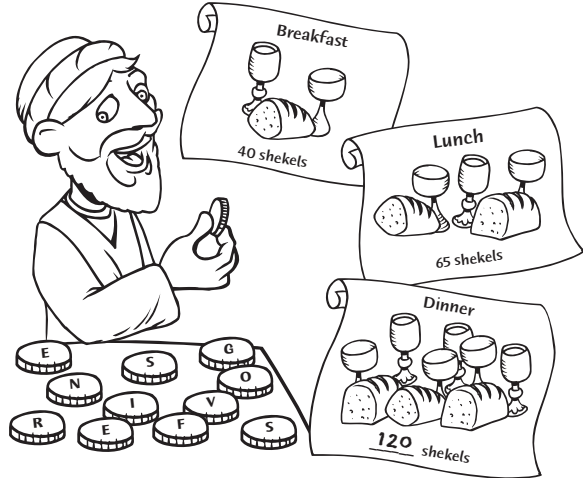
How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus' love and forgiveness? What will you do to respond to Jesus' love for you?

The Challenge

Luke 19:1-10

Unscramble the letters on Zacchaeus's coins to find a word that tells a way God shows love for us. Write the letters on the blank lines. (Hint: It's something Zacchaeus experienced!)

F O R G I V E N E S S



The Super Challenge

Zacchaeus bought 2 goblets of water and a loaf of bread for breakfast. He paid 40 shekels. At lunchtime he bought 3 goblets of water and 2 loaves of bread. Lunch cost him 65 shekels.

How much did a goblet of water cost? 15 shekels

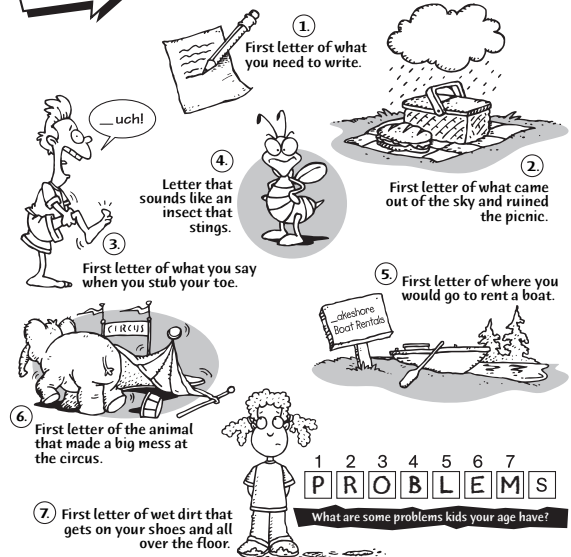
How much did he pay for dinner? 120 shekels

Lesson 10 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Puzzling Problem

The Challenge

Read the clues and write the answers in the boxes to find something we all have.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7
P R O B L E M S

What are some problems kids your age have?

What problem did Mary and Martha have in today's Bible story? What did they do about their problem? What problems can you talk to Jesus about?

Lesson 11 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Balloon Pop

The Challenge

If you follow the directions below, you'll find out what the first division of New Testament books tell us.

Use an X to pop all balloons with

- names of men from the Old Testament;
- words beginning with S;
- names of women from the New Testament;
- names of foods eaten in Bible times.

Name the four books in this division!

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Write the remaining words in order on the blank lines.

The Gospels tell the good news of Jesus' birth, life, teachings and resurrection from death on the cross.

How did Jesus show His love for us?

Lesson 12 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

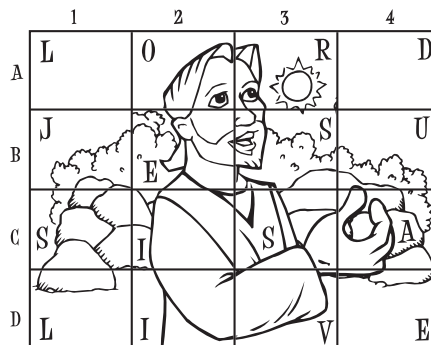
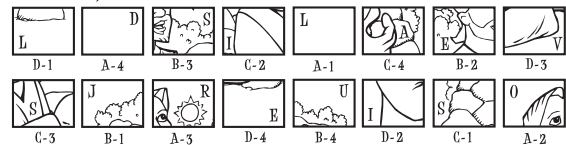
Seeing Is Believing

What are the results of believing in Jesus?

The Challenge

John 20:19-31

Draw the picture parts in the grid below to see what Thomas saw after Jesus died on the cross. Don't forget to put the letters in for the Super Challenge!



The Super Challenge

Write the letters in order on the blanks below to find out what Thomas might have said after what he saw.

L O R D J E S U S
I S A L I V E!

Lesson 13 • Coloring/Puzzle Center

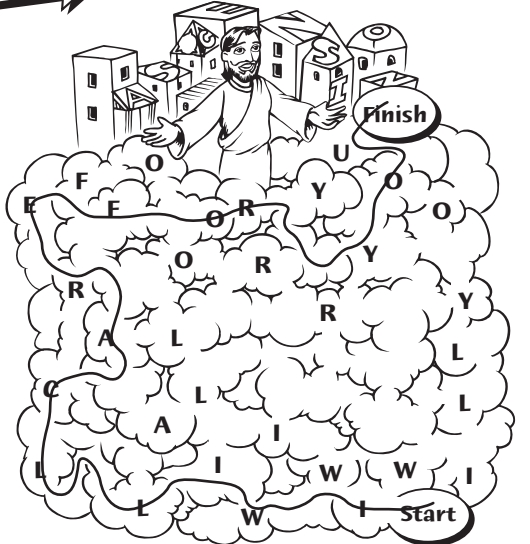
On Cloud Nine!

Matthew 28:16-20

What can you do to tell your friends about Jesus?

The Challenge

Starting at the letter I and finishing at Jesus, go through the maze to find out what Jesus promised before He went to heaven.



I WILL CARE FOR YOU.

The Super Challenge

Find nine letters hidden in the buildings to spell a word that describes when Jesus went to heaven.

A S C E N S I O N

All Men Will Know

(John 13:35)

by Wes Gorospe

Jesus said, "All men will know that you are My disciples,
If you (and you and you) love one another.
All men will know that you are My disciples,
If you (and you and you) love one another."

Love him, love her, love them and them;
Love him, love her, love them and them!

Jesus said, "All men will know that you are My disciples,
If you (and you and you) love one another.
All men will know that you are My disciples,
If you (and you and you) love one another."



disciple



love



The Gift

(Romans 6:23)

by Mary Gross Davis

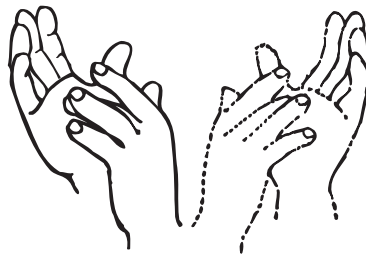
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus,
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The gift of God is eternal life, the gift of God is eternal life,
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's the greatest giver in all of history;
That's why He gave Jesus—to make us family!

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus,
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The gift of God is eternal life, the gift of God is eternal life,
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



life



Jesus

Jesus' Love

by Marc and Judy Roth

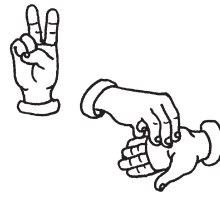
Two-thousand years ago,
 Jesus lived in the Middle East.
 His first job was a carpenter;
 Then He did a wonder at a wedding feast!
 Then He called His twelve disciples,
 "Won't you come follow Me?"
 He was teaching crowds about God
 And making blind eyes see.

Chorus:

*Jesus' love is real; Jesus' love is really real!
 It's not a fairy tale.
 Jesus' love is true; Jesus' love is truly true!
 And if you know Him,
 you know that He loves you.*

Two-thousand years ago,
 Jesus lived in the Middle East.
 He lived His life for God;
 And He gave His life for the very least.
 See, in those days people left you out
 If you were sick or lame.
 But Jesus touched the sick and sad
 And made them whole again.

Chorus



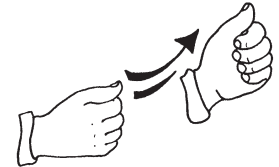
two, one thousand (ASL)
 ("m" for thousand)



"called"
 ("come" motion)



wonder (ASL)



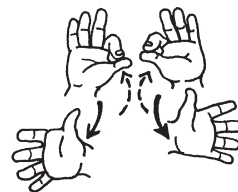
follow (ASL)



"carpenter"



blind (ASL)



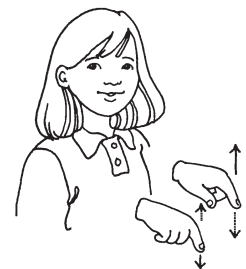
worthless (ASL)
 (for "very least")



"left you out"



sick (ASL)



lame (ASL)



sad (ASL)



whole, well (ASL)

My True Friend

by Judy and Marc Roth

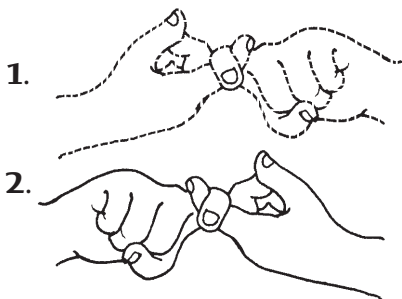
Chorus:

**Jesus is my true friend; I can trust Him to the end.
I can tell Him anything; I can tell Him anything.
Jesus is my true friend; I can trust Him to the end.
I can tell Him anything; I can tell Him anything.**

Anytime (**He's there!**)
Anyplace (**He's there!**)
I can call His name (**Jesus!**).
Anytime (**He's there!**)
Anyplace (**He's there!**)
With arms wide open, He is here to stay.
With arms wide open, He is here to stay.

Chorus

I can tell Him anything; I can tell Him anything.



friend



trust



Psalm 119:10-12

Music by Mary Gross Davis

I seek You with all my heart;
Do not let me stray from Your commands.
I have hidden Your word in my heart
That I might not sin against You.

Praise be to You, O Lord; teach me Your decrees.
Praise be to You, O Lord; teach me Your decrees.

Psalm 130:7-8

Traditional music adapted by Mary Gross Davis

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
For with the Lord is unfailing love
And with Him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem
Israel from all their sins.



Lord (ASL)
(as a royal sash)

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
For with the Lord is unfailing love
And with Him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem
Israel from all their sins.



love (ASL)



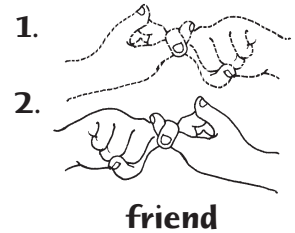
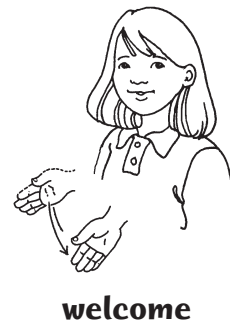
**redemption,
redeem (ASL)**
(note "R" sign)

Shalom

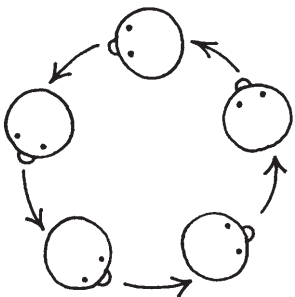
Words by Judy & Marc Roth. Music:
Traditional Hebrew melody.

Shalom, shalom, God be with us
As we gather here together.
Shalom, shalom, God will greet us
As we say hello to one another.

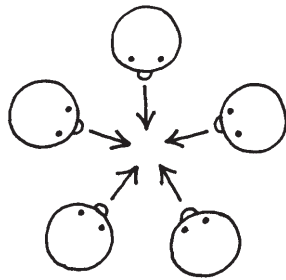
Shalom, friends, shalom,
Welcome to this place.
Shalom, friends, shalom,
As we meet here face-to-face.



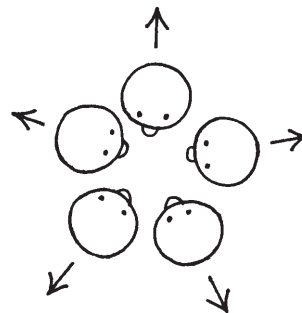
Optional movement steps: Do each movement for the duration of one phrase.



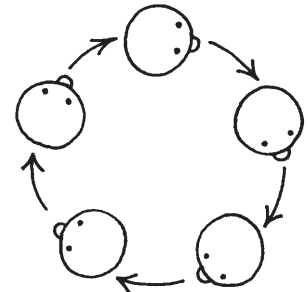
1. Four steps to right
(in rhythm with music).



2. Four steps in,
then clap over head.



3. Three steps back
and clap over head.



4. Four steps to left.



Singing Together

Words by Carol M. Dettoni. Music: Traditional.

Clap hands with me
And I will clap hands with you! *(clap)*
Clap hands with me
And I will clap hands with you! *(clap)*

Singing together,
Praising God with our voices;
Singing together,
Thanking Him and rejoicing.

Clap hands with me
And I will clap hands with you! *(clap)*
Clap hands with me
And I will clap hands with you! *(clap)*
Clap hands with me
And we will praise the Lord together! *(clap)*

Town by Town

by Marc and Judy Roth

Grab your shades and your bottles of water;
This trip's hot and it's gonna get hotter!
Come and see what's goin' down—
We're gonna visit Israel town by town!

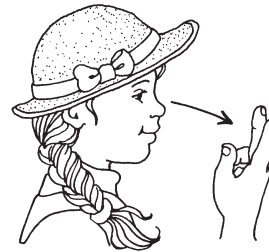


"shades"
(pretend to put
on sunglasses)



"hotter"
(wipe brow)

Chorus:
*We're gonna walk where Jesus walked;
We're gonna stroll where Jesus talked;
Come and see what's goin' down—
We're gonna visit Israel town by town!*



"see"



"walk/stroll"

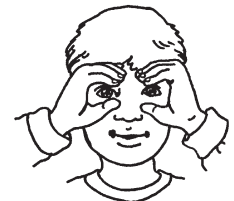
Pack up your map and your hiking gear;
Get set to watch and get ready to hear;
Come and see what's goin' down—
We're gonna visit Israel town by town!



"town by town"

Chorus

Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jordan River,
Cana, Capernaum, Bethsaida;
Caesarea Philippi, Sea of Galilee,
Jericho, Bethany, Mount of Olives and Jerusalem.



"watch"



"hear"

