

Gospel Light's
KIDS@TIME

Rock-Solid Followers



Helping Kids Discover Jesus' Love for Them and the World



REPRODUCIBLE!

This 13-Session Course Is Perfect for:

- Small and Large Churches
- Summer Children's Programming
- Preschool and Elementary Children, Ages 3 to 12



Gospel Light

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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 an exploration of who they are in Jesus and how He gives them what they need.

1. Read “*Rock-Solid Followers Overview*” on pages 9-10 and the “*Rock-Solid Followers 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.



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.



If you are the children’s director or coordinator of *Rock-Solid Followers*, 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* begins.
2. Read “Outreach Ideas,” “Partnering with Parents,” “Decorating Ideas” and “Theme Ideas” on pages 26-33 for exciting ideas to motivate interest in *Rock-Solid Followers*, 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.

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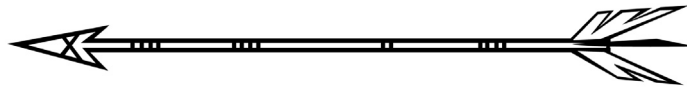
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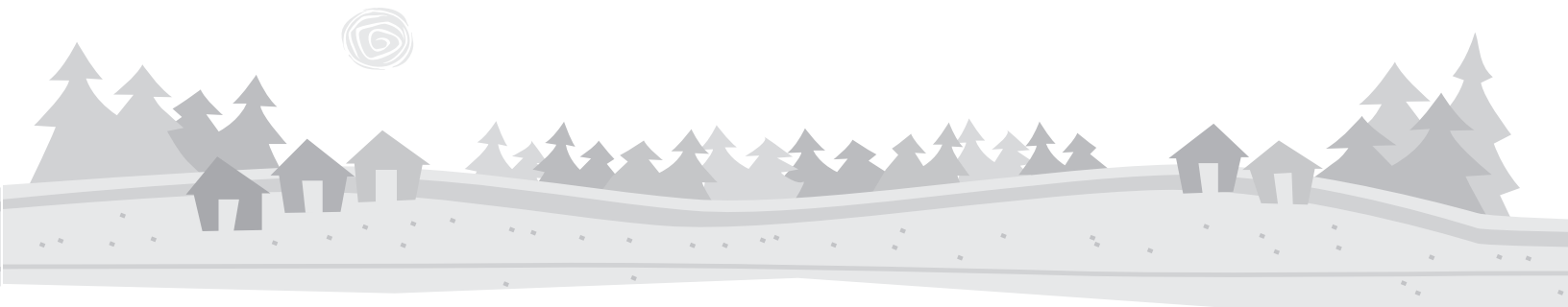
In this section are 13 lessons to help your students discover who they are in Jesus and how He gives them what they need.

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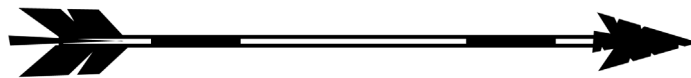
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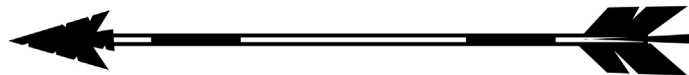
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CD-ROM

On the CD-ROM you will find all the music for *Rock-Solid Followers* and resources (maps, posters and mission-stories) to enrich the missions emphasis of this program.

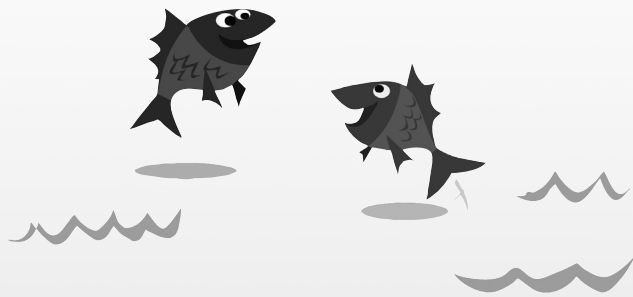
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Coordinator Information

This section contains concise and practical information that can help you plan and lead the *Rock-Solid Followers* 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.



Rock-Solid Followers Overview

Welcome to *Rock-Solid Followers*, a 13-lesson adventure for children ages 3-12. The fun and excitement of an outdoor adventure camp is combined with the discovery of who we are in Jesus Christ and the richness of His love and provision for us. Building on this solid foundation, this course also challenges children to be excited about missions at home and around the world.



The Purpose and Goals

Elementary-age children need positive experiences to counterbalance everyday situations in which they see their peers, role models and heroes finding their value and significance in money, sports and popularity. Even preschoolers need to encounter Jesus' love and provision in a personal way. This course is designed to help both preschool- and elementary-age children identify specific ways that only Jesus can make a true and lasting difference in their everyday lives.

Rock-Solid Followers will help children discover that Jesus is the true and only source for the things that matter in our lives. Jesus Christ, God's Son, invites us to accept His immeasurable love and incomparable gifts such as guidance in the best way to live, joy in any situation, courage to do right, unity with other believers and wisdom in telling others about God. As children learn and discuss who they are in Jesus, *Rock-Solid Followers* will also motivate them to reach out to others with the good news of Jesus.

In order to accomplish these goals, the sessions of *Rock-Solid Followers* are planned to help your team lead

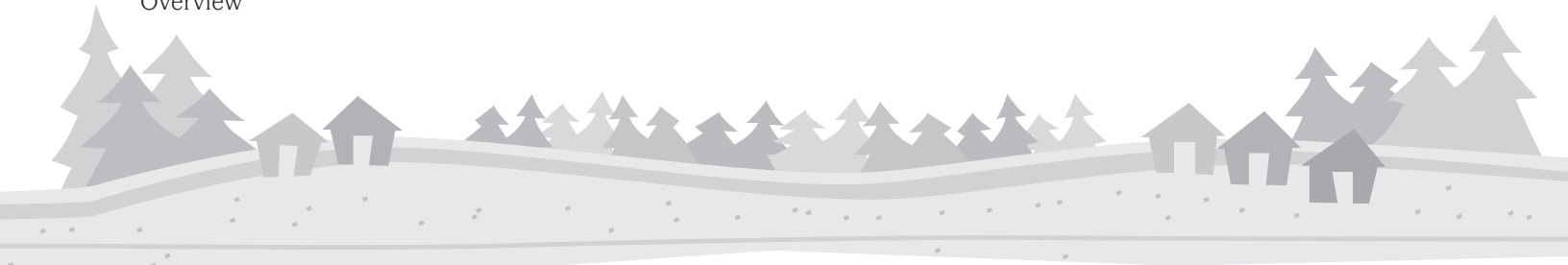
children in discovering 13 truths about Jesus and His loving provision for us. Each lesson's Bible verse (simplified for preschoolers) imparts significant truth about Jesus' provision for us. (See p. 11 for a complete course overview.)

Exciting Bible stories that tell the life of the apostle Paul are special features of this course. Children will see Paul first as he came to know Jesus, then as he traveled to be a witness for Jesus and later as he wrote key passages of Scripture to the early Christians. All of the stories will expand children's understanding of who Jesus is and how Jesus can meet their needs. For example, children will observe the results of Paul's first journey in which he told the good news about Jesus. They will be challenged to depend on Jesus to guide them as they learn about Paul's journey to Macedonia. Even the disastrous events of Paul's beatings, arrest and shipwreck will point out Jesus' gifts of courage and strength as we obey Him.

Each *Rock-Solid Followers* session has been carefully planned to help your children discover life-changing truths about Jesus and to have a deeper understanding of who they are in Jesus and the love He gives them.

Special Features

- In each lesson you will find a Missions Focus—several questions you can use in discussing what it means to be missionaries in today's world.
- Each Bible story offers creative storytelling techniques to involve children in an active way. In addition, a unique Camping Fun activity in each lesson for elementary-age children suggests an item the teacher can use to help children remember and put into practice the Daily Truth featured in the lesson. (See p. 35 for a list of these items.)
- Because children learn in diverse ways, *Rock-Solid Followers* is filled with a variety of activities that appeal to children's many learning styles. In each lesson, the children 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 lively, kid-appealing games and songs. Each lesson includes a missions prayer idea called

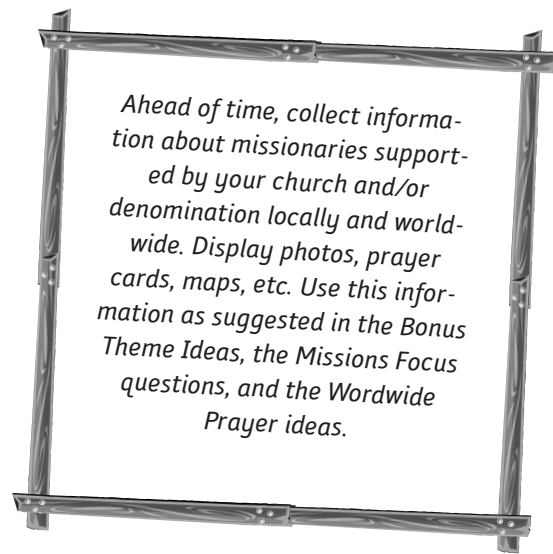


“Worldwide Prayer” that will help children think and pray about people in various countries around the world.

- In each lesson, Bonus Theme Ideas are suggested to help create even more camp excitement for your students and leaders—and to keep attendance and enthusiasm high. You’ll find a variety of creative ideas such as fun camp activities, decorating hints and snacks. In every lesson there is a suggestion for how to build your children’s understanding and support of missions in the community and around the world.
- Get a quick overview of each lesson’s activities by referring to the Planning Page. This page also functions as a convenient supply list to aid in quickly collecting the materials your leaders and teachers need.
- *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM provides teaching resources such as Maps and Posters of Paul’s Journeys. Also, the CD-ROM offers fresh and fun music that will keep your kids singing all week long about who we are in Jesus Christ and the richness of His love and provision for us. Make a copy of the music for every child to take home!

Best of all, you’ll appreciate the flexibility of this course! Every church and every group of children are different. Whether you are a large church with separate groups for each age level or a small church that combines preschool-

ers and elementary-age children together in one group, this curriculum easily adapts to meet your needs. The activity and schedule choices provide you with the opportunity to customize each lesson to fit you and your church. You’ll love the wealth of ideas that will help your team involve children and build relationships with them. *Rock-Solid Followers* takes you beyond just leading kids in fun activities as you guide them in these life-changing lessons.



Rock-Solid Followers Scope and Sequence

	Lesson Title	Life Focus	Bible Story	Memory Verse	Early Childhood Adaptation
1	<i>Saved by Jesus</i>	I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.	Saul Meets Jesus • Acts 9:1-22	"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9	"God's kindness is what saves us. It is a gift from God."
2	<i>Help from Jesus</i>	When I have problems and need help, one of the best ways Jesus helps me is through His followers.	Saul's Great Escape • Acts 9:23-31	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10	"With love, help each other."
3	<i>Sent by Jesus</i>	I can be part of God's plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus.	Paul's First Missionary Journey • Acts 13:1-5,13-52	"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Romans 1:16	"I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus."
4	<i>Loved by Jesus</i>	Every day I can see evidence of God's love for me.	A Crippled Man and a Miracle • Acts 14:8-20	"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39	"Jesus always loves us."
5	<i>Guided by Jesus</i>	I can depend on Jesus to guide me and help me know the best ways to live.	Paul's Vision from God • Acts 16:6-15	"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Philippians 2:13	"God helps you do good."
6	<i>Joy in Jesus</i>	In any situation, I can praise Jesus and remember that He gives me joy.	Paul and Silas Singin' in Jail • Acts 16:16-40	"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4	"Rejoice in the Lord every day."
7	<i>Wisdom from Jesus</i>	I can ask Jesus to help me be wise and know the best way to tell about God.	The Answer for the Unknown God • Acts 17:16-34	"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." Colossians 4:5	"Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus."
8	<i>Strengthened by Jesus</i>	Jesus gives me strength so that I can continue telling about Him.	Paul Has Strength to Obey • Acts 21:8—22:29	"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13	"Jesus gives me strength."
9	<i>Courage from Jesus</i>	When it's hard to do what is right, Jesus gives me courage.	Paul's Courageous Nephew • Acts 23:12-35	"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13	"Have courage to do what is right."
10	<i>Witness for Jesus</i>	Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.	Paul Survives a Storm • Acts 27—28	"Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life." Philippians 2:15-16	"Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus."
11	<i>United in Jesus</i>	I belong to the body of Christ, and I can use my abilities to help others follow Jesus.	All in the Family • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31	"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27	"You are a part of the body of Christ."
12	<i>Growing in Jesus</i>	When I grow as a Christian, I talk and act in ways that show love for God and others.	Grow Fruit . . . Lots of It • Galatians 5:22-23	"Live a life worthy of the Lord and . . . please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:10	"As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do."
13	<i>Faithful to Jesus</i>	I can be a faithful follower of Jesus because of the protection He provides for me.	Be Strong • Ephesians 6:10-18	"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God." Ephesians 6:10-11	"Be strong in the Lord."

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. On the third day after Jesus died, God brought Him back to life. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 John 4:14.)
- d. Are you sorry for your sins? Tell God that you are. Do you believe Jesus died to take the punishment for your sins? Tell God that, too. If you admit 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 1:12; 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.)

c. 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.) God's forgiveness helps us want to do what's right instead of what's wrong.

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 by 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* by choosing when you will schedule the program. This 13-lesson curriculum can be used effectively for second-hour programs, midweek programs, Sunday School or summertime Sunday morning, weekday programs or home groups.

No matter when or where *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 because 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*. In this plan, each teacher prepares and leads only one activity. Guides (adults, teenagers or even responsible seventh and eighth graders) lead groups of students to rotate between the centers (Bible Story, Art, Game, etc.). In other words, each teacher leads only one part of the lesson. Each teacher's responsibility for only one center simplifies teacher preparation and often improves teaching effectiveness, as well as makes 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 guide who leads the group to various centers. (Color code name tags for easy group identification.)
- Each group, along with its 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?

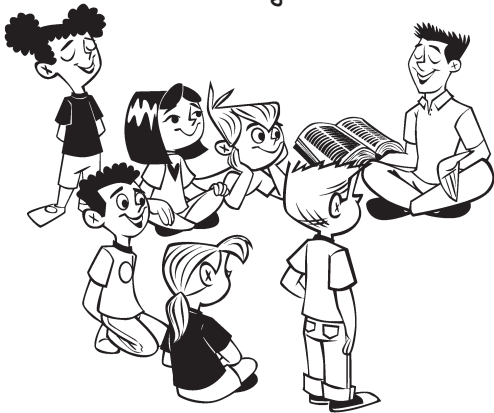
- Each teacher takes responsibility for one center, remaining at the center and instructing each group as it visits the center. (Note: If both preschool and elementary-aged children visit the same center, teachers modify activities as shown in each lesson.)
- During the Worship Center, teachers (and 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* learning centers. Post a large sign to identify each center.
- Decorate centers (see Decorating Ideas on pp. 29-32) and give centers fun names of areas that might be

found at a camp such as Pine Mountain or Lookout Point for the Bible Story Center, Craft Shack or Cabin Creations for the Art Center, Big Rock Adventure or Eagle's Landing for the Game Center, Rainbow Lake or Wild Trail for the Coloring/Puzzle Center and Forest Grove or Campfire Circle for the Worship Center. Choose from the centers suggested in the following diagram:

Bible Story Center



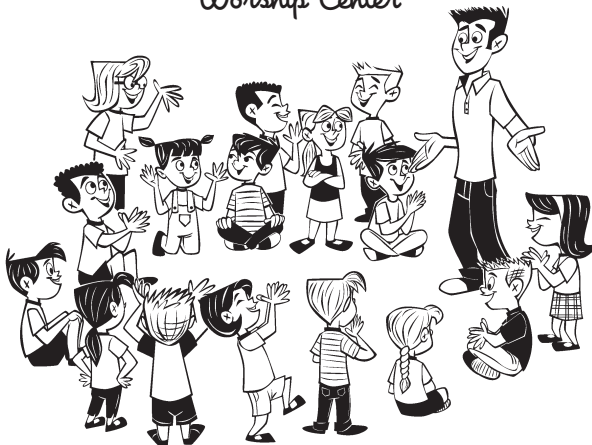
Game Center



Coloring/Puzzle Center



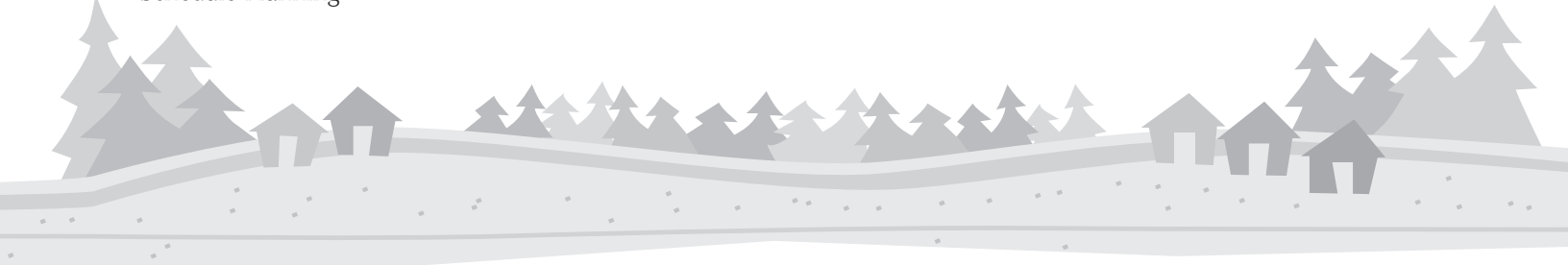
Worship Center



Art Center



(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 *Rock-Solid Followers* 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. 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.

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 guides to walk their routes in advance to become familiar with all locations.
- Establish a signal (bell, air horn, music, etc.) 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 and/or hand-held flags to identify each group.

Sample One-Hour Schedule

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

Schedule Options

You can adapt the sample schedule on the previous page 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*, plan an active center at the beginning of the session. If students attend *Rock-Solid Followers* 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.

Rock-Solid Followers

Date(s) _____

Lesson # and Title _____

Teaching Team _____

Time _____

Center _____

Materials _____

Teachers _____

Helpers _____

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Option 1

(45-60 minutes)

Worship Center

15-20 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

Note: If you are teaching only preschoolers, plan your centers for a maximum of 15 minutes and consider adding additional centers. If you are teaching only elementary-age children, consider expanding your centers from 20 to 25 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.

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.

While 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.).

If you are using Rock-Solid Followers 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!

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

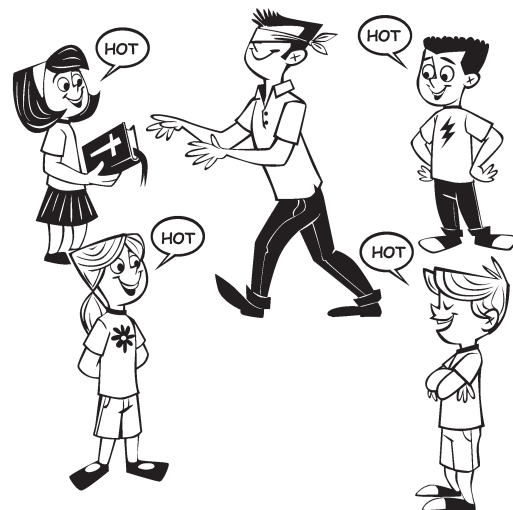
- Ask teachers to teach for a shorter time period—four weeks at a time instead of 13 weeks.
- Find two teams of teachers and helpers who will each teach for two weeks at a time. Then plan to rotate the two teams so that they alternate teaching two weeks at a time. During the course of the program, teachers 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* program begins!
- Keep the leaders of all your children's ministries aware of and praying about staffing needs.
- Develop a written job description for each staff position which includes all responsibilities, physical demands and commitment.
- 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 college students. Some churches ask parents to teach during the summer months, giving school-year



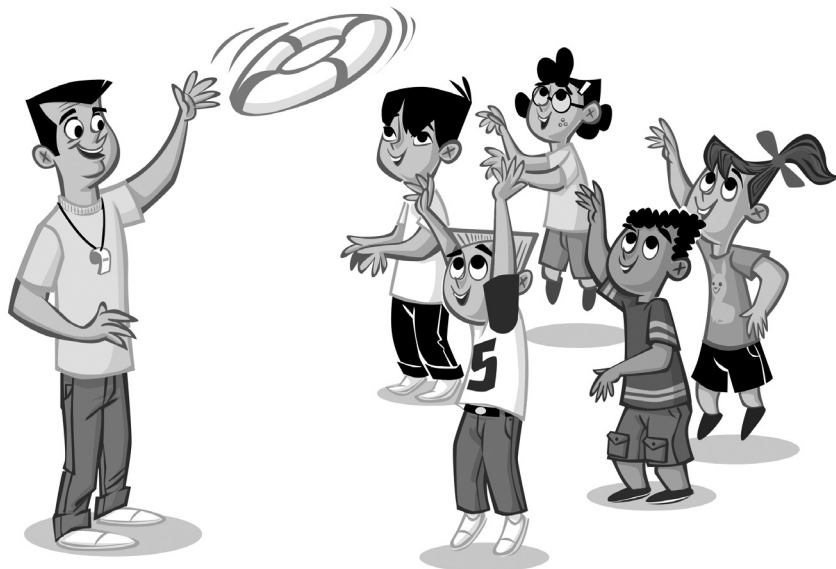
teachers a break. Be sure to follow your church's established procedures for screening volunteers.

- 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 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, e-mail 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* manual and *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM. Ask the prospective volunteer what he or she would most enjoy doing as a leader or teacher in *Rock-Solid Followers*.

- 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. If your church is able, provide schedules and other training articles on your church web site for volunteers to access at any time.
- 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!
- Create and regularly update a bulletin board display that shows pictures of volunteers leading activities with kids.

Recruiting Announcements

The team members who will be your *Rock-Solid Followers* 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.



An Adventure Camp Like No Other!

You are invited to join in on all the excitement of kids discovering who they are in Jesus Christ. We're now taking applications for leaders and teachers who can show God's love to kids, use their imaginations and have fun helping kids understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus!



Rock-Solid Followers starts on _____

and continues through _____ at _____

We Need You to Join Our Team!

(date) _____ (time) _____



Be a part of our camp team on a 13-week discovery of who we are in Jesus Christ!

Rock-Solid Followers has fresh new songs, fun games, worship activities and great Bible stories that will give kids new ways to discover who they are in Jesus Christ. But that's not all! Our camp team will keep kids coming back for more adventure through awesome art projects, tasty snacks, wacky games and more!



Act now to ensure your spot as a camp counselor in this 13-week adventure!

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 Rock-Solid Followers in your church newsletter and mail flyers to children. Send mass e-mails if possible.
 - 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*. You may also use the art on pages 234-237 to make your own posters and flyers, telling information about *Rock-Solid Followers*. Display the posters in a variety of locations around your church.



Church Website

Add information about *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* by adding a photo of several kids and teachers dressed in camp clothing (hiking boots, backpacks, walking sticks, jeans, t-shirts, bandannas, etc.).

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 as an outdoor picnic table or other camp 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* course with a kickoff event. Schedule the kickoff event two to three weeks before *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 multipurpose room into a camp. Set up three or four fun camp 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 theme-related 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 designate activity areas. Restrooms need to be open and clearly marked.

Teaching Preschoolers and Elementary Children Together

Whenever possible, it's recommended that you group preschool children (Ages 3 to Kindergarten) and elementary-age children (Grades 1 to 6) separately for *Rock-Solid Followers*. 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 (Grades 1 to 6) or younger (Ages 3 to Kindergarten) 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. If you are using this material with younger preschoolers, especially two-year-olds, additional modification to the games and art activities may be needed, depending on the skill level of the children in your class.
- 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.

Lesson One

Game Center


for older children • Acts 9:22

Collect
Bible, red and orange construction paper, boot, black permanent marker, scissors.

Prepare
Trace around a boot onto construction paper to make a boot print for each student. Make an equal number of red and orange boot prints. Cut out boot prints. On the orange boot prints, write the Bible verse—one or more words on each. Repeat for red boot prints.

Do

1. Give a boot print to every child or pair of children. Children form two teams by looking for others with the same color boot prints.
2. Teams race to make trails by placing boot prints in correct verse order. The first team to finish sits down. Ask volunteers from winning team to take turns reading words of the verse aloud.
3. If time permits, repeat game, forming new teams and seeing if team can order verses faster.



God's Word

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:
"God's kindness is what saves us. It is a gift from God."

God's Word & Me

I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

Missions Focus

What is the main message about Jesus that missionaries want to tell others?

Why is this news about salvation so important for everyone to know?

What else do people need to know about Jesus?

Talk About

- **What do you think it means to be saved?** After children respond, clarify as needed. The word "saved" means that we all need to be saved or rescued from the consequences of breaking God's rules. The Bible uses the word "sin" for breaking God's rules.
- **Why is Jesus the One who makes salvation possible?** (He never sinned. He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.)
- **According to this verse, how are we NOT saved?** (By works. Doing everything right won't get us saved.)
- **It doesn't matter how good we are or how many good deeds we do, those actions will not save us. Jesus is the ONLY One who can save us, if we believe in Him.** Lead children in prayer, thanking God for the gift of salvation.

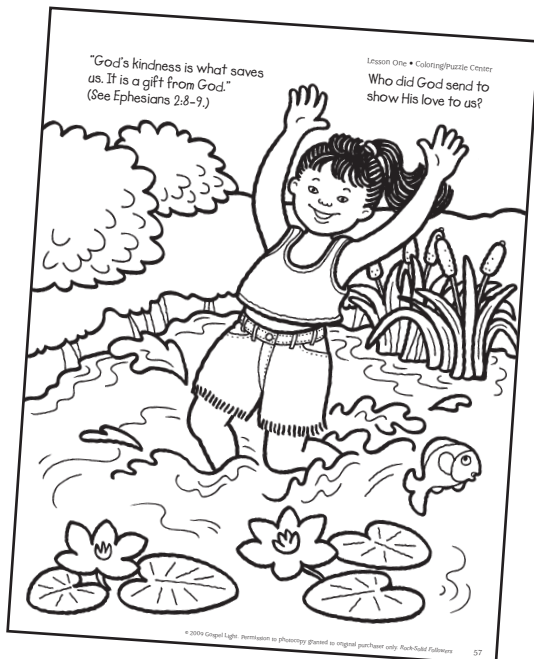
For Younger Children

Prepare one set of boot prints for each group of four to six children, number the prints in order, writing the numbers on the back of each print. Distribute prints to children and help them create a trail putting the boot prints in numerical order. Turn them over to reveal the verse. Read the verse aloud. Optional: Play *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM. Children walk on trail while music plays. Vary the way in which children move on the trail (hop like a frog, crawl like a bear, swim like a fish.)

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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.
- 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 music on the *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM 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 shakers or bells. If a song doesn't include motions or clapping, add them.



Outreach Ideas

Because *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*, 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*, send postcards or 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*. (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 during the Worship Center each session. (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 *Rock-Solid Followers*.
- Make a large outdoor banner or paint a large sign (see pattern for program title on p. 234) 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* session (see invitation on p. 233). Children sing songs for their parents, families

may tour classrooms and everyone enjoys a snack or barbecue. 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*, 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* and ask leaders and teachers to personally deliver photos to children's homes at the end of the program. You may also e-mail photos to parents. (Obtain parent permission for use of photos.)
- Make a *Rock-Solid Followers* 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.

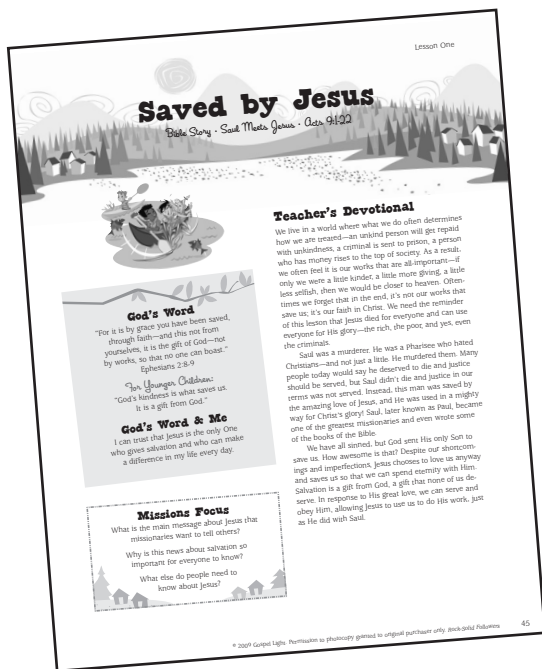


Partnering with Parents

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 *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*. 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.

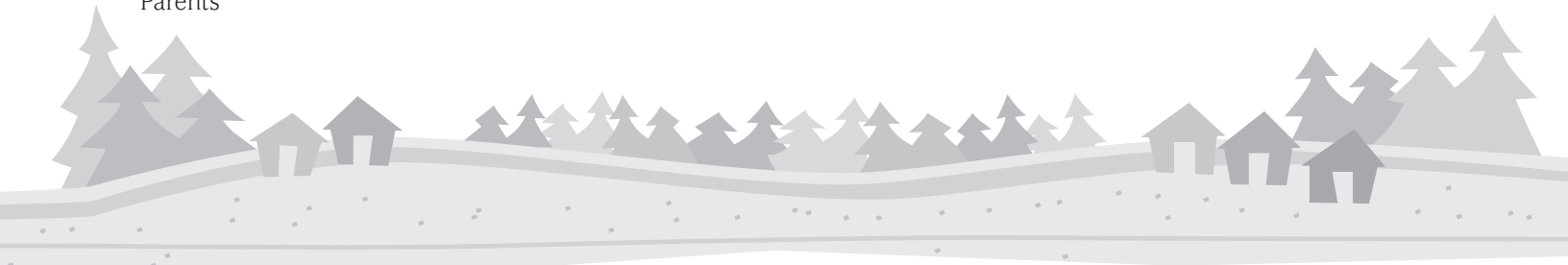


- Consider giving each parent a copy of the first page of each session. As parents read the devotional, they will develop an understanding not only of how they can model and demonstrate the focus of the session but also

how they can talk with their children about the session's Bible truth.

- 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 who they are in Jesus and how Jesus meets their needs.
- Give parents of elementary-age children a copy of the Family Talk page (p. 231) and the *Rock-Solid Followers* 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. You may choose to give a small prize or candy to each child who brings a completed Family Talk page to each session.

- Make a copy of the music on the *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM for families to listen to at home or in the car.
- Ask parents to support *Rock-Solid Followers* 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

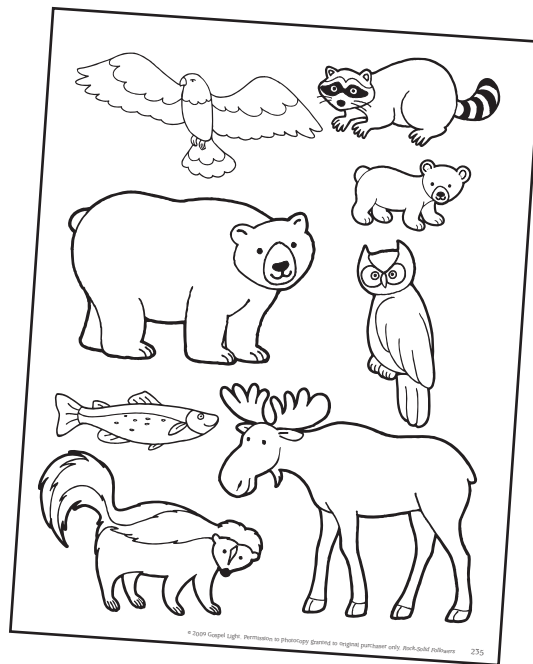


session's Bible content will model for parents effective ways of spiritual education. (Note: You may want to invite each parent to schedule a session when they will observe a full class session with his or her child.)

- For the length of *Rock-Solid Followers*, 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 coffee, 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*. If the goal is met, promise a party at which

children create and eat snacks and play fun 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 sheet of paper to which each parent and each child who can say a verse adds an acorn or animal cutout, or a large sheet of poster board to which each parent and each child who can say a verse adds a tent). (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.

- Plan Family Days several times throughout the course as suggested on the Bonus Theme Ideas pages in various lessons.



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 theme-related atmosphere. A few simple decorations can transform an ordinary classroom into part of your very own adventure camp. 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.

If you cannot leave decorations on the walls from week to week, you may attach painted backdrops 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

Think of a name for the camp at your church (Rocky Peak Kids Camp, Oak Spring Kids Camp, River Ranch Camp for Kids, etc.). Then name and label one or more rooms as different areas of the camp, especially if you are using a center method with this course. Places such as Big Rock Adventure, Hungry Bear Lodge, Pine Mountain, Wilderness Trail, Lookout Point, Critter Corner or Cedar Cove can create enthusiasm for this course. Decorate each room (or outdoor location) appropriately. Here are three ideas (see sketches on pages 30-32):

Lookout Point

Create a room with a sweeping mountain vista. Enlarge the Scenic Overlook Backdrop Pattern (p. 30) onto butcher paper, fabric, cardboard, muslin, Styrofoam or wood. Talk with someone in your church or community who is familiar with painting backdrop scenes and determine which material would work best for your backdrop. Paint and attach backdrop to the wall. Attach fiberfill batting to the clouds to create three-dimensional interest. Cut poster board into cloud shapes and glue additional fiberfill to

both sides to create puffy clouds, and hang them from the ceiling.

For even more fun, use the Patterns (pp. 234-237) to make soaring hawks and perching owls on foam core or poster board. Set up a campsite in a corner of the room. Use camping equipment such as a pup tent, sleeping bags, camp chairs, lanterns, a cooler, etc. Set up a Christmas tree or other artificial tree next to your campsite. Add a few stuffed animals and complete the scene with a small campfire (see p. 237).

Wilderness Trail

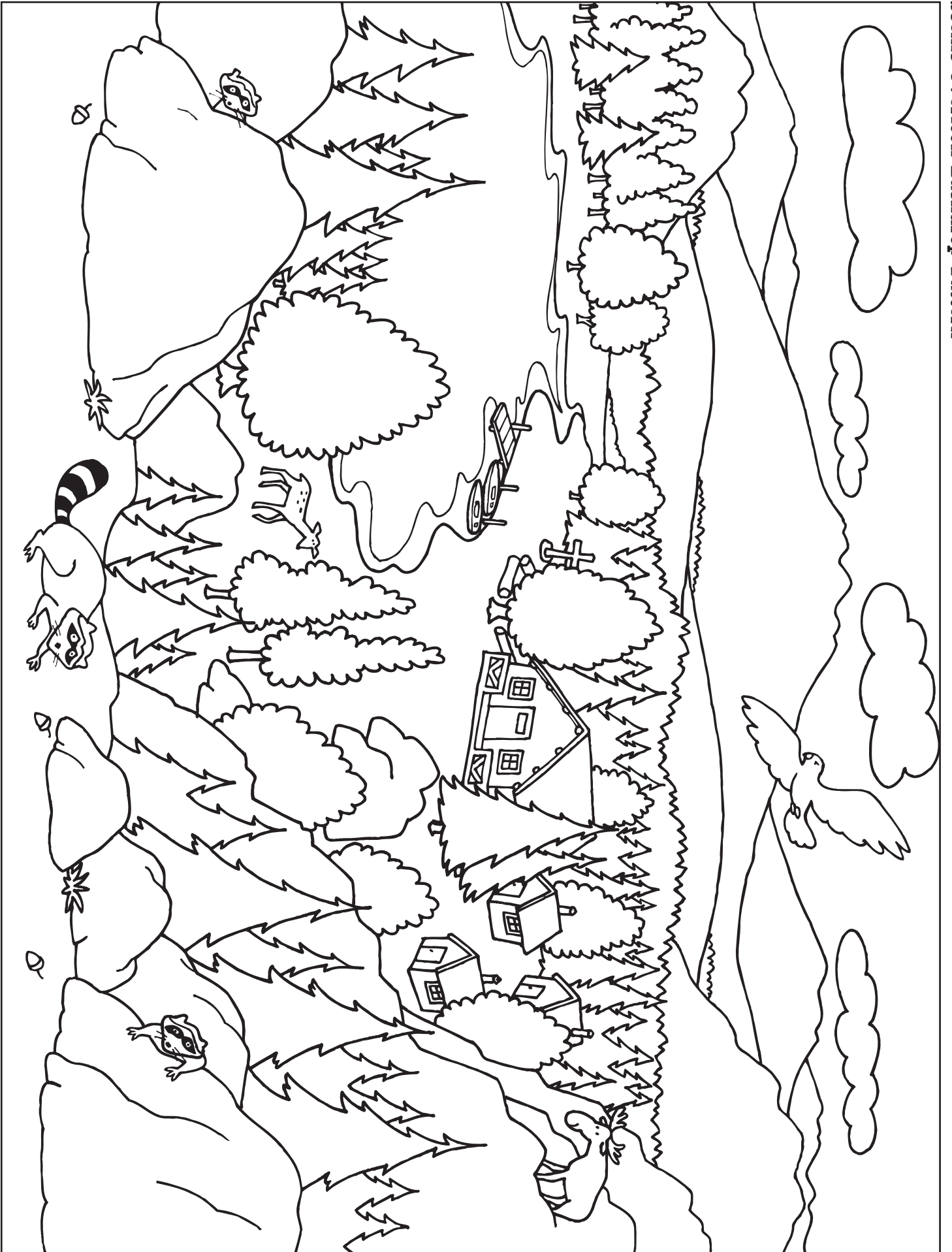
Play games or create art projects at Wilderness Trail, featuring the sights of an outdoor adventure camp. To create an inviting mountain trail, enlarge the Wilderness Backdrop Pattern (p. 31) onto butcher paper (or other material), paint and attach to the wall. Cover the trail portion of your backdrop with brown burlap, extending the burlap onto the floor to bring the trail into your room. Line the edges of burlap on floor with real rocks.

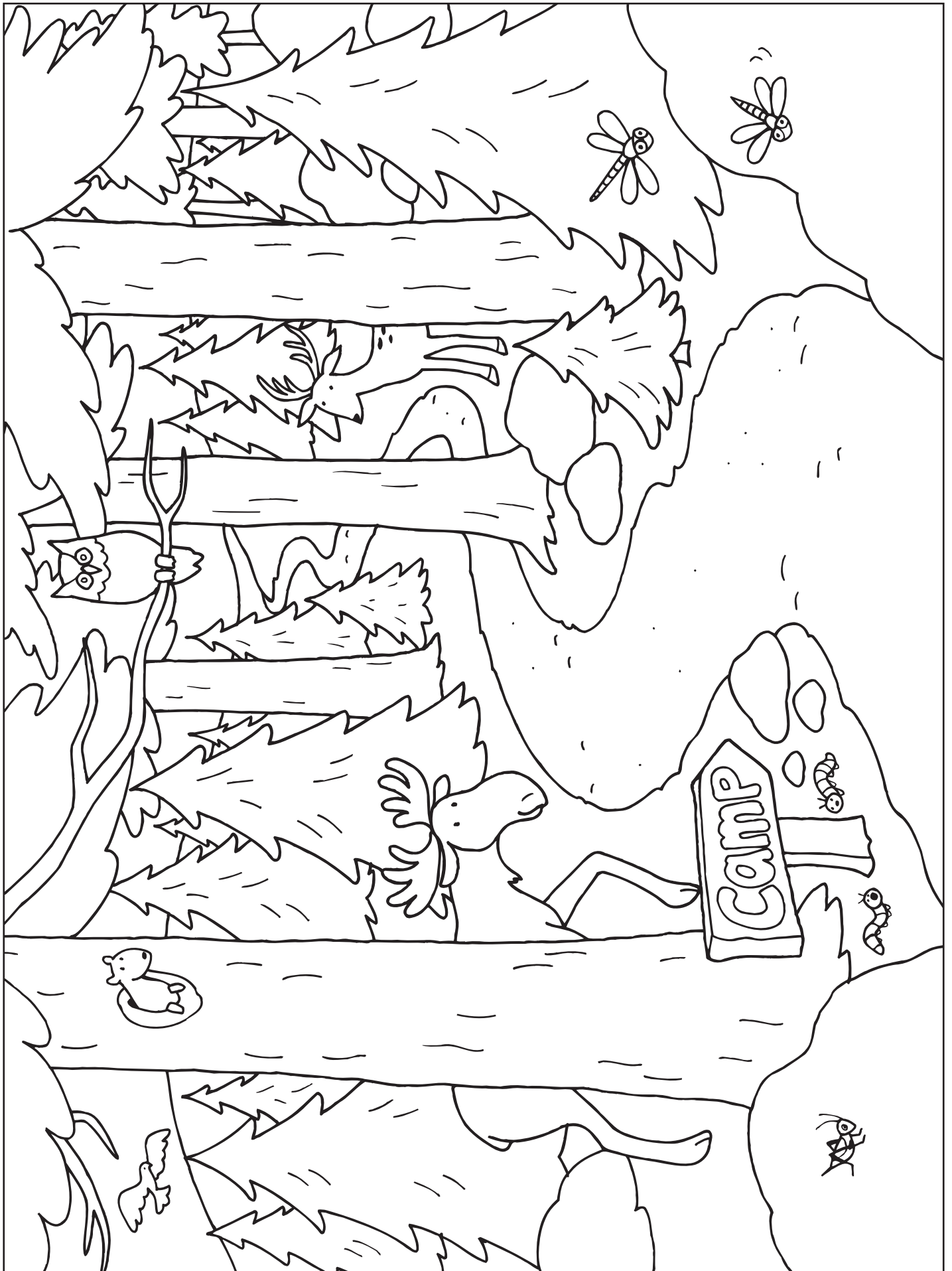
Finish the room with additional animals and trees (pp. 234-237).

Critter Corner

Decorate a room or large area as Critter Corner. Enlarge the Critter Corner Backdrop Pattern (p. 32) onto butcher paper (or other material), paint and attach to one wall. Decorate the room with stuffed animals or drawn animals (see patterns on pp. 234-237) and artificial trees or Christmas trees. (Optional: Twist a length of brown butcher paper and staple to wall to form 3-D trunk and branches.)

Place a green area rug or section of artificial turf on floor to further designate the area where children will be. (Optional: Enlarge the leaf pattern on page 236 and trace onto green vinyl or craft foam. Cut out one leaf for each child in your class to sit on. Place the leaves on the floor in front of the Critter Corner Backdrop.)







Theme Ideas

The Bonus Theme Ideas offered in every session will add an unforgettable dimension to *Rock-Solid Followers*. Here are additional ways to fill your church with the sights and sounds of a camp adventure.

Scenery

Use the decorating ideas on pages 29-32 to decorate the classrooms and activity centers.

Set up a decorated entrance (a path bordered with Christmas trees, or a banner that children pass under) where children enter every day as they arrive at *Rock-Solid Followers*. Issue each child a camp nametag (see patterns on p. 234).

Sounds

The *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM provides lively songs to help your students learn Bible truths. These memorable songs help students and adults alike discover truths about Jesus and praise Him for His love and provision for us.

At the beginning and end of each Worship Center segment, ask a volunteer to dress as a camp ranger and ring a bell, play a trumpet or blow an air horn. You may also use this sound to signal transition times in your schedule.

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 *Rock-Solid Followers* by asking students, teachers and helpers to bring in or wear items to enhance the fun. Consider doing one or more of the following:

- **Hat Day** Children and leaders wear fun, funny and fantastic hats that they bring from home or that they make at *Rock-Solid Followers* using a variety of art supplies.
- **Funny Hair Day** Encourage everyone involved in *Rock-Solid Followers* to come up with his or her most outrageous hairstyle.
- **Camp Clothing** Ask children and leaders to wear clothing representing typical attire at camp (t-shirts with animal designs, sun hats, fishing vest, hiking clothes, etc.).
- **Color of the Day** Using the color of your choice, children and leaders wear the color of the day in their clothing or even their hair!
- **Wacky Sunglasses Day** Encourage everyone involved in *Rock-Solid Followers* to wear sunglasses—the more colorful the better!

Staff Names and Group Names

- **Director** Camp Director, or a name of a fun camp counselor such as Fred the Mountain Man, Wild Cat Jane, Rattlesnake Terry, Ellen the River Guide.
- **Teachers and Helpers** Camp Counselors, or let each teacher and helper create their own camp nicknames.
- **Group Names** Type of camp animals (Squirrels, Foxes, Owls, Moose, etc.) or type of camp activities (Hikers, Swimmers, Fishers, Crafters, Archers, etc.). (Optional: Give each group a sheet of poster board to make a sign for their group. Groups carry signs as they rotate from center to center.)

Curriculum Resources

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

Bible Story Center Tips

A good storyteller draws listeners into the story, helping them imagine the story themselves. 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.

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 *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 role-playing, using storytelling props, etc., they will be motivated to follow along with the story action.

Camping Fun Activity

To enhance the camp setting of this course, each Bible story also gives directions for a Camping Fun activity that makes use of a backpack for younger children and a small tent for older children. (Note: If a backpack or tent is not accessible, other items may be used such as; a duffel bag, camp cooler, brown paper bag, etc.) In the Bible story for younger children, the object(s) in the backpack is (are) used as the basis for an interactive way of telling the Bible story.



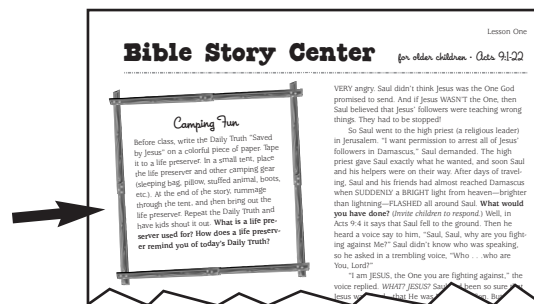
The Camping Fun activity for older children provides one or more items that are removed from the tent at the end of the story. These items will help children remember the Daily Truth being discussed in the lesson. Many of these items may be borrowed, and some of the items may be purchased from a camping store, grocery store, etc.

The Camping Fun activity for older children suggests an item that is removed from the tent at some point during the story and used to illustrate the Daily Truth of the lesson.

Suggested Materials for Younger Children's Camping Fun Activity

For every lesson, place a Bible and variety of camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.) in the backpack or duffel bag. In addition, place the following items:

- Lesson 1: Toy person, flashlight
- Lesson 2: Rope (set backpack or duffel bag in a laundry basket)
- Lesson 3: Two paper plates on which you have drawn happy and sad faces and attached craft sticks
- Lesson 4: Heart-shaped Bible story pictures from Lesson 4 Pattern Page (p.98)
- Lesson 5: Purple clothing or cloth
- Lesson 6: Variety of rhythm instruments (including harmonica, if possible)
- Lesson 7: Six toy people
- Lesson 8: Six food cans
- Lesson 9: Blanket, box of crackers and water bottle
- Lesson 10: Toy boat, small fan and squirt bottle
- Lesson 11: Mr. Potato Head™ and accessories or doll
- Lesson 12: Six pictures of fruit from Lesson 12 Pattern Page (p. 210)
- Lesson 13: Belt, plastic toy body armor, plastic toy shield, helmet and shoes



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 more than 16 children, form small groups for the discussion time.

Storytelling Tips

- Practice telling the story aloud. Tell the story to yourself or someone in your family.
- Have your open Bible at hand while you are telling the story. Tell older children in which book of the Bible the story may be found. If appropriate, you may plan to read some of the story directly from your Bible. 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.
- Find Posters of Paul’s Journeys on the *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM. Print and enlarge or give individual copies to children.
- 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. When possible, add drama and excitement to the story by telling the story from Paul’s perspective, dress in Bible-times costumes or paint or draw symbols while telling the Bible story.
- 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

Suggested Materials for Older Children’s Camping Fun Activity

For every lesson, place a variety of camp items (sleeping bag, pillow, stuffed animal, boots, etc.) in a small tent. In addition, place the following items:

- Lesson 1: Life preserver to which you have attached a paper with the words “Saved by Jesus”
- Lesson 2: Whistle
- Lesson 3: Postcard on which you have written the words “I can be part of God’s plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus” and “Sent by Jesus”
- Lesson 4: Binoculars to which you have attached a paper with the words “Loved by Jesus”
- Lesson 5: Compass
- Lesson 6: Instant or disposable camera
- Lesson 7: Bible to which you have attached a paper with the words “Wisdom from Jesus”
- Lesson 8: Energy bar on which you have written “Strengthened by Jesus”
- Lesson 9: Carabiner attached to climbing rope if possible
- Lesson 10: Flashlight
- Lesson 11: One bandanna on which you have written “United in Jesus”
- Lesson 12: For each child—water bottle on which you have written “Growing in Jesus”
- Lesson 13: Hiking boots to which you have attached a paper with the words “Faithful to Jesus”

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.

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 who children are in Jesus and how He gives them what they need. 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 (pre-school 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.

Art Center

Lesson One
for younger children • Acts 9:1-22

Collect
Bible, Lesson 1 Pattern Page (p. 56), markers or crayons, scissors, glue sticks, craft sticks (three for each child).

Prepare
Photocopy one Pattern Page for each child. (Optional: Cut apart Pattern Pages and prefill story scenes.)

Do

1. Cut each child a Pattern Page. Child colors scenes on pattern page as desired.
2. Child cuts along lines to make three sections. Child folds each section along dotted line.
3. Child adds glue to both sides of one end of each craft stick (see sketch). Child slides one folded scene over each glued end of craft stick. Child holds up the scenes while reading the Bible story.

Talk About

- In today's Bible story, we heard about a man named Paul. He did a lot of wrong things, but Jesus still loved him. Jesus wanted to be Paul's friend.
- What parts of the story do you see on your story scenes?
- Point to the pictures where Paul's face is happy. What do you think made Paul's face happy? Paul found out that Jesus loved him. It made him happy!
- Jesus loves you, too. The Bible says, "God's love is what saves us. It is a gift from God." Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus. It makes us happy! In Jesus' name, amen.

God's Word


"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:
"God's kindness is what saves us. It is a gift from God."

God's Word & Me
I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

For Older Children

Provide card stock and markers for each child (or pair of children) to draw the background for one or more story scenes from the pattern page. Child may draw a walled city, a city gate, a Bible-times house interior, an outdoor city street scene, etc. Children use these scenes to help retell each part of the story. (Optional: Children draw pictures on butcher paper. Children may paint the pictures or color with crayons. Children may use the butcher paper as a backdrop to act out the Bible story.)



faces), 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.



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 sur-

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.

Game Center

Lesson One
for younger children • Acts 9:1-22

Collect
Bible, construction paper, scissors, markers, backpack, masking tape, butcher paper, optional—artificial tree, hole punch, string.

Prepare
Using construction paper and scissors, cut one 606-inch (15x15 cm) leaf for each child (see sketch a). Make extras for visitors. Place leaves into backpack. Place backpack on one side of room. Use masking tape to make a starting line on other side of room. Draw an outline of a tree on butcher paper (see sketch b). Tape it to the wall near starting line. Make enough masking tape loops for each leaf and place them near tree. (Optional: Set up artificial tree instead of drawing tree on paper. Punch hole in each leaf and tie a string loop through hole.)

Do

1. Write each child's name on a separate leaf and place in backpack. Children line up behind starting line. One at a time, children run across the room to the backpack, take out one leaf, run back to the tree and tape it to the drawn tree or hang it on the artificial tree.
2. As each child attaches a leaf, read the name on the leaf aloud. Lead children in saying, "Jesus loves [child's name]."

Talk About

- Jesus loves everyone. He loves you and He loves me, too!
- In today's Bible story, there is a man named Saul. Saul did a lot of wrong things. But Jesus was kind and still loved him. Jesus wanted to be Saul's friend.
- Jesus wants to be your friend, too. The Bible says, "God's love is what saves us. It is a gift from God." (Eph. 2:8) Pray: Dear God, thank You for the gift of Jesus. Thank You for loving us. We love You, too. In Jesus' name, amen.

God's Word
"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:
"God's kindness is what saves us. It is a gift from God."

God's Word & Me
"I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day."

For Older Children

Gather an additional backpack. Write out 20 different silly actions on separate index cards (run around the table five times, hop on one foot, do the chicken dance, etc.). Place 10 cards in each backpack. On one side of the room place several markers and a blank leaf for each child on a writing surface. Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a backpack. Teams line up on either side of room from leaves. On "Go," the first player in each line puts on the backpack, runs to a leaf, writes his or her name on the leaf, and yells, "Jesus loves me!" Then player takes off backpack, removes a card from the backpack, performs the action written on the card, puts the backpack on and runs back to his or her team. Next player takes a turn. Once all team members have had a turn, team sits down and yells, "I am saved by Jesus!"

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.

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

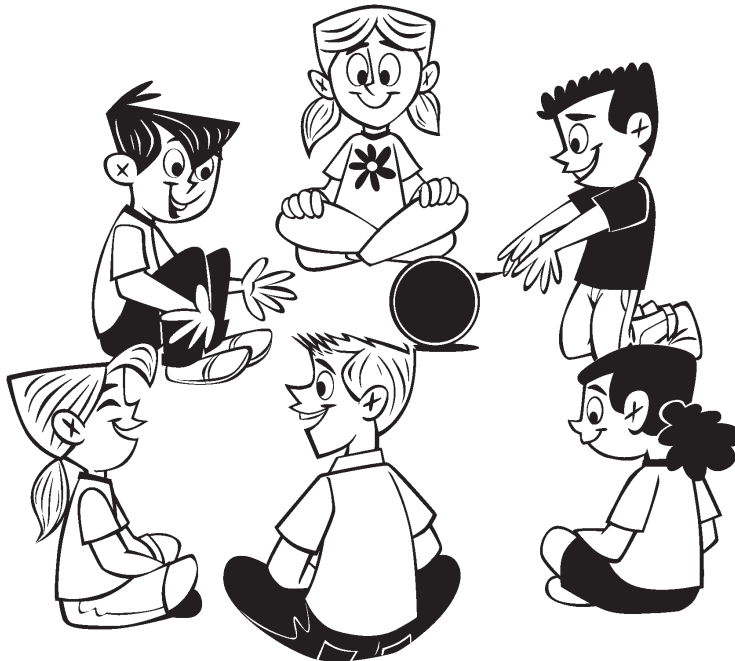
Explain rules clearly and simply. It's helpful to write out the rules to the game. Make sure you explain rules step-by-step.

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 verse coloring and puzzle pages provided for each lesson in *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 illustrate the lesson's Bible verse and lead to opportunities for discussion about ways to obey God's Word.

Alternatively, these pages can be used to supplement an existing center. For example, a Bible verse coloring page can be provided for younger children to help them think and talk about ways to put God's Word into practice. 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 all the pages needed at one time, 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 or in a binder. As time permits, refer to these pages as a way of reviewing past lessons. At the end of *Rock-Solid Followers*, give pages to children to take home.



Worship Center Tips

The Worship Center is a large-group gathering time for preschool- and elementary-age children 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 they are in Jesus and how Jesus gives them what they need. 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 in theme-related clothing—perhaps with a unique hat, vest or t-shirt, etc.—to help establish his or her character. Consider giving a name to the leader (Wild Cat Jane, The Mountain Man, etc.) to catch kids' attention.

Playing either "I'm Keepin' My Eyes on Jesus" or "Spread the Good News" as children gather for the Worship Center will help catch children's interest for *Rock-Solid Followers*.

Games

Each week a wacky game is suggested that will catch everyone's attention and involve children in team-

building camaraderie. Often the game requires representatives from two or more teams. The number of children on a team may vary, depending on group size. Although 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 music on the *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM to help your students become familiar with the songs used during *Rock-Solid Followers*. 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM is designed to help children be aware of the opportunities they have every day to make right choices as God's followers.

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 *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM. 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 *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM 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. Creating motions for some of the words or phrases in the songs will also help children learn the songs.

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. While 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.

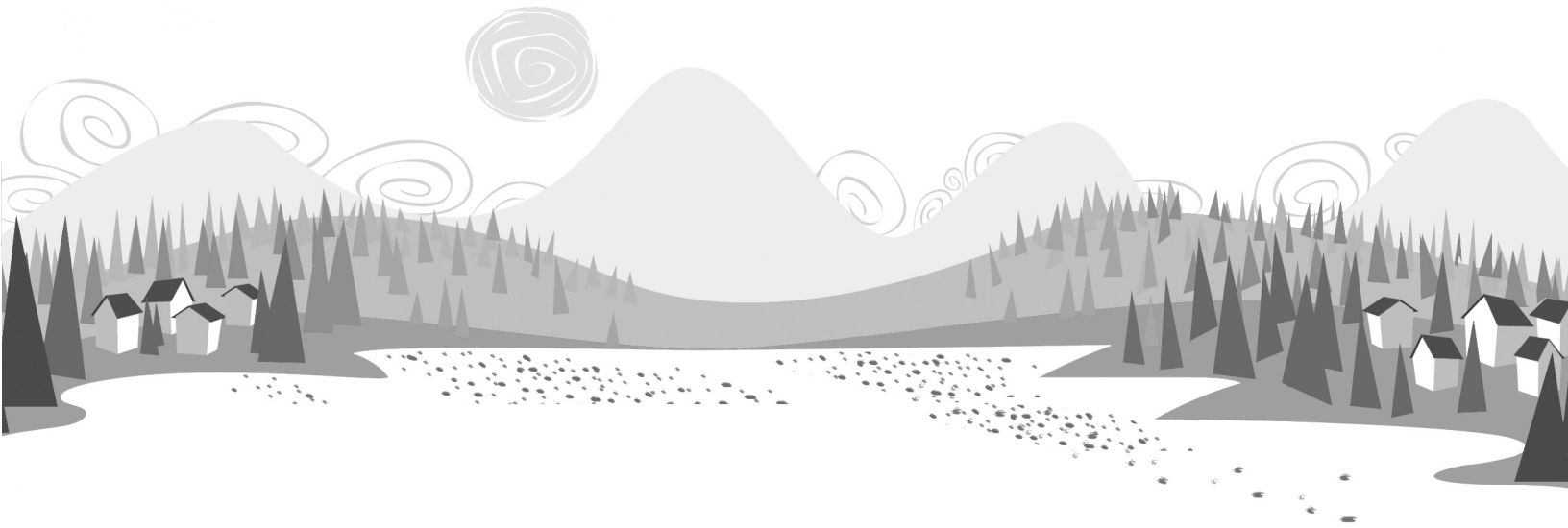
Consider printing out each week's verse on a computer banner for easy reading. If possible, use PowerPoint slides to display the verse. Copy stores can make posters on poster board for you.

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

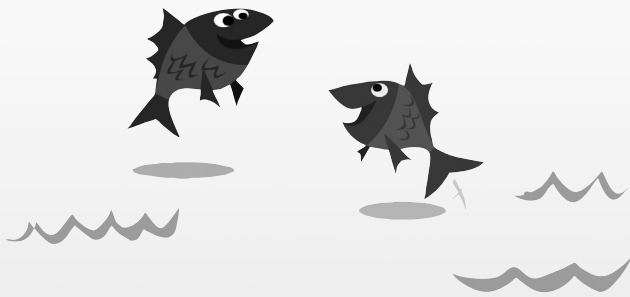
they can do. Don't insist that students pray in a particular posture; keep prayer times short and make them times of high involvement. Remember that your prayers give the students in your class a model for prayer that they will follow. Keep your prayers brief and use simple words. Long sentences and long prayers make prayer seem boring and not something for a child.

Each Worship Center provides prayer activity ideas for large-group prayer at the end of the Worship time. These Worldwide Prayers help children pray for missionaries around the world. Ahead of time, print a large world map (available on the *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM) or sketch it by hand to display in the room to reference when talking about the different countries missionaries serve in. Also, collect as much information as possible about missionaries supported by your church and/or denomination. Briefly present information to children to guide their prayer time. Invite children to pray silently, aloud, to say sentence prayers, record requests and answers in a prayer journal, or list prayer requests on a large sheet of paper (allow children to pray with eyes open so that they are able to read and recall requests).



Rock-Solid Followers Lessons

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



Saved by Jesus

Bible Story • Saul Meets Jesus • Acts 9:1-22



God's Word

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:

“God’s kindness is what saves us.
It is a gift from God.”

God's Word & Me

I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

Missions Focus

What is the main message about Jesus that missionaries want to tell others?

Why is this news about salvation so important for everyone to know?

What else do people need to know about Jesus?

Teacher's Devotional

We live in a world where what we do often determines how we are treated—an unkind person will get repaid with unkindness, a criminal is sent to prison, a person who has money rises to the top of society. As a result, we often feel it is our works that are all-important—if only we were a little kinder, a little more giving, a little less selfish, then we would be closer to heaven. Often-times we forget that in the end, it’s not our works that save us; it’s our faith in Christ. We need the reminder of this lesson that Jesus died for everyone and can use everyone for His glory—the rich, the poor, and yes, even the criminals.

Saul was a murderer. He was a Pharisee who hated Christians—and not just a little. He murdered them. Many people today would say he deserved to die and justice should be served, but Saul didn’t die and justice in our terms was not served. Instead, this man was saved by the amazing love of Jesus, and He was used in a mighty way for Christ’s glory! Saul, later known as Paul, became one of the greatest missionaries and even wrote some of the books of the Bible.

We have all sinned, but God sent His only Son to save us. How awesome is that? Despite our shortcomings and imperfections, Jesus chooses to love us anyway and saves us so that we can spend eternity with Him. Salvation is a gift from God, a gift that none of us deserve. In response to His great love, we can serve and obey Him, allowing Jesus to use us to do His work, just as He did with Saul.

Planning Page



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 • Saul Meets Jesus • Acts 9:1-22

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Shine flashlight to illustrate the bright light that surrounds Paul

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show life preserver to demonstrate the Daily Truth “Saved by Jesus”

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make Bible story scenes with craft sticks to help retell the story of Paul

Materials • Bible, Lesson 1 Pattern Page (p. 56), markers or crayons, scissors, glue sticks, craft sticks

Older Child Option • Make a Pebble Cross Plaque and talk about what it means to be saved by Jesus

Materials • Bible; newspaper; for each child—small pebbles, 5 ¼ cups (1.26 L) plaster of Paris, ¼ cup (60 ml) water, plastic or paper cup, plastic spoon, small plastic plate, sharp pencil or scissors, ribbon

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Participate in a relay to discover and talk about Jesus’ love for each child

Materials • Bible, construction paper, scissors, markers, backpack, masking tape, butcher paper

Older Child Option • Place Bible verse in order by making a trail of “boot prints,” and discuss what it means to be saved

Materials • Bible, red and orange construction paper, boot, black permanent marker, scissors

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 1 Coloring Page (p. 57) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing the puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 1 Puzzle Page (p. 58) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 251), five index cards, marker, five boxes, wrapping paper, tape, rolls of green and brown crepe paper, inflatable globe

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 theme excitement.

Daily Truth Mail Call

Every camp needs a mail call! In a central area, set up a display for revealing each lesson's Daily Truth. Cover a bulletin board with white paper. On a sheet of brightly colored construction paper draw a stamp with "Daily Truth" written on it. Place stamp on upper right side of board. Print "MAIL CALL" on a strip of blue paper. Attach it to the upper left corner of the board. Also attach 13 white envelopes (decorated with stickers, funny drawings, etc. and labeled 1, 2, 3, etc.). Inside should be an 8½x11-inch (21.5x28-cm) paper with the Daily Truth of appropriate lesson written in large letters. At each session when children are gathered together, call out, "Mail Call!" Have children do a crazy action (cluck like a chicken, spin around five times, etc.) before the session's mail can be opened. Have a volunteer remove, open and read the Daily Truth aloud. Display paper on the board where the envelope used to be.

Frosty Pine Trees

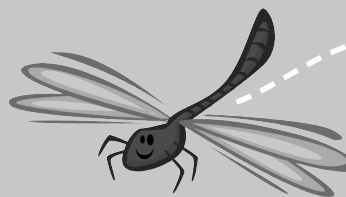
Place green frosting in several shallow bowls. Provide several plastic knives. Place one or more of these edible decorating items in separate bowls: green and brown sprinkles, sugars or granola. Give each child a sugar cone and sugar cookie. Child spreads green frosting over the entire sugar cone and on the top of sugar cookie. Then attach the cone to the cookie, gently pushing the cone into the frosting on the cookie. Children can decorate their "trees" with sprinkles for pine needles and granola for acorns or pinecones.

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



Missionaries Around the World

Collect from your church denomination a list of missionaries and information about them and/or the countries in which the missionaries live. Gather dot stickers. Display a large map of the world at front of the room where children gather. During each lesson, tell children about one of the missionaries. Choose one child to place a sticker on the map to show where the missionary lives. Lead children to pray for the missionary.



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 9:1-22

Camping Fun

In backpack, place Bible, a toy person, flashlight and other camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible, toy person and flashlight. Ask children what are some other things that make bright lights (sun, Christmas lights, etc.). During the story, turn on the flashlight when telling about the light Paul saw.

Introduction

Today we’re going to hear a story from this book . . . THE BIBLE! (Show Bible.) We are going to hear what happened when a man saw a very bright light.

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.) The Bible tells us that many people loved Jesus. But one man named Paul did not love Jesus. In fact, Paul didn’t want ANYONE to love Jesus. (Make sad face.) It was sad that he didn’t want anyone to love Jesus. Paul got so angry at everyone who loved Jesus, he would put them in jail! OH, NO! (Echo “Oh, no!”) One day Paul heard that many of the people who loved Jesus lived in a faraway city called Damascus. Paul said, “I will go to Damascus, and I’ll put those people who love Jesus in jail, too!” Oh, no! (Echo “Oh, no!”) So Paul and his friends traveled to the faraway city of Damascus. (Invite children to walk in place.)

When Paul and his friends were getting near Damascus, a very bright light SUDDENLY flashed around Paul. (Shine your flashlight on toy person.) Paul was so surprised! (Make surprised face.) He was so surprised he fell down! (Kneel down.) The light was so BRIGHT Paul couldn’t see ANYTHING!

Then Paul heard a voice! “Paul, why are you trying to hurt Me?” the voice said. Paul said, “Who are You?” The voice said, “I am Jesus, the One you are hurting.” Then Jesus told Paul to go to the city of Damascus! His friends had to help him walk to the city. (Stand, hold hands with others and walk in place.)

They finally got to the city and to the house where they were staying. (Sit down.) For three days, Paul didn’t eat or drink anything. His tummy must have been grumbling. And Paul still couldn’t see anything. But he prayed to God.

While Paul was praying, Jesus spoke to another man in the same city. The man’s name was Ananias. Jesus said, “Ananias, go to Paul and pray for him.” But Ananias said, “But this man is hurting your friends.” Jesus said, “Yes, but I have chosen Paul to tell many people about Me. Now go to Paul.”

Ananias obeyed and went to see Paul. Ananias gently touched Paul and said, “Paul, Jesus sent me to help you. Jesus has chosen you to tell others about His love.” And suddenly Paul could see again!

Now, Paul loved Jesus. Paul began to tell others all over the city that Jesus is God’s Son! (Jump up and echo, “Jesus is God’s Son!”)

God’s Word & Me

God showed kindness and love to Paul by helping Paul believe in Jesus and by sending Ananias to help Paul. God is kind to you, too! And He loves you very much.

The Bible says, “God’s kindness is what saves us. It is a gift from God.” Because God gives us His love, we can be a part of God’s family. Pray. Dear God, thank You for Your kindness and love. Thank You that we can be a part of Your family. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 9:1-22

Camping Fun

Before class, write the Daily Truth “Saved by Jesus” on a colorful piece of paper. Tape it to a life preserver. In a small tent, place the life preserver and other camping gear (sleeping bag, pillow, stuffed animal, boots, etc.). At the end of the story, rummage through the tent, and then bring out the life preserver. Repeat the Daily Truth and have kids shout it out. **What is a life preserver used for? How does a life preserver remind you of today’s Daily Truth?**

Collect

Bible, blindfold for each child (bandannas, t-shirt, scarves, etc.).

Introduction

Tell about a time when you saw something unusual and who you told about it. Ask children, **When was a time you saw something unusual? Who did you tell about it?** Before telling the story, give each child a blindfold.

Tell the Story

After Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven, many people in Jerusalem became Jesus’ followers. But in those days, being a follower of Jesus was very dangerous, especially because of men like Saul. Now, you’re probably wondering, “Who’s Saul?” Well, let me tell you. He was a Jewish leader, called a Pharisee. He was very proud of the way he obeyed God’s laws. Saul knew about God’s promise to send a Savior for God’s people. But when Saul heard people saying that Jesus was God’s Son—the One who would save God’s people—he got angry. And not just a little angry. He got

VERY angry. Saul didn’t think Jesus was the One God promised to send. And if Jesus WASN’T the One, then Saul believed that Jesus’ followers were teaching wrong things. They had to be stopped!

So Saul went to the high priest (a religious leader) in Jerusalem. “I want permission to arrest all of Jesus’ followers in Damascus,” Saul demanded. The high priest gave Saul exactly what he wanted, and soon Saul and his helpers were on their way. After days of traveling, Saul and his friends had almost reached Damascus when SUDDENLY a BRIGHT light from heaven—brighter than lightning—FLASHED all around Saul. **What would you have done?** (*Invite children to respond.*) Well, in Acts 9:4 it says that Saul fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you fighting against Me?” Saul didn’t know who was speaking, so he asked in a trembling voice, “Who . . . who are You, Lord?”

“I am JESUS, the One you are fighting against,” the voice replied. *WHAT? JESUS?* Saul had been so sure that Jesus was dead—that He was NOT God’s Son. But now he heard Jesus speaking to him! Jesus must be God’s Son! Saul must have begun to understand that everything he had been doing to hurt Jesus’ followers was WRONG!

“Now get up and go into the city,” the voice of Jesus continued. “Wait there—someone will tell you what to do.” Then, in a flash, the light vanished and the voice was gone. Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes—but WAIT! He couldn’t see anything! Saul was completely, totally blind! **How do you think he felt now that he couldn’t see?** (*Invite children to respond.*) I think I would be scared too. (*Children cover their eyes with blindfolds, keeping them on for the rest of story.*) **Can you see anything?** We are going to keep these on while we listen to the rest of the story. So listen closely. Since Saul couldn’t see, his friends who saw everything probably took him by the hand and led him into Damascus to the house where they were supposed to stay. For three days, Saul did not eat or drink.

While Saul waited . . . and waited . . . God talked to a man named Ananias who believed in Jesus. He told Ananias to go see Saul who was waiting for him. Ananias couldn’t believe what he was hearing! He said,

Lesson One

“Saul is an enemy of all who believe in you. He has come to arrest the followers of Jesus!” But God still said, “GO!” Ananias obeyed and was soon knocking at the door of the house where Saul was staying. (*Knock on the wall or a table.*)

“Saul,” Ananias said, “Jesus, the One who spoke to you on the road, sent me here so that you can see.” As Ananias placed his hands on Saul, immediately things like scabs fell from Saul’s eyes. (*Children take off blind-folds.*) Saul could see again! And because Saul saw God’s power, he believed that Jesus really was God’s Son. Saul was even baptized to show that he now followed Jesus.

The news of Saul’s belief in Jesus spread throughout Damascus very quickly! The Bible says in Acts 9:20 that Saul began telling others about Jesus. Everyone who heard Saul preach was amazed! When Saul believed the truth about Jesus, Saul’s whole life changed. He even eventually was called by his Roman name Paul and traveled to many parts of the world telling others about Jesus.

God’s Word & Me

Jesus loved Paul so much. Even though we’re not famous Bible leaders and we don’t travel to faraway places, Jesus loves us, too! We can accept God’s gift of love, just like Paul did. We can be saved by Jesus.

Listen to these words that Paul wrote. They tell us what he had learned about salvation. Read or ask a child to read Ephesians 2:8-9 aloud. This verse tells us that salvation is a gift from God. Just doing good things does not save us and make us part of God’s

family. We are saved when we believe that Jesus is God’s Son and that His death on the cross made it possible for us to be saved from the consequences of sin. (Talk with interested students about salvation. See “Leading a Child to Christ” on page 12.)

- **What do people need to do to be saved by Jesus?** (Believe that Jesus is God’s Son. Accept His love and forgiveness.)
- **What words would you use to describe salvation?**
- **How might you want to show that you are saved by Jesus?** (Pray, love and serve others, go to church, etc.)
- **Let’s take time to think and pray about what we have just heard.** Pray with children, asking God to help children to understand what it means to be saved by Jesus and how to join God’s family.



Missions Focus

What is the main message about Jesus that missionaries want to tell others?

Why is this news about salvation so important for everyone to know?

What else do people need to know about Jesus?

Game Center



for younger children • Acts 9:1-22

Collect

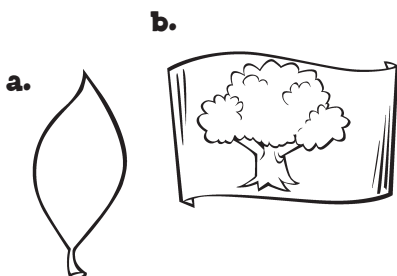
Bible, construction paper, scissors, markers, backpack, masking tape, butcher paper; optional—artificial tree, hole punch, string.

Prepare

Using construction paper and scissors, cut one 6x6-inch (15x15-cm) leaf for each child (see sketch a). Make extras for visitors. Place leaves into backpack. Place backpack on one side of room. Use masking tape to make a starting line on other side of room. Draw an outline of a tree on butcher paper (see sketch b). Tape it to the wall near starting line. Make enough masking tape loops for each leaf and place them near tree. (Optional: Set up artificial tree instead of drawing tree on paper. Punch hole in each leaf and tie a string loop through hole.)

Do

1. Write each child's name on a separate leaf and place in backpack. Children line up behind starting line. One at a time, children run across the room to the backpack, take out one leaf, run back to the tree and tape it to the drawn tree or hang it on the artificial tree.
2. As each child attaches a leaf, read the name on the leaf aloud. Lead children in saying, "Jesus loves (child's name)."



Talk About

- Jesus loves everyone. He loves you and He loves me, too!
- In today's Bible story, there is a man named Saul. Saul did a lot of wrong things. But Jesus was kind and still loved him. Jesus wanted to be Saul's friend.
- Jesus wants to be your friend, too. The Bible says, "God's love is what saves us. It is a gift from God." Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for the gift of Jesus. Thank You for loving us. We love You, too. In Jesus' name, amen.

God's Word

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:

"God's kindness is what saves us.
It is a gift from God."

God's Word & Me

I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

For Older Children

Gather an additional backpack. Write out 20 different silly actions on separate index cards (run around the table five times, hop on one foot, do the chicken dance, etc.). Place 10 cards in each backpack. On one side of the room place several markers and a blank leaf for each child on a writing surface. Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a backpack. Teams line up on other side of room from leaves. On "GO," the first player in each line puts on the backpack, runs to a leaf, writes his or her name on the leaf, and yells, "Jesus loves me!" Then player takes off backpack, removes a card from the backpack, performs the action written on the card, puts the backpack on and runs back to his or her team. Next player takes a turn. Once all team members have had a turn, team sits down and yells, "I am saved by Jesus!"

Game Center



for older children • Acts 9:1-22

Collect

Bible, red and orange construction paper, boot, black permanent marker, scissors.

Prepare

Trace around a boot onto construction paper to make a boot print for each student. Make an equal number of red and orange boot prints. Cut out boot prints. On the orange boot prints, write the Bible verse—one or more words on each. Repeat for red boot prints.

Do

1. Give a boot print to every child or pair of children. Children form two teams by looking for others with the same color boot prints.

2. Teams race to make trails by placing boot prints in correct verse order. The first team to finish sits down. Ask volunteers from winning team to take turns reading words of the verse aloud.

3. If time permits, repeat game, forming new teams and seeing if team can order verses faster.



Talk About

- **What do you think it means to be saved?** After children respond, clarify as needed. **The word “saved” means that we all need to be saved or rescued from the consequences of breaking God’s rules. The Bible uses the word “sin” for breaking God’s rules.**
- **Why is Jesus the One who makes salvation possible?** (He never sinned. He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.)
- **According to this verse, how are we NOT saved?** (By works. Doing everything right won’t get us saved.)
- **It doesn’t matter how good we are or how many good deeds we do, those actions will not save us. Jesus is the ONLY One who can save us, if we believe in Him.** Lead children in prayer, thanking God for the gift of salvation.

God’s Word

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:

“God’s kindness is what saves us.
It is a gift from God.”

God’s Word & Me

I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

Missions Focus

What is the main message about Jesus that missionaries want to tell others?

Why is this news about salvation so important for everyone to know?

What else do people need to know about Jesus?

For Younger Children

Prepare one set of boot prints for each group of four to six children, number the prints in order, writing the numbers on the back of each print. Distribute prints to children and help them create a trail putting the boot prints in numerical order. Turn them over to reveal the verse. Read the verse aloud. (Optional: Play music from the *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM. Children walk on trail while music plays. Vary the way in which children move on the trail [hop like a frog, crawl like a bear, swim like a fish].)

Art Center

for younger children • Acts 9:1-22

Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 Pattern Page (p. 56), markers or crayons, scissors, glue sticks, craft sticks (three for each child).

Prepare

Photocopy one Pattern Page for each child. (Optional: Cut apart Pattern Pages and prefold story scenes.)

Do

1. Give each child a Pattern Page. Child colors scenes on pattern page as desired.
2. Child cuts along lines to make three sections. Child folds each section along dotted line.
3. Child adds glue to both sides of one end of each craft stick (see sketch). Child slides one folded scene over each glued end of craft stick. Child holds up the scenes while retelling the Bible story.



Talk About

- In today's Bible story, we heard about a man named Paul. He did a lot of wrong things. But Jesus still loved him. Jesus wanted to be Paul's friend.
- What parts of the story do you see on your story scenes?
- Point to the pictures where Paul's face is happy. What do you think made Paul's face happy? Paul found out that Jesus loved him. It made him happy!
- Jesus loves you, too. The Bible says, "God's love is what saves us. It is a gift from God." Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus. It makes us happy! In Jesus' name, amen.

God's Word

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:

"God's kindness is what saves us.
It is a gift from God."

God's Word & Me

I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

For Older Children

Provide card stock and markers for each child (or pair of children) to draw the background for one or more story scenes from the pattern page. Child may draw a walled city, a city gate, a Bible-times house interior, an outdoor city street scene, etc. Children use these scenes to help retell each part of the story. (Optional: Children draw pictures on butcher paper. Children may paint the pictures or color with crayons. Children may use the butcher paper as a backdrop to act out the Bible story.)

Art Center



for older children • Acts 9:1-22

Collect

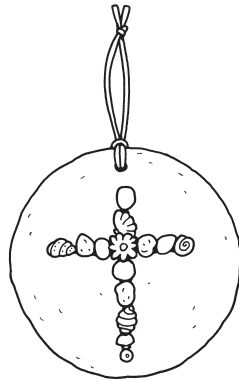
Bible; newspaper; for each child—small pebbles (purchased or found on a nature walk), $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (180 ml) plaster of Paris, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (60 ml) water, plastic or paper cup, plastic spoon, small plastic plate, sharp pencil or scissors, ribbon; optional—small twigs, nuts, shells, etc.

Prepare

Cover work area with newspaper. If needed, wash and dry pebbles.

Do

1. Each child pours water and plaster into cup and then mixes with spoon. Mixture should be slightly runny, but not watery. Adjust ingredients as needed.
2. Help child pour mixture into plate and set pebbles in the plaster in the shape of a cross. (Optional: Use twigs, nuts, shells, etc. to add more detail.)
3. Let plaster dry completely (this should take about 30 minutes, depending on consistency and weather). Just before plaster is completely dry, use the pencil or scissors to make a hole near the top of the plaque. When fully dry, thread a length of ribbon through hole for hanging.



Talk About

- What do you think it means to be saved? Being “saved” means receiving God’s forgiveness for our sin. When we are forgiven, we are rescued or saved from the results of sin. “Sin” is the Bible word for not obeying God.
- Why is Jesus different from other people? Why is He able to make salvation possible? (He never sinned. He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.)
- According to this verse, what is NOT the way we are saved? (“By works.” By trying to be good on our own. Being good or doing what is right won’t help us to receive God’s forgiveness.)

God’s Word

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:

“God’s kindness is what saves us.
It is a gift from God.”

God’s Word & Me

I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

Missions Focus

What is the main message about Jesus that missionaries want to tell others?

Why is this news about salvation so important for everyone to know?

What else do people need to know about Jesus?

- “Being good” or doing good deeds will not save us. Jesus is the ONLY One who can save us. We can ask Him to forgive our sins and choose to believe in Him. Then we do good things because we love and thank Him! Lead children in prayer, thanking God for the gift of salvation.

For Younger Children

Make or purchase modeling dough for younger children. Younger children roll and pat a fist-sized ball of dough into a circle and then press pebbles into dough to form a cross pattern. Adults will need to make the hole for hanger.

Worship Center



Lesson One

Acts 9:1-22

Collect

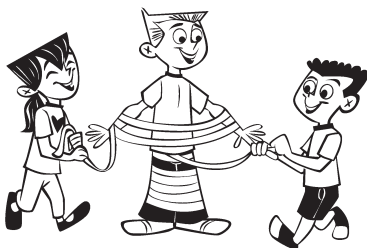
Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 251), five index cards, marker, five boxes, wrapping paper, tape, rolls of green and brown crepe paper, inflatable globe; optional—instant camera.

Prepare

Write the following phrases on separate index cards: “I am saved by Jesus.” “Jesus loves me.” “I can ask Jesus to forgive me when I do wrong.” “Salvation is a gift from God, and I am saved through faith.” Place cards in boxes. Wrap the boxes to look like gifts.

Team Game

Form children into two or more teams, sending each team to the opposite side of the room. Designate one volunteer from each team to be “the tree.” Give each team three rolls of green crepe paper and one roll of brown crepe paper. As you play “On the Road to Damascus” song, children on each team use the green and brown crepe paper to decorate the volunteer as a tree (see sketch). When song ends, both teams freeze. The children then can see each decorated “tree.”



Bible Verse Game

Repeat Ephesians 2:8-9 aloud with children. **This verse says that our salvation is a gift from God. Let’s play a game to remind us of this gift.** Students sit in a circle. Hand one gift box to a child. As you play “Spread the Love” Song, children pass the gift clockwise. Randomly stop the music and whoever has the gift unwraps it and reads the card inside aloud. Repeat with other gift boxes, as time permits.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Spread the Love,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

Worldwide Prayer

For our time of prayer today, we are going to sit in a circle and gently tap this globe to each other. When I

God’s Word

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

For Younger Children:

“God’s kindness is what saves us.
It is a gift from God.”

God’s Word & Me

I can trust that Jesus is the only One who gives salvation and who can make a difference in my life every day.

Missions Focus

What is the main message about Jesus that missionaries want to tell others?

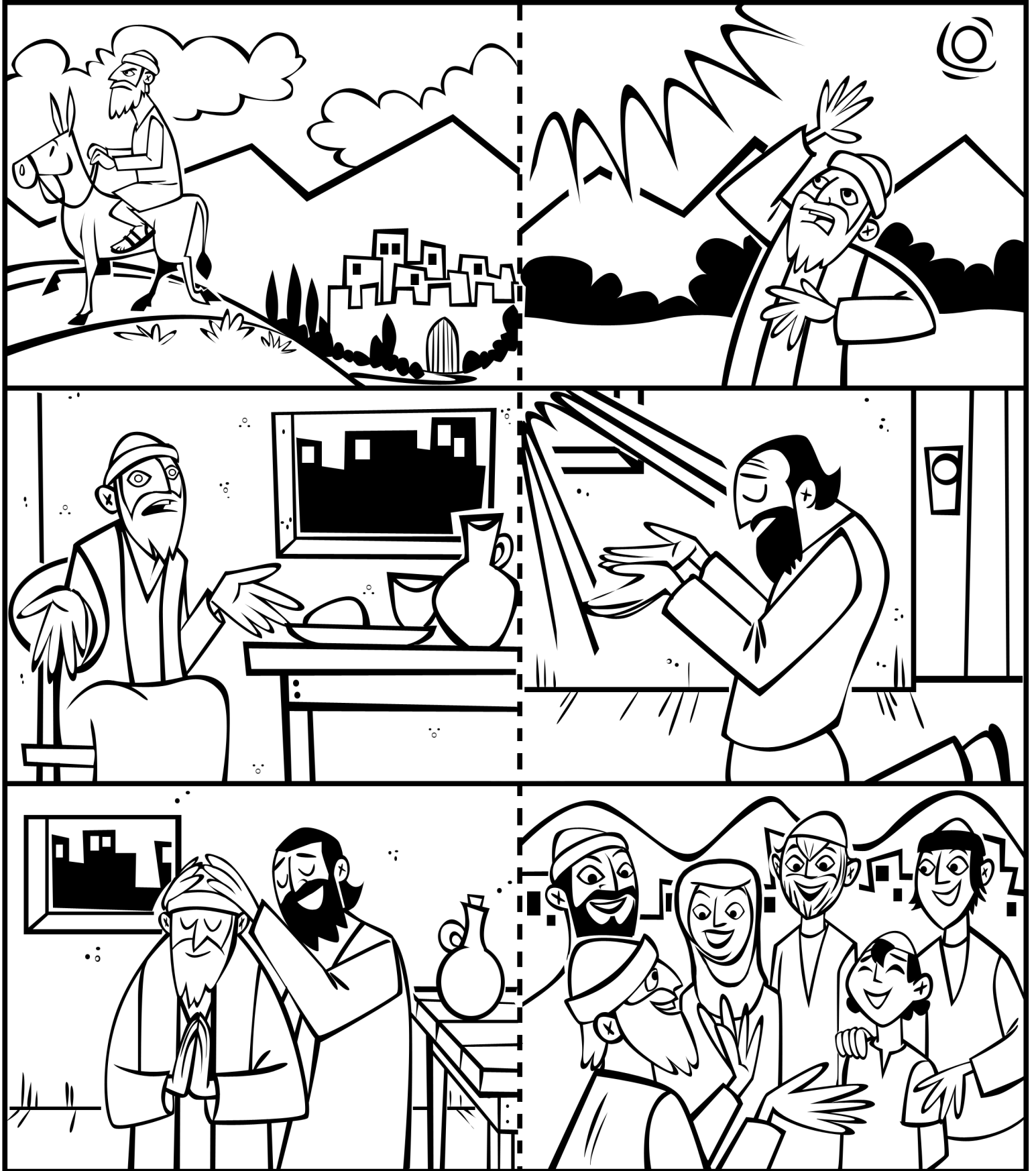
Why is this news about salvation so important for everyone to know?

What else do people need to know about Jesus?

say stop, whoever has the ball can choose a country for us to pray for. Are you ready? Here we go. Lead children to tap globe to each other. (Younger children may need to catch the globe before tossing it to another child.) After 10 to 12 seconds, call out, “Stop.” Help child holding globe choose a country and say the name aloud. Lead children in prayer. Pray for the people in that specific country that they may come to know Jesus and accept God’s gift of salvation. Pray that God will protect missionaries in that country.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “On the Road to Damascus,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.



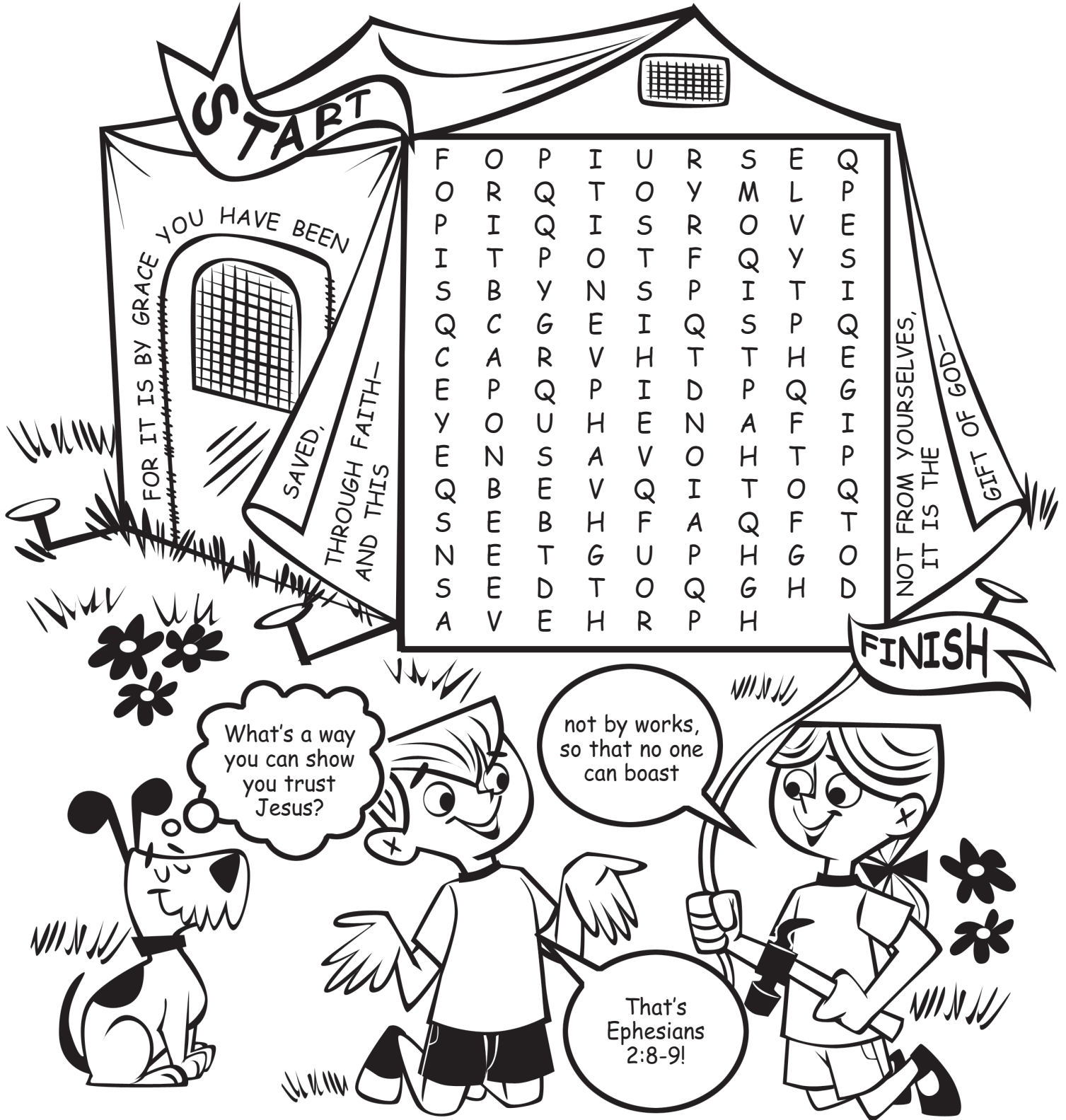
“God’s kindness is what saves us. It is a gift from God.”
(See Ephesians 2:8-9.)

Who did God send to show His love to us?



Tent Talk

Tim and Tisha have put up a very unusual tent: It contains most of the words from Ephesians 2:8-9. Starting at the square on the top left-hand side, see if you can make it all the way to Tisha, who finishes the verses for you! Hint: Mind your Ps and Qs!



Help from Jesus

Bible Story • Saul's Great Escape • Acts 9:23-31

God's Word

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10

For Younger Children:
"With love, help each other."

God's Word & Me

When I have problems and need help,
one of the best ways Jesus helps me
is through His followers.

Missions Focus

How might helping someone
be a way to "tell" about Jesus?

Who can you help this week as
a way of sharing about Jesus?

What are ways missionaries show
Jesus' love and help?

Teacher's Devotional

Many years ago there was a commercial on TV that had a catchy phrase, "Help, I've fallen, and I can't get up." Over the years people have used this phrase in jokes among friends. However, as a Christ-follower, so often in our lives this phrase rings true. So many times we stumble and fall on our journey with Christ, and we can't get back up again without being helped by Jesus. This help comes in various forms—through prayer, reading the Bible, attending church—but more likely than not Jesus helps us through other believers.

Several times along Saul's missionary journeys, Jesus helped him through other Christ-followers. While in Damascus, Saul boldly preached that Jesus is the Savior, and his preaching upset the Jews so much that they plotted to kill him. Saul needed help to escape the Jews, and Jesus provided it. Jesus helped Saul through other Christians. Fellow believers risked their own lives to help Saul escape over the city wall.

We may not experience plots against our lives, but there are times when we need help through tough times—a major decision, a death in the family, a big move, temptation, or even feeling distant from Christ. During these times, the Lord provides help by surrounding us with the exact people we need to help us. Fellow believers will risk their time, finances, and sometimes, even their health, to help. And we are called to do the same. So, if you have fallen and can't get up, call on the Lord for help; He will surely send someone your way.

Planning Page



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 • Saul's Great Escape • Acts 9:23-31

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Display laundry basket and rope to illustrate Saul's great escape

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Blow camp whistle to always remember the Daily Truth "Help from Jesus"

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make Buddy Banners as a reminder to help each other

Materials • Bible, newspaper, twine, scissors, ruler, stapler, several colors of tempera paint, disposable plastic plates, crepe-paper streamers, markers, craft glue or glue sticks; for each child—a dinner-sized white heavy-duty paper plate

Older Child Option • Make camp Buddy Bandannas and talk about ways children can help each other

Materials • Bible, 12-inch (30.5-cm) squares of light-colored fabric, permanent fine-tipped markers or fabric-paint pens in a variety of colors

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child • Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials • Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), butcher paper, tape, colorful marker, two white bed sheets, one beach ball, five balloons, large world map

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Pretend to roast marshmallows while listening to "I'm Keepin' My Eyes on Jesus" song and talk about ways to help each other

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, firewood or artificial campfire, one large marshmallow, stick, one mini marshmallow for each child, cast-iron skillet or large pot

Older Child Option • While blindfolded, complete a puzzle with help from others and talk about helping one another

Materials • Bible, Lesson 2 Pattern Page (p. 70) and scissors or 8- to 10-piece puzzles for each group of 8 to 10 children, blindfold for each child

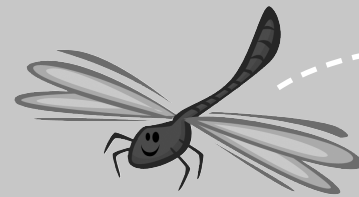
Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 2 Coloring Page (p. 71) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 2 Puzzle Page (p. 72) for each child, 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 theme excitement.

Silly Camp Roster

On a length of butcher paper, print the name of each child who attends *Rock-Solid Followers*. Leave an open area below each name. (Optional: Take a picture of each child and display it near the child's name.) Title the paper "Silly Campers." Display the paper at an entrance or in a large room where children meet. Near the paper have stickers, small colorful feathers or colorful paper leaves and glue sticks. Each week, each child records attendance by attaching a sticker or gluing a feather or leaf below his or her name. Each child may also create a Silly Camp Name (Jumping Frog, Little Flower, Bright Eyes, etc.) and write it on the paper. (Optional: Make camp nametags out of card stock leaf or feather patterns [see p. 234] for each child to wear. Include child's name and silly camp name. Laminated, punch and attach leather string for child to wear.)

Campfire Cupcakes

Flatten red and orange fruit chews with rolling pin and cut into zigzag shapes to create "flames." Place chocolate frosting and decorating items (flames, cookie crumbs, cinnamon candy, mini marshmallows, mini pretzel sticks) in separate bowls. Give each child a chocolate cupcake and a plastic knife. Child frosts cupcake, and then sprinkles cookie crumbs around the edge of cupcakes. Child presses several flames into center of cupcakes and sprinkles cinnamon candy around flames. Each child spears several marshmallows onto one end of a pretzel stick and "roasts" marshmallows before devouring this yummy treat.

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



Barrel Bank

Contact your church office or denomination to find the name of a missionary or missions organization that needs financial support. (Optional: Look online for information about organizations such as World Vision, Project Most, Compassion International, Living Water International or Gospel Light Worldwide.) Talk with your children about the importance of giving to help missionaries tell about Jesus. Explain the project you've selected.

Each child creates a Barrel Bank to take home and collect money for the project. Give each child a large clean coffee can or soup can and brown construction paper. Child cuts paper to fit can and tapes the paper around the can. Using brown markers, stickers or other materials, each child decorates his or her Barrel Bank. Send home with child a letter to parents explaining the project and telling the date Barrel Banks should be returned.

Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 9:23-31

Camping Fun

In a backpack, place Bible, a rope and other camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room in a laundry basket. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible and climbing rope. During the story, tie the rope to the basket to demonstrate Paul’s escape.

Collect

Wooden or cardboard blocks.

Introduction

(*Show laundry basket.*) **What is the biggest thing you could fit in this basket?** Invite children to respond.

Today we’re going to hear a story about a basket big enough for a grownup. This story is from God’s Word, the Bible! (*Hold up Bible.*)

Tell the Story

(*Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.*)

The Bible tells us that after Paul learned that Jesus truly is God’s Son, he didn’t want to hurt the people in God’s family anymore. He wanted to tell everyone about Jesus and that He is alive! The people in the city where Paul was staying were very surprised (*make surprised face*) to hear Paul talking about Jesus.

Some of the men who heard Paul talking about Jesus were not happy! These men were angry! (*Cross arms and make angry face.*) They decided, “We must stop Paul!”

This is what they planned to do: The city of Damascus had a tall wall around it. (*Build a knee-high wall with blocks.*) To get out of the city, the angry men knew Paul would have to go through one of the city gates. So the angry men watched the gates. (*Stand. Place hand above*

eyes and “watch” for Paul.) If Paul tried to leave the city, they would catch him! They waited and waited, watching day and night. (*Look left and then look right. Sit down.*)

But Paul had lots of friends in the city. They loved Paul and thought of a way to help him. One night, some of Paul’s friends took him to a place where there was an opening way high up in the wall of the city. (*Kneel behind “block wall” and look down.*) It was a long, long way down to the ground. **What do you think Paul’s friends were going to do?** (*Invite children to respond.*)

Paul’s friends brought a very big basket and a long rope. They would need a long rope to get Paul out of the city. They tied the rope to the basket. (*Tie rope to basket.*) THEN they told Paul to get in the basket! They were going to use the rope to lower him over the city wall in the basket.

(*Stand in basket and crouch lower each time “down” is said.*) Down, down, down Paul went. The basket swayed from side to side as it went down. (*Sway back and forth.*) Paul must have felt a little scared. (*Make scared face.*) Soon there was a THUMP! (*Bounce in place.*) Paul was on the ground outside the city. Paul was safe! (*Jump up.*) Hip, Hip, Hooray! Paul was glad to be out of the city and out of the basket. Now he knew God loved him and would take care of him.

Paul then walked to a city called Jerusalem. (*Walk in place.*) Some of Jesus’ friends in Jerusalem remembered how Paul had tried to hurt them, so they were afraid to be Paul’s friend. But one man, Barnabas, became Paul’s friend. He told everyone that Paul had learned to love Jesus. Barnabas told them that Paul was Jesus’ friend now. Paul didn’t want to hurt them anymore!

Finally, Jesus’ friends in Jerusalem became Paul’s friends, too. Paul was happy to have good friends to help him!

God’s Word & Me

Jesus showed Paul how much He loved Him. When Paul might have felt scared about the angry men who wanted to hurt him, Jesus gave Paul good friends to help him. When we need help, Jesus gives us people to help us, too.

The Bible says, “With love, help each other.” Every day we can love and help each other. Pray. Dear Jesus, thank You for sending friends to help us. Please show us how to be good helpers, too. Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 9:23-31

Camping Fun

In a small tent, place a whistle and other camping gear (sleeping bag, pillow, stuffed animal, boots, etc.). At the beginning of the Bible story, rummage through the tent, and then bring out a whistle. Blow the whistle loudly to obtain the children's attention.

Why is a whistle good to have when camping in the forest? (People can find and help you if you are lost.) Tell children that throughout the Bible story when you blow the whistle they can shout out the Daily Truth, "Help from Jesus." (See story for instructions on when to blow whistle.)

Collect

Bible, laundry basket or box big enough for a child to sit in, climbing rope.

Introduction

What is the tallest building or wall you've ever seen or heard about? Invite volunteer to share. **Today we are going to be learning about Saul and a REALLY tall wall. Let's get started finding out about . . .** (Blow whistle!)

Tell the Story

After Saul learned that Jesus truly is God's Son, he immediately began telling people in the city that Jesus really is God's Son. **And does anyone remember what city it was?** (Invite children to respond.) Damascus, that's right. People who heard him were amazed and asked each other, "Isn't this the same man who used to hate people who believed in Jesus?" Some people became REALLY mad. They didn't want this talk about Jesus to

spread. They wanted Saul DEAD, so they planned to catch him! Saul needed . . . (Blow whistle!)

A huge wall surrounded the city of Damascus. The only way in and out of the city was through several big gates. So day and night men watched the city gates, waiting for Saul to leave the city. They were sure they would catch him! But, somehow, Saul found out about their plan. Saul needed to find another way to get out of the city! Saul needed . . . (Blow whistle!)

The followers of Jesus in Damascus heard about the plan to kill Saul, too. They needed . . . (Blow whistle!) So they came up with a smart plan. You see, even though a wall surrounded the city, there were windows built near the top of it. So they got a big basket and a long, long rope. (Show basket or box and rope to demonstrate story action.) They must have asked for . . . (Blow whistle!) They tied the rope to the basket and Saul got in. (Ask a volunteer to come sit in the basket or box.) Then Saul's friends lifted the basket, with Saul inside it. (Invite four children to attempt to lift the basket or box before returning to their place.) Saul's friends held on tightly to the rope and SLOWLY lowered the basket down the city wall all the way to the ground! While Saul's enemies were watching for him at the city gates, Saul escaped over the wall! Jesus' followers helped Saul and saved his life!

Sometime after his escape, Saul went to find other friends of Jesus in another city, Jerusalem. But do you think they were happy to see Saul? NO WAY! Why? (Invite children to respond.) After everything Saul had done to hurt Jesus' followers, they didn't trust him. They didn't believe Saul had changed and loved Jesus now. They thought Saul was trying to trap them! Saul needed . . . (Blow whistle!)

What Saul needed was someone to help him convince Jesus' friends that he really was a follower of Jesus now. Saul must have asked for . . . (Blow whistle!) In Jerusalem, there was one guy who wasn't afraid of Saul. The guy's name was Barnabas. Saul told Barnabas all about the day Jesus spoke to him while on his way to Damascus. Barnabas listened, and he was going to help Saul. Yahoo!

When Jesus' friends saw Barnabas walk in with Saul, they were shocked—and scared, too! But Barnabas

Lesson Two

quickly calmed them down and told them Saul's story. Because Barnabas believed Saul, Jesus' friends started to believe that Saul had really changed. They welcomed Saul into the house and even invited him to stay with them. Saul lived with these friends for a while. During his time with them he must have learned even more about Jesus. These followers of Jesus had actually traveled with Jesus, seen His miracles and heard Him teach.

Saul continued to tell everyone he could about Jesus. But it wasn't long before once again, people who did not love Jesus stirred up big trouble. (*Blow whistle!*) Can you believe it? Saul had to escape again. So what do you think happened? Saul had . . . (*Blow whistle!*) Just like in Damascus, Jesus' followers helped Saul escape to another country! Saul eventually was called by his Roman name, Paul, and he continued to tell the good news of Jesus.

God's Word & Me

The name Barnabas means "helper" or "son of encouragement." Barnabas lived up to his name, helping Paul, as well as many other people. One of the best ways Jesus loves us is by giving us people who can encourage us and help us—especially when we have problems.

Listen to these words Paul wrote. They tell us how to treat each other. Read or ask a child to read Romans 12:10.

- **How are we supposed to treat each other?** (With love, respect and kindness. Like a brother.)
- **What do you think it means to "be devoted" to someone?** (You help that person and are friends no matter what.)
- **When might you or a friend need help?** (Homework. Bullied at school. Sad and need a friend to talk to.)
- **How can you help your family or friends in those situations?** Pray with children, thanking Jesus for sending people to help them. Ask Jesus to give them courage to help others in need.



Missions Focus

How might helping someone be a way to "tell" about Jesus?

Who can you help this week as a way of sharing about Jesus?

What are ways missionaries show Jesus' love and help?

Game Center



for younger children • Acts 9:23-31

Collect

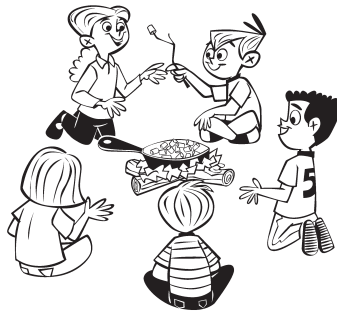
Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, firewood or artificial campfire, one large marshmallow, stick, one mini marshmallow for each child, cast-iron skillet or large pot

Prepare

Arrange firewood to form a “campfire.” Place one marshmallow on the end of a stick. Place the mini marshmallows in the skillet or pot and place it on top of campfire. (Optional: Instead of using a stick, place marshmallows in a resealable sandwich bag for young children.)

Do

1. Children sit in a circle around the campfire. As “I’m Keepin’ My Eyes on Jesus” song is played, children pass the marshmallow stick around the circle.
2. After 10 to 12 seconds, stop the music. The child holding the stick tells a way someone has helped him or her. After the child answers, lead all children in calling out, “With love, help each other!” Then the child who answered the question takes and eats a mini marshmallow from the skillet or pot.
3. Continue playing until each child has received a mini marshmallow. If time permits, play again with children telling ways they can help others.



Talk About

- In today’s Bible story there is a man named Paul. Some people who were angry at Paul wanted to hurt him. But Jesus helped Paul by giving him friends. Paul’s friends helped him escape from the angry people.

God’s Word

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
Honor one another above yourselves.”
Romans 12:10

For Younger Children:
“With love, help each other.”

God’s Word & Me

When I have problems and need help,
one of the best ways Jesus helps me
is through His followers.

- Jesus gives us people who help us, too. Who are some people who help you? (Mom. Dad. Sister. Grandma. Grandpa.)
- Jesus wants us to help others, too! What are some ways you can help your Grandma or Grandpa? How can you help your friend when he or she is hurt?
- The Bible says, “With love, help each other.” Repeat verse with children. Pray briefly, **Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us people who help us. Please help us to love each other. We love You. Amen.**

For Older Children

Write the words of Romans 12:10 on white board or butcher paper. Children pass around marshmallow stick while music plays. When the music stops, whoever has the stick says the Bible verse aloud and gets a marshmallow to eat. After the child says the verse, he or she can erase or cover one word from the verse display. Continue game until everyone has received a marshmallow.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 9:23-31

Collect

Bible, Lesson 2 Pattern Page (p. 70) and scissors or 8-to 10-piece puzzle. Blindfold for each child.

Prepare

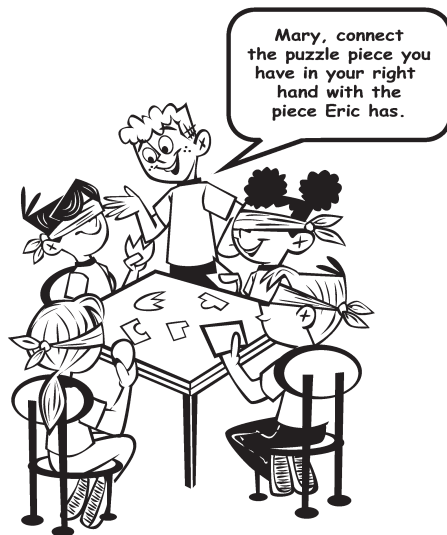
If using Pattern Page, copy and cut apart.

Do

1. Form groups of children of no more than 10. Each group sits around a table or in a circle on the floor with puzzle pieces spread out in the middle. All but one child in each group puts on a blindfold. (Note: Adjust number of children without blindfolds depending on total number of children in group.)

2. Each group tries to assemble the pieces to put the puzzle together, trying for one minute without the help of the child who can see. Then the child who is not blindfolded gives advice or directions until the puzzle is assembled.

3. The group that completes the puzzle first can say this lesson's Bible verse aloud. Repeat as time permits.



God's Word

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10

For Younger Children:
"With love, help each other."

God's Word & Me

When I have problems and need help, one of the best ways Jesus helps me is through His followers.

Missions Focus

How might helping someone be a way to "tell" about Jesus?

Who can you help this week as a way of sharing about Jesus?

What are ways missionaries show Jesus' love and help?

Talk About

- **How did you feel while trying to put the puzzle together without any help?** (Frustrated. Angry. Defeated.)
- **How did you feel when someone helped you?** (Relieved. Excited. Grateful.)
- **In life, when are some times you or a friend needs help?** (Deciding to tell the truth. Homework. Choosing which sport to play. Being bullied at school.)
- **Who are the people Jesus has given to help you in these situations?** (Parent. Friend. Teacher. Brother or sister.)

- **The Bible tells us to help one another. Listen to these words that Paul wrote.** Read or ask a child to read Romans 12:10 aloud. **Let's ask Jesus to help us to love and to help each other.** Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus to help them love each other and help those in need. Thank Jesus for loving them and always helping them.

For Younger Children

Collect additional puzzles, if possible. Children do not wear blindfolds. Each child gets one or two puzzle pieces. They help each other complete the puzzle.

Art Center



for younger children • Acts 9:23-31

Collect

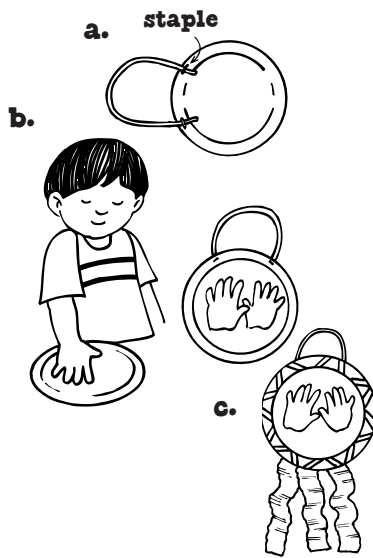
Bible, newspaper, twine, scissors, ruler, stapler, several colors of tempera paint, disposable plastic plates, crepe-paper streamers, markers, craft glue or glue sticks; for each child—a dinner-sized white heavy-duty paper plate.

Prepare

Cover work area with newspaper. For each project, cut one 12-inch (30.5-cm) length of twine; staple both ends of a cut length onto back of a paper plate (see sketch a). Pour a small amount of tempera paint into each plastic plate.

Do

1. For each Buddy Banner, child chooses a color of paint and then presses right hand into paint. Child then presses hand onto paper plate, slightly off center, to make a print (see sketch b). (Optional: Instead of paint, trace around children's hands. Children color handprints.)



2. Child's friend chooses a second color of paint, presses left hand into paint and then makes a left handprint next to first child's right handprint.

3. Child washes hands and then decorates banner with markers as desired. Help child write, "With love, help each other" onto the paper plate.

4. Child glues several streamers to lower edge of plate back (see sketch c).

God's Word

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10

For Younger Children:

"With love, help each other."

God's Word & Me

When I have problems and need help,
one of the best ways Jesus helps me
is through His followers.

Talk About

- Shea, I see you needed help with your streamers. Miss Lily helped you! Thank you, Miss Lily.
- What are other times we need help? Jesus gives us people to help us.
- Did you know that when we help each other, we are showing love? We are! The Bible tells us, "With love, help each other."
- Who helps you when you need help? We are glad that Jesus gives us people who help us. Pray, Thank You, Jesus, for people in Your family who love You and help us. Amen.

For Older Children

Older children have friends sign their names or add small drawings on plate edges.

Art Center



for older children • Acts 9:23-31

Collect

Bible, 12-inch (30.5-cm) squares of light-colored fabric, permanent fine-tipped markers or fabric-paint pens in a variety of colors; optional—books containing photos of Native American symbols, rubber stamps and colorful stamp pads.

Do

1. Children brainstorm outdoor-related symbols (tree, sun, river, fish, etc.) that are easy to draw. (Optional: Children look at book illustrations for ideas.)
2. Each child chooses a symbol with which to “sign” the bandannas of others. Each child receives a bandanna and signs his or her own name on it. Children invite others to add their symbols to bandannas. (Optional: Children may choose to use a rubber stamp symbol with a stamp pad.)
3. When all bandannas are decorated, children fold bandannas into triangles and then tie them around necks as their “camp uniform.” Invite them to wear their camp bandannas for every session.



Talk About

- What are some things that are hard for you or a friend to do alone? Who is a person you can count on when you need help?
- Read or ask a child to read Romans 12:10. **What are ways we can show that kind of love right here? Some of us decorated each other’s bandannas—that’s a simple way to help and honor each other!**
- Name some people who have helped you this week. **When we need help, Jesus is glad to help us through His followers. It’s one way He shows His love!**

God’s Word

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
Romans 12:10

For Younger Children:
“With love, help each other.”

God’s Word & Me

When I have problems and need help, one of the best ways Jesus helps me is through His followers.

Missions Focus

How might helping someone be a way to “tell” about Jesus?

Who can you help this week as a way of sharing about Jesus?

What are ways missionaries show Jesus’ love and help?

- **Take a minute to think of a person you could help this week.** Pray, asking Jesus to help children remember ways to help and honor each other.

For Younger Children

Younger children may use rubber stamps to add symbols on bandannas. Once finished bandannas are being worn, lead children on an imaginary nature walk if time permits.

Worship Center



Acts 9:23-31

Collect

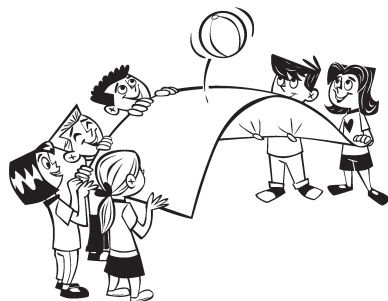
Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), butcher paper, tape, colorful marker, two white bed sheets, beach ball, five balloons, large world map.

Prepare

Display a large map of the world at the front of the room where children will gather. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from CD-ROM.) Print the word CHINA vertically in the middle of the butcher paper. Hang sheet of butcher paper on wall. (Optional: Choose a country where missionaries from your church serve.)

Team Game

Form children into two teams. Six to eight volunteers from each team hold a bed sheet. Place a beach ball in the middle of one team's sheet. As you play the song "Spread the Good News," the team with the ball throws the beach ball with the sheet and the other team tries to catch it with their sheet. Teams can tilt the sheet from side to side and raise and lower it. Play as many rounds as time permits. Members of each team cheer for both teams.



Bible Verse Game

Repeat Romans 12:10 aloud with children. **This Bible verse reminds us to help each other. Let's play a game to help us remember this verse.** Children stand in a circle and tap a balloon trying to keep it in the air. If the balloon falls to the floor, everyone says one word of the Bible verse starting with the child who dropped it. (The first child will say, "Be," and the second child will say, "devoted," and so on.) Keep adding balloons to make each round more difficult.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "I'm Keepin' My Eyes On Jesus," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

God's Word

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10

For Younger Children:
"With love, help each other."

God's Word & Me

When I have problems and need help,
one of the best ways Jesus helps me
is through His followers.

Missions Focus

How might helping someone
be a way to "tell" about Jesus?

Who can you help this week as
a way of sharing about Jesus?

What are ways missionaries show
Jesus' love and help?

Worldwide Prayer

Today, we're going to pray for the missionaries and people in China. Point to China on the world map. To help us pray we are going to do an acrostic prayer. Talk with children about the needs of missionaries and people in China. As needs are identified, write (or let child write) the words on the paper, using letters in the word "China" whenever possible. Then lead children in prayer referring to the specific words written on the acrostic.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Spread the Good News," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

“Be devoted to one
another in brotherly

love. Honor one another
above yourselves.”

Romans 12:10

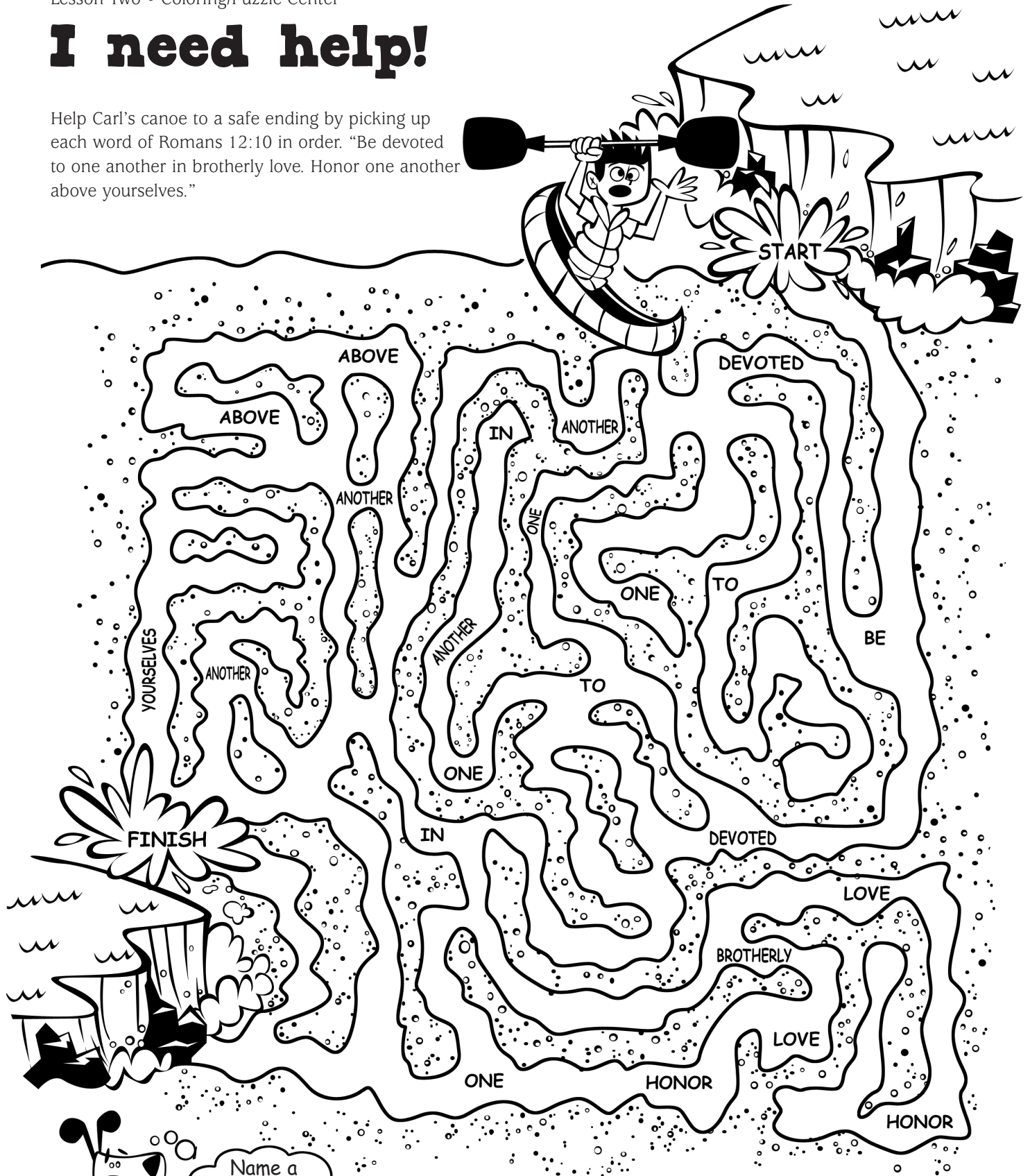




“With love, help each other.” How can you help your mom or dad at home this week?
(See Romans 12:10.)

I need help!

Help Carl's canoe to a safe ending by picking up each word of Romans 12:10 in order. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."



Name a follower of Jesus who you can go to for help!

Sent by Jesus

Bible Story • Paul's First Missionary Journey • Acts 13:1-5, 13-52



God's Word

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

Romans 1:16

For Younger Children:

"I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can be part of God's plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Missions Focus

Who can you pray for?

How many different ways of "telling" about Jesus can you think of?

How would your school be different if everyone knew about Jesus' love?

Teacher's Devotional

Have you ever been on a missionary journey? It could be that you're on one right now! When we make the decision to surrender our lives to Christ and to follow Him wholeheartedly, Christ calls us to tell others about Him, no matter what occupation we are in or what we're doing today!

After Paul's conversion he was sent on his very first missionary journey. On this journey he not only witnessed to the Jews on the Sabbath, but to the Gentiles as well. When Paul and Barnabas finished preaching, the people invited them back to speak on the following Sabbath. The people heard the good news of Jesus and wanted to hear more! So the following Sabbath, Paul and Barnabas showed up to preach. According to Acts 13:44, "Almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord." Amazing! Jesus sent Paul and Barnabas and because they obeyed, hundreds of people came to know Him.

Whether we are full-time parents, business executives, teachers or missionaries in Africa, we are all on a missionary journey. We are all part of God's plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus. In fact, God has sent you specifically to be a missionary in your very own class of children. You have the incredible opportunity and responsibility to tell the children in your class all about Jesus and His love for them. And who knows—perhaps next week they *will* bring the whole city. With God, anything is possible!

Planning Page



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 • Paul's First Missionary Journey • Acts 13:1-5,13-52

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show paper plate puppets to illustrate portions of the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show postcard to discover a message about telling others about Jesus and the Daily Truth "Sent by Jesus"

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Play a game throwing beanbags onto plates to find the happy face and talk about sharing the good news of Jesus

Materials • Bible, marker, six paper plates, beanbag

Older Child Option • Play a hopping game and write on card stock things children know about Jesus

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, card stock, masking tape; for each child—marker

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Talk about the people Jesus loves and make a Bible verse banner adding children's drawing of themselves

Materials • Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, tape, markers or crayons, drawing paper, glue sticks

Older Child Option • Make Tiny Talkers to discuss ways of telling others about Jesus

Materials • Bible, Lesson 3 Pattern Page (p. 84), fine-tipped markers, scissors

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 3 Coloring Page (p. 85) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 3 Puzzle Page (p. 86) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), large world map, dot stickers, blindfold, butcher paper



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 theme excitement.

Tiny Tent Invitations

Collect pictures of camping gear from Internet or catalogs or gather camping-themed stickers. Cut a sheet of brown card stock into 4x8 inches (10x20.5 cm). Give each child a card. Holding cards horizontally, children fold down top corners to meet at the bottom center, creasing the edges to make cards resemble tiny tents. Children add stickers or pictures to the front and inside of the invitations. Each child writes words inside the card inviting a friend to come to *Rock-Solid Followers*. Child takes home invitation and gives it to a friend.

Trail Walk Mix

Fill four bowls with one of the following: raisins, dry breakfast cereal, shelled sunflower seeds and banana chips. Give each child a resealable sandwich bag. Children form an assembly line and scoop three spoonfuls of each ingredient into their bag. Shake, shake, shake and they're ready to take this scrumptious snack on a trail walk.

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



Missionary Family Highlight

Invite a long-term or short-term missionary family from your congregation to class. Invite the family to talk about the country in which they served and how they shared the good news of Jesus in that country. Invite the family to bring any items from that country to display. (Optional: Family brings samples of food from that country for the children to taste.)



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 13:1-5,13-52

Camping Fun

Before class, make two paper plate puppets. Draw a happy face on one plate and a sad face on the other. Then glue each plate to a craft stick. In backpack, place Bible, puppets and camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack. Have children help you locate it. Rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out Bible and puppets. During the story, show puppets to illustrate the happy and sad people.

Collect

Suitcase.

Introduction

(Show suitcase.) Have you ever gone on a trip with your family? Where did you go? Were you given a special job to do on the trip? Invite children to respond. Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about two men, Paul and Barnabas. Jesus sent them on an important trip. And they had a special job to do! Let's open our Bible and find out where they went.

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.) The Bible tells us that it was an important day in the city called Antioch! Paul, Barnabas and all their friends were meeting together.

Paul and Barnabas were about to go on a trip. And everyone was excited and happy. *(Show happy puppet.)* Usually, people are sad *(show sad puppet)* when some-

one is leaving. But these people were excited and happy *(show happy puppet)* because Jesus was sending Paul and Barnabas on a VERY important trip—they had the special job of telling the good news of Jesus to people who had never heard anything about Jesus before.

So before Paul and Barnabas left for the trip, their friends prayed for them. And then they were off. Paul and Barnabas traveled very far. *(Stand and walk in place, carrying suitcase.)*

They traveled to many towns doing their important job of telling others about Jesus. Sometimes they traveled in boats. *(Pretend to row boat.)* Sometimes they walked. *(Walk in place.)* Sometimes they may have even ridden horses or donkeys. *(Pretend to ride a horse.)*

However they traveled and wherever they went, Paul and Barnabas told the good news about Jesus. *(Show happy puppet.)* “God sent Jesus to earth to show us His love,” Paul said. “Even though Jesus died, God made Him alive again. If you believe this good news about Jesus, you can join God's family, too.”

Many people believed the good news that Jesus loved them. They became part of God's family. But not everyone believed in Jesus. *(Show sad puppet.)* Some people even tried to hurt Paul and Barnabas because they didn't want Paul and Barnabas to tell others about Jesus. OH, NO! *(Echo “Oh, no!”)* Paul and Barnabas had to quickly leave town so they wouldn't be hurt. *(Run in place.)*

No matter what happened, Paul and Barnabas kept doing their important job. They told others about the good news of Jesus. And God's family grew and grew and grew! *(Show happy puppet.)*

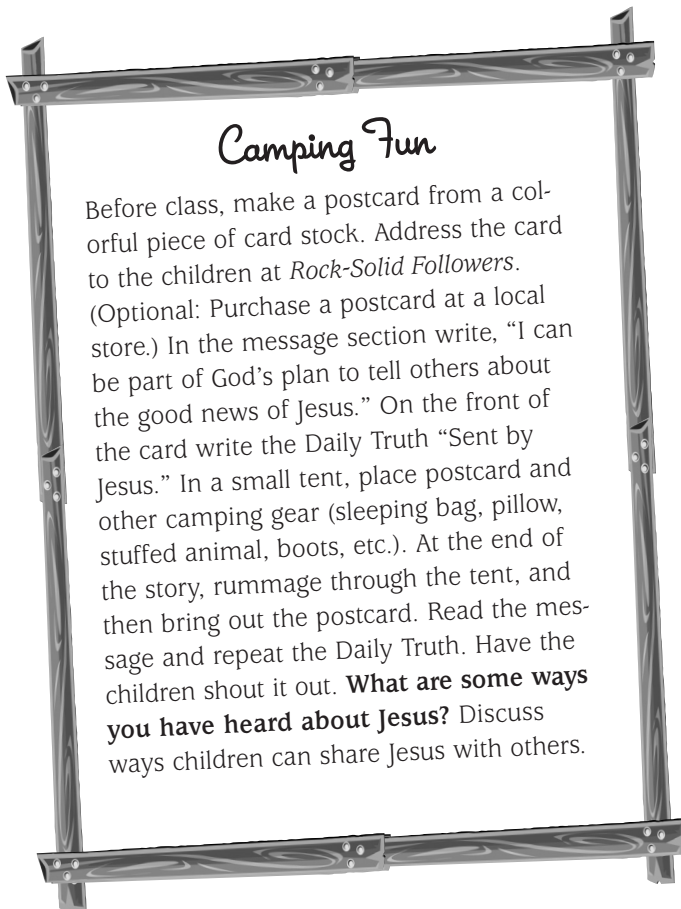
God's Word & Me

Paul and Barnabas were glad to share the good news of Jesus. Paul and Barnabas were missionaries. People who tell about Jesus are called missionaries. Some missionaries, like Paul and Barnabas, travel far away from their homes to tell about Jesus. And other missionaries stay right at home.

God wants us to tell everyone about the good news of Jesus. When you tell others about Jesus' love, you can be a missionary, too! Pray, Dear God, thank You for the good news of Jesus. Help us to tell others about Jesus' love. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 13:1-5,13-52



Collect

Bible, suitcase, items to pack in suitcase (pants, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, teddy bear, etc.).

Introduction

(Open suitcase and begin packing items.) Tell about a trip you went on when you were a child. Talk about any special job your parents gave you while on the trip (pack suitcase, watch for street signs, etc.). **Have you ever gone on a trip by yourself or with your family? Where did you go?** Invite children to respond. **Right now we're going to hear a story about two men and a trip they went on. They didn't go on a vacation. They had a very important job to do on this trip—and they did it, no matter what!**

Tell the Story

Paul, Barnabas and some other followers of Jesus were all together one day in a city called Antioch. They were worshiping God and praying. Then God gave them a message. He said, "I have a special job for Paul and Barnabas. I want them to travel to new places and tell people about Me." God wanted Paul and Barnabas to be missionaries. **Who is a missionary?** (Invite children to respond.) A missionary is a person who tells the good news about Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas got ready to go on this special trip. They gathered the things they needed. **What types of things would you tell them to pack?** (Invite children to respond.) When everything was ready, their friends in Antioch prayed for them. Then Paul and Barnabas started on their important trip. They traveled to many towns. Sometimes they sailed on ships. **When have you been on a ship?** (Invite children to respond.) Sometimes they walked. **What are some places you walk to?** (Invite children to respond.) Sometimes they may have even ridden on horses or donkeys. **When have you ridden a donkey or horse?** (Invite children to respond.)

Wherever Paul and Barnabas went, they told the good news about Jesus to everyone. When Paul and Barnabas were in Pisidian Antioch they spoke in a synagogue on the Sabbath. **What is a synagogue? What is the Sabbath?** (Invite children to respond.) A synagogue is a place where Jewish people meet. The Sabbath is a day of rest God made. It's the day Jewish people meet to worship God.

Paul told the people listening in the synagogue, "God sent Jesus to earth to show us His love. Even though Jesus died on a cross, God made Him alive again. If you believe this good news about Jesus, you can become a part of God's family, too."

As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to come back and speak on the next Sabbath. Paul and Barnabas must have been very glad to be invited back to tell more about the good news of Jesus.

On the next Sabbath, almost the WHOLE CITY gathered to hear the good news of Jesus! Isn't that

Lesson Three

amazing?! Many of the people did believe the good news. Moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandmas, grandpas, boys and girls—all became members of God’s family. Another new church family began in that city! New churches began in each of the cities Paul and Barnabas visited!

But not everyone believed in Jesus. Some people even tried to hurt Paul and Barnabas, because they didn’t want Paul and Barnabas teaching about Jesus.

No matter what happened, though, Paul and Barnabas kept traveling and telling the good news about Jesus. The Bible says that they were filled with joy. And everywhere they preached, more and more people believed in Jesus.

God’s Word & Me

Just like Paul and Barnabas told others about the good news of Jesus, we can be missionaries too. Some of you may grow up to travel to different cities or countries to tell about Jesus. But even in our city, in your neighborhood, in your school, you can help others learn about Jesus every day.

Listen to these words that Paul wrote about sharing the good news of Jesus. Read or ask a child to read Romans 1:16 aloud.

• **What is Paul saying in this verse?** (This verse encourages us not to be embarrassed or hesitate to share the good news of Jesus. This good news is powerful! It is

only through Jesus that we have salvation and can live forever with Him.)

• **What are some things you know about Jesus?** (Gives life. Died on a cross. Came to life again three days later. He is alive. He loves everyone. He helps us every day.)

• **What are some ways you can tell your friends, teachers, and family about Jesus?** (Pray for them. Talk with them. Give them a Bible. Invite them to church.)

• **Where are some places you can go to tell others the good news of Jesus?** (School, park, church, a different country, sports practice, etc.) Pray with children, thanking God for Jesus and asking God to help them tell the good news of Jesus to everyone.

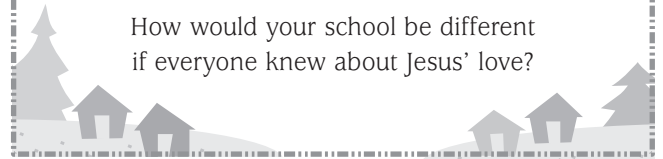


Missions Focus

Who can you pray for?

How many different ways of “telling” about Jesus can you think of?

How would your school be different if everyone knew about Jesus’ love?



Game Center



for younger children • Acts 13:1-5, 13-52

Collect

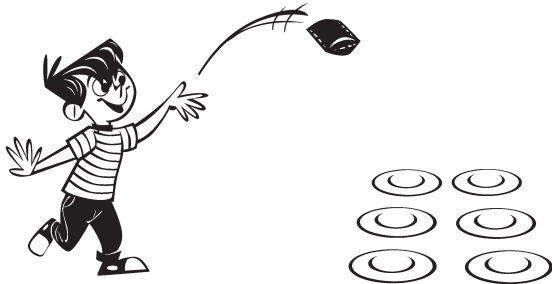
Bible, marker, six paper plates, beanbag.

Prepare

Draw a happy face on one plate. Lay paper plates facedown in two rows of three each on the floor.

Do

1. Children form a line across from the rows of plates. Adjust the throwing distance for each child as needed.
2. Children take turns to throw a beanbag onto a plate. If beanbag lands on or near a plate, child turns that plate over to see if plate back has the happy face. When the happy face is found, children shout out, "I am glad to tell about the good news of Jesus!" Shuffle the plates and play several rounds.



Talk About

- Jesus is happy when we tell people the good news about Him. We can tell others that Jesus loves us. Let's say those words together, "Jesus loves us." We can tell others that Jesus is God's Son. Say that with me, "Jesus is God's Son."
- The good news of Jesus is that He loves us so much! Telling about Jesus makes us glad!
- Think about one person you can tell today, "Jesus loves you." Say that person's name. (Children take turns to say a person's name.) Pray briefly, **Dear God, please help us to tell others about Jesus today. We want everyone to know You love them. In Jesus' name, amen.**

God's Word

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."
Romans 1:16

For Younger Children:

"I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can be part of God's plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

For Older Children

Divide Romans 1:16 into 12 phrases. Write one phrase on the back of each of 12 plates. Place plates facedown on the floor in four rows of three. One at a time, children toss a beanbag onto a plate and then turn over that plate. Once all the plates are turned over, the children put plates in the correct verse order. As a group, children read the verse aloud. Reshuffle plates and turn them over to play another round.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 13:1-5,13-52

Collect

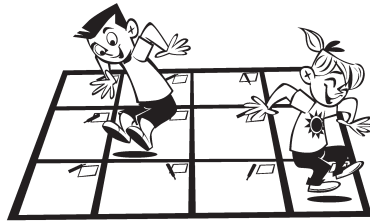
Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, card stock, masking tape; for each child—marker.

Prepare

Use masking tape to make a grid of 12 squares, making each square 10x10 inches (25.5x25.5 cm) in size. Place a piece of card stock and marker in each square.

Do

1. Children line up at the edge of the grid.
2. Two to three children at a time take turns to hop randomly on squares while “Spread the Good News” plays. After 10 to 12 seconds, stop the music. Children freeze and then write something they know about Jesus on the card stock in that square.
3. After each child has had a turn, read words on cards aloud.



Talk About

- In today’s Bible story, Paul and Barnabas were sent out to tell people about Jesus. We can tell others about Jesus, too. We can tell them what we know about Him.
- When you hear the name “Jesus,” what is the first thing you think?
- What are some more things you know about Jesus that you have read or heard about in the Bible? (Performed miracles. Loves everyone. Died on a cross. Rose from the dead. Helps us every day.)
- What has Jesus done for you or other people you know? (Children respond.) Lead children in prayer, thanking God for Jesus and asking Him to help them to tell others about Jesus’ love for them.

God’s Word

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”

Romans 1:16

For Younger Children:

“I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus.”

God’s Word & Me

I can be part of God’s plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Missions Focus

Who can you pray for?

How many different ways of “telling” about Jesus can you think of?

How would your school be different if everyone knew about Jesus’ love?

For Younger Children

Have all the children hop to “Spread the Good News” Occasionally, stop music and say, “Freeze!” Then say, “On the count of three, let’s all shout, ‘I can tell others about Jesus!’” If time permits, play more rounds, changing actions each time (crawl like a bear, hop like a bunny, waddle like a duck, etc.).

Art Center

for younger children • Acts 13:1-5, 13-52

Collect

Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, tape, markers or crayons, drawing paper, glue sticks.

Prepare

Tape large sheet of butcher paper to wall at children's eye level. Write, "We're glad to tell the good news of Jesus!" across the paper, leaving space for children to tape pictures around words.

Do

1. Each child draws a picture of him or herself on drawing paper.
2. Child chooses a place on the group banner and attaches picture. Write child's name by picture.
3. If time allows, children use markers to decorate around pictures on banner.



Talk About

- Who are some people Jesus loves? Let's name them. I see Adam, Rhianna and Dylan. Jesus loves us all!
- Let's name other people Jesus loves. Who are people in your family Jesus loves? People at your school? People in your neighborhood?

God's Word

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

Romans 1:16

For Younger Children:

"I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can be part of God's plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

- God's Word says, "I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus." What things can we tell about Jesus?
- Let's ask God to help us be glad to tell other people, "Jesus loves you!" Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for Jesus. Please help us to tell others His love! In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

To increase the challenge, give older children the option of choosing a partner with whom to draw portraits of each other. Or, provide magazines, scissors and glue and invite older children to create collage faces for their self-portraits.

Art Center



for older children • Acts 13:1-5,13-52

Collect

Bible, Lesson 3 Pattern Page (p. 84), fine-tipped markers, scissors.

Prepare

Photocopy a Pattern Page for each child. Make a sample for yourself.

Do

1. Give each child a Pattern Page. Child colors page as directed on page.
2. Child cuts out Tiny Talker and then folds page according to directions on page.
3. With a partner, child uses Tiny Talker to play the game: Child holding Tiny Talker invites a friend to choose a number from one to four and then opens and closes game piece that number of times. Child holding Tiny Talker then reveals four colors for friend to choose from. Child opens chosen colored flap to reveal a question to answer and talk about.



Talk About

- Why do you think a kid your age needs to know about Jesus?
- Our Bible verse says that the good news about Jesus is powerful. It rescues us or saves us from sin. What are other ways that being part of God's family helps you?
- What things do you think a kid needs to know about Jesus?
- Think of a person who might be helped by hearing this kind of good news. Who could you tell one of those things to this week? Pray, ask God to help children see those around them who need to know the good news and to use their Tiny Talkers to help tell others the good news about Jesus.

God's Word

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."
Romans 1:16

For Younger Children:

"I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can be part of God's plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Missions Focus

Who can you pray for?

How many different ways of "telling" about Jesus can you think of?

How would your school be different if everyone knew about Jesus' love?

For Younger Children

Demonstrate a completed Tiny Talker to younger children and then play the game with them. If time allows, children draw pictures of Jesus and tell name of person to whom they will give their pictures. Write the name of person's name on the picture.

Worship Center



Acts 13:15,13-52

Collect

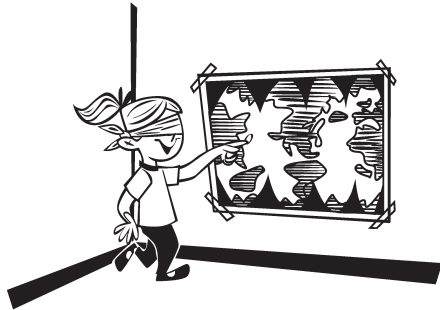
Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), large world map, dot stickers, blindfold, butcher paper.

Prepare

Display map at the front of the room. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from CD-ROM.)

Team Game

Divide group into two teams. Choose six to eight players from each team to play the game. Line children up on the opposite side of the room from the map. Give each child a dot sticker. As you play “Spread the Good News,” blindfold the first child in line and spin child around three times. Child walks across the room and attempts to stick his or her dot onto the map. Then the child takes off his or her blindfold and shouts, “I’m glad to tell the good news of Jesus” and runs back to the group. The next child in line takes a turn. Encourage team members to cheer for their teammates. Continue until each child has had a turn.



Bible Verse Game

Paul was not ashamed to tell others the good news of Jesus. In fact, listen to what Paul wrote in Romans 1:16. Read or ask a child to read Romans 1:16 aloud. We are going to play a game to help us remember this verse and to help us remember that we never have to be ashamed of telling others about Jesus.

Children stand in a circle. (For a large group, form two or more circles.) One child is selected to go first. He or she quickly claps and points at another child, while saying “zip.” The child who received the “zip” then claps and points at another child, while saying, “zap.” That child then claps and points to someone while saying “zop.” The pattern continues. The leader then calls out, “FREEZE!” Everyone then shouts the Bible verse. If time permits, play several rounds.

God’s Word

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”
Romans 1:16

For Younger Children:

“I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus.”

God’s Word & Me

I can be part of God’s plan to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Missions Focus

Who can you pray for?

How many different ways of “telling” about Jesus can you think of?

How would your school be different if everyone knew about Jesus’ love?

Song

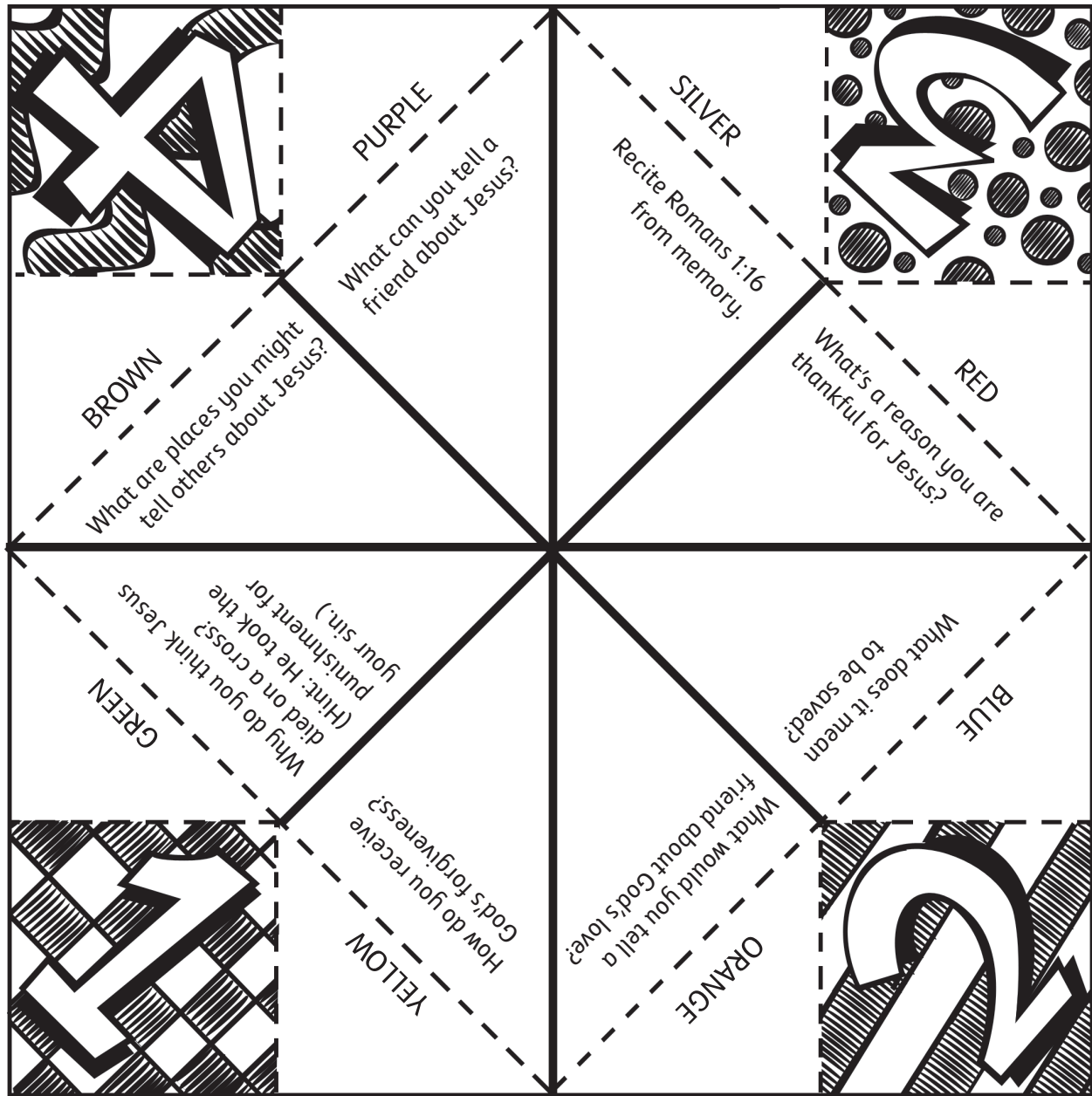
You, or another leader, lead children in singing “I’m Keepin’ My Eyes on Jesus.”

Worldwide Prayer

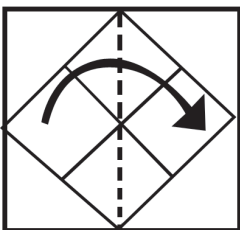
What are some things we can pray about for the missionaries and people in other countries? Write down the children’s responses on a white board or butcher paper. Before leading the children in prayer, invite volunteers to pray. End the prayer by repeating children’s suggestions.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Spread the Good News,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

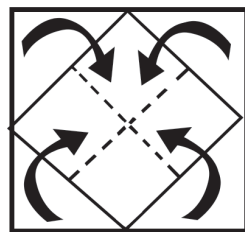


(a)



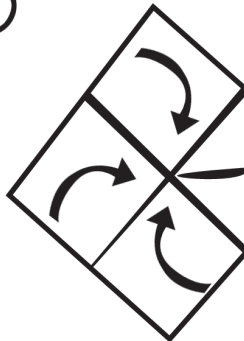
Blank side face up. Fold in half.

(b)



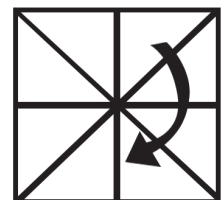
Open page and fold corners.

(c)



Turn page over and fold in corners again.

(d)



Fold in half.

(e)

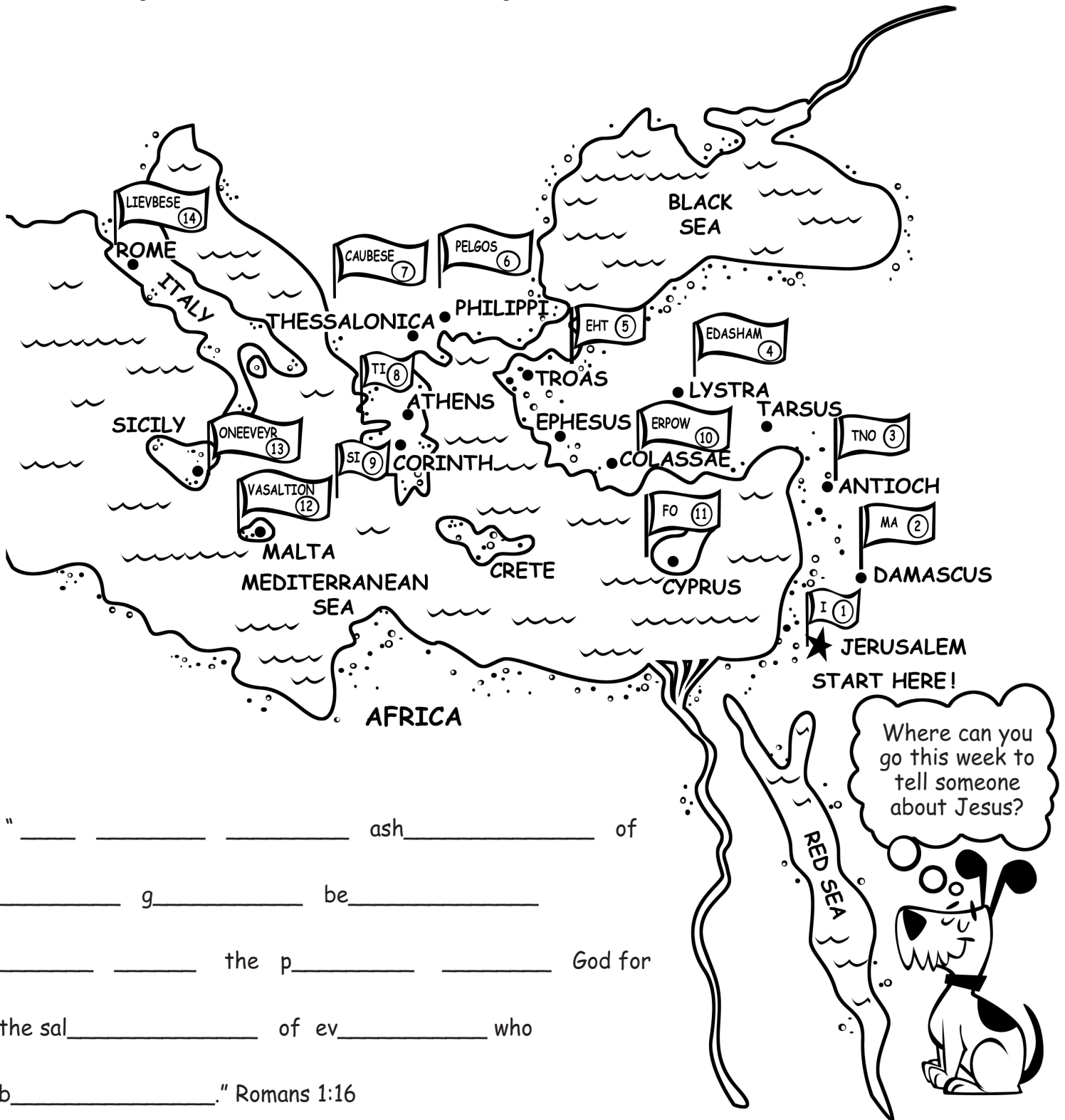




"I am glad to tell the good news of Jesus." (See Romans 1:16.)
Who is one person you can tell about Jesus?

On a Mission from God!

This map shows the areas where Paul traveled to spread the good news of Jesus. To find the names of the places, connect the flags in order. Unscramble the word on each flag and write them in order—on Africa!



" _____ ash _____ of
 _____ g _____ be _____
 _____ the p _____ God for
 the sal _____ of ev _____ who
 b _____." Romans 1:16

Loved by Jesus

Bible Story • A Crippled Man and a Miracle • Acts 14:8-20

God's Word

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:39

For Younger Children:
"Jesus always loves us."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can see evidence of God's love for me.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary do to help people learn about Jesus' love?

When you tell someone about Jesus, what words can you use to describe Jesus' love?

What does a missionary do to help people know that Jesus always loves them?

Teacher's Devotional

A field of yellow daisies, a giant oak tree in the front yard, the crisp scent that rises after a good thunderstorm, a steaming hot bowl of soup, the joy in a baby's contagious giggle—all are evidences of God's love for us. Everywhere we turn throughout His creation, God proves His love. However, it's easy for this proof to become blurred by life in our fast-paced culture. At times, we can even lose sight of God so completely that we wonder if He truly loves us.

In Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas were on the run, fleeing from enemies in Iconium who wanted to stone them. When Paul was speaking at Lystra, he saw that a crippled man had faith—and in that moment, the man was healed! How fascinating that God would use Paul and Barnabas's "escape route" as part of His plan to show love by healing a crippled man. Coincidence? Certainly not! Paul and Barnabas then took the opportunity to remind the people of Lystra that they too were loved by the living God, that His love is evident through His creation, kindness, provision, and ultimately through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This week as you prepare to teach, choose to take time from this busy world. Find time for some solitude. Make a cup of coffee or tea, grab a journal and pen and find a quiet place. As you sit, take a moment to breathe in the wonders of God. If you are near a window, gaze out upon the beauty God has created for us. Reflect on God's provision for you and your family. Write down everything that comes to mind—no matter how small or silly it may seem. Then read your list aloud as you thank God for all His blessings and love. Finally, remember your list as you teach your class. Share your list of the ways Jesus shows His love with the children so that they are better able to see the evidence of His love all around us!

Planning Page



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 • A Crippled Man and a Miracle • Acts 14:8-20

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show heart-shaped Bible story pictures to illustrate the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show binoculars to demonstrate the Daily Truth “Loved by Jesus”

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Find hidden hearts and tell what God has made

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, nature stickers; for each child—a paper heart

Older Child Option • Take turns bowling with pinecones and discuss the evidence of God’s love

Materials • Bible, six empty water bottles, permanent marker, pinecone

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Create a LOVE banner with nature items as a reminder of Jesus’ love

Materials • Bible, string or yarn, large sheets of colored construction paper, markers, glue sticks, lightweight nature items (twigs, bark, seed pods, grasses, leaves), stapler

Older Child Option • Make bark paintings and talk about Jesus’ love

Materials • Bible, cut or torn sections of brown paper grocery bags, black fine-tipped markers, fluorescent poster paints, shallow containers, cotton swabs

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

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

Older Child Option • Review ways Jesus shows His love for us 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 250), plastic cups, pen, 1x6-inch (2.5x15-cm) paper strip, one balloon, blindfold, large world map



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 theme excitement.

My Camp Journal

Before class, gather 9x12-inch (23x30.5-cm) colorful construction paper and 8 1/2x11-in (21.5x28-cm) ruled paper, markers, stickers, feathers, leaves, glue, hole punch and yarn. Each child creates a journal by punching one hole in the top left corner of construction paper and ruled papers. Child writes "My Camp Journal" on the front sheet of construction paper, adding full name underneath. Child uses markers, stickers, feathers, leaves and glue to decorate the outside of journal. Then child adds five sheets of ruled paper between the construction paper sheets. Child ties pieces of yarn through the top left hole to bind it. Children can use their journals to write Bible verses, answers to discussion questions or to draw pictures of God's creation.

Buggy Baggies

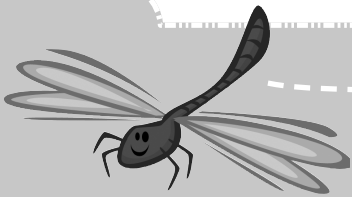
Give each child a resealable sandwich bag, plastic spoon and a graham cracker. Place one or more of these edible "bugs" in separate bowls: raisins, dried cranberries, chocolate chips, gummy worms, etc. Child places graham cracker into the bag, seals it and crushes the graham cracker into "sand" with spoon. Child then hides "bugs" of his or her choosing in the "sand." Children can enjoy finding their bugs and eating this buggy snack.

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



Missionary Care Package

Before class, choose a missionary family from your church to whom you'll send your package. Get information about the place they are serving. Talk with the children about what missionaries do and where. Tell the children, **Although they love the job they do, missionaries always enjoy receiving packages from friends. Today we are going to work together to show love to the** (insert name) **missionary family by making a care package for them.** Tell details about the family you have chosen. Lead children to complete one or more of the following options: 1) Children use construction paper, stickers and markers to make birthday cards for each person in the family; 2) Children record encouraging messages on computer, tape recorder or video. Children may sing, tell jokes, etc; 3) Provide comic strip pages from newspapers. Children cut out favorites and glue them onto sheets of paper, punching holes in left margin of each sheet and tying with yarn to make a "comic book"; 4) Children bring stickers, favorite candy, pencils, crayons, markers, rubber stamps and stamp pads to add to the care package. Collect completed items, assemble package and mail to the missionary family.



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 14:8-20

Camping Fun

In backpack, place Bible, heart-shaped Bible story pictures (see Lesson 4 Pattern Page on p. 98) and camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible story pictures. During the story, show the heart-shaped pictures to illustrate Bible story action.

Introduction

Ask children to jump. **What are some other things you like to do with your legs and feet?** (Run. Skip. Ride bike. Ride scooter.) Ask children to stomp their feet, wiggle their toes, spin around, etc. **On the count of three, let’s all sit down. 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . sit down. Good job! Today we’re going to hear a story about a man who could not use his feet. Listen to hear what happened to his feet in the Bible story.**

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.) Paul and his friend Barnabas traveled together. (Show Paul and Barnabas.) They walked on their feet to many different cities! Everywhere they went, they told people about Jesus. They helped people who were sick. Many, many people believed that Jesus is God’s Son! (Show crowd.)

One day Paul and Barnabas came to a town called Lystra. Say that with me, “Lystra.” Good job. (Show Paul, Barnabas and crowd.) They began telling the people there about Jesus. “Jesus is God’s Son,” they said. “Jesus helps

people.” They told the people that God loves EVERYONE! (Point to children.)

As Paul talked, he looked at one man in the crowd. (Show crippled man.) This man had never walked in his whole life. His feet didn’t work right. He couldn’t run, jump, skip or even walk!

But the man was listening very carefully (put hands to ears) to everything Paul said. And Paul could see that the man believed in Jesus! The man believed God could make his feet well and strong.

Paul said to the man, “Stand up on your feet!” The man must have been surprised. EVERYONE must have been surprised! (Make surprised face.) But suddenly, the man jumped up on his feet! (Jump to feet and show picture of man jumping.) Let’s all jump up and down. (Jump up and down.) Then, the man began to walk around. Let’s all walk in place. (Walk in place.) His feet were well! Hooray!

When the people in the crowd saw the man walking around, they got very excited. (Show crowd.) They began to shout. The people didn’t understand that God had helped the man. They thought Paul and Barnabas had made the man’s feet well.

Of course, that wasn’t true! Paul and Barnabas were just people like everyone else. Paul and Barnabas rushed into the crowd to tell them the truth. They wanted everyone to know it was GOD who had made the hurt man’s feet strong and well. (Show Paul pointing.)

Paul said, “We are only men, just like you! We came here to tell you the good news about God’s love. God made everything. He cares for you and gives you good things.” Paul and Barnabas wanted the people to understand that Jesus loves everyone.

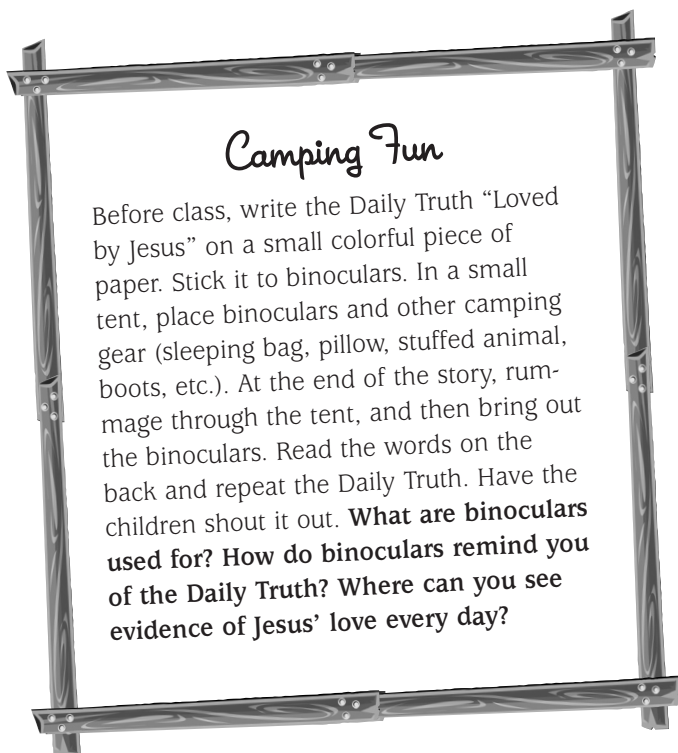
Paul and Barnabas continued to travel to other cities. They knew that Jesus loved them. That’s why Paul and Barnabas helped people and told others about Jesus.

God’s Word & Me

We can see Jesus’ love all around us. He loves us so much that He gives us our families and friends. He gives us food to eat and a place to sleep. He gives us animals, flowers, trees and bees. He gives us the sky, ocean, rainbows and mountains. Jesus loves us so much! Pray. Dear Jesus, thank You for always loving us. Thank You for everything You have made. We love You. Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 14:8-20



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

How do you know your mom, dad or grandparents love you? What kinds of things do they say or do to show their love? Today we are going to hear a Bible story about two men who did something very interesting to tell others about Jesus’ love.

Tell the Story

Over the past several weeks we have been talking about a man named Saul. The first week we talked about how Jesus had stopped Saul on the road to Damascus and changed his life completely! Saul was now called by his Roman name, Paul. He and his friend Barnabas traveled from city to city sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with EVERYONE!

Paul and Barnabas came to the town of Lystra. As they entered the town, they probably noticed the magnificent temple where people worshiped Zeus. The

people of Lystra believed that this false god was the king of all gods.

Of course, Paul and Barnabas began to preach the good news about Jesus right away! As usual, a large crowd gathered. One man in the crowd listened carefully to every word Paul said. (*Invite a volunteer to pretend to be the crippled man.*) This man’s feet were crippled and he could not walk. He had never walked in all his life!

Paul noticed this crippled man. He knew that the man believed in Jesus and in God’s power to heal. Paul called, “Stand up on your feet!” The man did JUST what Paul said! But he didn’t just stand up; he JUMPED up! Then he started WALKING around! The crowd went wild with excitement! Everyone knew this man. They’d seen him, day after day, and knew he had never walked. And NOW he was completely healed! It was a miracle that only God could do!

The people were very excited. They began to talk among themselves. “The gods have come to our town disguised as these men!” they said. The crowd decided that Barnabas was really the false god Zeus in disguise and that Paul—who did most of the talking—must be his messenger, Hermes. The people also believed that they would be punished if they didn’t welcome and worship these men who they thought were really gods. You see, a town legend said that Zeus and Hermes had once come to Lystra, disguised as men. Since no one but an old man and his wife had welcomed them, the town had been punished! The people didn’t want to make the same mistake again, so they rushed off to the temple of Zeus to get their priest.

Meanwhile, Paul and Barnabas couldn’t figure out WHAT was going on! But soon, it became perfectly clear—these people were making a TERRIBLE mistake! They planned to worship Paul and Barnabas!

Paul and Barnabas were HORRIFIED! They ripped their clothes as a way of showing their sadness. Paul talked of the many ways God shows His love and power: the rain, the crops, the seasons and the many good things He has given to people.

“Only the one true God could do these things,” Paul explained, “NOT idols and NOT men like us!” But the people STILL wanted to believe that Paul and Barnabas were false gods. But that wasn’t the end of the trouble!

Lesson Four

Some people who had plotted to kill Paul in another city where Paul had preached came into Lystra. They worked their way through the crowd, telling the townspeople lies about Paul and Barnabas. Soon they had convinced the people of Lystra that the men they had been ready to worship were actually terrible troublemakers!

The people became angrier and ANGRIER, storming down the street after Paul. They threw rocks at him until he collapsed. Then they dragged him outside of town and left him, thinking he was dead.

But Paul's Christian friends gathered around him and helped him back into town. The very next day Paul and Barnabas were back on the road, traveling toward the next town. Again, God had shown that His power and love is greater than anyone and anything!

God's Word & Me

Paul told the people about all the evidence of Jesus' love for us. Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans 8:39. Read or ask a child to read Romans 8:39 aloud.

- **What does this verse say can keep Jesus from loving you?** (Nothing! Jesus always loves us no matter where we are and no matter what we do.)

- **Name some times when it might be hard to remember that Jesus loves you.** (When we do wrong, get bad grades, are teased, when parents fight, etc.)
- **When we are in those tough times, what can we do to remind ourselves that Jesus always loves us?** (Read the Bible. Pray. Talk to a friend or leader from church. Look at God's creation.) Pray with children, thanking Jesus for always loving them.



Missions Focus

What might a missionary do to help people learn about Jesus' love?

When you tell someone about Jesus, what words can you use to describe Jesus' love?

What does a missionary do to help people know that Jesus always loves them?

Game Center



for younger children • Acts 14:8-20

Collect

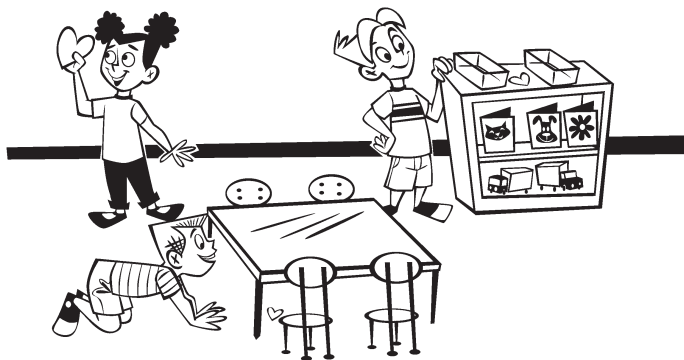
Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player
nature stickers; for each child—paper heart.

Prepare

Place a nature sticker on the back of each paper heart.
Hide the hearts around the room.

Do

1. As the song “I Love You, O Lord” plays, children look for the hidden hearts. Once they have found them all, they bring them back to the group.
2. Children sit in a circle. They look at stickers on hearts to help them tell things God has made. As a group say, “God made everything.” If time permits, play several rounds.



Talk About

- We can see God’s love in everything He made. What are some of the tiny things God has made? (Caterpillars. Fish. Bugs.) What are some of the big things God has made? (Animals. Trees. Mountains.)
- The Bible tells us, “Jesus always loves us.” What are some ways Jesus shows His love for us? (Gives us families, grandmas and grandpas, friends, food, pet animals, flowers, trees, etc.)

God’s Word

“Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:39

For Younger Children:
“Jesus always loves us.”

God’s Word & Me

Every day I can see evidence
of God’s love for me.

- Jesus always cares for us and gives us the things we need. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for Your love. Thank You for our families and friends. We love You. Amen.

For Older Children

Write numbers from one to five on the back of each heart. Children find the hearts and then bring them back to the group to tell things they see in creation that show God’s love for us. If a heart is numbered “1,” child gives one response. If a heart is numbered “2,” child gives two responses and so on. If time permits, play three rounds. In the first round, children name things God created in the water. For the second round, children name things God created in the jungle. For the third round, children list people who love them whom God created.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 14:8-20

Collect

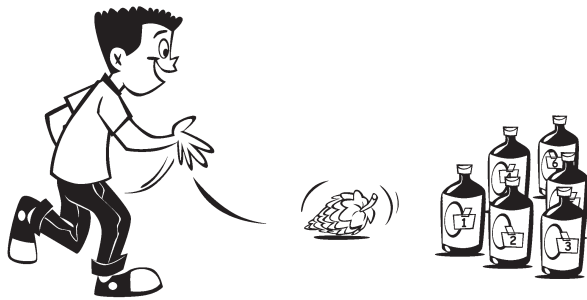
Bible, six empty water bottles, permanent marker, pinecone, masking tape; optional—several sets of game materials.

Prepare

Number each bottle with a number from 1 to 6. On one side of the room, set up bottles like bowling pins. Set up bowling areas for each group. (Optional: Make one set of bottles for every six to eight children.)

Do

1. Children stand in a line at least 6 feet (1.8 m) from bottles. Each child takes a turn rolling the pinecone towards the bottles.
2. When a child knocks over a bottle, he or she notes the number on the bottle and then gives that number of answers to this question: "Where are places you see Jesus' love?" If time permits, play a second round asking this question: "What are ways Jesus shows you His love?"



Talk About

- **Jesus' love for us is shown all around us. Listen to these words written by Paul.** Read or ask a volunteer to read Romans 8:39 aloud.
- **Why might you or a friend forget about Jesus' love?**
- **What are ways you see Jesus' love in your life every day?** (Friends. Family. He takes care of me—home, food, clothes, etc.)

God's Word

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:39

For Younger Children:
"Jesus always loves us."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can see evidence of God's love for me.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary do to help people learn about Jesus' love?

When you tell someone about Jesus, what words can you use to describe Jesus' love?

What does a missionary do to help people know that Jesus always loves them?

- **What are some ways you can share Jesus' love with others?** (Point out God's creation. Show kindness. Help someone in need. Share. Donate money or clothes to charity.) Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus to help them to see His love for them. Thank Jesus for loving them and showing them His love through creation.

For Younger Children

Use ball instead of pinecone. Do not add numbers to bottles. Before rolling ball, child says, "Jesus loves me."

Art Center



for younger children • Acts 14:8-20

Collect

Bible, string or yarn, tape or tacks, large sheets of colored construction paper, markers, glue sticks, lightweight nature items (twigs, bark, seed pods, grasses, leaves), stapler; optional—magazines, scissors.

Prepare

String a length of string or yarn across an open area of the classroom. Outline an *L* of the word “love” in a large, open capital letter on one sheet of construction paper. Continue for other three letters, leaving a 3-inch (7.5-cm) margin at the top of each paper for folding over. (Optional: Remove pages from magazines that illustrate ways God shows His love.)

Do

1. Children go on a nature walk to look for materials to use. (Optional: Children cut out magazine pictures that illustrate ways God shows love to them.)
2. Children glue nature items within the outlines of letters to fill in each letter on the banner. (Optional: Children glue pictures of items that remind them of God’s love within the outlines of letters.)
3. When letters are completed, help each child fold and staple end of each paper over string or yarn in order to spell out the word “love.”



Talk About

- God’s Word, the Bible, says, “Jesus always loves us.”
- When is a time you feel happy? When might you feel sad? NO matter how we feel, Jesus loves us.

God’s Word

“Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:39

For Younger Children:
“Jesus always loves us.”

God’s Word & Me

Every day I can see evidence
of God’s love for me.

- **Show me with your faces how Jesus’ love makes you feel. Those look like (glad) faces. I’m glad Jesus always loves us, too!**
- **Let’s thank Jesus for His love.** Pray briefly, **Dear Jesus, thank You for always loving us. We are glad You love us! We love You. Amen.**

For Older Children

Older children create a longer banner (use a phrase such as “Jesus always loves”), lettering smaller sheets of construction paper. Older children glue nature items onto more than one letter and hang the banner themselves. Children may also make individual banner sets, using smaller sheets of paper and nature materials.

Art Center

for older children • Acts 14:8-20

Collect

Bible, newspaper, fluorescent poster paints, shallow containers, cut or torn sections of brown paper grocery bags, black fine-tipped markers, cotton swabs; optional—sections of excess tree bark (birch, eucalyptus, etc.) that has already peeled.

Prepare

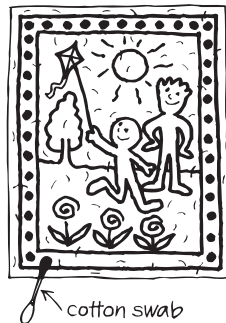
Cover work area with newspapers. Place paints in shallow containers.

Do

1. On a section of grocery bag, child uses black fine-tipped marker to illustrate something that reminds him or her of Jesus' love. (Optional: Child draws on real bark.)

2. Child crumples drawn-on paper tightly, and then flattens it to resemble bark.

3. Child dips swab into paint, paints border of dots around illustration and then adds color highlights to illustration (it is not necessary to paint entire illustration).



cotton swab

Talk About

- What is paper made from? Yes, it is made from trees. In some countries, people paint on bark, too. Making trees for us is a way God shows His love. What else do trees give us? (Food. Oxygen. Shade. Fruit. Cooling. Wood for building.)
- What does our Bible verse say can separate us from Jesus' love? (Nothing.) When might you or your friends feel like Jesus doesn't love them? Why?
- Describe how it makes you feel to know that Jesus is always on your side and loving you. Pray, thanking Jesus for His love, repeating some of the children's responses in your prayer.

God's Word

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:39

For Younger Children:
"Jesus always loves us."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can see evidence of God's love for me.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary do to help people learn about Jesus' love?

When you tell someone about Jesus, what words can you use to describe Jesus' love?

What does a missionary do to help people know that Jesus always loves them?

For Younger Children

Instead of paint, younger children use colored markers to draw and color illustrations and then crumple and flatten papers.

Worship Center



Lesson Four

Acts 14:8-20

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 250), plastic cups, pen, 1x6-inch (2.5x15-cm) paper strip, one balloon, blindfold, large world map.

Prepare

Letter each word of the Bible memory verse on a cup—one word on each cup. Write the Scripture reference on the last cup. Write the name of a country on paper strip. (Optional: Write the same country as used for the Missionary Care Package activity on p. 89.) Fold the paper and put inside balloon. Then inflate and tie balloon. Display world map. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from CD-ROM.)

Team Game

Play a game like Marco Polo. Ask a volunteer to stand on one side of the playing area. Blindfold the volunteer. Children quietly position themselves at random around the playing area. Volunteer begins calling “Jesus loves . . .” Rest of children answer “me.” (Optional:



Instead of responding “me,” children may respond with names of friends or family members.)

Blindfolded volunteer moves toward children, listening to their voices. As he or she continues calling “Jesus loves . . .” children around the room must respond each time. When the volunteer finds and tags another child, that child is blindfolded for the next round. Continue game as time permits.

Bible Verse Game

Repeat Romans 8:39 aloud with children. Invite four volunteers from each team to stand in front. Ask children to arrange the cups in correct verse order. Children shout out the verse. Mix up cups. For each round, invite four new volunteers to arrange cups in order to build a variety of shapes in which the verse can be read—square, triangle, rectangle, circle, pyramid.

God’s Word

“Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:39

For Younger Children:
“Jesus always loves us.”

God’s Word & Me

Every day I can see evidence of God’s love for me.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary do to help people learn about Jesus’ love?

When you tell someone about Jesus, what words can you use to describe Jesus’ love?

What does a missionary do to help people know that Jesus always loves them?

Song

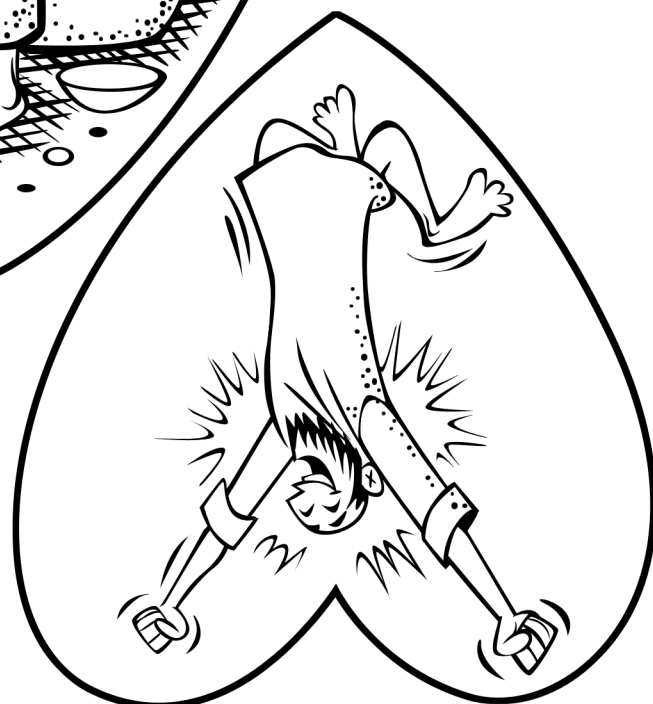
You, or another leader, lead children in singing “I Love You, O Lord,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

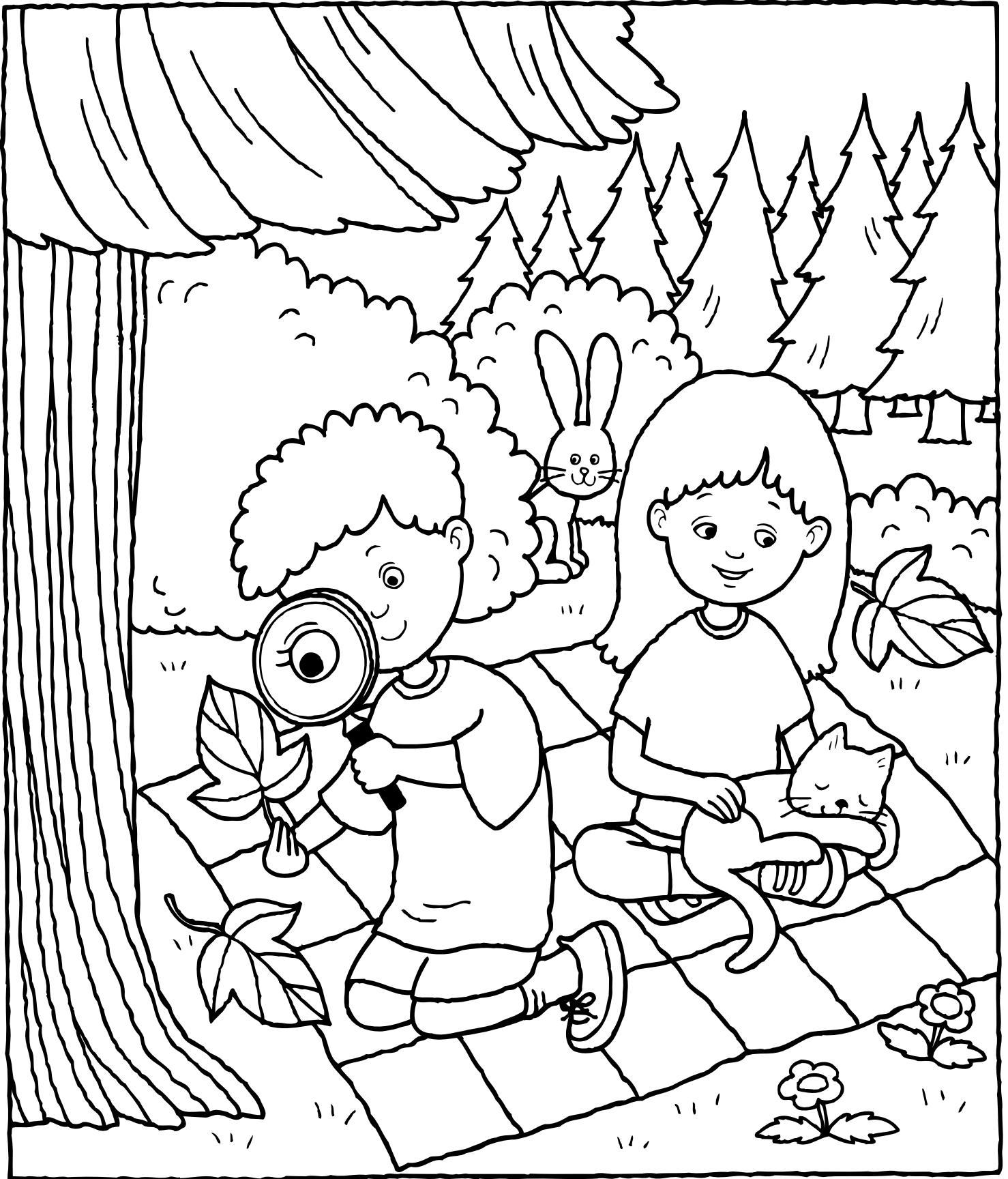
Worldwide Prayer

Children stand in a circle to tap balloon back and forth. When balloon hits the ground, the last child to touch the balloon pops it and then reads aloud the name of the country written on the paper strip. Lead children in prayer, specifically praying for the people and needs of the country named on the paper strip. Show location of country on map.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Spread the Good News,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

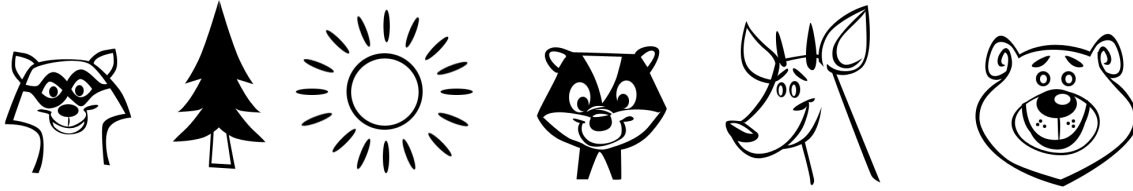




“Jesus always loves us.” (See Romans 8:39.)
What good things does Jesus give you because He loves you?

Camp Searchin' Find

Welcome to camp! There are many things to search for. Draw a line through each word when you find it. Circle the remaining letters. Write the circled letters in order to get a bonus message.



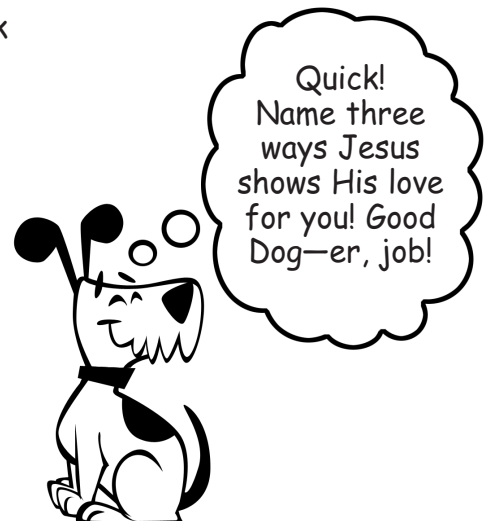
L	H	O	R	S	E	B	A	C	K		I		P
O		C	B	A	C	K	P	A	C	K	S	A	O
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V	U	C	O	O	K	O	U	T	A	N	T	I	N
S	M	O	R	E	S		S	E	E	B	M	R	E

Search the whole camp to find:

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Ant | Arrows | Backpacks | Bear | Bees |
| Cabins | Canoe | Cookout | Fun | Horseback |
| Pond | River | S'mores | Summit | Sun |
| Pool | Trees | | | |

Bonus Message:

of _____'s _____ e for _____.



Quick!
Name three
ways Jesus
shows His love
for you! Good
Dog—er, job!

Guided by Jesus

Bible Story • Paul's Vision from God • Acts 16:6-15



God's Word

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

Philippians 2:13

For Younger Children:

"God helps you do good."

God's Word & Me

I can depend on Jesus to guide me and help me know the best ways to live.

Missions Focus

How might Jesus guide you to help someone learn about Him?

How do your good actions help you be a witness?

What can you do to remember Jesus' help in telling others about Him?

Teacher's Devotional

Paul and his friends had been traveling from city to city, preaching the good news of Jesus. However, God's Spirit blocked them from entering Bithynia, where they'd planned to go next—it was not a part of God's plan.

God knows what is best! He gave Paul a vision that night which guided him to Macedonia instead. God's plan for Paul and his friends might have seemed strange to them at the time, but they trusted God—and obeyed. When they arrived in Philippi, a city of Macedonia, Paul didn't discover a large synagogue full of Jewish people eager to hear the gospel! Instead, he found a group of women who met regularly at the river for prayer. When Paul and his friends began to tell them the good news of Jesus, this group was glad to hear him. One woman named Lydia was changed forever! Because God guided Paul to Macedonia and because Paul obeyed God's guidance, Lydia and her entire household became followers of Christ. After being baptized, Lydia and her family provided shelter for Paul and his friends at her home.

God has a plan for each of us, too! His guidance comes in many forms—a passage from the Bible, prayer, friends, a small whisper, and yes, even a vision. We just have to be ready, always watching and listening. Sadly, we often forget that God knows what is best for us, and so we begin to take control and guide ourselves. We need to be reminded through God's Word, prayer and other Christ-followers that it is Jesus who is in control and who truly knows what is best for us!

Planning Page



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 • Paul's Vision from God • Acts 16:6-15

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show a piece of purple clothing or purple cloth to illustrate the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show a compass to demonstrate the Daily Truth "Guided by Jesus"

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make a plant to share and talk about Jesus' help and guidance

Materials • Bible, newspaper, small (4- to 6-inch [10- to 15-cm]), plastic planting pots, stickers, potting soil, plastic spoons, pony packs of flowering plants, small pitcher of water

Older Child Option • Make story wheels to create stories about Jesus' guidance

Materials • Bible, Lesson 5 Pattern Page (p. 112), scissors, fine-tipped markers, paper fasteners

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Children play a game of pretending to be different insects or animals while learning to follow instructions

Materials • Bible, masking tape

Older Child Option • Play a sleeping bag relay and discuss situations in which Jesus guides us

Materials • Bible, masking tape, a sleeping bag for each team

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

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

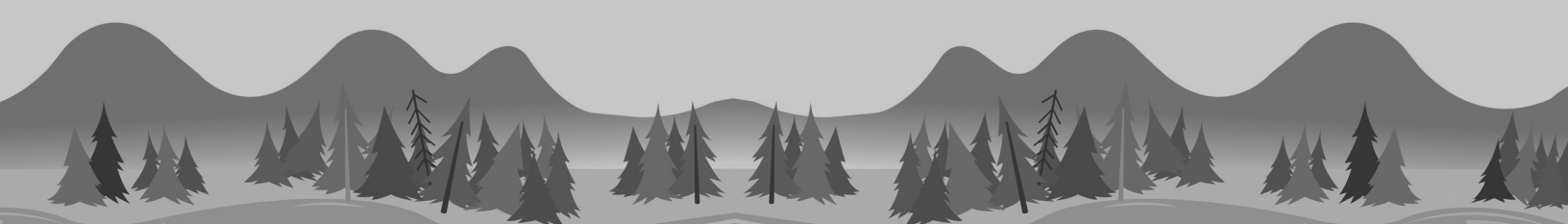
Older Child Option • Review ways Jesus guides us while completing puzzle page

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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246, 254), blindfold, 10 sheets of construction paper, markers



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 theme excitement.

Family Fun Night

Send invitations to families (see p. 233 for a sample that can be modified) to a camp-themed movie night. (Include a brief description of the movie.) Serve camp snacks and show a family film that relates to the theme of camping. Ask families to bring sleeping bags, blankets, or beach chairs on which to sit and a favorite camp snack to share with others. Provide beverages. (Optional: Give each child a party favor bag to take home. Fill bags with inexpensive favors—nature stickers, mini flashlights, gum, wrapped bite-size candy, etc.)

Banana Boats

Place chocolate syrup and mini marshmallows in paper serving bowls and provide several spoons. Give each child a paper plate, a plastic knife and a banana. Each child spoons syrup onto the middle of the plate to create a murky pond, and then peels and slices banana in half lengthwise. Child sticks the two pieces in chocolate syrup, spoons extra chocolate syrup over the bananas and places mini marshmallows in the banana boat. Enjoy!

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



Jan Ken Po

Show children Japan on a world map. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM.) **There are many missionaries in Japan. They help the people and tell them the good news of Jesus.** (Optional: Tell about missionaries supported by your church who are in Japan.) **Let's play the Japanese version of "Rock, Paper, Scissors."** Children form pairs. All practice the three hand signs for rock, paper and scissors. Then demonstrate the Japanese way to play this familiar game. Together say "Jan ken po" as each child shakes his or her fist up and down three times. On "po," make one of the three signs (rock, paper, scissors.). If both children make the same sign, it is a tie. Scissors wins over paper because scissors can cut paper. Paper wins over rock because paper can cover rock. Rock wins over scissors because rock can break scissors. After the game, ask a volunteer to pray for the people in Japan.



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 16:6-15

Camping Fun

In backpack, place Bible, an item of purple clothing or piece of cloth and camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible and purple item. During the story, show the purple item at the appropriate point in the Bible story.

Introduction

Show purple item. **Sometimes we wear clothes that are purple. If you are wearing purple, jump up and down.** Invite children to sit back down. **Today we are going to hear a story from this book.** Show Bible. **What book is this? THE BIBLE! Listen carefully to the Bible story to find out about a woman who made purple cloth.**

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.)

Paul and his friends traveled many places! And everywhere they went, they told more and MORE people about Jesus!

One night, Paul went to bed. Let’s all pretend we are sleeping. *(Put head on hands and snore.)* While he was sleeping, God gave Paul a dream. In this dream, a man asked Paul to please come to his country, called Macedonia. Can you say that with me? Macedonia. Good job! Then Paul woke up! Wake up, everyone!

(Stretch and yawn, pretending to wake up.)

Paul believed God gave him this dream to show him he needed to go to Macedonia. So Paul and his friends got into a boat. *(Pretend to row boat.)* The boat took them near Philippi, a city in Macedonia.

Philippi was a BIG city. It was near the ocean. Many people came there to buy and sell things. One thing people bought and sold there was cloth dyed a beautiful purple color. *(Pass the purple item to children.)* **What is your favorite color?** *(Invite children to respond.)*

Paul and his friends went to the river near the city. They found a group of women. These women had come together to pray. These women loved God. Paul began to talk to them. They were glad to hear all about Jesus and His love. Paul’s words about Jesus were good news to them!

One of these women believed what Paul said about Jesus. Her name was Lydia. Lydia made and sold beautiful purple cloth. *(Show purple item.)*

Lydia and everyone in Lydia’s house believed that Jesus is God’s Son! They all became part of God’s family. Since Lydia was part of God’s family, she wanted to share what she had! So Lydia asked Paul and his friends to stay at her house. She wanted to help them. Paul and his friends were happy to have a good place to sleep! They stayed at Lydia’s house.

While Paul and his friends were at Lydia’s house, they told more and more people about Jesus. Paul and his friends had come a long, LONG way so that people in Philippi could learn the good news about Jesus! More and more people in Philippi believed in Jesus! HOORAY!

God’s Word & Me

Paul traveled across the water to the city where Lydia lived. Because Paul obeyed Jesus, he was able to tell Lydia all about Jesus’ love. Paul was glad he had obeyed. Jesus helped Paul know and do good things. The Bible says, “God helps you do good.” Every day Jesus will help us know good things to do. Pray, Dear Jesus, thank You for the Bible. Help us to do good. Help us to tell others about You. Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 16:6-15



Collect

Bible, map, marker, two sheets of construction paper, each lettered with one of the following names: "Macedonia," "Philippi."

Introduction

Have you ever gone on a road trip with your family? What did you do to prepare for your trip? How did you know where to go? Did you need a map or compass (*show map and compass*) to guide you? Invite children to respond. Today we are going to learn about a trip Paul took. But he didn't know where he would be going on this trip until Jesus guided him.

Tell the Story

Paul and his friends Silas and Timothy started out on a trip. They had no idea how long this trip would last. They didn't even know exactly where they would be going! BUT they did know WHY they were taking this trip—they wanted to keep spreading the good news of Jesus! And they knew Jesus would guide them and be with them everywhere they went.

One night God showed Paul the next destination on his trip. While Paul was trying to sleep, he saw a vision of a man in front of him! Paul must have rubbed his eyes in surprise! Paul could tell that this man was from Macedonia, a country across the sea in the northern part of Greece. The man said, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (*Volunteer holds up sign.*) And then the man was gone.

Paul had gotten the direction he'd been waiting for! God wanted them to take His good news across the sea to Macedonia. (*Volunteer holds up sign.*) Paul woke his friends and they went out early, searching for any boat that would take them to Macedonia.

They found a boat sailing for Macedonia. Soon they landed in Macedonia. They began to travel along the Egnatian Way, the famous highway the Romans had built all the way across Macedonia. They walked about 10 miles (16 km) and came to the most important city in the area—Philippi. (*Volunteer holds up sign.*)

Whenever he entered a new city, Paul usually went to the local synagogue to begin sharing the exciting news about Jesus. Most Jewish people already understood who God is. But in Philippi there was no synagogue. That means there weren't even 10 Jewish men in the city. According to Jewish custom, it took at least that many to start a synagogue.

Paul and his friends knew there weren't enough Jews to start a synagogue, so the custom was for the people to meet for prayer near running water. Jews used the water for the washing ceremonies that were part of the Jewish prayer service. Sure enough, a group of women had come to the river to pray. Paul and his friends began talking to them and telling them about Jesus.

One well-dressed woman was especially interested in what Paul had to say. This woman's name was Lydia. She had a business selling purple cloth.

Lydia paid close attention to Paul as he told how Jesus died for the sins of everyone in the world and how Jesus came back to life again. She knew that no one but God had the power to bring anyone back to life. Now she had to decide whether or not she believed that Jesus was brought to life by the one true God who has power

over death and life. God helped Lydia understand that Paul's message about Jesus was true. Jesus had died to pay for her sin so that she could be forgiven and live forever with God. Not only did Lydia become the first person in Philippi to believe in Jesus, but everyone in her household did, too! Even her servants and their families came to know Him!

Then Paul baptized Lydia to show that she believed Jesus was her Savior. All through the New Testament, the followers of Jesus baptized new believers with water as a way to show that their sins were washed away and that they were members of God's family. What a great day for Lydia and her new friends!

After Lydia and her household were baptized, she invited Paul and his friends into her home. Lydia wanted to help Paul and his friends, and she knew that they needed a place to sleep and food to eat. Paul and his friends were glad for Lydia's willingness to share her home with them.

The trip to Philippi had been full of surprises! Jesus had guided Paul and his friends to a place they'd probably never have gone. He had given Lydia and others faith to believe in Him. And God's power was just beginning to change Philippi—because Paul was willing to be guided by Jesus!

God's Word & Me

Most of us aren't being guided by Jesus to travel to new cities, but Jesus guides us, too. He helps us to know the best way to live. Jesus shows us people who need to know about Him.

- **What might have happened if Paul had disobeyed and didn't go to Macedonia?** (Lydia probably wouldn't have heard about Jesus.)

- **When are times in your life when Jesus guides you and helps you know the best ways to live?** (Doing the best at school. Being a good team member. Getting along with a friend.)

- **The Bible tells us, "It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Jesus guides us to live the best way possible. What are some good things you can do this week to follow Jesus and show His love?** (Be kind to a friend. Obey parents or teachers. Pray. Help a person in need.) Pray with children, asking Jesus to help them know the best way to live.

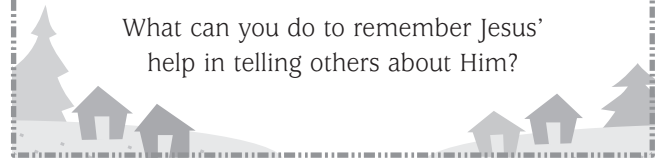


Missions Focus

How might Jesus guide you to help someone learn about Him?

How do your good actions help you be a witness?

What can you do to remember Jesus' help in telling others about Him?



Game Center



for younger children • Acts 16:6-15

Collect

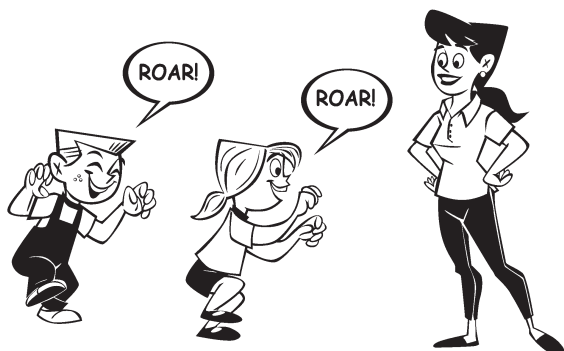
Bible, masking tape.

Prepare

Lay two lines of masking tape on the floor, each on opposite sides of the room. One will be a start line and the other will be a finish line.

Do

1. Stand behind the finish line. Children line up on the opposite side of the room behind start line.
2. Call out directions for children to follow as they move toward the finish line: “flutter like butterflies,” “roar like bears,” “hop like bunnies,” “crawl like ants,” “buzz like bees,” “slither like caterpillars” or “jump like grasshoppers.”
3. Repeat several times, each time varying the instruction given.



Talk About

- You did a good job of listening and following directions! We can follow Jesus’ directions, too!
- We need Jesus’ directions in the Bible. One direction in the Bible is to be kind. Who are some people you can be kind to? (Mom. Dad. Grandma. Grandpa. Friends. Teacher.)

God’s Word

“It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”
Philippians 2:13

For Younger Children:
“God helps you do good.”

God’s Word & Me

I can depend on Jesus to guide me and help me know the best ways to live.

- The Bible tells us, “God helps you do good.” That means Jesus helps us know good things to do. When is it hard to do good things? (When we want to play and not clean up our toys when we are asked. When we don’t want to share a toy with a friend.)
- When it is hard to do good things, we can stop and pray to Jesus. We can ask Him to help us to do what is good. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us instructions on how to live. Help us to do good things. We love You. Amen.

For Older Children

Set up several obstacle courses using cones or chairs. (Optional: Make the obstacle courses more difficult by adding tables, bookshelves, boxes to crawl through, etc.) Children form pairs. One child is blindfolded and one is not. Pairs take turns completing the obstacle course. The seeing partner must guide the blindfolded child through the obstacle course. Once the course is completed, the pairs switch assignments.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 16:6-15

Collect

Bible, masking tape, a sleeping bag for each team.

Prepare

Create a masking-tape start line on one side of the room.

Do

1. Form teams of up to six children. Each team lines up behind the start line. Give each team a sleeping bag.
2. On “go,” the first child of each team slides into the sleeping bag and scoots to the opposite end of the room, touches the wall, gets out of the sleeping bag and runs back with sleeping bag in hand. He or she then passes the sleeping bag to the next child in line. Relay continues until each child has had a turn. The winning team tell names of people to whom they can do good or examples of good actions needed at school or at home.
3. If time permits, play another round. This time the winning team can say Philippians 2:13 together.



Talk About

- Where can you go to find guidance or instructions from Jesus? (Bible.)
- What are situations in which you or a friend needs help or guidance from Jesus? (Being bullied at school. Telling the truth. Being kind to an outsider. Being a good sport. Obeying parents.)
- How can you find help or guidance in those situations? (Remember a Bible Verse. Pray. Read the Bible. Talk to a parent or pastor.)

God’s Word

“It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”
Philippians 2:13

For Younger Children:
“God helps you do good.”

God’s Word & Me

I can depend on Jesus to guide me and help me know the best ways to live.

Missions Focus

How might Jesus guide you to help someone learn about Him?

How do your good actions help you be a witness?

What can you do to remember Jesus’ help in telling others about Him?

- Listen to these words from the Bible. Read or ask a child to read Philippians 2:13. “It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Jesus wants us to do good things. He will guide us to make right decisions. Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus to help them do good things and make right decisions.

For Younger Children

Children form pairs. Pairs take turns working together to roll up sleeping bag and carry it to one end of the room and back while “Wise Up” from *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM plays softly. Continue until each pair has had a turn.

Art Center

for younger children • Acts 16:6-15

Collect

Bible, newspaper, small (4- to 6-inch [10- to 15-cm]), plastic planting pots, stickers, potting soil, plastic spoons, pony packs of flowering plants, small pitcher of water.

Prepare

Cover the work area with newspaper and set out materials.

Do

1. Child chooses a pot and decorates it as desired using stickers.
2. Child spoons potting soil about two thirds of the way to top of pot. Child chooses a plant, sets plant carefully into pot and then fills around plant by spooning more potting soil around it.
3. Child pours a small amount of water into soil to compact soil around roots. Ask each child to tell to whom he or she will give the plant.



Talk About

- What did you like best about making this plant to share? With whom will you share your gift?

God's Word

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."
Philippians 2:13

For Younger Children:
"God helps you do good."

God's Word & Me

I can depend on Jesus to guide me and help me know the best ways to live.

- The Bible tells us that Jesus helps us do good things. One good thing Jesus wants us to do is share with our friends—just like we are sharing our plants.
- When is it hard for you to share? You can ask Jesus to help you do that. When I pray, you may ask Jesus for help when I pause. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for helping us and guiding us. (Pause to allow children to pray.) Thank You. Amen.

For Older Children

Provide permanent markers, or craft glue and flat items such as sequins or craft foam shapes for older children to use in decorating pots.

Art Center

for older children • Acts 16:6-15

Collect

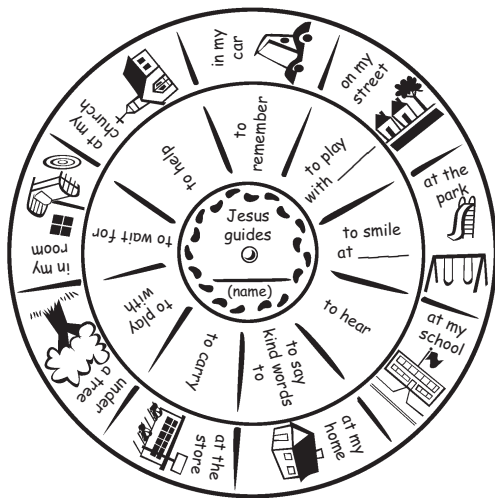
Bible, Lesson 5 Pattern Page (p. 112), fine-tipped markers, scissors, paper fasteners.

Prepare

Photocopy one Pattern Page for each child.

Do

1. Give each child a Pattern Page. Child colors page as desired with markers. Child writes name in smallest circle.
2. Child cuts out each circle, stacks circles largest to smallest, pushes a paper fastener through each one where indicated and then opens up back of fastener.
3. Child moves each portion of the wheel to line up a series of words from which to create a story starter about a way Jesus might guide him or her to do good. Invite volunteers to tell their stories to the group.



Talk About

- What did you have to do to make your wheel? Who guided you? What are examples of things that are hard to do when you don't have instructions?
- One way Jesus guides us is through the Bible. What are some good actions we read in the Bible that Jesus guides us or helps us to do? (Be honest. Treat others fairly. Forgive others instead of getting revenge.)

God's Word

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."
Philippians 2:13

For Younger Children:
"God helps you do good."

God's Word & Me

I can depend on Jesus to guide me and help me know the best ways to live.

Missions Focus

How might Jesus guide you to help someone learn about Him?

How do your good actions help you be a witness?

What can you do to remember Jesus' help in telling others about Him?

- Think of a situation in which you need Jesus' help. Let's ask Jesus to guide you. Pray, thanking Jesus that He knows what each of us needs and asking Jesus to guide each child this week.

For Younger Children

For younger children, eliminate the center circle. Be ready to help with cutting circles and reading words for children to line up as a way to create stories.

Worship Center



Lesson Five

Acts 16:6-15

Collect

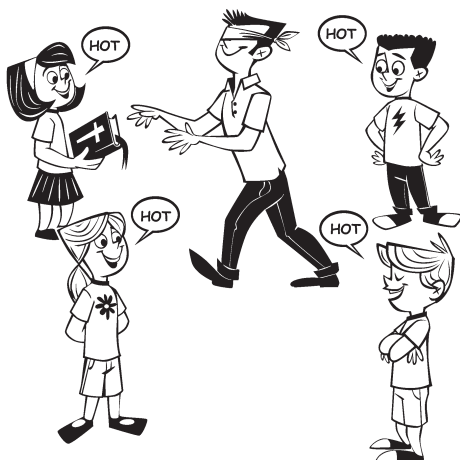
Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246, 254), 10 sheets of construction paper, markers, blindfold.

Prepare

Print the words of Bible memory verse on construction paper—two or three words on each paper.

Team Game

Blindfold an adult volunteer. Give one child a Bible to hold without letting blindfolded adult know where the child is. The adult attempts to find the child with Bible by moving slowly around the room while other children guide him or her with clues by calling out “hot” or “cold.” When child with the Bible is found, adult removes his or her blindfold, finds and reads aloud Philippians 2:13. Repeat if time permits using different camp items (flashlight, water bottle, backpack, etc.).



Bible Verse Game

Repeat Philippians 2:13 aloud with children. Have up to 10 volunteers stand in front of the class holding the prepared verse papers in mixed-up order. Other children take turns giving instructions for the volunteer to rearrange themselves in verse order. (“Bryan, take two steps to your right.”) If there are more papers than students, arrange words of one phrase at a time. When in the correct order, children read completed verse aloud.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Wise Up,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

God’s Word

“It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”
Philippians 2:13

For Younger Children:
“God helps you do good.”

God’s Word & Me

I can depend on Jesus to guide me and help me know the best ways to live.

Missions Focus

How might Jesus guide you to help someone learn about Him?

How do your good actions help you be a witness?

What can you do to remember Jesus’ help in telling others about Him?

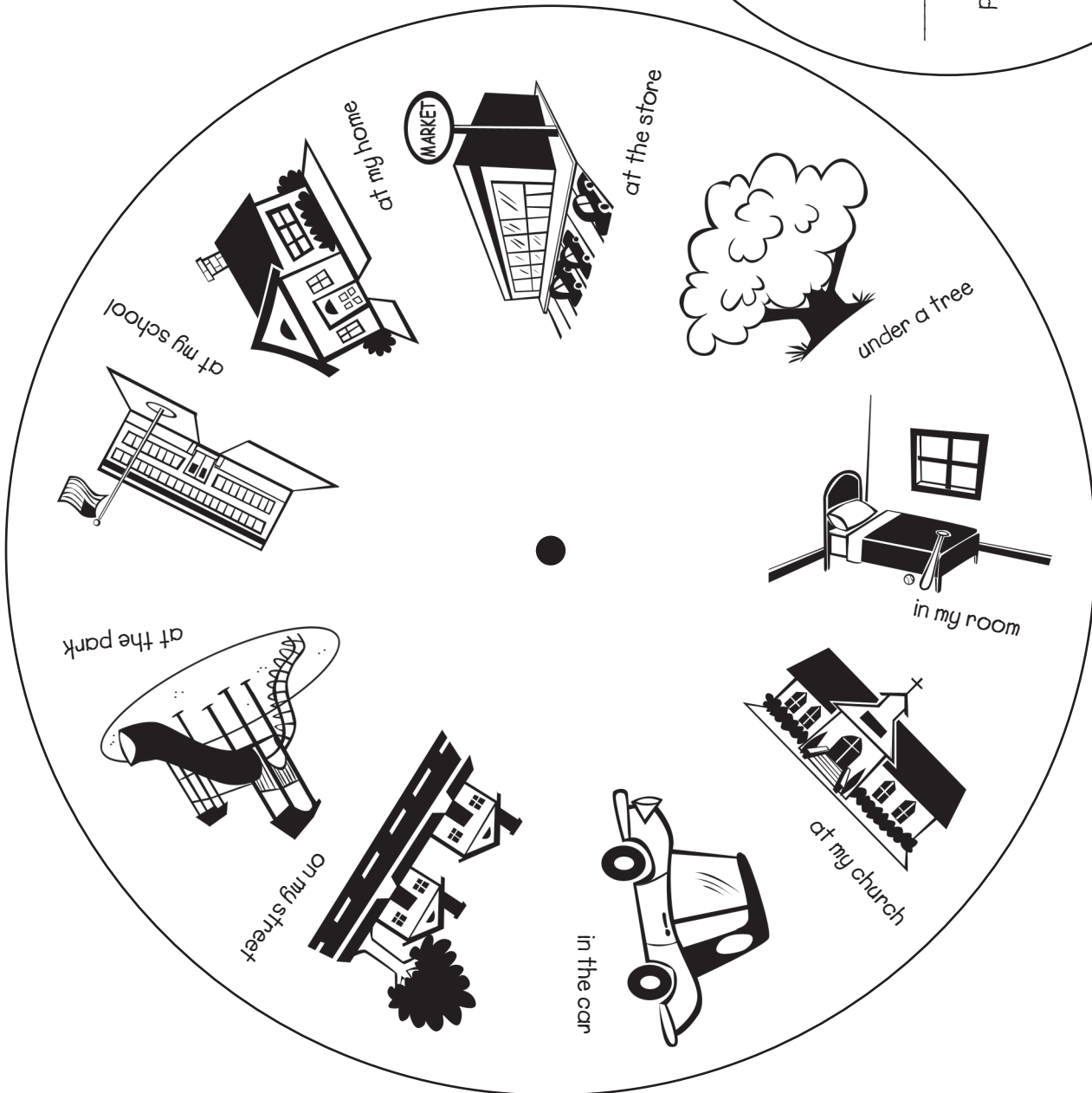
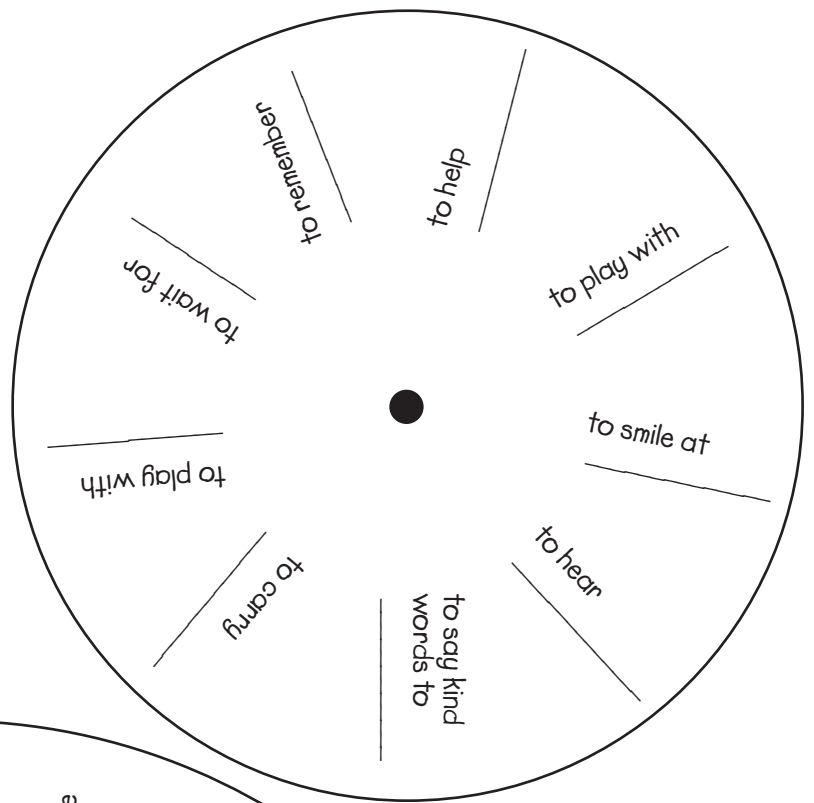
Worldwide Prayer

Ask the children if they have ever been to another city, state or country. If a child responds, ask if it

was a vacation or a missionary trip. Ask the child to share what he or she remembers about the trip. (Optional: If you have been on a long-term or short-term mission trip, talk about it with the children.) **Let’s pray for the people in the places that we have visited.** Lead children in prayer for the people in the specific places that the children and you have visited.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “I’m Keepin’ My Eyes on Jesus,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

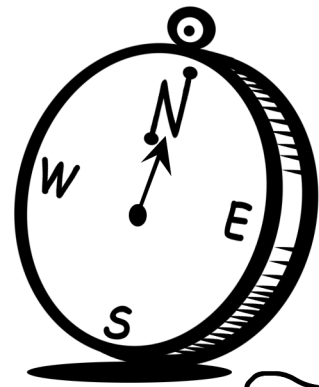




“God helps you do good.” (Philippians 2:13.)
What good things can you do this week?

Guide Me!

Lost? Don't worry—use the compass to guide you! Travel in the direction you find in the circled letter in each word or phrase. Write the words below to help you make sure the words make sense. (There are several wrong paths!)



Write the words here:

Joy in Jesus

Bible Story • Paul and Silas Singin' in Jail • Acts 16:16-40

God's Word

"Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!"
Philippians 4:4

For Younger Children:
"Rejoice in the Lord every day."

God's Word & Me

In any situation, I can praise Jesus and
remember that He gives me joy.

Missions Focus

What are some reasons missionaries have joy?

What are some times in which missionaries
may find it hard to praise Jesus?

How can we help missionaries have joy,
even in hard times?

Teacher's Devotional

We are told to "rejoice in the Lord" and praise God, no matter what. But let's be honest. Sometimes we just don't feel the joy! There are times when we are in such utter despair and loneliness that breathing itself seems a chore; the thought of praising God with joy seems downright impossible. But what if it *is* possible? We tend to think of rejoicing as something we can do when we are enjoying ourselves, when circumstances are good. But Scripture calls us to choose to rejoice no matter what the circumstances. We are to express unconditional gratitude based on trust in God's character.

Paul and Silas were in a painful predicament. After healing a girl from an evil spirit, they were stripped, flogged and thrown into jail. Their feet were chained and they were heavily guarded. Could Paul and Silas have wept and feared for their lives? Yes. Could they have become angry and bitter at the people who attacked them? Yes. But instead, they chose to focus on Jesus' character, not their circumstances. Then, they could pray and sing praises to Him. They may not have *felt* joyful at that particular moment, but they *chose* to praise God. They just began. That's where joy kindles—when we choose to put our focus squarely on Christ and begin to praise. Once we begin praising Jesus—just begin—joy grows from a flicker to a full flame! And because Paul and Silas chose praise instead of the usual groaning and moaning, the jailer came to know the Lord, along with his family.

When we are in a desperate place and don't *feel* joy, we can be determined to focus on who God is and choose to praise Him. Even rolled up in a ball, sobbing, we'll discover that singing a simple praise to our heavenly Father is a choice we can make. Our woes might not disappear at all, but as we focus on God and who He is, the joy of unconditional gratitude will recharge our souls!

Planning Page



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 • Paul and Silas Singin' in Jail • Acts 16:16-40

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Play instruments to introduce the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Take pictures of friends praising Jesus and discuss the Daily Truth "Joy in Jesus"

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make Ladybug Shakers and use them to praise Jesus

Materials • Bible, black craft foam circles, gel glue, 6-inch (15-cm) red plastic plates, wiggle eyes, 6-inch (15-cm) clear plastic plates, pony beads

Older Child Option • Make Sewing Plaques with words of praise on them while talking about what it means to praise Jesus

Materials • Bible, lightweight card stock in several colors, scissors, pencils, embroidery floss, round-ended sewing needles, tape

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Play a game like "Hot Potato" with cards that show different ways of praising God

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, Lesson 6 Pattern Page (p. 126), scissors, backpack

Older Child Option • Play a relay game, filling a trash bag with Bible verse balloons and putting words of the verse in order

Materials • Bible, 24 balloons, permanent marker, two large trash bags, two laundry baskets

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 6 Coloring Page (p. 127) for each child, crayons

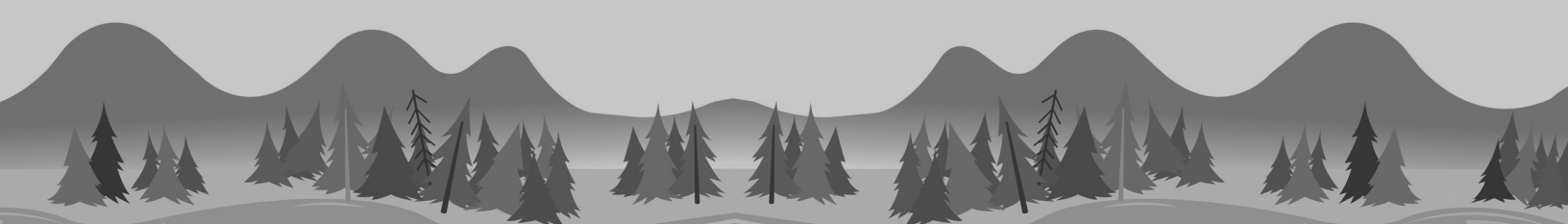
Older Child Option • Review ways of praising Jesus while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 6 Puzzle Page (p. 128) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246, 250), large sheet of paper, marker, tape



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 theme excitement.

Camp Memories

Ask parents to send a photo or two of their child at a camp, forest, or park. Or take pictures of children yourself. (Child stands near a small play tent, if possible.) On a large sheet of butcher paper, draw the outline of a large tent or tree. Attach photos onto the tent or tree. Display in a classroom or hallway.

Dirt Treats

Place prepared chocolate pudding and crushed Oreos in two separate large bowls. Place gummy worms in another bowl. (If you have a large group, make duplicate sets of bowls.) Give each child a clear plastic cup and spoon. Children place four gummy worms into cup and scoop a layer of chocolate pudding on top. Put four spoonfuls of crushed Oreos on top. Repeat layers and then enjoy eating dirt! (Optional: For a healthier snack use vanilla yogurt, graham crackers and raisins.)

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



Jesus Is Lord!

On a large sheet of paper, print the following language names and phrases—English: Jesus is Lord; Spanish: Jesús es Señor (HAY-soos ehs seh-NYOHR); French: Jesus est le Seigneur (JHAY-soo eh leh seh-NYOOR); Tagalog (Philippines): Si Hesus ay Panginoon (SEH hay-SOOS ay PAH-nee-nah-ahn); German: Jesus ist Herr (YAY-soos eest HEHR); Italian: Il Gesù é il Signore (EEL HAY-soos eh eel seeg-NOH-ree). Practice saying the phrases. Display a large world map on the wall. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM.) Say, **The Bible tells us that one day, everybody on the earth will say that Jesus is Lord. Lord is a special name for Jesus that shows He is Ruler or King of all things and of all people.** (Optional: Read Philippians 2:9-11 aloud.) **At our church, we speak (English) when we say (“Jesus is Lord”).** Point out the area where your church is located on the world map. **People in each country of the world say these words in their own languages.** Show paper you prepared with “Jesus is Lord” written in several languages. **This is how people say “Jesus is Lord” in (Spanish).** Repeat for each language, including languages spoken by the children in your group. On map, find locations where each language is spoken as you help children pronounce the phrases.



Bible Story Center for younger children • Acts 16:16-40

Camping Fun

In backpack, place Bible, rhythm instruments (including harmonica, if possible) for each child and camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible, harmonica and rhythm instruments.

Introduction

Play or blow into the harmonica (or play an instrument). Pass around the other instruments for the children to feel and play. **What musical instruments are these?** (Harmonica, tambourine, maracas, etc.) **Sometimes we use instruments to help us when we sing songs to Jesus. Let’s sing a song right now.** Lead children in singing a song with which they are familiar, such as “Jesus Loves Me.” **Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible. We’ll find out what happened when two men sang songs to Jesus.**

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.) Paul and his friends traveled to different places to tell people about Jesus. One day Paul and his friend, Silas were in the city of Philippi. They had been telling people about Jesus. But some of the people in Philippi did not like hearing about Jesus. They were angry! (Show angry face.)

“These men cause trouble!” the angry men shouted. The men told lies about Paul and Silas to the leaders of the city. The leaders decided Paul and Silas must have done something wrong. The leaders hurt Paul and

Silas. Then they put Paul and Silas into a dark, cold jail. (Cross arms and shiver.) The jailer locked their feet between big blocks of wood that held their legs TIGHTLY. They couldn’t get out!

Paul and Silas could hardly move. And they hurt all over! But they didn’t get mad. And they didn’t complain. Guess what they did? They prayed! They thanked God! They knew Jesus cared about them. Then Paul and Silas started to SING! They sang praises to Jesus. Their songs got louder and LOUDER. Soon all the other people in the jail could HEAR them! The other people listened to the songs about Jesus! Even though Paul and Silas could not move, they still could SING to Jesus!

All of a sudden, there was an EARTHQUAKE! (Pat the floor.) The ground began to shake. (Rock back and forth.) Whoa! Everything shook harder and HARDER! (Pat the floor harder.) SUDDENLY, the doors to the jail cells flew open! The locks broke! All the people in the jail were FREE! Hooray!

The jailer was afraid the prisoners would run away. But Paul called out, “Don’t worry! We are all here!” Then the jailer ran in. He asked, “What must I do to be saved?”

Paul and Silas said, “Believe in Jesus, and you will be saved!” The jailer was glad to believe in Jesus. He took Paul and Silas to his very own house. Paul and Silas told the jailer’s family the good news about Jesus, too! The jailer’s WHOLE family believed in Jesus! They took care of Paul and Silas, and they celebrated with a BIG meal!

In the morning, Paul and Silas started walking to a new town. (Stand up and walk in place.) It was time to tell other people about Jesus!

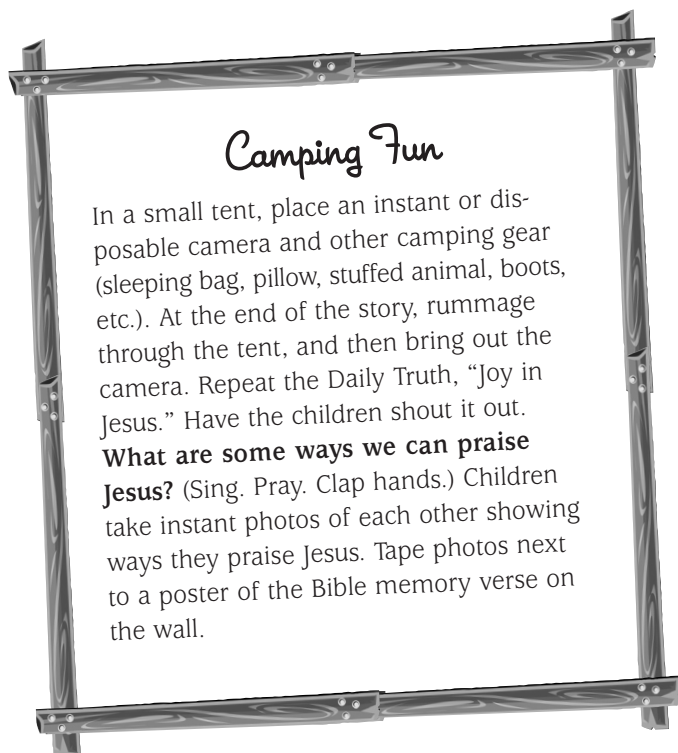
God’s Word & Me

Paul and Silas sang praises to Jesus, even when they were hurt and in jail. We can praise Jesus, too. We can praise Jesus when we are happy and we can praise Jesus when we are sad.

The Bible says, “Rejoice in the Lord every day.” This means that every day we can tell Jesus we love Him and we can thank Him for all the wonderful things He has done! Pray. Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Please help us to remember that we can praise You every day. Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 16:16-40



Collect

Bible, favorite praise song on CD and CD player, butcher paper, tape, marker.

Prepare

Tape butcher paper to a wall.

Introduction

Let's listen to one of my favorite songs. Play portion of song. **When do you like to sing or listen to music? What's your favorite kind of music?** Invite children to respond. **Today in our Bible story we're going to hear about two men who sang at a very strange time and in a very unusual place.**

Tell the Story

(Using a marker, draw the following sketches as you tell the story. Draw a building. Write Paul and Silas near the building and draw one stick figure under each name.)

One day as Paul and his friend Silas were going out to a place near Phillipi, someone began to follow them. That

someone was a slave girl. *(Draw a stick-figure girl. Draw an "O" for her mouth.)* This girl was able to tell the future, but this ability did NOT come from God. This girl was controlled by an evil spirit. She kept following Paul and Silas. She kept shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." This may sound like great advertising—but there was a problem. *(Draw an exclamation point.)* Her shouting was actually keeping people from hearing what Paul was trying to say! Paul became so troubled that finally he turned to her and said, "STOP." *(Draw a stop sign or write the word, "STOP!")*

Paul prayed for the girl. The evil spirit that had helped her to tell the future left! The girl was so HAPPY! *(Cross out the stick-figure girl and draw a new one with a happy face.)* But now she could not tell the future. This made her owners ANGRY! *(Draw two stick figures with angry faces.)* They were angry because they made money from the slave girl telling the future. So the owners grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the town rulers. "These men are making an uproar! They are telling us to do things that are against Roman customs!" the owners huffed. Soon others in the crowd began shouting, too. *(Draw many more stick figures with angry faces.)* It looked like a riot might begin! So the rulers gave orders to beat Paul and Silas. Paul and Silas weren't even allowed to tell their side of the story! How unfair! After they were beaten, they were put in jail! *(Draw a rectangle with vertical lines to create a jail cell. Draw two faces behind the lines.)*

The jailer led Paul and Silas to the innermost cell of the prison. NOBODY got out of there! The jailer clamped their feet into stocks and locked them. Paul and Silas must have wanted to lean back and rest; but if they did, the wounds on their backs would have touched the dirty wall of the prison cell.

They could have grumbled, "Well! Here we obeyed God and look at the trouble it got us into!" But instead, they SANG to Jesus! *(Draw singing mouths; add music notes around the jail cell.)* They PRAYED! The sounds of their praising floated through the jail to the other prisoners. Here they were—hurting, locked up in a dark, cold jail cell—and instead of complaining they were praising Jesus! Even though their backs hurt and their legs and

feet must have ached terribly, they knew GOD was in charge! He would help them, no matter how bad things seemed.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to Jesus while the other prisoners listened! *(Draw another jail cell with four faces.)* How cool is that? And guess what happened. The earth began to tremble. *(Invite children to pat the floor.)* Then everything SHOOK. Then everything ROCKED! The prison doors sprang open, the chains snapped, and the stocks flew apart. *(Draw a zig-zag line through each jail cell.)* Every prisoner was free! *(Draw two stick-figure men standing outside the jail cell. Write, "Paul" over one figure and "Silas" over another.)* The jailer woke and was sure every prisoner was gone! *(Draw a stick-figure jailer.)* And if his prisoners got away, for ANY reason, he would be KILLED. So, the jailer was about to kill himself when Paul shouted, "DON'T HURT YOURSELF! WE ARE ALL HERE!"

The Bible says that the jailer called for the lights *(Draw a word bubble by the jailer's mouth and write, "LIGHTS" inside the bubble.)*, ran and knelt down before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" You see, the jailer KNEW that these two men were different. *(Draw a big circle around Paul and Silas.)* What had caused them to sing after being beaten and jailed? What had kept them from running away when they could have escaped? What made them care about *him*—the one who had locked them in jail?

(Draw a cross.) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved—you and your household!" Paul and Silas answered.

The jailer was filled with joy as he came to believe in Jesus. *(Draw a house big enough to draw Paul, Silas and the jailer inside.)* Then the jailer took Paul and Silas to his home and washed their wounds. *(Draw more stick figures inside the house—as many that will fit. They all are smiling.)* He woke up his entire family and they gathered around as Paul and Silas told the good news of Jesus. And EVERYONE in the household believed in Jesus. They were so excited, they wanted to be baptized RIGHT THEN! What a celebration! *(Draw musical notes around the house.)* There must have been a lot *more* singing going on that night as everyone thanked God for what had happened.

When morning came, the authorities sent word to release Paul and Silas. The rulers realized they made a BIG mistake when they had Paul and Silas beaten. Paul and Silas went back to the house where they had been

staying so they could encourage the Christians there. Then they left Philippi to tell more people about Jesus. Paul and Silas choose to praise God—in every situation! They knew God is ALWAYS going to do something good! *(Draw a giant happy face.)*

God's Word & Me

Like Paul and Silas, we can choose to thank and praise Jesus in ALL situations. It's easy to thank Jesus when life is going well, but that's not the only time we should praise Him. When life seems unfair or people treat us badly, Jesus' power and His love for us never changes. We can always thank Him for that! That's why Paul wrote Philippians 4:4. Read or invite a volunteer to read the verse aloud.

- **Jesus doesn't promise that nothing bad will ever happen to us. He does promise to always care for us and to be with us.** Describe a time that Jesus has taken care of you.
- Tell about a time when you or someone you know praised Jesus in a difficult situation. **Now it's your turn to tell a story! Who do you know who has thanked Jesus, even in a hard situation?**
- **How can you remind someone to praise Jesus when they are going through a tough time?** (Tell them about a time when Jesus helped you. Tell them a Bible verse. Pray with them.) Pray with children, asking Jesus to help them praise Him, even when they are going through difficult situations.



Missions Focus

What are some reasons missionaries have joy?

What are some times in which missionaries may find it hard to praise Jesus?

How can we help missionaries have joy, even in hard times?

Game Center



for younger children • Acts 16:16-40

Collect

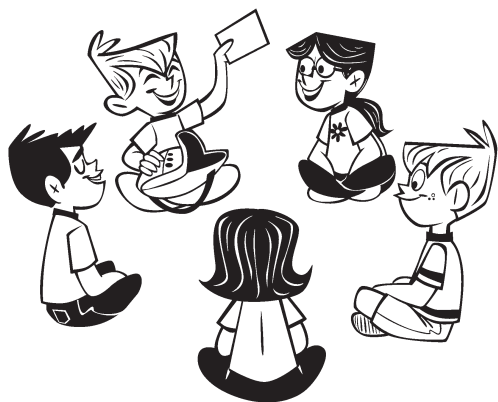
Bible, Lesson 6 Pattern Page (p. 126), *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, scissors, backpack.

Prepare

Cut apart the Pattern Page. Place picture cards inside backpack.

Do

1. Children sit in a circle. Hand backpack to a child.
2. As you play the song "I Love You, O Lord," children pass the backpack clockwise. Randomly stop the music. Whoever has the backpack opens it and removes one card. The child shows the card to the group and everyone demonstrates joy by doing the action shown on the card together. ("High-five," "Jumping," "Clapping," "Praying," "Playing Guitar," "Singing") Keep playing until all the cards have been removed.



Talk About

- We are all having so much fun praising Jesus. Dustin, I can see you're smiling. Lauren, I see you're giggling.
- Every day we can show Jesus we love Him. The Bible says, "Rejoice in the Lord every day." When we praise Jesus, He makes us happy and smiling—He gives us joy!

God's Word

"Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!"
Philippians 4:4

For Younger Children:
"Rejoice in the Lord every day."

God's Word & Me

In any situation, I can praise Jesus and remember that He gives me joy.

- What are some other ways we can show Jesus we love him? (Praise Him by singing, jumping, playing an instrument, praying, being kind to others.)
- These are all ways we can praise Jesus. We can praise Jesus anytime and anywhere. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us joy. Help us to remember we can praise You all the time. Amen.

For Older Children

Children stand in a line. As the music plays, the first child passes the backpack between his or her legs and the second child passes it over his or her head. The children continue passing the backpack in this manner until the music stops. When the music stops, whoever has the backpack opens it and removes a card. He or she calls out the action shown on card and then everyone does action together.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 16:16-40

Collect

Bible, 12 balloons, permanent marker, two large pillowcases, two laundry baskets.

Prepare

Write words of Philippians 4:4 on separate inflated balloons, two or more words on each balloon. Make a set for each team. Place each team's balloons in a separate laundry basket and place baskets on one side of the room.


Do

1. Form children into two teams which line up on the opposite side of the room from the balloons. Give first child in line on each team a large pillowcase.
2. The first child on team runs with the pillowcase to the designated basket, puts a balloon in the pillowcase and then runs back to the group and passes the pillowcase to the next child in line. Each child runs to put another balloon into the pillowcase. Once the pillowcase is completely full, the group puts the verse balloons into correct order.



Talk About

- **What do you think it means to “Rejoice in the Lord always?”** (Praise Jesus no matter how we feel about what is going on.)
- **What are some exciting situations that we can praise Jesus for?** (Birthday. Good grade on test. First place in a sport. Make a new friend.)
- **Even in tough situations we can praise Jesus. What are some tough situations?** (Grandma or Grandpa sick. Poor grade on test. Fight with friend. Pet dies.)
- **When we choose to praise Jesus no matter what situation we are in, Jesus will give us joy. We may not**



God's Word

“Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4

For Younger Children:
“Rejoice in the Lord every day.”

God's Word & Me

In any situation, I can praise Jesus and remember that He gives me joy.

Missions Focus

What are some reasons missionaries have joy?

What are some times in which missionaries may find it hard to praise Jesus?

How can we help missionaries have joy, even in hard times?



feel joyful instantly, but when we choose to praise Jesus, He will help us to feel joyful again! Lead children in prayer, praising Jesus for different things (use the prior responses children gave). Thank Jesus for giving us joy!

For Younger Children

Each child in a group runs with a pillowcase to the opposite side of the room. The child puts a balloon into the pillowcase and shouts, “Rejoice!” Then the child runs back to his or her group, takes out the balloon from pillowcase and passes pillowcase to next child in line.

Art Center



for younger children • Acts 16:16-40

Collect

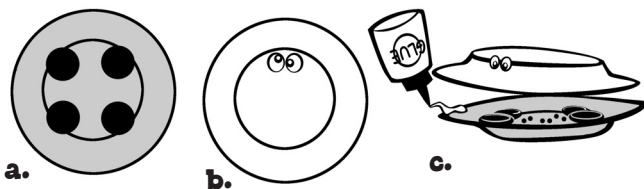
Bible, black craft foam circles, gel glue, 6-inch (15-cm) red plastic plates, wiggle eyes, 6-inch (15-cm) clear plastic plates, pony beads.

Prepare

Make a sample Ladybug Shaker to show.

Do

1. Child selects four craft foam circles and glues each one inside the red plate (see sketch a). Child glues wiggle eyes to back side of clear plate near the edge (see sketch b).
2. Child places a small handful of beads in red plate. Help each child glue clear plate, facedown, over red plate (see sketch c).
3. When glue is dry, talk about songs to sing while using the Ladybug Shakers to praise Jesus. Sing songs while using shakers.



Talk About

- The Bible tells us, “Rejoice in the Lord every day.” That means to be glad and praise Jesus—all of the time!
- When we praise Jesus, it means to thank Him for His love and the good things He helps us have. What are you thankful for?

God’s Word

“Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4

For Younger Children:
“Rejoice in the Lord every day.”

God’s Word & Me

In any situation, I can praise Jesus and remember that He gives me joy.

- Let’s sing a song to thank Jesus. We’ll use our Ladybug Shakers! Sing briefly together and then pray, **Dear Jesus, we like to praise You. You are good to us. Thank You. Amen.**

For Older Children

Older children may enjoy adding more details to their shakers: antennae made from chenille wires cut in half or details drawn with black permanent markers. Invite older children to share their shakers with younger children, singing a song and using shakers with them.

Art Center



for older children • Acts 16:16-40

Collect

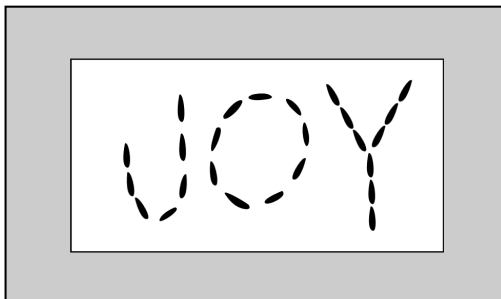
Bible, lightweight card stock in several colors, scissors, pencils, embroidery floss, round-ended sewing needles, tape.

Prepare

Make a sample Sewing Plaque to show.

Do

1. Children brainstorm words or phrases that remind them to praise Jesus (“joy,” “Jesus,” “Thanks always,” “Rejoice!” etc.).
2. Each child cuts card stock in half and trims 1-inch (2.5 cm) off from each side of one of the rectangles. (Children may trade colors.) Child uses pencil to write one of the words or phrases on the smaller rectangle.
3. Child threads floss through the needle and tapes loose end of floss to back of card. Child then sews over pencil outlines. (This may require stitching in one direction, turning card over and then stitching in the other direction.)
4. Child finishes by taping loose end to back of card and gluing sewn card onto larger piece of stock to create a frame effect.



Talk About

- What are times you or a friend might praise Jesus? When might you *not* want to praise Jesus?
- What do you think it means when the Bible says, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”?
- Sometimes we don’t like what happens to us. In those times it’s not our first reaction to praise Jesus!

God’s Word

“Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4

For Younger Children:
“Rejoice in the Lord every day.”

God’s Word & Me

In any situation, I can praise Jesus and remember that He gives me joy.

Missions Focus

What are some reasons missionaries have joy?

What are some times in which missionaries may find it hard to praise Jesus?

How can we help missionaries have joy, even in hard times?

But no matter what happens, we know Jesus can give us joy. Here’s why: Even in a tough time, Jesus loves us. He will help us get through the hard times.

- Think of a time when it was hard to praise Jesus. Let’s ask Jesus to give us His joy in times like those. Pray, asking Jesus to help children trust Him and praise Him in every circumstance.

For Younger Children

Using a hand-held hole punch, pre-punch the letters of the word “JOY” on cards for younger children. Provide strands of thick yarn with tape wrapped around one end for “needles” and invite children to sew through holes without taping down ends. Children sew in the shapes of the letters and then finish cards with your help.

Worship Center



Acts 16:16-40

Collect

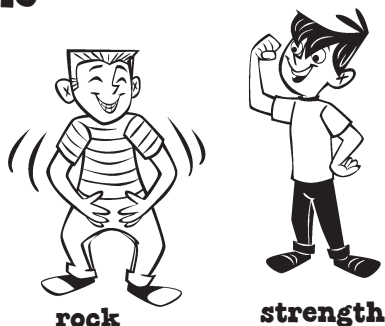
Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246, 250), large sheet of paper, marker, tape.

Prepare

Write Philippians 4:4 onto the large sheet of paper and tape it to the wall.

Team Game

Children sing “I Love You, O Lord.” Divide group into two teams. Teams stand on opposite sides of the classroom. A volunteer from each team



runs to the middle of the room. Whisper a word (such as “rock”) from the song to volunteers. Volunteers run back to their teams and do a motion for teams to guess the word. Continue playing, using other volunteers and words until teams have guessed all the words or as time permits.

Bible Verse Game

Lead children in repeating Philippians 4:4. Instead of saying the final word, clap once. Repeat verse quickly again, leading students to clap instead of saying the last two words and so on, until all the words have been replaced by claps. If time allows, reverse the procedure, clapping for all but the last word and continuing until all the claps have been replaced by the correct words. End by leading children in repeating Philippians 4:4 without any claps.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “I Love You, O Lord,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

Worldwide Prayer

Discuss that there are missionaries today who are in prison for sharing the good news of Jesus, just like Paul

God’s Word

“Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4

For Younger Children:
“Rejoice in the Lord every day.”

God’s Word & Me

In any situation, I can praise Jesus and remember that He gives me joy.

Missions Focus

What are some reasons missionaries have joy?

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How can we help missionaries have joy, even in hard times?

and Silas. If you know a story of a missionary who is in jail, share it with the class. Then pray as a class for the missionaries who are in jail and their families. Pray for protection, peace, and joy for the missionaries and their families.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “I’m Keepin’ My Eyes on Jesus,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.



High-five



Jumping



Clapping



Praying



Playing guitar



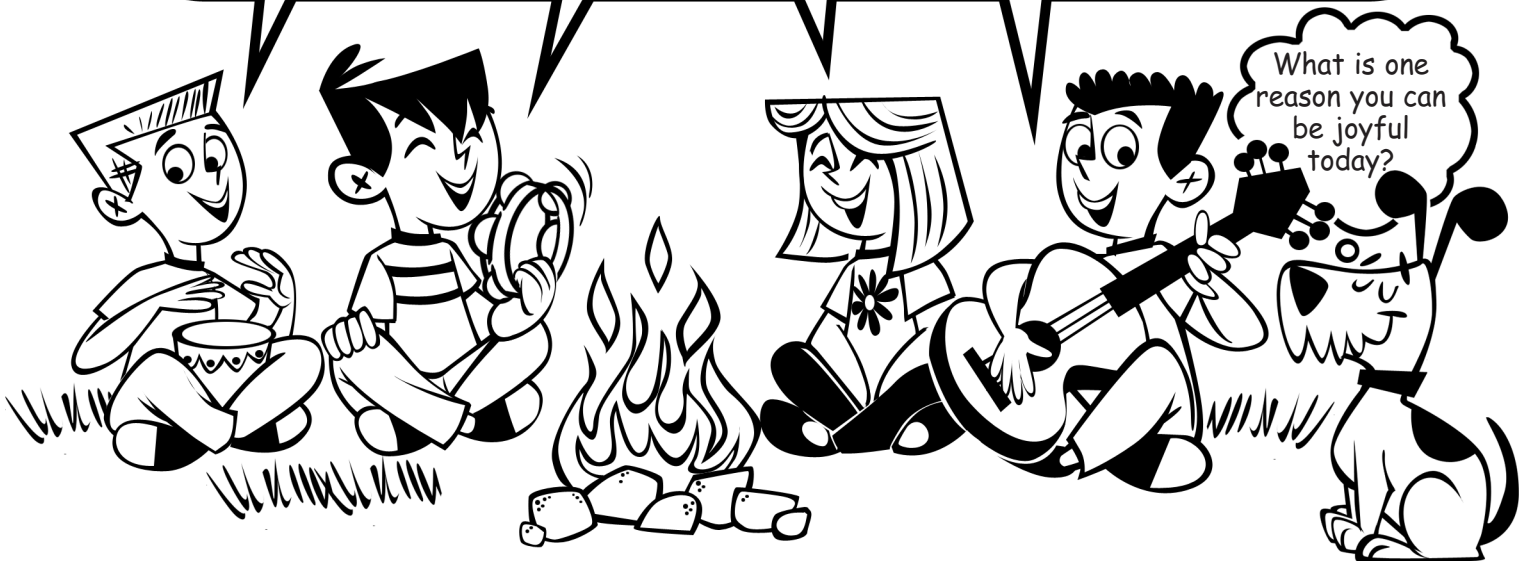
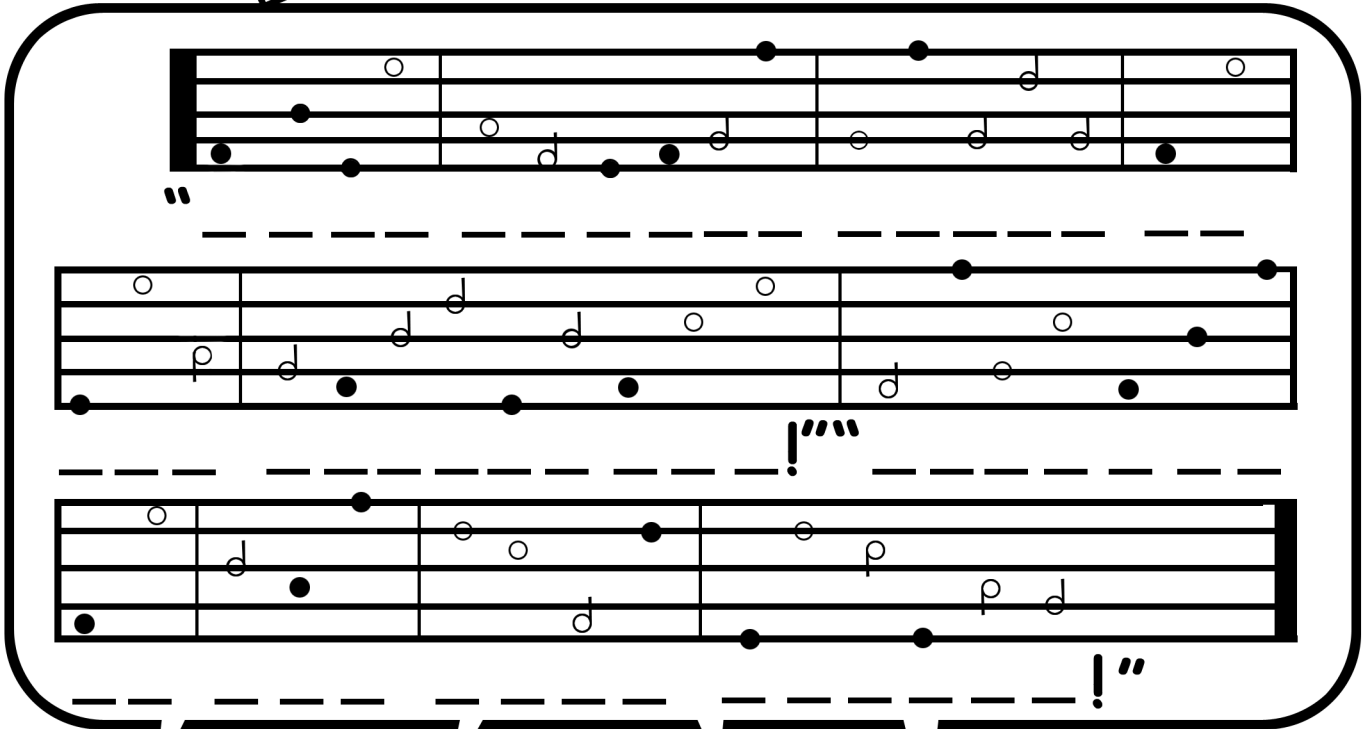
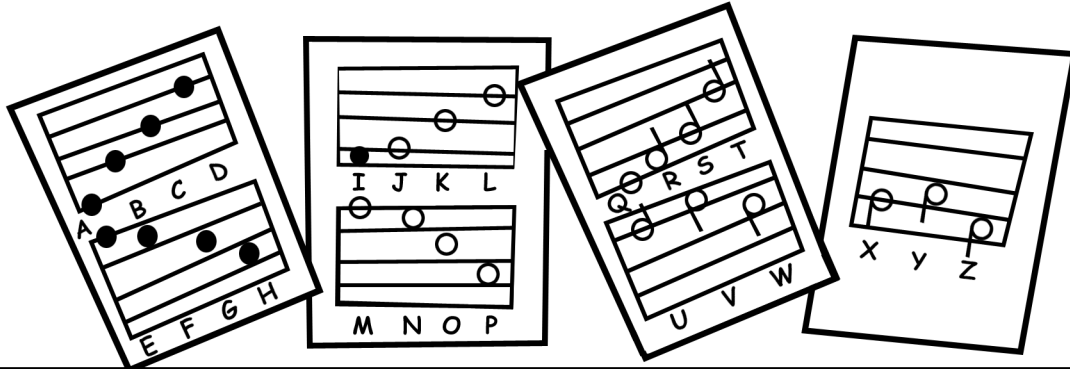
Singing



“Rejoice in the Lord every day.” (See Philippians 4:4.)
What are some things you can praise and thank Jesus for?

Campfire Songs!

You don't read music? No worries! Just follow the code to discover what's making your fellow-campers sing!



Wisdom from Jesus

Bible Story • The Answer for the Unknown God • Acts 17:16-34



God's Word

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;
make the most of every opportunity."

Colossians 4:5

For Younger Children:

"Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can ask Jesus to help me be wise and
know the best way to tell about God.

Missions Focus

When might a missionary need wisdom
in telling about Jesus?

What can a missionary do to be kind
when telling about Jesus?

Why is it so important for a missionary
to be wise in telling about Jesus?

Teacher's Devotional

Have you ever sat next to a stranger on a plane or a train and wondered how or when you might be able to share Christ with that person? What have you done when a conversation with a good friend comes around to church or religion? What concerns come to your mind about sharing the good news about Jesus?

More often than not, we seem to freeze when we have the opportunity to tell someone about Jesus. We choke up. We are afraid of all the unimportant stuff—*Will he be offended? Will I lose a friendship? What if I say the wrong thing? I don't know her well; why would she want to listen to me?* First of all, we need to know that the fear of other people creates a trap for us. We must practice banishing those fearful thoughts. Second, we need wisdom for these situations. This comes through prayer and knowing God's Word.

Paul was wise when he spoke to the people in Athens. When he entered Athens, he noticed the city was full of idols. As he preached the good news of Jesus, Paul used wisdom from God. He began with ideas familiar to the Greeks. The Greeks had many objects of worship, but there was one altar that was designated TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. They didn't even know who this God was, but they worshiped Him anyway! Paul then told them who this "unknown god" is: The Creator of the universe, who sent His one and only Son to die for us and live again. Paul explained the good news of God's love in ways that made sense to the people of Athens, both spiritually and culturally.

We can do the same. When we seek God's wisdom, He promises to respond (see James 1:5). He will prompt us on the best way to tell someone about Him and will give us discernment on the appropriate times to speak. So, as you prepare this week to teach children, pray for wisdom on the best ways to share the truth about Christ with the children in your class. Be aware of each child's cultural and spiritual background. Be prepared and ready to listen to God. His ways and His timing are perfect!

Planning Page



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 • The Answer for the Unknown God • Acts 17:16-34

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show toy dolls to illustrate Bible story action

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show Bible and read Bible verse to reinforce the Daily Truth “Wisdom from Jesus”

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make a Wise Owl Wristband as a reminder to ask God to help us know the best ways to tell others about Jesus

Materials • Bible, Lesson 7 Pattern Page (p. 140), craft foam in brown and tan, scissors, ruler, pen, wiggle eyes

Older Child Option • Make a Moon Catcher using paints and craft foam and talk about what it means to be wise when telling others about Jesus

Materials • Bible, Lesson 7 Pattern Page (p. 140), clear plastic lids, scissors, card stock, yellow tempera paint, shallow containers, paint sponges, craft foam or dark-colored construction paper, markers, glue, hole punch, string

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Crawl through a Bear Cub Cave to collect a “Jesus Loves You” card and talk about which friends to whom it can be given

Materials • Bible, card stock, markers, tent, one or more fabric tunnel tubes or large cardboard boxes, scissors, stickers, masking tape.

Older Child Option • Play a paper plate relay to discover ways to tell others about Jesus

Materials • Bible; for each team—large paper plate, markers

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 7 Coloring Page (p. 141) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 7 Puzzle Page (p. 142) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 254), sheet of butcher paper, markers, masking tape, marble or penny for each group, Post-It Notes for each child

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 theme excitement.

Dress-Up Day

Plan a Dress-Up Day! Invite children to come dressed as campers: Children wear camp-related shirts or hats or carry special props. (For example, a child wears a fishing hat and carries binoculars.) Take instant photos of children to display.

A Wise Treat

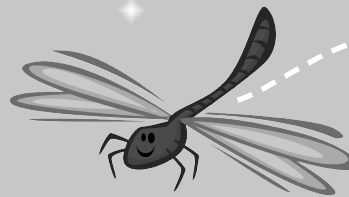
Before class, place diced canned pears (drained) in a paper bowl. Pour cinnamon into another paper bowl. Give each child a bowl of vanilla yogurt, a graham cracker, a resealable sandwich bag and spoon. Child places the graham cracker in bag and crunches it with fist or spoon, then pours the graham cracker crumbs into the yogurt, sprinkles a pinch of cinnamon into the yogurt and adds diced pears. Enjoy this tasty, wise and healthy snack.

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



Growing Up as a Missionary

Invite teenagers or adults from your congregation who grew up in missionary families to tell children about their experiences: what it was like growing up in another country, specific details about the country in which they lived, etc. Invite volunteers to bring in pictures, video clips or items from that country for children to view or pass around. (Optional: Contact your church office and ask if they have a DVD about a missionary supported by your church or denomination.)



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 17:16-34

Camping Fun

In backpack, place Bible, six toy people and camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible and toy people. At the appropriate times in the story, move the toy people to show the story action.

Introduction

Let’s say the words “Jesus loves you” together. Lead children to say phrase one or two times. **Today we are going to hear about a man who WISELY told people about Jesus. And what true book do you think we are going to hear this story from?** Invite children to respond. **That’s right! The Bible!** Show the Bible.

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.)

Once there was a man named Paul. (Show toy person.) Paul loved Jesus very much; he wanted to tell everyone about Jesus! Paul traveled to many different cities telling the good news of Jesus. One time, Paul went to a city called Athens.

When Paul got to Athens, he saw that the people there did not know about Jesus. Paul was sad to see this. (Show sad face.)

Paul went to a place in the city where many people came together. (Show Paul and two other toy people.) Paul

was kind. He took time to LISTEN to what the people had to say. He didn’t make fun of what the people of Athens believed. He was very wise in the way he told them about Jesus.

Some people didn’t like what Paul had to say. They said, “He’s telling us to worship a god who came back to life!” Other people didn’t understand Paul’s words. They said, “What is this man trying to say, anyway? Let’s take him to the leaders.” So, they took him to see the leaders.

(Show other toy people.) The leaders were smart people who decided if a teacher’s ideas were true. They would choose if the teacher could teach in Athens. Paul knew this meeting was very important. Paul knew he would be able to tell the people about Jesus at the meeting—and he did!

“Jesus is ALIVE!” Paul said. “Jesus wants you to know Him. He wants you to become part of His family.”

Then Paul told the people about Jesus and how God had shown His power by raising Jesus from the dead. Some of the rulers didn’t like what Paul was saying, but they let him keep talking.

Some rulers made fun of Paul. That might have made Paul sad. (Show sad face.) But others wanted to hear more about what Paul had to say. That’s exciting! (Show happy face.) They wanted him to talk to them AGAIN about Jesus.

After listening to Paul, some people accepted the good news of Jesus. They believed in the one true God. And they became part of God’s family—the same God who loves us, too!

God’s Word & Me

Paul was very wise in the way he told the people in Athens about Jesus. He was kind to them and showed them Jesus’ love. It does not matter if we are old or young, we can wisely tell others about Jesus.

The Bible says, “Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus.” We can learn to be wise by reading the Bible and asking Jesus to help us be wise. Jesus will help us tell others about Him. Pray briefly, **Dear Jesus, please help us to be wise when we tell others about You. We love You. Amen.**

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 17:16-34



Collect

Bible, picture of city or country you would like to visit, gray construction paper with the words “Unknown God” written on it.

Introduction

Tell the children what city or country you would like to visit and what you would like to do there. Show picture of the city or country. **What is a city you would like to visit?** Invite children to respond. **What would you do there?** Invite children to respond. **This week we are going to hear about how Paul went to a country called Greece. He visited there for a very important reason! Listen for the name of the big city where Paul went.**

Tell the Story

After Paul became one of Jesus’ followers, he traveled to many different cities telling others the good news about

Jesus. On one trip, Paul came to a city in Greece. It was called Athens.

When Paul arrived in Athens, he noticed there were idols everywhere! (Idols are statues of gods worshiped by people. Some people think the gods are real and that the idols have power.) Today, people who study history think that there were almost more idols in the city of Athens than there were people! Can you believe that?

Paul was sad to see that the city was full of idols. Paul wanted these people to know the one, true God and not waste their lives worshiping these false gods that had no power. Over the years, Paul had learned how to tell people about God in wise ways, so that people would understand his words.

Paul began to talk with the people in Athens about Jesus. Paul didn’t make fun of what the people of Athens believed; he took time to LISTEN to what the Jews and Greeks who loved God had to say. He was very wise in the way he was telling the people about Jesus.

Some people said, “He’s telling us to worship foreign gods—even a god who came back to life!” Others said, “What is this man trying to say, anyway? Let’s take him to the members of the Areopagus (ahr-ee-OHP-ah-guhs).”

The members of the Areopagus were people who decided whether or not a teacher’s ideas were true and whether or not the teacher could teach in Athens. They took their work very seriously and were well respected. Paul knew this meeting was an important opportunity to tell about Jesus.

Because Paul understood the different religions practiced in Athens, he was able to speak wisely to the members of the Areopagus. He didn’t make fun of them for worshiping idols. Paul even started his conversation with a compliment!

(Read from Bible.) Acts 17:22-23 says, “Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: “To an unknown God.” Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.’”

(Volunteer holds up paper.) Paul was going to tell them about this “unknown god.” Paul described who God is—the one, true God who made heaven and Earth

and how He is far greater than the idols the people worshiped. Paul even quoted Greek poetry to help his listeners learn about God. “God is ALIVE!” Paul said. “God knows you worshiped idols instead of Him because you didn’t know He existed. But God wants you to know Him. He wants you to worship Him.”

Then Paul spoke about Jesus and how God had shown His power by raising Jesus from the dead. Some of the rulers didn’t like what Paul was saying, but they let him continue speaking.

Some members of the Areopagus made fun of Paul. But Paul never made fun of them. Others were still interested in hearing more about what Paul had to say; they wanted him to come back to talk to them again.

After listening to Paul tell about Jesus, some people were glad to accept the good news of Jesus. They believed in the one, true God and became members of God’s family—all because God had helped Paul to be wise in the way he told the good news of Jesus!

God’s Word & Me

How do you think the people would have responded if Paul hadn’t taken time to understand them, find out what they were interested in and shown respect for their culture? Invite children to respond. **Paul showed that respecting people involves learning what they believe and value. Because Paul showed this respect, the people were ready to hear him tell about Jesus. Paul was wise and spoke about Jesus in ways the people understood.**

- **What are things your friends think are important?** (Friends. Sports. Music. Video games.)
- **How can you use the things your friends are interested in to help them understand the good news of Jesus?** (Jesus is like a best friend. Video games are really fun, but they can’t show love to us. Jesus helps us do our best at sports.)
- **What does the Bible say in Colossians 4:5?** Ask a volunteer to read verse aloud. **Every day we have opportunities to talk with lots of different people. We might not think that talking about Jesus is easy. But God is always with us. We can ask Him for wisdom. He promises to give to give us wisdom if we ask Him and believe He will help us!** Pray with children that God would give them the wisdom on how to share the good news of Jesus effectively.

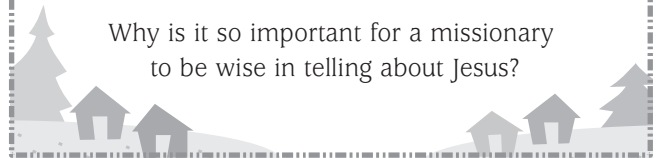


Missions Focus

When might a missionary need wisdom in telling about Jesus?

What can a missionary do to be kind when telling about Jesus?

Why is it so important for a missionary to be wise in telling about Jesus?



Game Center



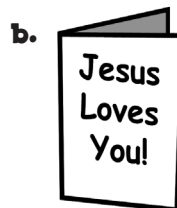
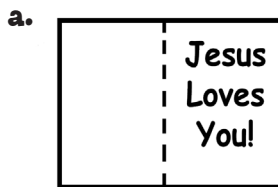
for younger children • Acts 17:16-34

Collect

Bible, card stock, markers, tent, one or more fabric tunnel tubes or large cardboard boxes, scissors, stickers, masking tape.

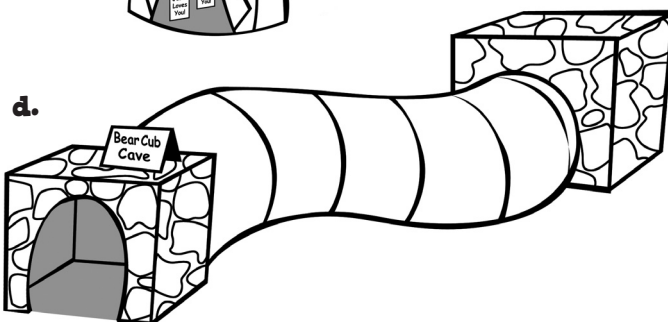
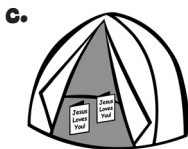
Prepare

Write the words, "Jesus Loves You" on one side of a sheet of card stock (see sketch a). Photocopy one for each child. Then fold each sheet of card stock in half to create a card for each child (see sketch b). Place cards in tent (see sketch c). Set up tunnel or boxes to make a tunnel large enough for children to crawl through. Set tent at the end of the tunnel. (If using large cardboard boxes, cut flaps off ends of boxes.) Add a sign to the front of the tunnel (see sketch d). (Optional: Draw decorations on sides of cardboard boxes. If no cardboard boxes or tunnels are available, drape a dark-colored fabric sheet over tables or chairs.)



Do

1. One at a time, children crawl through the Bear Cub Cave into tent. Child removes a card from the tent and crawls back through the cave.
2. The child tells the next child in line, "Jesus loves you" to signal the next child's turn.
3. Once every child has a turn, children decorate their "Jesus Loves You" cards with markers or stickers and talk about who they will give their cards to.



God's Word

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."
Colossians 4:5

For Younger Children:

"Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can ask Jesus to help me be wise and know the best way to tell about God.

Talk About

- We're having fun crawling through the Bear Cub Cave. I see you are being wise by only taking one card from the tent. Thank you!
- The Bible says, "Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus." Jesus helps us know the best way to tell others about His love.
- As you color your card, think about one person you can give this card to. Children tell the names of people to whom they will give the cards to this week.
- Let's pray for those people now. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for the good news of Jesus. Help us to wisely tell our friends (repeat names children gave) about Jesus. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

Hide cards with different sayings ("Jesus Loves You." "Jesus Is Alive." "Jesus Forgives You.") all over the room. Make a card for each child to find. Play the song "Spread the Good News" from *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM while the children find the cards. Once each child has found a card, he or she decorates it as desired and writes the name of a person on the card to whom he or she will give it.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 17:16-34

Collect

Bible; for each team—large paper plate, markers.

Do

1. Children form teams of six or eight, with each child selecting a partner. Brainstorm as a class ways to tell others about Jesus (tell a friend, write a card, etc.). Then give each team a paper plate. Each pair holds a paper plate between them with their hands. Pair must step over the plate, one foot at a time, without letting go of plate. They repeat this action to move all the way across the room.

2. Pair then writes a way to tell others about Jesus on the plate and runs back to their team, passing the plate to the next pair in line. If time permits, play a second round. Children also may write the verse words on separate plates and put plates in verse order.



Talk About

- **What was hard about this game? What made it easier?** (We listened to each other. We helped each other.)
- **When are good times to tell others about Jesus?** (When someone has a problem. When a friend is worried.)
 - Read Colossians 4:5. **The Bible says that we need to be wise in how we tell others about Jesus. It is good to listen to others and to be kind when we tell others about Jesus.**
- **We can gain wisdom from reading God's Word in the Bible and praying to Jesus for help.** Lead children in prayer, asking God to help them be wise in telling others about Jesus.

God's Word

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."
Colossians 4:5

For Younger Children:

"Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can ask Jesus to help me be wise and know the best way to tell about God.

Missions Focus

When might a missionary need wisdom in telling about Jesus?

What can a missionary do to be kind when telling about Jesus?

Why is it so important for a missionary to be wise in telling about Jesus?

For Younger Children

Write one letter of the name JESUS on each of five plates. Make one set for each team. Place plates in mixed-up order on one side of the room. Form teams of 2 to 4 children. Teams line up on the opposite side. Each child runs to the pile of plates, picks a plate and walks back to the team balancing the plate on his or her head. Once all five plates are collected, children put plates in order to spell JESUS.

Art Center



for younger children • Acts 17:16-34

Collect

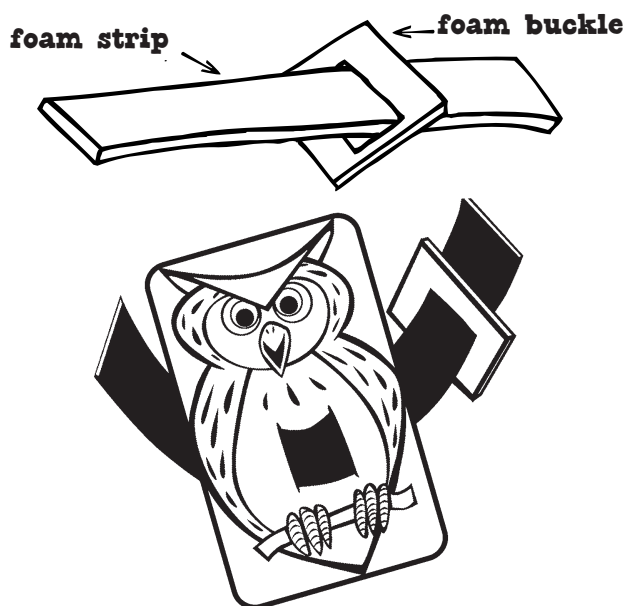
Bible, Lesson 7 Pattern Page (p. 140), craft foam in brown and tan, scissors, ruler, pen, wiggle eyes.

Prepare

Cut one 1x8-inch (2.5x20.5-cm) strip of craft foam for each child. Cut out smallest owl and Buckle Patterns. Trace buckle pattern onto additional craft foam and cut out one for each child. Cut out slit on each buckle as directed. Trace smallest owl pattern onto brown or tan craft foam. Cut out one for each child. Cut 1-inch (2.5-cm) slits on owl shapes.

Do

1. Child slides buckle piece onto foam strip. Child glues wiggle eyes to owl shape.
2. Help each child to slide owl shapes onto strap.
3. Child places strip around wrist so that owl is centered. Help each child slide free end of strip through buckle to tighten.



God's Word

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."

Colossians 4:5

For Younger Children:

"Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can ask Jesus to help me be wise and know the best way to tell about God.

Talk About

- What kind of bird is this? That's right. Owls remind people of being wise. Being wise is knowing the best way to do something.
- Let's name some people we love. What is something you can tell those people about Jesus? (Jesus loves them. Jesus hears our prayers.)
- When we tell about Jesus, we can sing songs about Jesus. We can draw pictures. We can tell a Bible verse we know. What is a wise way you want to tell about Jesus?
- Let's ask God to help us tell others about Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear God, we are glad You will help us to be wise. We want to tell others about Your love. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

Older children may trace around patterns on their own, and then cut out and assemble foam pieces. Provide fine-tipped markers with which to decorate owls or to add the phrase "BE WISE."

Art Center

for older children • Acts 17:16-34

Collect

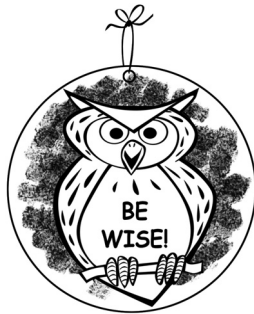
Bible, Lesson 7 Pattern Page (p. 140), clear plastic lids, scissors, card stock, yellow tempera paint, shallow containers, paint sponges, craft foam or dark-colored construction paper, markers, glue, hole punch, string; optional—wiggle eyes.

Prepare

Photocopy the Lesson 7 Pattern Page. Cut out the owl pattern which best fits the available lids. Trace around pattern onto several sheets of card stock for children to use as templates. Set out yellow paint in shallow containers.

Do

1. Child lightly sponge paints top of lid to represent the moon.
2. Child traces around pattern on craft foam or construction paper and then cuts out owl shape. Child decorates shape with markers. (Optional: Child glues wiggle eyes onto owl shape.) Child glues cut-out shape to center of lid.
3. Child uses hole punch to make hole at top and threads a length of string through hole for hanging.



Talk About

- If you were at camp, what kinds of birds would you see at night? The owl is a bird we use to remind us about being wise. What do you think it means to be wise?
- What are wise ways you can tell others about Jesus? (Sing. Write. Draw. Tell a story. Repeat a Bible verse.)
- Take a moment to think about a person you know whom you could tell about Jesus in one of these ways. Being wise means knowing the best way to

God's Word

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Missions Focus

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What can a missionary do to be kind when telling about Jesus?

Why is it so important for a missionary to be wise in telling about Jesus?

do something. So let's ask God to help us know which way is the best way to tell that person. That's being wise! Pray, asking God to give children wisdom as they tell others about Jesus.

For Younger Children

Pre-cut owl shape and punch hole in lid ahead of time.

Worship Center



Acts 17:16-34

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 254), sheet of butcher paper, markers, masking tape, marble or penny for each group, Post-It Notes for each child.

Prepare

Write Bible verse on butcher paper and tape it to the wall.

Team Game

Children sit in circles of no more than 15 with an adult or helper. One person is chosen to be "It." "It" stands in the middle of the circle and closes his or her eyes. Give one player in the circle a marble or penny. Once "Wise Up" starts playing, players begin passing the marble or penny. When the music stops, "It" opens his or her eyes. All players pretend to be passing the marble or penny. "It" tries to guess who has the object by calling out that player's name or tapping the player on the shoulder. When "It" guesses correctly, he or she trades places with the player holding the marble or penny. If "It" has not guessed correctly after three tries, leader chooses someone else to be "It." Repeat as time permits.

Bible Verse Game

Repeat Colossians 4:5 aloud with children. **Let's pretend we're going on a hike.** Children form a line and march in place as if hiking. Assist children in marching in unison. Then teach children the memory verse by saying it in rhythm with children's steps (see sketch). Children repeat phrases after you, stepping or stomping as you demonstrate. When children are familiar with the verse, hike around room while reciting verse.

L R L R L R L
 "Be wise in the way you act toward
 R L R L R
 Out/sid/ers; make the most
 L R L R L R L
 of every op/por/tun/i/ty."

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Wise Up," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

God's Word

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."
 Colossians 4:5

For Younger Children:

"Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus."

God's Word & Me

I can ask Jesus to help me be wise and know the best way to tell about God.

Missions Focus

When might a missionary need wisdom in telling about Jesus?

What can a missionary do to be kind when telling about Jesus?

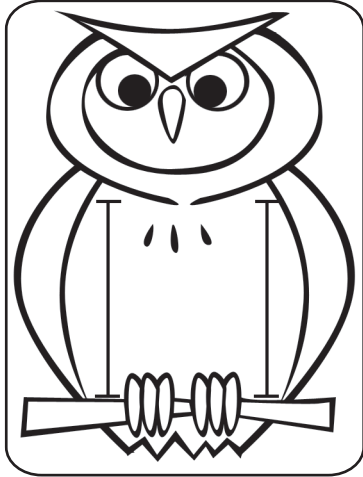
Why is it so important for a missionary to be wise in telling about Jesus?

Worldwide Prayer

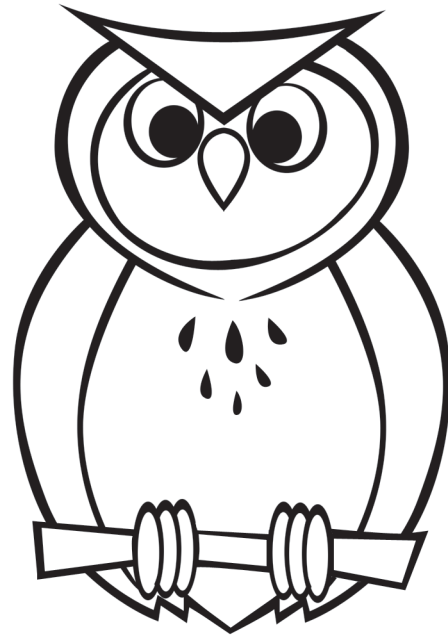
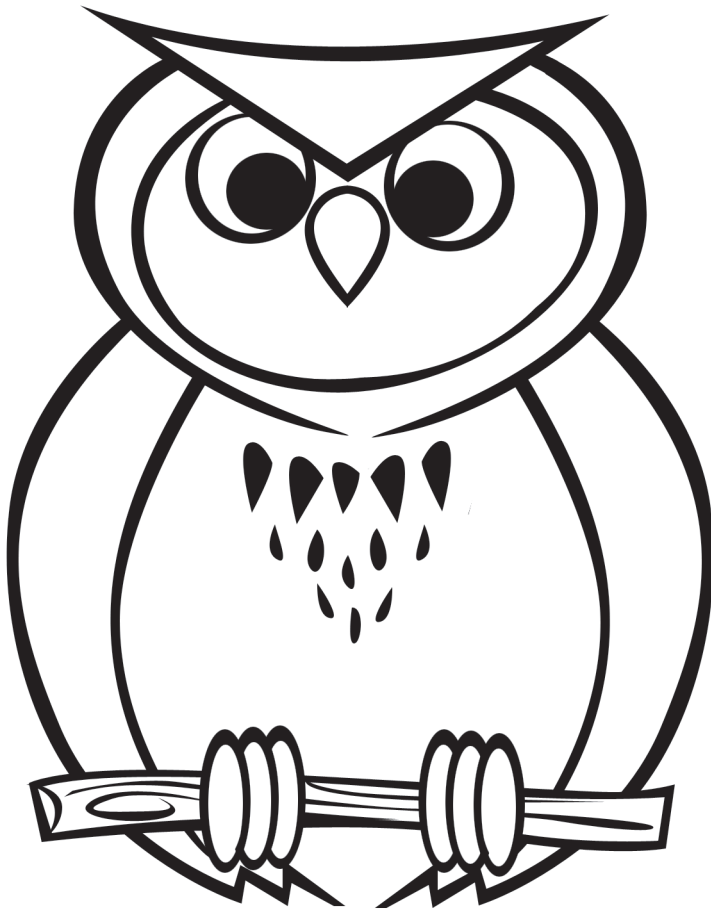
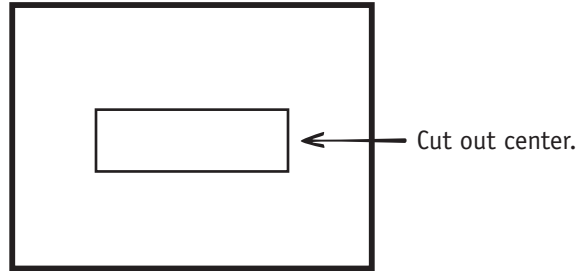
Give each student a Post-It Note and pencil. Have a volunteer read Colossians 4:5 aloud. Children write a name of someone to tell about Jesus. Then invite children to stick their Post-It Notes to the large sheet of paper. Discuss ways the children and missionaries can make the most of every opportunity as they wisely tell others about Jesus. Lead children in prayer asking Jesus for wisdom on how to most effectively tell others about Him.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Spread the Good News," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.



Buckle Pattern





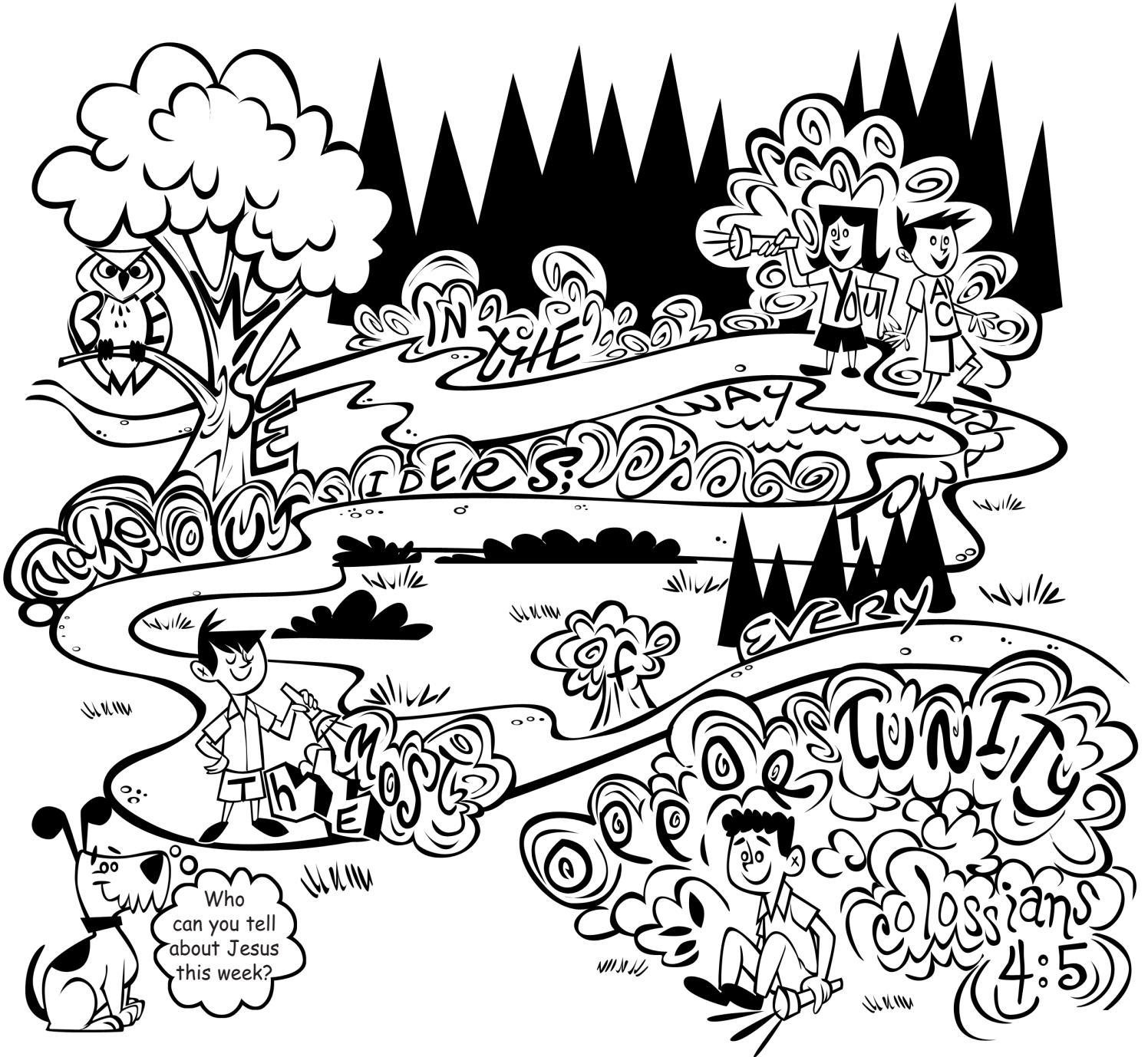
“Be wise when you talk to others about Jesus.”

(See Colossians 4:5.)

What friend can you tell about Jesus this week?

Night Hike!

It's dark out there! Start at the owl and follow the path to find every hidden word—there are 15 of them! Write them below as you find them.



Strengthened by Jesus

Bible Story • Paul Obeys in Jerusalem • Acts 21:8–22:29

God's Word

"I can do everything through him
who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

For Younger Children:
"Jesus gives me strength."

God's Word & Me

Jesus gives me strength so that
I can continue telling about Him.

Missions Focus

Why might a missionary need strength
to tell about Jesus?

In what ways do you think Jesus gives
strength to missionaries?

What are ways we can help strengthen
missionaries on their journeys to
tell others about Jesus?

Teacher's Devotional

Exhausted, drained, burned-out: These feelings can be a result of our busy lives. Sometimes we use these feelings as an excuse not to tell others the good news of Jesus. When our self-focus discourages us, we need to remember that we live in a culture where we can openly and freely tell others about our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no punishment for it. There's not much persecution here! In some countries, simply saying that you believe in Jesus means death. There are dozens of stories of modern-day Christian martyrs who die in the name of Christ. They run underground churches and smuggle in Bibles—now *that* might truly be exhausting and draining! But Jesus gives them strength to continue telling others about His love—because they are willing and focused on Him: His joy becomes their strength!

Paul is an example to those Christians. When Paul was told by a prophet and some of his friends of the danger that lay ahead, they urged him not to go. However, Paul was given strength by Jesus to continue telling the good news, even if there *was* danger. In Acts 21:13 Paul says, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Now that's focusing on Christ!

Here in our society, we may not have to fear death for belief in Jesus. But sometimes, just the perception of persecution can deter us from sharing the good news of Jesus. Yet Paul tells us in Philippians 4:13 that we can do everything through Him who gives us strength! Let's keep that close to our hearts for the next time we focus on ourselves instead of on Jesus. This promise will keep us from feeling exhausted, drained or burned-out!

Planning Page



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 • Paul Obeys in Jerusalem • Acts 21:8—22:29

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show Bible Character Pictures to illustrate portions of the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show an energy bar to demonstrate the Daily Truth “Strengthened by Jesus”

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make Somebuggy’s Strong Photo Frames as a reminder that Jesus gives us strength

Materials • Bible, card stock, scissors, markers, stamp pads in a variety of colors, disposable wipes, glue, instant camera and film

Older Child Option • Decorate a rock as a reminder of Jesus’ strength

Materials • Bible, newspaper, smooth rocks, fine-tipped permanent markers, tempera or acrylic paints in a variety of colors, swabs or brushes

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Play musical squares to find the hidden star and memorize the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, star sticker, construction paper, stickers

Older Child Option • Play a game similar to Steal the Bacon with Bible verse cards to help memorize the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, 24 index cards in two colors, marker, masking tape, measuring stick

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 8 Coloring Page (p. 155) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247-248), strips of paper, bowls for each team, large rock, butcher paper, construction paper, markers



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 theme excitement.

Backpack Tags

Before class, cut out 2x4-in (5x10-cm) rectangles of craft foam in a variety of colors. Punch a hole at one end of each rectangle. Gather cutouts or stickers of camping gear, various colors of ribbon or jewelry cord, key rings or lanyard hooks. Place each kind of item in a separate bowl. Children add cutouts or stickers to backpack tags. Children also write their names and Bible verse or Daily Truth on the tags with permanent markers. When finished, slide ribbon or jewelry cord through the hole of tag. Attach both ends to lanyard key or key ring. Children can then attach finished tags to their backpacks as a reminder that Jesus will give them strength in all situations.

Slippery Slimy Snail Treats

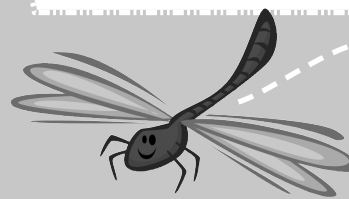
Divide children into groups of four. Give each group one tortilla, two leaves of lettuce, two slices of turkey, one slice of American cheese, two pickles, eight Chinese crispy noodles, a bowl of whipped cream cheese and four toothpicks. Each group spreads a layer of cream cheese on the tortilla and then lays one layer each of lettuce, turkey and cheese. Rolling the filled tortilla tightly with the seam on bottom, children use plastic knives to slice the roll into 2-inch-wide (4-cm) slices, making four “snail bodies.” To make the snail’s head, each child cuts a pickle half on an angle, pokes two holes in pickle half with a toothpick, threads two noodles through the holes and then slides each pickle half under the edge of their “snail” body, securing head and body together with a toothpick.



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

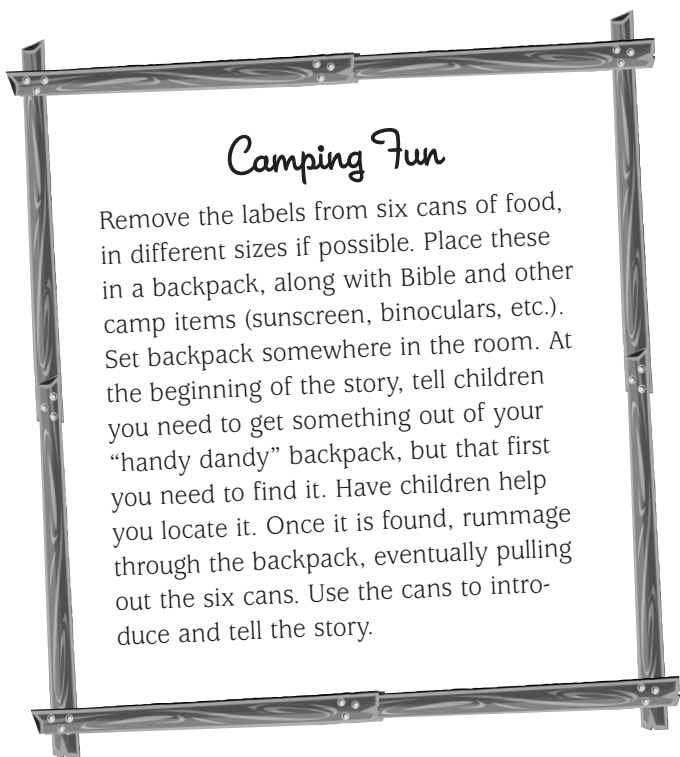
Courageous Service

Contact a local convalescent home, soup kitchen or senior citizens' group to get ideas for ways church families could serve them. Some possibilities: Making encouragement cards and handing them out to patients at the convalescent home or to seniors being visited; serving one morning or evening at a local soup kitchen; pairing families with selected seniors from your church who need help to clean up yards or to help with odd jobs around the senior's home. Send letters to families, inviting them to participate with you. Include information about the service project along with the time and date you plan to complete it.



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 21:8-22:29



Camping Fun

Remove the labels from six cans of food, in different sizes if possible. Place these in a backpack, along with Bible and other camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the six cans. Use the cans to introduce and tell the story.

Collect

Lesson 8 Pattern Page (p. 154), tape.

Prepare

Make a copy of the Pattern Page for yourself and each child. Cut out the six Bible Character Pictures from your page. Tape each picture to a food can as you tell the story and use “can characters” to illustrate story action. At the end of the story, give each child a page to take home and use in retelling the story.

Introduction

Invite children to lift the different cans. **Some of these cans are easy to pick up, but some are harder because they are bigger. We have to use our muscles to pick them up. Jesus helps our bodies be strong, but He also helps us in other ways. Jesus helps us to love people and be kind, even when it’s hard to do. Today we are going to hear about a man named Paul who kept on telling others about Jesus, even when it was hard to do. Let’s hear about what Paul did.**

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.) Paul and his friends were on another trip telling more and more people about Jesus. (Tape “Paul” picture onto a can and tape “Friends” picture onto another.) While they were in a town telling the good news of Jesus, a man

named Agabus (AG-uh-buhs) came to talk with Paul and his friends. (Tape “Agabus” picture onto a can.)

The Bible says that Agabus came to warn Paul that people in Jerusalem were going to hurt him.

When Paul’s friends heard this warning, they were worried! They knew Paul planned to visit Jerusalem very soon. “Please don’t go,” they said. “Stay away from Jerusalem.” They were so sad and worried about Paul that they began to cry! (Show sad face, pretend to cry.)

Paul said, “Why are you crying? I am not afraid to go to Jerusalem. I will do anything for Jesus!”

Paul’s friends were amazed that Jesus would help Paul obey Jesus, even if it was going to be hard to do. Paul’s friends said they would obey Jesus, too!

Soon, Paul and his friends left for Jerusalem. When he was there, Paul went to the Temple, a special place where people prayed to God. (Put hands together as if praying.) Some people who did not love Jesus saw Paul there. (Tape “Angry Crowd” picture onto a can.) They weren’t glad that Paul was praying. They were angry that he was in the Temple. (Show angry face.) They did not want to hear Paul say that Jesus is God’s Son.

“Look!” they shouted. (Point.) “This man does not obey God’s rules.” Soon everyone was angry and shouting! Some soldiers heard the noise and ran to the crowd to see what was happening. (Tape pictures of “Roman Commander” and “Soldiers” onto cans.)

The leader of the soldiers had chains put on Paul’s hands. “Who is this man? What has he done?” the leader asked.

Everyone shouted at the same time! The crowd got noisier and NOISIER. Paul asked, “May I talk to these people?” The leader told Paul he could talk. (Put finger to lips.) Shhh. (Whisper.) When everyone became quiet, Paul said, “I used to hurt people who loved Jesus. But now I don’t. Now I love Jesus, too. God has told me to tell all people the good news that Jesus is God’s Son. (Shout.) Let me say that again: “JESUS IS GOD’S SON!” I am obeying what God told me to do.” Paul was glad to tell about Jesus!

God’s Word & Me

Jesus helped Paul to tell others about Jesus, even when people were angry. The Bible tells us, “Jesus gives me strength.” This verse means that Jesus helps us obey Him. One way we can obey Him is by telling others that Jesus loves them. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Please help us to tell others about Your love. Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 21:8-22:29



Collect

Bible, oversized belt.

Introduction

Open the wrapper on the energy bar without tearing the Daily Truth. Take a bite. Pretend to gain energy. Stand and ask the children to do five jumping jacks with you.

What do energy bars do for your body? That’s right. They give you energy. The nutrients in the energy bar help make your body strong. This week we are going to learn about a time when Paul was made strong, but his strength didn’t come from an energy bar! It wasn’t physical strength to do jumping jacks or climb high ropes at camp. It was a different kind of strength. Let’s open our Bible to Acts 21:8 to find out about it.

Tell the Story

(Select two volunteers to play Paul and Agabus. Give “Paul” an oversized belt to wear. Instruct volunteers to act out the story as it is told.) Paul was telling people the good news about Jesus in Caesarea. A prophet named Agabus (AG-uh-buhs) came to meet him. **What is a prophet?** (Invite children to respond.) **Prophets are men and women chosen by God to tell His messages to people.**

The Bible says that the prophet Agabus took Paul’s belt from around Paul’s waist. (*Volunteers demonstrate story action.*) Agabus tied his own hands and feet with it. He then warned Paul that the Jews of Jerusalem were going to tie Paul up like this and hand him over to the Gentiles. (Gentiles are people who are not Jewish.) (*“Agabus” sits down. Invite 3 volunteers to be Paul’s friends.*)

When Paul’s friends heard this warning, they were worried! They knew Paul planned to visit Jerusalem very soon. “Please don’t go,” they begged. “Stay away from Jerusalem.” They were so upset and concerned for Paul’s life that they began to cry!

Paul said, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be tied up, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Paul’s friends were amazed! Paul was not afraid, he knew that Jesus gave Paul the strength to continue telling others about following Jesus. (*Hold up energy bar wrapper and read Daily Truth.*) Paul was strengthened by Jesus. So Paul’s friends agreed, “Whatever God wants, we pray it will be done.” (*Volunteers sit down.*)

Paul and his friends soon left for Jerusalem. And when he was there, Paul went to the Temple, where many Jews had come to pray. Some of the men who hated Paul saw him. The men grabbed Paul while others shouted, “Here’s the man who’s teaching everyone to hate our people and to ignore our laws!”

Of course these things the people were saying were NOT true. But the people were angry. They seized Paul and dragged him from the Temple. Paul probably would have been killed right then if a commander in the Roman army hadn’t heard the noise! He came rushing over with his soldiers.

The crowd stopped beating Paul when they saw the soldiers. “Arrest this man,” the Roman commander ordered his soldiers. “Put chains around him while I find out what the problem is!” They wrapped Paul up in chains, just as Agabus the prophet had warned! The Roman commander asked the crowd to explain the uproar.

Everyone shouted at the same time! The crowd became nosier and NOISIER. Paul asked the commander, “May I say something?” Paul told the commander that he wanted to speak to the crowd. The commander told Paul he could talk. So Paul began his speech. “My dear brothers, listen to what I have to say.” Paul began to tell

Lesson Eight

the story of his life. He described how he had been taught by respected Jewish leaders to worship and obey God. “When the followers of Jesus first appeared in this city,” Paul said, “I arrested and hurt them because I hated them.”

Paul went on to describe his trip to Damascus and meeting Jesus on the way. “Ever since, I have believed that Jesus is God’s Son! God has commanded me to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to ALL people,” Paul said. “God has sent me far away to the Gentiles so that they, too, can have a chance to hear and believe in Jesus.”

The crowd listened to Paul up until this point. They then shouted, “Rid the earth of him! He is not fit to live!” The crowd didn’t want to hear that God wanted to include Gentiles (non-Jews) in His family. They were so angry that they flung off their coats and threw dirt into the air!

The Roman commander quickly moved Paul inside his headquarters to keep him there as a prisoner. Even though he was in jail, Jesus gave Paul strength to keep on telling about Him.

God’s Word & Me

Just as Jesus gave Paul strength to tell others the good news when it was hard, Jesus will give us strength, too. We need to pray and ask Jesus for His help. No matter how little or how much you know about Jesus, if you believe Jesus is God’s Son and are a part of God’s family, Jesus will help you tell others

why you chose to follow Him and tell about what you’ve learned. Just ask Him!

Listen to these words Paul wrote about strength. Read or ask a child to read Philippians 4:13 aloud.

- **What do you think this verse means? How would you explain this verse to a friend? When are times you need strength to tell about Jesus?**
- **What might be hard about telling others about Jesus?**
- **We can pray now and ask Jesus to give us strength.** Pray with children, asking Jesus to give them strength to tell others about His love, even when it is hard.



Missions Focus

Why might a missionary need strength to tell about Jesus?

In what ways do you think Jesus gives strength to missionaries?

What are ways we can help strengthen missionaries on their journeys to tell others about Jesus?

Game Center



for younger children • Acts 21:8-22:29

Collect

Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, star sticker, construction paper, stickers.

Prepare

Place a star on one sheet of construction paper. Lay papers in a large circle on the floor, laying paper with the star facedown.

Do

1. Children stand in a circle around the sheets of paper. While music plays, children walk or dance around the circle.
2. When music stops, children place one foot on any sheet of paper and then shout, "Jesus helps me!"
3. Children turn over paper their feet are touching. The child whose paper contains the star gets a small prize or snack. Play several rounds, mixing up the pieces of paper each time, until all children have been "winners."



God's Word

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

For Younger Children:
"Jesus gives me strength."

God's Word & Me

Jesus gives me strength so that I can continue telling about Him.

Talk About

- In our game today, we said "Jesus helps me." That's just what the Bible says Jesus does! The Bible says, "Jesus gives me strength." This verse means that Jesus helps us obey Him. Every day we can obey Jesus to show how much we love Him.
- One way to obey Jesus is to tell others that Jesus loves them. Who is someone in your family you can tell about Jesus' love?
- We can ask Jesus to help us. He loves us and wants to help us keep on doing what is good! Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, we love You. We want to obey You. Please help us every day. Thank You. Amen.

For Older Children

The children whose feet are touching the paper with the star recite the memory verse and then receive a small prize or snack.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 21:8-22:29

Collect

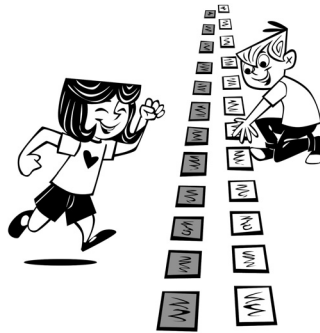
Bible, 24 index cards in two colors, marker, masking tape, measuring stick.

Prepare

Letter each word of the Bible verse onto a separate index card. Make two sets of cards. Lay two masking-tape lines approximately 20 feet (6 m) apart. Scatter verse cards on floor between the two lines.

Do

1. Children form two teams. Teams are assigned a specific color index card. Each team stands behind a masking-tape line. Number each child so that the given numbers are the same for each team.
2. Call out a number. Child with that number from each team runs to the middle, grabs a verse card and runs back. Continue to call out numbers until teams have collected every word of the Bible verse. When all cards are collected, teams race to put the cards in correct verse order. Read verse with all children.



Talk About

- What's the main idea of Philippians 4:13? What word in this verse do you think is most important? Why?
- What are some of the things Jesus gives us strength to do? (Do our best every day. Obey Jesus. Be honest.)
- One action Jesus gives us strength to do is to help others learn about His love. What are some ways we can do that?
- What might make it hard for you or a friend to tell people about Jesus? (Shy. Don't know what to say.)
- Let's ask Jesus right now to give us strength so we can keep on telling people about His love. Lead children in prayer, asking for Jesus to give them strength and the awareness that He is with them.

God's Word

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

For Younger Children:
"Jesus gives me strength."

God's Word & Me

Jesus gives me strength so that I can continue telling about Him.

Missions Focus

Why might a missionary need strength to tell about Jesus?

In what ways do you think Jesus gives strength to missionaries?

What are ways we can help strengthen missionaries on their journeys to tell others about Jesus?

For Younger Children

Write the first word of the Bible verse on a card and then write the number "1" on the other side of the card. Continue with each word of the verse and number the card according to the word order of the verse. Place cards, numbered-side up, on the floor at one side of the room. Children line up on the opposite side. When you call a child's name, he or she runs and finds the number one card. The next child called runs and finds the number two card and so on until all cards are selected. Children then put the cards in numbered order and then flip them over so that an adult can read the words of the verse in order. Read the verse aloud and children repeat it.

Art Center



for younger children • Acts 21:8-22:29

Collect

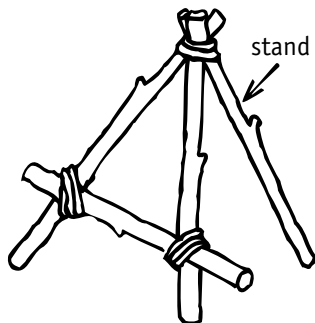
Bible, card stock, scissors, markers, stamp pads in a variety of colors, disposable wipes, glue, instant camera and film (or ask each child to bring in his or her picture from home).

Prepare

Cut card stock into 5 1/2x8-inch (14x20.5-cm) pieces, two for each child. Cut rectangular-shaped holes out of the centers of half of the pieces to make picture frames. Write "SomeBuggy's Strong!" in the lower area of each frame. Set aside uncut pieces of poster board for backs of frames. Make a sample photo frame.

Do

1. Children take turns to be photographed with instant camera making "strong" poses.
2. Child presses fingers onto stamp pad and then onto picture frame to make prints. Child (or with adult help) creates bug shapes out of the prints by drawing legs, antennae, etc.
3. Help child add glue to sides and bottom of back of frame and then lay back piece over back of frame. When glue has set, insert child's photo taken during session.



God's Word

"I can do everything through him
who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

For Younger Children:
"Jesus gives me strength."

God's Word & Me

Jesus gives me strength so that
I can continue telling about Him.

Talk About

- The Bible says, "Jesus gives me strength." This verse means that Jesus helps us obey Him. Every day we can obey Jesus to show how much we love Him.
- We can obey Jesus by being kind. Who can you be kind to this week?
- Another way to obey Jesus is to tell others that Jesus loves them. Who is someone in your family you can tell about Jesus' love?
- We can ask Jesus to help us. He loves us and wants to help us keep on doing what is good! Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, we love You. We want to obey You. Please help us every day. Thank You. Amen.

For Older Children

Invite older children to make twig easels for their frames. Use four straight twigs cut to about 8 inches (20.5 cm) for each easel. Child forms twigs into a triangle, securing with small rubber bands (see sketch). Child then secures one end of the fourth twig to the top of triangle and pulls it out to make the easel.

Art Center

for older children • Acts 21:8-22:29

Collect

Bible, newspaper, smooth rocks, permanent markers, tempera or acrylic paints in a variety of colors, swabs or brushes; optional—stickers, paper, fabric, glue sticks, scissors.

Prepare

Cover work area with newspaper.

Do

1. Brainstorm with children what words or pictures might remind them that Jesus gives us strength.
2. Child selects a rock and chooses a way to make the rock a reminder of Jesus' strength (write a word or phrase from Philippians 4:13, draw or paint the rock with a symbol, etc.). (Optional: Child may glue items of his or her choosing onto rock—stickers, paper or fabric.)
3. When children have finished, invite volunteers to explain the significance of their rocks.



Talk About

- Tell children about a time you didn't think you could do something and Jesus helped you. What happened? Then invite children to tell.
- What is something you or a friend might need help to do? What might be hard about showing people Jesus' love? About telling others about Jesus? When do you think you or a friend might need strength from Jesus to show and tell others about Him?

God's Word

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

For Younger Children:
"Jesus gives me strength."

God's Word & Me

Jesus gives me strength so that I can continue telling about Him.

Missions Focus

Why might a missionary need strength to tell about Jesus?

In what ways do you think Jesus gives strength to missionaries?

What are ways we can help strengthen missionaries on their journeys to tell others about Jesus?

- Who could you tell about Jesus' love this week? How might you tell that person? Let's ask God to give us strength to do this. Pray, asking God to give children strength to love other people and tell them about Jesus.

For Younger Children

Children paint or draw happy faces or hearts on rocks as desired as reminders of Jesus' love and help.

Worship Center



Acts 21:8-22:29

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247-248), strips of paper, bowls for each team, large rock, butcher paper, construction paper, markers.

Prepare

Make sets of at least six identical paper strips for each team: on each strip list a different action (five jumping jacks, turn around three times, touch toes, walk side ways three steps, etc.). Place each set in a bowl. Set bowls at one end of the room.

Team Game

Children form two or more teams. Up to six children from each team line up on the side of the room opposite from the bowls. As “Get Strong” plays, one child from each team runs to the bowl, selects a paper, runs back to team and reads strip of paper. All children on the team perform action written on the paper. Next child in line takes a turn. Game ends when one entire team has completed the relay.

Bible Verse Game

Repeat Philippians 4:13 aloud with children. Children sit in a circle on the floor around a large piece of butcher paper. Children play a game of Hot Potato, passing a rock while “Get Strong” plays. Occasionally stop the music. Child with rock is given a marker and writes the first word of the Bible verse on the butcher paper. Continue in this way until each word of the verse is written on the paper. Children then lead the verse aloud.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Get Strong,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

Worldwide Prayer

We can encourage missionaries from our church to have strength in Jesus to continue telling others the good news. We can pray for them and letting them know about our prayer. Pray as a class for a specific

God’s Word

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13

For Younger Children:
“Jesus gives me strength.”

God’s Word & Me

Jesus gives me strength so that I can continue telling about Him.

Missions Focus

Why might a missionary need strength to tell about Jesus?

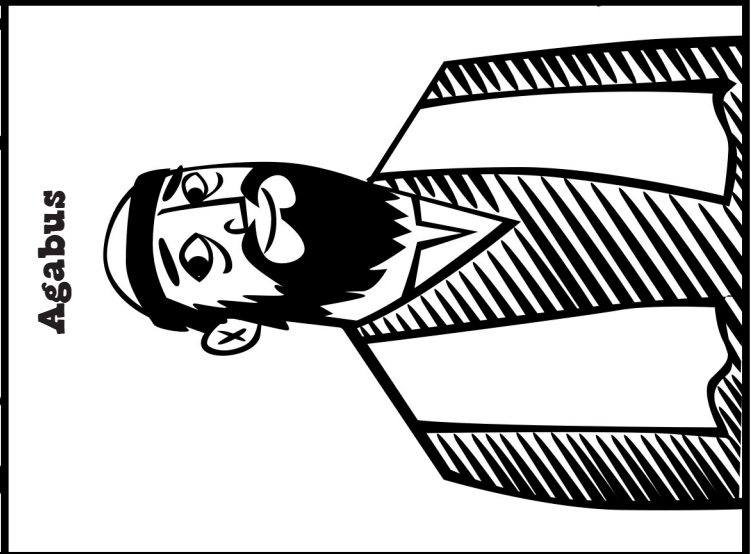
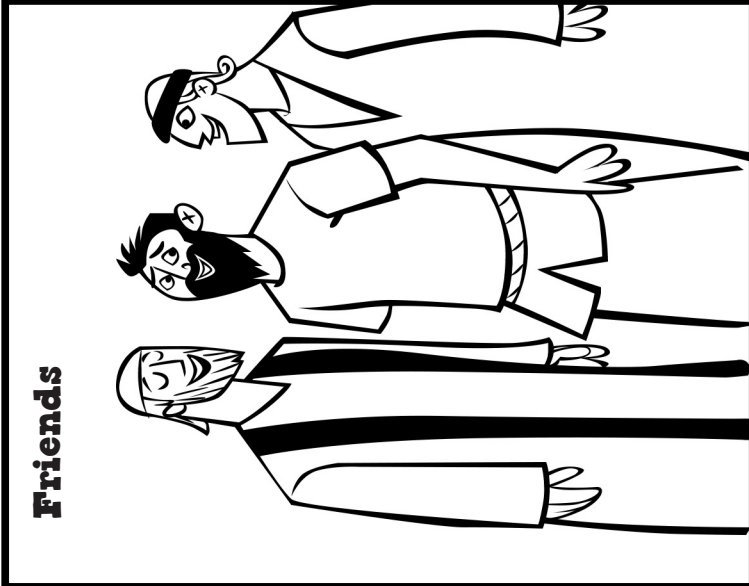
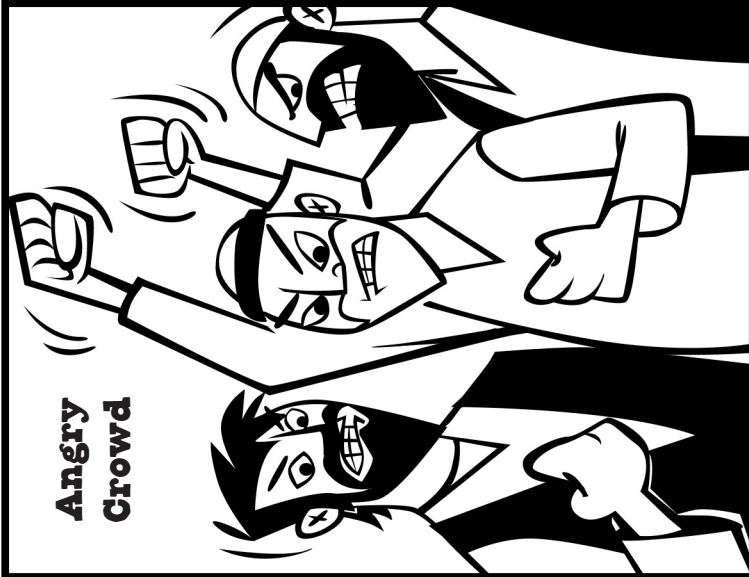
In what ways do you think Jesus gives strength to missionaries?

What are ways we can help strengthen missionaries on their journeys to tell others about Jesus?

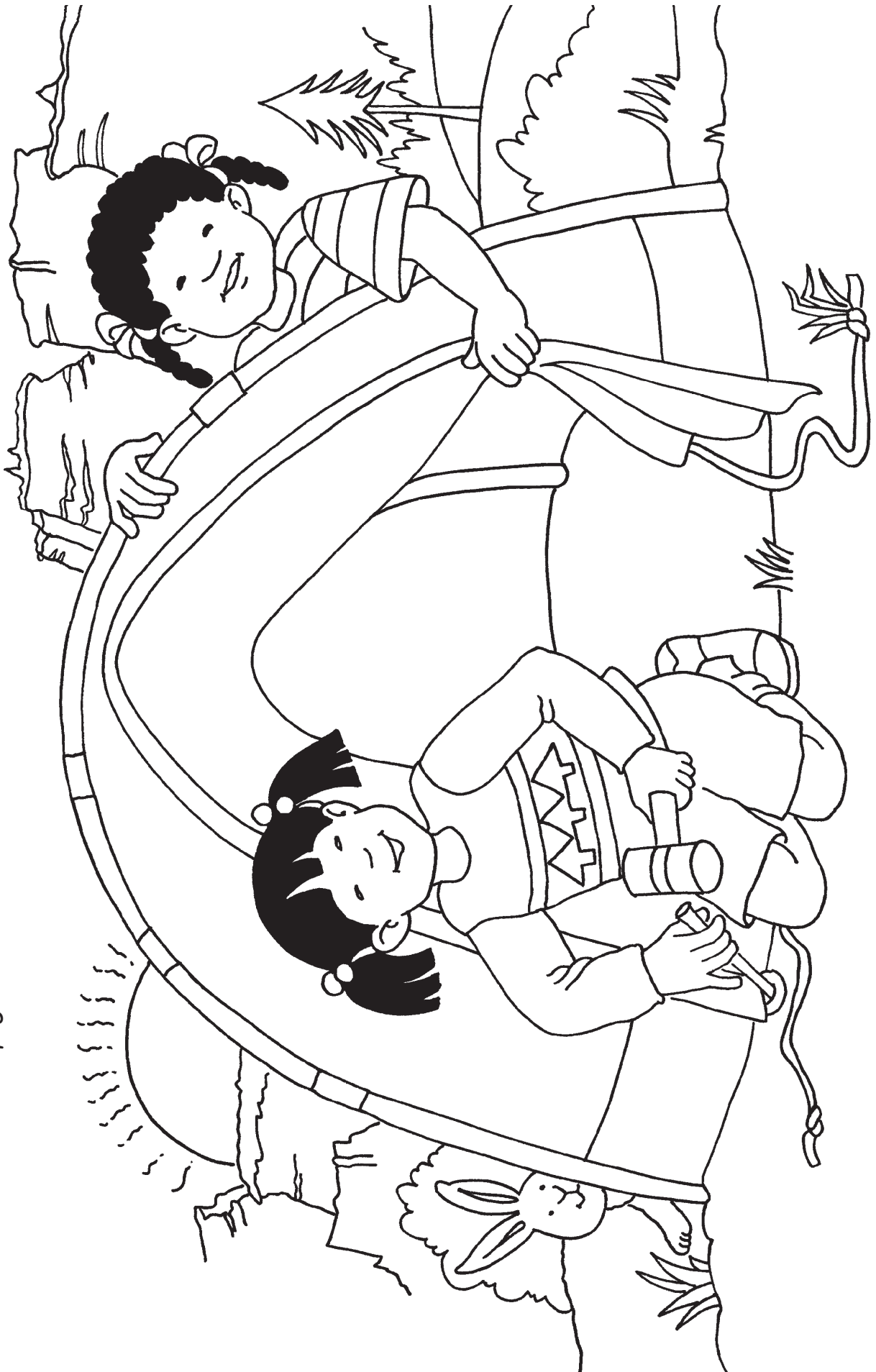
missionary or missionary family from your church. On an 11x14-in (28x35.5-cm) colorful sheet of construction paper write the name of the family and the words, “We prayed for you today.” Invite children to sign their names on the paper. (Optional: Mail paper to missionary family.)

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Spread the Good News,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

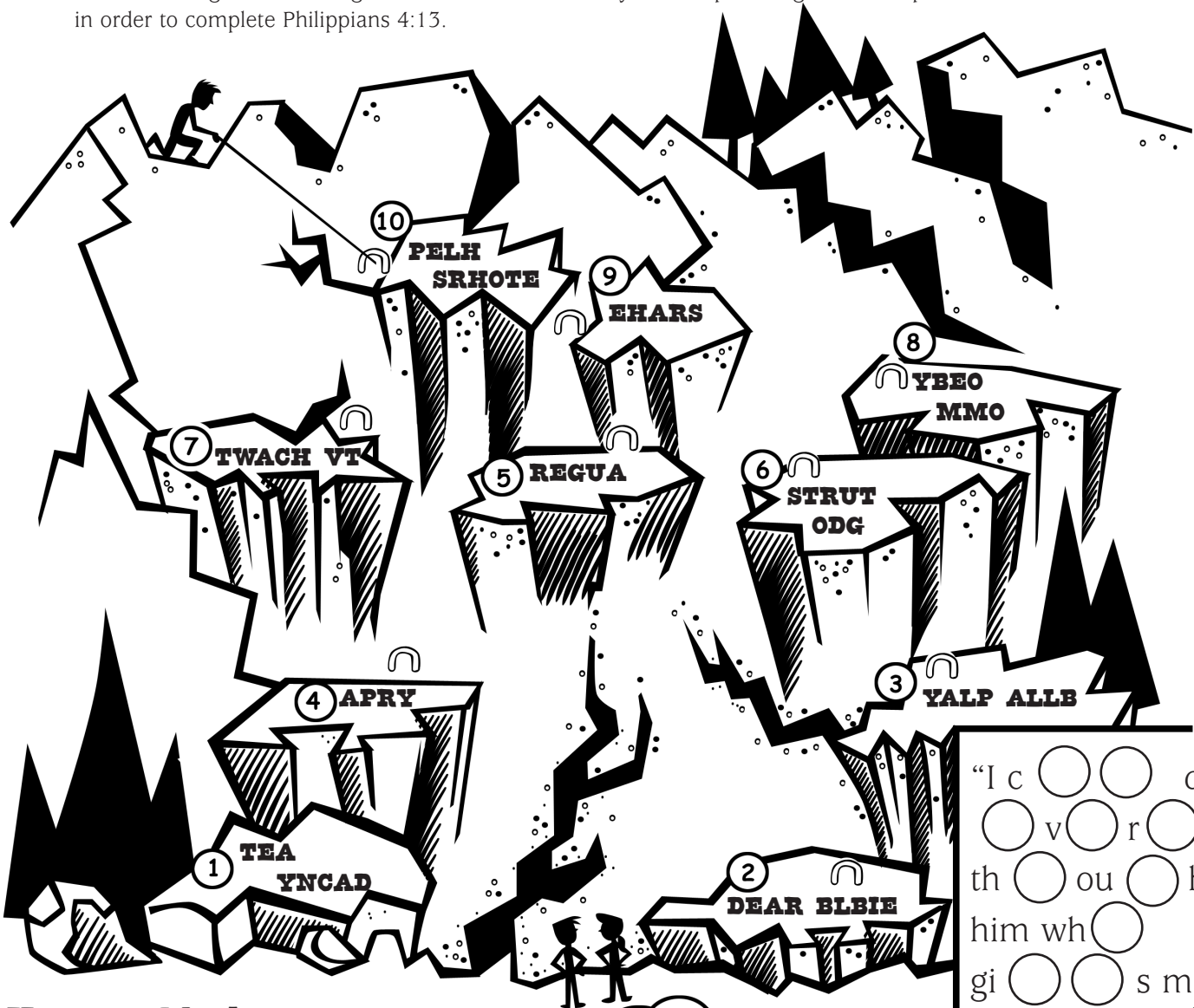


“Jesus gives me strength.” (See Philippians 4:13.)
Ask Jesus to help you tell about His love.



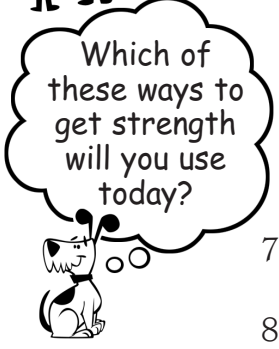
Climb the Wall!

It takes a lot of strength to climb a wall like this! Unscramble the words and then decide which ways will help you become stronger. Draw straight lines between those ways (like ropes!) to get to the top! Then use the circled letters in order to complete Philippians 4:13.



Unscramble here:

1. E _ _ _ C _ _ _ D _ _ _
2. R _ _ _ _ IB _ _ _
3. P _ _ A _ _ B _ _ _ _ _
4. _ _ _ y
5. AR _ _ U _ _
6. _ _ R _ _ _ T _ _ _ D



7. _ _ AT _ _ _ _ _
8. _ _ B _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _
9. _ _ H _ _ R _ _
10. _ _ EL _ _ _ _ _ RS

“I c _ _ do
 _ v _ r _ thing
 th _ ou _ h
 him wh _
 gi _ _ s me
 _ tr _ ng _ _ .”
 Philippians 4:13

Courage from Jesus

Bible Story • Paul's Courageous Nephew • Acts 23:12-35



God's Word

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;
be men of courage; be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13

For Younger Children:

"Have courage to do what is right."

God's Word & Me

When it's hard to do what is right,
Jesus gives me courage.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary need courage to do?

Who might Jesus give to help a
missionary have courage?

What promise of Jesus would help
a missionary have courage?

Teacher's Devotional

It's hard enough to be a kid, but being a kid and doing what is right—especially when friends are not—is even tougher. We all have succumbed to peer pressure at some time; it takes courage to do what is right when others are going their own way! That's one reason it is satisfying to see a child do right, especially when it's not easy or has no tangible payoff.

God had put Paul's nephew in the right place at the right time to find out about the plot against Paul. More than that, Paul's nephew did the right thing with what he heard. He thoughtfully brought the information to Paul and then to those in authority. He didn't expect anything in return (except his uncle's safety), but God protected Paul's life in an unusual way through his nephew's right action.

The courage which right action requires is more likely to be "caught than taught." When parents, grandparents, teachers and mentors consistently model that kind of courageous attitude, our children see it! Our actions can often encourage them to do right more powerfully than words alone ever could. We need to make sure our actions—in church and out—reveal what we believe. Action and example do far more than any words we speak to help give our children courage to do what is right!

Planning Page



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 • Paul's Courageous Nephew • Acts 23: 12-35

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Build a fort to illustrate the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show climbing ropes and carabiner to illustrate the Daily Truth "Courage from Jesus"

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make musical door hangers as a reminder that Jesus gives us courage to do what's right

Materials • Bible, 16-ounce (480-ml) plastic cups, hole punch, scissors, permanent markers, yarn, jingle bells

Older Child Option • Make Courage Necklaces as a reminder that Jesus gives us courage to do what is right

Materials • Bible, plastic cord or lanyard, scissors, shell beads or pony beads; for each child—enough alphabet beads to spell out "courage"

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Search for hidden acorns to discover the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, acorns or paper acorn-shaped cutouts, index cards, permanent marker

Older Child Option • Play a game like "Horse," substituting the word "Courage" to talk about the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, chair, one hula hoop, masking tape, two bottles of bubbles

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 9 Coloring Page (p. 169) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review ways of having courage while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 9 Puzzle Page (p. 170) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246, 253)



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 theme excitement.

How Many Acorns Do You See?

Display a large jar filled with acorns, pebbles or beads. As children arrive, invite them to guess how many acorns are in the jar. Children write their name and estimate on a piece of paper and place it in a basket beside the jar. At the end of class, tell the actual number. Whoever had the closest guess receives a special prize.

Acorn DoughNUTS

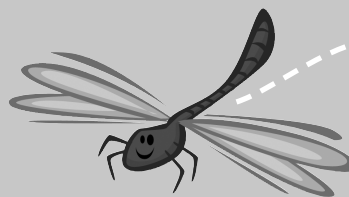
Place chocolate frosting in several shallow bowls; lay out several plastic knives. Crumble toffee or graham crackers and place crumbles on small paper plates. Set out a bowl of pretzel sticks. Give each child a doughnut hole. Instruct children to spread chocolate icing on about $\frac{1}{2}$ of doughnut hole and then roll the frosted top in crumbles. Child sticks short piece of pretzel into doughnut for the stem. Like squirrels, children will want to gather these acorn doughnuts as quickly as possible—but not for the upcoming winter!

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



Prayer Globe

Sit with children in a circle. Throw an inflatable globe to a child. Ask the child to hold up the globe and identify the country his or her thumb landed closest to. Then pray as a class for that country. Child throws the globe to another child. Again, pray for the country nearest to the child's thumb. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn.



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 23:12-35



Collect

Four chairs; optional—picture of your aunt or uncle.

Introduction

Raise your hand if you have an aunt or uncle. (Optional: Show a picture of your aunt or uncle.) **This is a picture of my [aunt or uncle]. Today we are going to hear a true story from this book, THE BIBLE!** Show Bible. **We are going to hear about a boy and his uncle. Let’s listen to find out what happened!**

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.) Paul was in BIG trouble, not for doing anything BAD, but for doing something VERY GOOD. Paul had been telling people the good news about Jesus. But some people who did not love Jesus heard Paul talking about Jesus. They became very angry. (Show angry face.) And Paul was put in jail AGAIN! This jail was like a big fort. Let’s build a fort right now. (Line up four chairs in a square and drape a blanket over it.)

While Paul was locked up inside the big fort, there were 40 people that were still VERY angry. Can you count to 40? Let’s count to 40 together. (Quickly count to forty.) These 40 angry people made a terrible plan. They made a plan to hurt Paul! These men promised each other that

they wouldn’t eat any food (*hold up box of crackers*) or even drink any water (*hold up water bottle*) until they had hurt Paul! They were certain that the plan would work. Is that a very kind thing to do? NO! (*Shake head, no.*)

What these men didn’t know was that JESUS had a plan, too! Paul’s nephew heard their plan to hurt Paul. Instead of being afraid, he was VERY brave. Paul’s nephew went straight to his Uncle Paul! He told his Uncle Paul what he had heard.

Paul called one of the guards. “Take this young man to the commander,” Paul said. “He has something to tell him.”

Paul’s nephew went to the commander. The commander took him by the hand. He brought him to a quiet place and asked, “What is it you wanted to tell me?”

Paul’s nephew might have been a *little* scared to talk to the commander (*make a frightened face*), but he was brave. He told the commander everything he had heard. He said, “The angry men want to hurt my uncle, Paul!”

The commander told Paul’s nephew, “Don’t tell anyone what you told me.” Then he called for 200 soldiers, 70 men on horses and 200 men with spears. That’s a lot of people! We won’t try to count THAT high!

Then the commander wrote a letter to the governor. He gave the letter to his helper. And that same night, all 470 men and their horses started walking out of the city. What a parade! (*Stand up and walk in place.*) Men with swords and spears, men on horses—all left the city in the moonlight. And somewhere in the middle of all those soldiers was Paul! The 40 men waiting to hurt Paul NEVER even saw him leave. Paul had escaped! HOORAY!

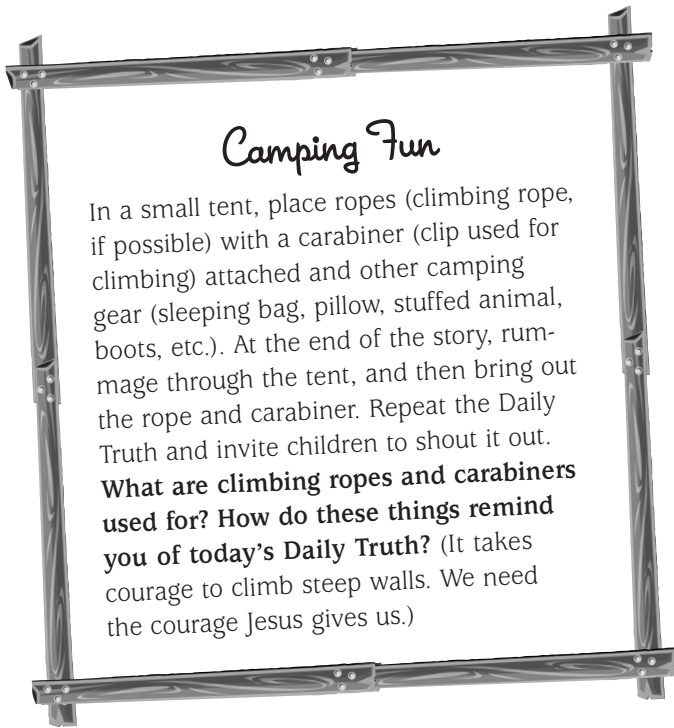
(*Sit down.*) The next day Paul came to the governor’s palace. The governor gave Paul a room in the palace. But guards stayed with him to keep him safe. Even though angry people had tried to stop Paul from telling people about Jesus, Paul was kept safe! Now he had even MORE people he could tell about JESUS!

God’s Word & Me

Paul must have been very glad his nephew had courage to do what was right. His nephew’s brave action saved Paul’s life! We can be brave and do good things, too. Pray. Dear Jesus, please help us to be brave and do good things. Help us to tell others about Your love. Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 23:12-35



Collect

Bible, paper, envelope, pen.

Introduction

Tell a brief story of when you needed courage to do the right thing. **When have you or someone you know needed courage to do what is right?** Invite children to respond. **Today we are going to learn about a young man who needed courage. Let's find out what happened.**

Tell the Story

Paul was in the Roman prison in Jerusalem, and he may have felt like it was the safest place he could be! The leaders in Jerusalem had stirred up a lot of trouble for Paul. In fact, he had almost been killed by an angry crowd that rioted outside the Temple. The Roman commander had ordered his soldiers to rescue Paul from the crowd and keep him in prison.

But Jesus had plans for Paul that didn't include Paul staying a prisoner forever. Jesus came to Paul and gave him a special message. He said, "Take courage! As you told about Me in Jerusalem, you will also tell about Me

in Rome." This was amazing news for Paul! He had hoped and prayed for the chance to preach the good news about Jesus in the most powerful city of the world—Rome. Now he knew his prayer was going to be answered! And Jesus was going to give him courage!

But the next morning, more than 40 men gathered together in a secret meeting. (*Whisper.*) They decided on a way to get rid of Paul once and for all! The men quickly hurried off to ask the leaders of Jerusalem for their help.

And guess what those men told the leaders! They said that they had made a solemn promise not to eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul!

"You'd better have a good plan or you'll be hungry and thirsty for a long time!" the leaders said. "Just how are you going to kill Paul?"

"It's important we get rid of Paul NOW," the men explained to the leaders. "But we will need your help. Tell the Roman commander who is holding Paul prisoner that you want to have Paul brought to meet with you," the men said. "Say that you have some questions to ask him. We will kill Paul when he is brought here to see you."

"Are you sure this plan of yours will work?" the leaders asked.

"We are SO sure," the men answered "that we will not break our promise not to eat or drink until Paul is killed!"

It probably didn't take the leaders long to agree to help the men. After all, they also wanted to put a stop to Paul's preaching. Surely nothing would go wrong with this plan.

But something DID go wrong! The son of Paul's sister—Paul's nephew—heard of the men's plot to kill Paul. This young man didn't waste any time when he heard the frightening news. He could have kept the news a secret, but he bravely hurried off to tell his Uncle Paul. When Uncle Paul heard the news, he quickly sent his nephew to the commander.

"What is it you have to tell me?" the commander asked. Paul's nephew was probably nervous talking with the commander of hundreds of Roman soldiers. It took courage to tell the commander what he had found out. But, his uncle's life depended on it! So what did this young man tell the commander? He told him EVERYTHING he had heard about the plot to kill Paul.

The commander was very disturbed by this news. By now the commander knew that Paul deserved protection because he was a Roman citizen. *I must get Paul out of Jerusalem quickly before these men have a chance to carry out their plan,* thought the commander.

Immediately he called two officers. He commanded them to get 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen to help Paul get safely to Governor Felix in Caesarea. While everyone was busy getting the soldiers and horsemen ready to leave, the commander wrote a letter to Governor.

(Pretend to write a letter on paper.) “Dear Governor Felix,” the commander wrote. “This man, Paul, was seized by the Jews here in Jerusalem. The Jews even tried to kill him. I rescued him because I discovered he was a Roman citizen.” At the end of the letter, the commander said he was ordering the Jews to bring their case against Paul to the governor himself. *(Fold letter, place in envelope and seal it.)*

That night, the gates of the army headquarters swung open and Paul—surrounded by 470 Roman soldiers—rode an army horse down the dark street and right out of Jerusalem’s city gates!

The next day, 70 horsemen rode on with Paul until he arrived safely in Caesarea. Governor Felix read the letter from the commander in Jerusalem. He said, “I will hear your case when your accusers get here.”

So Paul was still under arrest. But because Paul’s nephew had the courage to do what was right, Paul could safely continue telling the good news about Jesus! But we never do find out if those 40 men broke their vow and started eating and drinking again! They must have been REALLY hungry and thirsty! What do you think?

God’s Word & Me

Most of us probably won’t need the courage to save someone’s life like Paul’s nephew did. But there are times when it takes courage to choose between right and wrong. It can be really tough sometimes. But just like Jesus gave Paul and Paul’s nephew courage, He will give us courage, too. We only need to ask Him!

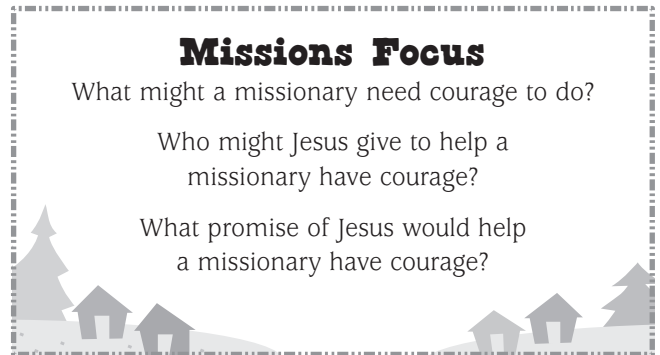
- What would have happened if Paul’s nephew had kept what he heard about the plot to kill Paul to himself? (Paul might have died.) **Paul’s nephew had courage. He did the right thing, even when it might have been hard to do.**
- What are some situations in which you or a friend might need courage to do the right thing?
- Listen to these words Paul wrote. Read or ask a child to read 1 Corinthians 6:13. **This verse tells us to have courage. When we’re scared by what we see or hear, we can ask Jesus to give us courage to do what is right in that situation.** Pray with children, asking Jesus to help them have courage to do what is right.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary need courage to do?

Who might Jesus give to help a missionary have courage?

What promise of Jesus would help a missionary have courage?



Game Center



for younger children • Acts 23:12-35

Collect

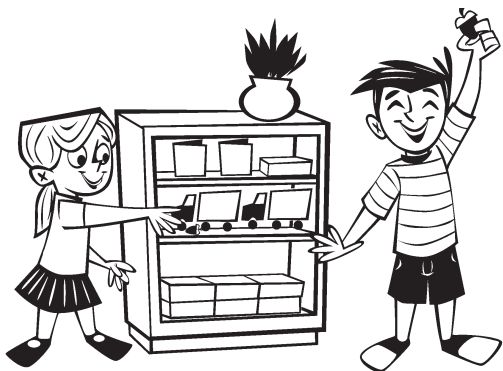
Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, acorns or paper acorn-shaped cutouts, index cards, permanent marker.

Prepare

Number each acorn, one to eight, repeating numbers as needed to make an acorn for each child. Write one word from the Bible verse on a separate index card, making a card for each child. Number back of cards from one to eight in verse order. Lay cards on the ground with numbers facing up. Hide acorns around the room.

Do

1. As “The Trail of Life” plays, children look for hidden acorns—one per child. Once they have found them, they bring them back to the group.
2. Children sit in a circle around the index cards. Children with acorns numbered “1” find the “1” index card and flip it over. Children with the acorn numbered “2” take a turn and so on until all cards are turned over and words of the verse are in order. Read the verse aloud, pointing to each word as you do so. Repeat the verse with children.



God's Word

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”

1 Corinthians 16:13

For Younger Children:

“Have courage to do what is right.”

God's Word & Me

When it's hard to do what is right,
Jesus gives me courage.

Talk About

- The Bible tells us, “Have courage to do what is right.” This verse means that we can be brave to do what is right.
- When are times you need to be brave to do what is right? (Tell the truth. Play fair.)
- Sometimes it can be hard to do what is right. When we need help to do the right thing, we can pray. We can ask Jesus to make us brave to do what is right. Jesus gives us grownups who can help us, too.
- Let's talk to Jesus right now and ask Him to make us brave to do what's right. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Please help us be brave when it is hard to do what is right. Amen.

For Older Children

Instead of writing the Bible verse on the index cards, write sentence starters. Here are some examples: “I don't feel brave when . . .,” “It's important to do the right thing when . . .,” “My friends are making fun of a new kid at school and I . . .,” “What is a way you can be brave and do what is right this week?” “Who can help you be brave?” After turning over cards, children complete sentences.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 23:12-35

Collect

Bible, chair, hula hoop, masking tape, two bottles of bubbles.

Prepare

Use masking tape to attach hula hoop to the back of a chair. Tape a starting line two feet (0.6 m) away from chair. Place bottles of bubbles at starting line. (Note: For a large group, prepare a game setup for each group of 8 to 10 children.)

Do

1. Play a game like “Horse,” but substitute the word “Courage.” Children take turns to stand at the starting line and blow a bubble, attempting to get it through the hoop.



2. If the bubble goes through the hoop, the child earns one letter from the word “Courage.” When team gets all seven letters, team answers a Talk About question.

Talk About

- Read or ask a child to read 1 Corinthians 6:13. **What do you think it means to be on your guard? What does it mean to stand firm in the faith? What does it mean to be “men of courage; be strong?”**
- **What are some situations in which you or a friend needs courage to do right?** (Tempted to cheat on a test. Stand up for a kid at school being bullied. Tempted to steal. People say there is no God.)
- **What can you do when you are in hard situations like these?** (Pray. Ask a friend or parent for help. Walk away.)
- **No one said following Jesus is easy. There are tough situations we might face, but the Bible says Jesus will give us courage. We can pray and ask Jesus for His help to do what is right when it’s hard to do.** Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus to give them courage when they are in tough situations.

God’s Word

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”

1 Corinthians 16:13

For Younger Children:

“Have courage to do what is right.”

God’s Word & Me

When it’s hard to do what is right,
Jesus gives me courage.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary need courage to do?

Who might Jesus give to help a missionary have courage?

What promise of Jesus would help a missionary have courage?

For Younger Children

Photocopy Lesson 9 Pattern Page (p. 168) and cut it apart. Set Situation Cards 10 feet (3 m) away from starting line. Form children into two teams. Leader sits at the front of each team with a bottle of bubbles. One at a time, children blow a bubble, run to the Situation Cards and then pick one. The child tells what the situation is on the card. Lead all children to call out the Bible verse, “Have courage to do what is right.” The child runs back to his or her team and the next child takes a turn.

Art Center



for younger children • Acts 23:12-35

Collect

Bible, permanent markers, scissors, hole punch; for each child—16-ounce (480-ml) plastic cup, four lengths of 8- to 10-inch (20.5- to 25.5-cm) yarn, six jingle bells.

Prepare

For each child, turn a cup upside down and write, “Be Brave” on each one. Punch two holes in bottom of cup, using scissors. Using a hole punch, punch three equally spaced holes around the top edge of cup, just below the lip.

Do

1. Give each child four lengths of yarn. Help each child thread one length of yarn through each hole in bottom of cup, knotting ends to make a loop for hanging.
2. Child threads one length of yarn through several jingle bells, tying each one to keep bells spaced on the yarn. Child repeats for other pieces of yarn.
3. Child threads and ties yarn with bells through holes near lip of cup.



God's Word

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”

1 Corinthians 16:13

For Younger Children:

“Have courage to do what is right.”

God's Word & Me

When it's hard to do what is right,
Jesus gives me courage.

Talk About

- Our door hangers say, “Be Brave.” When we open a door and hear the bells jingle, we can remember Jesus will help us to be brave.
- When are times we don't feel brave?
- Our Bible tells us, “Have courage to do what is right.” That means the same thing as “Be brave to do what is right.”
- What is a way you can be brave and do what is right this week? Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, please help us to be brave. Help us to do what is right. We love You. Amen.

For Older Children

Older children punch holes themselves and letter a phrase from 1 Corinthians 16:13 on their door hangers.

Art Center



for older children • Acts 23:12-35

Collect

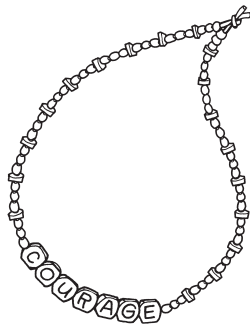
Bible, plastic cord or lanyard, scissors, shell beads or pony beads; for each child—enough alphabet beads to spell out “courage.”

Prepare

Cut cord or lanyard into 24-inch (61-cm) lengths.

Do

1. Child selects alphabet beads to spell out the word “courage,” laying beads out in word order.
2. Child knots the cord or lanyard around one blank bead so that beads won’t slip off. Child strings blank beads in a pattern and then adds alphabet beads to form the word “courage” in the center of necklace. Child continues to string blank beads to finish necklace.
3. Child ties the end of the cord or lanyard securely to the first bead.
4. Child wears necklace as a reminder that Jesus gives us courage to do what is right.



Talk About

- What are reasons you or a friend might be afraid to do something? (Don’t know how. Others might laugh. Not sure what to do.)
- What would you tell a friend to do if your friend said it is too hard to do what is right? What does God say He will do? (Give courage. Give strength.)
- God promises to give us the courage to do what is right. Let’s take a moment to think about a tough situation we might face this week. Silently ask God for the courage you need while I pray aloud. Pray, asking God to help kids remember He will give them courage if they will ask Him.

God’s Word

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”
1 Corinthians 16:13

For Younger Children:

“Have courage to do what is right.”

God’s Word & Me

When it’s hard to do what is right,
Jesus gives me courage.

Missions Focus

What might a missionary need courage to do?

Who might Jesus give to help a missionary have courage?

What promise of Jesus would help a missionary have courage?

For Younger Children

With adult help, child ties on first bead and then strings beads as desired. Adult may add alphabet beads as time and interest allow.

Worship Center



Acts 23:12-35

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246, 253), blindfold.

Prepare

Choose and print one or more missionary stories from CD-ROM.

Team Game

A person who explores a cave is called a spelunker. Spelunkers have to be very courageous because they never know what they might run into. Choose one player to be the Bear and another to be the Spelunker. Remaining children stand in a circle around the Bear and Spelunker. Blindfold the Bear and the Spelunker. On “go” the Bear tries to tag the Spelunker as they both walk around in the middle of the circle. When the Bear gets close to the Spelunker, the children standing clap their hands to warn the Spelunker that the Bear is near. When Bear tags Spelunker, choose a new Bear and a new Spelunker.

Bible Verse Game

Repeat 1 Corinthians 16:13 aloud with children. Form children into three teams. Call out a phrase of 1 Corinthians 16:13 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 effects. Repeat verse several times, increasing the speed of echoing the verse in each round, and periodically changing each team’s assignment.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “The Trail of Life,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

God’s Word

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;
be men of courage; be strong.”
1 Corinthians 16:13

For Younger Children:

“Have courage to do what is right.”

God’s Word & Me

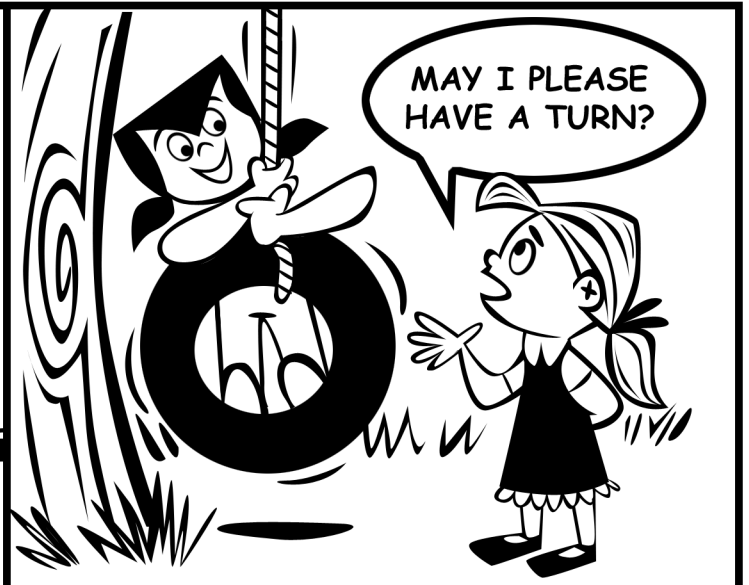
When it’s hard to do what is right,
Jesus gives me courage.

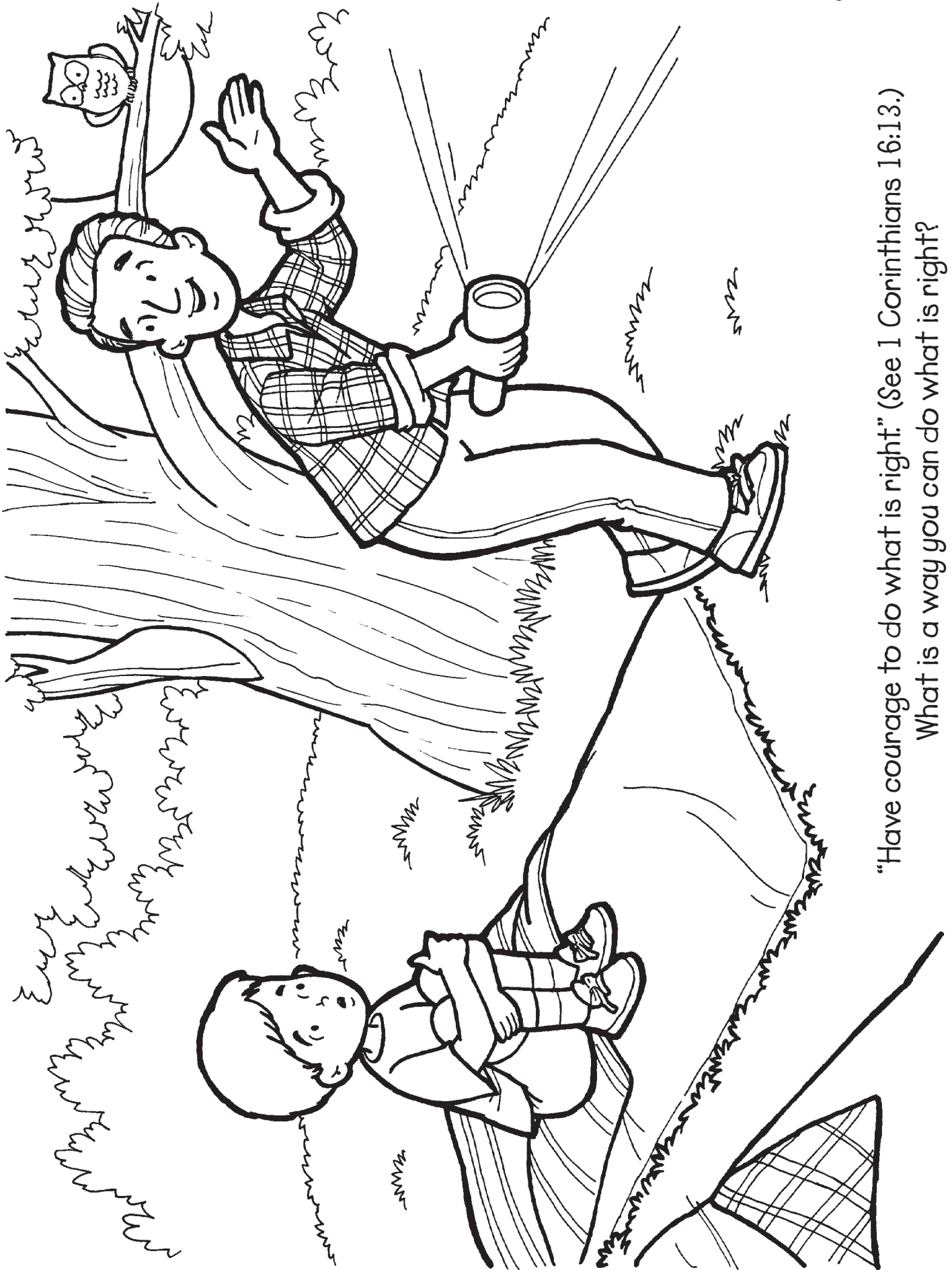
Worldwide Prayer

Read aloud one or more brief stories of courageous missionaries. Talk briefly about what the missionary did that showed courage to do what is right. Lead children in prayer asking Jesus to help missionaries all over the world have courage and stand firm in their special job—telling others the good news about Jesus.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “I’m Keepin’ My Eyes on Jesus,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.





“Have courage to do what is right.” (See 1 Corinthians 16:13.)
What is a way you can do what is right?

Bugs in the Berries!

Do bugs “bug” you? If you’re going to pick berries, you’ll have to find out what these bugs are telling you! Use the bug shapes and the berry patterns to decipher each word. Get close—be brave!

KEY:

-
- A 
 - E 
 - G 
 - H 
 - I 
 - O 
 - S 
 - T 



What will you ask Jesus to help you do this week?

What is one thing you need courage to do?

Witness for Jesus

Bible Story • Paul Survives a Storm • Acts 27:1-28:31

God's Word

"Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children:
"Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

What are some of the different ways missionaries help people learn about Jesus' love?

What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?

Teacher's Devotional

As teachers we know that there is huge value in our job, but at times it is not easy. No matter how easy a curriculum proclaims itself to be, a lot of work and time goes into teaching God's Word! When we're not prepared, children can sense it as soon as they walk through the classroom door. (They seem to have superhuman antennae tuned to find the unprepared teacher!) Immediately, we lose them. 1 Peter 3:15 states, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." This is a strong statement, and as teachers we are held to this high standard. We need to be prepared so that we can confidently tell children about Christ's love—even the littlest ones.

Paul may not have been telling children about Jesus' love, but he was ready when the time came to tell a group of jailers and sailors about Christ's love. And once he arrived in Rome, he welcomed all who came to see him, prepared to boldly preach about Jesus Christ.

To show respect to Christ, we should always be prepared to boldly teach Jesus' love to the children in our classrooms. But how? *Prayer* is the key. Spend quiet time with the Lord, asking Him to prepare *your* heart. Read through the Bible story. Find points in the story that really apply to you and your spiritual life. Then, why not try memorizing the weekly memory verse? When kids see you have put the time into memorizing, they know it's important! Then it will become important to them, as well. If we want to *reach* the children by teaching them, then we should be prepared—ready to tell about Jesus and His love. And being prepared must begin through prayer and study that changes our own hearts!

Planning Page



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 • Paul Survives a Storm • Acts 27:1—28:31

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show a toy boat, small fan and squirt bottle to illustrate the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show flashlight to demonstrate the Daily Truth “Witness for Jesus” and Bible verse

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Stick stars to a Nighttime Camp Scene while learning the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, Lesson 10 Pattern Page (p. 182), transparency, overhead projector, butcher paper, markers or paint, masking tape, star stickers, animal stickers, blindfold (bandanna, t-shirt, scarf, etc.)

Older Child Option • Play a game like Cakewalk and talk about ways to tell others about Jesus

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, construction paper, stop watch or watch with second hand

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make Star Streamers and talk about the meaning of the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, crepe paper in a variety of colors, string, star stickers, tape, scissors, measuring stick; for each child—one large plastic or wooden thread spool

Older Child Option • Make Shining Star Jars and talk about shining like stars when we tell others about Jesus

Materials • Bible, newspaper, glitter, several shoeboxes, baby food jars, small star stickers, glue in shallow containers, paintbrushes, ribbon, scissors, tea light candles

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 10 Coloring Page (p. 183) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 10 Puzzle Page (p. 184) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), four cardboard or paper stars, marker, tape, strips of paper, hat or bowl, butcher paper, world map or globe

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 theme excitement.

Camp Photo Day

Create lasting memories at Camp Photo Day! Ahead of time, send flyers home inviting families to bring their cameras and smiles for this session of *Rock-Solid Followers*! Set up a “camp photo studio” by (1) painting or drawing a camp scene on a length of butcher paper (use patterns on p. 234-237) or (2) putting up a small tent and other accessories (rolled-up sleeping bag, lantern, etc.) for a 3-D scene. Add a pretend campfire, camping chairs, roasting sticks and marshmallows. Families pose as if camping.

Gone Fishing!

Add blue food coloring to softened cream cheese to make it look like water. Place blue cream cheese into a large bowl. Place fish-shaped crackers in a separate bowl. Give each child four celery sticks, a paper plate and spoon. Children scoop out one or two spoonfuls of blue cream cheese and smooth it into a “lake” in the middle of the plate. Children place a handful of fish crackers on the cream cheese, then use the celery sticks to “catch” fish by scooping them and the cheese out of the “lake.”

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



German Pin the Tail on the Donkey

To help your group learn about children in Germany, play the following game. **Children play a game in Germany, called *Topfschlagen* which means “Hit the Pot” in English. This is Germany’s version of “Pin the Tail on the Donkey.” Today, we are going to play this game but with camping stickers and prizes.** One child is “It” and is blindfolded. Another child from the group puts a camping sticker or prize under a cooking pot and sets it somewhere in the room. The child who is “It” takes a spoon and crawls on the floor, banging the spoon on the floor. Other children may give directions like “hot” or “cold” to help the child find the cooking pot. When child finds the pot, he or she receives the prize. Continue playing, inviting another child to be “It.” After everyone has had a turn to be “It,” pray for the people and missionaries in Germany.



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Acts 27:1-28:31



Introduction

Show toy boat. **Where do people ride in boats?** (Rivers. Oceans.) **What do you think it would be like to be on a boat during a big storm?** Invite children to respond. **Listen to find out about Paul’s stormy trip on a boat.**

Tell the Story

Paul and many other people climbed onto a big boat called a ship. They were traveling to a big city called Rome on the other side of a big sea of water. It would take days and days and DAYS to sail across the big sea. The winds blew the ship far out on the sea. Paul and the other people on the ship could not see land anywhere. All they could see was the water around them. And all they could hear was the splish-splash of the little waves hitting against the sides of the big boat.

Then one day, the wind began to blow harder and harder. (*Turn on fan. Make wind noises.*) The waves splashed higher and higher. The waves rocked the ship up and down and from side to side. (*Rock back and forth.*) SPLASH! CRASH! (*Spray water from squirt bottle.*) The waves splashed high in the air and into the ship. The

waves almost knocked the ship over on its side! BIG dark clouds covered the sky. Rain came pouring down. (*Pat ground.*) It was VERY DARK. No one could see the stars at night or the sun during the day. Everyone on the ship was afraid! They thought they were going to drown! (*Turn fan off.*) But God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul that God would keep everyone on the ship safe.

Paul cared about the people on the boat. He gathered everyone together. He said, “Don’t be afraid. Last night God sent an angel to tell me that God will take care of all of us. Cheer up! Have some food to eat!” Paul trusted God. He said, “I KNOW that God will do what He says He is going to do.” The people began to feel hopeful. They were not as scared! Everyone ate some food.

Day after day, the wind kept blowing the ship harder and harder. (*Turn on fan. Make wind noise.*) Early one morning, the sailors saw land! They got ready to sail to the beach. But the big strong waves pushed the ship into some sand just under the water. CRASH! The ship broke into pieces. It began to sink! So all the people jumped into the water. Some people started swimming. (*Pretend to swim.*) Other people grabbed pieces of the broken ship and floated. Every person landed on the beach. They were safe on a little island! (*Turn fan off.*)

God had kept His promise. He had taken care of everyone on the ship. Paul must have been glad to tell the others how God keeps His promises. And the people on the boat must have been glad Paul had shown them God’s care and love. But the story doesn’t stop there.

Paul was given a house to live in right away! Paul invited lots of people to his house. He wanted to begin telling them about Jesus as soon as he could.

For two years, Paul invited people into his house. He taught them about Jesus. Many, many people heard the good news of Jesus. They became part of God’s family, too!

God’s Word & Me

Paul was ready to tell everyone he met the good news about Jesus! Even in the giant storm, Paul told people about Jesus’ love. We can be ready to tell others about Jesus, too! Pray, Dear Jesus, please help us to be ready to tell everyone we meet about Your love and care. We love You. Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Acts 27:1-28:31



Collect

Bible, fan, squirt bottle.

Introduction

When have you been in a storm? What happened during the storm? Invite children to respond. Today we're going to learn what happened when Paul and a ship full of people got caught in a great big storm on the sea.

Tell the Story

For over two years, Paul has been a prisoner. But now he was finally on his way to Rome. He was FINALLY going to tell his story to Caesar himself—the mighty Roman ruler! Paul was traveling with some friends, other prisoners and soldiers and Julius, a Roman centurion, was in charge of Paul.

They made several stops along the way. All together, there were 276 crew members and passengers on the ship.

The ship stopped at a town called Fair Havens. The sailors and passengers were glad to go ashore. But every day that they waited in Fair Havens, the chance of facing stormy weather grew worse!

Paul tried to warn Julius and the ship's captain to stay at Fair Havens, but the ship's captain disagreed with Paul. "Fair Havens is not a good place to stay!" he said. "We should go to a town called Phoenix. We'll spend the winter there." Julius listened to the confident captain and told him to set off for Phoenix.

At first the calm sea made it seem as if the captain had been right. A gentle wind blew behind the ship. (*Turn fan on low.*) But then the gentle winds became great big GUSTS! (*Turn fan on high.*) The waves grew larger and tossed the ship side-to-side. (*Spray water and invite children to rock side to side.*) Then ENORMOUS waves began to crash against the wooden ship. The powerful winds blew the ship farther and farther off course. The terrible storm raged as the passengers huddled together in fear. "We're all going to die!" cried the sailors. "Nothing can save us!"

In the middle of all this panic, Paul stood up. "I warned you not to leave Fair Havens," he said. "If you had listened to me, none of this would have happened. BUT—cheer up. I have good news! Keep up your courage, because no one will be hurt in this storm—only the ship will be destroyed." An angel of God had come and told Paul this good news. So Paul was eager to relay that message to the others. *Amazing!* the sailors may have thought. *A promise from God that we won't die?!* (*Turn off fan.*)

Then, at midnight on the fourteenth day of the storm, the sailors discovered that they were sailing in shallow water. They were nearing land! Not knowing if the land ahead was a smooth sandy beach or jagged rocks, the captain ordered his sailors to throw out the anchors. "That should slow us down," he said. "At day-break we'll be able to see what lies ahead!"

Paul urged everyone on the boat to eat. He assured them again that no one would be hurt in the storm. He prayed over their food and gave thanks to God for all of the people on the ship. Soon they were all eating and feeling hopeful.

When it was fully light, the passengers and sailors looked anxiously out toward the land up ahead. There was a sandy beach! The passengers must have cheered! The captain ordered the sailors to cut the anchors loose and head for shore.

But just when it seemed as though the ship was going to land safely, the front of the ship hit a sandbar. It got stuck. As huge waves crashed against the stranded ship, it began to break apart.

“We’d better kill all the prisoners,” said the soldiers. “Otherwise they’ll swim to shore and escape.” But the centurion Julius kept the soldiers from hurting Paul and the prisoners. God didn’t save Paul and the other prisoners from the storm just to let them be killed by the soldiers—He had promised they would all live!

So one by one, everyone from the ship jumped into the cold, wild waves and floated on pieces of the ship if they could not swim. They floated or swam toward the shore and dragged themselves up onto the beach of the island of Malta. The ship was in pieces. The cargo had sunk. But not ONE person had been lost at sea, just as God had promised! Paul’s encouraging words not only helped his traveling companions through a difficult time, but they also helped them learn about and trust in the power and care of the one true God! Paul was telling people about Jesus everywhere he went.

When Paul got to Rome, he was allowed to live in a house with a soldier guarding him. Right away, Paul invited the Jewish leaders to come to his house. There were many Jews living in Rome and Paul wanted to begin telling them about the Messiah, Jesus, as quickly as he could!

Paul greeted them politely and said, “Brothers, although I have not done anything against our people or our customs, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.” And Paul told his story.

For two years, Paul stayed in his own house and welcomed all who came to see him. The Bible says that Paul taught about Jesus “boldly and without hindrance.” Many people, both Jews and Gentiles, believed the good news.

Paul’s enemies back in Jerusalem had thought that by arresting Paul they were going to stop his preaching, but Paul hadn’t been slowed down by arguments, beatings, or even a shipwreck! No matter what happened, Paul was always prepared—always ready to tell others about Jesus!

God’s Word & Me

Sometimes we think that teaching others about Jesus is something only missionaries do in faraway lands, but that’s not true! We can all be ready to spread the good news about Jesus and help others believe in Him. We can pray for others and tell them what we know about Jesus. Listen to these words that Paul wrote.

Read or ask a child to read Philippians 2:15-16 aloud.

- **Why are people who tell about Jesus like stars?** (Stars give light to help people see. When we tell about Jesus, we help people “see” the best way to live.)
- **What are some ways we can shine like stars to help other people come to know Jesus?** (Be kind to others. Help others. Talk to people we know about Jesus. Invite them to church. Obey parents.)
- **What is the “word of life” this verse talks about?** (The good news that we can be saved and have eternal life because of Jesus.)
- **What are some ways we can make ourselves ready to tell others about Jesus?** (Pray. Read Bible. Attend church. Memorize Bible verses.) Pray with children, asking Jesus to help them to always be ready to tell others the good news in every situation.

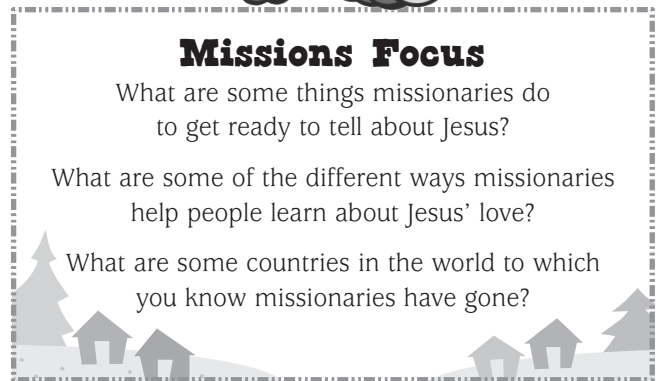


Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

What are some of the different ways missionaries help people learn about Jesus’ love?

What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?



Game Center



for younger children • Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

Bible, Lesson 10 Pattern Page (p. 182), transparency, overhead projector, butcher paper, markers or paint, masking tape, star stickers, animal stickers, blindfold (bandanna, t-shirt, scarf, etc.).

Prepare

Copy Pattern Page to the transparency. Using an overhead projector, enlarge and project Pattern Page. Trace onto butcher paper. (Optional: Sketch camp scene free-hand onto butcher paper.) Color or paint the Nighttime Camp Picture. Tape scene to wall at children's height. Prepare two pictures if you plan to divide a large group into two.

Do

1. Children line up approximately five feet (1.5 m) from Nighttime Camp Picture. Give each child a star sticker. Blindfold the first child in line. The child walks to the picture and sticks a star on it. The child takes off his or her blindfold to see where the star landed, and then everyone shouts the Bible verse.
2. Play until every child has taken a turn. If time permits, play a second round using animal stickers.



Talk About

- We're having fun sticking stars onto our Nighttime Camp Picture. Have you ever looked at the stars at night with your mom or dad or grandma or grandpa? What do stars do? (They shine. They give us light. They help us see.)

God's Word

"Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children:
"Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

- Our Bible tells us, "Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus." When we show God's love and tell the good news about Jesus, we're like night lights that help people see in the dark. We are shining like stars, helping people know about Jesus' love.
- Let's ask Jesus to help us shine like stars by loving people and telling them about Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, we love You. Please help us to be like shining stars so people know about Your love! Amen.

For Older Children

Number different areas of the Nighttime Camp Picture. (Tent = 100 points, tree = 200 points, sky = 1,000, etc.) Divide group into two teams. Children play the game in the same way, but each team scores points depending on location of their stickers. Team with the most points wins that round.

Game Center



for older children • Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, construction paper, stop watch or watch with second hand.

Do

1. Distribute construction paper to children. Ask, **What kinds or categories of people could you talk to about Jesus?** (Parents. Brothers. Sisters. Older neighbors. Younger kids. Grandparents. Grocery store workers.) As children name specific categories, write each on a separate sheet of paper. Compile a list on one sheet for your own reference. Continue until there is one paper for each child, repeating categories if needed.

2. Play a game like Cake-walk. Lay category papers in a circle on the floor. Play "Spread the Good News" as children move around the circle. After 15 to 20 seconds, stop the music. When the music stops, each child stands on the paper closest to him or her. Call out a category from your list. Children standing on that paper say something they can tell that person about Jesus. If child needs help thinking of things to tell others, ask the questions in the Talk About section. Repeat game as time permits, calling out a different category for each round.



Talk About

- **Who is Jesus? What did He do for all people? Why is that important? What is the most important thing you know about Jesus?**
- **When did you first learn about Jesus? Who talked to you about Jesus?**
- **What are some things you could tell others if they asked you about Jesus?** (Jesus loves me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves everyone. Jesus wants everyone to believe in Him. He wants to be everyone's friend.)
- **What are some other ways we can tell people about Jesus?** (Show a DVD about Jesus. Answer questions

God's Word

"Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children:
"Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

What are some of the different ways missionaries help people learn about Jesus' love?

What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?

about Jesus. Tell what you have learned from reading the Bible or from Sunday School. Give a book about a Bible story. Write a letter about when you chose to believe in Jesus. Invite people to church. Be kind and loving to everyone.) Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus to help them to share the good news with others.

For Younger Children

Place papers on floor in a circle. Draw a stick figure labeled "Jesus" on the paper. Children walk around circle as music plays. When the music stops, child closest to paper labeled "Jesus" says one thing he or she knows about Jesus.

Art Center



for younger children • Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

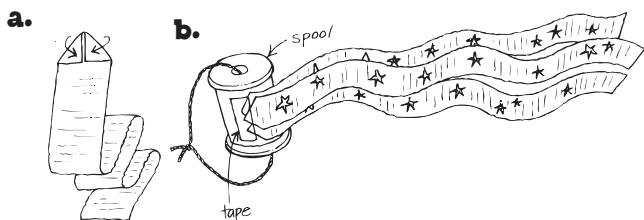
Bible, crepe paper in a variety of colors, string, star stickers, tape, scissors, measuring stick, for each child—one large plastic or wooden thread spool; optional—2-inch (5-cm) cardboard paper tube.

Prepare

Cut crepe paper into 1-yard (.9-m) lengths—three for each child. Cut string into 18-inch (45.5-m) lengths—one for each child.

Do

1. Give each child three lengths of crepe paper. Child decorates crepe paper lengths with star stickers as desired. Child folds one end of each streamer into a point (see sketch a).
2. Child tapes each streamer point securely onto spool and then threads string through center of spool. (Optional: Use cardboard tube instead of spool.) Help each child tie a knot to secure.
3. Child holds string handle to wave spool through the air, moving streamers.



God's Word

“Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children:
“Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus.”

God's Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

Talk About

- I see lots of stars on our streamers. Tell me about a time you have looked at the stars. What did you notice about the stars?
- The Bible tells us, “Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus.” When we show God’s love and tell the good news about Jesus, we’re like little lights that show people the way to Jesus. We are shining like stars!
- Let’s ask God to help us shine like stars by loving people and telling them about Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You. Please help us to be like shining stars so people know about Your love! In Jesus’ name, amen.

For Older Children

Using markers, children write, “Shine like stars” or other verse phrases on their crepe paper streamers.

Art Center



for older children • Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

Bible, newspaper, glitter, several shoeboxes, baby food jars, small star stickers, glue in shallow containers, paintbrushes, ribbon, scissors, tea light candles.

Prepare

Cover work area with newspaper. Pour glitter into shoeboxes.

Do

1. Give each child a jar. Child places star stickers as desired on outside of jar. Child paints a layer of glue all over outside surface of the jar.
2. Child then lays jar on its side in shoebox and rolls jar to cover it in glitter. Child shakes excess glitter off jar over shoebox.



3. When glue has set, child cuts a length of ribbon and ties it around the top of the jar. Child sets tea light candle inside jar. Child sets tea light candle inside jar.

Talk About

- Tell me about a time you have looked at the stars. What did the sky look like? The darker the sky, the better we can see the stars. Why do you think a person who tells about Jesus is like a star? Just like stars help people see, telling people about Jesus helps them “see” the best way to live.
- Philippians 2:15-16 tells us, “Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” How can you or a friend hold out the word of life? (Stick up for someone who needs a friend. Say good things instead of making fun of someone. Tell about Jesus.)
- When we show God’s love and tell the good news about Jesus, the Bible says we’re shining like stars!

God’s Word

“Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children:
“Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus.”

God’s Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

What are some of the different ways missionaries help people learn about Jesus’ love?

What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?

- Let’s think of one way we could shine like a star this week. Pray briefly, asking God’s help in “shining” by loving others and telling about Jesus.

For Younger Children

Provide dark colored construction paper. Children place star stickers on paper. Cut large star shapes from paper and hang from ceiling.

Worship Center



Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), four cardboard or paper stars, marker, tape, strips of paper, hat or bowl, butcher paper, world map or globe.

Prepare

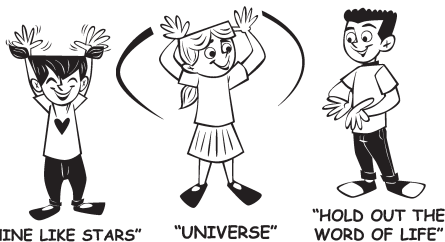
Number each star—5, 10, 15 and 20. Tape the stars around the room. Write different actions (jumping jacks, spin around, high-five, touch toes, moo like a cow, etc.) on separate strips of paper. Place the strips in a hat or bowl. On butcher paper, draw lines. (Choose a country to which your church is connected in some way and then draw as many lines needed to spell the country. For example, you would draw eight blanks for the country, Tanzania.) Display world map. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from CD-ROM.)

Team Game

As “Spread the Good News” plays, children walk around the room. After 15-20 seconds, stop the song. When the song stops, children race to touch the closest star near them. Pick a strip of paper from the hat. Call out the action. All children perform the action as many times as the number on the star they are touching.

Bible Verse Game

Repeat Philippians 2:15-16 aloud with children. Invite children to suggest motions for each word or phrase of the Bible verse (see sketch). Invite one child to lead each motion at the front of the group. Child leads group in doing the motion as they say the appropriate word or phrase. Children lead group in repeating the verse and doing motions several times.



Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “I’m Keepin’ My Eyes on Jesus,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

God’s Word

“Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children:
“Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus.”

God’s Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

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What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?

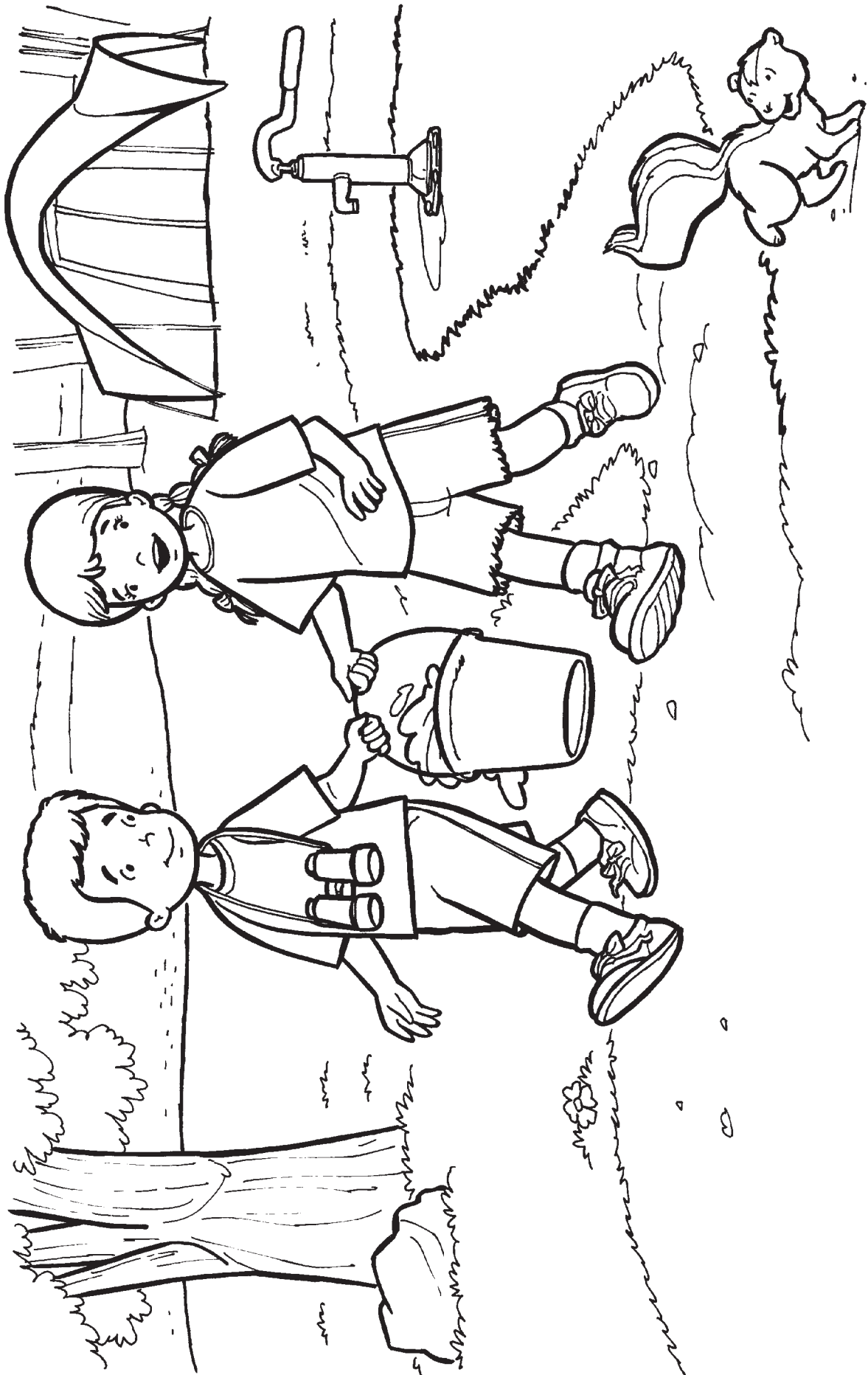
Worldwide Prayer

This week we are going to pray for a specific country. We are going to play a game to find out what country it is. Show prepared butcher paper. Children guess letters to fill in the blanks to spell the country you have chosen. Once children have guessed the correct country, show them where it is located on a world map or globe. Lead children in praying for the people from that country and the missionaries serving in that country.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing “Spread the Good News,” adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

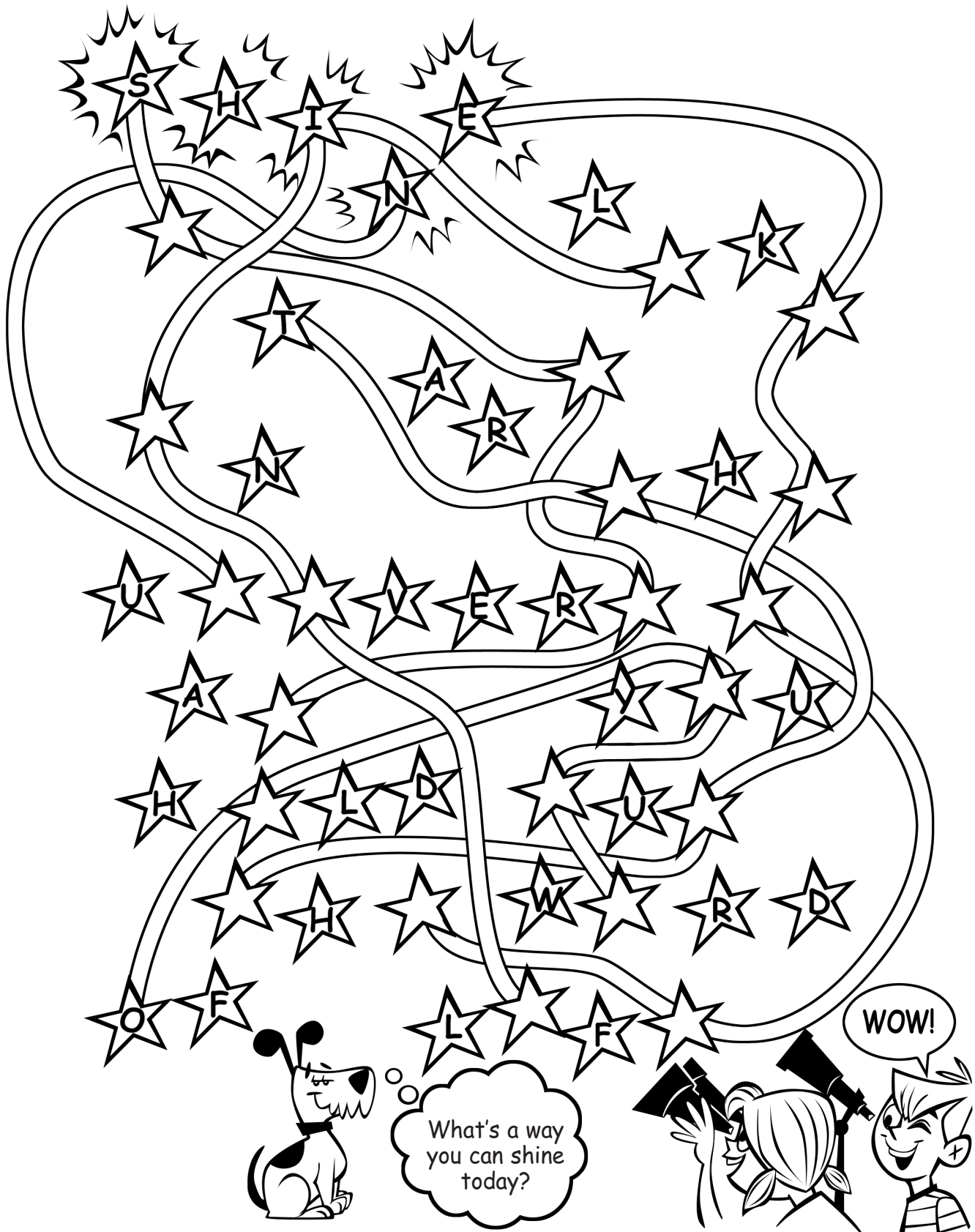




“Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus.” (See Philippians 2:15-16.)
Who can you show Jesus’ love to this week?

Constellation Connection!

Carry down each letter to the next connected star to complete Philippians 2:15-16.



United in Jesus

Bible Story • The Body of Christ • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31



God's Word

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27

For Younger Children:
"You are a part of the body of Christ."

God's Word & Me

I belong to the Body of Christ, and I can use my abilities to help others follow Jesus.

Missions Focus

What parts of the Body of Christ do missionaries need in order to be able to tell about Jesus?

Why might a missionary's job be difficult?

What are some things you can pray for missionaries to help them as they tell about Jesus?

Teacher's Devotional

Think about a time when you belonged to a team or group—baseball, choir, soccer, cheerleading, debate—whatever it was, do you remember how it felt to truly belong and have a purpose for being a part of the group? Whether you were the team captain, team manager or player, an alto, soprano or tenor, the one to always gather the research or the debater, you were important. A sports team depends on many people to do well in games. Altos who don't know their notes keep the sopranos from knowing when to come in. If no one does the research, how can a debater debate?

We may think that we don't do enough and can't contribute enough. Even at church we may feel like we don't belong or that our contribution is not important. But Paul sets us straight in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

Paul explains that the Body of Christ is a unit. Just like there are many parts of the body, there are many people in the Body of Christ and all of the parts are necessary! The parts are designed to all work together as one. Once we become a follower of Christ and are a part of God's family, we belong to the Body of Christ. Each one of us has gifts given to us by God that are imperative for the function of the Church. We are called to use the abilities God gave us in order to have a whole, integrated, unified Church which is able to serve God by serving one another. You do have gifts, whether you recognize them or not. The only standard by which God measures us is by our faithfulness in using the gifts He has given us. Whatever your gift may be, find it. Use it for the purpose of serving God as you serve the Body of Christ in unity and wholeness.

Planning Page

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 • The Body of Christ • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Younger Child Option • Show a Mr. Potato Head™ or a doll to illustrate the Body of Christ

Older Child Option • Decorate bandannas to demonstrate the Daily Truth “United in Jesus”

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make a Pathway Mural together as a reminder that everyone who believes in Jesus is a part of God’s family

Materials • Bible, tape, large sheet of butcher paper, markers or crayons in a variety of colors

Older Child Option • Make Friendship Bracelets and talk about being a part of God’s family

Materials • Bible, scissors, elastic cord, 40 1-inch (2.5-cm) safety pins for each child, small glass beads, clear nail polish

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Play an assembly-line game using Bible verse blocks while talking about what it means to be part of God’s family

Materials • Bible, blocks, construction paper, black marker, masking tape

Older Child Option • Children work together on relay teams and talk about being part of God’s family

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, two towels and two balloons

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 11 Coloring Page (p. 197) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 11 Puzzle Page (p. 198) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 252), five sheets of construction paper, 10 sheets of colorful paper, masking tape, black permanent 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 theme excitement.

Family Fun Scavenger Hunt

Announce a special event designed to build relationships among families and between the church and the community. Send home invitations (see p. 233) several weeks ahead of time. Ask families to bring wagons or rolling coolers. As families arrive, assign a helper to give each family member a nametag. Encourage your leaders to introduce family members to each other. The Family Fun Scavenger Hunt will kick off the event. Give every two families a list of food items needed by a local food bank. Give families an hour to go home to home to collect these items. Families place items in wagons or coolers. Give a special prize to the families who collected the most items. (Later, donate all the items to the food bank.) After the hunt, serve pizza meal, a hotdog BBQ or share a snack suggested in the Bonus Theme Ideas for each lesson. Begin or end the event by singing “Spread the Good News” and “I’m Keepin’ My Eyes on Jesus.”

Build a Critter

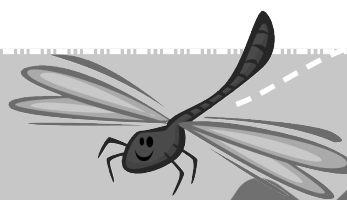
Place softened cream cheese in bowls. Provide plastic knives. Set out bowls of vegetables (sliced olives, celery sticks, sliced cherry tomatoes, sliced cucumbers, shaved carrots, etc.) and Chinese crispy noodles. Give each child a bagel half. Children spread cream cheese on bagel and then decorate bagels to look like animals found in the forest at camp.

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



Missionary Prayer Calendars

Prior to class, photocopy one Calendar Grid pattern (p. 196) for each child. Gather pens, markers, 9x12-inch (23x30-cm) construction paper and glue. Assemble as much missionary literature as you can about specific missionaries from your church. Discuss with children the missionary information you gathered. **Missionaries really need our prayers. They are doing exciting work, but it is hard work, too. It is important for us to ask God to help them in many ways.** Children choose a missionary to “adopt” for prayer purposes. Then they glue the Calendar Grid to a sheet of construction paper, decorate calendar with markers and stickers and use the information about the missionary to fill in a prayer request for each day of the week.



Bible Story Center

for younger children • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Camping Fun

In backpack, place Bible, Mr. Potato Head™ and accessories (if a Mr. Potato Head™ is not accessible, use a doll) and other camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible and Mr. Potato Head™ and accessories. (See story instructions to incorporate items.)

Collect

Poster board, markers.

Prepare

Draw a giant eye on one side of poster board. Draw a giant ear on the other side.

Introduction

Let's wave our hands. Let's touch our toes. Let's wiggle our ears. Everyone close your eyes. Open your eyes. Let's jump up and down. Spin around and sit down. There are many different parts of our body. Oh! I know another one. Your tongue! Wow, can you imagine not having a tongue? How could you eat, chew gum or make a silly face? Let's all stick out our tongues and make silly faces. You all are making GREAT silly faces.

Today we are going to be learning about a different type of body. We are going to be learning about it from this book. What book is this? That's right . . .

THE BIBLE! So listen closely with what part of your body? That's right—your ears.

Tell the Story

(Open Bible. Include children in actions when appropriate.)

There was a man named Paul who wrote letters to tell people important things about Jesus. He wrote to tell them how much God loves them and how important each one of them is to God.

In his letter, Paul wrote about a special kind of body—it is another name for God's family. We call it the “Body of Christ.” *(Bring out Mr. Potato Head and all the parts. As you talk, put the parts into the right spots to create an entire Mr. Potato Head. If using a doll, point to parts of its body.)* Our bodies have many parts. We have a head, eyes, ears, a nose, mouth, shoulders, arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet and toes. That's A LOT of parts. Paul wrote in his letter that in this special group, the Body of Christ, every part is important. All of the parts are needed to make the body complete. *(Hold up Mr. Potato Head or doll.)*

Paul asks, “What if you were just one big eye?” *(Hold up giant eye poster.)* How could you hear or eat? What if you were one big GIANT ear? *(Hold up giant ear poster.)* How could you see or smell? That wouldn't work, would it? No!

God made our bodies with all different parts and each one is important and fits perfectly together. He put each part—our eyes, ears, nose, shoulders, fingers and toes—exactly where He wants it! There are many parts, but only one . . . what? BODY! That's right!

Just like there are many parts of our body, each person in God's family is part of the Body of Christ. Once we become a part of God's family, the Bible says we become a part of this Body of Christ. God gives each of us ways to help. Each one of us is important. God made each of us exactly the way He wants us to be to be part of this body!

God's Word & Me

God loves all of us and wants us to be a part of the Body of Christ. We can love and help each other. Let's pray and thank God for loving us. Pray. Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us show Your love to others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Camping Fun

Before class, write the Daily Truth “United in Jesus” on a bandanna. In a small tent, place the bandanna and other camping gear (sleeping bag, pillow, stuffed animal, boots, etc.). At the end of the story, rummage through the tent, and then bring out the bandanna. Repeat the Daily Truth and invite children to shout it out. **What do you use a bandanna for when you are at camp?** (Many times a team will all wear the same color bandanna to show that they belong together.) **How does a bandanna remind you of today’s Daily Truth and Bible verse?** (Optional: Provide the same color bandanna for each child and several permanent. Children can write the Daily Truth on the bandanna and sign each other’s bandannas.)

Collect

Bible, wrist watch, Mr. Potato Head™ and accessories (ears, eyes, arms, legs, etc.) or doll.

Introduction

Are you ready for a quick quiz? Here we go! What is one of the strongest muscles in your body: a) your bicep; b) your thigh; c) your eye; d) your tongue? Invite children to respond. **The correct answer is D. Your tongue!** Can you imagine not having a tongue? How could you eat, chew gum, or do this? Make a silly face while sticking out your tongue. **I guess the tongue is a really important part of the body. Today we are going to be learning about a different type of body. You might be asking yourself, “Huh? A different type of**

body? What is (insert your name) talking about?” But don’t worry! It’s all right here in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 in the Bible.

Tell the Story

(Open Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.) **First of all, we are going to do a whirlwind background lesson on 1 Corinthians. How fast do you think we can get through everything?** (Children respond.) All right, let’s see if we’ll make it. On our marks, Get set, Go! (Speaking quickly, but clearly.) **What part of the Bible is the book of 1 Corinthians found?** (New Testament.) That’s right! **Now, does anyone know who wrote 1 Corinthians?** I’ll give you a hint. We have been talking about him for the past 10 weeks. (Paul.) Good job! Did you know that 1 Corinthians is a letter Paul wrote to the church at Corinth? No? Well, IT IS! Thus the name 1 CORINTHIANS! In fact, Paul writes another letter to the church, which is called 2 CORINTHIANS in the Bible. How are we doing on time? (Look at watch.) We’re good. We have a couple more seconds. Let’s continue.

Now, Corinth was a very important city in Greece. It was a place where travelers and merchants met. **Can anyone tell me what a merchant is?** (A person who sells things.) That is correct. So, all these people congregated in this city. You can imagine it was probably very busy always bustling with people and noise. The people in Corinth built many temples for worshiping idols or false gods. They were also VERY interested in wealth and pleasure and did many wrong things. That’s sad. (Make sad face.)

Jesus’ followers in Corinth weren’t obeying Jesus like they should have been. Again, that’s sad. (Make sad face.) So, Paul wrote this letter (hold up Bible open to 1 Corinthians) to help with their problems. One of the most exciting things he wrote is that God gives us special gifts or abilities to help each other. Phew! (Look at watch.) We made it. (Sit down.)

Now that you know a little about Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, let’s see what he wrote about a body in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. Here’s what Paul wrote. (Read or invite a child to read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.) What DOES this mean? (Bring out Mr. Potato Head and all the parts.

As you talk, put the parts into the right spots to create an entire Mr. Potato Head™. If using a doll, display appropriate body parts.) Well, we all know that the human body is made up of many parts—arms, hands, legs, eyes, mouth, and many others—all of these parts make up a body. (Hold up Mr. Potato Head with all the parts in it.)

(Remove foot from Mr. Potato Head.) Now, if the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that is silly, because it is still an important part of the body. People need feet to walk just as much as they need hands.

(Take out ear.) Now, what if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye.” That’s silly, too. **Why is the ear just as important as the eye?** (Invite children to respond.)

Paul asks, “What if the whole body was only an eye?” Can you imagine our whole body being this one big GIANT eye?! We would be able to see amazingly, but we wouldn’t be able to hear or eat. Or what if our whole body was just a giant ear? Now that’s funny! Can you imagine a GIANT ear?! HA! How would we be able to see or smell? God made our bodies with all different parts and each one is important. Each one fits perfectly together. He put each part—our eyes, ears, nose, shoulders, fingers, and toes—exactly where He wants it! There are many parts, but only one . . . what? BODY! That’s right!

(Take eye out of Mr. Potato Head and put it next to hand.) The eye can’t say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” (Take out Mr. Potato Head’s foot and put it to the top of the head.) And the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” The body needs every single part. Even the parts that seem the weakest or littlest are IMPORTANT. Sometimes they are even needed the most! And if one part of the body is hurting, all the parts hurt for it. And if one part is feeling good, then the other parts are happy!

Paul didn’t write this just so we would understand how our bodies work. He was comparing our bodies to the Church, which he calls “the Body of Christ.”

Just like there are many parts of the human body, there are many parts—people—in the Body of Christ. Once we become a follower of Jesus, we belong to the Body of Christ. God gives each one of us gifts or abilities to help each other follow Jesus. It’s important that we use these abilities so that the Body works as a unit. God gave us these gifts, not to show off with, but in order to serve one another.

Some of us might be really good at building with our hands or be really good at encouraging others. Some of us might have the gift of helping others or of explaining things or of praying for others. But no matter what gifts or abilities God gives you, they are IMPORTANT! We all need to remember that no gift is greater than the other. God wants us to use the gifts or abilities He has given us to serve Him and the rest of the Body of Christ—other followers of Jesus.

God’s Word & Me

Sometimes you might think that because you are young or you feel like you can’t do anything special, that you are not a very important part of God’s family. But listen to these words Paul wrote. Read or ask a child to read 1 Corinthians 12:27 aloud. **This is a great reminder for us that if we have joined God’s family, we are a part of the Body of Christ. God wants us to help each other with the gifts He has given us.**

- **What do you think is one way that you can help others in the Body of Christ?** (Serving others. Giving encouragement. Singing.)
- **What do you think might keep you or your friends from feeling like they are a part of God’s family—the Body of Christ?**
- **How can you use the gifts or talents God gave you to help the Body of Christ?** (Sing at church. Read the Bible at church or in Sunday school. Encourage my friends to obey Jesus.)
- **We can pray and thank God for giving us special gifts and talents and ask Him to help us be a good part of the Body of Christ.** Lead children in prayer, asking God to help them use their gifts He gave them to help the Body of Christ.

Missions Focus

What parts of the Body of Christ do missionaries need in order to be able to tell about Jesus?

Why might a missionary’s job be difficult?

What are some things you can pray for missionaries to help them as they tell about Jesus?

Game Center



for younger children • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Collect

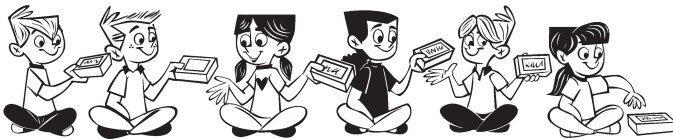
Bible, blocks, construction paper, black marker, masking tape.

Prepare

Cut construction paper squares to fit onto blocks. Write a number and one word from the Bible verse on each square. Tape each square onto a block. Prepare a game set-up for each group of up to nine children.

Do

1. Children sit in a line. Stack the blocks in order at the front of the line.
2. Read word on the first block and lead children to say it aloud.
3. The first child takes the block and passes it down the line. The last child places it on the floor as the beginning of a tower. Children work as a team to say words aloud and pass all the blocks to the end and build a tower. Say words of entire verse.
4. Repeat game as time permits, allowing children to change positions in the line.



Talk About

- Austin, you are doing a very good job working with your friends to pass the blocks and build a tower. You all are doing your part and helping each other. Good job!

God's Word

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:27

For Younger Children:

"You are a part of the body of Christ."

God's Word & Me

I belong to the Body of Christ, and I can use my abilities to help others follow Jesus.

- The Bible says, "You are a part of the Body of Christ." This verse means that each person who loves and obeys Jesus can do good things and help each other. That's a way we can follow Jesus.
- What are some ways we can help each other?
- Let's thank God that we can love and help each other. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us to follow You and help each other. In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

Do not number the blocks. Set out blocks in mixed up order. After team passes blocks to end of line, they help each other stack the blocks in verse order to make a Bible verse tower. First team to build tower correctly and say the verse aloud wins.

Game Center



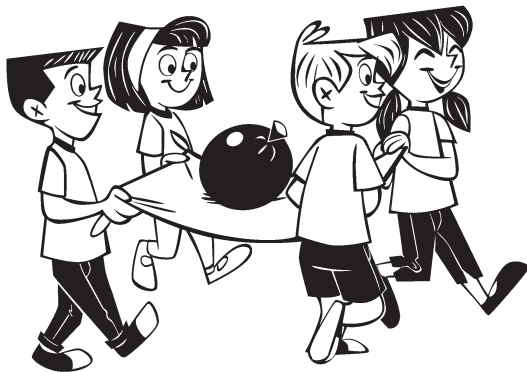
for older children • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Collect

Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, two towels and two balloons.

Do

1. Children form two teams. Teams line up in single-file lines on one side of the playing area. Give a towel and balloon to each team. At your signal, the first four children on each team grasp the corners of the towel and place the balloon in the center. (If you have fewer than 20 children, they may work in pairs instead of foursomes to carry the towel.) Children walk together, carrying the balloon across the playing area and back. If the balloon falls off, children return to the starting point and try again.
2. When first group of children finish, the next foursome carries the balloon on the towel across the room and back. Relay continues until all children have had a turn. (Note: Some children may need to take more than one turn to provide a foursome for each turn.) Ask one of the Talk About questions below to a volunteer from the first team to finish. Repeat game, forming new teams, as time permits.



Talk About

- The Bible says that God’s family is like a human body. Every part is important. Every part has a job to do. And every part works together to help the other parts.
- What do you think might be one of the hardest jobs in the Body of Christ? The easiest? Why?

God’s Word

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27

For Younger Children:
“You are a part of the body of Christ.”

God’s Word & Me

I belong to the Body of Christ, and I can use my abilities to help others follow Jesus.

Missions Focus

What parts of the Body of Christ do missionaries need in order to be able to tell about Jesus?

Why might a missionary’s job be difficult?

What are some things you can pray for missionaries to help them as they tell about Jesus?

- What do you think your part might be in the Body of Christ when you are at church? (Helping in the nursery. Giving encouragement. Singing.) What might your part be at school? In your neighborhood?
- We can pray and thank God for giving us special gifts and talents and ask Him to help us be a good part of the Body of Christ. Lead children in prayer, asking God to help them use their gifts He gave them to help the Body of Christ.

For Younger Children

Instead of using a balloon use a stuffed forest animal (raccoon, rabbit, skunk, moose, etc.).

Art Center

for younger children • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Collect

Bible, tape, large sheet of butcher paper, markers or crayons in a variety of colors.

Prepare

Tape down the edges of the paper onto the floor to make paper safe for children to walk on. Draw two parallel lines down the paper to represent edges of a path.

Do

1. Child stands on a chosen spot on the paper path while adult draws around the child's shoes. (Use a different color of marker for each child, if possible.) Child writes his or her name by the shoe prints.
2. Children work together to color floor mural, coloring in their own shoe prints, details on the path (dirt, stones, puddles) and features beside the path (grass, flowers, insects).
3. After mural is finished, children take turns to step along the footprints on the path. Mural may be posted on the wall or left on the floor.



Talk About

- We're having fun working on our pathway together. I see (grass and rocks). I see many beautiful colors. You all are doing your part. Thank you!

God's Word

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:27

For Younger Children:

"You are a part of the body of Christ."

God's Word & Me

I belong to the Body of Christ, and I can use my abilities to help others follow Jesus.

- God's Word says that each of us is a part of His family, too. He wants us to do good things and help each other. That's a way we can follow Jesus.
- Our footprints show where we walked. When we are kind, we show others how to follow Jesus. Let's thank God we can all be part of His family. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us to show others how to follow You. In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

Each group of four to six children make their own pathway, outlining each other's shoes on the pathway. When paths are completed, tape them together to make one longer path across an area of the floor.

Art Center

for older children • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Collect

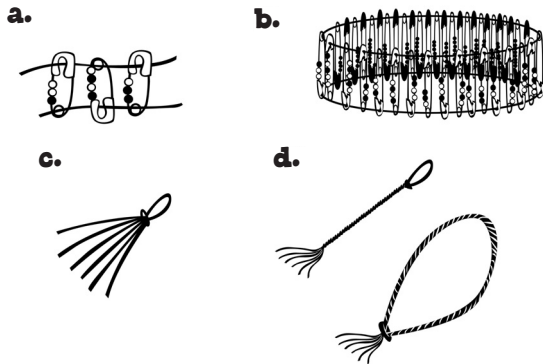
Bible, scissors, elastic cord, 40 1-inch (2.5-cm) safety pins for each child, small glass beads, clear nail polish.

Prepare

Make a sample bracelet according to directions below. Cut cord into 12-inch (30.5-cm) lengths.

Do

1. Give each child beads and 40 pins. Child opens safety pins one at a time and slides several beads down each open end (see sketch a).
2. Child repeats until 40 pins contain beads. Child strings pins onto elastic cord, alternating beaded and plain safety pins as well as alternating pin tops and bottoms (see sketch b).
3. To finish, child ties elastic cords with a double knot, cuts off excess and uses a dab of nail polish to secure knot.



Optional: Floss Bracelets

Collect embroidery floss in a variety of colors. Cut floss into 24-inch [61-cm] lengths. 1. Child folds six strands of embroidery floss over to tie a loop in one end (see sketch c). Child asks a friend to hold the loop while he or she braids floss.

2. Child ties it around the wrist of a friend, makes a double knot and secures knot with a dab of clear nail polish (see sketch d).

Talk About

- What are some ways a person shows he or she is your friend? What are some ways people know that you are part of your family?

God's Word

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27

For Younger Children:

“You are a part of the body of Christ.”

God's Word & Me

I belong to the Body of Christ, and I can use my abilities to help others follow Jesus.

Missions Focus

What parts of the Body of Christ do missionaries need in order to be able to tell about Jesus?

Why might a missionary's job be difficult?

What are some things you can pray for missionaries to help them as they tell about Jesus?

- God's Word says that His family is like a human body. Every part is important. Every part has a job to do. And every part works together to help the others. What do you think your part might be in this body?
- When you give your bracelet to your friend, be sure to ask that person, “How may I pray for you?” That's a way to be part of the Body of Christ and help others to follow Jesus! Pray, asking God to help children be good friends to each other and help each other become followers of Jesus.

For Younger Children

Children weave strands of embroidery floss to make bracelets. Tie bracelets to fit wrists of children.

Worship Center



1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 252), construction paper, marker, masking tape.

Prepare

Write one or more words from the Bible verse on 10 sheets of construction paper. Tape sheets face down in mixed-up order on the wall. Make a masking-tape starting line opposite from the wall where papers are taped.

Team Game

Let's play a game that reminds us to stay connected and help each other. Ask for seven volunteers to play a game of knots. Children stand in a circle and reach across the circle with both hands, holding hands with two different team members. Then children try to unravel themselves by untangling their bodies without letting go of each other's hands. Children in audience may call out instructions and cheer! Repeat as time permits with different volunteers.

Bible Verse Game

Divide group into two teams. Choose six to eight volunteers for each team to play the game. Teams stand in a line. The goal of the game is for each team to get from the start line to the wall by stepping only on the sheets of construction paper. Give each team five sheets of construction paper. When "Together in Harmony" plays, the first child lays one sheet of construction paper on the floor. He or she then steps onto it, lays the second sheet of construction paper on the floor and steps onto it. The second team member steps onto the first sheet of construction paper. The teams continue in this manner until they have reached the wall. Children take the papers off the wall, put verse in correct order and read it aloud.



Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Together in Harmony," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

God's Word

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27

For Younger Children:

"You are a part of the body of Christ."

God's Word & Me

I belong to the Body of Christ, and I can use my abilities to help others follow Jesus.

Missions Focus

What parts of the Body of Christ do missionaries need in order to be able to tell about Jesus?

Why might a missionary's job be difficult?

What are some things you can pray for missionaries to help them as they tell about Jesus?

Worldwide Prayer

For our time of prayer today, we're going to do a popcorn prayer. I will start the prayer time and then anyone who would like to pray for a specific country—like China, Russia, Canada, Germany or any other country—can just pop right up to stand and pray. Begin the prayer and then allow children to pray. Close in prayer. (Optional: List names of missionaries from your church that the children can pray for.)

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Spread the Good News," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY





“You are a part of the Body of Christ.” (See 1 Corinthians 12:27.)
What can you do this week to help other friends of Jesus?

A Perfect Fit!

These shapes fit together to make an amazing pattern. But wait—there's a secret message hidden on them! Follow the instructions:

First, cross out all the types of transportation.

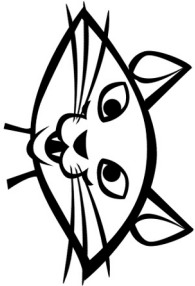
Second, cross out all the names of colors.

Third, cross out all the boys' names.

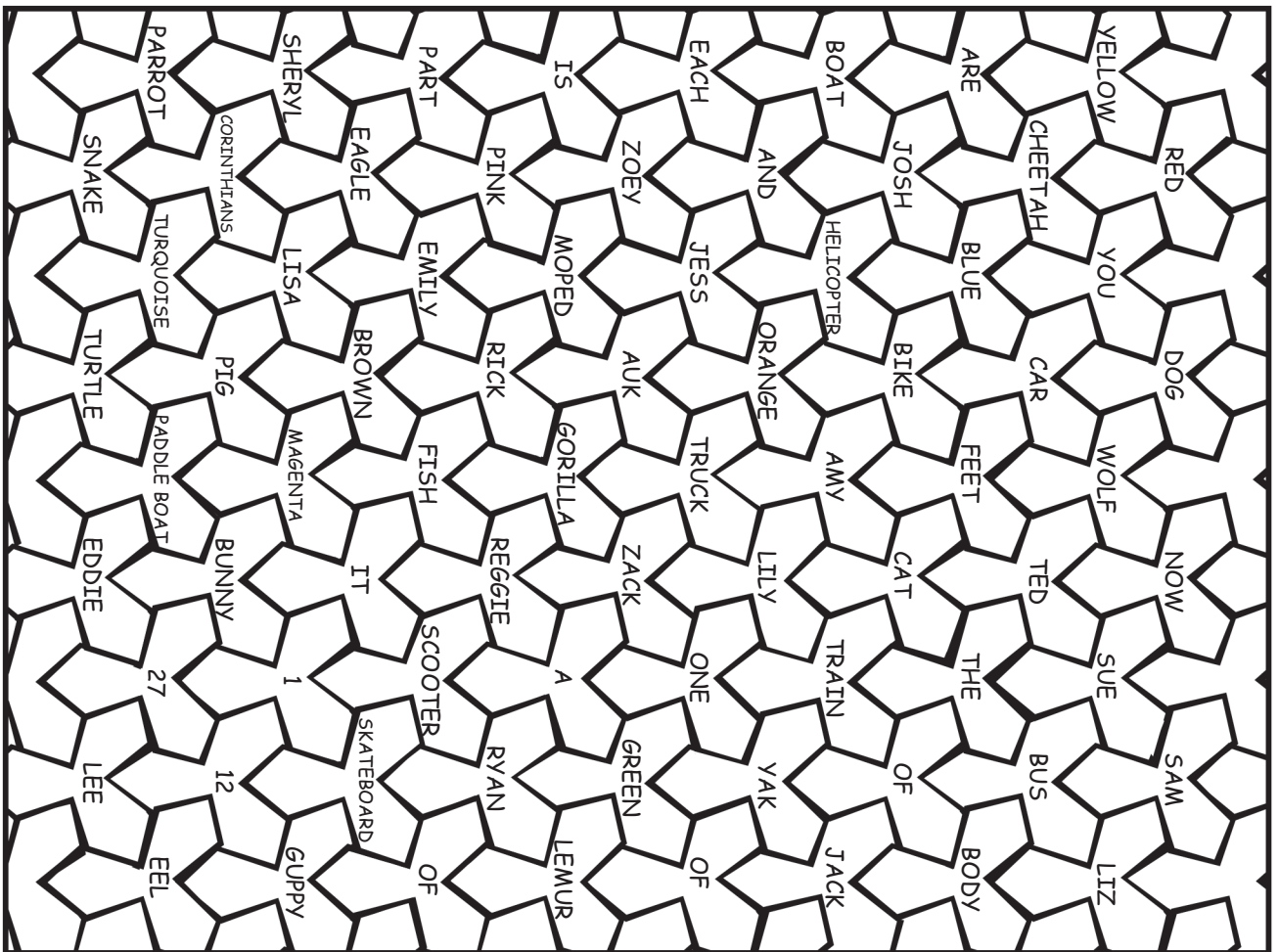
Fourth, do the same for all the girls' names.

Fifth, get rid of all the names of animals.

Now write the leftover words in order on the blanks below to find out where you fit!



“ _____
 _____ Christ, _____
 _____ you _____
 _____ ”



What's a way you can show care for your church family?

Growing in Jesus

Bible Story • Grow Fruit . . . Lots of It • Galatians 5:22-23

God's Word

"Live a life worthy of the Lord and . . . please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."
Colossians 1:10

For Younger Children:

"As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do."

God's Word & Me

When I grow as a Christian, I talk and act in ways that show love for God and others.

Missions Focus

What fruit of the Spirit do you think missionaries show the most? Why?

What fruit of the Spirit might be the hardest for missionaries to show? Why?

What do missionaries do to show love for Jesus and obey Him?

Teacher's Devotional

The two greatest commands of all time involve love: First, we are told to love God and to love our neighbors with the same kind of love we have for ourselves. Sadly, there are always times when our response to this command may be to grit our teeth and whine, "Love my grouchy, ornery neighbor? I don't want to." And on top of that, Jesus gives us a second command. He tells us in Matthew 7 to love our enemies as well. That's tough, isn't it? It almost seems unreasonable!

Our human nature draws us far more quickly toward loving *ourselves* and our *things* than to loving others! But did you know that loving God and others is the first sign of spiritual growth after deciding to follow Jesus? Love is the first fruit of God's Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

Imagine that! God not only tells us to love others, but also holds up that love as a true test of our being followers of Christ (see John 13:35). And because we are human, it's not going to be easy: It's not meant to be. Unless we come to Jesus ourselves, with our likes and dislikes, we will find we have very little love for some people. We'll find that if we try to love in our own strength (what the Bible calls "the flesh"), we'll burn out and fail miserably. And God's love for others may not—zip-zap-zoom—suddenly appear in our hearts. Learning to live as loved children and learning how to show God's love to others is a life-long process! But do not fear; we have God's Spirit to nurture this spiritual fruit inside us. We will mess up at times, gritting our teeth when we have to love one another, but that's when God's Spirit turns our weakness into strength and helps us to love beyond our capabilities!

Planning Page



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 • Grow Fruit . . . Lots of It • Galatians 5:22-23

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show pictures of fruit to illustrate the fruit of the Spirit

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show water bottle to demonstrate the Daily Truth “Growing in Jesus”

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Show love, joy, kindness and goodness while playing a game with balloons

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, balloons, permanent markers, masking tape, one bed sheet

Older Child Option • Play a game of Crazy Fruit and learn about the fruit of the Spirit

Materials • Bible

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Color and assemble puzzle pieces to create a fruit tree while talking about the good things that can be done when we obey Jesus

Materials • Bible, poster board, colored markers or crayons, heavy scissors, tape

Older Child Option • Make a Fruitful Tree poster as a group and talk about ways we can show we are growing in the knowledge of God

Materials • Bible, poster board, markers, tissue paper in a variety of colors, scissors, glue, swabs

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 12 Coloring Page (p. 211) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 12 Puzzle Page (p. 212) 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

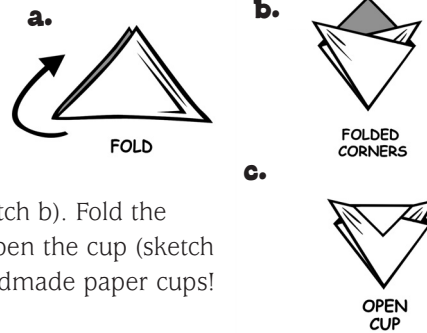
Materials • Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 249), orange, apple

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 theme excitement.

Camping Water Cups

Campers may need to use collapsible cups while out in the wilderness. Children can create their own collapsible cup from only a piece of paper! Give each child a 12-inch (30.5-cm) square of paper. Starting with one point at the bottom, fold the paper corner to corner to form a triangle (sketch a). With the point facing upwards, fold the corners in at an angle so that they will overlap (see sketch b). Fold the front point forward and the back one back and then pop open the cup (sketch c). Have water ready so that children can test out their handmade paper cups!



Wildflowers

Assemble the following for each child: eight apple slices, one strawberry, raisins, peanut butter or cream cheese, a plate, a plastic knife.

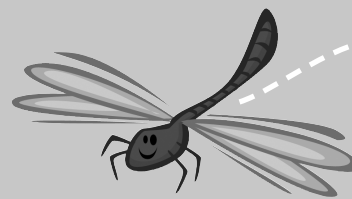
Place apple slices and strawberries with tops removed in separate bowls. Provide peanut butter or cream cheese in containers with plastic knives. Give each child a paper plate. Child spreads peanut butter or cream cheese on a plate (helps fruit stick to the plate). Child sets strawberry upside-down with the point sticking up in the middle of the plate and sprinkles raisins around the strawberry. Child arranges apple slices around the peanut butter or cream cheese to look like petals. Your wildflower is ready to eat!

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



Kindness Banner

Prior to class, write or paint "Show Kindness" in large letters on a banner. In smaller letters, write the words of Galatians 5:22-23. (Older children may be assigned to write or paint the words themselves.) All children decorate the banner with fruit-shaped cut-outs from construction paper, fruit stencils and markers. Hang the Kindness Banner near an entrance to church to remind people of the fruits of the Spirit and to remind them to show kindness to each other and to those in the community throughout the week.



Bible Story Center

for younger children · Galatians 5:22-23

Camping Fun

Copy and cut apart “Love,” “Joy,” “Peace,” “Patience” and “Kindness” patterns from Lesson 12 Pattern Page (p. 210) to make a set of Fruit Picture cards for each child. In backpack, place Bible, Fruit Pictures, one bag of fruit snacks for each child and other camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible, Fruit Pictures and fruit snacks. (See story instructions to incorporate items.)

Introduction

Open fruit snacks and begin to eat them. Overexaggerate how amazing they smell and how tasty they are. Then say, **Oh! I have fruit snacks for each of you today!** Distribute a bag of fruit snacks to every child. **I’m showing kindness by sharing my fruit snacks with you. Today we’re going to be talking about kindness. We also are going to be talking about other ways we can show we are obeying Jesus.**

Tell the Story

(Open Bible to Galatians 5:22-23.) We have been learning about a man named Paul who loved Jesus very much. He loved to tell about Jesus. One time Paul wrote a letter to a church in a place called Galatia. His letter reminded them to love and obey Jesus. He wrote about some important ways God helps us to grow in loving and obeying.

(Pass out Fruit Picture cards to children.) We can obey Jesus, too. **Find your picture of an apple and hold it in the air.** The word “LOVE” is written on your apple. We can obey Jesus by loving others. **What are some ways**

you can show love to your brother or sister? (Give them a hug. Share your toys. Help them pick up their clothes.)

Find your picture of grapes and hold it up high.

The word “JOY” is written on your grapes. Sometimes when we are very happy, we say we have joy. We can have joy because Jesus loves us very much. When I think about how much Jesus loves us and I see the good things He has given us, I feel joy. **What are some things that make you joyful or happy?** (Invite children to respond.)

Find your picture of a banana and hold it up high. The word “PEACE” is written on your banana.

Peace means getting along with others instead of fighting or arguing. Even when we get mad, we can choose not to fight when we remember Jesus’ love. He loves us and wants us to love others, too. **When are some ways you can show love instead of fighting?** (Use words or walk away when someone is mean. Ask a teacher or parent for help.) When we remember Jesus’ love for us, we can live in peace.

Find your picture with the orange and hold it up.

The word “PATIENCE” is written on your orange. When we don’t get angry or upset while we wait for something that takes a long time, we are being patient. **When are some times that you need to be patient?** (Waiting for a turn. Parent talking on the phone. Listening to teacher tell a story. Waiting for a friend to come over to play.) Jesus loves us. He is patient with us, too. One way Jesus is patient is by listening to our prayers. He’s never too busy to listen to us.

If you have a picture of a watermelon, hold it up in the air. The word “KINDNESS” is written on your watermelon. Kindness is thinking about what others might need and then helping them with what they need. Jesus wants us to be kind to everyone. You can be kind to your friends, teachers and family. **How can you be kind to your brother or sister? To your mom or dad? To your grandma? To your friends?** (Invite children to respond.) We can ask Jesus to help us to be kind.

God’s Word & Me

We’ve talked about all these ways that we can show we love Jesus: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness. The Bible says, “As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do.” We can obey Jesus when we love others in these ways. Jesus loves us and will help us to obey Him. Pray, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Please help us to obey You so that we can grow good things in our lives. We love You! Amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Galatians 5:22-23

Camping Fun

Before class, write the Daily Truth “Growing in Jesus” on a water bottle for each child. In a small tent, place the water bottles and other camping gear (sleeping bag, pillow, stuffed animal, boots, etc.). At the end of the story, rummage through the tent, and then bring out one water bottle. Drink from the bottle and then state the Daily Truth aloud. **Why do people and plants need water?** (To grow.) **How does a water bottle remind you of today’s Daily Truth?** (We can grow as Christians.) Give water bottles to every child as a reminder of the Daily Truth.

Collect

Bible, Lesson 12 Pattern Page (p. 210), fruit-flavored popsicle for every child, colorful card stock, scissors, hole punch; for each child—marker, key ring.

Prepare

On colorful card stock, copy and cut apart Pattern Page, making a set of Fruit Picture cards for each child. Punch a hole in the top left-hand corner of cards.

Introduction

Walk into class eating a popsicle. Overexaggerate how amazing it tastes! **I have fruit-flavored popsicles for each of you.** Pass out a popsicle to each child. As children are eating their popsicles, challenge them to name kinds of fruit that are the same colors as the popsicles they are eating. **It’s easy to think of different kinds of fruits and it’s easy to eat them, too! But today we are going to be talking about a different kind of fruit. Not a fruit you can eat, but a fruit of God’s Spirit. Let me explain.**

Tell the Story

When we believe in Jesus and become a member of God’s family, God’s Spirit lives inside us. And when

God’s Spirit lives inside us, good thoughts and actions begin to grow! Paul wrote a letter to Jesus’ followers in a place called Galatia. Paul called nine of these good things fruit—the fruit of God’s Spirit. But the fruit of God’s Spirit isn’t strawberries, bananas, apples, or peaches. To find out what they are, let’s read what Paul said in his letter.

(Read or ask a child to read Galatians 5:22-23.) **What are the nine fruits of the Spirit?** *(Invite children to respond.)* These qualities grow and become stronger in us when we are following Jesus. *(Note: Lead children to talk about each fruit of the Spirit as directed below. If time is limited, focus on the first five.)*

The first fruit of the Spirit is . . . LOVE! *(Hand out a Love Fruit Picture card, key ring and marker to every child.)* **What is love?** *(Invite children to respond.)* Is it giving cards to one another and little candy hearts on Valentines Day? No! The Bible describes love as wanting what’s best for other people, caring about how they feel or going out of your way to help someone. **Right now, turn over your card and think of a person who has shown you love or care. When you think of that person, write his or her name on the back of your card.** *(Instruct children to add card to key ring.)*

The second fruit of the spirit is . . . JOY! *(Hand out Joy Fruit Picture card.)* Many people think joy is when you feel happy, like when you go to an amusement park or get a gift on your birthday. But the joy we are talking about is better than that. When we think of all the great things God has done for us, it makes us thankful and joyful! **On the back of your card, draw or write something God has done for you.** *(Instruct children to add card to key ring.)* Even when bad things happen, we can have joy deep inside, knowing God loves and cares for us.

Now guess what the third fruit of the Spirit is. It’s a word that describes what we see when people are able to get along. *(Hand out Peace Fruit Picture card.)* One of the hardest things for people to do is to get along with each other. But when we know God will care for us, no matter what happens, we don’t have to argue and fight. **Think about someone you need to get along with. Once you think of that person, turn over your card and write the name or draw a picture of that person.** *(Instruct children to add card to key ring.)*

The fourth fruit of the Spirit is . . . PATIENCE! *(Hand out Patience Fruit Picture card.)* **When is it hard to be patient? What are some ways you can show patience in that situation?** *(Invite children to respond.)* Everyone

makes mistakes and wrong choices, but God is patient with us! He forgives us and still loves us! **Think of a specific situation in which you need help being patient. On the back of your card, write a prayer asking God to help you to be patient in that situation.** (Instruct children to add card to key ring.)

OK! Only five more to go! The fifth fruit of the Spirit is . . . KINDNESS! (Hand out Kindness Fruit Picture card.) **Try to cover the whole back of your card with words that are ways to be kind.** (Invite children to share some of their responses.) **When has someone been kind to you? How did it make you feel?** (Invite children to respond.) **What are some examples of ways to be kind?** (Making friends with a new person no one else likes. Helping someone with a job he or she has to do. Playing with someone who is bored or lonely.) God's Spirit helps us show kindness, even to people who have not been kind to us. (Instruct children to add card to key ring.)

The sixth fruit of the Spirit is . . . GOODNESS! (Hand out Goodness Fruit Picture card.) We show the fruit of goodness by obeying God's commands by doing what He says is good. **What are some of God's commands you know about?** (Obey parents. Tell the truth. Don't steal. Love even those who have hurt us. Help others.) **On the back of your card, write one of God's commands or draw a way you can obey your parents.** (Instruct children to add card to key ring.)

What is the seventh fruit of the Spirit? . . . FAITHFULNESS! (Hand out Faithfulness Fruit Picture card.) **Who can you count on to always care for you?** (Invite children to respond.) A person who is faithful is someone you can depend on. We can show faithfulness to God by obeying God even when it's hard. We can also be faithful to our friends and family. **How can we show faithfulness to them?** (Caring for a younger brother or sister. Doing a chore without being reminded.) **On the back of your card, draw a picture of a way you can be faithful to others.** (Instruct children to add card to key ring.)

The eighth fruit of the Spirit is . . . GENTLENESS! (Hand out Gentleness Fruit Picture card.) **How do we treat animals and babies? What do we do to be gentle?** (Hold animals or babies carefully. We speak softly.) God not only wants us to be gentle with animals and babies, but with everyone! **Let's draw a picture of an animal to remind us to be gentle on the back of our cards.** (Instruct children to add card to key ring.)

Drum roll, please! (Pat the floor.) The ninth and final fruit is . . . SELF-CONTROL! (Hand out Self-Control Fruit Picture card.) This is also a tough one. What is self-

control? Let me tell you what it's NOT. Self-control is NOT yelling at someone who does wrong to you. Self-control is NOT eating those chocolate chip cookies sitting on the kitchen counter before dinnertime. **When are some times it is hard to have self-control?** (Invite children to respond.) Having self-control means saying "No" to something we think we want. It helps us make good choices. And one way we learn about good choices is God's Word. The Bible helps us learn how to have self-control and live wisely. **Write down on the back of your cards times when you read or hear God's Word.** (Instruct children to add card to key ring.)

God's Word & Me

It might seem hard to show these fruits or qualities every day. God knows what we are like, inside and out. He made us and understands us. As we learn more about Him and spend more time reading or hearing His Word, He will help us grow or increase these fruits or qualities in our lives.

Listen to these words Paul wrote. Read or ask a child to read Colossians 1:10. **What fruit is Paul talking about?** (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.)

- **Why does God give the fruit of the Spirit to us when we join God's family?** (It proves we belong to His family. So we can show these qualities to others.)
- **Which fruit of the Spirit do you think is the hardest for you to show?**
- **What is a time you or a friend might show love? Patience? Joy?**
- **How do others know that we are a part of God's family?** (We can talk about our love for God. They can see our actions.) Pray with children, asking God to help them show love for God in both their actions and words. Talk with interested children about becoming members of God's family (see "Leading a Child to Christ" on p. 12).

Missions Focus

What fruit of the Spirit do you think missionaries show the most? Why?

What fruit of the Spirit might be the hardest for missionaries to show? Why?

What do missionaries do to show love for Jesus and obey Him?

Game Center



for younger children • Galatians 5:22-23

Collect

Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, balloons, permanent markers, masking tape, one bed sheet.

Prepare

Inflate balloons. Write the words “Love,” “Joy,” “Kindness” and “Goodness” on separate balloons with a permanent marker. Tape balloons to a wall at children’s eye level. Spread bed sheet on the floor across the room from the balloons. Inflate a few extra balloons for substitutes in case balloons pop.

Do

1. Children line up with the first child near the balloons and the last child near the sheet.
2. As “Good Fruit” plays, the first child removes a balloon, and passes it to the next player in line. Players pass the balloon down the line, with the last player placing it onto the sheet. Meanwhile, the first child picks another balloon and passes it down the line. If a balloon pops, give the child last holding it another balloon with the same word written on it.
3. After all the balloons are on the sheet, read the words on balloons aloud. Children echo your words.



God’s Word

“Live a life worthy of the Lord and . . . please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”

Colossians 1:10

For Younger Children:

“As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do.”

God’s Word & Me

When I grow as a Christian, I talk and act in ways that show love for God and others.

Talk About

- I see everyone is showing kindness to each other as you pass the balloons. Good job!
- The Bible says that as we grow, we can obey Jesus. We can do more and more good things when we love and obey Jesus.
- We can obey Jesus by being kind to our friends. What are some ways we can be kind to our friends?
- Let’s ask Jesus to help us obey. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Please help us to obey You. Amen.

For Older Children

Write each name of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 on a set of balloons for every team of up to 10 players. Gather additional bed sheets. Teams play game as a relay; the first team to have all balloons on their sheet, wins.

Game Center



for older children • Galatians 5:22-23

Collect

Bible.

Do

1. Children sit in a circle to play a game like Fruit Basket Upset. One child is selected to be the Farmer and stands in the middle of the circle. Assign each child a fruit name (banana, strawberry, peach, grape, pineapple, orange, etc.), making sure to assign each fruit name to more than one child.

2. The Farmer tells one way to show love for God or others and then calls out the name of the fruit. Children with that fruit name jump up to trade places. If the Farmer calls out “Fruit Salad!” all children must change places.

The child left without a place becomes the new Farmer. Continuing playing until all children have had a chance to be the Farmer or as time allows.

3. If time permits, play a round of the game using the names of the fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23. You may want to list the fruits of the Spirit on a large sheet of paper for children to refer to during the game and discussion.



Talk About

- **Listen to the words Paul wrote.** Read or ask a child to read Galatians 5:22-23. **What can you do to show (patience) to someone you know?** Repeat question with other fruits of the Spirit. **Growing these fruits of the Spirit is a way to show love for others.**
- **What are some ways to show love for Jesus?** (Obey Him. Sing songs of praise to Him. Thank Him in your prayers. Tell others about Him.) **How can you show your (faithfulness) to Jesus? How does showing (self-control) demonstrate love for Jesus?**
- **Who is someone you know who shows love for Jesus and others? How does he or she show that love? What**

God's Word

“Live a life worthy of the Lord and . . . please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”
Colossians 1:10

For Younger Children:

“As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do.”

God's Word & Me

When I grow as a Christian, I talk and act in ways that show love for God and others.

Missions Focus

What fruit of the Spirit do you think missionaries show the most? Why?

What fruit of the Spirit might be the hardest for missionaries to show? Why?

What do missionaries do to show love for Jesus and obey Him?

can you do to show love for Jesus or others in that way?

- **Now, listen to these words that Paul wrote.** Read or ask a child to read Colossians 1:10. **We are called to grow in the fruit of the Spirit. As we read the Bible and know Jesus more, we will show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus to help them grow in the fruits of the Spirit.

For Younger Children

Each child is assigned a fruit name. The farmer calls out one fruit at a time, but never calls out “Fruit Salad.”

Art Center

for younger children • Galatians 5:22-23

Collect

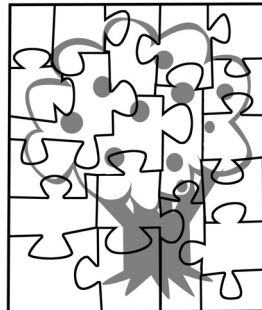
Bible, poster board, colored markers or crayons, heavy scissors, tape.

Prepare

Draw a large, simple fruit tree shape on poster board. Cut poster board into interlocking puzzle shapes at least 4x6 inches (10x15 cm). (Adjust the size of pieces depending on the number of children in the group.)

Do

1. Show the completed puzzle to children.
2. Distribute a puzzle piece to each child. Child colors piece as desired. When all pieces are finished, write each child's name on his or her piece.
3. Children work together to assemble puzzle.



Talk About

- We're having fun putting our puzzle together. I am glad that each person had a piece to color. I see many beautiful colors in our puzzle.
- God's Word tells us that as we grow, we can obey Jesus. We can do more and more good things when we love and obey Jesus.

God's Word

"Live a life worthy of the Lord and . . . please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

Colossians 1:10

For Younger Children:

"As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do."

God's Word & Me

When I grow as a Christian, I talk and act in ways that show love for God and others.

- What do you see drawn on our puzzle? That's right. It's a tree with fruit. When we obey Jesus, God says it is sweet and good, like good fruit on a tree! Let's thank Jesus that we can all grow and obey. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, please help us to obey and to do good things. We love you. Amen.

For Older Children

Older children will enjoy creating a more intricate puzzle. If time and interest allow, children trade pieces with others several times as they color pieces. Each puzzle piece then becomes a unique piece of group-created art!

Art Center

for older children • Galatians 5:22-23

Collect

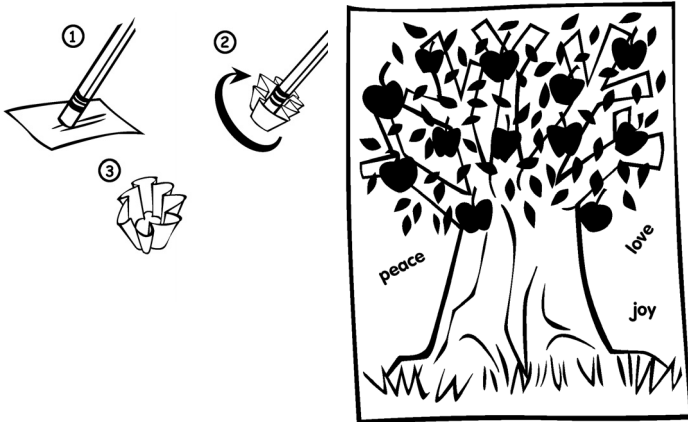
Bible, poster board, markers, tissue paper in a variety of colors, scissors, glue, swabs; optional—pencils with clean erasers.

Prepare

Draw a tree trunk with several branches on poster board.

Do

1. Each child tears or cuts tissue paper into shapes (random or representational) for tree leaves and fruit.
2. Children glue shapes onto poster board to represent leaves and fruit. (Optional: Child dots glue onto poster, lays tissue paper onto glued area and then presses and twists a pencil eraser against the tissue paper to create a 3-D effect.)
3. After tree project is completed, children write names of “good fruit” (love, joy, peace, kindness, etc.) on poster board around the tree.



Talk About

- What do trees do? (Grow. Provide fruit, oxygen, lumber.) What do trees need to do before they bear fruit?
- If a person is “bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God” what do you think this person acts like? What might this person’s words sound like? What words might describe the person?

God’s Word

“Live a life worthy of the Lord and . . . please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”
Colossians 1:10

For Younger Children:

“As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do.”

God’s Word & Me

When I grow as a Christian, I talk and act in ways that show love for God and others.

Missions Focus

What fruit of the Spirit do you think missionaries show the most? Why?

What fruit of the Spirit might be the hardest for missionaries to show? Why?

What do missionaries do to show love for Jesus and obey Him?

- What are ways you can show you are growing in the knowledge of God? Let’s ask God to help us grow. Pray, asking God to help children show the fruit of His Spirit as they grow in good works and in knowledge of Him.

For Younger Children

For younger children, an adult brushes glue in appropriate areas. Children tear and place torn tissue paper as desired.

Worship Center



Galatians 5:22-23

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247, 249), orange, apple.

Team Game

Divide group into four or more teams. Ask at least two players from each team to come to the front of the room. Stand with children in a circle. Give an orange to the child on your right saying, "This is a kiwi." Child asks, "A what?" Reply, "A kiwi." Child then gives the orange to the next child and says, "This is a kiwi." Second child asks, "A what?" First child again asks you, "A what?" You say, "A kiwi." This information is passed on to the second child who then passes on the orange. Children continue asking and replying. To make the game more difficult, once the first message is underway, add another piece of fruit such as an apple, passing it to the left saying, "This is a grape" (or other fruit). Children on the left question and reply in the same manner as those on the right. Children continue passing the two pieces of fruit around the circle in opposite directions until one child ends up with both pieces. Team members cheer and help their team's player remember the correct name of the fruit.

Bible Verse Game

Children stand in rows. First child in the row says the first word of Colossians 1:10 and then sits down. Next child in the row quickly says the second word of the verse and then sits down. Game continues with each child saying the next word of the verse and then sitting down. Continue until each child 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.). (Display words of the verse for the children to refer to in the first few rounds of the game.)

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Good Fruit," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

Worldwide Prayer

Talk about missionaries who work right here in our country. **Some missionaries are born here and some**

God's Word

"Live a life worthy of the Lord and . . . please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."
Colossians 1:10

For Younger Children:

"As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do."

God's Word & Me

When I grow as a Christian, I talk and act in ways that show love for God and others.

Missions Focus

What fruit of the Spirit do you think missionaries show the most? Why?

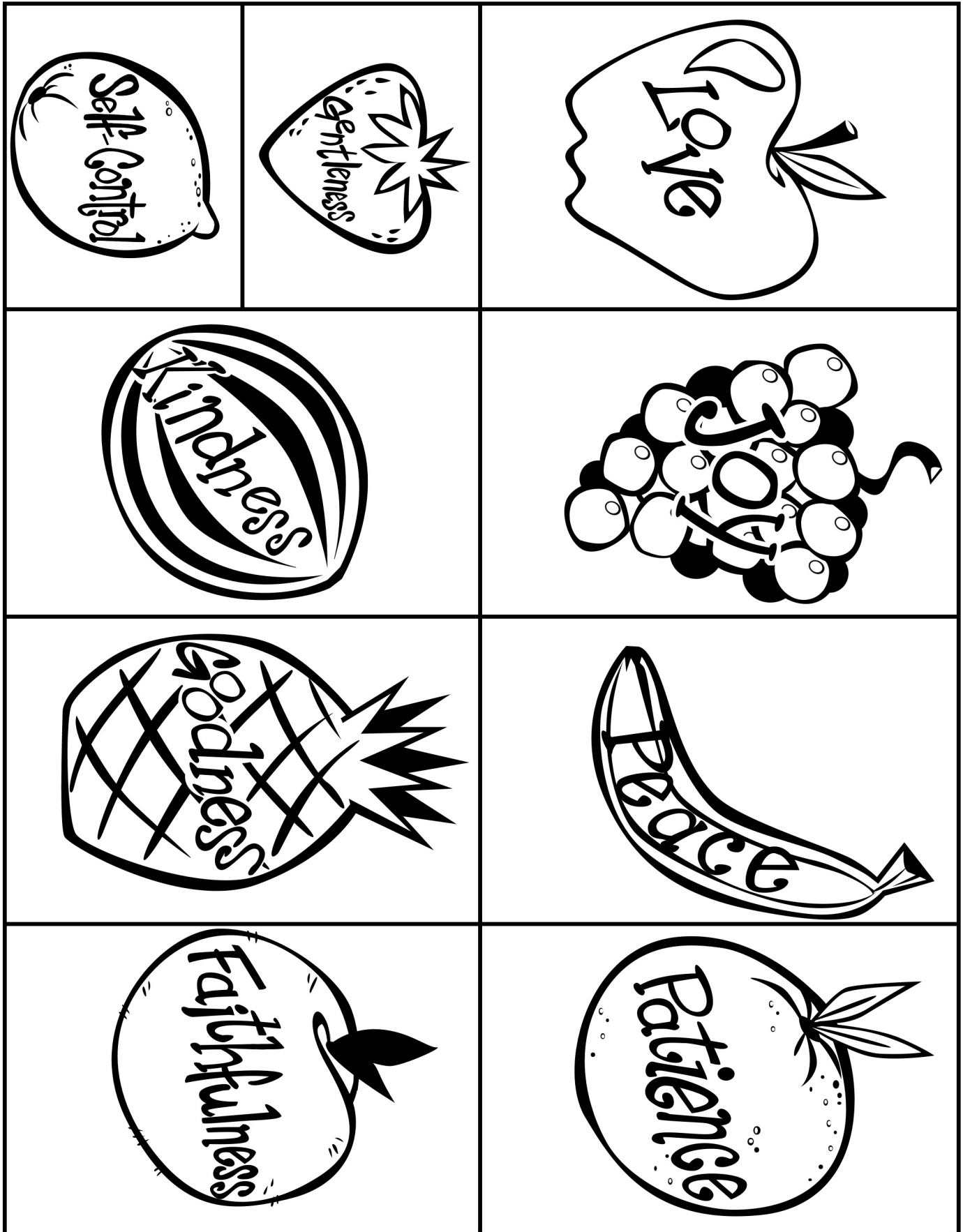
What fruit of the Spirit might be the hardest for missionaries to show? Why?

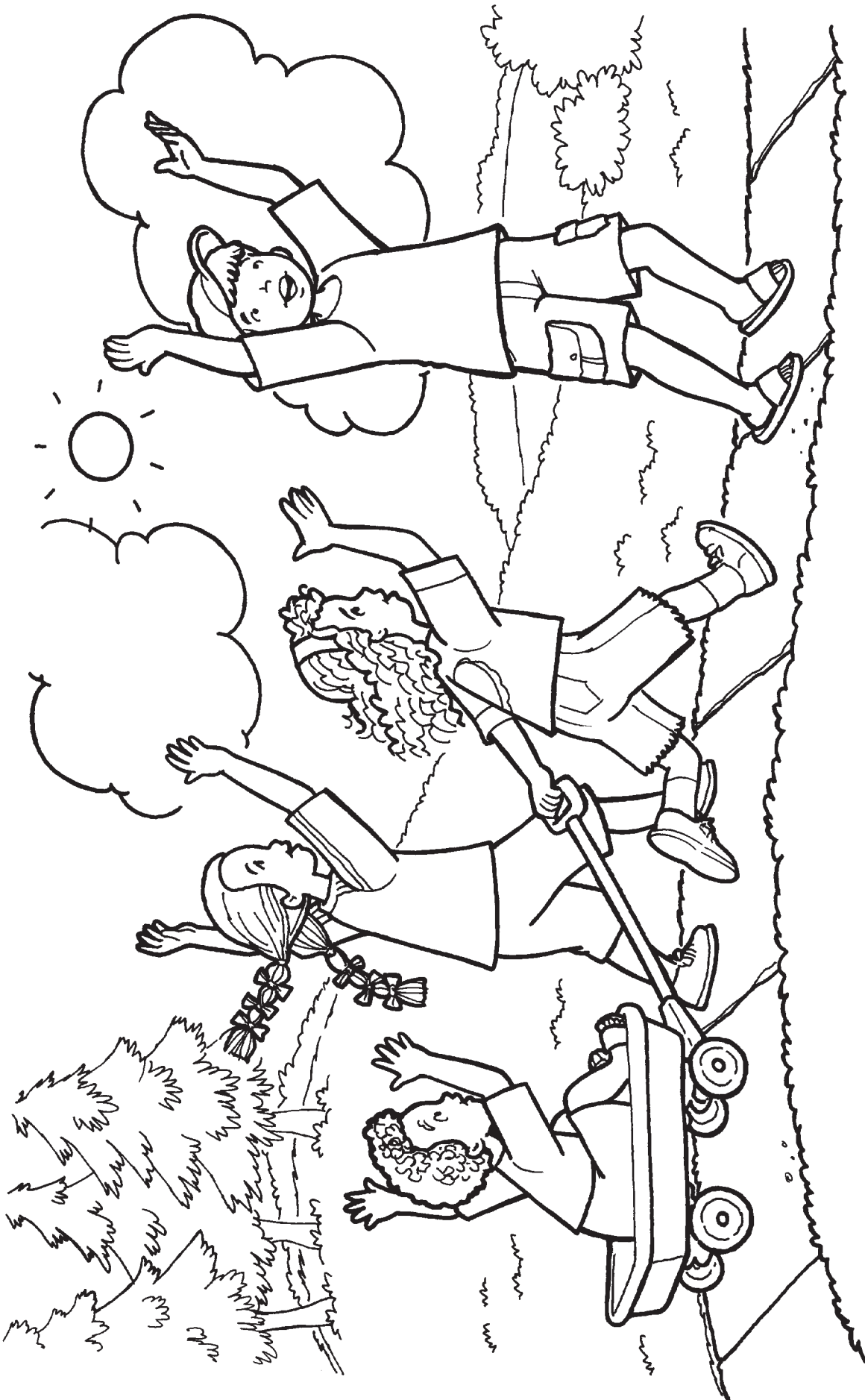
What do missionaries do to show love for Jesus and obey Him?

travel from other countries to tell about Jesus to the people in our own country. You can be a missionary in your school. Tell ways to do that, or better yet, ask kids to tell ways. **Let's pray that as we grow we can be missionaries wherever we go.** Lead children in prayer.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Spread the Good News," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.





“As you grow, obey Jesus in everything you do.” (See Colossians 1:10.)
How can you obey Jesus this week?

Faithful to Jesus

Bible Story • Be Strong • Ephesians 6:10-18



God's Word

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God."
Ephesians 6:10-11

For Younger Children:
"Be strong in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

I can be a faithful follower of Jesus because of the protection He provides for me.

Missions Focus

How do missionaries show that they are faithful followers of Jesus?

Which pieces of the armor of God do missionaries need the most? Why?

What can we do to help missionaries be strong and faithful followers of Jesus??

Teacher's Devotional

The armor of God is protection given to us so that we can faithfully love and obey Jesus. What do you think it means to be faithful? The dictionary says that it means to be dependable, loyal and devoted. How faithful to Jesus are we? How often do we find ourselves in trouble, afraid our needs are not going to be met—and suddenly choose to act in ways that show we are not loyal, dependable or devoted to Jesus? In a crisis, it can be all too easy to be unfaithful or to excuse our lack of faithfulness. Even crisis-free times in our lives can find us distracted from God or lacking faith to believe in His power. But there is good news! History shows that no matter how small our loyalty, how undependable or undevoted we may be, God remains faithful to us!

We would think that with all of His promises and the powerful protection He provides, our faith would flow easily. But perhaps we aren't putting on His armor often enough. When we take time to read God's Word and meditate on it, when we consider who God is, who He says we are and what protection He has provided for us, we gain powerful faith!

Perhaps if we recognize that we are as helpless as little children, we'll understand the power of becoming like children again (see Matthew 18:3). We can be children who are ready to faithfully (there's that word again) put on the armor of God every day—mentally putting on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the helmet of salvation—and don't forget to grab your shield of faith, and the sword of God's Spirit! Once we've asked for God to dress us in His armor, we need to call upon the Holy Spirit for help, as well. Protection and help are available—but we must ask!

Planning Page



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 • Be Strong • Ephesians 6:10-18

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show items of protection to illustrate the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show a pair of hiking boots to demonstrate the Daily Truth “Faithful to Jesus”

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make Patch Vests as reminders that Jesus always will protect us

Materials • Bible, Lesson 13 Pattern Page (p. 224), a brown paper grocery bag for each child, scissors, markers or crayons, glue

Older Child Option • Make Promise Keepers and put promises from the Bible inside

Materials • Bible, scissors, measuring stick, hole punchers, crayons or markers, plastic or leather lacing material; for each child—one 6x9-inch (15x23-cm) manila envelope, four wooden beads

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Play a game rolling a ball to each other while reciting the Bible verse and talk about obeying Jesus

Materials • Bible, ball

Older Child Option • Play a relay game with protective gear while reciting the Bible verse and discuss “The Armor of God”

Materials • Bible; two sets of each—helmet, kneepads, elbow pads, wrist guards, shoulder pads or other protective gear, masking tape

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 13 Coloring Page (p. 225) for each child, crayons

Older Child Option • Review the armor of God while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 13 Puzzle Page (p. 226) 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, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247-248), construction paper, scissors, ruler, markers, large world map, tape or staplers



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 theme excitement.

Rock-Solid Followers Awards

Use a certificate (see p. 229) to create a *Rock-Solid Followers* Camp Award for each child who attended *Rock-Solid Followers*. (Optional: To each award, attach a balloon in which you have inserted a slip of paper on which is printed one of the Daily Truths [see lesson titles]. Also create thank-you awards for leaders and helpers.) Present the awards to children as part of a large-group gathering. Show video or display pictures of children participating in the activities of *Rock-Solid Followers*.

I Want S'More!

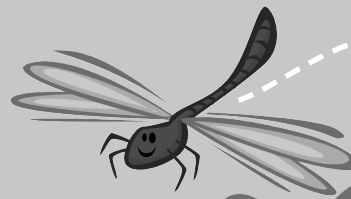
On a table, place four large bowls, each bowl holding one of these tasty items: Honey Graham Life® Cereal, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips and raisins. Place tablespoons by each bowl. Give each child a resealable plastic bag. One at a time, children scoop a spoonful of each item into their bags. Children close the bags tightly and shake well. Once eaten, they will be begging for "S'more" of this snack!

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



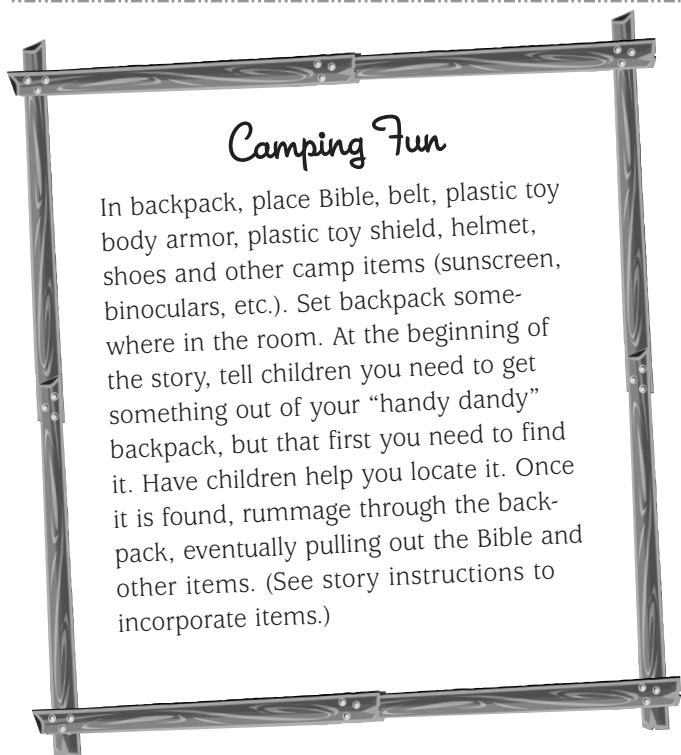
First-Aid Protection

To provide a way for children to support local missions, make arrangements to deliver individual first-aid bags to a local shelter. Find out how many bags the shelter could use and what specific recommendations they have for contents of the bags (bandages, premoistened cleaning wipes, small bars of soap, individually wrapped aspirin and antacids, etc.). Collect a supply of several of the recommended items and resealable plastic bags. Explain the project to children, telling them who they will be serving. Children wash hands before assembling bags. Children arrange items for bags in a line, placing plastic bags at the beginning of the line. Form an assembly line by having each child or group of children in charge of one item. Children pass each bag down the line, placing that item in the bag before passing it on. (Optional: Children make small cards to include in the first-aid kits containing messages about God's love and care.)



Bible Story Center

for younger children • Ephesians 6:10-18



Camping Fun

In backpack, place Bible, belt, plastic toy body armor, plastic toy shield, helmet, shoes and other camp items (sunscreen, binoculars, etc.). Set backpack somewhere in the room. At the beginning of the story, tell children you need to get something out of your “handy dandy” backpack, but that first you need to find it. Have children help you locate it. Once it is found, rummage through the backpack, eventually pulling out the Bible and other items. (See story instructions to incorporate items.)

Introduction

What do you wear when you ride a bike? Let’s pretend to put on our helmets. How does a helmet help you when you are riding a bike? (Keeps your head safe if you fall.) **What do you wear when you ride a scooter or roller skates? Let’s pretend to put on knee pads and elbow pads. Knee pads and elbow pads protect your knees and elbows from getting scrapes and bruises. It’s good we wear things that help us stay safe from getting hurt! Today we are going to learn what things that God gives us to keep us safe so we can follow Jesus!**

Tell the Story

(Open Bible.) We have been learning about a man named Paul who loved Jesus very much. Paul loved Jesus so much that he told lots and LOTS of people about Him. Paul wrote many letters to tell more people about Jesus’ love.

One letter Paul wrote was to people in a city called Ephesus. At the end of this letter, Paul wrote about things that can remind us of ways that God protects us. There are six things. **Let’s count to six.** (Slowly count to six.)

Number one: God protects us by always telling us the truth. (Invite a child volunteer to put on belt.) Paul says the truth is like a belt that holds everything else together. God does not want us to be tricked into believing lies that people make up. The belt reminds us that God wants us to know what is really true.

Number two: (Put body armor on child.) God protects us by helping us do what is right. Paul says this protection is like a chest protector. God protects us from doing things that are bad and wrong. The chest protector reminds us that God helps us to obey Him and do what is right.

Number three: God protects us by the good news about Jesus’ love. (Put shoes on child.) Paul says this good news is like shoes that protect our feet. Shoes protect us when we’re walking or running. The shoes remind us that the good news about Jesus protects us wherever we go.

Number four: (Child holds shield.) God protects us by giving us faith. When we trust that God is with us. Paul says it’s like we have a shield. We can trust God to protect us from mean words that hurt us. The shield reminds us that we can always ask God to help us trust Him.

Number five: God protects us by saving us. He rescues us from sin—the wrong things we do. Paul says salvation is like a helmet that protects our head and our mind. (Put helmet on child.) The helmet reminds us of God’s gift of salvation.

Number six: God protects us by giving us His Word, the Bible. (Child holds Bible.) Paul says this is like a sword that cuts right through danger. When we listen to God’s Word, it helps us to know God. The sword reminds us that God is always with us, even in times of danger.

Wow! That’s a lot of protection! God loves us so much that He wants to keep us safe. He protects us so that we can keep on following Jesus and doing what is right.

God’s Word & Me

God loves us and cares for us. He gives us these things to protect us and to help us to obey Him. Even though we can’t see some of these things God gives us, we can remember them and what they mean.

Let’s pray and thank God for taking care of us. Pray, Dear God, thank You for giving us things to remind us of Your care. Please help us to obey You at all times. Please take care of our families and friends. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Bible Story Center

for older children • Ephesians 6:10-18

Camping Fun

Before class, write the Daily Truth, “Faithful to Jesus” on a colorful piece of paper. Tape it to hiking boots. In a small tent, place boots and other camping gear (sleeping bag, pillow, stuffed animal, flashlight, etc.). At the end of the story, rummage through the tent, and then bring out the boots. Repeat the Daily Truth and invite children to shout it out. **What are hiking boots used for? How do hiking boots remind you of the Daily Truth and Bible verse? When we wear hiking boots, we are protecting our feet from getting bruised and blistered. We’re ready to walk a long way and walk there quickly! In the same way, God wants us to be ready to be faithful followers of Jesus every day.**

Collect

Bible; some or all of these items—helmet, goggles, shoulder pads, mouth guard, knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards, gloves, boots, belt, plastic toy breastplate, plastic toy shield. (Note: Modify instructions for using items depending on which items you are able to collect.)

Introduction

(Enter class wearing protective gear.) **I have on so many different kinds of protective gear I can barely walk!** *(Take off helmet.)* **When do we wear helmets, and how do they protect us?** *(Take off shoulder pads, knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards.)* **When do we wear ALL this protective gear? How do all these guards and pads protect us?** *(Take off gloves.)* **When do people wear gloves? How do they protect our hands?** *(Take off boots.)* **How many different kinds of boots can you think of?** *(Work boots. Hiking boots. Snow boots.)* **How**

do boots protect our feet? *(Point to mouth guard.)* **This is a mouth guard. It’s making me talk funny.** *(Take it out.)* **What does it protect? When do you wear one? We wear lots of protection for sports and other activities, but today we are going to talk about things GOD gives us for protection.**

Tell the Story

God’s protection is written about in the book of Ephesians—the name of a letter Paul wrote. He wrote this letter to the followers of Jesus in a city called Ephesus. He wrote to encourage them to keep on trusting and following Jesus. At the end of Paul’s letter, he talks about the armor of God—what God gives us for protection.

Let’s read what Paul wrote. *(Read or ask a child to read Ephesians 6:10-11 aloud.)* When we obey and follow God, it’s like being a soldier. God gives us protection just like a soldier wears armor to be protected in a battle. But the battle we are fighting is not against people. No, it’s a fight against the tricks of the “evil one.” “The evil one” is a name for God’s enemy, the devil. God’s enemy does NOT want us to believe in God or to love and obey God. God’s enemy will try to deceive or trick us with his mean schemes, BUT we can be prepared. We can put on the armor of God!

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:13, “Use every piece of God’s armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm.” So what are the different pieces of armor? Let’s take a look.

(Read or invite a child to read Ephesians 6:14 aloud.) “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.” *(Invite a child to the front. Have the child put on belt and/or toy breastplate.)* **What does this verse say our belt is? (Truth.) Why do you think it’s SO important to know what is true about God?** *(Invite children to respond.)* God’s enemy tells lies, and sometimes his lies sound like the truth. We might start to believe them. BUT WAIT! We have God’s truth, which defeats the enemy’s lies! Now THAT’S really awesome!

So, we have our belt of truth and we have a breastplate. Another word for “breastplate” is “chest protector.”

What does Ephesians 6:14 say our body armor is?

(*God's righteousness.*) God gives us His righteousness. That means He makes us able to think and do what is right. **How do you learn what is right?** (*Reading God's Word, praying, learning at church.*)

Let's continue on. (*Read or invite a child to read Ephesians 6: 15 aloud.*) "And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." (*Child puts on boots.*) **What does this verse say that we need to have on our feet?** (*Shoes of readiness.*) **How does wearing shoes protect us every day?** (*Invite children to respond.*) When we wear shoes, we are protecting our feet from getting bruised and hurt. We're ready to walk and run fast! In the same way, God wants us to be protected and ready to tell others the good news about Jesus. This good news brings peace to anyone who trusts in Jesus!

Ephesians 6:16 says, "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." How cool is that?! God protects us by giving us a shield. **What does this verse say our shield is?** (*Shield of faith.*) **What does this shield protect us from?** (*The enemy's arrows—lies, temptation, insults.*) When we depend on God and have faith in Him, it's like we have a shield to keep us safe and to help us be protected from the devil's lies. When we are worried or afraid, we can depend on the shield of knowing God cares for us. We can trust Him always.

Next Paul wrote, "Take the helmet of salvation . . ." **What does this verse say that salvation is like?** (*A helmet.*) **Why is having a strong helmet so important?** (*Protects us from hurting our head or mind.*) When we believe in Jesus, we are protected from the consequences of sin. Jesus died on the cross so that we can be forgiven for all our sins. When we believe in Jesus and accept Him as our Lord and Savior we get to live with Him forever. God's enemy lies to us by making us doubt that Jesus loves us. So every time you see a helmet, think of it as protecting your mind from doubting Jesus' love for you.

The Bible tells us something else that we can use to protect ourselves from God's enemy, the devil. Paul writes in Ephesians 6:17, "And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." **What does this verse say is**

like a sword? THE BIBLE! The Bible, or the Word of God, protects us from God's enemy. We can use God's Word to fight the lies the devil tells us. When we know and obey God's Word, we show God's enemy that we believe and trust only in God's power.

God's Word & Me

It might be kind of strange to you to think about putting on armor every day! But listen to these words Paul wrote. Read or ask a child to read Ephesians 6:10-11. Every day we can remember that God gives us protection so that we can be faithful followers of Jesus.

- **What can we do to remember that God gives us protection?** (We can imagine putting on all the armor as we pray, as a reminder that God is with us.)
- **When are times you or your friends are tempted to do the wrong thing?** (Cheat on test. Steal. Disobey parents or teachers.)
- **What armor can you use to fight the lies of God's enemy? The temptations to do what is wrong?**
- **What piece of armor do you think would help kids at your school the most?**
- **Let's pray and thank God for the ways He protects us as we have faith in Him and read His Word.** Pray with children, thanking God for protecting them from sin by giving them salvation. Ask God to help them be ready to tell others the good news of Jesus.

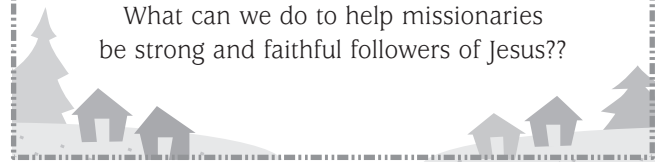


Missions Focus

How do missionaries show that they are faithful followers of Jesus?

Which pieces of the armor of God do missionaries need the most? Why?

What can we do to help missionaries be strong and faithful followers of Jesus??



Game Center



for younger children • Ephesians 6:10-18

Collect

Bible, ball.

Do

1. Sit in a circle with children. Say the first word of the Bible verse and then roll the ball to a child. Say the next word in the verse as the child rolls the ball to another child. Continue process until the verse has been repeated.
2. Play as many rounds as time permits, increasing speed each time.



Talk About

- We are having fun rolling the ball to each other and learning the Bible verse. "Lord" is another name for "God." When we are strong in the Lord, it means that we are asking God to help us to love and obey Him every day.
- Playing fairly with a friend is a way to obey God. Who is a friend you can play with? How can you play fairly when you play?

God's Word

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God."
Ephesians 6:10-11

For Younger Children:
"Be strong in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

I can be a faithful follower of Jesus because of the protection He provides for me.

- When we pray to God, we show that we love Him. What are some things we can thank Him for or ask Him for when we pray?
- Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to show every day that we love You. Help us to obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

Children may roll, throw or bounce the ball to each other as they say the words of the Bible verse. Increase the difficulty of the action with each round as you repeat the verse (throw from behind the back, under the leg, etc.).

Game Center



for older children • Ephesians 6:10-18

Collect

Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player; two sets of each—helmet, knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards, shoulder pads or other protective gear, masking tape.

Prepare

Set the helmet, knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards, shoulder guards and any other protective gear on one side of the room. On the opposite side of the room, lay a masking-tape start line.

Do

1. Children form two teams. Each team stands behind the starting line.
2. Play "Get Strong" on CD player. When music begins, the first child on each team runs to the team's pile of gear, puts it all on and then runs back to his or her team.
3. The child shouts out the verse, then removes all gear so the next child in line can put it all on and run to the opposite side of the room, shout out the verse and then remove gear. Continue play until every child on one team has had a turn.



Talk About

- Just like we have protection for riding a bike, skateboarding or rollerblading, God gives us protection too! The protection God gives us is sometimes called "The Armor of God."
- Read Ephesians 6:10-11. When we wear this armor, we can be strong to obey God's commands and follow Jesus.
- What are some ways we can obey God?
- Who are some people you know who are faithful followers of God? What do they do or say to show that they love and obey God?

God's Word

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God."
Ephesians 6:10-11

For Younger Children:
"Be strong in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

I can be a faithful follower of Jesus because of the protection He provides for me.

Missions Focus

How do missionaries show that they are faithful followers of Jesus?

Which pieces of the armor of God do missionaries need the most? Why?

What can we do to help missionaries be strong and faithful followers of Jesus??

- What is a way you or a friend need the most help in obeying God? Volunteers respond. Let's pray and ask God to help us be faithful followers. Lead children in prayer, asking God to help them obey.

For Younger Children

Only use knee pads. Each time a child removes pads, all children on the team shout the words of the verse together.

Art Center



for younger children • Ephesians 6:10-18

Collect

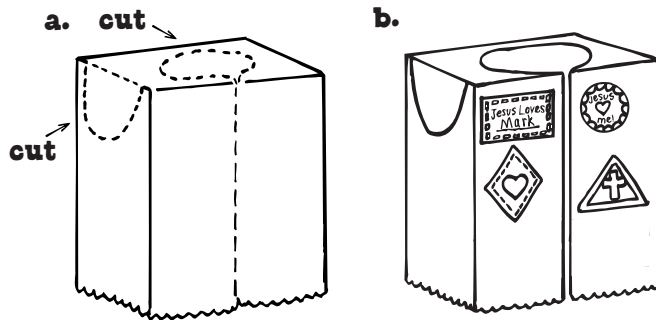
Bible, Lesson 13 Pattern Page (p. 224), a brown paper grocery bag for each child, scissors, markers or crayons, glue.

Prepare

Photocopy Lesson 13 Pattern Page for each child. Cut bags up one side and then cut as shown. (Turn bags inside out if outsides are printed.)

Do

1. Give each child a Pattern Page. Child cuts out patches (be available to help if needed) and colors them as desired.
2. Child glues patches onto vest.
3. Child decorates vest with markers or crayons as desired.



Talk About

- What do you wear when you ride a bike? How does a helmet help you?

God's Word

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God."
Ephesians 6:10-11

For Younger Children:
"Be strong in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

I can be a faithful follower of Jesus because of the protection He provides for me.

- Jayce, when you are in a boat, what do you wear? A life vest helps you to float if the boat tips over.
- We often wear things that help us stay safe from getting hurt. We made vests today to remind us that Jesus always will help and protect us. He keeps us safe so we can follow Him! Let's thank God for keeping us safe. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for keeping us safe. In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

Omit making vests. Older children may create unique patches from craft foam or may cut out and attach craft foam pieces to represent reflector stripes, belts, emergency gear, etc. Children take home patches or other items to attach to book covers, bulletin boards, etc.

Art Center



for older children • Ephesians 6:10-18

Collect

Bible, scissors, measuring stick, hole punchers, crayons or markers, plastic or leather lacing material; for each child—one 6x9-inch (15x23-cm) manila envelope, four wooden beads; optional—printed pages of Bible promises.

Prepare

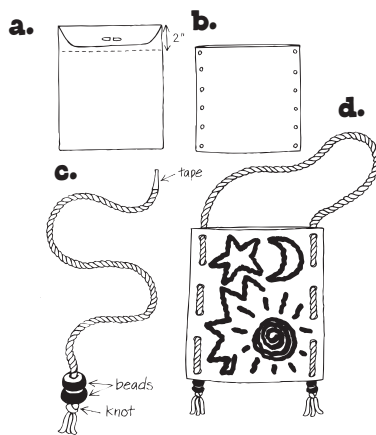
Cut off 2 inches (5 cm) from the top of each envelope to make an open pouch (see sketch a).

Do

1. Child punches evenly-spaced holes along sides of envelope (see sketch b). Child uses crayons or markers to decorate pouch as desired.

2. Child knots one end of lacing material, slides a bead onto lacing material, makes another knot and slides on a second bead (see sketch c). Child threads lacing in-and-out, up one side of envelope, leaving a large loop at the top for a shoulder strap. Child then laces down other side of envelope, slides on a third bead, ties a knot and ties a fourth bead on end to finish pouch (see sketch d).

3. (Optional: Child cuts apart page of Bible promises into verse strips and places strips into envelope.) Child wears the Promise Keeper over shoulder or around waist.



Talk About

- Who are some athletes you know? What are ways they make themselves strong?
- Our Bible verse tells us, “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God.” How do you think an athlete’s ways to be strong are different from the ways our Bible verse tells? What are ways to be strong in the Lord?
- One way is to remember what God tells us. That’s the reason we made Promise Keepers! This week, look through your Bible to find promises God makes. Write down those verses and put them in your Prom-

God’s Word

“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God.”
Ephesians 6:10-11

For Younger Children:
“Be strong in the Lord.”

God’s Word & Me

I can be a faithful follower of Jesus because of the protection He provides for me.

Missions Focus

How do missionaries show that they are faithful followers of Jesus?

Which pieces of the armor of God do missionaries need the most? Why?

What can we do to help missionaries be strong and faithful followers of Jesus??

ise Keeper. Read them aloud to yourself several times this week.

- We don’t have to lift weights to be strong in the Lord. He can make anyone strong because He is the One who gives us power and protection! Pray, thanking God for His power and asking Him to help children remember that they can be faithful followers as they depend on Him.

For Younger Children

Pre-punch holes for younger children and use yarn for lacing material, adding a tape “needle” to one end of yarn. Give help with knots and measuring out loop for hanging from shoulder.

Worship Center



Lesson Thirteen

Ephesians 6:10-18

Collect

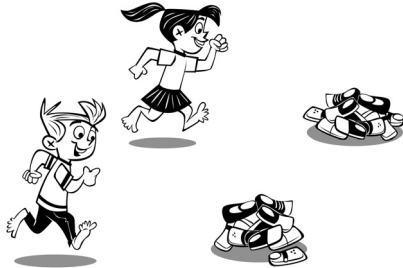
Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 247-248), construction paper, scissors, ruler, markers, large world map, tape or staplers.

Prepare

Cut construction paper into 1.5-to 2-inch wide (4 -to 5 -cm wide) strips—at least one strip for each child. Display map on wall. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from CD-ROM.)

Team Game

We are going to play a game with our shoes. What do shoes help us to do? (Walk and move quickly.) In the same way, God wants us to be quick to tell others about the peace and good news He offers to everyone. Let's play the game! Children form two teams. Select six to eight volunteers from each team to play the game. Children on each team remove shoes and place them in a team pile on one side of the playing area. Children line up in single-file lines on far side of playing area, across from their team's shoe pile. Mix up shoes within each pile. Play "Get Strong" on CD-ROM. When music begins, the first child on each team skips to shoe pile, finds one of his or her shoes, puts it on and skips back to his or her team. The next child in line repeats the action. Children continue, taking turns until everyone on team has collected and put on both shoes.



Bible Verse Game

Repeat Ephesians 6:10-11 aloud with children several times. Listen closely. I'm going to say part of the verse wrong. See if you know what the mistake is. Repeat the verse with one or two wrong words. Volunteers tell correct words. Play several rounds as time permits. Invite a child to repeat the verse correctly between rounds.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Get Strong," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

God's Word

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God."
Ephesians 6:10-11

For Younger Children:
"Be strong in the Lord."

God's Word & Me

I can be a faithful follower of Jesus because of the protection He provides for me.

Missions Focus

How do missionaries show that they are faithful followers of Jesus?

Which pieces of the armor of God do missionaries need the most? Why?

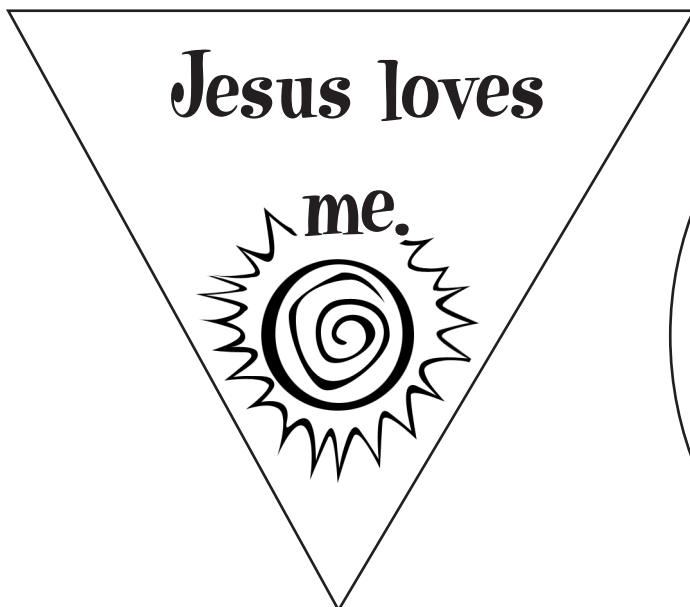
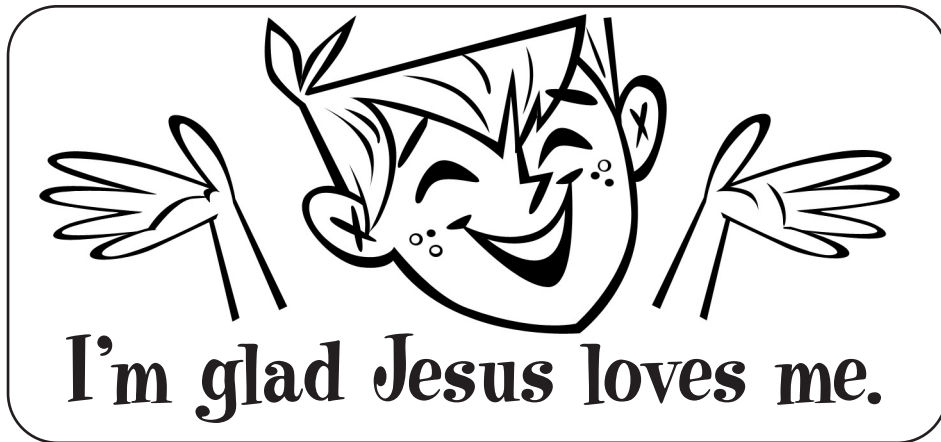
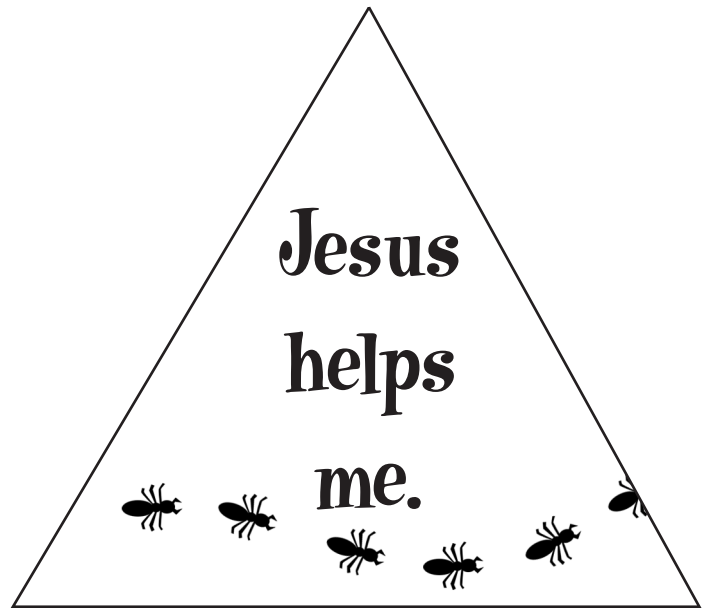
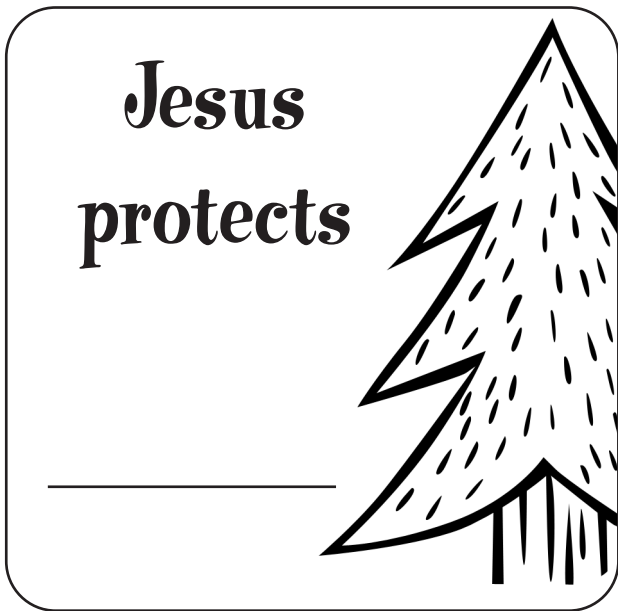
What can we do to help missionaries be strong and faithful followers of Jesus??

Worldwide Prayer

Divide class into small groups of 8 to 10 children. Today we are going to create a prayer chain. Each one of you will write the name of a different country on a paper strip. Link your strips together to make a paper chain. Then in your small groups take turns praying for the people in the countries that are listed on each link of the chain. Staple or tape all the chains together to create one long prayer chain.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Spread the Good News," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

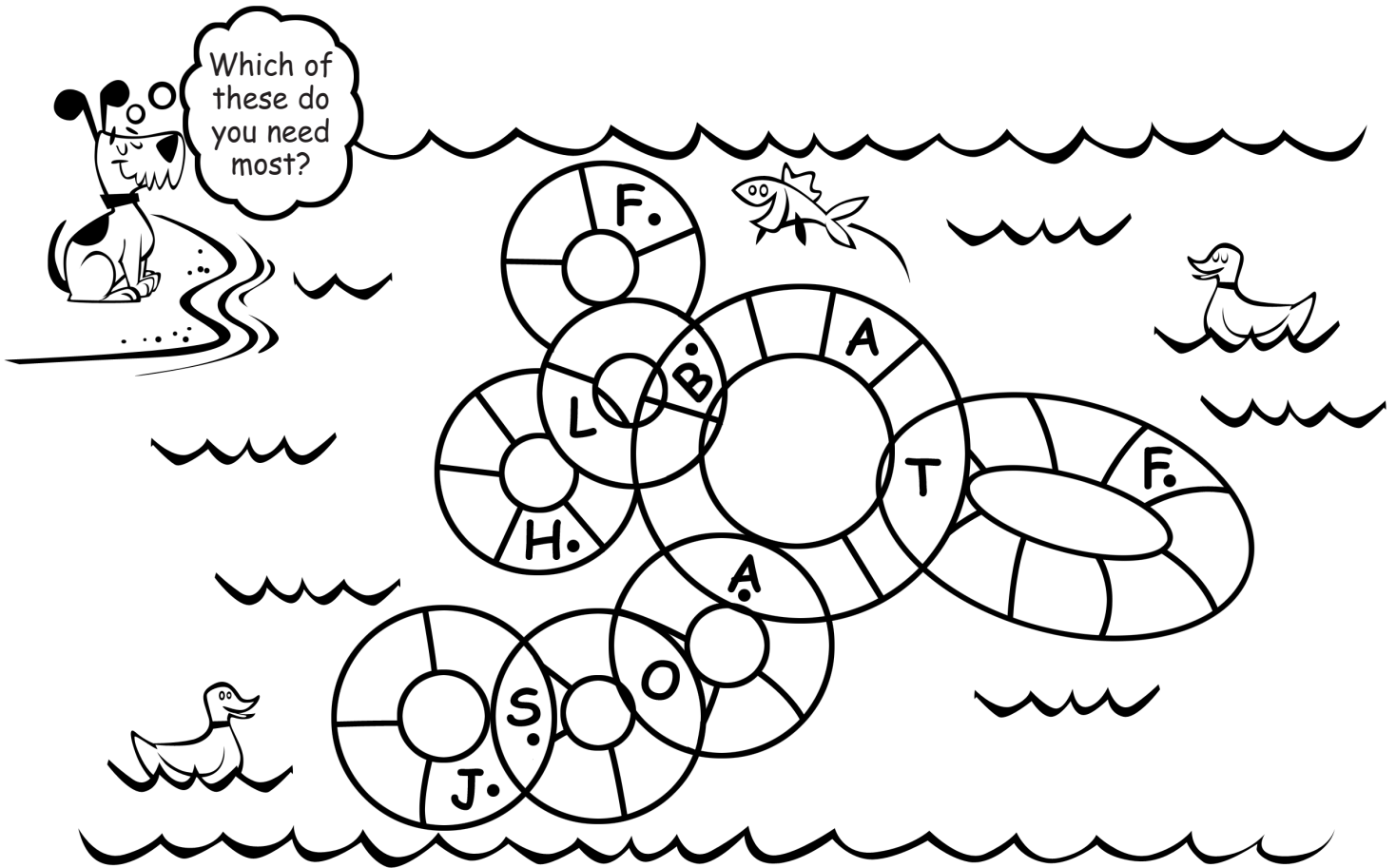




“Be strong in the Lord.” (See Ephesians 6:10-11.)
How can you obey Jesus?

Circular Crossword Puzzle!

These pool rings are all connected in a pile! Use the clues to figure out the words just like you would do in a crossword puzzle. But watch out—beginning the word at the dot, you must decide which direction to go to fill in the blanks! Some connecting blanks are filled in, to help you get started.



Clues:

To be protected, I need God's A _____.

The B _____ protects my heart.

If I wear the readiness to share God's good news of J _____, my feet are in good shape!

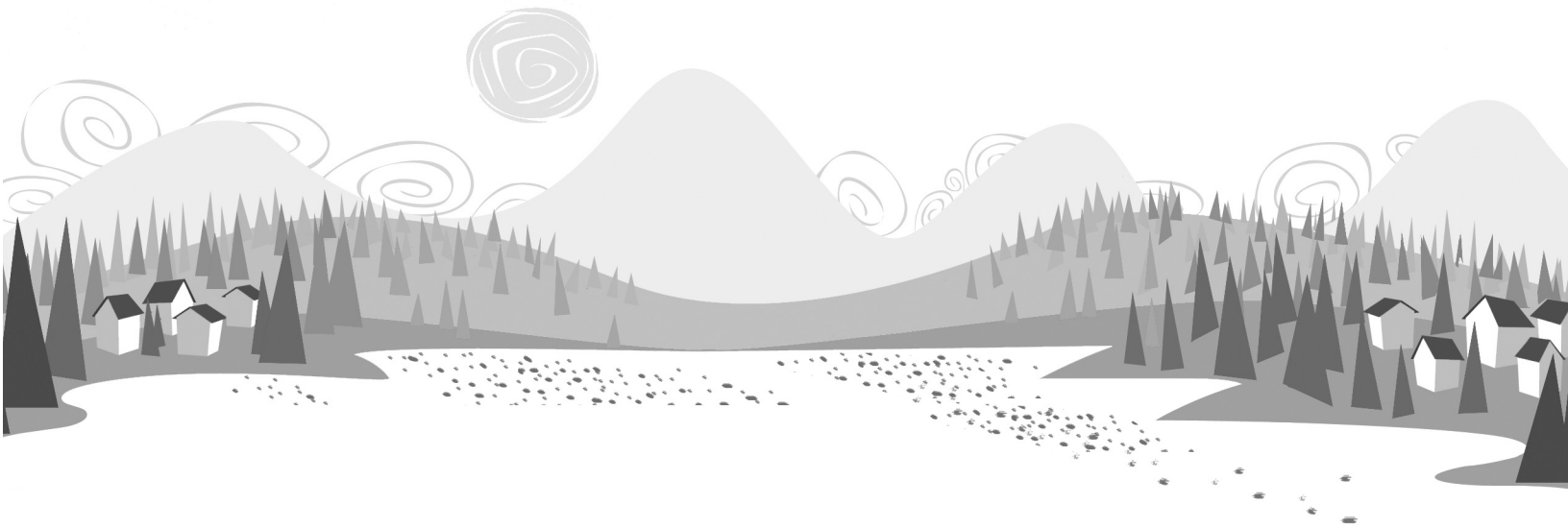
I have a S _____! It's God's Word.

My shield is F _____.

Truth is my B _____.

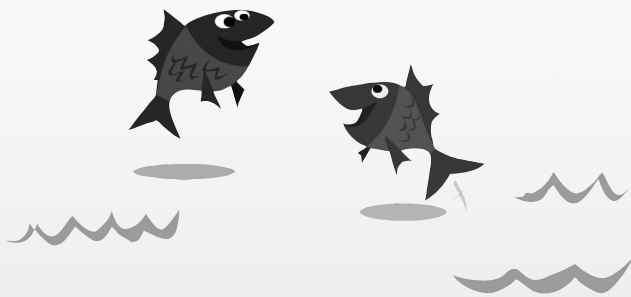
Wearing the H _____ of salvation is great protection!

All these great gifts help me to be a F _____ follower of Jesus!



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!

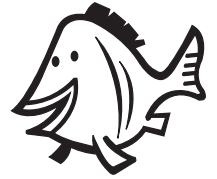


Certificates

Use these certificates to recognize and honor children, teachers and helpers.



This award is given to

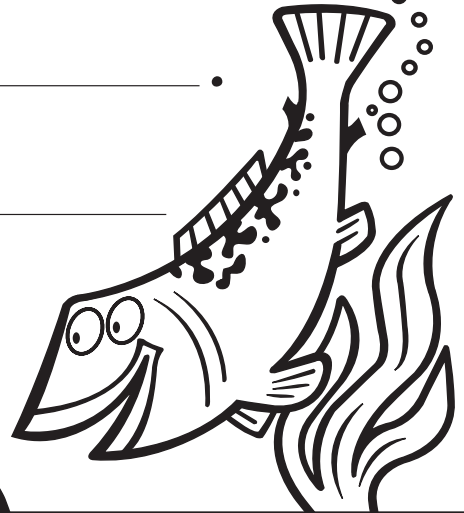
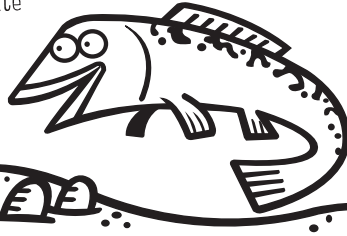


for



Date

Counselor



Thank you for leading the way
at Rock-Solid Followers.

Date

Counselor

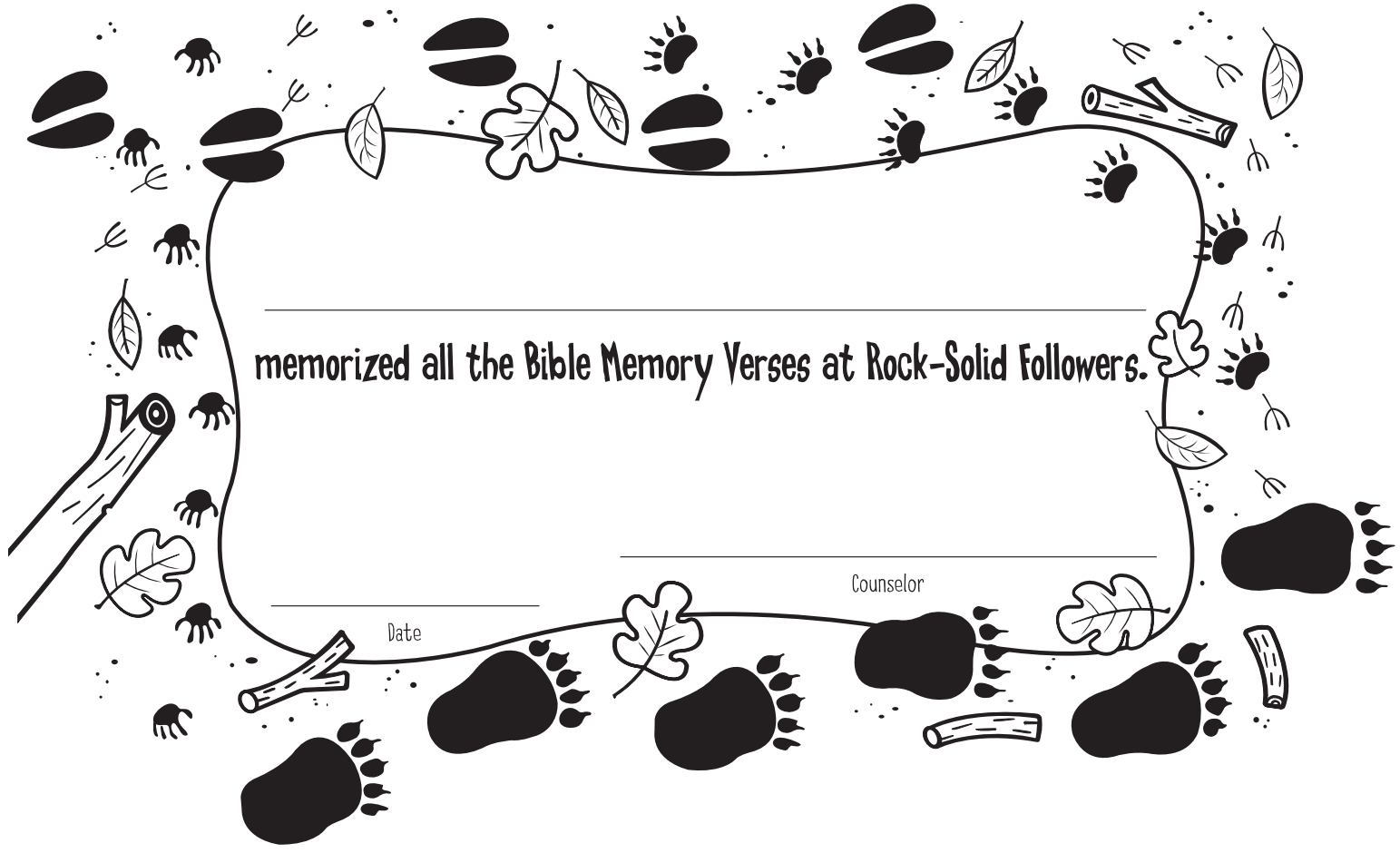




THANK YOU FOR

Date _____

Counselor _____



memorized all the Bible Memory Verses at Rock-Solid Followers.

Date _____

Counselor _____

Family Talk



Today's date _____

What we read

One way Jesus gives us what we need

One thing we already knew

One thing to thank Jesus for

One thing we did not know

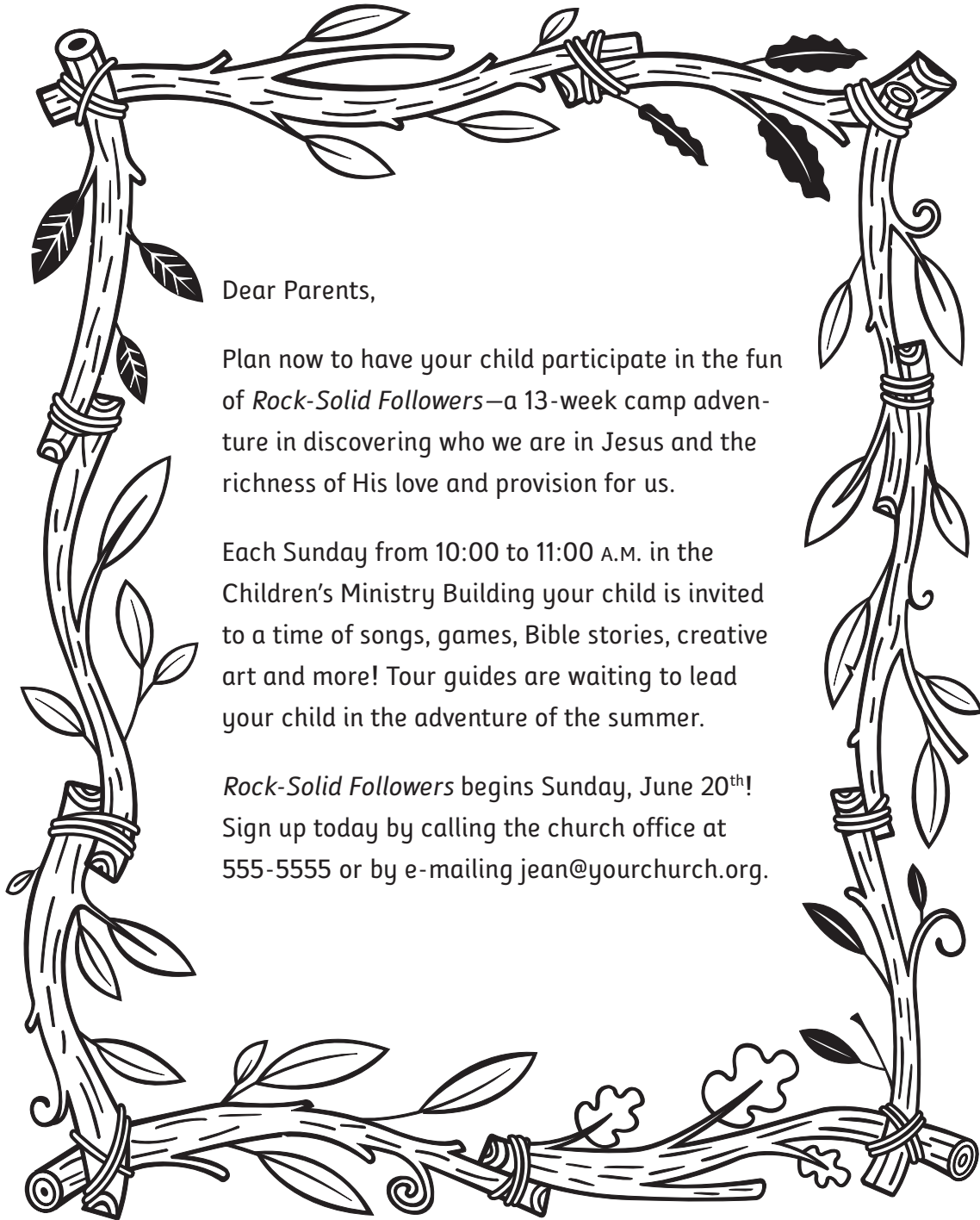
One thing to ask Jesus for

One truth about Jesus



Parent Letters

Help parents become familiar with *Rock-Solid Followers* 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 *Rock-Solid Followers*.



Dear Parents,

Plan now to have your child participate in the fun of *Rock-Solid Followers*—a 13-week camp adventure in discovering who we are in Jesus and the richness of His love and provision for us.

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.

Rock-Solid Followers begins Sunday, June 20th! Sign up today by calling the church office at 555-5555 or by e-mailing jean@yourchurch.org.



Ready for an evening at camp?
We're inviting you to a nighttime movie, games and S'mores!

Place

Date

Time



You're invited to a Family Fun Scavenger Hunt
at Rock-Solid Followers!

Date

Time

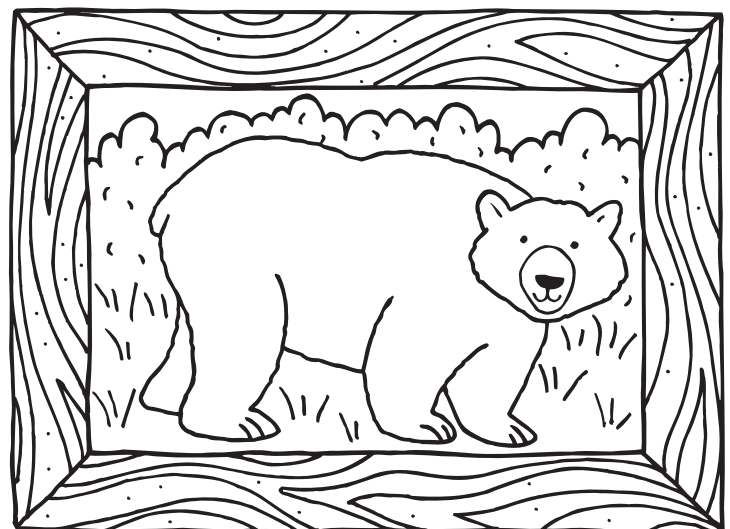
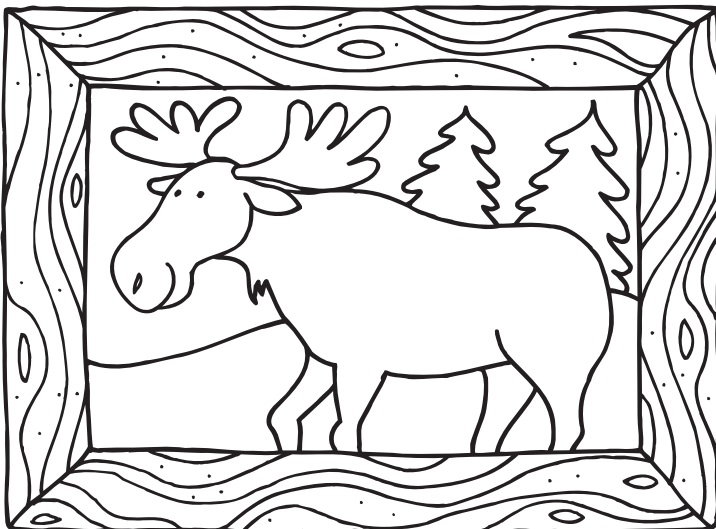
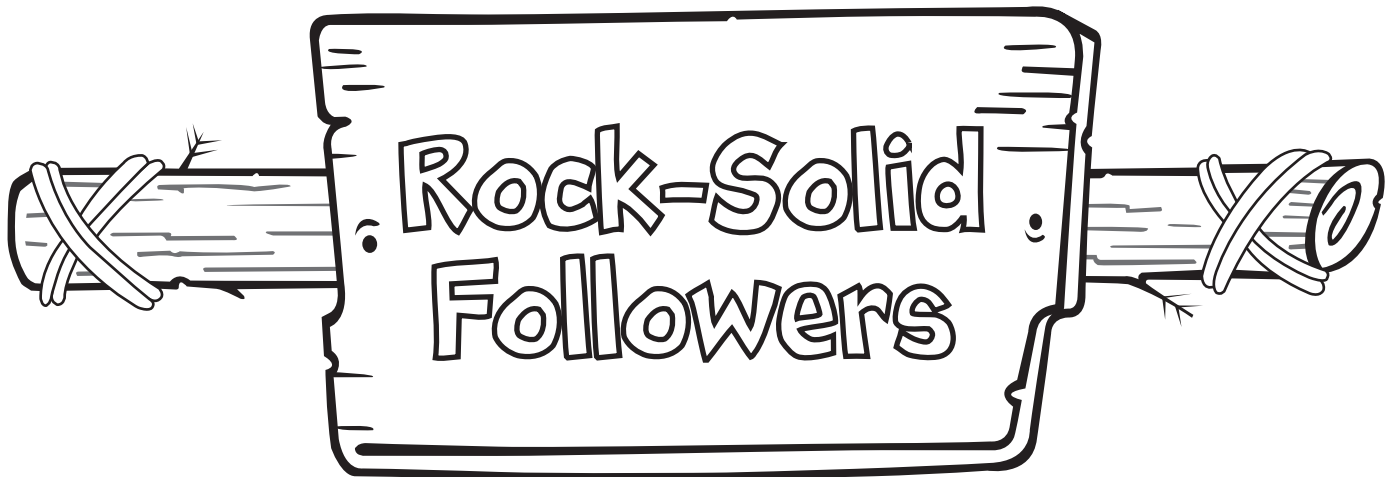
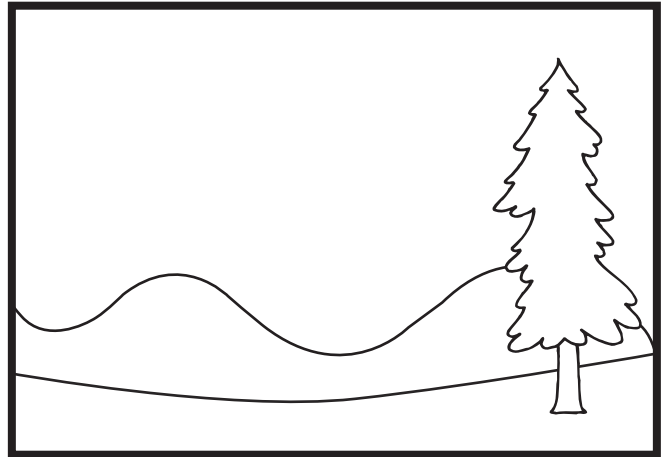
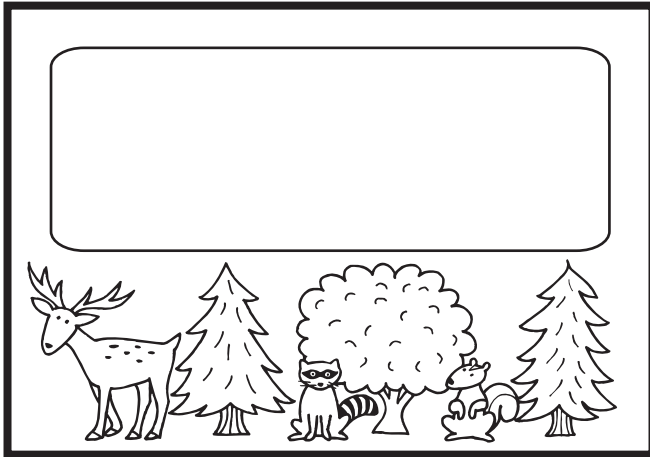
Place

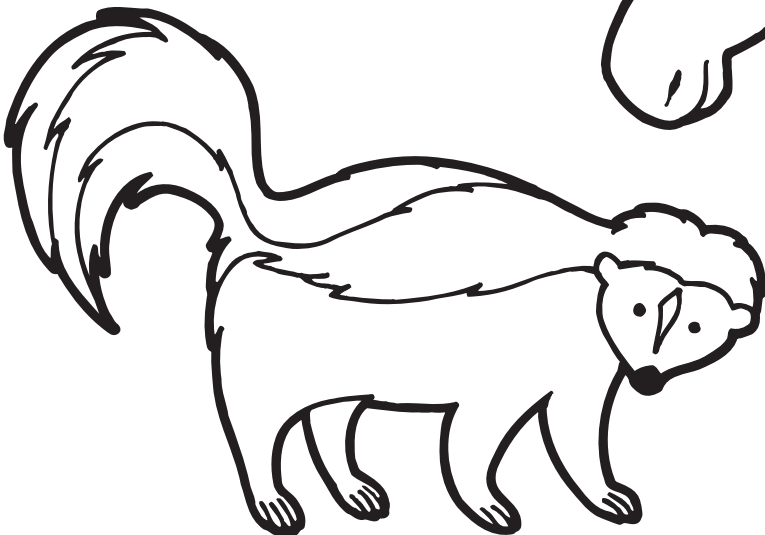
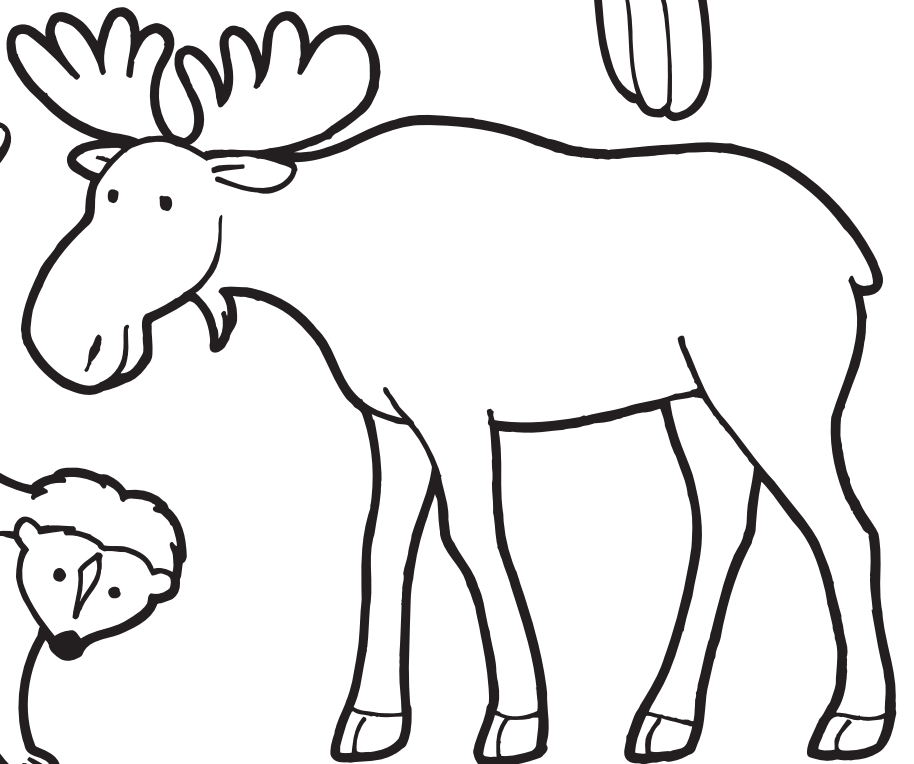
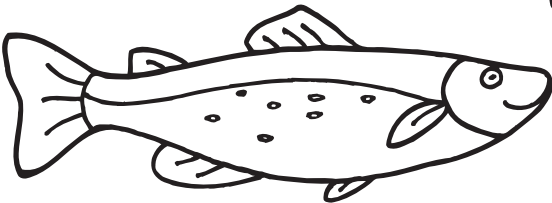
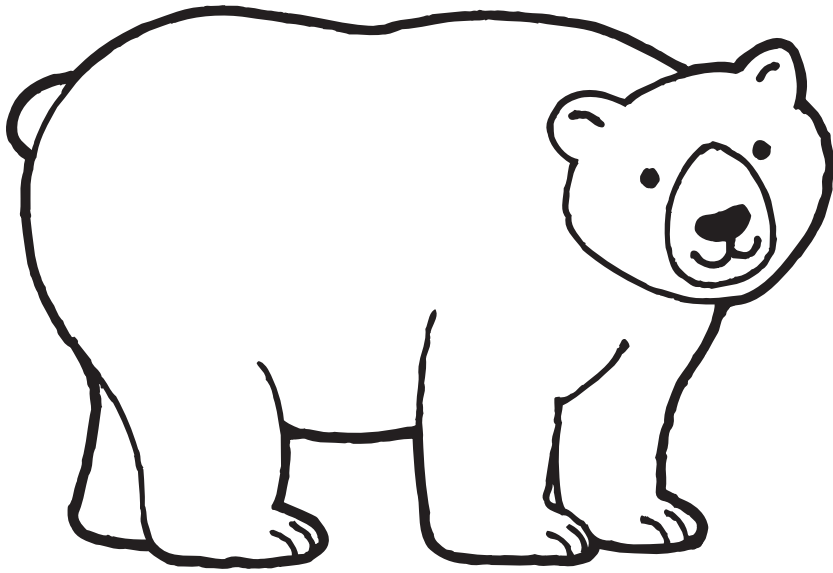
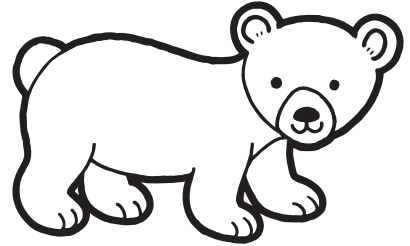
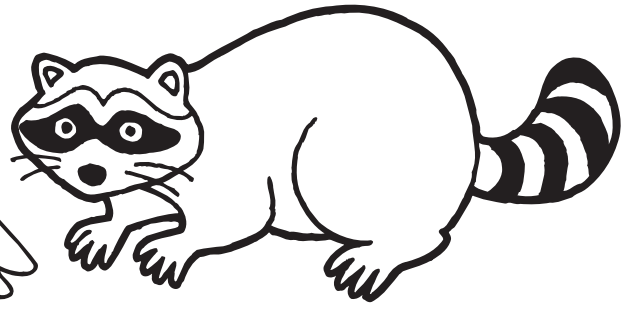
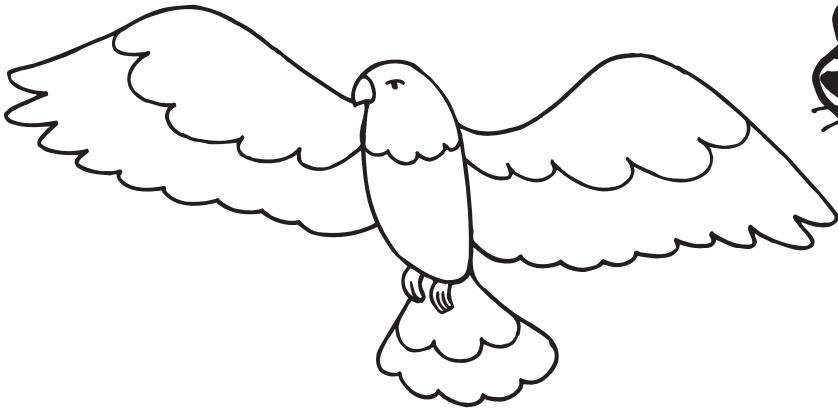
Come join your kids on a camping adventure!
Please bring a toy wagon or a rolling cooler.
Call Jean Brown at 555-5555 for more information.

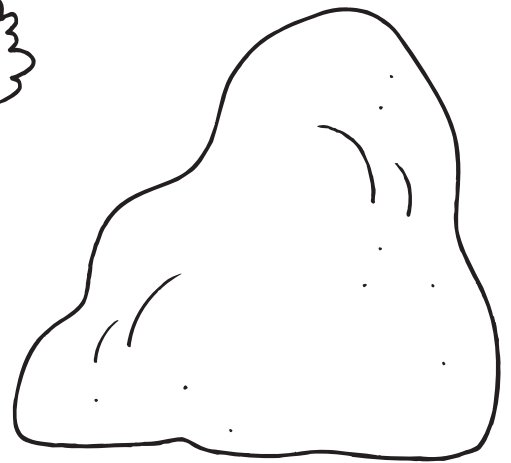
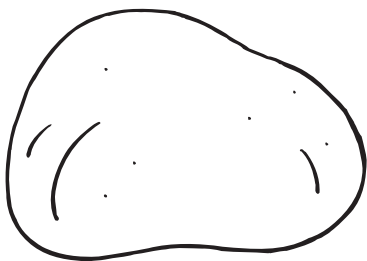
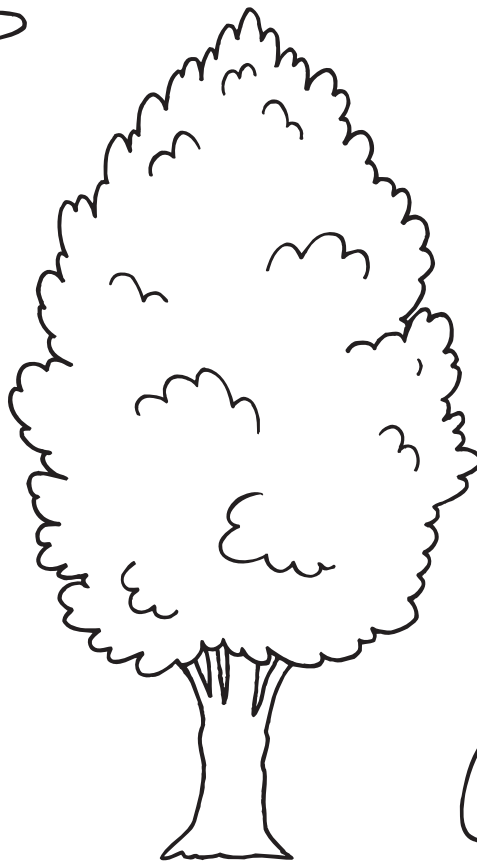
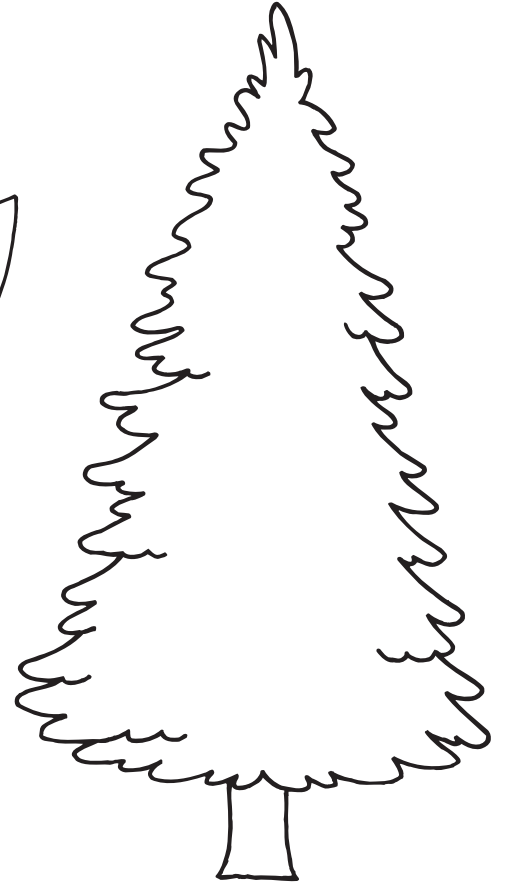
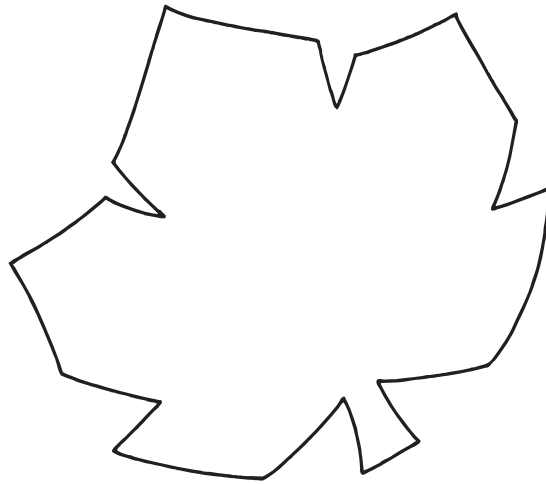
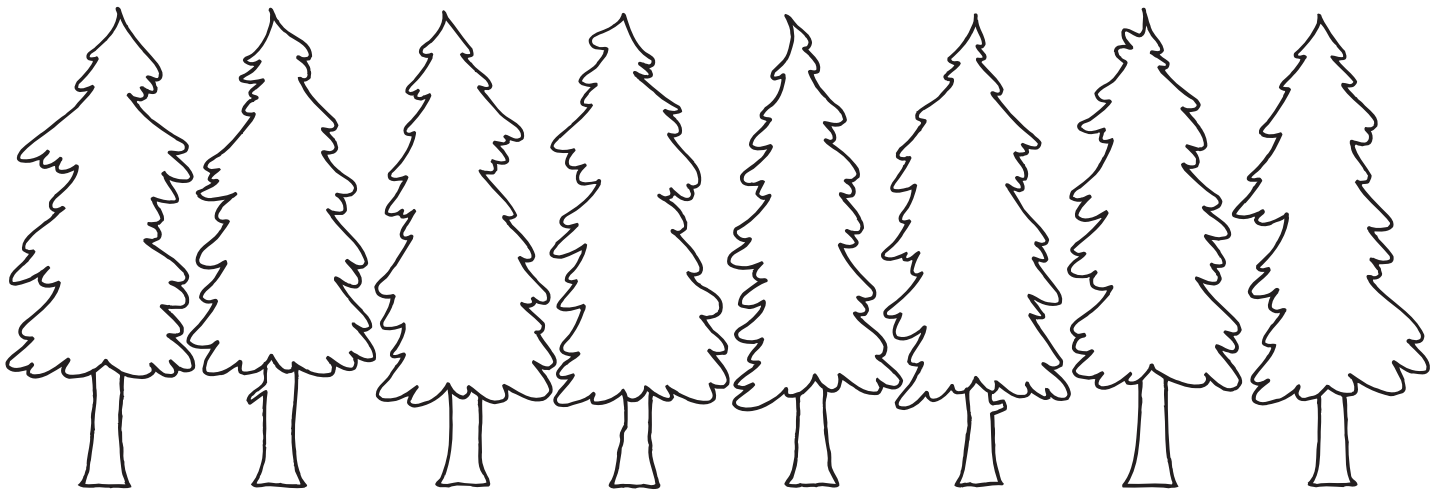
Patterns

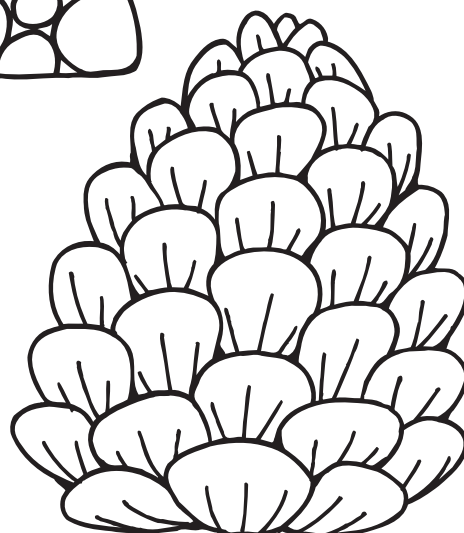
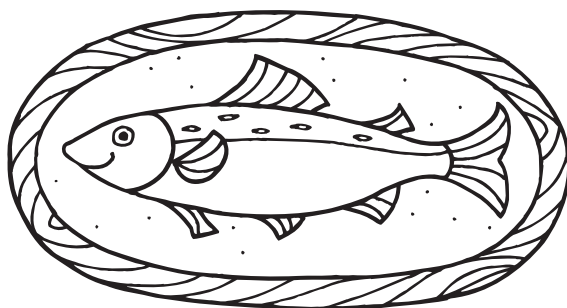
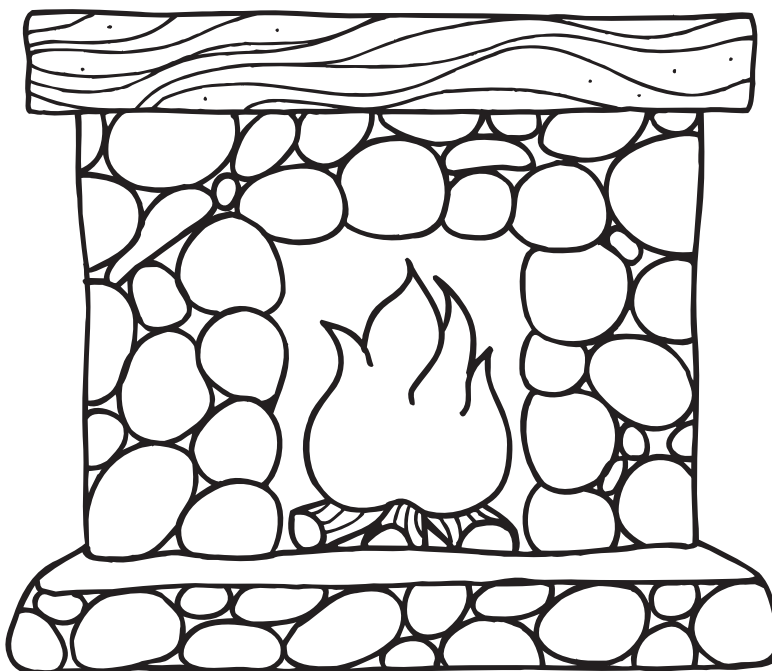
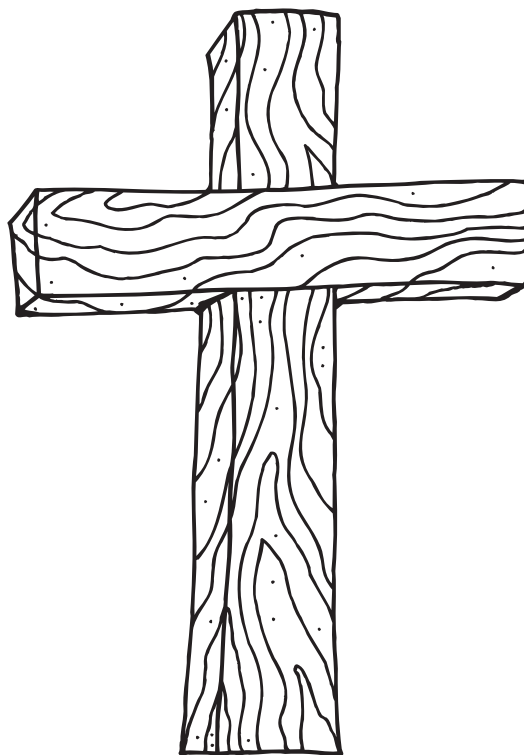
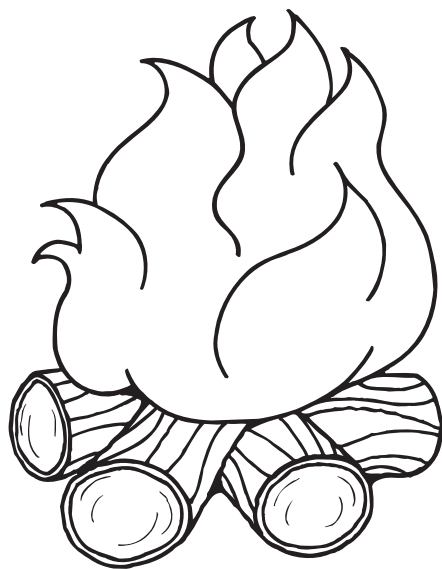
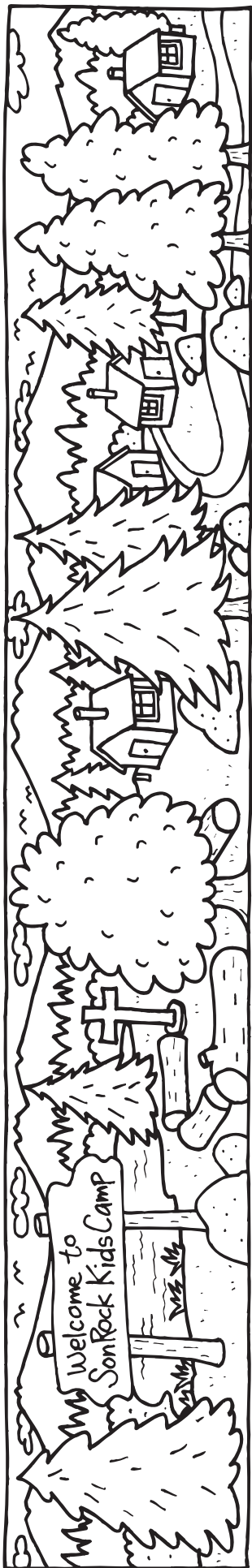
Use these patterns to enhance bulletin announcements, forms and flyers. Pattern can also be used to decorate bulletin boards, classrooms, hallways and church buildings. Follow these three easy steps to enlarge patterns:

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.)











Rock-Solid Followers

Date(s) _____

Lesson # and Title _____

Teaching Team _____

Time

Center

Materials

Teachers

Helpers



Rock-Solid FOLLOWERS



Lace up your hiking boots, grab your backpack and get ready for an adventure at ***Rock-Solid Followers!***

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Sign up now!



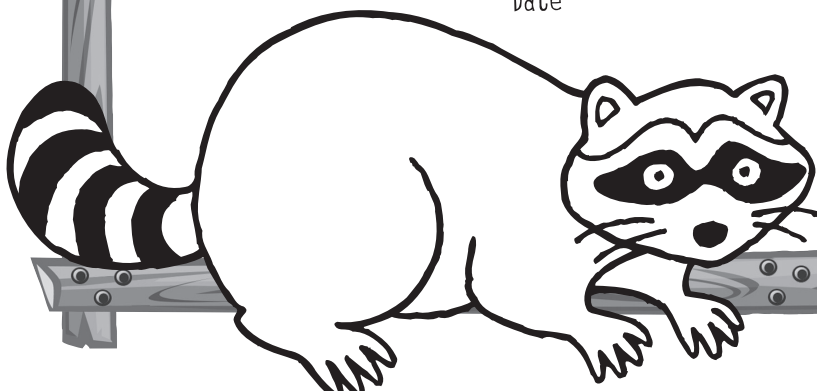


Get Caught Having Fun at **Rock-Solid Followers!**

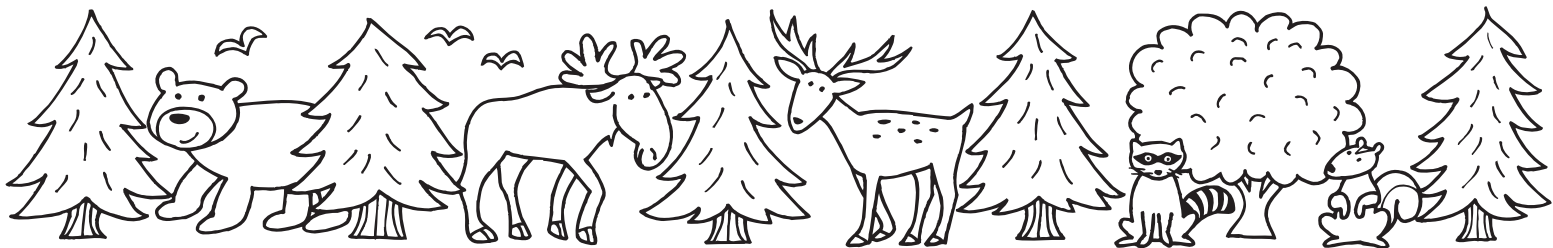
Place

Date

Time



Sign up today!



Come discover Jesus' love and care for us at **Rock-Solid Followers!**

Date: _____ Time: _____

Place: _____

Sign up now!



_____ Date

_____ Time

_____ Place



Want s'more fun?

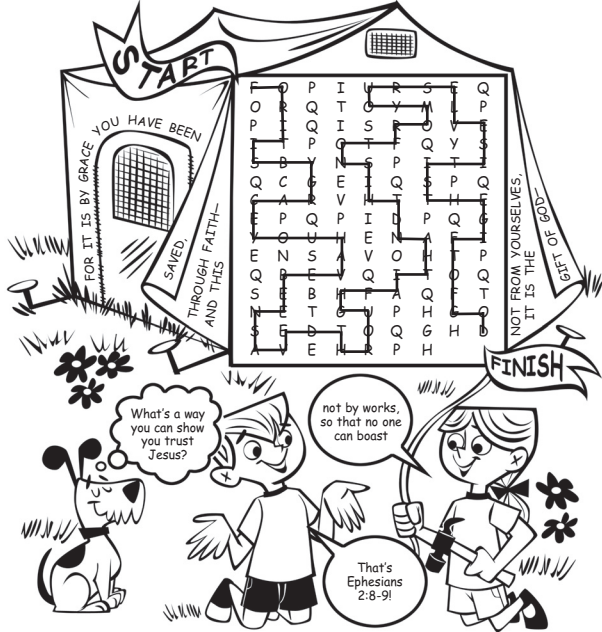
Come to Rock-Solid Followers! Sign up today!

Puzzle Answers

Lesson One • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Tent Talk

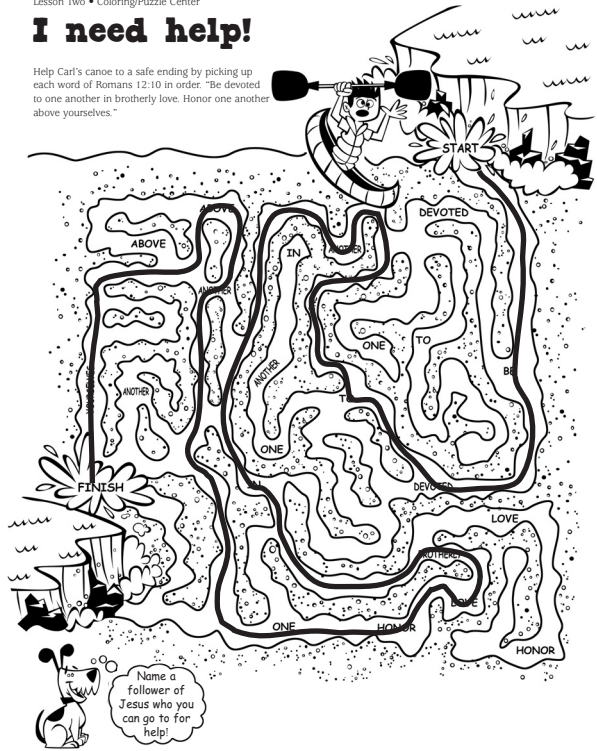
Tim and Tisha have put up a very unusual tent. It contains most of the words from Ephesians 2:8-9. Starting at the square on the top left-hand side, see if you can make it all the way to Tisha, who finishes the verses for you! Hint: Mind your Ps and Qs!



Lesson Two • Coloring/Puzzle Center

I need help!

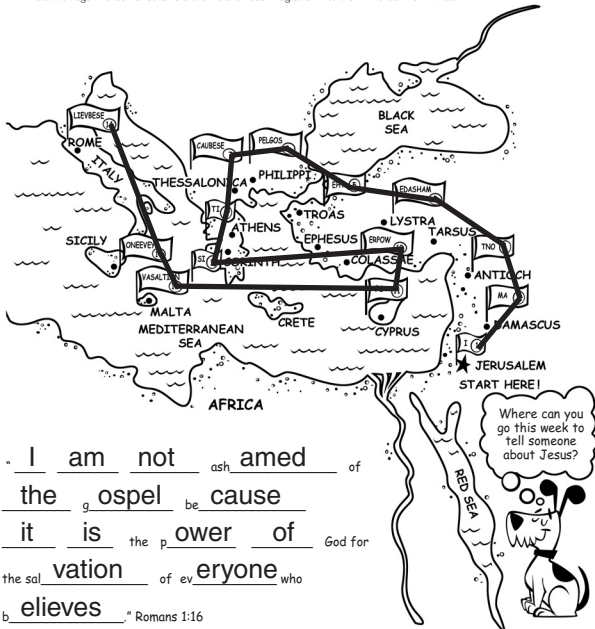
Help Cat's canoe to a safe ending by picking up each word of Romans 12:10 in order. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."



Lesson Three • Coloring/Puzzle Center

On a Mission from God!

This map shows the areas where Paul traveled to spread the good news of Jesus. To find the names of the places, connect the flags in order. Unscramble the word on each flag and write them in order—on Africa!

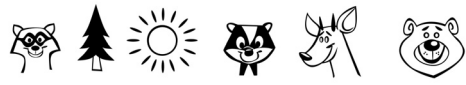


I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. —Romans 1:16

Lesson Four • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Camp Searchin' Find

Welcome to camp! There are many things to search for. Draw a line through each word when you find it. Circle the remaining letters. Write the circled letters in order to get a bonus message.



L	H	O	R	S	E	B	A	C	K	▲	☀	▲	▲	▲	▲
O	☀	☀	B	A	C	K	P	A	G	K	S	▲	▲	▲	▲
O	C	F	☀	N	G	☀	A	A	E	B	☀	▲	▲	▲	▲
H	A	U	☀	☀	☀	E	R	▲	E	☀	V	▲	▲	▲	▲
L	N	N	☀	Z	B	E	O	☀	N	☀	R	▲	▲	▲	▲
▲	☀	C	W	G	☀	W	T	R	E	E	☀	▲	▲	▲	▲
E	M	C	A	R	I	N	S	☀	☀	☀	☀	▲	▲	▲	▲
V	☀	C	O	O	K	O	U	T	A	N	T	I	E	N	▲
S	M	O	R	E	S	☀	S	E	E	B	M	R	E	▲	▲

Search the whole camp to find:

- Ant
- Cabins
- Pond
- Pool
- Arrows
- Canoe
- River
- Trees
- Backpacks
- Cookout
- S'mores
- Bear
- Fun
- Summit
- Bees
- Horseback
- Sun

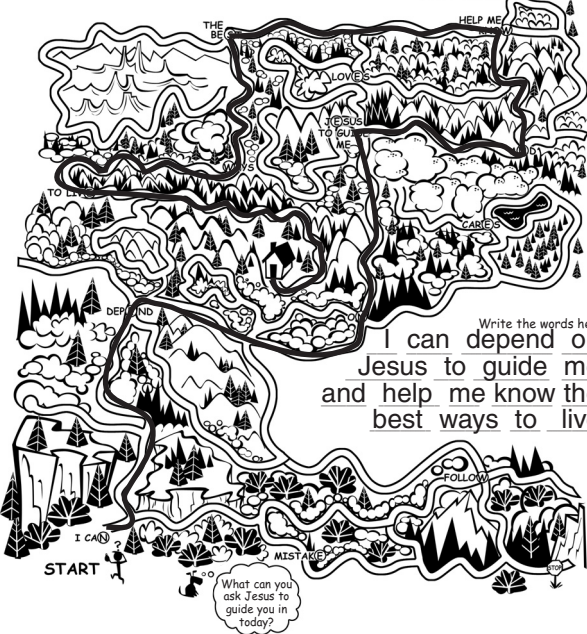
Bonus Message:

I can see evidence of God's love for me



Guide Me!

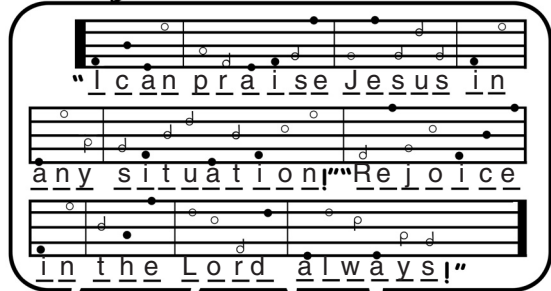
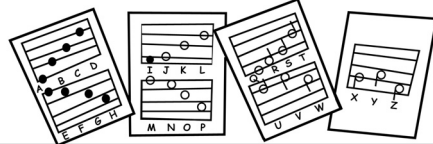
Lost? Don't worry—use the compass to guide you! Travel in the direction you find in the circled letter in each word or phrase. Write the words below to help you make sure the words make sense. (There are several wrong paths!)



Write the words here:
I can depend on
Jesus to guide me
and help me know the
best ways to live

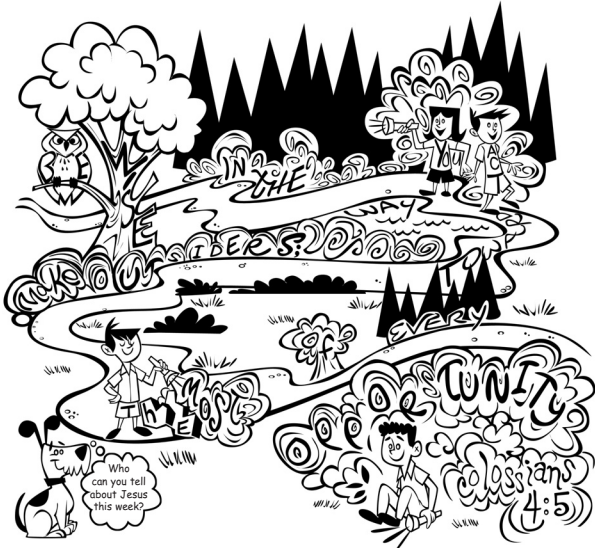
Campfire Songs!

You don't read music? No worries! Just follow the code to discover what's making your fellow-campers sing!



Night Hike!

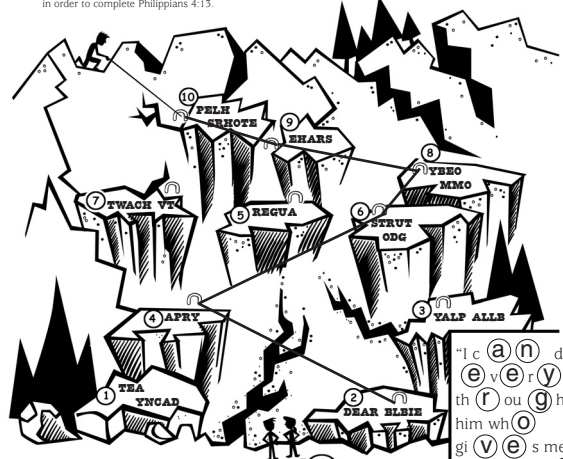
It's dark out there! Start at the owl and follow the path to find every hidden word—there are 15 of them! Write them below as you find them.



Be wise in the way
you act toward
outsiders make
the most of every
opportunity

Climb the Wall!

It takes a lot of strength to climb a wall like this! Unscramble the words and then decide which ways will help you become stronger. Draw straight lines between those ways (like ropes!) to get to the top! Then use the circled letters in order to complete Philippians 4:13.



Unscramble here:

- E A T C A N D Y
- R E A D B I L E
- P L A Y B A L L
- P R A y
- A R G U E
- T R U S T G O D
- W A T C H T V
- O B E Y M O M
- S H A R E
- H E L P O T H E R S

Which of these ways to get strength will you use today?

"I c a n do
e v e r y thing
th r o u g h
h i m w h o
g i v e s m e
s t r e n g t h."
Philippians 4:13

Puzzle Answers

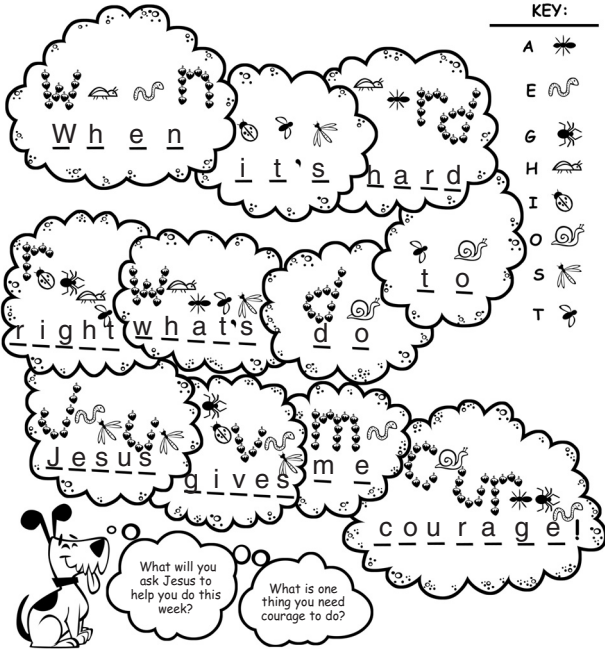
Lesson Nine • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Bugs in the Berries!

Do bugs "bug" you? If you're going to pick berries, you'll have to find out what these bugs are telling you! Use the bug shapes and the berry patterns to decipher each word. Get close—be brave!

KEY:

- A *
- E S
- G B
- H W
- I O
- O N
- S T

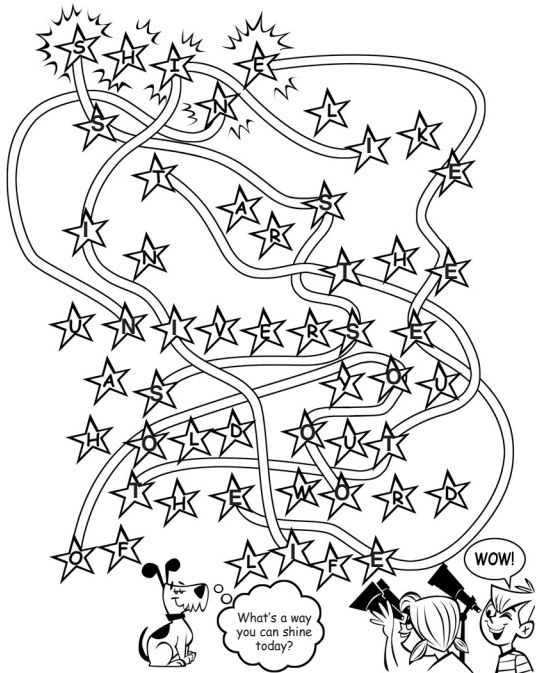


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Lesson Ten • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Constellation Connection!

Carry down each letter to the next connected star, to complete Philippians 2:15-16.



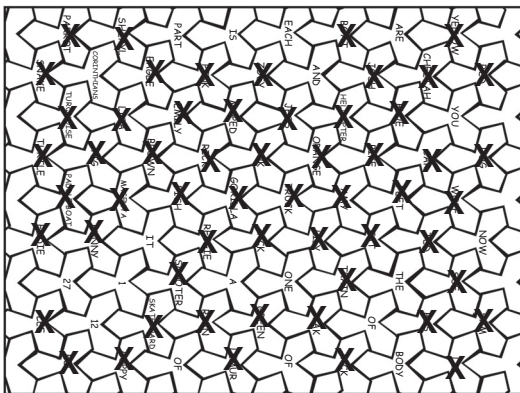
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Lesson Eleven • Coloring/Puzzle Center

A Perfect Fit!

These shapes fit together to make an amazing pattern, but wait—there's a secret message hidden on them! Follow the instructions:
 First, cross out all the types of transportation.
 Second, cross out all the names of colors.
 Third, cross out all the boys' names.
 Fourth, do the same for all the girls' names.
 Fifth, get rid of all the names of animals.
 Now write the leftover words in order on the blank below to find out where you fit!

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27



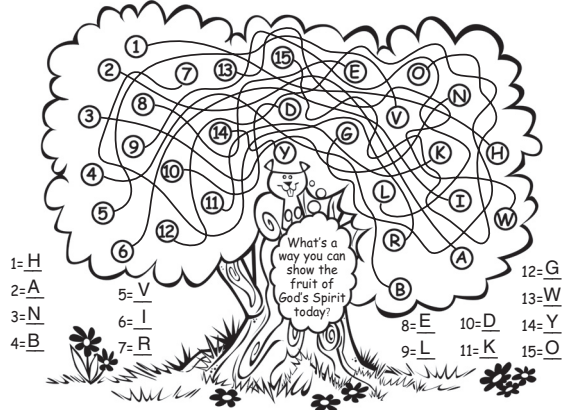
What's a way you can show care for your church family?

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Lesson Twelve • Coloring/Puzzle Center

Good Fruit!

This is a fruitful tree—and as you connect each numbered fruit with a lettered fruit, you'll be able to complete the key, and then the message beneath the tree!



- 1=H
- 2=A
- 3=N
- 4=B
- 5=V
- 6=I
- 7=R
- 8=E
- 9=L
- 10=D
- 11=K
- 12=G
- 13=W
- 14=Y
- 15=O

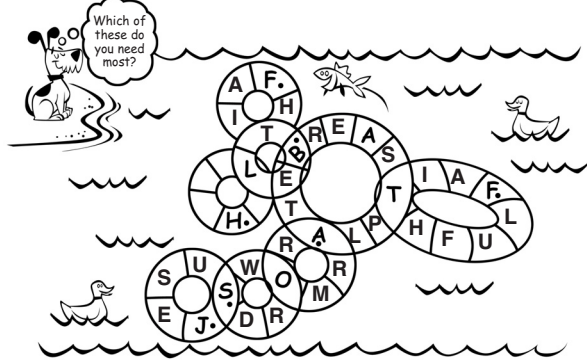
LIVE A LI[E WOR*HY
 9 6 5 8 2 9 6 8 13 15 7 1 14
 O*H E L ORD AND ...
 15 1 8 9 15 7 10 2 3 10
 P LEA SE H I M I N E V E R Y
 9 8 2 8 1 6 6 3 8 5 8 7 14
 WAY: BEARING FRUIT IN
 13 2 14 4 8 2 7 6 3 12 7 6 6 3
 E V E R Y G O O D W O R K
 8 5 8 7 14 12 15 15 10 13 15 7 11

growing in the knowledge of GOD." Colossians 1:10
 12 15 10

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Circular Crossword Puzzle!

These pool rings are all connected in a pile! Use the clues to figure out the words just like you would do in a crossword puzzle. But watch out—beginning the word at the dot, you must decide which direction to go to fill in the blanks! Some connecting blanks are filled in, to help you get started.



Clues:

To be protected, I need God's A R M O R.
 The B R E A S T P L A T E protects my heart.
 If I wear the readiness to share God's good news of J E S U S, my feet are in good shape!
 I have a S W O R D! It's God's Word.
 My shield is F A I T H.
 Truth is my B E L T.
 Wearing the H E L M E T of salvation is great protection!
 All these great gifts help me to be a F A I T H F U L follower of Jesus!



I'm Keepin' My Eyes on Jesus

by Jamie Owens Collins

Chorus:

I'm keepin' my eyes on Jesus.

If I start to fall, He helps me to stand.

I'm keepin' my eyes on Jesus,

And He's keepin' me in His hand.

When I have a problem and don't know what to do,

I keep my eyes on Jesus; He carries me through.

I don't need to worry and I won't be afraid

'Cause Jesus will protect me and help me every day.

Repeat Chorus twice





Spread the Good News

Chorus:

Jump to the left and jump to the
right,

And sing to the Lord with all of
your might.

Raise your hands and wave them in
the air,

And spread the good news
everywhere.

Repeat chorus

1. God will forgive our sin.
We can be born again.
Everybody needs to know,
Everywhere we go.

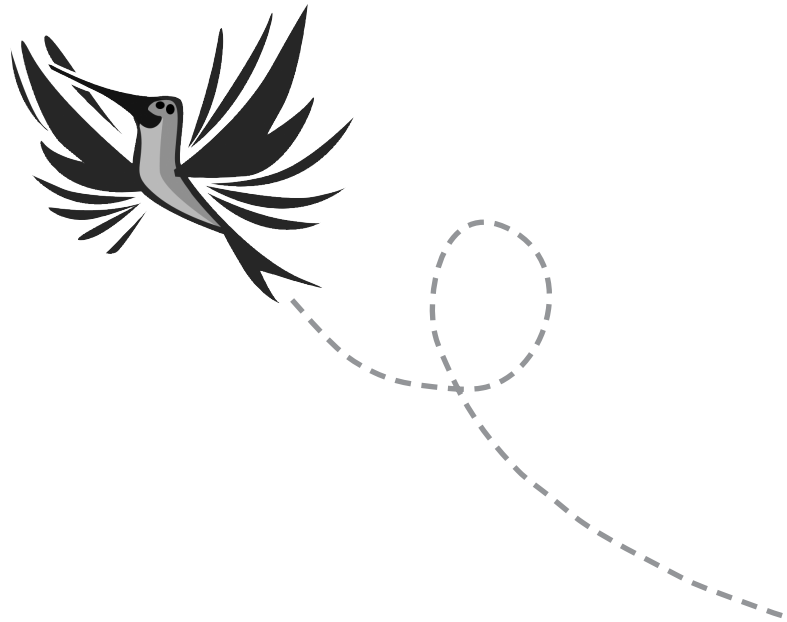
Chorus

2. God loves you and me.
His love has set us free.
Let's share with everyone
And tell them what He's done.

Chorus

Music interlude

Chorus twice





Get Strong

By Gary Pailer

Chorus:

I'm gonna get strong
When I read
God's Word and pray.
I'm gonna get strong
'Cause He gives me
Strength to obey.

Repeat chorus

I'm gonna stand tall
Just like Paul,
Follow God's rules and obey.
I'll practice hard
And give my all,
Each and every day.
Strengthen me according to Your
Word.
I run in the path of Your
commands.

Repeat song from chorus

Chorus twice

I'm gonna get strong, gonna get
strong.
I'm gonna get strong, gonna get
strong.
I'm gonna get strong, gonna get
strong.
I'm gonna get strong, gonna get
strong.





Good Fruit

By Gary Pailer

1. Love, joy, peace,
patience and kindness,
Goodness and self-control,
Faithfulness and gentleness—
My fruit is gonna grow!

Chorus:

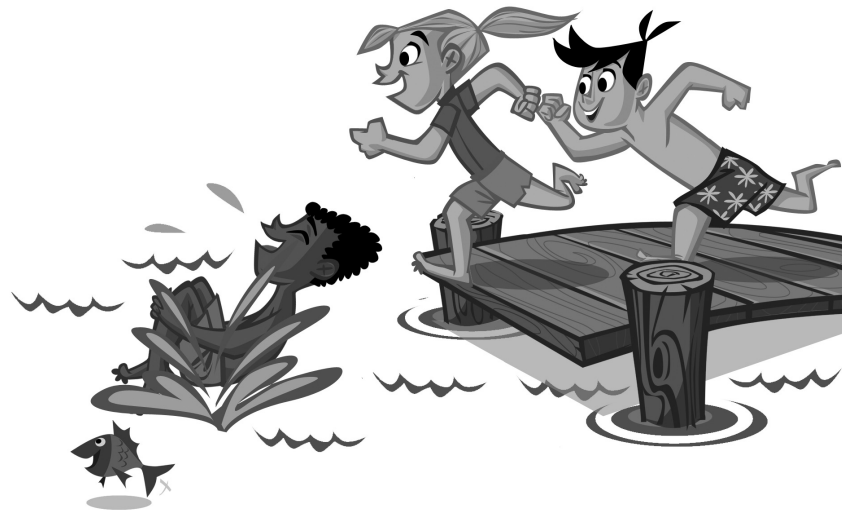
Lord, because I know
You love me,
It's like I've got strong roots;
Like an orange, banana
or apple tree,
I'm gonna grow good fruit!

Interlude

2. So when I'm growing
this good fruit,
I will live in peace;
I'll be kind and joyful—
patient, too.
Lord, help my fruit increase!

Chorus

I'm gonna grow,
I'm gonna grow,
I'm gonna grow
good fruit!





I Love You, O Lord

by Mary Gross Davis

I love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

He is my shield and the horn of my salvation.

My stronghold, my stronghold.

I call to the Lord who is worthy of praise,
and I am saved from my enemies.

I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,
and I am saved from my enemies.

My stronghold, my stronghold.

My stronghold, my stronghold.





On the Road to Damascus

1. Long ago in the Bible lived a man who was liable
To hurt the ones who served the Lord on high.
And it's true, you can ask us, on a road to Damascus,
This man they called Saul lost his sight.

Chorus:

On the road to Damascus, Saul was met by the Lord.

On the road to Damascus, Saul obeyed every word.

On the road to Damascus, Saul was changed in his heart.

On the road to Damascus, Saul was given a brand-new start.

2. There was light all around him,
took his sight completely from him.

Jesus told him, "Stop your hateful ways."

He said, "Go to the town there, you will know what to do there."

Without his sight, Saul was on his way.

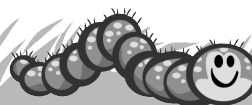
Chorus

3. When Saul came to Damascus, he was met by Ananias,
Who placed his hands on Saul with gentle words.

All at once Saul was set free, and his eyes, they could both see.
From that day on, Saul followed Christ the Lord.

Chorus

Saul was given a brand-new start.





Together in Harmony

by Jamie Owens Collins

Some things in life are hard to do,
But they can seem easier with
two.
With courage and love and God's
help too,
Together we can make it through.

Chorus:

**You are not alone
And I'm not on my own.
Together we're united by the love
God has shown.
And I'll be there for you,
Like you'll be there for me.
We're strong and undivided,
finding courage in unity,
Together in harmony.**

Sometimes we're called to make a
stand.
It helps when we're standing hand
in hand
With others who follow God's
command.
Together we're in His great plan.





The Trail of Life

by Gary Pailer

As we travel the trail of life,
We're never alone,
Never out of Your sight.
We know that You'll see us
through
Cause You always do.
You hold our hand tight,
As we travel the trail of life.





Wise Up

By Jamie Owens Collins

1. Everybody knows what's wrong
and right,
But knowing doesn't make you
wise.
Wisdom lies in doing what you
know is right
With strength that comes from
Jesus Christ.

Chorus:

**Wise up! Put your trust in the Lord.
Wise up! Don't rely on your own
understanding.
Wise up! Fill your heart with His
Word
And you'll wise up.**

2. Trusting in your feelings, that's
not smart.
Feelings change from day to day.
But if you keep God's wisdom in
your heart,
He will always lead the way.

Chorus

Put your trust in the Lord. Wise
up!
Don't rely on your own under-
standing. Wise up!
Fill your heart with His Word
And you'll wise up.

**And you'll wise up.
And you'll wise up!**

