



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
AFRICA



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

for Children

Volume 22

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

for Children

Volume 22

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Ideas for Teaching Children

There are two qualities necessary to be a children's teacher: You must love God and love children. The most important thing you need to do is to help the children in your class experience the love of God. You can do this by living out your personal relationship with Jesus in front of them and by teaching them to have their own personal relationship with God. We must also teach children how to treat others with Christian love.

You might want to plan a project for the year of making their very own "Memory Verse Book". Each week have A5 or A6 papers for you or the children to write out the weekly memory verse in the language they understand best. Put these pages together to make a book.

HOW TO PREPARE THE LESSON

Beginning of the Year:

At the beginning of the year of teaching, take about two hours to put all of the things that you would normally use at Sunday school in one packet or box. This will cut down on time each week that might otherwise be spent looking for the various items, since you will know where they are.

Keep a record of addresses, birthdays, and contact details of all the students in your class.

Briefly read through the whole book of lessons to get an idea of the various monthly emphases. This will give you an overview and a sense of direction. You will know how many lessons there are on each topic and not get ahead of yourself in the teaching.

Two Hours Each Week

- 30 minutes** Read through the lesson and get introduced to it. On Sunday afternoon, a full week before you teach the lesson, spend time getting acquainted with it. Pray for God to give you wisdom and insights into the best way of presenting the material to your class.
- 10 minutes** Record your thoughts and ideas throughout the week. Keep a small Sunday school notebook or paper with you. As an idea comes to you, write it onto this paper so you will remember it later.
- 20 minutes** Read the Bible passage 3 or 4 times during the week. Allow God's Word to change you as you think on it and read it. This reading will allow the truth that you want to teach your class impact your life first.
- 50 minutes** Bring your lesson together. Get everything that you will need from your resource packet. Read through your notes and organize the lesson into a format that suits you and that you will be able to follow and understand the best.
- 10 minutes** The last minute check-up. This is the last thing that you do before you go to class on Sunday morning. Make sure that you have your Bible, your lesson, and any other materials you need. Review your outline or notes in your leader's guide one last time. Finally, take a minute or two to commit this lesson to the Lord and ask Him to use you. You have probably already prayed this several times during your devotions, but acknowledge your dependence upon Him once more.

HOW TO PRESENT THE LESSON

Children should be actively involved in learning by sharing experiences and feelings, discovering truth, and choosing something they can do each week in response to the information learned in the lesson.

Your lesson time should be carefully planned and organized to put into practice your preparation and thought. We would like to suggest the following basic outline for your Sunday school class time. Times given are based on an hour class. Numbers in brackets are for 45 minutes classes.

Arrive at least ten minutes before class to prepare your teaching area and set out any lesson materials that you may need.

Use the first **10 (5) minutes** to greet your students as they arrive. Start the lesson with a prayer (you may want to allow the children to take turns to pray at this time). Give them a chance to share any exciting news and events that have happened to them since last week. Take attendance and receive the offering. Follow up on any assignment from last week and review the lesson.

The next **10 (5) minutes** should be used to introduce the lesson and focus the students' thinking onto the main point of today's lesson.

The lesson should be shared with the students in around **15 minutes**. Remember not to PREACH or READ to them. Present the lesson like a story in your own words.

The next **20 (15) minutes** should be used to work on the activities and talk about the discussion items given at the end of the lesson. Help the children to see how the truths learned in the lesson apply to their everyday lives.

During the last **5 minutes**, close with a prayer and have the children help clean up the class area before going on to church. This is a good time for one-on-one interaction with the children.

Review the success of the lesson as soon as you can. For future reference, spend a few minutes making a note of what worked and what did not work.

The Students, Their Behavior and The Teacher

1. Understand Your Students and Allow For Normal Behavior.

- Children are active and curious.
- They aren't miniature adults: we must always differentiate between bad behavior and immaturity.

2. Create An Atmosphere That Promotes Good Behavior.

- Let children know that you love them and appreciate them.
- Show interest in what happens to them outside of class.
- Be organized in how you handle the students.
- Provide clear and consistent guidelines; let the children know what you expect of them.
- Don't show favoritism.

3. Acknowledge Your Position As A Teacher.

- Be in charge of the class.
- Be a figure of authority that students can follow.
- Become a friend to your students.
- Explain to them what is expected of them and give them good examples.

4. Use Methods That Involve the Children and Capture Their Interest.

- Be prepared and get to the classroom before any of the children.
- Provide a variety of activities that are appropriate for your students' ages.
- Use activities that capture their interest and ability.
- Allow children to choose some of the activities.

5. Focus on Positive Behavior.

- Limit the number of rules.
- When you correct a child, discuss it with their parent, guardian, or the person responsible for them.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN A CHILD MISBEHAVES?

1. Find the Cause of the Problem.

- Does the child have learning or medical problems that prevent their participation in class?
- Does he try to control the class?
- Is he academically talented and therefore bored with the class?
- When you know the cause of the problem, you may be able to correct it after talking with the child's parents.

2. Take Control of the Situation.

- Ignore behavior that doesn't interrupt the class.
- Include the child in learning activities.
- Let him see that you are observing his misconduct.
- Approach the child in a loving manner.
- Tell the child, quietly, what you want him to do.
- Teach students the consequences of continued misconduct.

3. Talk to Parents or the Person Responsible for the Child.

- If you know that you will most likely have to talk to his parents or guardian, do it, don't delay.
- Start by telling the parents what you appreciate about their child.
- State the problem and ask for their ideas of how to resolve the problem..

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

Keep in mind that children of different ages have different abilities. Feel free to adapt activities, discussion questions, and the Bible story so that the children will understand what you are trying to teach. Use your children's abilities, e.g. if they can read, let them read some verses from the Bible story; let them help you set up activities and clean up the class area.

Memory Verse Work

Have the children learn their memory verses in a modern translation of their "home language". For younger children you may need to work on a shortened section of the memory verse.

Puzzle: Write the memory verse on a piece of paper (construction paper, newsprint, etc.) Use a heavy marker to draw shapes around the words. Cut the shapes out. Have the children put the shapes back together to make the verse.

Erase a Word: If you have a chalkboard or whiteboard available, write the words of the verse on it. Have the children read the verse. Then allow one child to erase a word. The class must then read the verse again, remembering to say the word that was erased. Allow another child to erase the next word. Keep doing this until the verse is completely erased.

Be a Word: Assign each child a word or short phrase from the memory verse. After you have recited the verse several times together, have the children line themselves up in order of where their assigned word falls in the verse. They must say their word or phrase one after the other, thus completing the verse.

Project Ideas

Modeling Clay: Children love to be creative with their hands. Here is a simple recipe for making homemade modeling clay. Store it in an airtight container and it will last quite a long time. If you have access to food colouring or dyes, you might want to make several different colours of clay to make the children's art projects more interesting to them.

10 g (2 teaspoons) Cream of Tartar 250 g (1 cup) Flour 2,5 g (1/2 teaspoon) Salt 15 g (1 tablespoon) Cooking Oil 250 ml (1 cup) Water	Mix all ingredients together in a cooking pot until a smooth paste is formed. Cook slowly over low heat until dough comes away from side of pot. Remove dough from pot and knead for 3 minutes. Add food colouring .
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Drama – Use your children's natural talent and enjoyment of acting to act out any of the Bible stories. Let the children take turns playing the main characters.

Role Play – Again using drama, let the children act out what they should do when faced with certain questions or situations. Ask, 'what would you do if ...' Be sure to give guidance in discussing the issues.

Puppets – If appropriate for your culture, you might want to make a simple hand puppet out of an old sock or some leftover fabric. Make it a character that does not look like a real person or animal. Give it button, wool, or fabric eyes, nose, and mouth. Use the puppet at times to help tell the story or give the application. Be sure to explain to the children that it is not magic. Let them use it themselves sometimes so they can understand.

HOW TO PRAY WITH THOSE SEEKING GOD'S FACE (Please adapt as needed)

- a. Realize the importance of the moment, give it full attention and be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- b. Kneel, sit or stand next to the person you intend to help.
- c. Silently pray for God's guidance and, without interrupting his or her prayer, pray for them too. He is the one who must pray – you are only there to assist as the Holy Spirit leads.
- d. Listen to the seeker's prayer to determine if they need help.
- e. When the seeker has finished praying, find out if he has the assurance that his prayer was answered. You do not have to know what the prayer was about unless he wants to speak about it.
- f. If the seeker continues to pray without coming to an end, or without being specific:
 - i. Carefully ask if you can help. Once permission has been granted,
 - ii. Find out why he came to pray.
 - iii. Briefly guide him with the relevant Scriptures.
 - iv. Together pray for the specific need and trust God with the request.

- v. When you have finished praying, find out if he has the assurance that his prayer was answered. If not, briefly encourage them to continue trusting God and walking in the light as God leads him. Remind him that it is only by faith in God that they can have victory and, once the work is done in him, the Holy Spirit will testify with their spirit. There may be no physical manifestations but the assurance of the Holy Spirit will always be there.
- g. Remember to give the pastor the names of all the seekers and the outcomes of their prayers.

INTRODUCTION - UNIT I

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Biblical References: Luke 2:42-52; Matthew 3:1-17; 4:18-22; Mark 3:13-19; John 1:35-51

Unit Memory Verse: *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.* (Luke 2:52)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help Children to:

- know the first steps of Jesus' ministry
- grow in their knowledge of God
- see His obedient attitude after His baptism
- learn the particular way that Jesus used to select His disciples

Unit Lessons:

Lesson 1: Jesus Learns to Obey

Lesson 2: Jesus is Baptized

Lesson 3: Jesus is Tempted

Lesson 4: Jesus Chooses His Disciples

Why Children need the teaching of this unit:

Children need to know that Jesus Christ is a real character of a real story; not a fantasy cartoon story.

These lessons will help children to know Jesus from His early age of 12 years. Through these Biblical texts children will begin to familiarize themselves:

- with the young boy, Jesus, who called people's attention to His wisdom
- with the way Jesus responded with Scripture to each temptation of the devil
- with the special way Jesus selected his disciples. Jesus chose neither wealthy nor influential people, but simple and even coarse men.

Lesson Objective:

To teach the children that Jesus obeyed his Father God, and that they can do the same.

Memory Verse:

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)

Prepare Yourself To Teach

When we see children run and play – we tend to make the mistake to think that children are spiritually immature and incapable of serious thinking. Children have an enormous capacity to understand the spiritual nature of our world, sometimes even more clearly than we adults. We can learn valuable lessons about spiritual development as we see children surrender their small lives into the mighty Hands of God.

In the same way the mind and heart of Jesus was as a child, the inquisitive minds and tender hearts of children need to be filled with truths of God. These first years will determine the direction your children will follow in the future. As teachers what a great privilege and responsibility we have to help determine the direction our children will follow.

- Prepare in advance any teaching materials you will use for this lesson. Make photocopies of Activity Page 1A for your children.
- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors and collect their family information to contact them during the week

Introduction to the Bible Story

Capture the attention of your students: Before class, prepare a suitcase (bag or travel bag) and place it in front of the class in a visible place to illustrate the idea of traveling.

Ask the children: “Think about any trips you have taken. What did you pack to take on your trip? How long did that trip last? What did you see on the way? Where did you go? Have any of you ever been lost by getting separated from your parents in town? How did you feel? How did your parents feel? Did your parents find you? Did you find your parents? What happened when they found you?” Let the children tell their experiences. “Do you think Jesus was ever lost?”

”Let’s listen now to an interesting story about a trip Jesus made with his family:

Jesus Learns to Obey

In the story of Luke 2:41-52 we find Mary, Joseph, and 12-year old Jesus beginning the long walk to Jerusalem for a special celebration called the Passover Feast. After a few days the celebrations ended and everyone began to return to their homes. While walking, Joseph and Mary realized they could not find their son. No one else had seen Jesus either. Joseph and Mary decided to return to Jerusalem to look for Jesus. At last they found Jesus sitting with the teachers of the Law in the temple. Everyone was amazed at the intelligence and answers of Jesus. (Teacher – think of a creative way to help your children visualize the scene of 12-year old Jesus sitting with the teachers of the Law.)

As parents Joseph and Mary expressed their concern when they found their son. Mary asked, “Jesus, why didn’t you come back with us? When we couldn’t find you we were worried and looked everywhere for you!”

Jesus was surprised. “*Why were you searching for me?*” he asked. “*Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?*” (Luke 2:49) Joseph and Mary could not understand what Jesus was saying.

At their request Jesus followed his earthly parents back to Nazareth where he lived in obedience to them, while continuing to strengthen His relationship with His heavenly Father. “*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*” (Luke 2:52) reminds us that Jesus developed as a child - physically, intellectually, and he also grew “*in favor with God and men.*” We know with certainty that at 12 years of age Jesus understood the importance of His relationship with God. The lessons learned as a teenager would help Jesus later to trust in the One who sent Him to fulfill His mission of being the Savior of the world.

Activity

Let’s Take a Trip!

- Take the children on a walk around the church.
- After arriving at a nearby place have the children sit and listen. “Jesus and his family also took a trip, from Nazareth to Jerusalem. Our trip took only a few minutes, but it took them several days.”
- While holding your Bible open, retell the story of Luke 2:41-52, but in your own words.
- After finishing the story return with the children back to their regular teaching spot.

(Earlier you had secretly asked one child to stay in the place where you told the story as everyone else returned to the teaching area with you.)

- As the class returns ask, “Are we all here?” Look around the room and count how many children there are. Pretend you are surprised someone is missing. “Who is missing? Oh, _____ is missing. We must return to look for him/her.”
- As a group go to look for the missing child and bring him/her back with you. “_____ stayed back and did not return with us. Think about how Jesus’ parents felt when they realized that Jesus wasn’t with them. What did Jesus say to them when they found him in the temple? (“*Don’t you know that I need to be about my Father’s business?*”). Even as a child, Jesus wanted to have a good relationship with God, His Heavenly Father. Like Jesus, how can we have a close relationship with God? (...by reading our Bibles, by praying to God, by listening to what our parents, pastors, and teachers say about God, and by obeying them.)
- Give the children their copies of Activity Page 1A. Write or draw something we can do to be close to God. Explain the pictures and any truths learned.

Memorization

“And Jesus grew in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)

You will need a ball or something that can be tossed. Divide the class into two teams. Standing or sitting, one team facing the other, hand the ball to the first child of one of the two teams. That child will say the first word of the verse (for example: “*And*”). Then he must throw the ball to the first child of the opposing team, as he says the second word (“*Jesus*”). The ball will continue going from child to child, in a zigzag pattern, until everyone has said a word of the verse. When they finish saying it, including the reference, start over. By repeating it, the children will learn the memory verse.

Closing

Pray with the children. Ask the Lord to help them be obedient and close to God, as Jesus was. If there are children who might have been disobedient to God and/or their parents, arrange an altar prayer time. You can hand out cards with the names of children who wish to be prayed for. Encourage them to pray for one another and to tell today’s Bible story to their parents, siblings, and friends. In that way, many will learn to know Jesus and how He was obedient to His parents. Invite the children to return next Sunday.

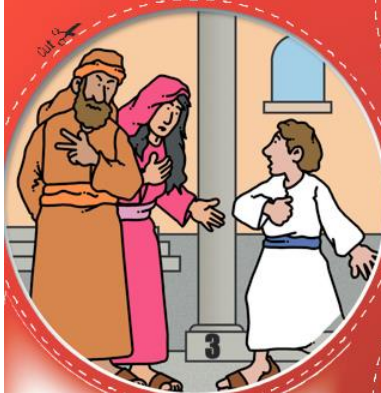
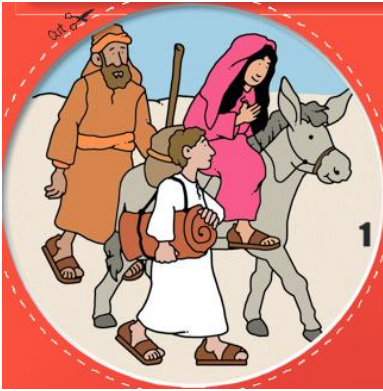
Activity 1

JESUS LEARNS TO OBEY

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Lesson Objective: To teach the children that Jesus obeyed his Father God, and that they can do the same.

Memory Verse: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)



How Can I Obey God?

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus is the Son of God, and understand that his baptism shows that he came to save us from sin

Memory Verse:

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)

Prepare Yourself To Teach

Even though children are young, it is very important to affirm their spiritual development. Though they love and serve God, they may not give testimonies like their parents or other adults in church. The responsibility for their spiritual development comes from observing the friendship between the older people close to them and God. Let's try to adapt the child's perceptions about God and give children opportunities to experience and tell of God's love and grace.

- Prepare in advance any teaching materials you will use for this lesson
- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors and collect their family information, to contact them during the week

Introduction to the Bible Story

Attention Grabber: Before class - Write each letter of the word “B-A-P-T-I-S-M” on separate cardboard squares (you can put masking tape rings behind the letters to stick them up or punch a hole and tie a thread to hang). In class - mix up the letters and give them to the children. Say: Sort these letters to form a word that has a special meaning. If you have the letter that corresponds to the key that I'm going to give, hang it up:

- +The first letter is the second letter of the alphabet (B)
 - +The second letter is the first letter of the alphabet. (A)
 - +The third letter is the letter before Q. (P)
 - +The fourth letter is the name of a cold or hot drink. (T)
 - +The fifth letter is a vowel with a dot. (I)
 - +The sixth letter is similar to a snake. (S)
 - +The last letter has two mountains. (M)
- * Ask the children: What word do we spell with these letters? (Baptism)

Say: Baptism was and is a way of showing that you have repented of your sins. It also shows you want to live for God. When John the Baptist preached, he told people that they needed to repent and be baptized.

“Have you been baptized?”

Let's listen now to an interesting story about someone who was baptized.

(Teacher, to make the story interesting use a puppet to represent Alberto.)

Hi, my name is Alberto. I am going to tell you about a strange man whose name was John. Some people told us that John was speaking to people from along the Jordan River. My mom and I decided to go see for ourselves. John wore clothes made of camel hair. Someone said he ate honey and locusts. Gross! John said to the people, “Repent - turn from your sins and ask God to forgive you.”

People walked into the river and John gently pushed them down into the water. Mom told me this was called ‘baptism’ and that’s why people called him ‘John the Baptist’.

We were sitting on a rock watching when a group of Pharisees also came to see John. Mom told me Pharisees were our most important religious leaders. John also saw the Pharisees coming; he called them a bunch of vipers!

John the Baptist said stranger things; he talked about someone else who would come, someone who was very powerful! John said that not even he was worthy to untie the straps on this man’s shoes. Who could John be talking about? Out of nowhere this very simple man walked right up to John in the river. John was thrilled to see him. Somebody whispered, “That’s Jesus! He wants to be baptized!”

John said to Jesus, ‘I need to be baptized by you, how can you come to me to be baptized?’

Jesus insisted that John baptize him and so John led Jesus into the river. John gently pushed Jesus down into the water. When Jesus came up the most fantastic thing happened; the sky opened up and God’s Spirit came down on Jesus like a beautiful dove. We heard a loud voice from heaven say, ‘This is my beloved Son; I’m very pleased with him.’

We could not believe what we had heard and seen. We went home amazed by everything that had happened that day!

Activity

- What did John say to Jesus? (I need to be baptized by you.)
- What happened when Jesus came out of the water? (The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove and the voice of God was heard.)
- Why do you think Jesus’ baptism was important? (Because he showed that he loved sinners and that he had come to help them.)
- How do we show our gratitude to Jesus for being our Savior? (By loving God, doing what He wants us to do, receiving Jesus as our Savior.)

Memorization

“And Jesus grew in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)

You will need 2 sets of cards with text of the verse (for example “*And*”). Hide the cards in different locations when children are not seeing for example “*Jesus*” behind the door and another card “*Jesus*” at the window. Divide the class into two teams. Children will search the word of the verse then arrange the words in the order from first to last verse including the reference. The first team to find and arrange all the verse cards will read and recite over the verse. The children will learn the memory verse.

Closing

Pray with the children. Ask the Lord to help them show gratitude to Jesus for being our Savior. If there are children who might be willing to turn to Jesus, arrange an altar prayer time. Hand out cards with names of children who wish to be prayed for. Encourage them to pray for one another and to tell today’s Bible story to their parents, siblings, and friends. In that way, many will learn to know Jesus and how He came to save us from sin. Invite the children to return next Sunday.

Activity 2

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-17

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus is the Son of God. He came to save us from sin.

Memory Verse: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52)

“And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:17)



Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus had to decide between obeying God or Satan. We also have to make that decision.

Memory Verse:

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52)

Prepare Yourself To Teach

Children need to know that some decisions are wrong. The decision to disobey God is always wrong. God never changes. If God says something is wrong it will always be wrong. Satan may try to tempt us from obeying God. God knows us and loves us. We should feel comfortable asking God to help us whenever we are tempted.

This series of lessons about Jesus’ life will lead children to God. He is our example of obedience and devotion to our Creator.

- Prepare in advance any teaching materials you will use for this lesson
- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors and collect their family information to contact them during the week

Introduction to the Bible Story

Attention Grabber - Before Class write each letter of the word “T-E-M-P-T-A-T-I-O-N” on separate cards. Display the cards on the board in their correct order but turned over so no one can see them. Write the definition on another card. In Class say: “Today we will learn a new word. I will ask some questions, whoever answers correctly can turn over one of these cards.”

- Ask the children: *Should you obey your parents? Is it right to lie? Is it okay to drink something that doesn’t belong to you? Should you hit your brother or sister? Is it good to copy a classmate’s homework or exam?*

Who can try to guess what the word is? “Temptation”

What is temptation? “Temptation is the desire to do something that disobeys God.”

Say: We all face temptations. Many times, we have to choose between good and bad. Today’s story speaks of someone who faced temptation; Jesus. Let’s see if He made the right decisions:

Give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil:

- fold the paper in half
- open the paper up and fold it in half in the opposite direction. (Thus the paper will be divided into four equal sections.)
- write numbers 1 to 4 respectively on the sections

As you tell today’s story, pause at the end of each scene for the children to draw a simple picture related to that scene.

A Difficult Test for Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)**Scene 1**

After John baptized Jesus the Spirit of God led Jesus into the desert. In preparation for the work God had planned for Jesus to do, Jesus needed to know what it was like to be tempted to disobey His heavenly Father. For 40 days and 40 nights Jesus did not eat anything.

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to be turned into bread.” Jesus was very hungry, but he told the devil, “Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(DRAWING TIME)

Scene 2

The devil took Jesus to the city of Jerusalem. Satan took Jesus to the highest place in the temple and tried to tempt him again, saying, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. The Word of God says that the angels will catch you if you fall.” Jesus answered him with the words of Deuteronomy 6:16: “It is written also, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”
(DRAWING TIME)

Scene 3

The devil took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. From there Jesus could see many kilometers away. The devil said, “I will give you all the kingdoms of the world if you bow down and worship me.” Jesus answered him, “Go away from me! The Scripture says that we should only worship God. Only before Him should we bow and only Him should we serve.”
(DRAWING TIME)

Scene 4

The devil left and the angels came to take care of Jesus. He had successfully passed those great tests. Every time the devil tried to tempt Jesus, he made the choice to obey God!
(DRAWING TIME)
“Anyone like to retell the story, showing us your drawings?”

Activity

The Temptation Game

Write Statements of Obedience from God’s Ten Commandments on cards.

Examples: *We will not lie. We will not kill. We will keep the Sabbath day holy. We will honor our father and our mother. We will not steal.*

Divide the class into two groups.

Team A picks a card out and reads the Statement of Obedience on the card.

Team B thinks of things that might tempt Team A to do what they said they would or would not do.

Team A thinks of ways they would fight the temptation.

Rotate which group is Team A.

Memorization

“And Jesus grew in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and men”

Have the children listen carefully and count the number of words in today’s memory verse. Read the scripture verse slowly to emphasize each distinct word.

Read the verse a second time so all can double check their word count. Listen to different children give their word count guesses. If you get several different answers repeat the whole process.

-a fun, repetitive exercise to help all memorize the Bible verse.

Closing

Ask the children if they have prayer requests. Pray for those requests and then for your students, asking God to help them overcome temptations as Jesus did. Encourage them to attend the next class and tell other people today’s story.

Activity 3

JESUS IS TEMPTED

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus had to decide between obeying God or Satan. We also have to make that decision.

Memory Verse: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52)



1. _____ is anything that makes us want to disobey God. It makes us think that disobeying God is okay or even good.
2. _____ is a special name for Jesus. When we know Jesus, we know who God is and what he is like.
3. _____ is the joy we have when God forgives us of our sins and reconciles us to himself. We can have peace even when bad things happen to us.
4. _____ is another special name for Jesus. This name signifies that Jesus was "chosen by God". God chose Jesus to be our Savior.

Lesson

04

JESUS CHOOSES HIS DISCIPLES

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 3:13-19 and John 1:35-51

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to be followers of Jesus

Memory Verse:

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52)

Prepare Yourself To Teach

We believe children cannot do much for Jesus because they are so small. There are many ways that children can be Jesus’ helpers. This lesson will help children begin to understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus and to think of ways they can help in God’s work today.

- Prepare in advance any teaching materials you will use for this lesson
- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors and collect their family information, to contact them during the week,
- Review briefly the three previous lessons and ask your students to give some examples of how faithful they have been to God.

Grab the Children’s Attention:

Before class: On heavy paper/cardboard draw a background of the sea, the beach, and some boats. Think of examples throughout history in which God used children to guide their parents to Christ. Tell your children any examples you know of or ask your pastor to visit your class and tell a story about how children have helped bring people to Jesus. These stories will encourage your children.

Ask: When are we given instructions? (at school, washing, shopping, when an object is put together, etc.) Let’s see how well you can listen and follow instructions:

SIMON SAYS

Say: Children, follow my instructions only when I say SIMON SAYS!

“SIMON SAYS jump up and down.” All, including you, jump up and down.

“SIMON SAYS clap your hands.” All, including you, clap your hands.

“SIMON SAYS stomp your feet.” All, including you, stomp your feet.

- keep repeating different instructions, going faster and faster

Say: “Rub your belly.” (This time don’t say Simon Says.) You rub your belly. Any child who rubs their belly is out – because this time you did not say SIMON SAYS.

Ask: What must you do to win this game: (Listen to the instructions and only do what Simon says.) It’s very important to follow instructions.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Make figures of Jesus, Peter, the other disciples, and some children. Tape the figures in appropriate spots on the sea/beach background you made.

Today’s story tells us about some people who listened and followed instructions:

One day while walking on the beach of the Sea of Galilee Jesus saw some fishermen. They were called Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew. They were at the water’s edge, throwing out their nets to fish. Jesus called them. “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

Peter and Andrew looked at each other, looked at their nets, followed Jesus’ instructions, and left at once to follow Him. While they were walking with Jesus on the beach, they saw two of their friends, James and John, sitting on their fishing boat, fixing their nets.

Jesus looked at them and said, “Follow me and learn to catch people.” Quickly, James and John stood up, followed Jesus’ instructions, jumped out of the boat, and followed Jesus.

After a few days Jesus decided to leave Galilee. He found Phillip who was from the same city as Peter and Andrew. Jesus also called Phillip to follow Him. Philip then found his friend Nathanael, “You must come and meet someone. His name is Jesus of Nazareth. He is the promised Savior, of whom Moses and the prophets wrote.”

“Did you say he’s from Nazareth?” Nathanael asked. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see,” Phillip replied.

Nathanael went with Phillip. When Jesus saw them coming, He said, “Here is a true Israelite in whom there is no deception!”

Nathanael was really surprised, “From where do you know me?”

“I saw you when you were under the fig tree, even before Philip called you,” Jesus replied.

Nathanael was more than surprised. He knew that Jesus was not an ordinary person. “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” he exclaimed.

Jesus looked at him. “Do you only believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these!”

Jesus and His followers traveled through the region. One day Jesus climbed a mountain. He invited these friends to go with Him and said, “You will be my disciples. I want you to stay with me and learn to follow my instructions.”

The names of these 12 disciples were Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.

Sing: There were 12 Disciples

There were twelve disciples Jesus called to help Him:

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John,

Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus,

Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew.

He has called us, too. He has called us, too

We are His disciples; I am one and you!

He has called us too. He has called us, too.

We are His disciples; I am one and you!

Say: These 12 came to be Jesus’ special helpers. They traveled with Jesus and helped Him in His ministry on earth. They were called “disciples”. Today Jesus still needs helpers (disciples) to follow Him, to learn from Him, to obey Him, and to serve Him. You can also be one of Jesus’ disciples!

Take Home Activity

Ask: Children, are you willing to make this promise: _____ promises to obey and do the work of God.
(child’s name)

If so, then you are considered a disciple of Jesus. Draw and cut out a figure of yourself, with your name on the front of it (similar in size to the figures you made early of Jesus and his disciples).

Memorization

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man”. (Luke 2:52)

Ask children to repeat the memory verse as they walk towards the sea/beach background. Place the figures with their names on the background with Jesus and His disciples.

Closing

Again, make the invitation to follow Jesus. If the children are willing to be one of Jesus’ disciples ask them to place their figures next to the other disciples who followed Jesus.

Activity 4

JESUS CHOOSES HIS DISCIPLES

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 3:13-19; John 1:35-51.

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus had to decide between obeying God or Satan. We also have to make that decision.

Memory Verse: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52)

1. Look at the words in the WORD BOX.
2. Find the words in the word search. They can be horizontal or vertical.
3. Complete the spaces in the Bible verse. Then memorize Matthew 4:19 with a friend.

Word Box

people
come
send
fish
me
out

F	M	C	R	T	Y	U	P	I	T	O	G	F
R	I	O	Q	P	E	O	P	L	E	U	M	N
W	J	M	C	M	B	R	E	S	Y	T	X	Z
S	K	E	W	E	N	N	R	Y	P	R	R	W
E	M	A	Q	A	S	D	I	F	D	E	J	I
P	N	P	K	C	H	F	I	S	H	E	S	P
D	B	R	Y	U	I	O	P	H	H	M	E	E

“ ‘ _____, follow _____, ’ Jesus
said, ‘and I will _____ you _____
to _____ for _____.’ ”

Matthew 4:19

INTRODUCTION - UNIT II

JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Biblical References: Mark 1:40-44; 2:13-16; 14:66-72; John 21:1-29

Unit Memory Verse: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Cor. 5:17)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help us to:

- understand that when we accept Jesus we will no longer be as before
- allow Christ to guide us so that we will not sin
- know that we are now followers of a powerful, but loving God.
- trust that the Lord can change even the most sinful and evil person.

Unit Lessons

Lesson 5: Jesus Heals the Leper

Lesson 6: Jesus Transforms Matthew

Lesson 7: Jesus Loves the Children

Lesson 8: Jesus Forgives Peter

It may be difficult for children to understand the word “sin.”

But, children are learning to know when a person does good or bad things.

Through this unit we will be able to see the benefits that come from not sinning. We will realize that Jesus can help us not sin.

Before we accepted Christ into our hearts we were under the dominion of the devil (kingdom of darkness) and we liked to sin; like lying, stealing, saying bad words, hating, etc.

Now that we are children of God (Kingdom of Light) we no longer wish to sin.

May we understand that when God gives us a new, forgiven heart we are different. We do not want to sin anymore.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus loves people who are rejected. He cares for our needs

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Prepare Yourself To Teach

Children watch behaviors at home, at school, at church, and begin to incorporate them into their own actions and attitudes. The story of Jesus healing the leper is a dynamic lesson that will enable your students to understand compassion and lead them to care for the less fortunate.

- Prepare materials you will use for this lesson
- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors, and collect their family information to contact them during the week.
- Review briefly the three previous lessons and ask your students to give some examples of how faithful they have been to God.

Before class: prepare cutouts from magazines and newspapers of “different” people: children and adults sick in bed, in wheelchairs, children with eyeglasses or with guide stick, anyone who expresses the idea of “special need.”

In class: Hang or stick pictures and ask: What do you see in that picture? How would you feel if it were you, sitting in that wheelchair or lying in that bed? Does Jesus love that person? Can Jesus heal that person if he chooses to? Emphasize the healing power of God. Talk about how sad it must be for those people when we avoid them or make fun of them. Say: Let’s ask the Lord to help us be merciful; to tell those people that Jesus is God of love and that they are loved by him.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Before class: fold each square of box in half and with a dotted line draw the shape of a heart. **In class:** ask the children to cut out the heart from each square. The child will then glue the heart to the stick. When they have finished with the craft, ask them: What does the heart represent? (Love) We will use the heart to illustrate today’s lesson. You will raise your heart every time you hear that Jesus showed his love to someone.

Jesus Heals the Leper

“Unclean, unclean!” the sad and sick man shouted these words every day. He was always sitting on the street looking at the happy and healthy people who walked by. The leaders of the city had a law that required that a leper had to shout “unclean” so that nobody would come near and be infected with his illness. The infected person wasn’t allowed to enter buildings or get close to other people. His clothes were torn and dirty. How difficult it must have been for him to find food! And the sores, all over his body, were painful and ugly. People pointed at him and ran the other way. The man felt very lonely. Every day the same thing happened. One morning while shouting, “unclean, unclean!” to warn people not to approach, the leper noticed a man he had never seen before. “Is it possible?” he thought with enthusiasm. “Is that the Jesus I’ve heard about, the one who they say can heal diseases? I’m dying with this terrible leprosy, and maybe this man can help me.”

The man approached Jesus begging on his knees, “If it’s your will to cleanse me, you can do it.” Jesus looked at the sick man who was kneeling before him. He loved him and at once he helped him. Jesus extended his hand and touched the man saying, “I want to ... be clean.” The man got up healthy! He wasn’t sick anymore! He didn’t know what to think! His dream had come true! Yes, it was possible! It was no longer a dream. What people said was true. Whoever approached Jesus received healing, forgiveness, mercy and hope. “Oh thank you Jesus!” the man exclaimed. Looking at his arms and legs, which had been covered with sores moments before, now were clean and soft. His skin was new. The man exclaimed with happiness, “I’m so grateful and happy. I must hurry and tell everyone what has just happened to me!” But Jesus told him, “Look, don’t tell anyone anything. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for your purification to show that you were healed.” The joyful man answered, “Thank you, thank you, I’ll do it immediately. I’m so happy!” Then he disappeared into the crowd, telling people what Jesus had done for him. It was a wonderful day for the man. Jesus loved him, even with terrible illness.

Activity

Give the children colouring sheet with two scenes of before and after Jesus healed the leper. Allow the children to look at the two scenes and read the instructions to them. Let them compare the pictures and talk about the differences between the two scenes. Be sure that each child understands the concept of before and after Jesus healed the leper.

Ask: In what situation was the man when he asked Jesus for help? (He was sick with leprosy). What did Jesus do? (He healed him)

Say: Jesus healed him, that’s why he became a new man. Our memory verse talks about a new creation. The leper experienced the blessing that Christ brought him. Give the children time to color the picture.

Sing praises: Prepare in advance two happy and appropriate choruses that children can sing while colouring .

Say: Can you imagine how the leper felt when Jesus healed him? No doubt he understood how much Jesus loved him. Jesus loves you and loves everyone, no matter what we are like or what problems we have. Let’s sing praises to the Lord with joy and give thanks for his love.

Memorization

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Before class: prepare 16 cm x 12 cm colored cards, out of card stock or thin cardboard, in the form of bricks to build a pyramid. Write on each card a word from the verse from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Place a ring of tape on the back of each card or brick.

In class: Recite the verse several times all together.

Say: This verse is one of the happiest in the Bible. It means that Jesus loves us very much and that if we ask Him, He can change our life. He helps us. In the same way that he cleansed and healed the leper in our story, Jesus can cleanse us, forgive our sins, and be our Savior. Show them how to build a pyramid using the colored blocks while repeating the memory verse. Place the cards on a table with the words facing down. Each child must come, take a card / brick, read the word and place it in the correct place to form the pyramid. Allow the children to play by forming the pyramid and at the same time reciting the memory verse.

Closing

Gather the children for a time of prayer: *Thank you God for showing us your love through the story of Jesus healing the leper. Thank you for loving us. Help us to have more love for others, especially for those who aren’t loved, for those who are sick and for those who are different from us. Amen.*

Ask the children to look for opportunities to help and pray for someone in an unfortunate situation. Tell them that next Sunday they will be able to tell the rest of the class how they felt helping that person. Invite the children

to return next Sunday.

Activity 5

JESUS HEALS THE LEPER

Scripture: Mark 1:40-44

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus loves people who are rejected. He cares for our needs.

Memory Verse: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)





Jesus Makes the Difference

Lesson

06

JESUS TRANSFORMS MATTHEW

Unit 02

Scripture: Mark 2:13-17

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus is love.
He is always willing to forgive us.

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Thoughts for the Teacher

This lesson will introduce the fact that we are all sinners and need to be forgiven by Jesus. This lesson will offer an opportunity for children to pray and ask Jesus for forgiveness for their sins.

- Prepare before class any teaching materials you will use for this lesson
- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors and collect their family information, to contact them during the week,

Lesson Development

Before class: prepare a card with the word “forgiveness” and print the definition on the back.

In class: Show the word “forgiveness.”

Say: Today we will have a fun game to help you understand our new word: “forgiveness.”

Ask: Who knows how to play “Follow the Leader?”

Place the children in a line one behind the other. (Teacher, be the Leader.)

Have the word “forgiveness” and its definition written on a piece of paper while playing.

Say: when I mention the word “forgiveness,” or part of its meaning, for example pity, understanding, mercy, please, compassion, pardon etc. you follow me and do what I do. If I say something else that has nothing to do with the word “forgiveness” Examples: zebra, skateboard, butterfly, potatoes, eyes, etc. stop.. Play several rounds with the children.

Say: Forgiveness is a gift from God. When we are sorry for disobeying God, Jesus takes our sins on Himself and takes our punishment.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Review: Allow children to assemble the pyramid from the last lesson. Ask them to place the words in the right place.

Ask: Who did Jesus heal? (A leper). What kind of illness did that man have? (Leprosy)

What was the man shouting about himself? (Unclean! Unclean!) Did Jesus heal the man? (Yes)

Say: People can be followers of Jesus even with terrible illness or no matter what they have done in the past. Listen to an interesting story about a man who followed the Savior:

Matthew finds a Savior

It was a beautiful day! Jesus was walking near the lake and teaching people about the love of God.

“Jesus, tell us more!” the crowd shouted. Jesus spoke to them for a long time.

One day Levi, later called Matthew, was sitting collecting taxes in the city. The tax collector looked at those who passed by without a smile. Many disliked Levi because his work was for the Roman government. Also, tax people were known to collect a little extra money for themselves. For that reason, nobody said anything good about Levi.

A voice was heard to say, *“Come, follow me.”*

Stunned, Matthew fixed his eyes on the face of the one who had spoken to him. It was Jesus! The Master’s hand was extended toward Matthew. Matthew lost his breath! He immediately got up from his desk and followed Jesus. Matthew did not look back; nor did he wonder if he had made a good decision. Matthew did not ask himself, “And what about my money and my earnings?” He also did not ask Jesus where to follow him to. Matthew only heard the Master’s voice and did what Jesus said to do. He followed Him!

The next day Matthew decided to have a big party at his house. It was the perfect time to introduce Jesus to his friends. Jesus and His disciples went to Matthew’s house to eat with him. Many of his friends (tax collectors) came to the party. Some were dishonest and had cheated people. During the meal Jesus sat in the midst of all the tax collectors and sinners. He smiled and talked with them while they ate. Everyone had a great time at the party. It was then that someone warned that a group of 30 Pharisees was nearby ... watching them! Pharisees were the men who enforced the laws and they did not like Jesus. The Pharisees did not trust or believe in Jesus as the Savior.

Jesus heard one of them ask, *“Why does that Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*

Jesus looked at the Pharisees and said, *“The healthy have no need of a doctor, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

The Pharisees did not understand what Jesus had told them. They continued being angry. But Matthew understood very well because he knew Jesus loved him and his friends. He knew Jesus wanted to help the Pharisees learn about God and to know that their sins could also be forgiven. All the people around that table in Levi’s house needed forgiveness, restoration and a new life. The love and forgiveness of Jesus is for all people!

Ask: What did Jesus say to Levi? (Follow me.)

What did Levi do? (He left everything and followed Jesus.)

Why do you think he invited his friends to the party in his house? (He really wanted them to listen to Jesus.)

What does it mean when Jesus said that the healthy do not need a doctor, but the sick do? (Jesus calls those who are sick with sin to follow him and stop sinning.)

Say: Matthew really needed a Savior and did the right thing by following Jesus. He understood the meaning of what Jesus had said, that the healthy do not need a doctor, but the one who is sick does.

Jesus loves everyone and wants to forgive them.

Activity

Follow me!

Say: Jesus paid attention to Matthew and also to you. He wants your life to be different. Talk about how Jesus takes care of us. When Jesus asked Matthew to follow him, Matthew obeyed. We also can follow Jesus. We have all been sinners because we’ve disobeyed God. We can ask Jesus for forgiveness and then we can be His followers. Levi/Matthew decided to follow Jesus. You can also make that decision. Encourage the children to tell the Bible story to someone in their home.

Memorization

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new is come!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Repeat the memory verse several times with the class. This verse is one of the happiest in the Bible. It means that Jesus loves us very much. If we ask Jesus to, He can change our life. Jesus helps us; He can be your Savior. In the same way that Jesus forgave Matthew Jesus can also cleanse you and forgive you of your sins.

Closing

Invite the children to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. Make this a special moment so that the children really understand that they are sinners and that Jesus is willing to forgive them if they ask him to do so. Pray with them. During the week engage in a conversation with the parents of those who accepted Jesus, & the pastor, to celebrate the “new birth” of the children.

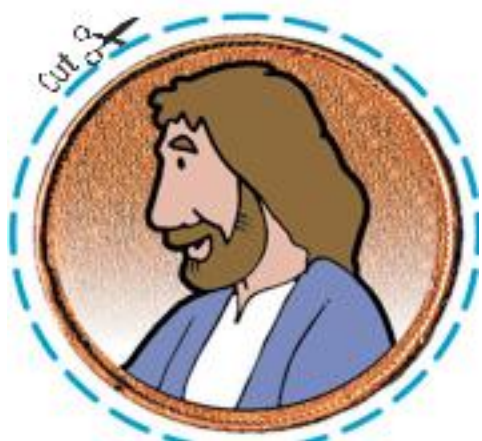
Activity 6

JESUS TRANSFORMS MATTHEW

Scripture: Mark 2:13-17

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus is love. He is always willing to forgive us.

Memory Verse: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)



Jesus Makes the Difference

Lesson

07

JESUS LOVES THE CHILDREN

Unit 02

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus loves all children; we all belong to Him.

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Thoughts for the Teacher

'Jesus loves children' is the simplest message in the entire Bible to teach. Children have tender hearts; they can understand the concept that Jesus loves all children. Although for those who experience problems in their homes or at school, it will be more difficult to understand the idea that Jesus loves them individually in the same way He loves other children.

- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors and collect their family information, to contact them during the week
- Review briefly the past two lessons.
- Important Words:
FORGIVENESS: it's God's gift. When we disobeyed God, repented, and said we were sorry, God took away our sin and guilt. Forgiveness makes us know that we are right with God.
DISCIPLES: people who love Jesus and obey His teachings. When Jesus was on earth he chose 12 men to be his followers. They were called disciples.
SAVIOR: someone who saves someone from something. Jesus is our Savior. He died to save us from our sins and show us God's love.

Starting Activity

On large cards write out today's Important Words. On the back of each card write the meaning of the words. Place the cards in an envelope.

In class: Sit in a circle with the children. While playing music pass the envelope with the Important Words inside it around the circle. When the music stops the child holding the envelope takes out one of the cards and silently reads the important word to themselves. The child gives clues to help the class guess what they've read on that card; either the word or the definition of the word.

For example: if the child chose the card that said, "FORGIVENESS" they could give clues like:

- this word starts with an "F" and ends with an "S"
- this word is what we get because Jesus died for us

If the child chose the card that read "people who love Jesus and obey- His teachings," the other children would need to guess the word "DISCIPLES"

After someone guesses what was written on the card start the music up again, passing the large envelope around the circle again.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Sing- *Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Bravin, Wise, Judy and Mitchell [name the children in your class]
They are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world*

Say: God loves you as much as he loves pastor, daddy, mama and teacher (teacher say your name); you are very special to God. Jesus wants children and adults to be His followers.

- Listen to an interesting story about how Jesus found little friends one day:

Jesus Loves the Children

Jesus was teaching many people. Some had brought along their children. The parents who listened wanted their children to also know Jesus. They wanted Him to touch them and sit them on His lap. "Jesus, pray for my children!" some of the parents shouted. The people knew that the Lord was special. Other parents said, "I want Jesus to touch my child!" Perhaps they had seen Him heal the sick. The crowds followed Jesus. The disciples did not like this. They frowned at the dads and moms. "Stop, don't do that!" they told them.

Maybe the disciples thought the children were not important and Jesus was too busy to give children His time and attention.

Jesus saw how the disciples were turning the children away and He was not happy. Jesus wanted to see the children. He told His disciples, “Let the children come to me. Do not take them out of my presence!” Jesus was happy that they came to Him. Jesus loves children!

Jesus told them, “*God loves children. The Kingdom of God belongs to people who are like a child.*” Jesus knew that God cares about all people, not just adults. He loves children. Jesus looked at a little child and said, “You must be like a child otherwise you will not be able to enter the Kingdom of heaven.” Jesus wanted everyone to understand their need to trust and obey God the way children do. Jesus picked up the children, hugged them, talked with them, and blessed them.

Activity

Jesus Loves Me

Give children the activity page for lesson 7 with the pictures of Jesus with a child in his arms. Provide colored pencils or crayons. Also, cut colored papers squares a little larger (3 cm more on each side), than the pictures. Trim the edges in a decorative way. Make two marks on the top of the cards so that children can pierce them later. Give each child two pieces of thread or yard to pass through the holes in the squares. While they are working on this activity, review the lesson with them. **Ask:** how do you feel about knowing that Jesus loves you? **Say:** Give one of the pictures to a friend. Tell your friend that Jesus loves him or her.

Memorization

Write out the memory verse skipping words; for example: “Therefore, if _____ is in _____,” etc. Hide the missing words on pieces of cardboard and hide them in different places. Children should look for the words, find them, run to the blackboard and place them in the correct places, until the verse is complete. **Say:** This verse is wonderful. It means that Jesus loves you very much and that if you ask him, He can change your life. Jesus helps you and can be your Savior. Jesus can cleanse you and forgive your sins.

Closing

Jesus loves all children, not only those who have heard many times about him, those who come to church every week, or those who memorize Bible verses. Ask if they might know someone at school or in their neighborhood whom other children might not like. Be careful: don’t let them say the name of that child. The purpose of the question is to get the children in your class to pray for those children. Ask the children to pray silently for those children (without repeating names). Pray for your class, that your children will love other children. Say goodbye and tell the children that Jesus loves them and you love them too.

Activity 7

JESUS LOVES THE CHILDREN

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus loves all children; we all belong to Him.

Memory Verse: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)



Jesus Love Me



Jesus Loves All Children

Lesson

08

JESUS FORGIVES PETER

Scripture: Mark 14:66-72; John 21:1-19

Jesus Makes the Difference

Unit 02

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus forgave Peter when Peter denied Him. Jesus can forgive our sins.

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Thoughts for the Teacher

The fear of failure is acquired from an early age. The world cries out that by our triumphs, or failures, we will be judged. This also happens to children. Use today's lesson to show children the truth that Jesus is not focused on our mistakes, but that He is willing to forgive us if we sin.

Review: briefly go through the three previous lessons.

Starting Activity

Before class: Prepare "Pyramid of Words" from lesson 5 to 7 to practice the memory verse.

In class: as the children enter the class tell them to take the cards/blocks on the table to make and repeat the verse. By now all the children should know the verse by heart. Ask all the volunteers who have learned it to come forward and tell the whole class, placing the pyramid blocks in the right place.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Since this is the last lesson of the unit, repeat the envelopes game with the important words. Children should already know the words and their meaning: FORGIVENESS, DISCIPLES, AND SAVIOR.

- At the end of the activity ask, "Do you love me?"

Say: Listen to an interesting story about how Jesus showed forgiveness.

Jesus Forgives Peter

The night was calm and dark. Peter had been at Jesus' side in happy moments. That night Peter was afraid. *"Jesus is arrested, what I can do?"* he thought. Peter had learned a lot from Jesus and learned to love him. A few hours earlier Peter had been stopped in the courtyard of the palace where Jesus had been taken. Peter was startled when he heard someone approach him again by the fire. He was trembling with cold! Although there were many people out there, he wanted no one to bother him.

"You were with Jesus of Nazareth!" said the woman.

"I do not know what you're saying, or who you are talking about!" said Peter.

Peter turned around and headed for a nearby courtyard to be alone.

It wasn't long when the woman approached Peter again. This time she didn't speak to him, but to all who passed by. She shouted, *"He is one of them!"* pointing her finger at him.

Once again Peter denied it was true, *"No, no!"*

Peter was terrified. Others who were there insisted, *"You are truly one of them, because you are a Galilean and your way of speaking is similar."*

Peter exploded with anger and began to curse and swear, *"I don't know this man!"*

Suddenly a noise was heard in the air. It was the crowing of a rooster nearby. It not only crowed once, but twice. Peter was frozen. He couldn't believe it! At that moment he remembered the words of Jesus, who loved him so much. *"Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times!"*

Peter had never felt so badly. Jesus was right. Peter had denied him. He had also lied saying that he did not know Jesus. The apostle fell to the ground in deep weeping.

A few days after Jesus was crucified, died, and had been resurrected Peter was with his friends trying to fish in the Sea of Galilee. The men were tired. They had been fishing all night but had not caught a single fish. Everyone felt very badly; they were discouraged and sad. The morning sun shone and it was a splendid day. The glare did not let them see clearly. One of them spotted someone who on the beach, as if spying on them. It was Jesus, but the fishermen didn't recognize him. The man asked them, *"Have you caught anything?"*

"No, we haven't!" they replied.

"Put your net on the other side of the boat and you will find some fish," he replied.

Soon the net was filled with beautiful fish. Nobody could believe it! The men rubbed their eyes and wondered who that man was on the beach!

One of them told Peter, *"It's the Lord!"*

Immediately the disciple threw himself into the water. Peter couldn't wait anymore; he was so excited that he swam to the shore. The others followed with the boat dragging the net full of fish. When they all reached the shore they noticed there was a small fire with fish roasting and there was also bread. Jesus told them to bring more fish from what they had just caught. Peter ran and brought the heavy net. The fish were big, beautiful. There were 153 and the net did not break. Jesus invited them to eat. How wonderful! The tired and hungry men had a breakfast ready for them! The most wonderful thing was who had prepared it for them. After eating and being satisfied, Jesus began to speak to them. He turned to Peter and said, *"Simon, do you love me more than these?"*

"Yes Lord; You know I love you," he answered.

Jesus asked Peter if he loved him twice more. *"Yes,"* Peter said both times.

Jesus forgave Peter for denying Him. While they were talking on the beach, Jesus told him some important things to do. He asked him to feed his sheep and take care of the lambs. Jesus did not ask Peter to look after real sheep but to take care of people and to tell them about Jesus' love. The last thing Jesus said to Peter was a short phrase, perhaps the most important phrase in the whole universe: *"Follow me!"*

Peter followed Jesus until his death before being one of the greatest preachers and leaders of the early church.

Activity

Ask the children to complete the lesson 8 activity sheet and sign the letter addressed to God.

Ask:

- How did Peter fail Jesus? (He denied him.)
- What did Jesus do for Peter? (He forgave him)
- How did Peter change? (Peter became a great preacher and leader of the early church)
- How did your life change when Jesus forgave you? (Allow the children to respond.)

Memorization

Since you've reached the end of Unit 2 you can do a competition. Divide the class into two groups. Ask 2 or 3 children in the groups to recite the memory verse. The group that says the passage without error will receive special applause, biscuits, fruit, or whatever you think best.

Closing

Pray especially for those who accepted Jesus during this unit. Allow them to tell what they feel now that Jesus lives in their hearts and He forgave them of their sins. Encourage the children to go home and tell about their new experience with the Lord to their family and friends.

Activity 8

JESUS FORGIVES PETER

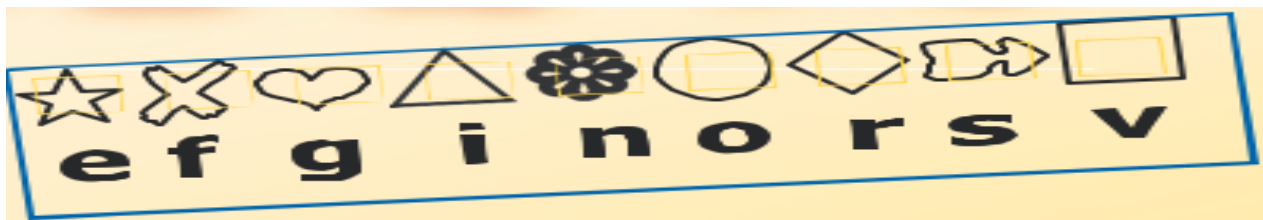
Scripture: Mark 14:66-72; John 21:1-19

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus forgave Peter when Peter denied Him. Jesus can forgive our sins.

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

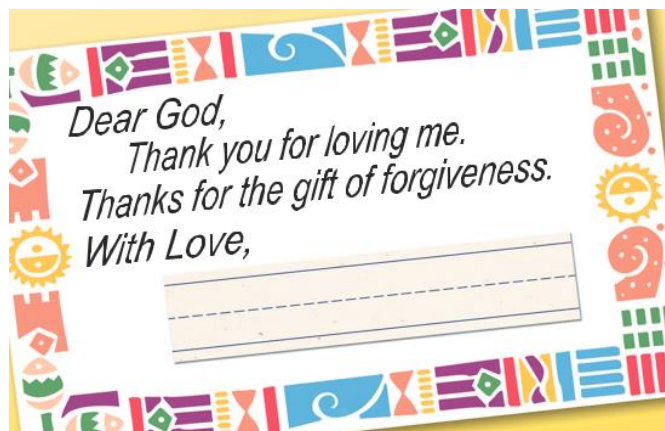
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Use the code to discover God's gift to us:



X O D H T S * S A A
— — — — — — — — — — is a gift
from God.

X O D H T S * S A A
God's — — — — — — — — — —
makes us right with him again.



INTRODUCTION - UNIT 3

THE MIRACLES AND MINISTRY OF JESUS

Biblical References: Mark 1:21-28; 4:35-41; Luke 7:1-17; 9:1-6; 10:1-20

Unit Memory Verse: “While He was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud

said, ‘This is my son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matt 17:5)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- discover Jesus’ great power
- be amazed and always remember the miracles Jesus was able to do
- know that Jesus uses that power to free us from difficult situations

Unit Lessons:

Lesson 9: Jesus, the Best Teacher

Lesson 10: Jesus, the Best Doctor

Lesson 11: Jesus, the Most Powerful

Lesson 12: Jesus, the Best Leader

Children are going through an age where the capacity for wonder is very high and curiosity drives them to discover new things. This means that the extraordinary events of Jesus are seen by them in a very special way. Therefore, seeing Jesus who, although He looked like an ordinary man, calmed the waves of the sea with the authority of His voice, completely healed the centurion’s son who was on the verge of death, performed feats of his own, will impact your students. And it will be difficult for them to forget the power of God. It is good to point out that Jesus did not do miracles just to entertain people, but to attract them to Himself and to change their lives.

<i>Lesson</i>	09	JESUS THE BEST TEACHER	<i>Unit 03</i>
Scripture: Mark 1:21-28			

The Miracles and Ministry of Jesus

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus taught in a wonderful way, we can believe and have faith in him.

Memory Verse:

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Today's cultures are visual cultures; rich in images. It is difficult to communicate with children when we do not use visual resources. Since children grow up with visual stimuli, they may not understand the admiration that people felt in Bible times by just listening to Jesus. Use the activities in this lesson to attract attention, encourage children, and help them experience the teachings of Jesus.

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials for this lesson and have your classroom ready before the children arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their contact information in order to contact them during the week.

Starting Activity

Before class: Write on 10 cm x 10 cm cards the words: "SON OF GOD" and "MIRACLE."

On the other sides write the meaning:

*Son of God: a special name for Jesus. When we know Jesus, we know who God is and what He is like.

*Miracle: an incredible event that shows the power of God. It cannot be explained in any other way.

In class: place the cards in a bag. After having reviewed the meaning of the words several times ask some volunteers to take out a card and say the meaning of that word.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Say: Let's do this experiment.

While I read something to you plug your ears, clap your hands, tap, talk, or sing – make noise!

Keep making noise until you see me raise my hands.

Read Matthew 17:5 while the children make noise!

Raise your hands for the children to become silent.

Ask: Who heard what I read? (possibly no one)

Say: Now listen carefully as I reread Matthew 17:5.

Ask: Who can tell me what I just read this time?

Say: Our memory verse this month tells us that God wants us to take time to listen to the teachings of Jesus. How can we listen? (attend church and Sunday School, read our Bibles, pray and listen to God, listen to our pastor/teacher's messages, etc.)

Ask: But what sometimes happens when we should be listening carefully? (loud music, airplanes, trucks, trains, or people pass by distracting us)

Can you hear what another person is saying if there is a lot of noise? (Allow the children to respond.)

Say: Our story today is about when there was sudden disorder when some people came to listen to Jesus.

Jesus the Best Teacher

Jesus and his disciples were in the city of Capernaum. It was the Sabbath and they had arrived at the synagogue, as they did every week. When the service began Jesus was ready to teach about God. The people in the synagogue were used to listening to their regular teachers; sometimes they would feel bored when each week the teachers of the law explained the Scriptures to them. When Jesus spoke everyone immediately paid close attention.

"Jesus teaches differently than the other teachers of the law!" mentioned a man to his friend.

"I know. You can tell he knows what he's talking about," said another.

"I agree," said someone else. *"He makes you feel that he really knows God."*

Suddenly there was a loud noise in the synagogue. Everyone jumped! (If you have a picture of Jesus in the synagogue with a group of people, this is the time to show it.) *“What was that?”* A man entered the synagogue screaming. *“Look at that man, he is controlled by an evil spirit!”*

The evil spirit that controlled the man said very angrily, *“Ah Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us? We know who you are: the Holy One of God.”*

Quickly Jesus stopped him. *“Be quiet and leave him!”*

The unclean spirit shook the man with violence and screaming. The bad spirit came out of the tormented man and he immediately felt good. The evil spirit was gone and did not control him anymore.

Everyone in the synagogue was amazed. “What just happened?” they were asking each other.

“It’s a new teaching!” some said.

“And with such authority! Jesus gives the order to the evil spirits and they obey him!” commented others.

Jesus and his friends left the synagogue. But the people did not forget him. People told their friends what had happened that day. The news spread throughout the country.

Activity

Bookmark

Before class: write the words of the memory verse (Matthew 17:5) on paper strips, 2 cm x 15 cm.

Cut more strips from heavier cards - 4 cm x 17 cm.

In class: give each child the strips with the memory verse and the cards.

Instruct the children to glue the memory verse on the cards. Hand out small figures or stickers for them to decorate their bookmarks. They can place their names on the back.

Say: Jesus was an excellent teacher. His teachings and miracles proved that He was the Son of God. Find Mark 1:21-28 and place your bookmarks there in your Bibles. When you get home you can read our story to your family and friends.

Memorization

Prepare two or three sets of memory verses from Matthew 17:5. Write the memory verse on pieces of cardboard in the form of clouds. Mix them up on a table, with the words upside down. After repeating the memory verse several times, encourage the children to put the verse in order. Make it into a competition. The team that learns the text and puts it in the correct order first can receive a small prize, such as a pencil, stickers or stamps. This activity can be repeated every Sunday while teaching this unit.

Closing

Ask the children to be very quiet for about 2 to 3 min. Pray that we can remember the lesson during the week. Ask them to tell the Bible story to their parents, siblings, and friends. Pray to dismiss them.

Activity 9

JESUS THE BEST TEACHER

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus taught in a wonderful way, we can believe and have faith in him.

Memory Verse: “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

**“Be quiet! ...
Come out of
him!”
(Mark 1:25)**



**“What is
this? A new
teaching—and
with authority!”
(Mark 1:27)**

**“I know who
you are—the
Holy One of
God!”
(Mark 1:24)**

Lesson

10

JESUS THE BEST DOCTOR

Scripture: Luke 7:1-17

The Miracles and Teachings of Jesus

Unit 03

Lesson Objective:

Memory Verse:

Help the students know that Jesus was the Son of God. He healed diseases and raised the dead; Jesus can also help us today.

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

Thoughts for the Teacher

For most children the idea that someone can be healed exists only in Bible stories. Unless the children have experienced the healing of a relative, they may not be able to associate that form of God’s power with their daily lives. This lesson provides an excellent opportunity for someone you know, or even yourself, to testify about their healing.

A testimony, combined with Biblical history, will help make the power of Jesus real in the lives of children. In addition, it will create a bridge between the Bible stories and the truth of the Word of God as a reality in today’s world. As you talk about the power of Jesus know that some children have serious needs. Some children will have disabilities that God has not healed. Other children will have sick parents or friends.

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.

Starting Activity

Before class: Cut out large letter “M”s - about 6 cm. wide for each child.

You will need cardboard or construction paper, scissors, paints, colored pencils, markers, figures, stickers or stamps, colored paper, etc. to decorate the letter “M”s.

In class: While the children decorate their letter “M”s, say the “M” is the letter with which the word “MIRACLE” begins. What is a miracle? (A powerful act that shows the power of God that we cannot explain that act in any other way). What miracle did we talk about last week? (Jesus cast out an evil spirit from a man.) Allow time for the children to show their classmates their decorated “M” letters. Once the work is finished, place the letters “M” on display in a mural on one of the walls of the classroom. You could place them around the word “MIRACLE” and a picture of Jesus.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Before class: Invite someone to tell your students about how God physically healed him or her; someone who can speak at the level of the children. Ask your pastor if he/she agrees with this person.

In class: allow the visitor to testify about their healing experience. After the visitor testifies, encourage the children to ask questions.

Say: Jesus, the Son of God, has great power. He used his power to help people. No matter what we face we can trust that Jesus will help us because he is the Son of God.

*Let’s listen to a story about a man who had so much faith in Jesus and Jesus helped him:

Jesus the Best Doctor

“Your servant is very ill. I do not think he will improve,” the Roman soldier told his commander.

“I know,” the commander replied. “I’m worried. He is a good servant. We have done everything possible to cure him but his health keeps getting worse.”

The days passed and the servant was still very sick. Finally the commander realized that if he didn’t seek immediate help, his servant would die. What could he do? Suddenly, he had an idea: *“Maybe that Jewish teacher, Jesus, could help my servant. I’ve heard wonderful stories about him! And now he has come to our town.”*

Quickly the centurion sent a message to his Jewish friends; they were important leaders. *“Please go to where Jesus is and ask him to heal my servant,”* he asked them.

The Jewish leaders were happy to do what the commander asked of them. Generally Jews did not help Roman soldiers. This soldier was different from the others, so they rushed to look for Jesus.

“Jesus,” they begged. “Please come to the commander’s house to heal his servant. This Roman is a good man. He loves us Jews; he even built a synagogue for us.”

Quickly Jesus accompanied them. When they came near the commander’s house someone came out to meet him. *“Sir, don’t worry,” he said. “The commander told me to tell you that he isn’t good enough for you to come to his house. He knows that if You only say a word his servant will be healed.”*

Jesus marveled at the Commander’s faith. Jesus turned and looked at the people who were with him, *“I tell you that not even in all of Israel have I found so much faith.”* Addressing the centurion’s friends Jesus said to them, *“Return to the commander’s house.”* (Pause)

Say: What do you think happened? Let the children guess what happened:

The friends returned to the commander’s house. There they discovered the wonderful truth. The Roman commander’s servant was completely healthy!

Sometime later Jesus went to the city of Nain. The disciples and a large crowd went with him. Just as He was entering the city Jesus saw a funeral taking place. A young man had died. His poor mother was taking her son to be buried. Jesus felt sorry for the poor woman. Her husband had long since died. She only had that one son who took care of her. Now he was dead. What could this woman do? *“Don’t cry,”* Jesus said to the widow. Jesus went to the coffin, touched it, and said, *“Young man I tell you, get up!”* (Again, pause)

Say: What do you think happened?

Suddenly the boy sat up and started talking. He was alive! Jesus looked at the young man’s mother who was looking at Him with total wonder. *“Here is your son,”* Jesus said.

The people were amazed and began to praise God. *“A great prophet has risen among us!”* they said. *“God has visited his people!”*

Activity

Look at the Lesson 10 Activity Sheet.

Say: “Jesus heals.”

Give Elastoplast/Band-Aids to the children to use as a reminder that Jesus is the Son of God, that He can work miracles, and that He shows us His power in every miracle. Ask them to sit in a circle so that each one tells their need. Have a moment of prayer for those needs.

Memorization

Continue using the same memory verse. Write each word in the form of band aids. Divide the class into two groups and give each team a set of the words for the Bible verse. The team that first correctly arranges their words will be the winner. Encourage the losing group to continue practicing to learn the verse.

Closing

Ask the children to pray for their family and friends who are sick. Make a list on the board with the names of the sick people.

Say: Because Jesus is the Son of God we know that He has the power to help us and to heal diseases.

Pray: Jesus heal our sick friends and family. Jesus we also pray that, if it’s not God’s will to heal them, we will learn to be happy with Your will for our lives. Help the sick to cope with the moments of pain. Give them strength in the midst of pain. Amen

Activity 10

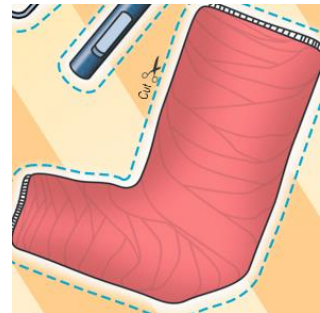
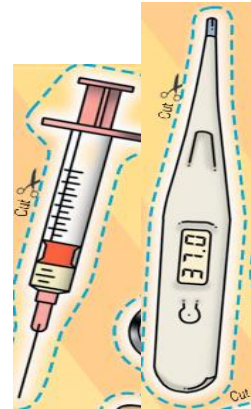
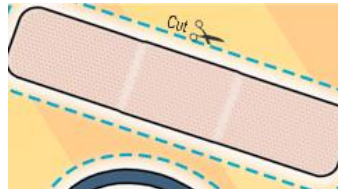
JESUS THE BEST DOCTOR

Scripture: Luke 7:1-17

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus was the Son of God. He healed diseases and raised the dead; Jesus can also help us today.

Memory Verse: “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

A DOCTOR USES:



God is the only one who can heal us. Jesus, the Son of God, did not need tools. He could heal without medicine because he is the Son of God.

Lesson

11

JESUS THE MOST POWERFUL

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

The Miracles and Teachings of Jesus

Unit 03

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus has power over the forces of everything else. He is with us when we are afraid.

Memory Verse:

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

Prepare Yourself To Teach

Children have very little control over their lives. Their parents, teachers, and other adults’ direct children. This can cause fear. Although your children will probably never be in a boat during a storm, their fears are equally real. It is important that as an adult who represents Jesus for their lives you recognize that they have such feelings. It is good for children to know that adults are also sometimes afraid.

In today’s lesson children will learn that there are still strong men who are afraid of storms. Children understand the fear that comes from strong storms, thunder, and lightning. This is a story with which they can identify. The foundation of the story is that we can trust God when we are afraid. Use this lesson to give your students an important tool: TRUST IN GOD. Tell them that Jesus is with them wherever they are and that He will help and protect them when fear overwhelms them.

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson
- Welcome children with affection, ensure that the classroom is clean and tidy before they arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.

Starting Activity

Briefly review the two previous lessons and ask your students to give some examples of how faithful they have been to God during this past week.

The Storm

Place the children in a circle.

Say: let’s make storm noises!

- rain: hit the palms of your hands quickly on your lap
- thunder: hit the ground with the soles of your feet
- wind: blow hard and make noise saying: Wooo! Wooo!

Direct the frequency and loudness of the noises of the storm. Start very smoothly, then stronger, faster, etc.

Ask: How do you feel when it begins to rain really hard, you hear strong wind, thunder and see lightning? (Let the children respond.)

Introduction to the Bible Story

Say: In today’s Bible story Jesus was with His disciples when a very strong storm hit them.

Be silent! Be still! This is a fun game:

Say: Stand in a row at the side or at the end of the room. When I cover my eyes move to where I am. When I say, “*Be silent! Be still!*” you must stop immediately.

I will open my eyes. If I see anyone moving they will have to return to their starting place. Play this game as time allows.

Say: “Be silent! Be still!” Let’s see what happened when Jesus said those words:

Jesus the Most Powerful

It was late, calm, and silent! Jesus had taught many people throughout the day and He was very tired. Before dark Jesus decided to take a break. He told his disciples, *“Let’s go to the other side.”*

They all climbed into the boat, untied it, and started sailing. Jesus leaned back in the boat and fell asleep. While they were sailing the wind began to blow. It rocked the boat from one side to the other. It started to rain so hard they almost couldn’t see anything. A strong storm surrounded them. The disciples trembled with fear. They were so scared that they did not know what to do. Everyone feared that the boat would sink.

“What will we do now? We will drown!” they shouted.

As they looked around Jesus was still asleep in the back of the boat. The disciples were shocked. How could Jesus sleep in the middle of this terrible storm?

“Teacher!” exclaimed one of his disciples, *“Don’t you worry that we will die?”*

Rubbing his eyes Jesus got up and looked around. He saw that the wind was shaking the boat from one side to the other. The rain hit his face as he watched the dark sky. Jesus turned, looked at the sea, and ordered the wind to stop blowing. *“Be silent! Be still!”* was Jesus’ order. The wind stopped. The rain stopped. The storm subsided. Everything was quiet. The soaked disciples looked surprised

Jesus looked them in their eyes and asked, *“Why are you afraid? Don’t you have faith?”*

The disciples were amazed. *“Who is this?”* one of them asked. *“Even the wind and the sea obey him!”*

Activity

When We are Afraid

Show the Lesson 11 Activity Page.

Ask: What things make children or adults afraid? What makes you afraid? Be prepared to tell children something that you fear now or that you were afraid of when you were little.

Say: Draw something that makes you feel afraid.

Ask: What can you do when you are afraid? (Pray, remember that God is with us.) How can Jesus help you when you are afraid? (By giving us peace of mind, helping us to think about what to do, changing the situation)

Say: Display the children’s drawings. Give your display the title, “JESUS, THE MOST POWERFUL.”

Ask:

- What can you do when you are afraid?
- How can Jesus help you when you are afraid?

All people, both children and adults often feel different kinds of fear. Don’t be ashamed; remember that you are not the only ones to be afraid.

Memorization

Write the memory verse out. After repeating it as a class several times start with the first word and erase one word at a time until the children have completely memorized the verse. Ask several of them to write two or three words of the verse on the board. You can divide the board into several spaces and give the opportunity for several to come and write parts of the text. Help those who are wrong, or ask whoever already knows the text to help those who do not yet know it.

Closing

Teach the children to pray whenever they are afraid. Always remember that Jesus is the most powerful. Jesus is always with us, His presence shines in the darkest corners, and He is the answer to fear.

Stand in a circle. Each child prays for the fears of the person on his right continuing on until the whole class has been prayed for.

Activity 11

JESUS THE MOST POWERFUL

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus has power over the forces of everything else. He is with us when we are afraid.

Memory Verse: “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)



**Draw something that frightens you. What can you do when you're afraid?
How can Jesus help you when you are afraid?**

Lesson

12

JESUS THE BEST LEADER

Scripture: Luke 9:1-16; 10:1-20

The Miracles and Teachings of Jesus

Unit 03

Lesson Objective:

Help the students know that Jesus asked and enabled his followers to help Him. He will help us accomplish the work.

Memory Verse:

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children have little opportunity to participate in the work of the church. Our actions frequently reinforce the idea that children are “the church of tomorrow,” instead of making them part of the church today. This lesson shows children how Jesus wants to involve everyone in His work. Take time to think about what activities your students can help you with in and out of class. Encourage them to make service their lifestyle.

Receive your students with affection; ensure that the classroom is clean and tidy.

Review briefly the three previous lessons, ask your students to give some examples of how faithful they have been to God during this month that’s about to end.

Starting Activity

Before Class: Ask your children to help you prepare the class. Choose tasks they can do (distribute activity sheets, prepare the classroom, welcome their classmates, etc.). Write each task on a card. For more difficult tasks, write the same task on several cards. Place the cards with the written part face down on the table.

In Class: Invite children to look at the cards then choose a task to perform voluntarily. Encourage them while doing their jobs. If necessary, help them. Congratulate them for their effort. (It would be good to do this activity in each class.) **Say:** You were very good helpers today. Jesus is happy when we help.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Before Class: ask your pastor if your students can help in the main service. If they can, organize with the pastor that the children greet the people, distribute bulletins, or participate by collecting the offering.

Say: Today we are going to help in the service. Explain what they will do. Comment on the responsibilities each one will have. **Say:** Jesus has chosen us to do his work. Today we are going to help Jesus by doing his work by: (describe the tasks children will perform during the service).

*Let’s see how Jesus chose his helpers.

Jesus the Best Leader

“Go, preach and heal!” Many people knew about Jesus. People saw Him when he came to their town. Many heard about the incredible miracles He performed. Jesus knew that many could know God if His disciples went and spoke to people. One day Jesus called His disciples. *“I have an important job for you,”* he told them. *“I’m giving you permission and power to go to the cities where I send you. Preach about the Kingdom of God; heal the sick, cast out demons. Take nothing with you,”* he added. *“Don’t take food, money or clothes. When you arrive in a town, stay with people who offer you their houses until you leave the city.”* Jesus knew that not all people would receive the disciples. *“If they don’t receive you, then shake the dust from your feet and leave,”* he told them.

The 12 obedient disciples went from city to city preaching and healing people. Jesus sent more people to do His work. He called 70, who were His followers, and He also sent them to preach and heal.

“Go, I send you as lambs in the midst of wolves,” said Jesus to the 70 (Luke 10:3). *“Don’t carry anything. Just go, preach, and heal. I will be with you.”* His followers went. They preached to the people about God. Every place they went many sick people were healed. *“This is wonderful,”* the disciples said. *“Jesus has chosen us to do his work.”*

The disciples returned to Jesus. They were excited and grateful that He included them in His work. *“Here is something more to be happy about”* said Jesus. *“Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

Say: We can also help Jesus do His work. Go and talk to others about the love of God. Where are places that you can go and talk about Jesus to others? What can you tell others about Jesus?

What are some ways that you can share God’s love with a person who is sick or hurt?

Say: We are Jesus’ helpers. We can trust that He will help us tell others about His love and power.

Activity

Preparing to Travel

Before class: On thin cardboard or heavy paper write: “What do we need for the trip?”

In the center paste or draw a suitcase or travel bag.

Ask: What things are necessary to take on a three-day trip? Give them blank sheets of paper to draw/color all the items they think are necessary for the trip. Ask them to tape or glue their drawings around the suitcase.

Ask: Is each item really necessary for the trip? If we had made this trip in Jesus’ time, would He have told us to leave those things or could we take them? Look at Activity Page 12 from the student book and guide them to complete what is missing.

Memorization

Write the memory verse out. Teach the children the passage, word by word. Have them repeat it several times until they learn it. Start deleting a word and have them repeat the whole verse. Then erase another and so on until they say it by heart. Every time you delete a word, encourage them by making comments like: I’m not sure you can say it, it’s very difficult, etc. (to challenge them). Celebrate when they say it well. In the end, when there isn’t anything written on the board, have them repeat it one more time with all their strength.

Closing

Say: What a beautiful story we learned today! How good it is to know that Jesus wants us to help Him! We have to put all our effort into doing His work as well as possible. Who is willing to do what Jesus asks?

Pray: Thank you Lord, because we can work together in your work. Help us to trust that You will enable us to do it. We want to be excellent helpers! Amen

Activity 12

JESUS THE BEST LEADER

Scripture: Luke 9:1-16; 10:1-20

Lesson Objective: Help the students know that Jesus asked and enabled his followers to help Him. He will help us accomplish the work.

Memory Verse: “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

He chose us to help do His work:



**"... and a voice from the cloud said,
'This is my Son, whom I love; with
him I am well pleased. Listen to
him!'" (Matthew 17:5)**

**We can pray for
people who are
sick.**



INTRODUCTION - UNIT 4

The Plan Of Salvation

Biblical References: Luke 22:47-53; 63-71; Luke 23; 24:1-12, 36-53; Mark 16:15-16, 19-20

Unit Memory Verse: “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32)

Unit Objectives:

This unit will help children to:

- know that Christ paid the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross
- understand how Jesus rose from the dead
- accept with faith and gratitude that Jesus is our Savior

Unit Lessons:

Lesson 13: Jesus Died for Us

Lesson 14: Jesus was Resurrected

Lesson 15: Jesus is our Savior

Children cannot understand or even imagine a person dying on a cross; it is not a custom of the world we live in. As you show pictures of Jesus’ death on the cross, explain that Jesus died this way to pay the punishment for all of our sins, and thus the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus’ death on a cross were fulfilled.

Jesus’ death, which occurred more than 2,000 years ago, enabled all of us believers to go to heaven. Heaven is a holy place, without any sin. All of us humans have sinned and so, as we are without Christ, we cannot be allowed into God’s holy heaven.

Those sins can be wiped away – as if they never happened, if a punishment is paid for the sins that we’ve committed. Jesus loves us so. He did not want us to receive the punishment our sin deserved so Jesus took our punishment Himself; He died on the cross.

All we have to do is thank Jesus and give our lives to Him. Tell Jesus we are truly sorry for our sins and that we do not want to do them anymore. Tell Jesus that we want to live with Him, here on this earth, and in heaven forever!

This is how Jesus saved us from our sins. This is why we call Jesus our Savior.

<i>Lesson</i>	13	JESUS DIED FOR US	Plan of Salvation
Scripture: Luke 22:47-53, 63-71; Luke 23			<i>Unit 04</i>

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know why Jesus came into the world. He died on the cross for our sins.

Memory Verse:

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32).

Thoughts for the Teacher

Some children might not feel loved by the adults around them. May they understand that Jesus loved them so much that He died on the cross for their sins. Soak the children in the truth of God’s love. Ask God to help you communicate His unconditional love to each child. This lesson will give you the opportunity to help children understand more clearly that God is love. Pray that children will respond to the one who loves them more; JESUS.

Starting Activity: (S-E-A-R-C-H Bible words)

Before Class: Write out the letters S-E-A-R-C-H.

Say: I am going to give you clues about some words that are in the Bible and the letter the answer starts with. Can you guess?

For example:

S - Disobedience to God (SIN)

E - For whose sins did Jesus die? (EVERYONE’S)

A - Who can be saved? (ALL)

R - When someone is raised from the dead (RESURRECTED)

C - Jesus was _____ on the cross (CRUCIFIED)

H - If we ask Jesus to forgive us, we will someday go there (HEAVEN)

Ask: How many new words did you learn in this game? Had you heard those words before? What do they mean? Our Bible story today is about those words.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Jesus Died For Us

Men armed with clubs and swords appeared out of nowhere. Leading was Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples. Judas quickly approached Jesus and gave him the usual, friendly, respectful greeting: a kiss on the cheek.

Sadly, Jesus looked at his disciple, *“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”*

Suddenly Peter took his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant.

“Enough!” Jesus picked the man’s ear from the ground and healed him.

Jesus turned to the crowd, *“Am I leading a rebellion that you have come with swords and clubs. Every day I was with you in the temple courts and you did not lay a hand on me.”*

“Let’s go!” yelled the temple guards. Violently, they took Jesus away. The disciples fled for their lives.

That night the temple guards beat Jesus with a sharp metal whip. They blindfolded, laughed, insulted, and said to Jesus, *“Hey, prophet! Tell us who hit you.”*

They took Jesus before Pilate and began to accuse him of all crimes. *“He is causing problems in our country,”* they said. *“... He forbids paying honor to Caesar, saying that He is Christ, the King.”*

Pilate asked Jesus, *“Are you the king of the Jews?”*

“You say it,” Jesus replied.

Pilate asked him other questions and then turned to the angry crowd, *“This man has not done anything wrong. I will send Jesus to Herod. He rules in the birthplace of Jesus. Let him decide what to do with Jesus.”*

Jesus was taken to King Herod. *“Do some miracles,”* Herod told Jesus. Jesus did not say a word. Making fun of Jesus Herod dressed him in splendid clothes and sent Jesus back to Pilate.

Pilate told the religious leaders, *“This man is not worthy of death so I’ll let him go after punishing him.”* Each year Pilate released a criminal; he hoped Jesus could be that criminal.

But the angry crowd shouted, *“Release Barabbas to us!”* (Barabbas was a bad man who was in prison for causing riots.) Pilate spoke to them again wanting to release Jesus; but they shouted louder saying, *“Crucify him! Crucify him!”*

“OK!” said Pilate. *“You can have Jesus. I will have him beaten and then you can do whatever you want with him. I’m going to set Barabbas free as you requested.”*

The soldiers took Jesus, put a heavy wooden cross on his back, and took Him to the place where the criminals were crucified. Jesus was so weak and wounded he could not carry his cross. *“Hey you!”* the soldiers called to a man standing nearby. *“Carry that cross to Golgotha.”*

Finally they came to the crucifixion mountain. The soldiers nailed Jesus’ hands and feet to the cross then hung a sign that said: **“THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS”**. Two robbers were crucified at the same time; one on each side of Jesus. Jesus looked at the crowd, the religious leaders, the soldiers, the people, *and* prayed saying, *“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”*

One of the robbers made fun of Jesus saying, *“Save yourself and us.”*

The other robber said, *“Don’t you fear God, since you are going to die? We are suffering because we are receiving what our bad deeds deserve; this man did nothing bad. Remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”*

With love Jesus replied, *“Truly, I tell you that today you will be with me in paradise.”* At about 3 o’clock in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice saying, *“Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.”* Then he died. *“This man was truly righteous,”* said the Roman soldiers with great surprise.

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate *“Please let me take Jesus’ body I want to bury him.”*

“Take him,” Pilate answered.

Joseph lowered Jesus’ body from the cross and took Him to a grave in a garden. Filled with pain, Joseph went home to prepare good smelling perfumes to put on the body. His friend was dead! It was the saddest day in history!

Activity

Look at the Lesson 13 Activity Page. Write down the ABC steps a person must take to accept forgiveness for their sins: 1) Admit that we are sinners 2) Believe in faith that Jesus died for our sins 3) Claim Jesus as savior, and tell others that Jesus forgives sins.

Memorization

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32)

Write the memory verse in large print on a piece of paper. Cut out each word so that they are all separated, like pieces of a puzzle to put together. Read the memory verse several times. Mix the word pieces up. Allow each child to take a word.

Ask: Who has the piece with the word, “Jesus”? Let that child say the verse and put their word on the table.

Ask: Who has the piece with the word “witnesses”? Let that child also say the verse and put their word on the table.

Continuing on each child should place their piece on the table in the correct place until the verse is assembled.

Closing

Perhaps some of us are sorry for having disobeyed God and wish to ask Jesus today to be our Savior? Bow your heads.

Sing *‘I surrender all.’*

Say: If you want to receive Jesus as your Savior raise your hand.

If anyone raises their hand ask one of your assistants to take care of the other children. Speak and pray with those who responded. Allow God to guide you in this task. Encourage the children to tell the Bible story to their family.

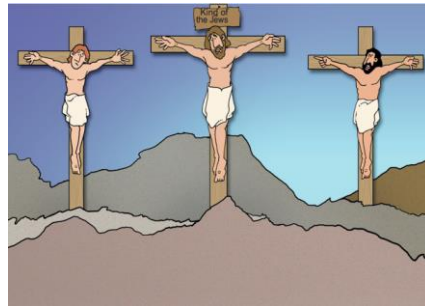
Activity 13

JESUS DIED FOR US


Scriptures: Luke 22:47-53, 63-71; Luke 23

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know why Jesus came into the world. He died on the cross for our sins.

Memory Verse: “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32).



Jesus can be your Savior




Jesus died on the cross for all people. He died for you. Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Savior? This is how you do it:

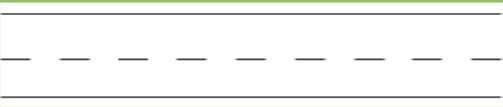
ADMIT

BELIEVE


CLAIM



that you have sinned (done wrong, disobeyed God). Tell God what you have done, be sorry for it and be willing to quit. (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9)



that God loves you. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins. Ask God to forgive you and then receive His forgiveness. (John 3:16; Acts 16:31)



Jesus as your Savior. Tell others what God has done for you. Love God and follow Jesus. (John 1:12; Romans 10:13)

Plan of Salvation

Lesson

14

JESUS WAS RESURRECTED!

Unit 04

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that Jesus died, He was buried and God resurrected Him. We celebrate Him on Easter.

Memory Verse:

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32).

Thoughts for the Teacher

What comes in the minds and thoughts of your children during Easter? How real and exciting can we make the resurrection for children who have their minds fixed on celebrations? We do not have a good answer. Children do not show us immediately when a spiritual truth comes to them. Many times teachers do not understand the signals they send us.

As teachers we are not responsible for convincing children of the Biblical truths; that’s the task of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is to present the truth faithfully and in the best possible way, then trust that the Spirit will help them apply it.

You “teach” your students by reflecting with your life what you say with your words. In the same way that you talk about the resurrection, you will communicate the reality of this fact to them. Whether or not you receive any indication from the children, teach this lesson with confidence. In His time God will make truth of the resurrection real for the children.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Jesus Was Resurrected!

“I cannot believe it!” Mary Magdalene said to her friends. “It’s like a nightmare.”

“I know,” said another. “Why did they kill Jesus in such a horrible way?”

It was Sunday morning. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and other women who loved Jesus walked towards the grave. They wanted to finalize all the special details that people performed for a loved one who had died. The women carried jars with spices and rich perfumes. They would place the perfumes in the folds of the sheet that covered Jesus’ body. While the women walked, they talked. “How will we enter Jesus’ tomb?” asked one of them.

“That’s a good question!” replied another.

“They are right!” said a third. “The leaders of the temple placed a huge rock at the entrance to the tomb and sealed it. And now they have soldiers guarding it. Maybe those same soldiers will help us remove the stone.”

“Look!” cried one of the women. “The stone has been removed. The tomb is open!” Quickly, the women entered the tomb. Jesus’ body wasn’t there!

“Where is Jesus’ body?” they asked each other. “What happened? Who could have taken it?” At that moment, the women saw two men standing next to them. But these were not ordinary men. Their clothes shone like lightning. They were angels.

The women fell on their knees, very frightened.

“Why do they search for the living among the dead?” asked the angels. “He isn’t here, he has risen. Don’t you remember what Jesus said before he died? He told you that He would be crucified by His enemies, but that on the third day He would be resurrected.”

As the angel spoke the women began to remember Jesus’ words. With enthusiasm, they ran to where Jesus’ disciples were. “The stone has been removed, the tomb of Jesus is empty!” they said excitedly. “Two angels told us that Jesus lives, just as he had told us before!

“That makes no sense!” the disciples said. They had seen Jesus die painfully on the cross. They had seen Joseph of Arimathea place Jesus’ body in the tomb. They did not remember the words of Jesus about His resurrection. They did not believe the women.

Peter wanted to see for himself. He ran to the grave. He bent down, looked at the open tomb, and saw the empty sheet that had been used to wrap Jesus' body. Peter left that place and returned to where the disciples were. "What happened?" he asked himself. "Could it be possible that Jesus is alive?"

Ask: What miracle did God do on Easter morning? (He made Jesus live again.) Who believed the Good News that Jesus was alive? (At first no one believed, later the women believed.) Why do you think the story of the resurrection is the most important thing for Christianity?

Say: Today's story is the best story in the entire Bible. Christianity is the only religion in which its leader, Jesus, rose from the dead and today lives in heaven. Since Jesus was resurrected we Christians know that the power of God is superior to anything else. Christians know that when we die we will live again and we will be with God and Jesus in heaven. This is the Good News of the resurrection!

Activity

We Remember the Empty Tomb (drama)

Actors: the 3 women, Peter, three or four soldiers, two angels, several disciples.

Prepare in advance a short dialogue between all the characters to dramatize the resurrection day. Use your creativity to devise the tomb with the stone removed.

Convince Peter

Say: Let's pretend that we meet Peter when he comes back from the empty tomb. Peter is very confused by what he has seen. What would we say to Peter to help him know and believe in the wonderful news that Jesus lives? How can we convince him?

Choose a child to play the role of Peter and the rest of the class, with enthusiasm, give him the good news and try to convince him that it's true. Peter will complain and say that what they tell him is a lie.

In the end a child may appear who plays Jesus, all dressed in white, who greets Peter and all those who are gathered.

Memorization

"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it." (Acts 2:32)

Write the memory verse out with the words mixed up. For example: "God, we are witnesses, Jesus ..." Then let the children go one by one to write on the board the verse with the words in the correct order.

Closing

Make sure children understand the true meaning of the resurrection. Give thanks to God for Jesus' resurrection. Teach them this dialogue as an Easter or Resurrection greeting:

Teacher: The Lord has risen!

Children: He has risen indeed!

Have each child say goodbye to each other with the same greeting.

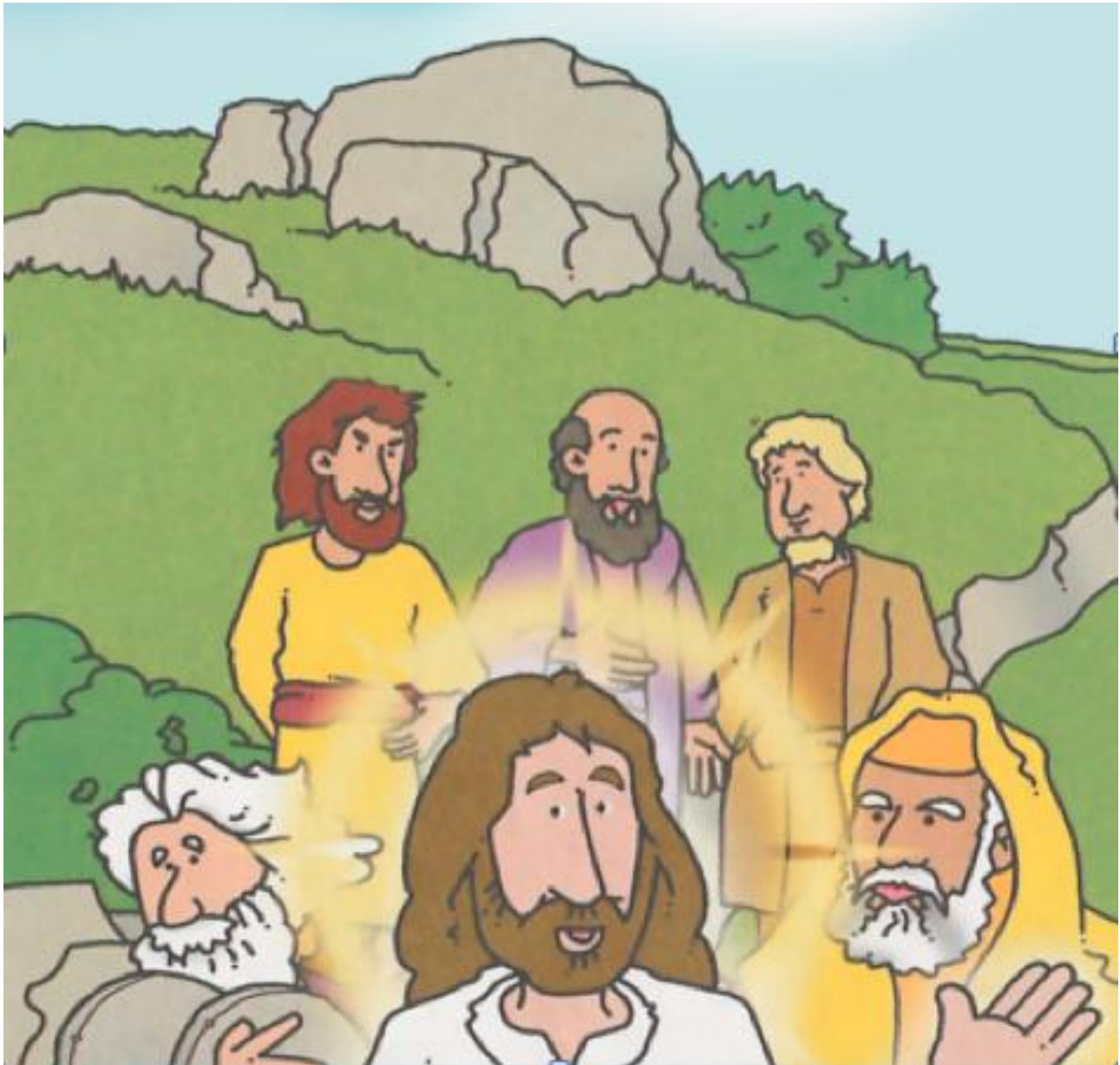
Activity 14

JESUS WAS RESURRECTED!

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that Jesus died, He was buried and God resurrected Him. We celebrate Him on Easter

Memory Verse: “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32).



Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that the disciples of Jesus saw him return to heaven after God raised Him from the dead.

Memory Verse:

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32).

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance any teaching materials you will use for this lesson.
- Remember to record attendance, take offering, welcome visitors and collect their family information to contact them during the week

Introduction to the Bible Story

The disciples gathered together in a room. The gospel of John tells us that they were in a place with the doors locked (John 20:19)

Where is Jesus?

The Bible Story**Jesus is alive!**

Suddenly two of Jesus' followers from Emmaus ran into the room and exclaimed, “Jesus lives! He walked with us all the way to Emmaus, but we didn't know who He was. We invited Him to eat dinner with us. We asked Him to pray and when He started to pray, we finally recognized him. Jesus lives!!”

Some of the disciples in the room responded, “That cannot be true. Jesus died. We saw Him die with our own eyes. People do not come back to life after being dead for three days!” others argued.

“But it is true,” the two men insisted.

While they were talking Jesus appeared in the room. “Peace to you,” he said.

“It's a spirit!” someone said. Everyone trembled with fear.

“Why are you troubled and why do doubts come to your minds?” Jesus asked. “Look at my hands and my feet. I am myself; touch me and see.”

Now the disciples had to believe the Good News. He was not a ghost. It was Jesus and He really was alive!

One day Jesus led them all to a special place on the Mount of Olives. Raising His hands Jesus asked for the blessing of the Father. While He was talking Jesus began to ascend (go up) into heaven. In a few moments He disappeared. The disciples never saw Jesus again on this earth.

Were they sad? Maybe a little; in the same way that happens to us when someone we love leaves. But the disciples were also full of joy. Jesus lives!

Soon Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to be with them all the time. What was more important was that the disciples had a job to do. The disciples were to tell everyone that Jesus was alive and that He would forgive all their sins if they asked Him.

Activity

Divide the children into two teams; Team A and Team B

From Luke 24:1-12 ask them the following questions in alternating order:

A - What filled the disciples minds when they heard that Jesus had risen from the dead? (fear, shock)

B - Were the disciples sad because Jesus had died? (yes)

A - Were the disciples sad because the body of Jesus had been stolen? (yes)

B - Is it true that the women believed Jesus had risen from the dead but the disciples did not. (yes)

A - Is it false that no one believed that Jesus had risen. (yes)

B - How many women went to the tomb? (we do not know)

A - Was there a large stone covering the entrance of the tomb? (yes)

B - How many men were there in shining clothes? (two)

A - Did the women go to the grave at 3 o'clock in the afternoon? (no, very early in the morning)

B - Later on, who ran to the tomb to look? (Peter)

The team that answers the most questions is the winning team.

Memorization

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. (Acts 2:32)

Write the above verse on some small cut out cards; each word on its own card. Mix the cards up and distribute one per child to 14 children (including the reference).

On your mark, set, GO! See how fast the children can correctly arrange themselves.

Closing

Pray with the children to trust and believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus is ALIVE! Pray for any sick people or anyone having any issues at home. Pray for one another. Encourage the children to tell today's Bible story to their parents, brothers/sisters, and friends.

Activity 15

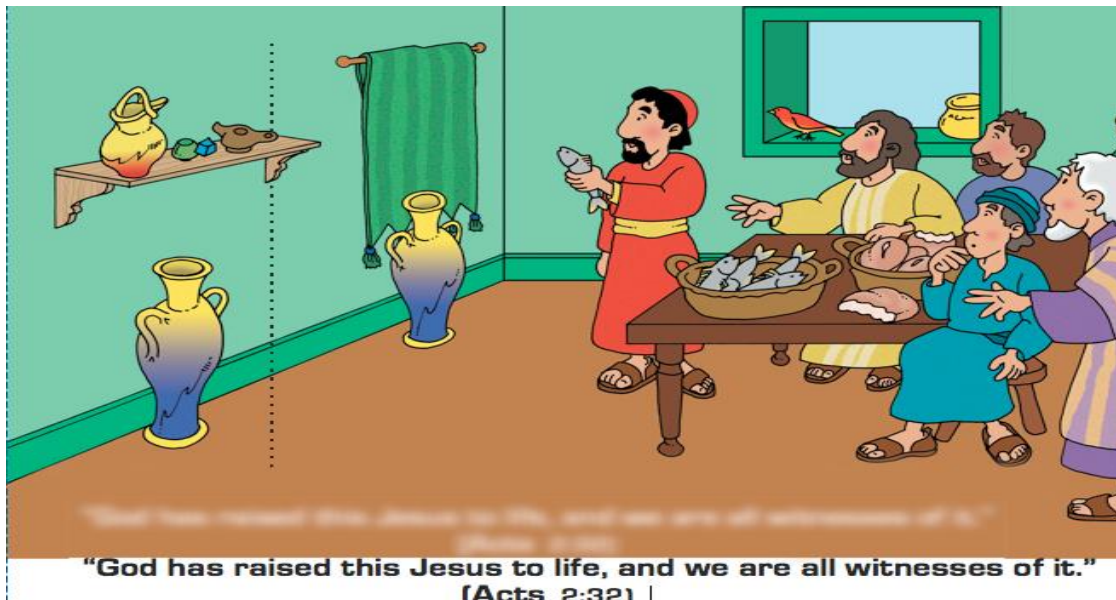
JESUS IS ALIVE!

Scripture: Luke 24:36-53

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that the disciples of Jesus saw him return to heaven after God raised Him from the dead.

Memory Verse: “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.” (Acts 2:32).

Photocopy this page. Cut out the above picture of the resurrected Jesus.
Glue His picture to be standing in front of the disciples below.



Display this picture for all to see.

INTRODUCTION - UNIT 5

THE TEN MOST IMPORTANT RULES

Biblical References: Exodus 19:1-20, 21, 24:12-18, 32:1-33:6, 34:1-14; 1 Samuel 17:12-20, 22:1-4, 24; Matthew 5:21-22, 43-45; 1 Kings 21:1-29; 2 Kings 5:13-27.

Unit Memory Verse:

Obey the Lord your God and follow His commands and decrees that I give you today. (Deuteronomy 27:10)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to

- know the rules that God left us so that we can live wisely
- take care of their thoughts
- respect and love their parents
- know that lying brings bad consequences
- understand that God must always be in the first place of our lives

Unit Lessons

Lesson 16: Rules for Living Wisely

Lesson 17: God Must Be in the First Place

Lesson 18: Honoring Our Parents

Lesson 19: Take Care of your Thoughts

Lesson 20: Stealing and Lying Bring Bad Consequences

Lesson 21: Greed is Dangerous

Even young children need to grasp that the Bible is a book to live by. It is not just a story that speaks of a God who lived thousands of years ago and only left a large, difficult book to understand.

Help children see that the 10 Commandments are not rules to limit our freedom and even our happiness. God's rules are to help us avoid suffering and to help us live in peace and harmony.

The price that those who violate God's commandments must pay is eternal separation from God.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to realize the importance of obeying God's 10 Commandments.

Memory Verse:

"Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today."
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors collect their information to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Parents have established rules to be obeyed. With these rules we will live more securely and learn more about life. God has 10 special rules that He expects us to obey because they help us know how He wants His people to live. Today's Bible story is about these 10 important rules - The Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments of the Lord (Exodus 20:1-17)

The Israelites saw the mountain in front of them; it was huge! They had traveled three full months to get to it. "Camp here," said Moses. "We're staying for a while."

While the people camped at the foot of the mountain, Moses spoke with God on the mountain. God reminded the people of how He led them all through. Moses returned to the camp and told them what God had told him. The people responded, "We will do everything Jehovah has told us."

Moses went back to the mountain and said to God, "The people have promised to obey."

God said, "Tell them to prepare themselves. Today and tomorrow they are to bathe and wash their clothes. On the third day I will come and talk to you. The people will hear me and then they will know that they can trust you as their leader because I chose you. Make sure they stay away from the mountain because it is holy. They cannot touch it."

Moses and the people obeyed God and prepared themselves. On the third day, there was thunder & lightning on the mountain. There was a thick cloud, smoke, fire, and loud noises. God was there and the people were afraid! Everyone in the camp shuddered. Moses took the people out of the camp to meet with God and they stopped at the bottom of the mountain. Moses climbed the mountain to meet with God. While the people waited God spoke to Moses.

God gave Moses 10 very important rules for them to fulfill. We call these rules The Ten Commandments through which God would show His people how they should live.

The first four commandments showed the people how to honor and respect God:

"You must not have others gods in front of me." God's people could not love or worship anyone but Him, the only true God. They were to put God first.

"You must not make or worship any image." God told his people never to make pictures or sculptures (idols) to worship.

"You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God." God's people were to use his name only in a way that showed love and respect for Him.

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.” The Sabbath is the special day of the Lord. The people had to put God first, using that day to worship and rest.

The following six commandments taught them how to treat other people:

“Honor your father and your mother.” God wanted his people to respect and obey their parents.

“You must not kill other people.”

“You must not commit adultery.” God’s people must keep their marriage promises. Therefore, a woman who was married should not have a relationship with another man. In the same way, no married man should have a relationship with another woman who was not his wife.

“You must not steal.”

“You must not tell lies about others.”

“You must not covet.” God did not want His people to want the things that belonged to other people.

The Ten Commandments would help the Israelites live as God’s special people. These are 10 good ways to love and obey God.

Activity

What are the rules for?

Ask the children to join you in sitting or standing in a circle.

Pass a small smooth stone from one person to another. When you say “The Ten Commandments”, the child who has the stone in his or her hand will stop passing it and tell about a rule at his/her house.

Ask: Why do you think your dad (or mom, or your parents, as the case may be) made that rule?

Continue with the game allowing each child to take a turn holding the stone and talking about a rule in their own home.

Memorization

“Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.” (Deuteronomy 27:10)

Have children hold up pieces of paper that have words containing the memory verse on them. Raise up the papers so that everyone can see them. Repeat until everyone can say the memory verse without looking.

Closing

Pray for the children to obey the 10 Commandments; especially those they struggle with.

Activity 16

RULES FOR LIVING WISELY

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

Lesson Objective: Help the students to realize the importance of obeying God's 10 Commandments.

Memory Verse: "Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today."
(Deuteronomy 27:10)



- I – Put God First
- II – Love Only God
- III – Don't Misuse the Name of God
- IV – Keep the Sabbath Day Holy
- V – Honor Your Parents
- VI – Do Not Kill
- VII – Do Not Commit Adultery
- VIII – Do Not Steal
- IX – Do Not Lie
- X – Do Not Want What is Not Yours

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know if there are things in our lives that matter more than God? God must be in the first place!

Memory Verse:

“Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week

Introduction to the Bible Story**Exodus 20:1-6 - Will you choose God or a golden calf?**

“We will do all the things the Lord has commanded us. We will obey Him.” was the promise the people made to God after He spoke to them through Moses. They quickly forgot this promise.

God told Moses, “Go to the mountain and meet me there. I will give you stone tablets with my laws written on them.” God was giving the people the Ten Commandments because He loved them. He knew that if they obeyed His laws, they would be holy, they would have joy, and they would honor God with their behavior.

Moses spoke to the leaders of the people, “In my absence my brother Aaron and his assistant will be in charge of everything. If you have a problem, take it to them.”

Moses climbed to the top of the mountain to meet God and remained there forty days and forty nights. God gave Moses the stone tablets on which were written the Ten Commandments. God also gave him other important instructions.

In the camp, at first everything seemed fine. People started to worry after a while. When they looked towards the mountain all they saw was smoke and fire. Finally, the people approached Aaron and said, “Please make us gods that will be with us and guide us. Moses took us out of Egypt but now we do not know what happened to him.”

Aaron got tired of so much whining & so many complaints. His task was to teach the people to worship the only true God, & only Him. Now he did not have the courage to obey. “Bring me your golden earrings,” he said to the Israelites.

Aaron melted their gold and made it in the shape of a beautiful calf, “Israel, here is your god who took you out of Egypt.”

The Israelites liked the gleaming golden calf. Looking at it they felt as if God Himself was there with them and not far away on the top of a mountain. Aaron also built an altar for the golden calf.

Aaron told them, “Tomorrow we will have a great celebration and we will worship God.”

The next day the town burned offerings in honor of the golden calf. They worshiped it as if it was God and they began to celebrate. They ate, they drank, they danced and they sang. They forgot to obey the Lord and began to disobey. God knew what they were doing. He was very angry! God loved the people very much but they were ruining all the good plans he had for them.

God spoke to Moses, “These people are stubborn and disobey me. I am going to destroy them completely.”

“No my God, please do not do that!” Moses begged. “You took these people out of Egypt and if you destroy them now the Egyptians will say that you are a wicked god. Please forgive the people.”

God answered him, “Okay, I will not completely destroy them.”

Moses hurried down from the mountain. By this time Moses could already hear some chaos. He saw the golden calf that the people worshiped and was filled with anger. Moses threw the tablets down and the golden calf into the fire. “Whoever is on God’s side, join me over here now!” Moses cried.

Some of the people came to stand close to him.

The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin but I will now go up the mountain to where God is. Maybe I will be able to convince Him to forgive your evil.”

People regretted what they had done; they all cried, took off their nice clothes and jewelry to show how badly they felt. God forgave the people although he also had to punish them for their sin. God told Moses to return to the mountain and God Himself wrote the Ten Commandments in two other tablets. God did something wonderful: God came close enough to Moses so that he could see God, even just a little bit.

“I am Jehovah,” God said to Moses. “I am a merciful and holy God, slow to anger and great in mercy and truth ... who forgives sin.”

God made Moses a promise: “I will do wonders that have not been done in all the earth, but you and the people must obey me. You must not bow to any other god but Me alone!

Activity

Prepare two sets of cards with one word on each card:

- one set of the memory verse
- one set of commandments 1 and 2

Form two teams. Distribute a set of cards to each group.

Helping each other, the teams will assemble the Bible verse or commandments by placing each word in its corresponding place. The group that finishes first wins.

Turn the cards upside down on the table, repeat the memory verse and the commandments as a group.

The groups can exchange cards so that all the children learn the verse and the two commandments.

Memorization

“Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”

(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Have the children write this verse on a piece of paper. Pin the papers on the wall for everyone to see.

Closing

Pray with the children, asking God to help them obey Him during the week, giving Him first place in all their activities and in every place.

Activity 17

GOD MUST BE IN THE FIRST PLACE

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-6

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know if there are things in our lives that matter more than God? God must be in the first place!

Memory Verse: “Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.” (Deuteronomy 27:10)

10 Ways to Put God First:

1. Talk to God every day.
2. Ask Jesus to be your Savior.
3. Tell God that you love him.
4. Obey the 10 Commandments and do other things that you know God wants you to do.
5. Praise God wherever you are.
6. Give your offerings to God.
7. Show love to other people.
8. Learn what the Bible says.
9. Be willing to do what God asks of you, even if it seems difficult to do.
10. Talk to your friends about God and the church.

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8. Learn what the Bible says.
9. Be willing to do what God asks of you, even if it seems difficult to do.
10. Talk to your friends about God and the church.

Use colored pencils to write the above sentences on both sides of a heavy paper. Decorate it your best way and use it as a bookmark in your Bible. Carry it with you next Sunday to church.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to be inspired by David's example of obedience to his parents, to be willing to honor their parents, treating them as God commanded.

Memory Verse:

"Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today." (Deuteronomy 27:10)

Thoughts for the Teacher

The word "honor" involves valuing, respecting, listening to, being interested in, and obeying our parents. Show children the meaning of honor and respect by setting an example from your own life. Tell them about the training you received from your parents and explain how you honor them. Children will learn not only from your words but also through your example.

There are children whose parents might not seem to deserve to be honored. Some of your children might even have been victims of abuse by their parents. Pray especially for those children. If you suspect they are suffering abuse, talk to your pastor.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.

Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week

Obedience 1 Samuel 17: 12-20

David's three brothers were soldiers in King Saul's army fighting against the Philistine army. The Philistines were strong, bad enemies; things were not going well for Saul's army. The enemy had a soldier that was a giant named Goliath. No one dared to challenge Goliath. For 40 days the two armies remained where they were and did not even fight. In those days there was no radio or television for people to find out what was happening in the war. The only way to know if the soldiers were okay was to go to where the army was and to see them. Frequently the army leaders did not have enough food to give to the soldiers, so their families had to bring them food.

David, Jesse's youngest son, was a shepherd for his father's flock of sheep near Bethlehem. Jesse sent for David to come to him. When David arrived his father told him, "Go and take your brothers this roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread. Take them to the camp right away. Take these ten pieces of cheese to the commander of their unit. See if your brothers are well and bring back word from them."

"Yes, father," David answered. "I'll go early in the morning." The next day David obeyed everything his father had told him to do. He looked for someone to take his place to watch the flock while he was gone. Then he took the food and went to Saul's army camp. When David found his brothers he gave them the food and asked them how things were going. It was during this visit that David killed Goliath. Afterwards David returned home with the good news for his father.

Many years passed by and David grew up. During all that time David obeyed God and his parents. God was very pleased with David.

Activity

Make 2 sets of 10 cards. Write on each of them one of the 10 Commandments. Mix up each set of cards & place them face down.

Divide the students into two teams & give each team their own set of 10 Commandment cards. Have a race to see which team can:

- put their cards in the correct order (according to Exodus 20)
- put their cards in ABC order

Memorization

Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today. (Deuteronomy 27:10).

Write out the memory verse, but leave blank spaces for some of the words.

Have the children fill in the blanks as they read out loud the verse.

Repeat the verse with them until they can say it out loud without help

Closing

Gather the children together to pray.

It's not always easy to honor and obey parents, but God can always help us. If you find it hard to do so, tell God and ask Him for help. If you have decided to honor your parents more, ask the Lord to help you fulfill your promise. It is beautiful to honor our parents!

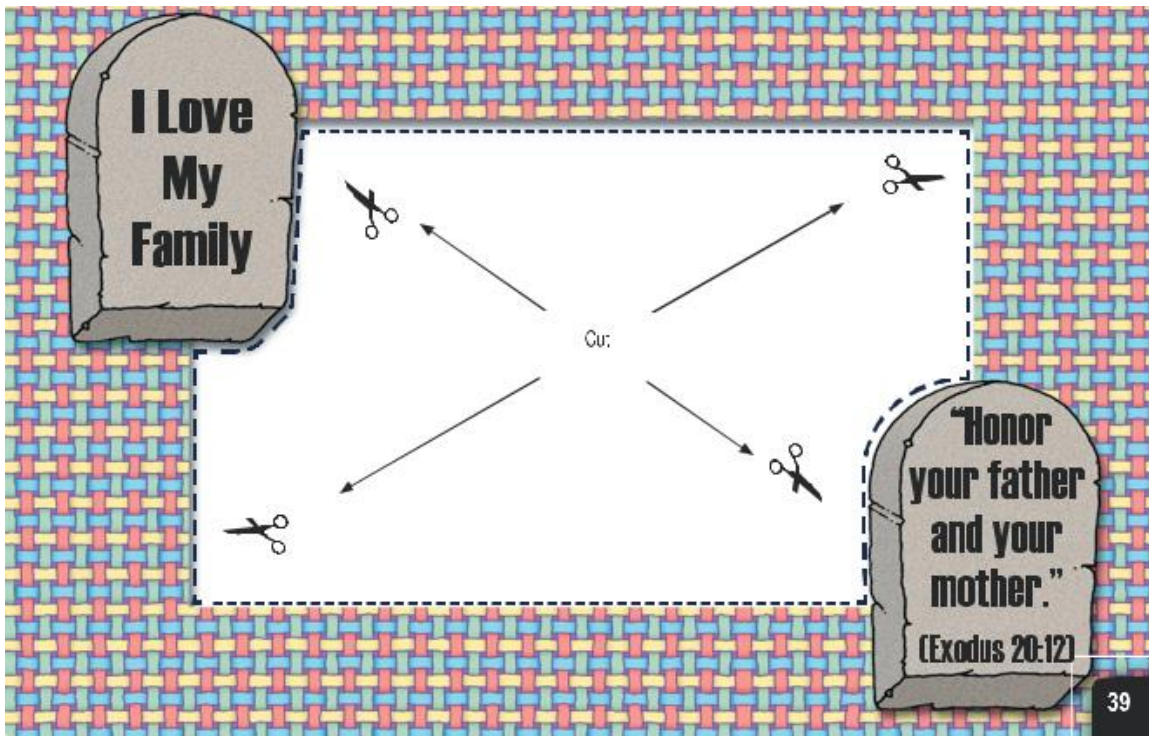
Activity 18

HONORING OUR PARENTS

Scriptures: Exodus 20:12; 1 Samuel 17:12-20, 22:1-4

Lesson Objective: Help the students to be inspired by David's example of obedience to his parents, to be willing to honor their parents, treating them as God commanded.

Memory Verse: "Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today."
(Deuteronomy 27:10)



Draw a picture of your family. Stick it on the empty photo frame above.
An example is below.



Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand how important it is to forgive.

Memory Verse:

“Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children need help knowing how they should handle strong emotions such as anger. The violence children are exposed to on the media can make them insensitive. Our loving God commands us to respect the lives of our fellow human beings; “Thou Shall Not Kill.” We should even seek the good of our enemies. As our world becomes increasingly violent this is not an easy thing to teach children. May we choose God’s path of love toward those who have wronged us.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson. Welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.

Take Care of Your Thoughts - “David Decided to Love”

King Saul put on his armor and prepared his sword. He had just arrived back after chasing the Philistines but he was not going to get to rest. King Saul had just received an important message, “David is in the desert!”

Saul thought: “This is my opportunity. I can finally kill David.”

God had chosen Saul to be Israel’s first king. At first Saul was a good king, but then he began to disobey God. For that reason God had to choose another king, one who would obey Him.

God decided the next king of Israel would be David because he loved and obeyed God. The people also loved David and that made King Saul very angry, “I hate David. He’s trying to take my throne away.”

That was not true but the more Saul thought about David with hate, the more convinced he was that David was his enemy. Saul started looking for a way to kill David. Saul called his army and went with them to look for him. David was hiding in a cave when he heard a noise. There was another person in the cave! David and his men looked there was King Saul!

David’s friends told him, “This is your chance to kill Saul. He is bad, he disobeys God and he is also trying to kill you. God brought Saul here so you can kill him.”

(Read the next sentences slowly and with drama.)

Very carefully David slip up to Saul, took his knife out, stretched out his arm towards the king, and cut off one edge of his robe. David snuck back to where his men were. Saul did not hear or feel a thing!

David immediately felt badly; he had shown disrespect towards a king, “I should not have done that. God chose him to be the king of Israel. I will not hurt King Saul!”

After a few minutes Saul left the cave to keep looking for David. David waited until Saul was a bit far away and then he also walked out of the cave. “Saul,” David shouted!

The king looked back, surprised. Saul could not believe that David was so close!

David bowed down before him and said, “Why do you listen to those who tell you that I want to hurt you?” David showed Saul the piece of cloth and shouted, “Look - I could have taken your life! My men begged me to. I will never try to hurt you; the king chosen by God. Why are you still trying to kill me?”

Saul saw the cloth; it was from his robe! In shock Saul thought, “David could have taken my life and I wanted to kill him.” King Saul was sad about his evil thoughts towards David and his intent to kill him. Finally Saul said, “You are a better man than me. Someday you will be king and when you are, promise me you will not kill my family. Let them live.”

“I promise!” David replied and returned to his hiding place in the cave. Saul could change his mind and try to kill him again. But he trusted that God would help him and when God saw fit he would allow him to be king. Until that day came, David would fulfill the commandment of God and not kill Saul.

Activity

I will read several situations to you. If I point to you, step back and say, “I will obey God and do the right thing.” Then say what you would do in each situation:

- Your best friend made fun of you because you like to sleep with your doll.
- The friend sitting next to you wrote in your exercise book.
- A big boy stopped you at the school gate and took away your pencils

Jesus says that we should love our enemies and pray for those who mistreat us. God wants His people to choose love instead of evil.

Memorization

“Obey the Lord your God and follow His commands and decrees that I give you today.” (Deuteronomy 27:10) Divide the verse into several phrases, for example: “Obey the Lord”, “your God”, “follow His commands,” etc. Write a phrase on each card, place the cards face down on the table, and mix them up well. Pick a card and form a complete sentence with the phrase that is written on the card.

For example: the card says “Obey the Lord,” and the child completes: “Obey the Lord your God and be kind to your sister.”)

Each child that picks up a card should complete the sentence. Place each used card face up on the table, assembling the verse.

Closing

Draw an angry and a smiley face:

1. Look at the angry face and think of someone who did something bad to you. Pray silently for that person. Ask God to help you forgive them.
2. Look at the smiley face and think about how happy you will be when you see that person again. After forgiving and showing love to that person there will be no more anger. Your friendship will continue!
3. Pray, asking God to help us love and forgive those who have treated us badly.

Activity 19

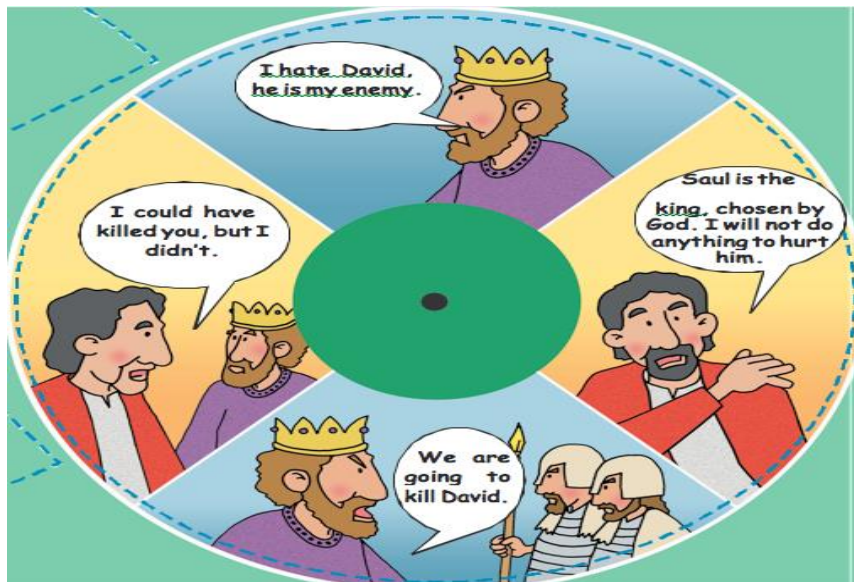
TAKE CARE OF YOUR THOUGHTS

Scriptures: Exodus 20:13; 1 Samuel 24; Matthew 5:21-22, 43-45

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand how important it is to forgive.

Memory Verse: “Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Thinking and Doing Wheel



Look at the two pictures above. Discuss which picture represents your thoughts. Pray.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students understand that stealing and lying are bad sins. God can forgive us if we repent.

Memory Verse:

“Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week

Introduction to the Bible Story**Stealing and lying Brings Bad Consequences 2 Kings 5:13-27**

Naaman was an important man who worked for the king. He lived far from Israel and had an Israelite servant who worked for him and knew the true God. Naaman got very sick with a bad disease that affected his skin and caused sores all over his body called leprosy. Naaman had treatments but none had helped him. It was even getting worse!

One day the servant spoke to Naaman's wife and said, “Elisha, the prophet of God can help your husband. He is in Israel. He should go see him!”

Naaman went to Israel and visited Elisha. The prophet knew what the general should do to be healed by God. Naaman did what the prophet told him and his leprosy disappeared. His skin was like new; all the sores were gone! He was so happy! “Thank you, thank you,” he said to Elisha. “Now I know that there is no God in the whole world like the God of Israel. Please accept these gifts in appreciation.”

“No,” Elisha answered. “God healed you, I did not. I will not accept them!”

“Go in peace,” Elisha said to Naaman.

Gehazi, Elisha's servant, had been listening. “I can't believe that Elisha did not accept anything from this Syrian Naaman! He had beautiful clothes and gifts of silver. Elisha should have accepted something!” he thought.

The servant continued thinking. Finally he decided what he would do. “I will run after Naaman and ask him for a gift and keep it for myself.” Gehazi began to run.

In the distance Naaman saw him approaching and turned to find Elisha's servant. Naaman asked, “Is everything all right?”

“Yes, everything is fine,” said Gehazi. “But Elisha has a message for you. There are two young people who need your help. He is asking you to give me the silver gifts and the robes for them.”

“Very well!” said Naaman. “I will give you the gifts for Elisha.”

Gehazi took the gifts from Naaman and returned to Elisha.

“Where were you, Gehazi?” Elisha asked him.

“What do you mean?” he replied. “I didn't go anywhere.”

Elisha shook his head sadly and said, “I know what you did Gehazi! You lied & you stole. You also sinned against God. You broke His commandments.”

Gehazi bent his head in shame. Elisha had discovered what he had done.

“Now you will be punished for your sin! Elisha said. “You and your children will have leprosy, in the same way that Naaman had it before he was healed.” And so it happened.

Very sadly, Gehazi had to learn the bad consequences of breaking God’s commandments.

Activity

“What did you hear?” Review:

All the children will sit in a circle.

To review the story, ask questions to see what the children heard:

For example, you can say: “I heard that there was an important man, that he was a military man.”

Ask the child #1 on your left: “What did you hear about it?”

Child #1 might answer: “His name was Naaman.”

Child #1 will ask child #2: “What did you hear?”

Child #2 might say: “Naaman had a servant.”

Child #2 will ask child #3: “What did you hear?”

And in that way, they will continue to tell the Bible story

Memorization

Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today. (Deuteronomy 27:10)

Write the above verse on some small cut out cards, each word on its own card. Mix the cards up. Choose the same number of children that there are cards. Have the children stand in a line. Give one card to each child.

Have the children try to figure out their correct arrangement and speak out loud the verse as it is supposed to be.

Closing

Whether we are children or adults, God has the power to forgive us and keep us from falling. Pray with and for the children that God will help them be avoid lying. We should always tell the truth!

Activity 20

STEALING AND LYING BRING BAD CONSEQUENCES

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:13-27

Lesson Objective: Help the students understand that stealing and lying are bad sins. God can forgive us if we repent.

Memory Verse: “Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

What did Gehazi do?



- ☐ He told Naaman to worship idols.
- ☐ He lied to Naaman.
- ☐ He told Naaman that Elisha wanted to see him.



- ☐ He bought new clothes.
- ☐ He bought a gift for Elisha.
- ☐ He took money and clothes that did not belong to him.



- ☐ He lied to Elisha.
- ☐ He asked Elisha for some money.
- ☐ He told Elisha he was sick.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students understand the dangers of greed and to be thankful for what God has allowed us to have.

Memory Verse:

“Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story**Greed is dangerous 1 Kings 21:1-29**

King Ahab really wanted Naboth's vineyard, "What a beautiful vineyard! Look at all those grapes, what lovely clusters! They look delicious! These lands would be perfect for my vegetable garden!"

The more Ahab looked at the vineyard, the more he wished it was his. "That vineyard has to be mine. I am the king, I must have the best lands," he told himself. Then he went to see Naboth, the owner.

"Hello Naboth," said Ahab. "I need to talk with you."

"What's going on?" Naboth asked.

Ahab answered, "I like your vineyard. Actually, I love it, so you have to give it to me. You can have another one if you want. I'll let you choose the one you want."

"No thanks," said Naboth. "That vineyard has belonged to my family for a long time and I will keep it for my children."

This made King Ahab very angry and his face was covered with anger. "Who do you think I am, Naboth?" the king scolded. "I am the king and I want that vineyard!"

The king returned to the palace and locked himself in his room. He went to bed, he didn't get up, he didn't eat or drink, and he was still angry. Ahab continually thought more about the beautiful vineyard, "It's perfect! It must be mine. I want it for myself. I am the king."

King Ahab complained so much that Queen Jezebel got tired of listening to him. One day she decided to talk to him, "Why don't you eat? What is your problem? Why do you grumble and complain?"

"I'm angry and sad," the king said. "I want Naboth's vineyard and he doesn't want to give it to me. I offered to pay him and he said he wouldn't accept it. How can he be so selfish?"

Jezebel frowned when she heard the king, "Are you not the king of Israel? Get up, eat, be glad; I'll get you Naboth's vineyard," said the queen.

Queen Jezebel made a terrible plan. She pretended to be King Ahab. She wrote letters and sealed them with the royal ring. Everyone believed that Ahab had written them. The king was not worried about what his wife was doing. The only thing that mattered was getting the vineyard from Naboth at any cost.

"Prepare a special meal and invite Naboth," the queen commanded. "Give him a special seat, then say that the guest said bad words about God and then kill him."

The leaders invited Naboth to a special meal. "Sit here," they told Naboth. "We have this special seat for you."

Naboth sat down. Then two wicked men pointed to Naboth and shouted, “He spoke evil of God!” Everyone agreed that Naboth should die. They killed him and sent a message to Queen Jezebel. “They stoned Naboth and he died.”

Jezebel was happy. She quickly went to tell the king that Naboth had died. The king went happily to the vineyards. Ahab rubbed his hands like a happy child with his favorite toy. “These vineyards are all mine now!” He picked up some dirt and let it slide gently between his fingers, feeling the taste of victory.

While Ahab was celebrating God spoke to Elijah, his prophet. “King Ahab has killed Naboth and is taking over his property. Go where he is.”

Elijah found the happy king in his new vineyards. “God is very angry with you,” said Elijah. “You have sinned, you broke his commandments! You disobeyed God! God will take everything from you and you will die!”

Suddenly King Ahab realized his wickedness and was very sad. “How could I have done this terrible thing?” he cried.

Ahab knew he had sinned. He knew he had done the wrong thing. Weeping and wailing, he repented, dressed in old torn clothes, and asked God to forgive him.

God knew that Ahab was sorry so He forgave him, but told Ahab that his children would not be kings. Ahab learned that he could not break God’s laws without paying the consequences. He understood how important it is to obey God.

Memorization

“Obey the Lord your God and follow His commands and decrees that I give you today.” (Deuteronomy 27:10)

Ask the children to repeat this verse several times.

In a circle have the children pass a small ball, an old sock, or papers wrapped together into a shape of a ball. Play a song. When the music stops the child holding the ball in his/her hand should say the memory verse. Continue on several times, helping the children to memorize the verse of this unit.

Closing

With eyes closed, lead a prayer of thanks. Everyone can say short phrases like: “I thank you Lord for my mom”. “I thank you Lord for my dad.” (Keep giving thanks for all the things that God gives us: health, family, brothers and sisters, work, school, toys, friends, teachers, pastors, trees, flowers, animals, etc.)

End by praying for the children to be happy and grateful, instead of wanting things that others have. Thank God that the children are learning His Ten Commandments. Ask God to help us remember the instructions that He left us to follow; His Ten Commandments. Ask God to help us to be happy instead of greedy complainers.

Activity 21

GREED IS DANGEROUS

Scripture: 1 Kings 21:1-29

Lesson Objective: Help the students understand the dangers of greed and to be thankful for what God has allowed us to have.

Memory Verse: “Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”
(Deuteronomy 27:10)



Cut out the above figures.
Stick them together to make a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

INTRODUCTION - UNIT 6

GOD IS UNIQUE AND POWERFUL

Biblical References: Numbers 13:1-14:42, 27:12-23; Joshua 1, 3-4, 6:14, 6-15

Unit Memory Verse: “The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9b)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- lose fear and trust in God
- have courage to confront difficult situations
- realize that when they obey God, He helps them

Unit Lessons

Lesson 22: Go Forward Without Fear

Lesson 23: Go Forward with Courage

Lesson 24: Go Forward in Obedience

Lesson 25: Go Forward with God’s Power

Lesson 26: Go Forward with God’s Promises

We often experience fear or lack courage to obey God. Through these lessons may we understand that God is with us everywhere and in every situation. God will help us to overcome our deepest fears even when we feel alone or even helpless.

May we see that being close to God will bring us happiness.

May we see that when we obey God, He will take care of us, even in scary situations.

May we know that God is a friend who is always on our side.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students understand the we may trust and obey God.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their info to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story**GOD IS UNIQUE AND POWERFUL Numbers 13:1-14:42**

One day God told Moses, “Send some men to Canaan to explore the land I will give you.”

Moses called 12 leaders, “Go to Canaan. Spy on the land and discover if it is good or bad. See what the cities are like and if the land is good for growing food. Bring back some of the fruit that grows in Canaan.”

The 12 men went to Canaan immediately and explored the whole land for 40 days. There they saw desert places, fields of grains, delicious fruit, and fast-flowing rivers. The spies took figs, pomegranates, and cut a huge bunch of grapes. It was so big that they had to carry it between two men. Forty days later they returned to report to Moses.

When they arrived they showed Moses, Aaron and all the people the fruit they had brought. Ten of the spies began to say, “Canaan is a good land. Look at the beautiful fruit! However the inhabitants of Canaan are very large and strong. They live in cities with thick strong walls.

“We shouldn’t worry about that,” said Caleb, another of the spies. “I think we could go now and take the land. We can do it!”

“Don’t!” the others shouted. “We can’t attack those people because they aren’t just big, they’re giants! They will smash us like locusts!”

The Israelites were beginning to get upset. “Why did we come here?” they lamented. “God will let them kill all of us. Enemies will take our wives and children captive. We should go back to Egypt. Let’s choose a new leader to take us back.”

Moses and Aaron fell to their knees with their faces on the ground. The people were dishonoring God by saying so many bad things about him. What would God do?

Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes to show how disgusted they were, “We do not talk like that! The land is good and we must trust in God. Do not frighten the people. God is with us. We can take the land!”

The people did not want to listen to them. They were scared and angry that they even wanted to kill Moses, Joshua, and Caleb.

Suddenly God appeared to them as a bright cloud of light! He was also angry. “Until when will these people continue without trusting in me?” God asked Moses. “I will destroy them and start a new nation with your family.”

Moses begged, “No God. Please do not do that! You brought us from Egypt and everyone in Canaan knows that. You are kind and forgiving. Please forgive these people even though they have done such great harm!”

God responded back, “I will forgive them, but I will not let any of them enter Canaan. They saw all the miracles that I did in their midst but they did not trust or obey me. Tell this message to the people: ‘They will live in the desert for another 40 years. This represents one year for each day that the spies explored the land. Except Joshua and Caleb who trusted me, everyone who is 20 years old or older will die. Their children will one day live in Canaan, but they will not.’”

When Moses told the people what God had told him they were very sad.

“We have sinned,” they said. “Therefore now we will go to the land that God promised us.”

“Do not do that!” said Moses. “It’s too late for you to go to Canaan.”

The 10 spies who did not trust God died soon after. Only Joshua and Caleb lived. They had to wait 40 long years but they knew that God would keep his promise to bring them into the land of Canaan.

Joshua and Caleb believed in the promise that God would give them a new home. They trusted God and wanted to obey Him. God wants us to trust Him, obey Him, and do whatever He wants us to do.

Activity

Make a set of cards with the words “Trust” and “Obey” for each child. Draw the letters of the two words big, in order that they can be colored in, painted, or decorated. Bring colours, paints, brushes, markers, crayons, seeds, beans, corn, rice, paste, small fruit stickers, etc. Ask the children to decorate the words as they like. While they are working, take the opportunity to ask them questions about the lesson and to explain the meaning of those words.

Memorization

“The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

After repeating the memory verse several times write it out in a disorderly way. Ask the children to write the text out in the correct order.

Closing

Trusting and obeying God is not always easy. God will help us just as He helped Joshua and Caleb. Mention any reasons for thanking God and any prayer requests. Pray for those requests. Ask the Lord to help the children learn to trust and obey God as Joshua and Caleb did.

Activity 22

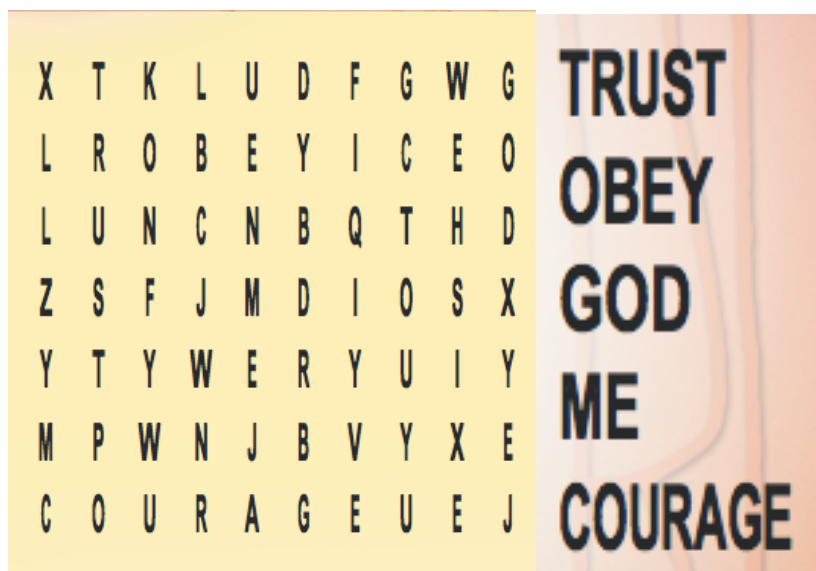
GO FORWARD WITHOUT FEAR

Scripture: Numbers 13:1 – 14:42

Lesson Objective: Help the students understand that we may trust and obey God.

Memory Verse: “The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

In the puzzle below find the words on the right:



Who can you trust? _ _ _

Who should obey God? _ _

Who helps us when we need courage?

_ _ _

Lesson Objective:

Help the students understand that just as God gave Joshua the courage to be the leader of his people, he will also give them the courage to do whatever he asks them to do.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their info to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story**Go Forward with Courage Numbers 27:12-23**

Moses had aged a lot. He knew that the time of his death was approaching and he was worried about the people of Israel. They had been wandering in the desert for 40 years. Soon they would have to enter the new land that God had promised them a long time ago.

Moses said to God, “These people are like sheep. They need someone to guide them or they will continue to wander.”

God answered him, “Joshua is the right man for that task. He trusts me, and he obeys me. He will be a wise leader. Have Joshua go with you and the priest, and stand before the people. Put your hands on him and show the people that you are putting Joshua in charge of them.”

“God I’ll do what you tell me,” said Moses.

Moses gathered all the people together. With Eleazar the priest, they stood before all the people. Moses put his hands on Joshua and named him as the new leader of the people.

Soon Moses died. Not long after, God spoke to Joshua. “Joshua you must lead the people through the Jordan River to the new land that’s called Canaan. I will keep the promise I made to Moses that I would give this people the Promised Land. I will be with you. I command you to be strong and brave. Do not fear or be dismayed for I, Jehovah your God, will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua gave the order to the people to prepare to cross the Jordan and go to the new land. Would the people obey? For many years Moses had been their leader!

All the people agreed to obey Joshua as they had obeyed Moses! They trusted and believed that God was with Joshua just as he had been with Moses. Anxiously the people waited for Joshua’s next orders. Soon they would enter their new land.

Activity

Before class make or borrow percussion instruments that the children can use.

In class pass out the instruments. Play a musical theme with enough rhythm. Tell the children to march around the room accompanying the music with their percussion instruments, clapping or whistling. While they are marching, stop the music several times. When stopped, say:

Teacher: - Who gives us courage?

Students: - God!

Teacher: - Who should we trust?

Students: - God!

Teacher: - Who should we obey?

Students: - God!

Continue playing, marching, and proclaiming as time permits.

Memorization

“The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

Draw 11 footprints on a piece of paper. Make a photocopy for each child.

Write out the words of Joshua 1:9, one word per footprint. Cut out the footprints. Practice putting the words in order so that the verse is correctly assembled. Mix up all the footprints and stack them all together in front of them. When you give the signal tell them to start ordering them as quickly as possible until the verse is assembled correctly. The first child who gets it done will lead the group to say the verse. Do it several times.

Closing

Finish the class by praying for their requests (for courage to face difficult situations) and other needs the children have. Ask God to help them to remember to pray whenever they need courage.

Activity 23

GO FORWARD WITH COURAGE

Scripture: Numbers 27:12-23

Lesson Objective: Help the students understand that just as God gave Joshua the courage to be the leader of his people, he will also give them the courage to do whatever he asks them to do.

Memory Verse: “The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

Who Is He?

Who was the leader of the people of God in this story? Put the letters into the spaces:

— — — — —

Joshua trusted in God. God gave Joshua courage to do what He asked.



Lesson Objective:

Help the students understand that God will honor us when we obey His instructions.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors. Collect their information and don't forget to visit them or call them during the week.
- Photocopy the Activity Page for Lesson 24. Glue it to a heavier piece of paper. Cut out the figures. Gather 12 small pebble stones. Follow the Bible story that you will narrate.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Instruct the children as follows:

- take 6 baby steps forward
- take 2 hops back
- take 3 steps to your right
- take 4 sliding steps to your left
- standing in place, go around in a circle
- jump up and down 7 times

Were the instructions hard to follow?

Why do people give directions?

Why is it important to follow instructions?

What can happen if you do not follow the instructions you are given?

Following instructions is very important. In our Bible story today we will discover how important it is to follow the instructions that God gives us.

Joshua 3-4

God spoke to Joshua, “Tell the priests to stand in the middle of the river. Tell people never to touch the ark; they must be kept at a distance.”

The priests and the people obeyed God and Joshua. At that time of year the banks of the Jordan River were overflowing with water. The water was very deep. The priests must have asked themselves, “Why does God ask us to do something that can be so dangerous?” But they decided to trust God and obey Him.

(Look for the big figure of the river. Cover the dry land with the small river piece.)

The priests put their feet in the water. The river stopped flowing completely!

(Take away the small river piece.)

The riverbed was dry! How wonderful! The people looked with amazement and could see how the waters stopped running at the moment when the priests obeyed God and entered the water. These people had heard the story of how God had opened a dry road in the middle of the Red Sea when they were escaping from the Egyptians, but they had never seen it with their own eyes. Now they were seeing the power of God in action! The people of Israel crossed the river on dry land. But the priests remained in the middle of the river. After crossing Joshua continued to obey every instruction that God gave him. God told Joshua, "Choose 12 men. Tell them to take 12 stones from the middle of the river close to where the priests are. Ask the men to carry the stones to the place where we will stay tonight." The men carried the heavy rocks on their shoulders from the middle of the river to their new homeland in Canaan. There was one stone for each of the 12 tribes of Israel. God told Joshua, "Tell the priests to come out of the river." The priests obeyed. As soon as the last priest came out of the water the water started to flow again.

(Place the small river piece back on the dry ground again.)

When the people saw what God had done they honored Joshua as their leader, "God is with Joshua, just as he was with Moses.

Joshua led the people to the place where they would spend the night. Joshua used the 12 stones to build an altar there.

(Place the 12 small stones on the table.)

Joshua said, "One day our children will ask us questions. They will ask us, 'Why are these stones here?' Tell them that God helped us to cross the river on dry land. Tell them they can trust and obey God."

That day the Israelites learned that God's power is greater and more powerful than any person or thing they can imagine. God can do all things. He uses his power to take care of the world and people. Even if we do not understand His plans we can trust Him. Joshua and the Israelites trusted and obeyed God. We can do the same.

Memorization

"The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9b)

March around the class, like Joshua and the Israelites, repeating the memory verse over and over again.

Closing

Have a prayer time. Have everyone can thank God for helping him/her.

Ask God to help us obey and trust Him.

Activity 24

GO FORWARD IN OBEDIENCE

Scripture: Joshua 3:4

Lesson Objective: Help the students understand that God will honor us when we obey His instructions.

Memory Verse: “The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

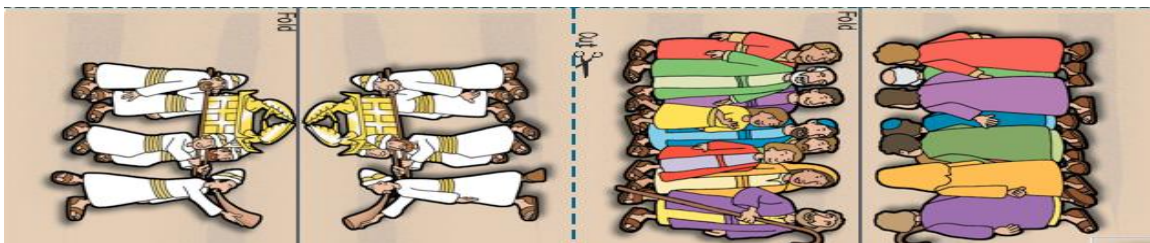
Cut and fold the river scene to stand up.



Use this piece of river to cover up the dry ground:



Cut and fold the pictures of the priests and the people so they can stand up and march inside the river.



Take away the small river piece to show when God stopped the river.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students understand that God can do impossible things when we trust and obey Him.

Memory Verse:

"The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9b)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Welcome your students with affection. Ensure that the classroom is clean and tidy when they arrive. Before going into today's topic briefly review the three previous lessons and ask your students to give some examples of how faithful they have been to God.

Introduction to the Bible Story**Go Forward with God's Power - Joshua 6**

How exciting those days were for the Israelites! They were already in their new home; Canaan. The Israelites had waited so long but God had fulfilled His promise to bring them into that land. God had brought Joshua and the Israelites safely across the Jordan River and now they were ready to conquer the cities.

Not far away was the great city of Jericho. It had high and strong walls with large gates. God spoke to Joshua and gave him a plan to conquer the city, "Do what I tell you and the city will be yours."

Joshua carefully listened to every one of God's instructions, "First march around Jericho once a day for six days. Seven priests shall carry seven ram's horns before the ark."

Surely Joshua was surprised when he heard what God told him to do. That was not the usual way to fight a battle. Joshua believed and trusted God.

God gave Joshua more instructions, "On the seventh day you will go around the city seven times. The priests will blow the horns. When the priests blow their horns for a long time the people of Israel will shout loudly! The walls of Jericho will collapse and your army will be able to go straight ahead and destroy the city."

"We'll do what you've told us, Lord," Joshua said. He gathered the people and told them God's plan.

"What will we do?" the priests asked.

Joshua answered, "Take the ark of the covenant and march around the city carrying the ark."

"What about us?" asked the seven other priests.

"You will march in front of the Ark of the Covenant and play your trumpets" said Joshua.

"Tell us what we can do too," the soldiers added in.

Joshua said, "Some of you will march in front of the priests. Others will march behind the ark. While doing all this do not shout or say anything. Wait until I let you know. When I give you the order – SHOUT!"

All the Israelites trusted God. They were ready to obey. "Let's go!" they said to each other.

On the first day the Israelites marched around the city once and then returned to the camp. The following days they continued marching.

On the seventh day they got up very early. They marched around the city again. But that day they didn't stop after going around once. They marched around twice, then three times. Their footsteps grew louder and louder. They marched around four, five, and six times! Their feet sounded like thunder that shook the ground. Finally

the Israelites marched around Jericho for the seventh and last time. The priests played their trumpets loud and long.

Suddenly Joshua said, “Shout, because the Lord has given you the city!”

At that moment all the people shouted! Boom ... boom, crash, boooooom! The walls began to shake. Crash, crack! The earth was trembling! And then ... crash, crack, boooooom! The walls of Jericho collapsed and fell to the ground! The Israeli soldiers attacked the city. In an instant they had completely defeated their enemies. That night there was great rejoicing in the camp!

God can do impossible things when we trust and obey Him. The people had trusted and obeyed God. He used his power to do the impossible. The walls and the city of Jericho had disappeared!

Activity:

Give each child a piece of clay/mud or dough. In our Bible story today the power of God destroyed a great city with immense walls. Those walls must have been made with very strong bricks. Today we are going to build a brick that will help us remember this story.

Mold the clay into the shape of a thick rectangular brick. With a pencil or pen draw the letter “J” on the clay brick. The “J” in the brick will remind you of “Joshua” and “Jericho.” God did something that was impossible for Joshua and the Israelites. He will also do impossible things today when we trust and obey Him.

Memorization

“The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9b

Two children will stand or sit facing each other.

Child A will make his challenge: “I think I can say the verse by seeing only (9) words.”

Child B will challenge Child A saying: “I think can say the verse by seeing only (8) words.”

Child A will counter challenge: “I think I can say the verse by seeing only (6) words.

The children continue to challenge each other until a child thinks they can say it with that few words and will challenge their opponent with the words: SAY THE VERSE!

Randomly write out the number of words the last child mentioned. If the challenged child recites the text correctly give him a small prize or special applause.

Play again!

Closing

Tell their prayer requests and reasons for thanks.

We can trust and obey God because He knows what is best for us. Thank God for His wisdom and power. Pray for the requests and praises of the children. Thank God for helping them trust and obey Him.

Activity 25

GO FORWARD WITH GOD'S POWER

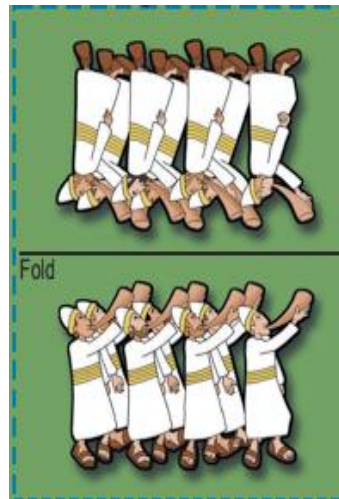
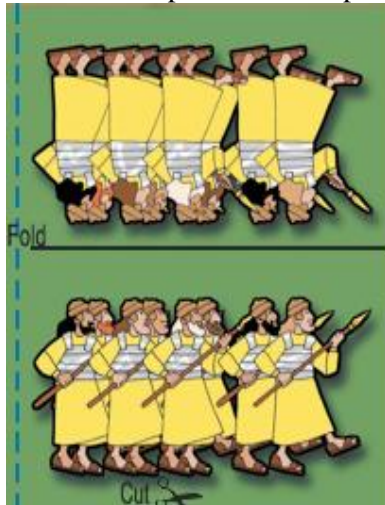
Scripture: Joshua 6

Lesson Objective: Help the students understand that God can do impossible things when we trust and obey Him.

Memory Verse: “The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

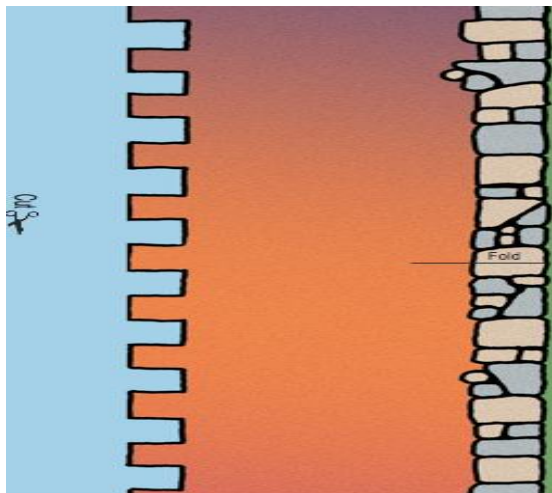
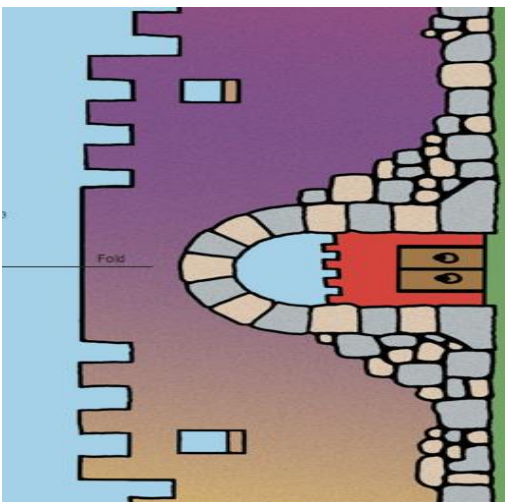
Craaash!

Cut out and fold the pictures of the people so they stand up.



Cut out the walls and make the stand up.

Make the people march around the walls 7 times. Then YELL and make the walls fall down!!!!



Lesson Objective:

Help the students understand that God Keeps His Promises. Trust God.

Memory Verse:

"The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9b)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their info to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story**Go forward with God's power. Joshua 14:6-15**

After the Israelites defeated the city of Jericho they continued into the land that God had promised them. Joshua led the people in many battles against the Canaanites. God helped them overcome their enemies and take the land for themselves.

After many battles the Israelites conquered most of Canaan. Now it was time to divide the land among the tribes of the people of Israel. God had told Moses how to do it. Now Joshua had that job.

One day Caleb came to Joshua and said, "Joshua, do you remember when, many years ago, you and I were part of the 12 spies that Moses sent to explore the new land?"

"I remember it very well," Joshua replied.

"Well," Caleb continued, "I was 40 years old at the time. When I returned from that trip I told the people that we should obey God and enter the land."

"Yes," Joshua said, "I agreed with everything you said. You told Moses that the land was good and that God would help us overcome the people who lived there. You begged us to trust in God and obey Him."

"That's right," said Caleb. "But do you remember what happened next? The other spies gave such a bad report that the people were afraid to follow God."

"Yes, I remember it very well," said Joshua. "That was the reason why we lost 40 long years in the desert!"

Caleb continued, "But I obeyed God with all my heart and God spoke to Moses. God promised me that I would not die in the desert. He said that when the new land was ours I would receive part of the land that I walked on as my property."

"It's true," Joshua agreed thoughtfully. "The Lord has kept the promise that he made to me 45 years ago when we were wandering in the desert," Caleb said. "Now I am 85 years old. But I feel stronger than ever. I am ready to fight for the land that God promised to give me. If you give me this mountain that God promised me I will go and conquer the people who live there. God will help me!"

Joshua replied, "I'm happy to give you the city of Hebron, which is part of the land promised by God. You have been faithful to obey Him. I give you the blessing of God."

Caleb did not waste time. He went to Hebron and defeated the enemies that dwelt in that place. From then on Hebron belonged to Caleb and his family. God fulfilled His promise because Caleb trusted and faithfully obeyed God.

Activity

Caleb had waited 45 years for God to keep his promise to give him the land.

How old are you? Write the children's answers on the board.

How old will you be in 45 years? Do the math with the children.

Your grandparents must be (51, 52, 53) years old. Caleb had to wait a long time to receive what God had promised him. But God did it. God always keeps his promises. Boldly trust and obey Him.

This is the last lesson in this unit.

Review all the lessons in the unit with simple questions that you prepare in advance. Remind the children about the leaders who led Israel to the Promised Land. How they trusted God and how He never abandoned them.

Memorization

"The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9b)

If possible, go to an open ground/field. Have the children stand in two lines.

Stand some distance from the two groups.

Shout: GO!

The first person of each line runs to where you are.

When they arrive, they will turn and look toward their group

They will shout the first word of the verse.

The next child from the group will run and they will shout the next word of the verse and so forth. If a child does not know the word they must return to the end of their group's line. The team that finishes first will shout the completed verse with the Biblical reference and will be the winner.

Closing

Pray for the children. Ask the Lord to make everyone trust God like Caleb; a man who knew how to obey and Trust God.

Activity 26

GO WITH GOD'S PROMISES

Scripture: Joshua 14:6-15

Lesson Objective: Help the students understand that God Keeps His Promises. Trust God.

Memory Verse: "The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9b)

Fill in the blanks using the words on the colored wheel.



___ ___ ___ keeps his
___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ to
those who ___ ___ ___ ___ in
Him and ___ ___ ___ ___ Him.

INTRODUCTION - UNIT 7

WE IMITATE JESUS

Biblical References: Luke 9:51-56, 12:13-21; Mark 12:38-44; John 4:1-42

Unit Memory Verse: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- learn the importance of imitating Jesus’ values
- always choose the path of peace & nonviolence
- know that they are valuable, not because of what they have, but because of who they are
- know that even children need the Savior

Unit Lessons

Lesson 27: Find Peace

Lesson 28: Find Love

Lesson 29: Find God

Lesson 30: Find Life

Models worthy of imitating are lacking. Show children Jesus.

Teach children important values such as peace, love, God’s place in their lives, and the importance of having God in their hearts.

Children are strongly influenced by the values of their schoolmates. The attitudes and ways of life of many children come from non-Christian homes. These lessons are very important to help children imitate Jesus.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to live in peace with all.

Memory Verse:

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Violence was not part of God’s plan for His children. Jesus taught that God expects his followers to choose peace.

Introduction to the Bible Story**Find Peace (Luke 9:51-56)**

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching people about God’s love. He also instructed them how they should treat others. Jesus helped people and healed them.

One day while teaching in Galilee Jesus knew He had to go to Jerusalem to tell people that God loved them. Jesus knew His death on the cross and His departure to heaven was approaching. Jesus told his followers, “It’s time for me to go to Jerusalem.”

Everyone began to prepare what he or she would need for the trip. One of the disciples asked Jesus which road they would take.

“The fastest way is to cross through Samaria” Jesus answered. “It will only take us three days if we go that way.”

“But Jesus,” said another disciple, “the Samaritans hate the Jews. If we go through Samaria we will have problems.”

“We’ll go that way,” Jesus answered. “Samaritans and Jews were both created by God. He loves everyone equally. When we are near the city someone can go ahead to talk to the people. They can tell them that we will not hurt anyone; we are people of peace.”

As they walked towards Jerusalem Jesus taught them. He wanted His disciples to understand that God wanted them to show love for one another, even for those who are evil or simply different. They walked until sunset. It was time for them to stop, eat and rest.

“There’s a town there,” Jesus pointed out with his finger. “Please go and ask if we can spend the night there and if there is food.”

Some of the disciples went to the village. A man shouted at them, “You are not from here; you are Jews. We hate Jews!”

“Look, we are going to Jerusalem,” said one of Jesus’ followers. “Our group is beyond the entrance to the village. We need a place to stay tonight. Can we stay here?”

“We already know where you are going,” said another Samaritan, “that’s what makes us so angry.”

“You believe that we are not good enough to go to Jerusalem. Where we worship God isn’t good enough for the Jews!” The Jews thought the Samaritans were wrong because they offered sacrifices to God on a mountain in Samaria. The Jews thought the only correct place to offer sacrifice was in the temple of Jerusalem.

The disciples left the angry men and the town. They returned and told Jesus what had happened.

“We can’t stay!” they said. “They don’t want to have anything to do with Jews!”

James and John heard what had happened and shouted, “Who do those arrogant Samaritans think they are?” James and John were known as the sons of thunder because they easily got angry. “Don’t those silly Samaritans know who you are?” they asked Jesus. “You are more powerful than the prophet Elijah! I know what we will do. Call down fire from heaven! Let the whole town burn; that will give them a good lesson!”

Jesus sighed and shook his head. These two disciples did have a lot to learn about God’s love.

“You cannot burn people and their homes simply because they are bad,” Jesus clarified. “That is wrong. I need people who understand about God’s love! Evil actions will not help people understand God’s love for them!”

“But what should we do?” asked James and John.

“We’ll go to another place, to another city,” Jesus replied.

That day Jesus taught an important lesson to the ‘sons of thunder’. James and John learned that God wants His people to live in peace with their neighbors and to show their love, even when their neighbors are not kind.

We can learn from Jesus. We can choose peace and decide to turn away when others want to fight or argue with us.

Activity

How to Live in Peace

Children will show either a ‘thumbs up’ or a ‘thumbs down’ depending upon if the following scenario is a way to live in peace or not:

1. Jesus listened to his Father, God.
2. Jesus obeyed God and went to Jerusalem.
3. Jesus and His followers spoke of the love of God.
4. Jesus sent some of His followers to Samaria.
5. The Samaritans hated the Jews.
6. The Samaritans did not want to host Jesus and his friends.
7. Jesus and His friends went to another city.
8. The disciples wanted fire to fall from heaven onto Samaria.
9. Jesus wants all people to love each other and not fight each other.

Memorization

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)

Each child writes out, in a beautiful way, today’s memory verse. Take it home to display in their homes.

Closing

Pray for the children to be bearers of peace among their friends, in their family, and in any place where there are difficult situations. Ask the Lord to keep them from evil.

Encourage them to return to the next class.

Activity 27

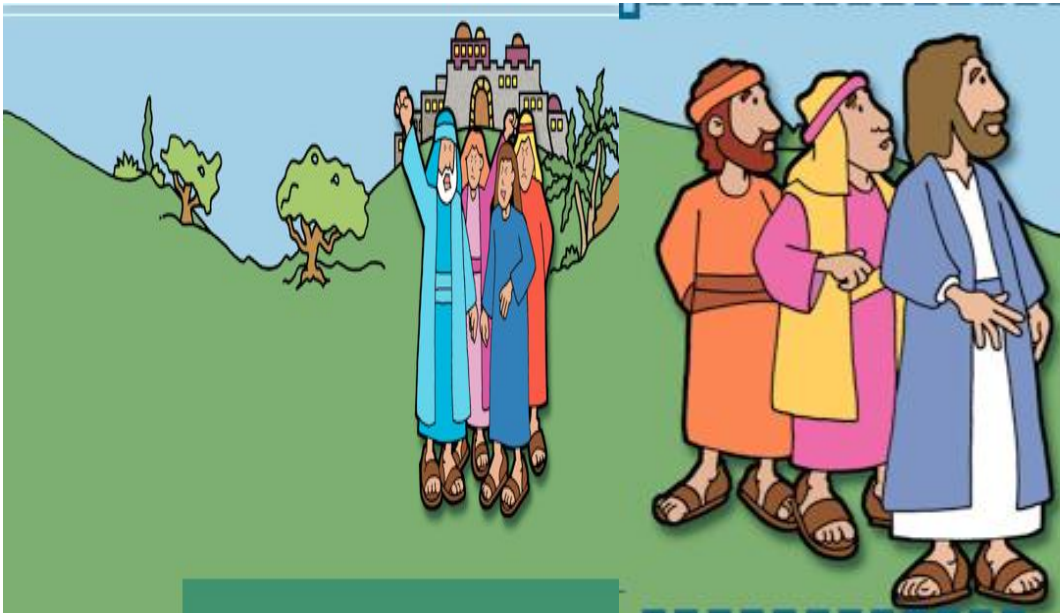
FIND PEACE

Scripture: Luke 9:51-56

Lesson Objective: Help the students to live in peace with all.

Memory Verse: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)

Look at the below pictures and answer the questions that follow:



1. Who did not welcome Jesus?
2. Who wanted fire to fall from heaven?
3. What did Jesus do?
4. Where were Jesus and his disciples going?

**“Whoever has my commands
and keeps them is the one who
loves me.”** (John 14:21a)

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that we love because of our love for God, not to be seen by other people.

Memory Verse:

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children live in a world that teaches them to try to be the best in everything. As they grow they learn that success is measured by what others think of them and by the amount of money and possessions they have in life.

This lesson will give you the opportunity to show children that there is a different and better way; God’s way of love. We need to know that it’s God’s opinion that really counts. He likes it when we show love to him and others.

Children should know that God does not care how much money we have or how much we have earned. God cares about how our hearts and relationships are with Him and with others.

Discover ways to demonstrate love for God. We can make a promise to love and honor God above all things.

Introduction to the Bible Story**A Great Gift of Love (Mark 12:38-44)**

“They believe that they dress very well with their expensive clothes,” Jesus said. “They believe that it is very good to make everyone else look at them. They like to draw attention when they sit at the front during times of worship. They also wait and look for the best places at parties. They try to show that they love God and that they obey Him, but the truth is different. They only show love for themselves. Their prayers out loud are only to be heard by others, but not for God to hear them.”

“That does make sense to me,” said a woman. “If I pray to God yet hurt people, that is not showing them that I love them.” Jesus sat down. Nearby He could see the container for the offerings. He looked around and saw that people were passing by and putting in their offerings. A rich man, who seemed very important, came to give his offering. He made sure that people noticed him. He put in a large quantity of coins and looked around with great pride. He wanted people to see how important and generous he was. Jesus continued to observe other rich people who did the same, putting on a great show. They felt very proud. No doubt, none of them thought of God. Then Jesus saw a very poor widow who approached silently. The woman did not look at anyone. She walked with her head bowed down. She looked ragged, with patched and torn clothes. Her husband had died. All she had were only two coins! Jesus smiled when he saw her approach and give God everything she had.

“Look,” Jesus said to the people who were with him. “Look at that quiet woman.”

“But she had almost nothing to give to God,” said the apostles.

Jesus answered them, “I want you to remember this important truth: that poor woman gave God much more than all those rich people gave, because she gave all she had. They gave from their excess, from what they had left over. This poor woman put in everything she had to live on.”

God does not want us to give for other people to think we are good. He wants us to give everything we can because we love Him, not because it makes us feel important.

In the end the followers of Jesus understood what He was teaching them. Now they understood that God is interested in us loving Him, loving our neighbor, and not in being seen. This was an important lesson at the temple. Today we can learn something very special. We must give the best we have because we love God, not because we want others to see us and think we are good or important.

This is a good opportunity to pass the offering if you didn't earlier. You can say, "Jesus taught very important things. Today's Bible story teaches us that the important thing is not how much we give to God; what is important to Him is why we give it. He wants us to give our best because we love Him.

Activity

Copy or draw the front of different coins of your country's money. Glue them on card-like paper. Paint/color them gold, silver, or copper. On the back of the coins write one of the words of the memory verse. Before your children come to Sunday School hide the coins all over the room.

Ask the students to look for the 14 coins, including the Biblical reference: "*Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.*" (John 14:21a).

When the children find the coins they should run and place them on the table in the right order to form the memory verse.

Memorization

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me". (John 14:21a)

Give the children a piece of paper and have the children write out the memory verse. Decorate it as beautifully as you can. Take it home and practice memorizing it.

Closing

Place the group in a circle. Ask them to pray for the person on their left. Everyone prays for the next child. The teacher should also pray for the whole class to be loving children who obey the Word of God. The teacher should pray for all to be eager to love God and their neighbor without being seen by others. Thank God for the love the children showed when they gave their savings and brought food for people in need.

Activity 28

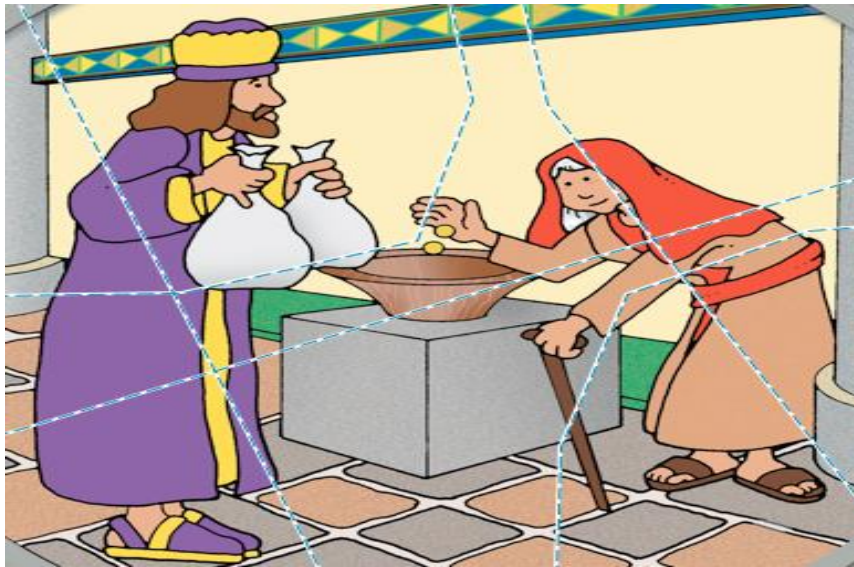
FIND LOVE

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that we love because of our love for God, not to be seen by other people.

Memory Verse: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)

A Gift of Love



How do you show your love to God?

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that it does not please God when we are greedy and selfish. When we find God, He will help us love Him more than earthly things.

Memory Verse:

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.”
(John 14:21a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children’s programs on television, toys, and some games are designed that children may spend more time on them. These programs, toys, and games attract children. Children, even parents, believe that when they have these things, they will always be happy. Jesus teaches us a different way of looking at what we want. He teaches that possessions, people, and things we want to play with don’t lead to happiness. True happiness is found only through a deep relationship with God. Children today need to hear that the Lord has much more for them than material possessions; TV programs, toys, games, etc. He has eternal life in mind, and they have to make a decision. Children can choose God first no matter what others do or say.

Introduction to the Bible Story

- Prepare in advance any teaching materials you will use for this lesson.
- Remember to record attendance, take offerings, welcome visitors, and collect their family information to contact them during the week.
- Before starting to teach today’s topic briefly review the two previous lessons. Ask the children how they did during the week and if they have any prayer requests. Choose an activity that helps the children understand the lesson.
- Capture the attention of your students: “Suppose you have a TV at your home and your parents allow you to watch all the children’s programs at any time you like. You also have so many toys, and games. How would you feel?” (get responses from the children)

Find God

In the story of Luke 12:13-21, we find a young man who wanted more and more:

Many people gathered next to Jesus, carefully listening to Him. One man in the crowd did not have a happy face. The man thought, “Maybe I can get Jesus to talk to my brother so that he will share the inheritance with me.” This man was the younger of two brothers. The law said that his older brother would receive the inheritance. The young man had money but he felt that it was not enough; he wanted more!

“Master,” he called to Jesus. “Tell my older brother to give me the inheritance money. It is not fair that he should have more than me. I should have more!”

“Young man,” Jesus replied. “I am not a judge. It is not me to make your brother give you the money.” The young man was not happy. Then Jesus looked at the crowd and told them a story.

Once, there was a farmer who was rich

He had grown a lot of grain in his fields. This year his grain production was very good. The harvest was so great that the man had nowhere to put it all. ‘What will I do now?’ the farmer asked himself. ‘I don’t have enough granaries to store this harvest.’

(Pause the story to ask the following questions).

- Who made the grain seeds grow? (God)
- What must the farmer say to God for having harvested so much healthy grain? (Thank you, Lord,)
- What do you think the farmer should have done with all the grain he harvested? (help the needy who had no food)
- What do you think the farmer did with the grain he couldn't store? (The answers will be different)

The Bible tells us the farmer destroyed his small granaries and built bigger ones. He sat down and thought, "What a beautiful life I have. I am so strong and healthy. My life will be very easy for many years." But God said to him, "You fool! You forgot about me, you forgot to love me, you forgot that everything you have comes from me." That night the farmer died.

- Did he take his grains with him? Could he use his crops?

Jesus wants us to learn and remember that it does not please God when we are greedy and selfish. When we find God, He will help us love Him more than earthly things like (TV, toys, games, money and others). We can decide to put God in the first place of our hearts.

Activity

Have sweets equal to the number of children in the class. Put them on the table and ask the children each to pick one. *You will find that some children will get more than one and some will miss.* Tell the children who have got more than one to share with the one who have missed. Ask them not to open their sweets until all have got. *It will be hard for some of the children to share.*

Remind the children that this is exactly what Jesus teaches us in this lesson '*It doesn't please God when we are greedy and selfish. When we find God, He will help us love Him more than earthly things.*

Memorization

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." (John 14:21a)

Write the memory verse on the board or Manilla paper. Explain the meaning of the memory verse then have the children repeat it several times. Now start erasing one by one word (if on board) beginning from the first word and tell the children to repeat the whole verse until all the words are erased. If on manilla paper, get something to cover the words. By the end, most of the children will be saying the memory verse without reading it on the board or manilla.

Closing

Pray with the children. Dear Jesus help us not be greedy or selfish. Help us that we may have you in the first place of our lives so that anything like TV, toys, games, sports, or anything else should not take the first place. May always know how to put God in the first place.

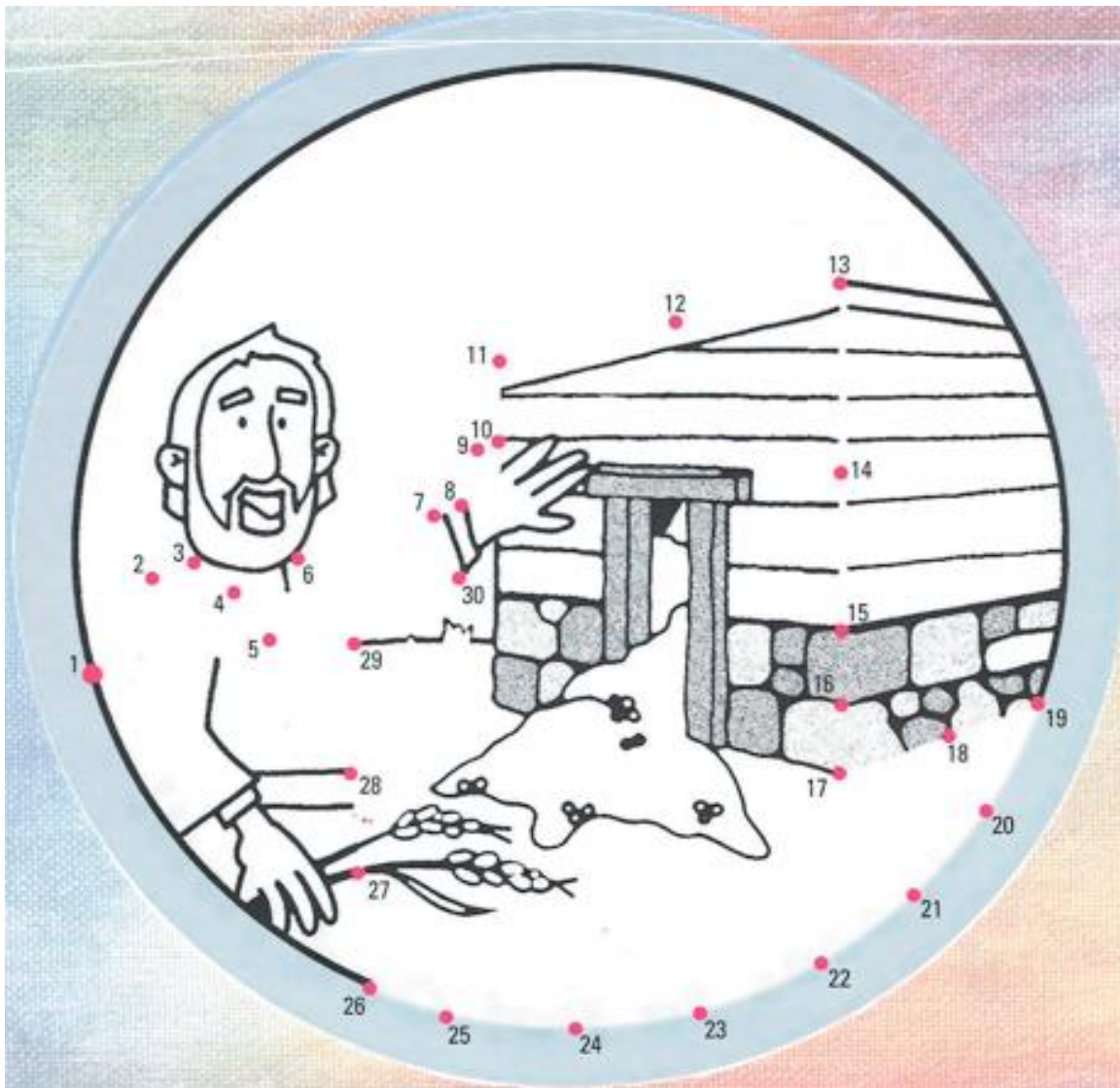
Activity 29

Find God

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that It does not please God when we are greedy and selfish. When we find God He will help us love Him more than earthly things.

Memory Verse: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)



**CONNECT THE DOTS TO DISCOVER WHO
DID NOT PUT GOD IN THE FIRST PLACE.....**

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that Salvation is for **everyone** who believes in Jesus Christ and receives Him as his/her savior.

Memory Verse:

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Most of us love people whom we feel comfortable with. We notice similarities between people and also notice differences. God has not called us to choose people who are like us nor to distance ourselves from those who are different from us.

In the same way Jesus teaches us to look beyond those with whom we feel comfortable. He wants us to offer the gift of salvation to all who need to know Him.

- Receive the children with affection.
- Review briefly the three previous lessons and ask the children to talk about how they have been faithful to God.
- Explain the meaning of the following words:
“Follower of Jesus” - *people who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, love, and obey Him.*
“Eternal Life” - *to live forever. When we die, those of us who accept Jesus as our savior will go to live in heaven with Him.*
“Living Water” - *the spiritual water that gives eternal life*

Introduction to the Bible Story

* Pretend this happened somewhere: *Children came to their Sunday school class. A child also came who was wearing torn and dirty cloths. He didn't have any shoes. The children die not want to sit with him.*

How would you feel if you were that child? You may not be dressed like that child, but maybe there is something that makes you different from the other children. Maybe their language is different from yours and they say they don't want you to join them. How would you feel?

We are going to see how Jesus associated with the people who were rejected by his own tribe (the Jews). Jesus and His disciples came from Judea going to Galilee. Jesus said they go by the shortest way, through Samaria. *His disciples did not like this idea - because they knew Jews and Samaritans hated each other.* They came to a village in Samaria where they found a well. Jesus was tired and told His disciples to go and buy food in the nearby town. As the disciples left, a Samaritan woman came to the well. She carried her pitcher (jerrican) to collect water. Jesus looked at her and knew everything about her. *This woman was rejected by everyone in her home area because of the wrong things she was doing.* Jesus knew that God loved her and she needed a change in her life. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman, *“Would you give me some water?”*

The woman was surprised! *“This a Jew”* she thought, *“Jews don't talk to Samaritans, especially women like me.”* “Why do you ask me for a drink?”

In a kind voice Jesus said, “If you knew Who is talking to you, you would know that I would give you a great gift from God. I would give you” **living water!**”

“How?” the woman exclaimed. “How will you get the water from a deep well?”

The woman did not know that Jesus was speaking of **eternal life**, not real water. Jesus replied, “*anyone who drinks of this water will get thirsty again but whoever drinks the water that I will give them will never thirst again.*”

“I want the water” the woman exclaimed.

Jesus knew that the woman had lived a life of sin but all the same, she needed God’s love and forgiveness. The woman’s life was changed. She wanted to know more about God and she invited more people to come listen to the Savior.

We learn that; *Salvation is for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ and receive Him as his/her Savior.*

Invitation:

Give chance to children who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Use: - A, B, C.....

A – Admit that you are a sinner (*we are all sinners / do wrong things and separated from God*) But if we say sorry, God forgives us.

B – Believe that Jesus is the son of God, *He shed His blood for us and He is the only one who takes away sin.....*

C – claim Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior. *So that you may have hope for eternal life.*

Activity

Have the five evange-colours of either papers, cloths, or beads.

- Black means **Sin** *we all sinned*
- Red – **salvation**, - *Jesus died on the cross for all of us.*
- White – **Forgiveness**- *when we say sorry to the Lord, He forgives us,*
- Green – **spiritual growth** – *We keep on growing in knowing God by, praying, reading and obeying the Bible, going to church/Sunday school and telling others about Jesus Christ.*
- Yellow – **eternal life** – *when we get saved, we live for the Lord now and then with Him in heaven forever.*

Everyone, find a partner. Take turns explaining to each other the Evange-colours.

Go home with the colours that you used today to help them evangelize their friends. Do not have any favorite friends you want to share these colours with because **salvation is for everyone who believes Jesus Christ and receives Him as his/her savior.**

Memorization

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me” (John 14:21a).

Help the children memorize the verse by repeating it several times. Choose children to say the verse according to how they have dressed (for example: *girls wearing dresses, girls in skirts and blouses, boys putting on shorts, boys in pair of trousers, those with short hair etc.*).

Closing

Pray with the children: Thank Jesus for loving all of us; not having any favorites.

Dear Jesus, help us to stop selecting people we love. Give us courage to share your message of salvation with everyone. Help us always to remember that salvation is for everyone who believes in YOU and receives YOU as his/her Savior.

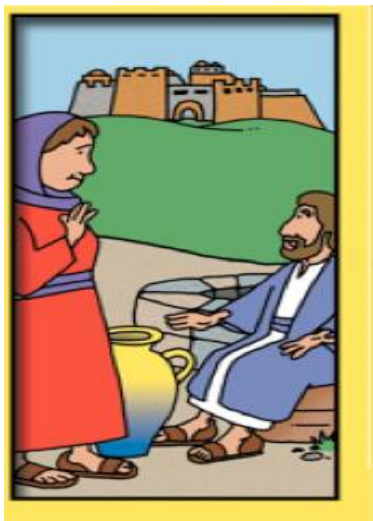
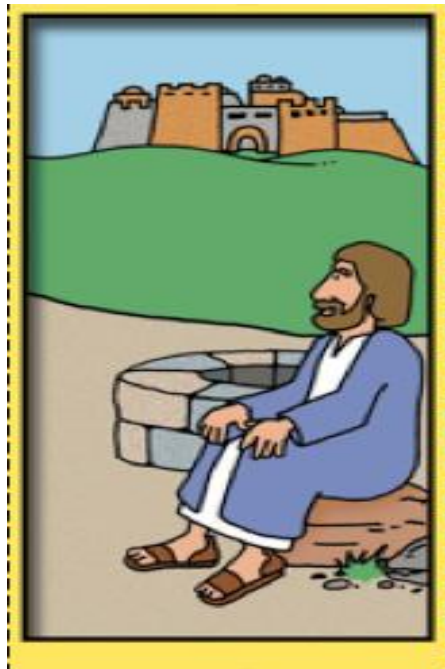
Activity 30

FIND LIFE

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that Salvation is for **everyone** who believes in Jesus Christ and receives Him as his/her savior.

Memory Verse: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21a)



INTRODUCTION - UNIT 8

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Biblical References: Acts 8:1-8:26-24, 10, 11:19-26, 13:1-12, 14:21-28

Unit Memory Verse: “Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
(John 20:21)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- know that God founded the Church with the purpose of communicating the Good News
- know that the great work of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel
- know that no obstacle can stop the Church’s growth in the world

Unit Lessons

Lesson 31: Good News for an Ethiopian

Lesson 32: Good News for a Roman

Lesson 33: Good News for the People of Antioch

Lesson 34: Good News for Everyone

The Church of Jesus Christ has been persecuted and attacked with much hatred. Despite all that, the Church has not just survived, it has spread throughout the world. God has raised up courageous and passionate people who, even at the cost of their own lives, have proclaimed Christ and announced the Good News. These people fulfilled the mandate of God; the hand of the Lord was with them. God’s power manifested itself through signs, wonders, and miracles. Many people became followers of Christ. The world is very corrupt and sin seems to dominate everything. Still, the Church of Jesus Christ remains a home of morality where we can fight against sin. Lost lives can be changed into new and clean lives.

Scripture: Acts 8:1-8, 26-40

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand what it is to be a missionary and how the gospel began to spread.

Memory Verse:

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)

Thoughts for the Teacher

It pleases God when we consider and love people who are different from us or are from other cultures. This Christian idea was put in practice in the early church. In God’s presence all people have the same value and it’s His idea that Christians should reach out to everyone with the message of God’s love.

Introduction to the Bible StoryImportant Words

- Good News – the gospel.....telling people that Jesus Christ died on the cross and He rose again so that we may be saved.
- Missionary.....A missionary is the person God sends to tell the Good News about Jesus to people from other cultures.

“Did anyone receive any good news this week?”

Acts 8:26-40

It was a difficult time for the Jerusalem church. The followers of Jesus were being imprisoned for telling the Good News. Many had to run away because their lives were in danger. Philip was one of those Christians and so he ran away to Samaria. Philip was afraid to stay in Jerusalem, but he was not afraid to tell people about Jesus.

Philip preached, “I have Good News to tell you”.

The people gathered to listen as Philip told the people the wonderful story of how Jesus died for the sins of everyone in the world. After the people saw the miracles that God did through Philip, many decided to follow Jesus. There was great joy in the city.

One day God sent an angel to Philip who told him, “Go south on the desert road. It’s the road that descends (comes) from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Philip obeyed God. Many people walked on that road.

On his way, Philip heard the clip, clop, clip, clop of an approaching horse pulling a chariot carrying an important Ethiopian official. The Ethiopian official was reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip heard the official reading and asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

“No, I don’t. How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me.” The official invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Philip graciously explained to the official the Good News about Jesus. The Ethiopian was happy; knowing that Jesus loved him and that Jesus was his Savior. He believed Jesus to be his Lord and Savior.

“Look!” said the Ethiopian. “There is water over there I would like to be baptized.” (Baptism is a way to show everyone that Jesus has changed your life.) Philip baptized the man.
The Ethiopian Official was happy. He thanked God for sending Philip his way. The official thanked Jesus for being His Savior. Philip continued to travel from city to city, going wherever God sent him to tell the Good News of Jesus.

Activity

Help the children to dramatize the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Official.

Memorization

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the father has sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)
Divide the children into two groups. Ask them to make two lines, standing shoulder to shoulder and facing each other with a space of 2/3 meters apart.
Line A says the memory verse together as they walk toward Line B.
Line B applauds their good job, “Well Done!” as Line A steps backwards to their original starting position.
-repeat with Line B saying the memory verse....

Closing

Dear Lord Jesus thank you for saving me. Thank you for all the people you send to tell the Good News. Help me that I will always obey you when you send me to go and tell other people the Good News. Amen

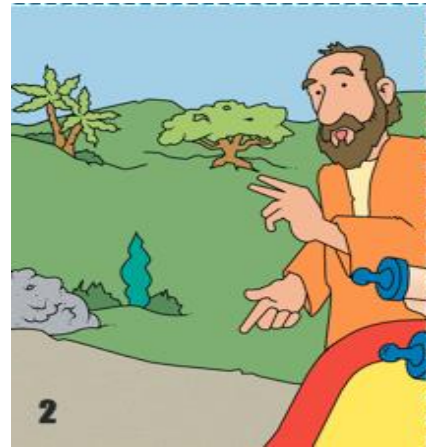
Activity 31

GOOD NEWS FOR AN ETHIOPIAN

Scripture: Acts 8:1-8, 26-40

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand what it is to be a missionary and how the gospel began to spread.

Memory Verse: “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)



Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that God does not have favorite people. He loves everyone equally in every corner of the world. God wants all to receive Him as their savior.

Memory Verse:

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Christian children need to realize that God wants everyone to know the Good News of Jesus Christ. They need to hear that God loves all people, no matter where they live, who their parents are, what race or nationality they belong to, or whether they come from Christian homes or not.

The Lord loves all people and does not have favorites. God wants everyone to receive Him as their savior.

Once the children learn this truth, they will learn about the importance of reaching others to tell them about Jesus Christ.

Remember to welcome visiting children. Collect their information to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Have pictures of people from different countries and cultures. Show the children the pictures and ask them what they know about those places and cultures. Point out good things about each culture.

Ask the children where they would like to visit.

In today’s story we are learning that God loves everyone equally, in every corner of the world. For that reason, we are going to see how Peter gave the Good News to Cornelius.

Cornelius was a good and important man in the community. He was a centurion (commander) of the Roman army. He believed in the one true God. Cornelius helped others and was a man of prayer. Cornelius was not a Jew (God’s chosen people). One afternoon while he was praying, Cornelius had a vision. He saw an angel. Cornelius was troubled!

The Angel said to him. “*Cornelius, God is pleased with you. God wants you to know more about Him.*”

Cornelius was excited; surely, he wanted to know more about God.

“*Send one of your men to the city of Joppa*” the angel ordered. “*There you will find Peter who will tell you what you want to know.*”

Immediately Cornelius sent two servants and soldiers to Joppa. They arrived in the city while Peter was praying in a friend’s house. While Peter was praying, he also had a vision. He saw the sky open and something like a large sheet descended (came down). It was lowered on the earth by its four corners. In it there were four-legged land animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky. Then he heard a voice from heaven saying, “*Get up Peter; kill and eat.*” Peter was troubled! He knew that God had told the Jewish People not to eat animals of such kind for they are unclean.

“No Lord, I can’t!” Peter answered. “I have never eaten things that are not pure and clean.

The voice spoke again, “*Do not say that things are not pure if God has already made them clean.*”

As Peter was still wondering about the vision, the Holy Spirit spoke to him and said, “*Three men are seeking for you, go with them.*”

Peter came downstairs and met the men. The men told Peter that the Roman commander, Cornelius, needed to see him now. At this time Peter began to understand the vision. He understood that God was not showing him animals in the vision but different kinds of people that He loved equally.

All Peter's life he had kept away from Gentiles (people who are not Jews), in the same way he had avoided eating certain animals. **Now God was telling him that the message of salvation was for all people, even Gentiles.**

The next day Peter went with the three men and several of the Joppa believers. Upon arriving at Cornelius' house they met many others gathered there. Cornelius told Peter about his vision.

Peter thought, *"This is why I had the vision! Now I understand that God does not favor some people over others."*

Peter spoke to Cornelius and all those who were in his house about Jesus and His love, "Jesus is the Lord of everything. He died on the cross for everyone's sin and on the third day He rose from the dead. He is alive!"

After hearing all that, Cornelius and all those who were in the house believed in Jesus. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon them. The Jewish believers wondered, "The Holy Spirit has come upon the Gentiles too?!"

Peter was excited! He baptized the new believers and stayed with Cornelius a few days. Everyone was full of joy. Now we've learned how God loves all people. The Good News of Salvation is for everyone in every corner of the world.

Memorization

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I'm sending you.'" (John 20:21).

Have the children sit in a circle. Give a volunteer a ball. That child starts that game by saying the first word of the memory verse then tosses the ball to someone else and that one says the next word.

The process is repeated over and over until the verse is completed.

Those who are unable to remember the next word in the verse are "out."

Closing

Pray thanking God for loving everyone equally. Thank Him for the people who go to others and tell them about God's love. Pray that God helps us also to love everyone equally and to tell them the Good News of Jesus.

Ask the children each to list different nations they can be praying for throughout the week.

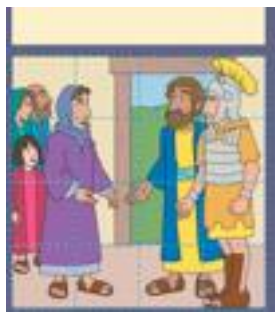
Activity 32

GOOD NEWS FOR A ROMAN

Scripture: Acts 10

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that God does not have favorite people. He loves everyone equally in every corner of the world. God wants all to receive Him as their savior.

Memory Verse: “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)



The Good
News about
Jesus is for
all people.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that In Antioch the followers of Jesus were called “Christians “for the first time.

Memory Verse:

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children know very well what it means to be or not to be part of a group. They strive to be accepted, wish to have many friends, and be the most popular (known) at church and school.

Many times, they feel that they aren’t important because they’ve never done anything “great.”

Before starting today’s lesson, briefly review the two previous lessons.

Introduction to the Bible Story

- Do you know why you were given the name you have? (some children are named after a family member or event.)
- Do you know the meaning of your names? (Let those who know it tell the class. Choose Biblical names and teach them what they mean. For example: ‘Dina’ means justice, ‘Peter’ means rock).

Important Words:

*“CHRISTIAN.” the person who loves, obeys, and belongs to Christ, the savior.

Barnabas and Paul preach the Good News

(Dramatization of Acts 11:19-29)

(Dress children who will participate in the drama in the typical clothes of the time. Have a copy of the script for each actor to read his or her part or they can act their part as the reader reads the story).

Scene 1

Narrator: After Stephen was stoned to death many believers were put in jail and others fled from Jerusalem to Antioch for safety. Antioch was not a Jewish city and so most people there were Gentiles (not Jewish). Wherever they were Jesus’ disciples kept teaching about Him. When these Gentiles heard the Good News they believed and received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Back in Jerusalem Jesus’ disciples heard the news of how many in Antioch were also becoming Christians!

Barnabas: (Barnabas reads a message on a scroll). “Listen to this! There’s a new church in Antioch that is really growing! They say there are many Gentiles who follow Jesus. Is that true?”

Jesus’ disciples in Jerusalem: Barnabas, go to Antioch – tell us what is happening there!

Scene 2

Jesus’ new disciples in Antioch: You are very welcome, Barnabas! Please teach us more about God. We want to know how to love and obey God.

Barnabas: *Worship God only. Always put Him first. In everything you say or do, obey what Jesus taught.*

Narrator: *More and more people in Antioch began following Jesus.*

Barnabas: *These new disciples in Antioch are so interested in living for Jesus! I need to teach them more, but I need to go bring help.*

Narrator: *Barnabas traveled to Tarsus. He went to talk to a Jewish teacher named Saul. Earlier Saul had hated and persecuted Christians, but now he was a believer of Jesus. Saul's other name was Paul.*

Scene 3

Barnabas: *(Speaking to Paul) Hi friend, how are you?*

Paul: *Hi Barnabas! Why are you here in Tarsus?*

Barnabas: *I need your help.*

Paul: *How can I help you?*

Barnabas: *We have many new disciples in Antioch and many of them are Gentiles. I am trying to help them know more about God's love and how they should obey Him. Come and help me to teach them!*

Paul: *That is a good idea! Let's go right away!*

Narrator: *Paul and Barnabas leave to travel to Antioch.*

Scene 4

Narrator: *For one year Barnabas and Paul were in Antioch preaching to the young disciples of Jesus. The people listened and learned how to love and obey God. Soon the people in Antioch began making fun of the people who loved and obeyed God calling them "**CHRISTIANS**". This word means one who belongs to CHRIST. The people in Antioch made fun of the "Christians," but the "Christians" were very happy to carry this special name.*

Christians: *(Reciting Together) A "Christian" is a person who receives Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior. Christians love and obey God. We, the disciples in Antioch can see that we are like Jesus and that is why they call us "**Christians**!"*

Memorization

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, I'm sending you.'" (John 20:21)

Write the memory verse on the board or hard piece of paper. Ask the children to repeat reading it like three times. Let one child at a time volunteer to hide him/herself not too far from the class. Ask the remaining children to secretly select a word in the verse and erase it. Let the children recite the memory verse but when they reach the erased word, instead of saying it, let them clap hands. Ask the child who was hiding to say the word his/her friends skipped.

Closing

Pray thanking God for people who will tell/teach the Good News of Jesus. Pray that God helps us always to listen and to obey what His word teaches us. May we carry that special name CHRISTIAN by the way we talk or do things.

Give a chance to children who have not yet received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We cannot be called this special CHRISTIAN title unless we give our lives to Jesus, we love Him, and we obey Him. (If there is anyone, pray with him or her to also become a CHRISTIAN!).

Activity 33

GOOD NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE OF ANTIOCH

Scripture: Acts 11:19-26

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that In Antioch the followers of Jesus were called “Christians” for the first time.

Memory Verse: “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)



WORDS:

- Antioch
- Paul
- Barnabas
- Christians
- Missionaries
- Teach
- Teacher
- Pray
- Jesus

Find these words in the above scramble list.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that the church is part of God's plan to bring the Good News to the whole world.

Memory Verse:

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.'" (John 20:21)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children need to feel that they are important in the local church. They should know whom their church leaders are and have a chance to get to know them. The same is true with missionaries that our Church of the Nazarene sends and supports. Children should get to know our missionaries by their names and by their photos. Help the children communicate with and encourage missionaries. Missionaries are called by God to go and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. The money we put in the missionary offering helps the missionaries to fulfill God's call. Praying for missionaries is also part of God's plan.

- Receive your children with affection.
- Briefly review the three previous lessons before teaching today's lesson.
- Talk with the children about the challenges of being faithful to God.

Introduction to the Bible StoryImportant Words

- Missionaries - People who are called by God and sent by the church to another nation to tell people about God's love.
- Christian – Followers of Jesus Christ; little 'Christ's
- Good News/Gospel - Sharing about Jesus Christ
- Culture – the way people live and what they believe in.

My Favorite Trip

Sit in a circle with a small, soft ball.

"If I pass the ball to you tell us about a trip that you have ever taken. Then toss the ball back to me.

Traveling to different places is what missionaries usually do."

Missionaries travel to other countries to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. They travel to minister in other cultures. Missionaries learn to eat different kinds of food and to speak different languages of their host people.

In the last lesson we learned about the followers of Jesus Christ in Antioch. Barnabas and Paul were some of those. While some of these followers of Jesus were worshipping God the Holy Spirit spoke, "Set apart Barnabas and Paul to serve me. I have chosen them to do a special task."

Jesus Christ's followers in Antioch prayed, fasted, and sent Paul and Barnabas off as missionaries. First these missionaries went south to Seleucia. Then they boarded a boat and sailed to the island of Cyprus where they preached the Word of God.

As Paul and Barnabas traveled over the island, they met Bar-Jesus. This man was an evil wizard and a liar! Bar-Jesus worked for the governor of the island and tried to keep him from hearing Paul and Barnabas preach. But the governor insisted they preach; he really wanted to hear about this Good News of Jesus.

Led by the Holy Spirit, Paul looked straight into the eyes of the evil Bar-Jesus and said, “You are the enemy of all that is right! You cheat people and use all kinds of tricks. Will you not stop to upset the righteous ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You will be blind and will not see the sun for some time.”

And so it happened! The evil Bar-Jesus, the magician, went completely blind.

Watching all that happened with Bar-Jesus, the governor was amazed! He said. “I also want to know this man Jesus”. The governor listened and he truly became a new follower of Christ too.

After Cyprus Paul and Barnabas travelled on, returning to many cities where they had preached before. In each place they encouraged new believers to study the Scriptures, grow in their faith, and to learn more about God. “Follow the one true God and do His will,” was their instruction to all.

In every city Paul and Barnabas chose leaders to help the new believers. They prayed for these new followers of Jesus and then sailed back to Antioch. When Paul and Barnabas reached Antioch they gathered the members in the church and told them all that the Lord had accomplished through them on their missionary trip.

Paul told the church in Antioch, “You **sent** us. God worked through us. Now many have become followers of Jesus Christ across different towns and cities”.

Activity

Ask questions about the trip:

- 1--- Who were on that trip? (Paul and Barnabas)
- 2--- Who sent Paul and Barnabas on their missionary Journey? (the church in Antioch)
- 3--- What was the name of the magician who went blind? (Bar-Jesus)
- 4--- What did Paul and Barnabas do on that trip? (They visited many cities and taught about Jesus)

*The **church sends** missionaries. They go, teach, and then return to their home countries to give a report. We must help and support missionaries. We must also pray that God will care for and guide the missionary work in all parts of the world.*

Memorization

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)

Closing

Together with the children, sing the song, “*When He calls me, I will answer.*”

Pray for missionaries, especially those who are in dangerous places. Ask God to protect and support the work they do. Pray for God to call the children to be missionaries.

Activity 34

GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE

Scripture: Acts 13:1-12; 14:21-28

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that the church is part of God's plan to bring the Good News to the whole world.

Memory Verse: "Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the father sent me, I am sending you.'" (John 20:21)

Mission Mystery

Rearrange these groups of letters to find the words you need to complete the sentences below. Write the words in the correct spaces. Pray about what you can do to help missionaries.

ARYP
OVLE
SKA
EDAR
VIEG
LELT

1.  _ _ _ _ people about God's love.
2.  _ _ _ _ about the work of missionaries.
3.  _ _ _ _ for missionaries every day.
4.  _ _ _ _ to help missionaries share Jesus.
5.  _ _ _ _ all people.
6.  _ _ _ _ God to guide you.

INTRODUCTION - UNIT 9

GOD’S MERCY

Biblical References: Genesis 4:1-16; Genesis 6; Genesis 7:1-8:19; Genesis 8:20-9:19.

Unit Memory Verse: “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.” (Daniel 9:9a)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- Understand God’s immense love for people
- Know that God values mercy more than sacrifice
- Value God’s example: He is a model of compassion and love

Unit Lessons

Lesson 35: The sad story of Cain and Abel

Lesson 36: A good man in a bad world

Lesson 37: God Saves Noah

Lesson 38: God Makes a Promise

The Book of Genesis has key passages that can help children understand that mercy is one of God’s most important, necessary features. The tragic stories of Cain and Abel and the salvation of Noah show His love and justice with great mercy. Today children learn more easily the culture of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”; but God wants us to become forgivers. These stories in the Bible are not make-believe; they are real. God has not changed. These lessons teach that God is merciful, and that he says: “I want mercy and not sacrifice.” God wants us to love our neighbor!

Lesson

35

THE SAD STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-16

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that Cain ignored what God said and let bad thoughts lead him to do bad deeds.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.”
(Daniel 9:9a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

This seems to be a strange story to tell young children. This lesson is really about the decision to obey or disobey God. We easily become jealous if we believe that another is favored more than we are, getting more attention, or enjoying greater approval. Bad thoughts can easily lead us to commit bad deeds. When we allow bad thoughts to settle in our minds, we may end up doing something terrible. God can help us and protect us from committing any bad deeds.

May we talk to God honestly. If we obey Him, He will help us.

- Prepare the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and have your classroom ready before the children arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information (parents' cellphone numbers) to contact them during the week.

Important words:

- Obey: - to do what God wants us to do
- Sin: - to disobey God and His commandment

Introduction to the Bible Story

Have two hard pieces of papers. On one piece write in red “**STOP – DANGER**” and on the other write in green “**GO**”. Have two children hold a paper.

Say several sentences; Some for children with good thoughts and others for children with bad thoughts.

For example:

Peter has many toys. John has almost no toys. Peter shares his toys with John.

The one with “**GO**” raises it then they all shout “**GO!**”

Julian has a new soccer ball. His brother Paul became jealous and promised to break it.

The one with **STOP - DANGER** raises it and they all say “**STOP – DANGER!**”

Continue making up some of your own sentences for the children to judge between STOP or GO!

Bad thoughts can lead to bad actions as in our story for today:

Life for Eve and Adam was very different after they disobeyed God. They no longer lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden! Their work was hard, they suffered from pain and became ill. **God still loved them.**

Soon, Adam and Eve had children. Eve named the first child Cain, which means ‘God helped me to have this child’. The second child was named Abel. Adam and Eve taught the boys about God. The two boys grew healthy and strong. Cain decided to become a farmer and Abel decided to raise cattle.

One day Abel offered sheep as an offering to God. He carefully chose the best one he had for the sacrifice. Cain also offered an offering; some vegetable and fruits he had grown. *God was pleased with Abel's offering, but not with Cain's.* Why was God not pleased with Cain's offering? The Bible doesn't explain it. But we know that

the Lord is good and everything He does is good. Something wasn't right about Cain's offering, or in the way he gave it to God. Cain became angry with God. But God still loved him. *"Why are you angry?"* God asked him. *"If you will do the right thing I'll be happy with you. If you don't do the right thing you will be sinning. Be careful. It's your choice to do good or do evil".*

Cain heard what God had told him but he kept on thinking about how angry he was. After a while, Cain no longer loved his brother. One day Cain told Abel. "Let's go to the field together."

Abel agreed and the two men headed toward the field. While they were there, Cain killed his brother Abel and buried him. *This was the first murder.*

Later God spoke to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know!" Cain said. "Is it my job to take care of Abel?"

"I know what you did," said God. "You are very bad. From now on nothing will be easy for you. You will wander (move) from one place to another."

That guilt was too great for Cain; all because he made bad choices!

Cain had ignored what God had said and let bad thoughts lead him to do bad deeds. Although Cain had done something very bad, God continued loving him and promised to take care of him.

Memorization

"The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving." (Daniel 9:9a).

Introduce the verse to the class. Ask the children to think of motions that represent each word. Repeat the verse with the motions until the verse is memorized.

Closing

Pray giving thanks for every child in the class, their parents, siblings and friends. Thank God for their spiritual lives and their relationship with God. Thank God for the children who come to church. Pray that the children will be obedient to God, their parents, that they will be good to their siblings/friends, and that they will have good thoughts toward God and others.

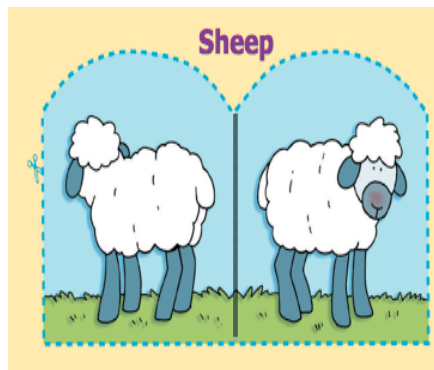
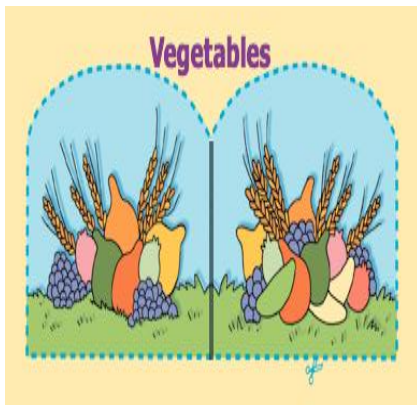
Activity 35

THE SAD STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-16

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that Cain ignored what God said and let bad thoughts lead him to do bad deeds.

Memory Verse: “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.” (Daniel 9:9a)



Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that Noah decided to obey, even when no one else did.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.”
(Daniel 9:9a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children spend more and more time with other children of their age. They are greatly influenced by their peers. Since children spend more time with other children, they worry more about what their agetates or classmates think and approve of them. It is not easy to be different from the rest of the group; especially these days of the corrupted moral values in society.

Children have to deal with choices. How can we, as teachers of children, influence our children to trust God in such a way that they are willing to obey Him when their friends tell them to do the opposite?

Ask God to help you present Noah in such a way that the children admire him and want to act like him. Noah stood alone in front of a world of sin and violence.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Write on pieces of paper names of animals and birds that are easy for the children recognize, for example: cat, dog, elephant, lion, pig, sheep, rabbit, rat, donkey, hen, duck, turkey, dove, etc. Make 2 sets of each so that two children have a cat, two a lion, two a dog, and so on.

Give each child one piece of paper with the name of an animal or bird on it. Tell the children not to show it or tell anyone what animal they have.

Choose a certain place in your teaching area to be the Ark. The teacher is to stand at the gate of the ark.

Children should pretend to be that bird/animal; making the sound of, walking, acting like the animal/bird.

They are not permitted to use any words. The goal is for the children to find the other person in the room that is the same animal/bird that they are.

When they find their partner the two come and ask the teacher, “Can we enter the ark?”

The two children will show the teacher their pieces of paper. They can only enter the ark if their papers say the same bird/animal.

Play until all the children find their partner.

This game reminds us of the story of Noah we are learning today.

Today's lesson talks about how people on the earth were acting in their own ways. There were fights! Hate! Death! Every place God looked He saw people doing whatever they wanted instead of what was right. Their selfishness was more plentiful than the love and goodness of God.

*God felt terrible pain and suffering in His heart. Nobody obeyed Him nor did the right thing. Nobody, except one man; Noah! Noah loved and always tried to **obey** God.*

God was not happy and could not allow the world to continue in this way. Sadly God decided, “*I must destroy this world and everything in it with a huge flood.*”

God said, *“Noah, the world is full of violence and evil. I will destroy everything in it with a huge flood. But I promise you that I will save you and your family. To be saved you need to build an **ark**; a very big boat. Waterproof your ark; put three rooms inside, a door on the sides, and a window on the top. When you finish it take two animals/ birds - every living creature male and female inside the ark. Put enough food for you, your family, and every living creature in the ark”*.

Noah must have been surprised at all the instructions God gave him! He did not have any idea of the flood or the ark he was going to build. Noah must have had many questions to ask God, but he simply trusted Him. He believed in what God had said, and he OBEYED.

Noah quickly began to build the ark. Probably Noah’s three sons; Shem, Ham and Japheth helped him. Noah built and built for many years!

All the people who passed by looked at what Noah was doing. The Bible does not say what they thought. As they watched Noah worked and announced the message of God: *The Lord is giving you another chance to be saved. He will save anyone who repents of their evil (wrong) ways and asks to be forgiven.* But nobody did. Finally, the ark was finished. Noah, his family, and all the animals had to enter the giant boat. Noah obeyed God in everything. Noah did not know what would happen next. He only knew that God would protect him and his entire family, He had promised.

*Like Noah we need to choose to **obey** God, even when no one else is obeying.*

Memorization

“The Lord our God is Merciful and forgiving.” (Daniel 9:9a)

Write the verse out. Let the children repeat it several times.

Have the children make a circle. Stand in the middle of the circle and throw a soft ball to one child. That child will come in the middle of the circle and say the verse and then throw the ball to another child. Repeat the game until all have said or according to time. Help those who have the problem with saying the verse.

Closing

Pray with the children thanking God for being merciful and forgiving. Ask God to help us to trust and **obey** Him. Pray for those little ones who find it hard to **obey** their parents and teachers. Encourage the children to pray for each other during the week.

Activity 36

A GOOD MAN IN A BAD WORLD

Scripture: Genesis 6

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that Noah decided to obey, even when no one else did.

Memory Verse: “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.” (Daniel 9:9a)

Choose to Obey



Answer the following questions:

- ◆ How did Noah **obey** God?
- ◆ How can you **obey** when you're at school?
- ◆ How can you **obey** when you're at home?

Think of something you could do this week to obey God.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that Those who love and obey God experience His love and care in a special way.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.”
(Daniel 9:9a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

People who respond to God with trust and obedience will experience His love that others cannot. Some refuse to obey and that is why the consequences come to them.

Noah, like every person, had sinned. But unlike the rest of the people who hated and ignored God, Noah loved God and wanted to obey Him. As he did, God protected him.

The Lord will do the same for the children in the class who love and obey Him.

- Before class, cut 2 sets of 26 cards from any hard paper. Write the letters of the alphabet on the cards – one letter on each card. Make 2 sets and place all cards in a bag or basket.
- Review briefly the two previous lessons and ask the children to tell how God has protected them during the week.

Important Words: Obey and Sin

Write the important words “obey” and “sin” on two cards. Hide the cards with the important words in the classroom. Ask the children to look for the two important words of the unit. When they find the cards tell them the meaning of obedience and sin. Ask questions about the words, for example:

1. Who were the main people in the first lesson of this unit? (Cain and Abel)
2. What did Abel offer to God? (A sheep). Did he sin or obey? (He obeyed)
3. What did Cain do to his brother Abel? (He killed Abel). Did he sin or obey? (He sinned)
4. What was Noah supposed to do? (Build the ark)
5. Did he have instructions on how to build the ark? (Yes, God had given him the instructions)
6. How many animals of each kind was he supposed to put on the ark? (Two)
7. Who entered with Noah into the ark? (His family)
8. What else did Noah put in the ark? (Food for all)
9. Did Noah obey? (Yes, he obeyed)

Introduction to the Bible Story

Ask the children to sit in a circle to play the “Ark Ark Game.” While passing the bag with letters from child to child say, “Ark Ark” how many animals do you have?

Repeat the same thing several times.

When you stop singing the child who has the bag will pick a letter and say as many animals as he/she can whose name starts with that letter before you count 10. Write on the board the name of each animal without repeating for example: letter C: - cat, camel, crocodile etc.

Continue playing until each child has the opportunity to participate.

Think of how many animals Noah would have put in the ark, two of each kind. There were a lot of animals!

Today's Bible story tells us about how God rescued Noah, his family, and many animals. It had taken Noah and his family more than 100 years to build the ark. At last it was finished!

Again God spoke to Noah. *"In seven days I will send rain on the earth. It will rain for 40 days and nights. You, your wife, your 3 sons, and their wives will enter the ark. Take two animals of each kind and put them in the ark. Take seven pairs of clean animals; these are animals that God were considered fit) to be sacrificed to Him as an offering"*.

Noah did everything that God had commanded him. For a whole week the animals arrived and Noah helped them enter the ark. Noah and his family entered and God closed the door! He wanted everyone to be safe and secure. It started raining.

One, two, three days a week; the rain did not stop! The water began to rise and rise, higher and higher. It began to cover the plants, trees, houses, and even the mountains. People and all the living creatures on the earth died! The only ones who did not die were Noah, his family, the animals in the ark, and the sea creatures that lived in water.

After 40 days and nights the rain stopped. God was making the land ready once again for Noah, his family, and the animals. God blew the wind to make the earth dry. Noah wanted to know how the land was so he sent a raven out. The bird returned because there was no dry place where it could make its nest. Later Noah sent a pigeon but it also returned back because there was still no dry land. The next morning Noah sent the pigeon once more. It came back this time with an olive branch in its beak. What good news for Noah and his family! The water was already under the tops of the trees. A week later Noah sent out the pigeon once more. This time the pigeon did not return.

Noah thought. "The earth must be dry so that the pigeon can walk" Would Noah open the door of the ark? No, he had to wait for God to instruct him.

At last the beautiful day arrived! After God had closed the door behind Noah, his family, and the animals for one year and 10 days God spoke with Noah again, "Get out of the ark! Take your family and the animals out with you".

God told them to live in the land and have children and that the animals and birds will multiply. With joy Noah, his family, the animals, and the birds left the ark. They started a new life on the earth. Noah's heart was full of happiness, love, and praise to God.

God loves all the people of the world. How the Lord wished the people would have said, "Forgive us of the wrong deeds we've done!" When we love and obey God we shall experience His love and care in a special way. Nowadays Jesus is the Ark of salvation. When we accept Him as our Savior God will deliver us from the death and destruction that accompanies His judgment of sin.

Memorization

"The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving." (Daniel 9:9)

Choose a taxi driver. The driver goes around the class picking up other children who need rides. The only way to get a ride is to pay a fare. Instead of paying money, they have to pay with saying the memory verse. Whoever says it correctly will be allowed in the taxi.

Closing

Pray with children that God will help them to be obedient to His word and do everything that pleases Him. Encourage the children to pray for each other during the week.

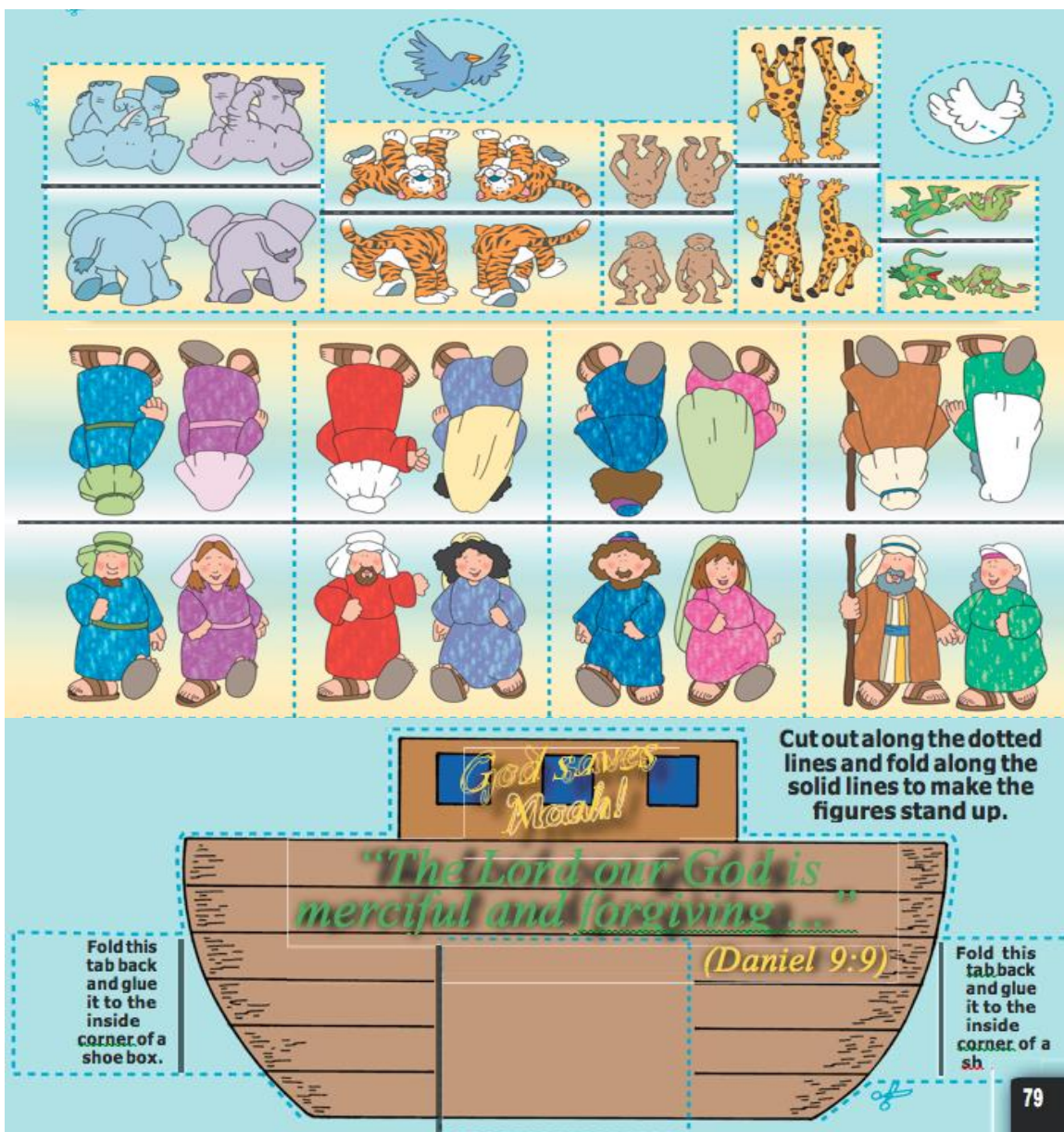
Activity 37

GOD SAVES NOAH

Scripture: Genesis 7:1-8; 19

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that Those who love and obey God experience His love and care in a special way.

Memory Verse: “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.” (Daniel 9:9a)



Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that when God makes a **promise**, we can be sure that He will fulfill it.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.”
(Daniel 9:9a)

Thoughts for the Teacher

I was one of those lucky children because I knew that if my parents **promised** me something, they would do it; only extreme circumstances could prevent them from keeping their **promise** to us children.

Being truthful was an emphasis in our home, and was put in practice by, dad, mom, and us children. I feel sad for those children who constantly hear “I **promise**” and then discover that the promise is not fulfilled.

It's a very weak foundation for those who wish to trust God.

As you teach this last lesson on Noah keep in mind that there will be children in your class who know from their own experiences what unfulfilled **promises** are.

- Throughout this lesson remind children that God is different from any other person who makes **promises**. He is God. There is not anything that limits or prevents Him from fulfilling what He **promised**.
- Welcome your children with affection. Make sure that the classroom is clean and tidy when the children arrive. Let the children know that you love them.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Ask the children: Who does what He **promises**? (children will talk about their parents, teachers, or God)

How do we feel when someone keeps the **promises** he or she made?

How do we feel when someone doesn't keep the **promises** they made?

In today's story we are going to learn how God kept the **promise**.

Noah and his family were in the ark for one year and ten days; a long time! During that time we have.... (name the holidays that are in your country). Christmas, New Year, Easter, and more happens in a year and ten days. Noah and his family were in the ark during all that time. They waited and waited for the day to come when they could leave the ark and begin their new life on earth. At last that wonderful day arrived! When that special day arrived God spoke to Noah and said, “*Get out of the ark.*”

With great pleasure Noah, his family, and all the animals got out of the ark and started living on the earth. Noah and his family obeyed God.

Imagine that you were with Noah all that time. What would be the first thing you would want to do when you got back on dry land? (Allow the children to respond).

Noah knew that God kept His **promise** to protect him and his family from the terrible flood. His heart was full of gratitude and praise to God. The first thing Noah did was to build an altar to worship God! He looked for stones and piled them high.

(Show the children what an altar looks like; either draw an altar on the board or pile stones/pieces of firewood.) Then Noah killed some of the clean animals and birds that God had determined and offered them as sacrifices. Noah offered an offering to show God his love and gratitude. This pleased God!

God said, *“I will never again send another flood of such a great destruction upon the earth. I want you and your children to have children. I also want the birds and all the animals to reproduce and fill the earth.”*

God told Noah to be eating meat from the animals and birds. He also told him to eat from the plants. God ordered Noah, his family, and the people who will live after them that they should not hurt (kill) one another. God said, *“I will punish anyone who kills another person”*.

Again God told Noah and his family that the next **promise** was for them and their offspring that would come after them. It was also for the animals and birds that were in the ark. While God spoke suddenly something beautiful appeared in the sky. It was a semicircle with beautiful colours.

(Show a piece of paper cut in a semicircle with colored strips in the different colours of the rainbow.)

While Noah and the family looked at the rainbow of colours, God told them, *“I will never curse the earth again with a flood, nor will I destroy every living again, as have done. I have put the rainbow in the sky.... Sometimes when I bring clouds over my rainbow will be seen and then I will remember my covenant with you.”*

(COVENANT - a **promised** commitment between God and people)

There will be no flood of waters to destroy every living being. I will keep this promise forever.”

Noah believed in God’s **promise**. God had fulfilled all the **promises** He had made. He had protected Noah and His family. God made sure the ark floated and that water did not get inside it. He took care that people and animals were not afraid. God had taken into account every detail. He took care of the plants and allowed the wind to blow so that the earth would dry out. God had protected them until the day He told them to leave the ark. Noah could continue to trust that God would fulfill all the **promises** He made. We can all be sure that when God makes a **promise** He fulfills it.

Memorization

“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.” (Daniel 9:9a)

After several repetitions of the memory verse divide the class into two teams and ask them to form two rows. (It’s better to do this activity in an open courtyard). Give each team a banner to wave. When you say “Go” the first child of each team, with their banner in hand, must run to the other end and say the memory verse in a loud voice. Then they run back to their team hand over the banner to the next child and so on. Play until one of the teams – the winner – has finished. Conclude by repeating the memory verse together.

Closing

Pray with children thanking God for always keeping His **promises**. Pray the children can always trust God to fulfill what He **promised**. Pray the parents can be good examples to the children as they also keep their **promises**.

Activity 38

GOD MAKES A PROMISE

Scripture: Genesis 8:20 – 9:19

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that when God makes a **promise**, we can be sure that He will fulfill it.

Memory Verse: “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.” (Daniel 9:9a)

**God made a
promise to
Noah and to all
people. Do you
know what that
promise is?**

INTRODUCTION - UNIT 10

GOD’S FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Biblical References: Ruth 1-2, 3-4; 1 Sam. 1:1-2:11, 18-21; 2:12-17, 22-26; 3

Unit Memory Verse: “But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Sam. 12:24)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- develop a spirit of service for God
- learn that God wants us to be His faithful servants
- learn that God uses faithful servants to fulfill His plans on earth
- discover beautiful examples of faithful servants in the Bible

Unit Lessons

Lesson 39: Ruth

Lesson 40: Boaz

Lesson 41: Hannah

Lesson 42: Samuel

God values those who serve Him faithfully. He has great appreciation for those who see the needs of others and do the impossible to supply them.

These lessons provide opportunity for children to compare the selfishness of the world with the attitude of service that God asks of us.

May we understand that those who strive to serve others are actually serving God. Serving other people brings joy to our hearts.

Scripture: Ruth 1 and 2

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that God wants us to be His faithful servants

Memory Verse:

“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children feel valued and appreciated when they contribute to daily activities. Children feel the need to work together to show that they are trustworthy to carry out responsibilities; they begin to develop their capacity to be faithful servants. This lesson will help them understand what it means to be a faithful servant for God. Children will understand that God wants to use our faithfulness to bless other people. Receive the children with joy and welcome those who attend for the first time.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Begin class by singing choruses of praise. Prepare the children to listen to today's Biblical truths using some of the following activities:

Spelling faithfulness:

Before class draw on a piece of poster board or any hard piece of paper the outline of all the letters of the alphabet and cut them out.

Write the word “faithfulness” twice and cut out the individual letters. Mix all the letters and put them in a big basket.

Divide the class into 2 teams. Give each team a piece of hard paper and glue. Tell each team to take turns choosing a letter from the big basket. The goal is to find the letters that form the word “faithfulness” and paste them on the top of their hard paper. The team that finishes first will be the winner.

Ask: In what ways can we show our faithfulness to God? (attending church, praying, obeying our parents etc.)

Ruth

Today's story is about Ruth, a faithful servant of God.

Each time we hear the word “Ruth,” clap once.

Each time we hear the word “Naomi,” clap 2 times.

Long ago, when the people of God were ruled by judges and not by kings, there was hunger in the land of Israel. The people did not have enough food. For that reason Elimelek, his wife Naomi, (clap twice) and their two sons went to live in a distant place called Moab. After sometime Elimelek died. His two sons grew up and married Moabite women: Ruth (clap once) and Orpah. Ten years later Naomi's (clap twice, and continue on like this) two sons also died. Naomi was sad because she was left all alone in a foreign country far from home. Naomi said to Ruth (clap once) and Orpah, “I will return to my home land; I have heard that God has blessed Israel and now there is food.”

“We will go with you,” Naomi's daughter-in-laws told her.

Naomi responded back, “My children go back to live with your families. You were very good to my sons and to me. May God have mercy on you and prepare new husbands for you.” Naomi hugged them before they left but they begin to cry sadly.

“God be with you!” Orpah said as she hugged her mother in-law goodbye and took the road back to Moab.

“Look Ruth” said Naomi. “Orpah is returning to her village to be with her family; go with her.”

“I will not go,” said Ruth. “I will not leave you. Wherever you go I will go with you; your people will be my people and your God will be my God.”

When Naomi saw that Ruth was not going to change her mind she stopped insisting. The two women set out on the road to Israel and arrived in Bethlehem just as the harvest began.

When they reached Bethlehem Naomi and Ruth took a moment to watch some reapers cutting grain. They saw the reapers allowing some poor people to follow behind them to pick up any grain that spilled onto the ground. Not having any food, that is exactly what Ruth did. She followed behind the reapers, quickly gathering grain that fell. Ruth knew she needed to work hard so they could have food to eat.

While Ruth worked continuously, Boaz, the owner of the fields, was supervising the harvest. “Who is that woman?” Boaz asked the manager of the reapers.

“Her name is Ruth; she came from Moab with Naomi,” the manager answered. “Ruth has worked all day without rest.”

Boaz went to where Ruth was working and said, “Do not work in any other field; someone can hurt you. It’s better to work in my fields where you will be safe.”

“You are so kind!” Ruth asked him. “Why are you so good to me a foreigner?”

“I have heard how you are so good to Naomi!” Boaz said.

When Ruth returned home, she told Naomi all about Boaz. “Boaz is a relative to my husband,” Naomi told her. “I’m glad he treated you well. Do not be afraid to work in his fields; he will protect you.”

Ruth obeyed her mother in-law and continued to gather the grains near Boaz’s maidservants.

*She served God **faithfully** by helping her mother in-law. In this way, God wants us also to be His **faithful** servants.*

Memorization

“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (Samuel 12:24)

Write the memory verse on a heavy paper and cut it into several puzzle pieces. Have the children take turns putting the puzzle together and read the Bible verse aloud. Record each child’s time putting the verse together.

Closing

Pray with the children that God will bless them to serve Him faithfully. Pray that we may be faithful to God so that He may use our faithfulness to bless others.

Activity 39

Scripture: Ruth 1 and 2

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that God wants us to be His faithful servants

Memory Verse: “But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

Faithful



Scripture: Ruth 3 and 4

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to know that God uses faithful servants to fulfill His plans on earth.

Memory Verse:

"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you." (1 Samuel 12:24)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children are aware that they depend on their parents' care. They know that their parents provide them with food, clothing, and the roof that covers them.

Most of your children live in a home where they feel safe, thanks to the love and care of their parents. Some of the children will be suffering because their parents do not fulfill their responsibilities. It might be hard to talk to these children about God's care.

It is very important that your class, and the lessons that the children receive at church, are the means that God uses to show the children how He takes care of them.

Use the story of Boaz to teach the children that God needs faithful and obedient servants who are willing to be instruments of blessing others.

Introduction to the Bible Story

God's care and provision for Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, is evident by reading the first chapters of Ruth's story. Naomi's concern for the future of her young daughter-in-law emerges in chapter three. Joshua had distributed the land to the twelve tribes of Israel. But no individual owned the land, because it was part of the family's inheritance. In Leviticus 25:23, God said, "The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine."

If the person needed to sell property it was the obligation and duty of the closest relative to buy it so it would remain in the family. Naomi knew that Boaz was her closest relative and wanted him to take responsibility, not only for the land, but also for Ruth. Boaz did for Ruth and Naomi what they themselves could not have achieved; he rescued the property, restored the name of these women, and provided for their future. Boaz followed all the legal and religious procedures necessary to help Ruth and her mother-in-law. He was obedient and fulfilled God's will by taking Ruth as his wife and being part of the genealogy of King David.

Loving Care

Find a small plant or a picture of a pet for this activity. Show your children the plant or picture and explain that these are living beings that need special care to survive. Discuss how to care for plants or pets. For example: a plant needs water and sunlight, and a fish needs a special place to live, food and clean water to breathe.

What would happen if I forgot to take care of my plant or my pet? (They could get sick or die).

Just as my plant (or pet) needs special care we also need to be cared for. Our Bible story today tells us about how God used Boaz, His faithful servant, to take care of Ruth and Naomi..

Make simple puppets out of socks, paper bags, etc. that represent Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz to illustrate the story. Prepare a simple scene with cardboard boxes and you can use it for future presentations.

Boaz Helps Ruth

Every day Ruth went to the fields of a man named Boaz to pick up grain. Boaz was very kind to Ruth, allowing her to eat with the women who worked for him, and making sure that all his workers left enough grain for Ruth to pick up. Ruth and Naomi were very grateful to God for having provided someone like Boaz to help them. However, there was something that worried Naomi:

Ruth was a young woman and she needed a husband who would love her, take care of her, and who would also give her the possibility of having her own family. One day Naomi spoke with Ruth and said, “I wish the best for you. I would very much like you to start your own family. Boaz is a close relative of our family. Tonight, he will be separating the grains in his barn you must go see him. I will tell you what you should do.”

Ruth dressed in her best dress and went to find Boaz. She waited until Boaz stopped to rest.

When they were alone Ruth told him, “You are the protector of our family. Please, I would like you to take care of me by marrying me.”

“Do not fear,” Boaz said. “I will take care of you. I am your relative and all the people know that you are a good woman. But you have another closer relative than me. I will go talk to him in the morning. If he wants to help you, you will be fine. Otherwise I will marry you and protect you.”

The next morning Boaz went to talk to the other relative. He met with him and ten other older men at the entrance of the city and asked this man if he wanted to buy the part of the land that was Naomi’s and marry Ruth.

“I do not want to buy the land or marry Naomi’s daughter-in-law,” said the closest relative.

In Israel there was a custom that when two people made a deal on some property each one had to take off one sandal and give it to the other. Boaz addressed the older men and told them aloud, “This day you are witnesses that I bought the land that belonged to Elimelek, Kilion, and Mahlon. I have also taken Ruth, the Moabitess, to make her my wife. She is the widow of Mahlon and I have decided to marry her to preserve the family.”

Finally, Ruth and Boaz got married. Sometime later they had a cute baby boy who was called Obed. Everyone was very excited about the birth of the child. When Obed grew up, he had children and then many grandchildren. One of those grandchildren killed a giant named Goliath. He was King David, who was a descendant of Ruth and Boaz. Many, many years later another baby was born who was also a descendant of Ruth and Boaz. This baby was also born in Bethlehem and slept in a manger. God rewarded the faithfulness of Ruth and Boaz by allowing them to be part of the family of King David, but above all, of the Lord Jesus.

Activity

Dramatize the story of Ruth and Boaz

You will need: cloth wraps, grains of corn or wheat, a doll, and a blanket.

Scene 1. Naomi tells Ruth that she should go find Boaz

Scene 2. Ruth talks to Boaz and he gives her grain to take home

Scene 3. Boaz talking to the men at the gates of the city

Scene 4. Ruth and Boaz get married

Scene 5. Naomi takes care of baby Obed

Memorization

“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

Use the puzzle you made in the last class to review the memory verse. Hide the pieces in different parts of the room before the students arrive. Let the children look for the pieces and assemble the text. Everyone can repeat the memory verse together. If there are volunteers who have learned the text by heart, ask them to say it.

Closing

Remind the children of the important word for this unit, “Faithfulness”. Form a circle, hold hands, and conclude the class by singing a praise that speaks about God’s faithfulness. Do not forget to give the children the puppets they made today. May they use them to tell their friends and family what they learned today.

Activity 40

BOAZ

Scripture: Ruth 3 and 4

Lesson Objective: Help the students to know that God uses faithful servants to fulfill His plans on earth.

Memory Verse: “But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

Boaz Marries Ruth



Boaz was faithful. Boaz obeyed God. God used Boaz to care for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz did many good things.



**Dear God,
Please help me to be faithful. Help me to help others.
With Love, _____**

Your Name

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11, 18-21

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to trust in the faithfulness of God.

Memory Verse:

"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you." (1 Samuel 12:24)

Thoughts for the Teacher

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story**Hannah - 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11, 18-21**

Ask the children to come with a baby doll or a cloth wrap from home. Tie cloth wraps in a knot to form a baby. Hold the baby in your arms and say: Today's Bible story is about a woman named Hannah. Hannah was very sad because she could not have any children.

Tell the Bible story while everyone is holding their baby dolls.

Long ago there lived a man named Elkanah who had two wives. In ancient times it was permissible for a man to have two wives. One wife was called Peninnah and the other was Hannah. Hannah loved God, but she was very sad. Hannah wanted children with all her heart. On the other hand Peninnah had several children and always made fun of Hannah.

Each year Hannah and her husband Elkanah made a long journey to worship God in the temple and offer sacrifices. One day while Elkanah was praying, Hannah began to cry. "Dear God, you govern over all things. Please do not forget me, listen to my plea. Please allow me to have a child. I promise you that I will give you my child to be your servant and I will love you forever."

In the temple there was a priest named Eli who took care of the house of God. Eli was sitting near Hannah and watching her. While Hannah was praying her lips moved but her words were not heard because she was praying in her heart. Eli thought that she was drunk on wine, so he went over to talk to her. "Leave the wine."

"I have not drunk anything. I was praying to the Lord because I have a very big problem and I am very sad," Hannah replied.

Eli told her, "Go in peace and may the God of Israel grant you what you ask."

When Hannah left the temple, she felt much better and wanted to eat. The next morning after worshipping God Elkanah, Hannah, and the rest of the family returned home. God heard Hannah's prayer and soon she gave birth to a son whom she called Samuel. Hannah was very happy because God had answered her prayer. When it was time to return to Shiloh to worship God and offer sacrifices, Hannah stayed at home with baby Samuel.

Hannah told Elkanah, "When Samuel is older, I will return to Shiloh with you and leave Samuel in the temple to serve the Lord as promised."

The years passed quickly. Although Samuel was still young Hannah was ready to return to Shiloh and fulfill her promise to the Lord. Hannah took her little son to the house of God. After Elkanah had delivered his sacrifices to the Lord Hannah took Samuel to Eli.

Hannah said, “I am the woman who came to pray to the Lord some years ago asking for this child. Now I have returned to fulfill my promise to God and to deliver Samuel for God’s service. As long as Samuel lives, he will belong to God.”

When Hannah and Elkanah returned home, Samuel remained in Shiloh and began helping Eli the priest in the temple work. Although Samuel did not live in her house Hannah still loved him and every year, she made him a new tunic and took it to him.

Eli knew that God was pleased that Hannah had fulfilled her promise so he gave her a special blessing. God was very kind to her and gave her three other sons and two daughters. When she saw Samuel serving in the temple, she always remembered how God had answered her prayer.

Memorization

“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.” 1 Samuel 12:24

Form a circle. Going around in a circle repeat the memory verse several times; one word at a time. Ask a child at a time to go to the center of the circle and say the memory verse alone.

Closing

Briefly review the important words of this unit and collect the offering. Encourage your students to be faithful and obedient to God during the week praying and obeying their parents and teachers. Remind them that the next class is the last of this unit so attendance is very important. Say goodbye with a prayer.

Activity 41

HANNAH

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11, 18-21

Lesson Objective: Help the students to trust in the faithfulness of God.

Memory Verse: “But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)



Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-26; 3

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that God wants us to listen to Him and to obey Him in every decision we make.

Memory Verse:

“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Obedience is a word that children understand well. Children have learned that when they disobey there are usually negative consequences. Children have also learned that when they obey there are often rewards. Teaching children to obey is a fundamental step to instill self-control and discipline. As we teach children to obey their parents and teachers, we are also teaching them to obey God. Obedience is an essential part of faithfulness. Samuel was obedient to God and for that reason the Lord used him to do wonderful things. Samuel learned to listen to God. Encourage your children to be attentive to the voice of God and to obey His will.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Before the Word of God was available in written form the Lord used different means to communicate with his people; through dreams, visions, or supernatural events. 1 Samuel 3:1 says, “Young Samuel served Jehovah in the presence of Eli; in those days the word of Jehovah was scarce and visions were not frequent.”

God found in Samuel a diligent and obedient servant with whom he could communicate, “the young Samuel grew and became pleasing before God and before men” (1 Samuel 2:26).

At first Samuel did not recognize God's call. Eli's wise counsel helped Samuel recognize the voice of the Lord and know what to do with the message he received. Samuel faithfully communicated God's message to Eli. From that moment Samuel was recognized and approved as a prophet of God.

Listen to the Call!

Place the children in groups of two; one 'parent' and one 'child.' Blindfold the children. Scatter the parents all around the room.

When you say “NOW!” the children should look for their parents guided only by their parent's voice. Those who act as 'parent' should call until their 'child' finds them.

Repeat the game several times, allowing children to swap roles.

Reflect on the importance of recognizing the voice of our heavenly Father.

A Voice in the Night

The priest Eli had sons who did bad things and broke God's laws. Although Eli's sons knew God's commandments, they did not want to obey them. Eli began to hear complaints about the behavior of his two sons. Eli tried to correct his boys' behavior but they did not listen and they continued to do evil in the eyes of God.

At the same time Samuel grew and became stronger in the fear of the Lord.

Make 2 beds; one for Eli and the other for Samuel.

Choose 2 boys to dramatize the story as you tell it.

One-night Eli and Samuel went to sleep as usual. Suddenly God called Samuel. Samuel had never heard the voice of God before so he did not recognize it and thought it was Eli who had called him. Samuel quickly got

up from his bed and ran to where Eli was. “I’m here. What did you call me to do?” Samuel asked.

Eli replied, “I did not call you; go back to bed.”

Once more Samuel heard a voice calling, “Samuel!”

Samuel ran to Eli. “My son I have not called you. Go back to bed.”

A third time the voice called Samuel. Eli now realized what was happening; God was calling Samuel. “Go back to bed,” Eli replied to Samuel. “If the voice calls you again say, ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.’”

Samuel went back to bed. When he heard the voice calling him again he answered as the priest had told him.

God gave Samuel a very sad message for Eli. “Tell Eli that I am going to punish his family. I have to do it because Eli’s sons were acting so badly and Eli did not stop them.”

When God had finished speaking Samuel went back to sleep until the next morning.

At dawn the young man was afraid to tell Eli what God had entrusted to him but the priest called him to tell him the message he had received from the Lord. “Tell me everything the Lord told you. Our God will punish you harshly if you hide a single word from me,” Eli ordered.

While Samuel told Eli everything he listened intently. “He is the Lord and will do what is best,” the priest replied.

God was with Samuel as he grew up. He continued to speak to him and give messages to give to the Israelites. Very soon all the people of Israel knew that Samuel was the prophet that God had chosen.

Review Game

Write the following questions on paper strips and roll them up tightly.

1. What were Eli’s sons doing?
2. What did the people of the town say to Eli?
3. What did Eli’s sons do when he told them that they should stop their bad behavior?
4. How was Samuel different from Eli’s sons?
5. What did Samuel hear?
6. What did Samuel do when he heard the voice calling him?
7. What did Eli tell Samuel to do when he heard the voice again?
8. What did God say to Samuel?
9. Who was Samuel’s mother?
10. Where did Samuel live?

Insert each roll inside a deflated balloon. (Or place the small papers in a box or bag.)

Inflate the balloons with the paper questions inside. Have the children pop the balloons and answer the questions.

Handiwork

Make photocopies of the Activity Page for lesson 42 for each of the children.

Who is the boy in the drawing? (Samuel)

Briefly repeat with the children what Samuel heard from God. Play background music while your children color the picture. The children can use their finished work to hang on their bedroom door when they are talking/praying to God and thus avoid interruptions.

Memorization

“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

Ask children who have learned the memory verse by memory to come forward and say it. Give a small prize (pencils, sweets, etc.) to those who can say the verse.

Invite parents to listen to their children studied during these four lessons.

Closing

Thank each child for attending today’s class and make a special mention of those who attended throughout the month. Announce the theme of the next unit: “God’s Amazing Power.” Pray reminding the children that they should be faithful servants attentive to hear the voice of God.

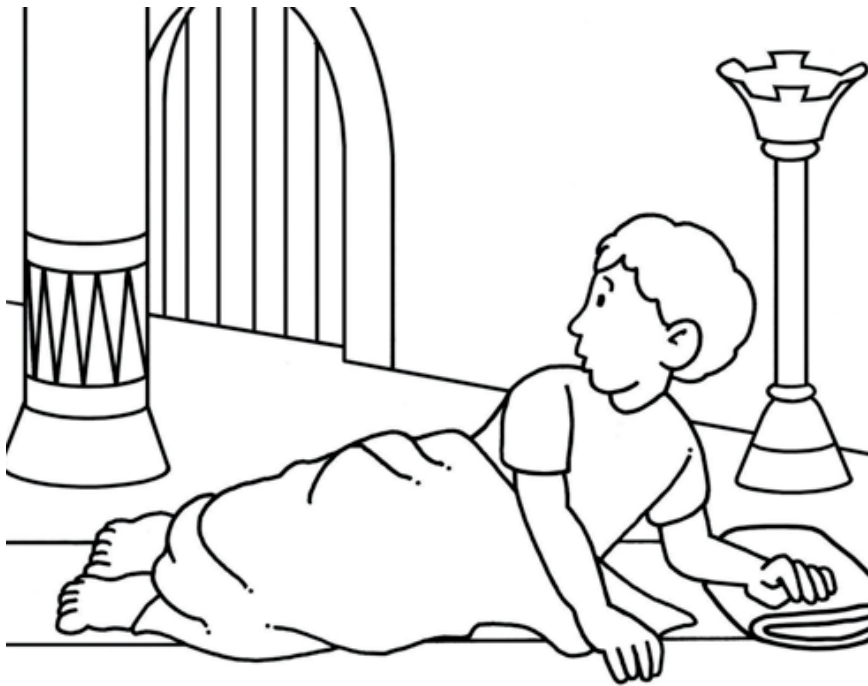
Activity 42

SAMUEL

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-26; 3

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that God wants us to listen to Him and to obey Him in every decision we make.

Memory Verse: “But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)



**I'm Listening
to God!**

INTRODUCTION - UNIT 11

GOD’S AMAZING POWER

Biblical References: Exodus 3-4; Exodus 13:17, 15:2; Exodus 16:1-17:7; Esther 1:1-4:17; Esther 5-8

Unit Memory Verse: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- discover that God has more power than any movie or television hero
- know that God’s power is not pretend, but real
- know that God supplies the needs of his children
- trust in God in difficult times
- learn that God has the power to protect his children from the dangers they face

Unit Lessons

Lesson 43: God Gives Moses a Special Mission

Lesson 44: God Rescues His People

Lesson 45: God Provides for His People

Lesson 46: God Protects His People

Lesson 47: God Shows His Power

Children love stories of heroes who, at the last moment, save the “good guys”.

If you can communicate the Bible stories, with suspense and emotion (without exaggerating the text), children will never forget the miracles and wonders of God.

Emphasize the following points:

1. Unlike the comic books of Batman, Superman, Spiderman, and others; the Bible characters were real.
2. Understanding we have a God with unlimited power should take away all fear and fill us with trust in God.
3. However hard and difficult life may be, God can help us. Nothing is impossible for Him.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that when God gives us a special mission, He will help us accomplish it.

Memory Verse:

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

Thoughts for the Teacher

This is the first in a series of 5 lessons about the incredible power of God.

Sing with the children: *My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
there's nothing my God cannot do (for you!) 2x*

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.
- Sunday School attendance and punctuality is very important. Prepare an attendance chart for your students and give simple prizes to those who attend all 5 Sundays.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Write the word “miracle” on the board.

Miracle - *an amazing event that happens when God shows His power and there is no other explanation.*

Throughout this unit we will learn about many miracles that God performed to free His people.

Play Who Was He?

1. Who was born and lived in Egypt during his childhood?
2. Whose family hid him when he was a baby?
3. Who had a sister named Miriam?
4. Who grew up in Pharaoh's palace until he was an adult?
5. Who was a shepherd of sheep in the desert of Midian for 40 years?

All shout: MOSES!!!

God Gives Moses A Special Mission

In Exodus 3 we read about what happened to Moses while he looked after his sheep “**Baa Baa!**”. The sheep “**Baa Baa!**” bleated while Moses led the sheep “**Baa Baa!**” through the hot, dry desert. Moses wanted to hurry because there was still a long way to go. All the sheep “**Baa Baa!**” were thirsty, tired, and hot. Finally, they came to a mountain where they could rest a little.

Moses saw something that caught his attention.... a bush was on fire! Moses went closer to look when he noticed something very unusual – the fire was not burning up the bush! Moses was so confused. Then he heard a voice from the bush actually call his name, “MOSES, MOSES!”

Surprised, Moses answered, “Here I am.”

“Do Not Come Any Closer,” the voice said. “Take Off Your Sandals, For The Place Where You Are Standing Is Holy Ground.”

Quickly, Moses removed his sandals and stood very still. Staring at the burning bush with huge eyes, he could not believe what he was seeing and hearing.

“I Am The God Of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,” the voice from the fire said.

“Oh Lord!” Moses said, hiding his face, because he was too afraid to look at God.

God said, “I Have Seen How My People Suffer In Egypt. I Am Going To Rescue Them and Take Them To A Beautiful Land Called Canaan. I Am Sending You To Pharaoh To Bring My People, The Israelites, Out Of Egypt.”

“Me?” Moses asked. “Why would Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, listen to someone like me?”

And God said, “I Will Be With You. This Will Be The Sign To You. When You Have Brought The People Out Of Egypt, You Will Worship God On This Mountain.”

Moses was afraid, “What do I say if the Israelites ask me, ‘Who sent you to us?’

God said, “‘I Am Who I Am’. Tell The Israelites ‘I Am’ Has Sent Me To You.”

“What if the leaders of Israel don’t believe me?” asked Moses.

“What Is That In Your Hand?” asked God.

“A staff,” replied Moses.

“Throw It On The Ground,” God instructed.

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.

“Take It By The Tail,” God told Moses.

Moses took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

God said, “This Is So That They May Believe That The Lord, The God Of Their Fathers, Has Appeared To You.”

Then God said, “Put Your Hand Inside Your Cloak.” So Moses obeyed and when he pulled his hand out, it was covered in leprosy!

“Now Put It Back Into Your Cloak,” God said.

“The leprosy has disappeared!” replied Moses.

Then God said, “If The Israelites Do Not Believe In The First Miracle, They May Believe The Second. But If They Do Not, Take Water From The Nile River and Pour It Onto The Ground. The Water Will Turn To Blood.”

“But God, I’m too clumsy to talk well,” said Moses.

God answered, “Wasn’t I The One Who Gave You Speech? I Will Help You Speak and I Will Teach You What To Say.”

“Oh God, please, send someone else!” Moses begged.

God answered, “Take Aaron With You, He Speaks Well. I Will Help Both Of You Speak and Will Teach You What To Do. Take This Staff In Your Hand So You Can Perform Miracles With It.”

Finally, Moses obeyed God. Moses did everything as God had instructed him to do. The people understood that the Lord had heard their prayers and would free them from slavery.

Activity

God Helps Us!

Moses felt very afraid when God told him to tell Pharaoh to free the Israelite people from Egypt. Joti was a young girl who sang very well. Joti’s teacher asked her to lead the children’s choir. Just like Moses, Joti felt very afraid.

Both Moses and Joti talked about their fears to God; Moses in person and Joti through prayer. God promised them that He would be with them, to help them. What happened? God helped both of them do what He asked them to do.

Ask the children to either draw a picture of Moses speaking to Pharaoh or to draw a picture of Joti leading the children’s choir.

Memorization

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1)

Draw the outline of a burning bush and color it with bright colours. Cut out cards shaped like flames of fire. Write one word of the memory verse on each card. Mix up the cards and pass them out to the children. Have the children put the words in the right order on the bush. Repeat this activity several times with different children until it’s easy for them to correctly put the words in order. Hang the poster in a visible place in the room.

Closing

While cleaning up today’s materials, sing:

Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share.

Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.

Ask for any prayer requests and praises. Close with a time of prayer.

“Remember children, God has the power to help you do WHATEVER He asks you to do!

Come back to Sunday School next Sunday.”

Activity 43

GOD GIVES MOSES A SPECIAL MISSION

Scripture: Exodus 3 and 4

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that when God gives us a special mission, He will help us accomplish it.

Memory Verse: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)



I'm
a little afraid to
sing in the children's
choir.



Please,
God, help me to not
be afraid.



“Our God
is so big...!”

God
helps
us
do

what
He
asks
us to
do.

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that God has power to help us in difficult situations.

Memory Verse:

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children love stories about miracles. The miraculous deliverance of the Israelites in Exodus 14 will allow them to learn more about God's **POWER**. Some children may be suffering in situations of domestic violence or separation from their parents. Some may be praying for a miracle in their own families. Through this lesson strengthen the confidence and belief of the children that God has the **POWER** to help them solve even the most difficult problems.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Record attendance on your chart. Remind children of the prizes that will be given for good attendance. Pray. Give thanks to God for the week that ended and the one that begins. Welcome the visitors. Help the children to feel comfortable with one another.

After hundreds of years, the Israelites were finally freed from slavery. God took them from Egypt to Canaan through a dry, hot desert. The Israelite people felt abandoned by God and they lost their faith. They even thought they might have been better off building pyramids and being mistreated by the Egyptians! He took them through the desert in order to protect them from enemies. God never leaves us alone; He goes before us to open the way. The Lord used pillars of cloud and fire to lead the Israelites through the desert. We can be sure that God's **POWER** will always be there to lead us and to help us. May we all remain firm in our faith and to trust God to get us wherever He wants us to go.

God Rescues His People

Who Could Help Me?

Discuss: “Who would you ask help from if ever ...

- you got lost in town and could not find your family? (a stranger, a security guard, or a policeman.)
- someone tried to hurt you at school? (a teacher, the head teacher, or a school employee)
- you were trying to fix something that was too complicated for you? (your parents, an adult friend, or your older sibling)
- you had questions about God? (your parents, your pastor, or your Sunday School teacher)
- you felt sad or disappointed? (God, your parents, or your friend)”

Caught!

Choose 3 children. Ask the taller of the two to stand face to face, hold hands, and gently enclose the third child in their arms.

Tell the third child: “You are stuck. Can you find a way out of there, without hurting your friends?”

Today we will hear about a group of people who were trapped without a way out; they were sure they were going to die and that only God could save them. Open your Bibles to Exodus 13:17. We have learned how God gave Moses a special mission and how He helped Moses accomplish it. Today we will learn what happened when the Israelites were finally able to leave Egypt.

Rescue at the Red Sea

Imagine being a slave, in a foreign country, working hard every day, making bricks, carrying heavy rocks – all while under the hot sun. That was the way the Israelite people lived before God sent Moses to rescue them. It

took God bringing much suffering to Pharaoh before he finally agreed to let them go. The Israelite people were very happy. God had promised them that He would take them to a beautiful land, Canaan. Everyone praised God because they would finally be free from Egyptian slavery. The Israelites left happily with all of their belongings. But God did not take them to the land of Canaan the shortest, easiest way. God laid out a special plan to guide the Hebrews to the land of Canaan. God provided a column of clouds to lead them during the day and a pillar of fire at night. When they reached the shores of the Red Sea the people could go no further. The people camped there and that is where the problems began:

“The Egyptians are coming!” someone screamed.

Pharaoh had changed his mind and wanted his slaves to return. “They’re getting closer! Look at the dust that their chariots raise!” the Israelites cried. “We should have stayed in Egypt!” others shouted. “Moses, why did you bring us to die like this?”

God had told Moses that the Egyptians would come after them, but Moses also knew that God was more **POWERFUL**. Moses assured the frightened people, “Don’t be afraid; watch and you will see - the **POWER** of God will keep us from danger!”

The sound of horses and chariots was moving closer! When it began to get dark God put the column of clouds between the Israelites and the Egyptians. The Israelite people would be able to see to continue traveling, while the Egyptians would be in darkness.

At the Red Sea God commanded Moses, “**RAISE YOUR STAFF.**” Moses obeyed. The wind blew so hard that it opened the sea in two, forming a dry path for the Israelites to cross. Very early in the morning the Israelite people began to cross the Red Sea.

When they looked back the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were following them! They were terrified. Then they saw God cause the wheels of the Egyptian chariots get stuck and break down. The Egyptians shouted, “We must get away from the Israelites; their God is fighting against us!”

As the Israelite people got safely to the other shore, God told Moses to raise his staff again. *Woosh!* - the waters returned to their place. The sea covered up all the Egyptian soldiers, their horses, and their chariots. Through God’s great **POWER**, He saved His people. Moses and all the people praised God and celebrated: “*God is my strength and my song, from Him comes my salvation. He is my God. I praise him.*”

Activity

A Wonderful Rescue

In what way did God rescue the Israelites? What happened to the Egyptians? What was it that caused the waters of the sea to open in two?

Fill in the blanks with these words: **POWER**, **PRAYED**, **SAD**, **GOD**, **BETTER**

Jadi and Benta were _____. Their mum was very sick. Dad said, “_____ has the **POWER** to help mum.” Jadi, Benta, and Dad _____ for mum, “Please, God, help Mum to get _____.” Mum did not get better very quickly. Jadi, Benta, and Dad continued to pray. One day dad brought good news, “Mum is much better, she will be back to normal soon.” “I am so glad that God has the _____ to help us! Thank You God!” said Jadi, Benta, and Dad.

Memorization

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

Try to find a picture of a castle or a fortress from a book or a magazine to show the children.

In ancient times, kings built these fortresses to defend themselves against enemies. They used large stones to build high walls so no one could get in. In times of war, those inside the fortresses were safe. In the same way, our memory verse in this unit reminds us that God is our refuge and strength. We should not fear.

Gather some stones. Build your own fortress. Write out our memory verse as a reminder.

Closing

Thank God for what the children learned. Invite them to next week’s class to learn more about the great **POWER** of God.

Activity 44

GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE

Scripture: Exodus 13:17-15:2

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that God has power to help us in difficult situations

Memory Verse: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)



Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that God supplies the needs of His children. Trust His **POWER**, don't complain.

Memory Verse:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Over time God has cared for us, His children. As God has provided for all our needs, we learn to trust His caring **POWER** more.

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.
- Record the children's attendance on your Attendance Chart – remember that after 5 Sundays attendance prizes will be given!

Introduction to the Bible Story

Ask the class to sit in a circle on the floor and to close their eyes. Drop some wrapped sweets all around the children. "Children, on the count of 3 you can open your eyes and get one, only **one** sweet each. If you take more than one, you'll lose all of them. ONE, TWO, THREE - OPEN YOUR EYES!"

After the children have picked up their sweet, ask them: "Does anyone have more than one sweet? If anyone has two or more, ask him to give you back all the sweets they have."

"Was it difficult to follow my instructions and take only **one** sweet?"

"It is very important to follow instructions, otherwise we may have problems."

The Israelites had trouble following God's instructions.

Bring in a piece of bread that is old and moldy.

"Sometimes when we go to the store, we might buy more bread than we can eat. When the bread gets old mold forms on it and it smells. I would not like to eat this bread, would you?"

In today's story we'll hear about some people who did not follow instructions and something bad happened to their food:

Today's lesson talks about the special ways God took care of His people when they were in the desert heading toward Canaan, The Promise Land. Ask 2 young men in your congregation to act out the following drama for the children. MOSES should wear a robe and carry a staff. GOD should have a big voice, but hide out of sight from the children.

MOSES: "*Our miraculous escape from Egypt through the Red Sea was just the beginning of a long journey for us Israelites. God led us from one place to another through the hot desert. Sometimes there was not enough water to drink. Whenever that happened, the people complained to me. I wished they would trust God instead of complaining all the time!*"

One-time God took us to a beautiful place called Elim. There we found plenty of palm trees and water. After that we traveled to the Desert of Sin where we ran out of food. The people complained to me again, 'Why didn't God let us stay in Egypt where we had plenty of food. Here we will die!'
I prayed to God, and He told me:"

GOD: "I Will Send You All A Special Bread That Will Come Down From The Sky Every Morning. I Will Send Quail In The Afternoons To Give You Meat To Eat. Every Morning Collect Food For Each Person In Your Houses - Enough For Only That Day. Do Not Pick Up Anything Extra. On The 6th Day Of The Week You Are To Pick Up A Double Portion So That You May Have Enough Food For The Sabbath."

MOSES: "Just as God had told us, the next morning we found pieces of bread (manna) all around us. It tasted sweet, like honey. We were so happy. But some of us did not follow God's instructions. Some took more manna than they needed for that day. The following morning there was a terrible smell and worms in our tents from the rotten bread. On the sixth day we were supposed to collect enough manna for two days. Again, many did not follow God's instructions. On the Sabbath they found no manna and some were left hungry. God provided us manna from heaven six days a week for the forty years we lived in that desert.
The day came when we had to move on. We traveled and finally camped in Rephidim; this place had no water! Again, the people complained asking me why I had brought them here to die. Again I prayed to ask God for His help. God told me to take the leaders of the Israelite people to Mount Horeb and to hit a certain rock with my staff. I obeyed and, WOW, crystal clear water came flowing out of the rock. As always our great God showed the people that He had POWER and control over everything!"

Activity

God Provides!

Draw some things that God has provided for the children.

Just as Moses asked God to meet the needs of the Israelite people we can do the same.

Choose someone to be the class secretary. Ask the secretary to record any prayer needs the class might have.

Over the next weeks, have the secretary record how God answered the prayer needs for your class.

Memorization

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1)

Ask the children to stand in a circle and to walk backwards. For each step they should say a word of the memory verse. Repeat.

Closing

Pray giving thanks to God for His provision and care. As students tell their praises and prayer requests. The Class Secretary should write them down. Always be grateful as we receive the Lord's answers. Remember how God is with us, always taking care of us, and always helping us through every situation. Trust the Lord ; He is always by our side.

Add this prayer request to the class prayer list: Pray for all the people around the world who need food and clean drinking water.

Invite the children to come to class again next Sunday to learn more of God's **POWER!**

Activity 45

GOD PROVIDES FOR HIS PEOPLE

Scripture: Exodus 16:1-17:7

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that God supplies the needs of His children. Trust His **POWER**, don't complain.

Memory Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

**What else has God provided
for us?**

Draw some things that God has given you.

Scripture: Esther 1:1-4:17

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to trust God, even in difficult times

Memory Verse:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

Thoughts for the Teacher

The **POWER** of our God is super! The **POWER** of our God helps us, protects us, and gives us the courage to trust Him. Throughout this lesson we will learn to trust God whenever we feel we are in trouble.

- Prepare in advance the teaching materials you will use for this lesson and try to have your classroom ready before your students arrive.
- Remember to welcome visitors and collect their information to contact them during the week.

Introduction to the Bible Story

Teacher, ahead of time read Esther 1:1-4:17.

Mixed Up Letters

Write on the board the following letters: TSREEH.

"Try to arrange these letters to figure out the name of the Bible character we shall study these next two lessons." (ESTHER)

Crowns

Set out some handcraft items that you have available. Place a strip of paper (15 cm or more) around the head of each child. Mark the place where the strip must match so that the crown will fit the child's head well.

"Write your name on one side of your paper and make the other side like a beautiful crown."

Join the ends of the 'crowns' with tape.

"Who uses crowns?" (kings and queens.)

"What do kings and queens do?" (govern a country, help people, they make sure everything works well, etc.)

In today's Bible story we will learn about King Xerxes and Queen Esther.

We are going to learn about a brave young woman who trusted in God to help her people; her name was Esther.

The king of Persia, King Xerxes, held a banquet. He invited all the important officials of the kingdom to come in order to see his beautiful Queen Vashti. But Queen Vashti refused to attend!

King Xerxes was very angry and went to his counselors, "What should I do with the queen? She did not obey me and come to my banquet!"

King Xerxes' counselors replied, "It would be better to look for another woman to serve as your queen. Don't let Vashti remain queen."

The king thought this was an excellent idea and began the search to find his future queen.

There was a Jewish man who lived in Persia who had a beautiful niece. He was called Mordecai and she was called Esther. One day the servants of King Xerxes came to Mordecai's house and saw Esther. "She is very beautiful! Let's take her to the palace."

Esther had no choice but to go to the king's palace. Every day Mordecai went to the palace gardens to check on his niece. King Xerxes was delighted with his beautiful new queen. One day when Mordecai went to check on Esther he overheard two soldiers planning to kill King Xerxes. Mordecai immediately went to see Esther and told her everything he heard.

In King Xerxes kingdom there was an officer named Haman. King Xerxes liked Haman so much that he even commanded all the people to kneel before Haman. Everyone did so, except one person ... Mordecai. Mordecai refused to kneel before Haman as he was Jewish and would only kneel down to worship God. Haman was very angry, "As punishment I will kill Mordecai and all the Jewish people!" Haman thought up a plan and went before King Xerxes, "The Jewish people do not respect you and do not obey your laws! I would like to pay some people to kill the Jewish people." "Save your money," the king said. "Here is this ring that will make official this plan that you and I have spoken of. Do what you want with those people!" So, Haman wrote a new law: "On the 13th of the 12th month, all people must kill all the Jews they find and seize their property." Haman sealed this law with the king's ring and sent it out to all the provinces. When Mordecai heard the news he became very sad, covered his head with ashes, and dressed in old clothes. Esther's servant told her, "Uncle Mordecai is outside crying and wants to see you. He asked me to tell you about this decree that has been made against the Jewish people. Mordecai asked Esther to talk to the king and to ask him for help. Esther cried, "I cannot go. If I go without an invitation, King Xerxes will kill me!" Mordecai insisted, "If you stay quiet we all will die, even you. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Esther asked Mordecai and the other Jewish people to not eat anything for three days, but just pray for her. Esther cried out to God for help. Mordecai, Esther, and the Jewish people prayed and fasted for three days. What would happen to them? Could someone stop Haman's terrible plan? Be sure to come back next week to hear the rest of the story!

Activity

I Am Not Afraid

"Draw a picture, or write a story about something you are afraid of."

Ask the children to explain their drawings. Talk about their fears and use the story of Esther to encourage them to trust God.

Put a basket or dustbin in the center of the room.

"Each one pass by the basket and tear up your drawing while saying, 'I am not afraid. I trust in God.'"

Memorization

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

"Everyone close your eyes." Write the memory verse on the board. "Children, open your eyes and read the verse aloud."

"Close your eyes again." Erase some of the words.

"Open your eyes and try to say the whole verse." Repeat the exercise erasing more words each time until all the words are erased and together you can say the full Bible verse from memory.

Closing

Who trusted God in today's story? (Esther)

Esther trusted God to help her approach King Xerxes.

Trust God this week. Talk to your families about what you learned in today's Bible story. Next week we will get to hear the rest of the story of Queen Esther and the **POWER** of God. Don't miss it!

Activity 46

GOD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE

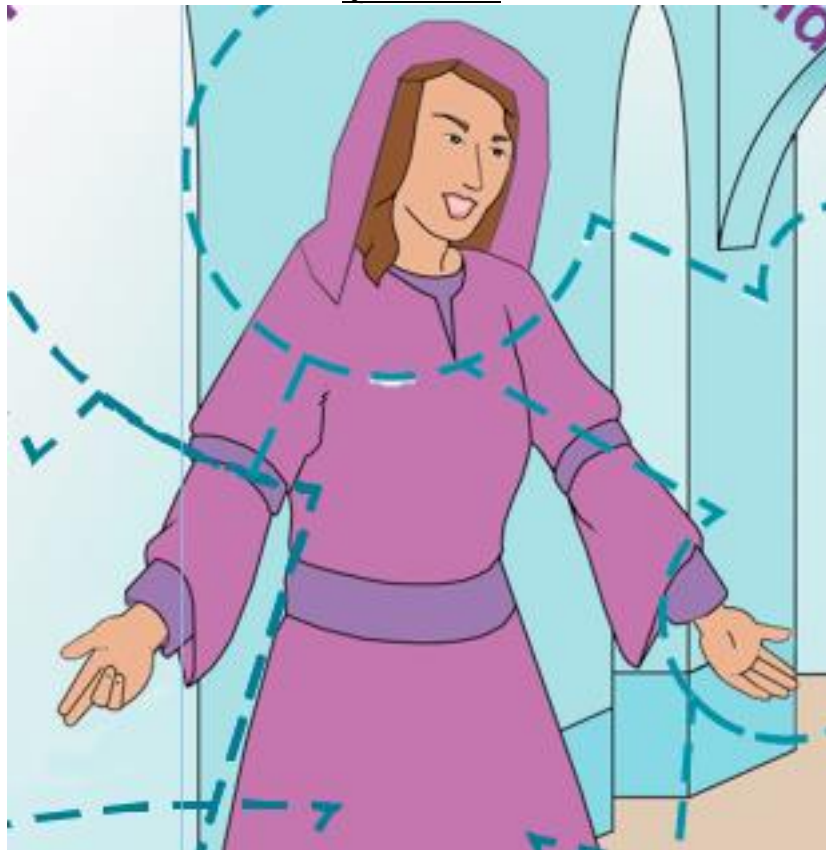
Scripture: Esther 1:1-4:17

Lesson Objective: Help the students to trust God, even in difficult times.

Memory Verse: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

I can trust _____
anytime that I need help.

Queen Esther



Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand that God has the **POWER** to protect His children from danger.

Memory Verse:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children love superheroes who can defeat their enemies by flying, freezing their enemies, becoming invisible, seeing through walls, etc. Sometimes children even pretend to be those superheroes. Children need to learn that only God has the **POWER** to do anything great. God wants to use his **POWER** through us to reach a world that lives in darkness. Ask the Holy Spirit to help children understand God's **POWER** is beyond our understanding and is available to all who trust in Him.

Faithful Attendance Appreciation Gifts! - As this is the last lesson of this unit - **GOD'S AMAZING POWER**, give something like simple thank-you cards or Bible verses to the children to reward faithful attendance.

Introduction to the Bible Story

In today's story Esther is about to appear before the king and is prepared for whatever might happen to her. The law stated that if an uninvited person approached King Xerxes (whether they are Queen Esther or not) the guards were given strict orders to kill that person. The only thing that could stop the guards was if the king extended his royal staff toward the visitor.

Queen Esther: To fulfill His divine purpose God chose to work through an ordinary young woman, Esther. Esther's courageous obedience to God saved the lives of the Jewish people.

Mordecai: Mordecai trusted in God's **POWER** and refused to bow before the wicked Haman. Uncle Mordecai's faith encouraged Esther to obey God.

Follow the King Orders!

In this game the teacher will represent the king and the children their servants. The children stand side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder in a straight line. The king faces the children, some distance away. The king commands their servants, for example: "Sam, take three small steps forward." "Mary, take 4 big jumps backward," etc. The king or queen can also ask the servants to skip, walk backward, etc. The servant obeys the king orders. Repeat the game several times.

Esther 5-8

Before class, write on a signboard: 'GOD IS IN CONTROL!'

"Who can remember what we learned last week from the story of Queen Esther; Esther 1-4? As we continue the story, whenever I point to these words, shout out loud: GOD IS IN CONTROL!"

Esther was very thoughtful; finally she stood up and said, "I have to see the king." (Point to the words, "GOD IS IN CONTROL!") Esther had been praying and fasting. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!) No one was allowed to go see the king without an invitation. Still Esther knew God was with her and after 3 days went to see the king.. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!)

King Xerxes was very pleased to see his beautiful Esther and gave her permission to speak with him. He extended his royal scepter to Esther sparing her life. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!)

King Xerxes asked, "What's the matter my queen? Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you ... even up to half of my kingdom!" (GOD IS IN CONTROL!)

Esther replied, "King Xerxes, I have prepared a banquet for you and Haman. Will you come?"

The king and Haman had a wonderful time at the queen's banquet! (GOD IS IN CONTROL!) Sometime during the evening the king asked, "Esther my dear, what can I do for you?"

Esther replied, "I need to ask you something very important. Please bring Haman to dinner with you again tomorrow night and then I will answer your question."

Haman was very proud to accompany the king! In the back of his mind he remembered how Mordecai had refused to bow down to him, 'Doesn't Mordecai know my greatness!!'

Haman bragged to his wife, "Queen Esther has invited me to another banquet! I am a great man! I must think of a way to show Mordecai how great I am!"

"Just ask King Xerxes to kill Mordecai!" suggested Haman's wife.

Haman liked his wife's plan so he had a large wooden frame built ready to hang Mordecai.

That night King Xerxes could not sleep. He asked one of his servants to bring him the Book of the Royal Chronicles to read to him. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!) When the king's servant read the part when Mordecai had helped to save the king's life, King Xerxes asked, "What did we ever do to reward Mordecai for saving my life?"

"Nothing, sir," the servant replied.

Then King Xerxes heard a noise and asked, "Who's that in the yard?"

"It's Haman," the servant replied.

King Xerxes ordered Haman to come inside and the king asked, "Haman, how should we reward someone whom the king wants to honor?"

Haman thought the king was referring to honoring himself, "You should give him beautiful clothes, a strong horse, and put a crown on him for all to see."

King Xerxes responded, "That's a great idea, Haman. Hurry and do all of that for Mordecai."

Haman was very angry, but he did everything the king asked of him.

That evening the servants arrived to take Haman to dinner with the king and queen. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!)

While at the banquet the king asked Esther again what her request was. Esther breathed a prayer to God; she admitted to the king that she was Jewish and how the law he had signed endangered her life and that of her people. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!) Esther begged the king to please change this law.

The king did what Esther asked of him and made a new law to keep the Jewish people safe. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!) Haman was punished for his evil deeds on the same frame that he had built for Mordecai.

Mordecai and the Jewish people had a great celebration praising God. God had saved them from certain death. (GOD IS IN CONTROL!)

Activity

The Great **POWER** of God

Sit in a circle and wear the crowns made during the previous class. Imagine that we are kings or queens. Just like Queen Esther helped her people, talk about how we could help other people. Even if we don't ever become powerful kings or queens, we can help our neighbors, for example: picking up trash from the church, helping an older person, helping with household chores, etc.

Memorization

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

Talk with your pastor or director of Sunday School ministries about giving the children the chance to recite their memory verse in the worship service.

Closing

Encourage the children to trust God in the midst of problems. God's **POWER** is greater than anything else. The **POWER** of the Lord is available to all those who trust and obey Him.

Activity 47

GOD SHOWS HIS POWER

Scripture: Esther 5 - 8

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand that God has the **POWER** to protect His children from danger.

Memory Verse: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)



Use the words in the word box to complete the sentences.

1.  worked through
Esther to save his people.

2. The  of God |
can work through me.

3. I can  in the
power of God at all times and anywhere. |

INTRODUCTION - Unit 12

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Biblical References: Matt 1:18-25; 2:1-12; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20; John 3:16; 1 John 4:9

Unit Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Unit Objectives

This unit will help children to:

- understand the importance of obeying God
- understand that everyone needs the Savior, Jesus Christ
- awaken in themselves a spirit of evangelism
- understand that God appreciates the praise and worship of His children

Unit Lessons

Lesson 48: The Gift of Obedience

Lesson 49: The Gift of a Savior

Lesson 50: The Gift of Praise

Lesson 51: The Gift of Worship

This Christmas season may we learn, or be reminded:

- that when we obey God’s guidance things go much better than when we disobey.
- to speak about Jesus to friends or relatives who do not know the Lord.
- that without God our lives are empty, sad, & hopeless.
- that God wants us to spend time with Him each day.
- that God loves to hear words of worship & gratitude for the many blessings He pours out upon our lives.

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to wish to obey God.

Memory Verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Thoughts for the Teacher

We’ve heard the Christmas story so many times that it might seem monotonous and ordinary. On the contrary, the Christmas miracle is a story of two common people obeying God’s call upon their lives. Their obedience was not easy. They were human and they were afraid.

Mary’s Story:

In Luke 1:26-38 Mary heard from Angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of the only Son of God. Mary was terrified to give birth to such a “special” child. Also, Mary did not understand how she could be pregnant since she was not married. Gabriel patiently explained how God would perform this miracle through the Holy Spirit. Mary believed the Angel’s message, agreed to obey God, and accepted her role in God’s plan.

Joseph’s Story:

In Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph had a similar experience as Mary. When Mary’s pregnancy was confirmed Joseph knew marrying her would bring public shame so he had to break off their engagement. But in a dream an angel explained how all these things were a part of God’s plan for them and for the whole world. When Joseph awoke, he knew he needed to obey God and he accepted Mary as his wife.

We can see this same pattern in our efforts to obey God. We hear the call of the gospel. Then our natural fears arise - fear of change, fear of the unknown - and it makes us stop and worry. The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth (John 14:26, 16:13), our fears become quiet, we obey, and we follow Christ. Following our salvation, this process is repeated many times as God asks us to take new steps of faith.

Here are some ideas to help children accept this same pattern of obedience:

- tell them the wonderful gospel stories in ways that they can understand
- comfort the little ones when they cry
- help children to know when the Holy Spirit is speaking to them, to accept God’s call on their lives, and to make a commitment to obey and follow God.
- help children understand God’s desire to save and guide them for the rest of their lives.

Introduction to the Bible StoryImportant Gifts

Bring a beautiful package to the class. Inside the package have a card with the word ‘OBEDIENCE’ written on it.

Do you prefer to give or receive gifts? Acts 20:35 says that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We are going to study about gifts we can offer Jesus.

Open the package and find the word ‘OBEDIENCE.’

Obedience - Matthew 1:18-25Mary and Joseph’s Gift

“Time passes very fast,” Mary thought. “In just a few months, Joseph and I will get married.” Mary was a woman who loved and obeyed God. Mary was the girlfriend of a young carpenter named Joseph.

One day, Mary was sitting in her house when suddenly in front of her appeared a man dressed in a shining robe.

Fearfully Mary thought, “Who could this be? Is this an Angel, a messenger of God?”

This was indeed the Angel Gabriel, “Greetings Mary. Do not be afraid. God loves you very much and is with you.”

Mary did feel very afraid. Her eyes were wide with amazement. Mary kept staring at the Angel Gabriel standing in front of her. “God is pleased with you and sent me to give you Good News. Very soon something special will happen to you.

You will have a baby and you are to call him Jesus. He will be a great King, the Savior of the entire world!”

Mary tried to understand what the Angel was saying, “How can this be possible?” Mary asked.

“Mary,” Angel Gabriel said. “The baby that will be born will be created by the power of God. God can do things no one else can do. You are going to give birth to the Son of God.”

When the Angel left Mary praised and glorified God with all her heart. Mary trusted in God and agreed to obey His plan to the best of her ability. Though she did not understand everything, Mary was happy to be chosen to be the mother of this special baby. Mary went to look for Joseph and told him everything that had happened with the Angel.

Joseph was not very happy. Although he loved his girlfriend very much Joseph decided that he would not marry Mary.

That night, while Joseph was sleeping, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to marry your girlfriend Mary. This baby is from the Holy Spirit. Mary will have a Son and you must call him Jesus. He will be the Savior of the world.”

When Joseph awoke, he knew he should obey God. Joseph went to Mary, “I have also seen the Angel of God. I will marry you.”

Neither Mary nor Joseph understood what was happening, but both loved God. Both Mary and Joseph wanted to obey by being willing to be the earthly parents of the only Son of God; Jesus. Mary and Joseph would be part of God’s plans to bring the Savior into the world.

Do You Obey?

Write out the words ‘easy’ and ‘hard’ on opposite sides of your teaching area.

Are these sentences easy or hard to obey? Point to your answer.

- Dad gives you money and says, “Go buy yourself a soda.” Easy to obey? or hard? Point to your answer.
- Mom says, “Wash the dishes.” Easy or hard?
- Your teacher says, “Finish all your homework for tomorrow.”
- Your uncle says, “Learn six Bible memory verses.”
- Your grandmother says, “Do not eat sweets.”
- Dad says, “Do not watch television at your friend’s house.”
- Your Sunday School teacher says, “Talk to someone about Jesus this week.”

Why is it sometimes easy to obey and sometimes it is not?

God wants us to be obedient to Him even if it’s sometimes difficult.

Memorization

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

On 7 cards, draw 7 gift boxes and write a portion of our unit’s memory verse on each card, as indicated by the bars [/]:

“For God so loved the world/ that he gave / his one and only Son / that whoever believes in him / shall not perish / but have eternal life.” / (John 3:16).

Ahead of time hide the cards. Ask the children to find the cards and try to arrange them in order. These cards will help you for the four classes of this unit.

Closing

Say goodbye in prayer, thanking God for teaching us to obey Him.

As a sign of our love for Jesus it is important to give Him our daily obedience.

Next week we will study about another gift we can offer God.

Activity 48

THE GIFT OF OBEDIENCE

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

Lesson Objective: Help the students to wish to obey God.

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)



Can you give God the gift of obedience too?

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7; John 3:16; 1 John 4:9

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to understand why people need a Savior.

Memory Verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Thoughts for the Teacher

It may be difficult to help children understand why the gift of Jesus as our Savior is so special. Saved from what?

- we must have a feeling of needing to be saved from our sins (the bad things we’ve done).
- we must know that we have sinned and wish to repent. (to change our heart from doing bad).

Today’s lesson will help us understand why we need the gift of a Savior and why the birth of Jesus is so special. Scripture reminds us of the importance of the Christmas tradition of giving gifts.

- John 3:16 shows us the perfect example of the best Christmas gift; everyone who believes in the Son of God will receive the gift of eternal life.
- 1 John 4:9 tells us about this same gift, but in a more personal way: *This is how God showed His love among us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*
- Luke 2:1-7 we find the special gift of God: the baby Jesus, the Savior of the world.

The great love of God is the best Christmas gift that people can receive. The Bible is clear in telling us that ... “He will save the people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

After we receive this wonderful gift, we can pass it along to others too. Pray that during this Christmas season we may reach others and lead them to Christ; especially children!

Introduction to the Bible Story

Read Luke 2:1-7; John 3:16 and 1 John 4:9.

Welcome the students, especially those who are visiting for the first time. Take their contact information so that you can stay in touch with them. Sing praise choruses to start.

Briefly review what we learned about the gift of OBEDIENCE last week. Whoever already knows the memory verse by heart to open the second gift and to read the card found inside out loud, ‘SAVIOR’. Today we will study about our most wonderful, our most important gift of all time; the gift of a Savior.

Guilty! (Freeze tag)

Choose a volunteer to be the “guilty” one who makes others also guilty when he touches them. The child who is touched must remain ‘FROZEN’ until another ‘not guilty’ child gives him a gentle pat on the back and releases him. When everyone is ‘FROZEN’ the game is over and they can start again by choosing another “guilty” one.

Why couldn’t you move after the “guilty” one touched you? (Because you became frozen in your guilt.)

What did you need to do to continue in the game? (a ‘not guilty’ child needed to touch you.)

In real life, we are all made guilty by sin and cannot make ourselves ‘not guilty’ again. God made a plan for us to have our sins forgiven, our guilt removed. This plan involves our most wonderful, our most important gift of all time; the gift of a Savior.

Use Activity Page 49A to help visualize today's story.

Place some baby items on the table for the children to see and touch. Bring a doll for the children to think of Baby Jesus.

Why do we use these items? –newborn babies need special care. What if Mary did not have clean water to wash the baby? No doubt the stable was noisy and smelly! This was the place where our Savior was born; a very humble place. Dress some children up to act out the parts of Mary, Joseph, and some shepherds.

Today we will hear a story about a very special baby.

The Wonderful Gift of God

A messenger of the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, arrived on his horse to a market in the city of Nazareth, took a parchment from his bag, and began to read aloud for all to hear:

“Caesar Augustus, the great emperor, will take a census. He wants to count all the people who live in his kingdom. For this, everyone must travel to the city where they were born!”

The messenger closed the parchment and went to another city to give the same announcement. It had been about 9 months since the angel had appeared to Mary and Joseph. The baby was going to be born very soon. “We must go to Bethlehem,” said Joseph, “since all my family is from there.”

“My family is also from Bethlehem,” Mary said.

They both packed for the long trip. They would need food, water, and blankets to sleep. Mary also prepared some clothes she had made for the baby. It was a long trip to Bethlehem.

After several days of travelling they finally arrived in Bethlehem late one night. Joseph hurried to find a place to rest. Mary was very tired from the long trip; soon the child would be born. But ALL the inns were full with other guests who had also returned to their hometown to register for the census.

The tired couple arrived at the last place in town. Although it was full, the innkeeper allowed them to stay in the barn. That was not the place where Mary imagined her son to be born. Mary's family was very far away and they did not have any friends nearby to help them. They did not even have a bed to sleep in.

Still that night, in a stable in Bethlehem, the Baby Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born! Mary took the baby in her arms. She cleaned Him, wrapped Him in the blankets she had brought and put Him in a manger filled with clean straw so He could sleep. That night God gave humanity the best Christmas gift ever: Jesus, God's only Son – our Savior.

Ask the children to bow their heads and repeat this prayer after you. Pause each time you find this sign: (/)

Dear God, / thank you for loving us. / Thank you for making / a perfect plan for us / and for sending Jesus to earth. / We praise you / and adore you God / for the wonderful gift / that you gave us / through your Son Jesus, / our Savior. / Amen.

If you wish, you can make a more personal invitation to each student to give his or her life to Christ. If the children accept Jesus, spend a little time after the class to pray with them individually.

Memorization

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Use the cards you made last week with the Bible verse. Place them so that the children can read the verse a couple of times. Remove the cards one by one, until all the cards are gone and the children can say John 3:16 by memory. *Who can say our verse by memory?*

Closing

Pay special attention to those who prayed to accept Jesus and explain the importance of this step of faith. Make a plan to disciple them.

Encourage the children to continue attending the class to learn more about the gifts we offer God.

Share prayer requests and pray for each other.

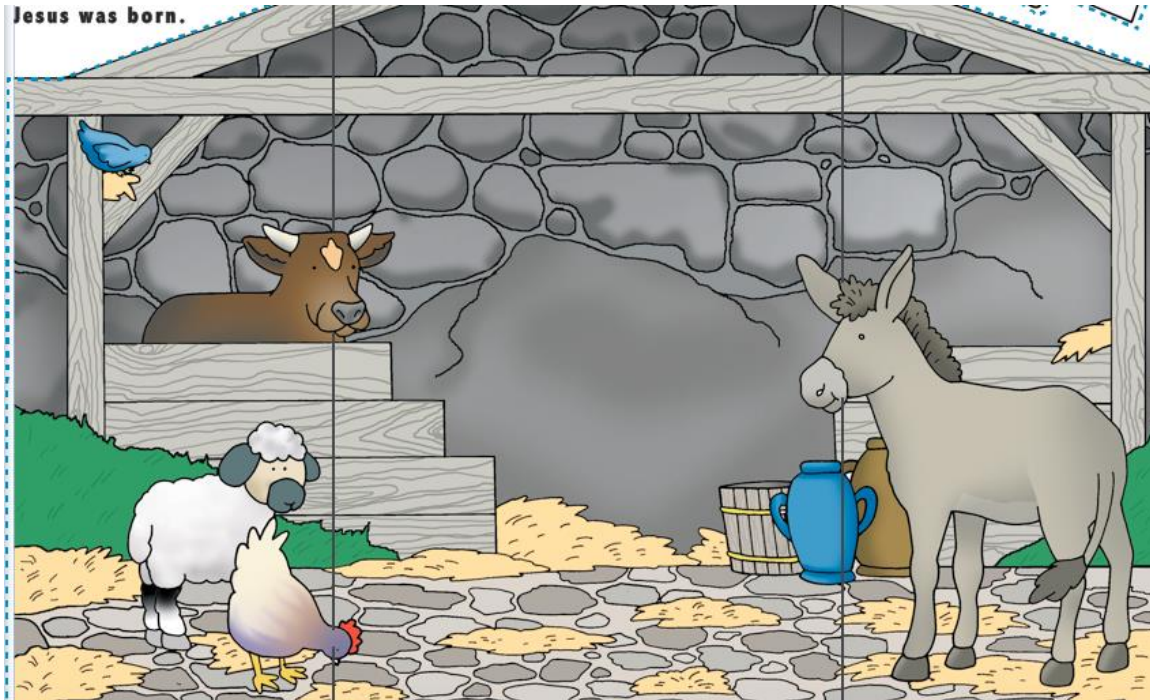
Activity 49

THE GIFT OF A SAVIOR

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7; John 3:16; 1 John 4:9

Lesson Objective: Help the students to understand why people need a Savior.

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)



JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

Jesus came to the world as a baby. Jesus grew up. He helped people know the love of God. Then Jesus died on the cross. He did all this so we could be forgiven for the bad things we've done. This is how Jesus can be your Savior.

- A – Admit that you have sinned (done wrong, disobeyed God). Tell God what you have done, be sorry for it, and be willing to quit. (Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:9)
- B – Believe that God loves you and sent His son Jesus to save you from your sins. Ask for and receive the forgiveness God is offering you. (John 3:16 and Acts 16:31)
- C – Claim Jesus as your Savior. Tell others what God has done for you. Love God and follow Jesus. (John 1:12 and Romans 10:13)

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to realize the importance of sharing the Good News with other people.

Memory Verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Thoughts for the Teacher

This lesson will help children learn about the joy the shepherds felt when they met Jesus and how they told this Good News to other people.

The shepherds did not have much to offer the Baby Jesus; perhaps the students feel the same way. Help them understand that they can give Jesus what the shepherds offered him in the manger; their praise and a desire to tell others the Good News of the Son of God.

The birth of Baby Jesus; the Messiah, the one who had been sent to bring the Good News to the poor (Luke 4:18), completely changed humanity. The world would no longer be the same.

Humble shepherds were the first to know that God had fulfilled His promise and that their Messiah was now on earth to fulfill His mission. Through this, God laid the thinking that Jesus came for everyone from the richest and most powerful to the poorest and weakest.

Quickly after the angels told them about the birth of Baby Jesus they **rushed** to Bethlehem to see Him for themselves. Then, they **rushed** to tell everyone else they could find! The shepherds' joy and excitement about telling others is an example for us today.

We should give all our PRAISE to God because Jesus, his Son, came to live with us, came to die for us, and went back to heaven to prepare a place for us! That is the best gift we can give to those who do not know the Good News of Jesus Christ! Tell everyone!!!

Sing a chorus of PRAISE!

Introduction to the Bible Story**Important Gifts**

Open the third gift box and find the word PRAISE inside. Talk about the other two gifts you studied (OBEDIENCE and SAVIOUR). Today we will learn about a very special gift that a group of shepherds gave to Jesus: PRAISE!

A Shepherd

In advance, invite a teenage boy and girl to dress up like shepherds from Bible times. Talk about the different tasks a shepherd performs; caring for their sheep, defending the sheep from wild animals, finding food and water for their flock, counting them at night, etc.

*Zadi – a strong shepherd boy.

*Miriam - Zadi's sister. Miriam would rather be out with the shepherds instead of stuck at home doing chores!

The Gift of the Shepherds

Zadi: Miriam, Miriam come fast! Miriam, I have something to tell you; something wonderful has happened!

Miriam: What are you talking about? Tell me!

Zadi: Last night while we were taking care of the sheep in the field, something wonderful happened.

Miriam: What? Tell me!

Zadi: Angels!

Miriam: Angels? Zadi, do you have a fever? (touches his forehead) Are you sick?

Zadi: *No, no, no, Miriam! I'm telling you the truth. In the middle of the night angels showed up in the sky, wearing beautiful robes. We were so scared!*

Miriam: I would have been scared too.

Zadi: *Then one came right to us and said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will bring great joy for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

Miriam: What? A baby? I don't understand. Tell me more; how exciting!... how scary!

Zadi: *Then hundreds more angels came. They filled the sky praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Miriam: What does that mean?

Activity

Share the Good News

Write out some ways to tell others about Jesus; maybe invite friends to the Christmas service, visit hospitals to tell the story of Jesus' birth to children who are sick, make Christmas cards to give to people who do not know Jesus, etc.

Christmas Songs

Make Christmas instruments using plastic soda bottles. Place seeds or stones in the empty bottles. Screw the lids on tightly. Your shaker instruments are ready!

A way to praise God is through songs; just as the angels did the night Jesus was born.

Memorization

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Before class, hide the cards you used the previous lesson before class. Help the children find the cards and to arrange them in order. Repeat the verse say out loud.

Closing

Form a prayer circle and pray for the needs of each one. Take advantage of this Christmas season to follow the example of the shepherds. Tell others the story of Jesus' birth and of God's perfect plan to save mankind from their sins. Sing a chorus of praise. Invite the children to next week's class to discover our last gift.

Activity 50

THE GIFT OF PRAISE

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Lesson Objective: Help the students to realize the importance of sharing the Good News with other people.

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

The shepherds were taking care of their sheep one night. Suddenly the sky was filled with light. An angel appeared. The shepherds were afraid. “Don’t be afraid,” said the angel. “I bring good news for all people: Today a Savior has been born, he is Christ, the Lord! You will find the child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” Suddenly, the sky was filled with angels. They were singing, “Glory to God in the Highest. Peace on earth!” Then the angels left. The shepherds said, “Let’s go see this baby.” They went to Bethlehem and they found the stable where Jesus was with Mary and Joseph. Jesus was lying in a manger. The shepherds praised God and told the good news of Jesus’ birth to those they met. And everyone who heard their story was amazed.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Lesson Objective:

Help the students to want and search for ways to worship Jesus.

Memory Verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children can learn to WORSHIP God! Worship does not mean only to sing with our eyes closed and our hands raised. Worship is an attitude of the heart coming from the love we feel for God.

The wise men from the East traveled many miles to offer not only material gifts but also their devotion to the Baby Jesus; this was worship! God is pleased when we humble ourselves before Him. God wants us to give Jesus our best gift this Christmas; the gift of WORSHIP.

Introduction to the Bible StoryImportant Gifts

Review the other three gifts; Obedience, Savior, and Praise.

Open the fourth box to discover the card that says another gift we can give to Jesus; “WORSHIP.”

This is the last lesson of the unit and of the year.

Prepare a simple Christmas party:

- to celebrate the Baby of Bethlehem, Jesus.
- to thank the children for their attendance and participation throughout the year.

Encourage the children to keep remembering and memorizing Bible verses. Repeat the passages to their parents, grandparents and friends.

Three Gifts For a King

Beautifully wrap 3 cards saying ‘gold,’ ‘frankincense,’ and ‘myrrh’ and hide them in the room. Find these gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus when He was a baby. As you open the card explain the meaning of each gift the magicians brought:

- gold: a symbol of kingship on earth
- frankincense: (incense) a symbol of a god
- myrrh: an oil to preserve a dead body (predicting Jesus’ crucifixion)

The Gift of Worship

- prepare visual materials to illustrate this lesson.

A long time ago there were some wise men that studied the stars. One night they saw a very big and bright star, “This star means that a special baby has been born,” said one of the wise men. “This baby will be the king of the Jews; let’s go find and WORSHIP Him!” The wise men climbed onto their camels and set out on their long journey.

When the wise men reached Jerusalem, they went to speak with King Herod; the ruler of Jerusalem, “Where is the new-born king of the Jews? We have seen His star and we have come to WORSHIP Him.”

King Herod became very nervous when he heard this and he asked HIS chief priests, “Where is this new king?” “He is to be born in Bethlehem of Judea, the city of David,” they replied.

The wise men took their camels to Bethlehem. The same bright star they had seen guided them by night. After a while the star stopped over the stable where they found the Baby Jesus. The wise men were very happy! When they saw Jesus with his mother Mary, they knelt down to WORSHIP Him. “This is the new King,” they excitedly proclaimed. The wise men gave Jesus three special gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Soon the wise men had to return to their land; they were very happy because they had met Jesus, the Savior of the world! They were happy that they were able to bring their gifts of WORSHIP to the Baby Jesus, the King of kings.

These wise men give us an example of true WORSHIP before the Savior of the world. May we be “true Worshipers” of Christ Jesus.

Activity

A Hidden Star

Cut an apple in half, from side to side. Show the children the star that forms in the center when you split the apple in half. Some people think this star is a reminder of the one that led the wise men to where Jesus was. We are glad God sent that special star. It is a sign that Jesus is not only the King of the Jews, but also our King.

Memorization

1. Organize a special participation for students who have learned all the memory verses; perhaps give them simple prizes to encourage them to continue studying and learning the Word of God.
2. Ask the pastor to give you the opportunity to introduce your class and the children who learned all the verses as they recite the verses in front of the congregation. Give certificates of recognition to the children.

Closing

Thank God for this year of study, and for the beautiful gift of salvation that He has given us through Jesus. Encourage the children to trust Jesus as their personal Savior.

What gifts will we give to Jesus this Christmas?

Tell the children what your special gifts will be for Jesus:

- Time: teaching the class, preparation time, attendance at the services, etc.
- Personal and public prayer
- Offerings: money, talents
- Worship: songs of praise, telling other people about Jesus

Pray for each of the children. Remind them of the importance of always seeking God.

Have a ceremony of advancement in which the older children move on to the next class.

Activity 51

THE GIFT OF WORSHIP

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

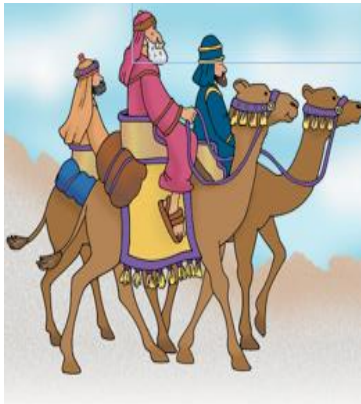
Lesson Objective: Help the students to want and search for ways to worship Jesus.

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Savior is an **important word**. A **savior** frees people from something bad. Jesus is our **Savior**. He came to earth to show us the love of God. He died to free us from our sins.

Praise is another **important word**. To **praise** is to tell and show God that we love him more than anyone else and more than anything else.

How did the wise men of the east
Praise Jesus, the **Savior**?





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