



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE  
AFRICA



# Sunday School LESSONS

FOR CHILDREN

Volume 23  
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Sunday School

# LESSONS

FOR CHILDREN

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**AFRICA REGION YEAR PLAN**  
**BIBLE LESSONS FOR CHILDREN**  
**Volume 23 Number 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 relationship with Jesus in front of them and teach them to have a 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 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 teaching year, 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 lesson's book 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 in each topic and not to 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 on the best way to present the material to the 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 on the 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** Put your lesson together. Get everything that you will need from your resource packet. Read through your notes and organize the lesson in 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 probably have already prayed this several times during your devotions, but acknowledge your dependence upon Him once more.

### HOW TO PRESENT THE LESSON

Children should actively be involved in learning by sharing experiences and feelings, discovering the 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. The numbers in brackets are for 45 minutes classes.

Arrive at least ten minutes before class to prepare your teaching area and set up 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 on 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 daily lives.

During the last **5 minutes**, close with a prayer and have the children help clean up the class area before going 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 and appreciate them.

Show interest in what happens to them outside of the 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/she try to control the class?  
 Is he/she 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/her see that you are observing his/her misconduct.  
 Lovingly approach the child.  
 Tell the child, quietly, what you want him/her to do.  
 Teach children 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.

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. This book is made for all groups of children as it has activities in it. It's two books in one. Therefore, it is necessary to read each lesson and apply it according to the age of your students. Practice the lesson to make sure it's doable. Check if you will need to bring any additional materials to your class.

### *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 for some time. If you have access to food colour or dyes, you may want to make several different colours of clay to make the children's art projects more interesting to them.

<b>10 g (2 teaspoons) Cream of Tartar</b> <b>250 g (1 cup) Flour</b> <b>2,5 g (1/2 teaspoon) Salt</b> <b>15 g (1 tablespoon) Cooking Oil</b> <b>250 ml (1 cup) Water</b>	<b>Mix all ingredients in a cooking pot until a smooth paste is formed. Cook slowly over low heat until dough comes away from the side of the pot. Remove dough from pot and knead for 3 minutes. Add food colouring.</b>
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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

**Puppets** – If it is appropriate in 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. You can button, wool, or fabric for the eyes, nose, and mouth. Use the puppet at times to help tell the story or give the application of the lesson. Be sure to explain to the children that it is not magic. Let them use it themselves sometimes so they can understand better.

## **HOW TO PRAY WITH THOSE SEEKING GOD'S FACE**

**(Please adopt it where necessary)**

- 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/she has the assurance that his/her prayer was answered. You do not have to know what the prayer was about unless they want 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/her 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/she has the assurance that his/her prayer was answered. If not, briefly encourage them to continue trusting God and walking in the light as God leads him/her. Remind him/her that it is only by faith in God that they can have victory and, once the work is done in him/her, 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.

## WOMEN OF FAITH AND COURAGE

**Biblical References:** Exodus 1:8-10, 22; 2:1-10; Judges 4, 5; Ruth 1-4.

**Unit Memory Verse:** “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the elementary students to:

- Know that God works through his faithful servants.
- Recognize that God intervenes when situations are out of control.
- Trust in the power of God, even when it is difficult to understand His will.

### UNIT LESSONS

Lesson 1: **Jochebed**

Lesson 2: **Deborah trusts in God**

Lesson 3: **Ruth is faithful**

### WHY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Children are beginning to experience a certain degree of independence. They are growing up and have new experiences and responsibilities: they go to school, their parents allow them to walk or bike for a longer distances, spend more time with their friends without parental supervision, etc.

Despite this new freedom and independence, they need to feel that they are secure and stable. When they find themselves in difficult situations or in unfamiliar places, the world may seem to be too big and frightening. By exploring in this unit the story of these celebrated women of the Bible, your children will discover that God is powerful and, at the same time, a trustworthy friend. No matter how difficult the situation they may face, God has everything under His control.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that God has every situation under control, no matter how difficult it is.

**Memory Verse:**

“My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth”  
(Psalm 121:2).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Explain simply what it means to trust in God. Like Jochebed and Moses, the children of God face difficult situations and sometimes they suffered. But it is important to know that God knows happens to us and He has control over everything. Learning to trust in God is a big step in the spiritual growth of your children. Infuse in them the assurance that we have an almighty God on our side.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Introduction**

Since this is the first lesson of the year, it is important that you relate to your children and make them feel welcome to the class. Give them time to get to know each other and become familiar with you. Explain the rules they must follow in the classroom, and pray together before the class begins.

**Women of faith and courage****Who is a hero?**

Ask them: Who is a hero? (Someone who performs courageous acts to help others.)

Can you mention some heroes?

Emphasize that heroes are real people, such as missionaries, firefighters, police officers, and especially, the characters in the Bible.

Tell them: All the biblical heroes we know had something in common: they trusted in the power of God. During these lessons, we will study the story of three women who relied on God's care and protection.

**BIBLE STORY**

Exodus 1:8-10, 22; 2:1-10

Before the lesson, get a basket, a doll, and a blanket or sheet to cover it.

Remember that when you use illustrations to visualize the subject of the class, children focus their attention more easily.

**Jochebed saves her son**

The Israelites were in Egypt for around 400 years. As the Hebrew people were increasing, the Egyptians decided to make them slaves. Also, fearing that they would rebel and try to seize the country, Pharaoh planned to control their increase by killing all the baby boys. So he ordered his officers to throw them into the Nile River.



At that time, Jochebed, a Levite woman, gave birth to her third child. Her daughter Miriam was then 10 or 11 years old, and Aaron was 3 years.

After hiding her baby for three months, Jochebed and her husband developed a plan to save the baby's life. She made a basket with rushes, and with great care sealed it with tar so that the water would not penetrate it. Then she put her son inside, took the basket to the Nile River, and left it there. Perhaps Jochebed knew that Pharaoh's daughter regularly went down to the river at that time and would find the baby. So it was. The princess found the basket and, although she knew that the child was a Hebrew, she felt sorry for him.

The story tells us that Miriam stayed close by, observing the scene, and did not hesitate to offer her mother's services as the baby's wet nurse. The princess would pay Jochebed to raise her own son!

As an adopted son of Pharaoh's family, Moses received the best education and military training of the time. He possessed power, fame, and prestige. But before that, God allowed Jochebed to instill in Moses the traditions and religion of the Hebrew people.

Jochebed's role in instructing Moses in his childhood is important to understand the love he (Moses) felt for his countrymen. Moses did not forget his Hebrew heritage, even though he was immersed in Egyptian culture.

Jochebed did not know what would happen to her baby when she left him by the banks of the Nile. She only knew that God would take care of him. And by faith, she obeyed God and trusted in His divine provision. The situation she was going through was beyond her control, but she was sure that God would keep His promises.

### **Biblical Review**

- What brave act did Jochebed do?
- How would Jochebed have felt when she left the baby in the river?
- In what ways was God's power manifested when Jochebed was not in control of the situation?
- How can we know that God is in control of situations?

## ACTIVITIES

### **The Jochebed basket**

Distribute to the children worksheets for lesson 1. Explain the instructions for the craft. It is important that you guide your children step by step during the development of this activity. Remind them that we are not brave because of our character, but because we trust that God is sovereign and powerful in all circumstances.

### **Memorization**

Write the words of Psalm 121:2 on a paper or the board. Read it together a couple of times. Then, erase a word and reread it; delete a second word and say it, and so on until the board is blank and the children can say the whole memory verse.

Hand out the Verse of the Month Club cards to take home and review the verse during the week.

### **To end**

Encourage your children to attend class each week. Prepare a plan to reward or recognize children who, during a certain period, do not miss class and are punctual.

Before saying goodbye, repeat the verse to memorize.

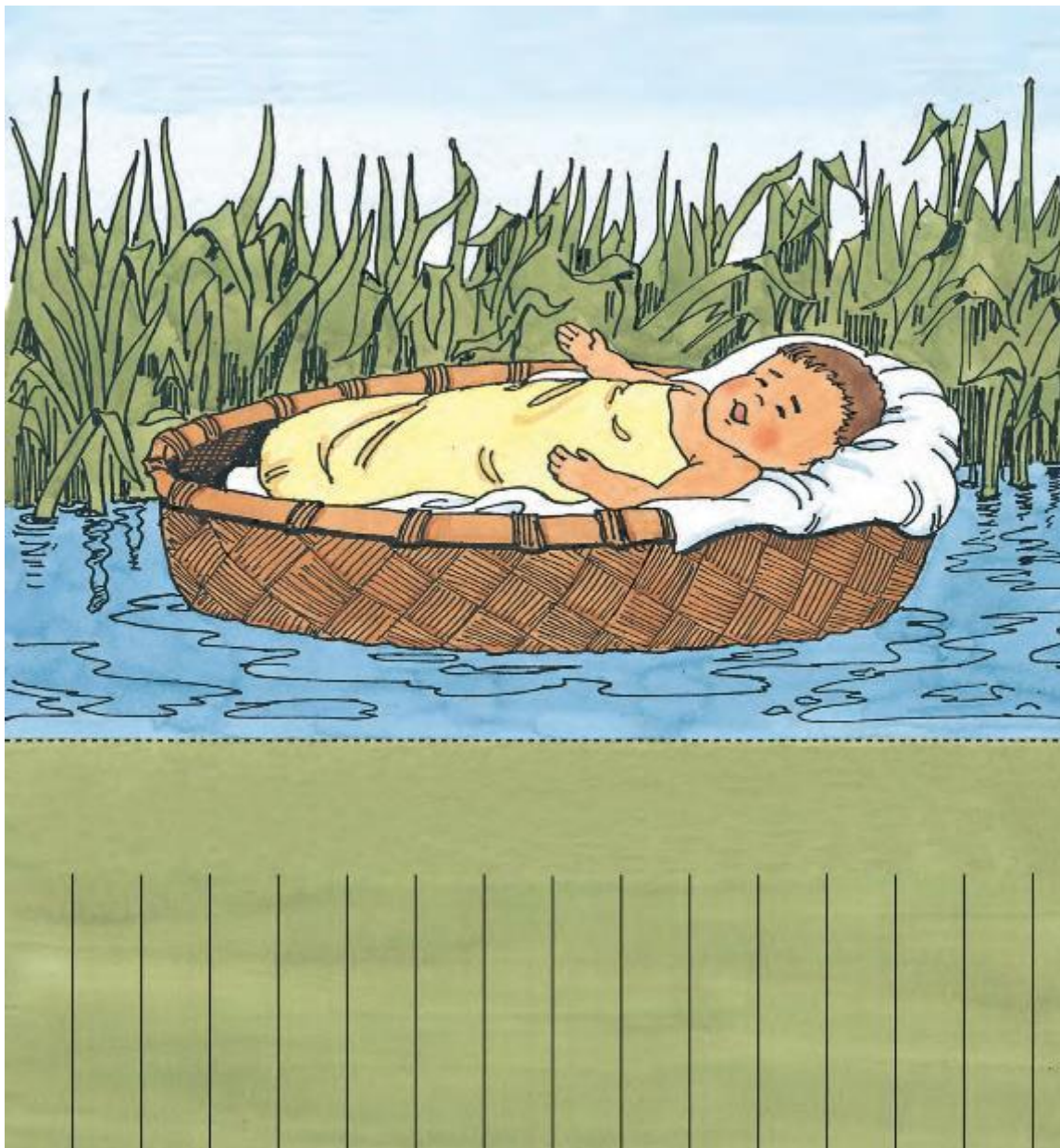
If possible, contact the parents of your children and request their information to create a class directory. This will be very helpful during the year.

## JOCHEBED

**Biblical References:** Exodus 1:8-10, 22; 2:1-10

**Lesson Objective:** That the students should know that God has every situation under control, no matter how difficult it is.

**Memory Verse:** “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2)



Cut the reeds along the solid lines: Beginning with the second reed, fold or cut one reed and not the next so that there is a space between them. Then, fold the sheet along the dotted line. Then, roll each reed with a pencil so that it is somewhat curved and the basket can be seen through the reeds. Read Psalm 121:2. Remember that, although the situation seemed difficult, God had everything under control.

## Lesson

## 02

## DEBORAH TRUSTS IN GOD

## Unit 01

Biblical References: Judges 4—5

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn to trust and obey God even if it's difficult.

## Memory Verse:

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

The story of Deborah will help your children to develop their trust in God. We should not be afraid, because God is in control of all situations. He does not ask us to be perfect, only that we have confidence and obey him.

Your children need to be constantly encouraged, reminded that God loves them.

When they learn to put their trust in God, It helps them to be brave.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**Who is brave?**

In advance, look for illustrations of biblical characters that your children know. While they are looking, ask them:

Which of these characters proved to be brave and why?

Listen to the answers. Then complement them by explaining that each of the characters were brave because they trusted and obeyed God. It is important that they learn to trust in the Lord, and not in their abilities when facing difficult situations.

**Who runs our church?**

Ask your class:

Do you think that in our church we have women who are leaders? (Mention some of them.)

Ask your children to draw the women leaders in their local church, and in each drawing, write a phrase that mentions the name of the person and the role she plays.

As you work, remind them: *God uses people who are faithful and obedient, no matter how big, strong, or intelligent they may be. He does not care if they are men or women, boys or girls, what He wants are willing hearts to serve Him even in difficult times.*

Today's Bible story is about a person who obedient and brave in the midst of a very difficult situation.

## BIBLE STORY

Judges 4 – 5

**Deborah was brave**

God's people had lived in Canaan for many years. For some time, they obeyed God and enjoyed prosperity in their new land. Unfortunately, they began to disobey God again and again. Finally, God decided to punish them. For this, he allowed the enemy's king's to attack them.

Sisera was cruel to the Israelites and treated them like slaves. Then once again, the Israelites cried out for God's help.

The Israelites went to talk to Deborah, who was a judge, and a prophetess, to intervene in this problem. Maybe she could help them deal with the situation. Deborah listened to them and said, "Please, bring Barak."

When Barak arrived, Deborah said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, wants you to take 10,000 men to Mount Tabor. But, Barak was afraid and said, "Deborah, I cannot go alone. I need you to go with me."

"Very good," Deborah said. "I will go with you, but this is not what God commanded, since you insist that I go with you, the glory of the battle will not be yours. The Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman."

Deborah and Barak gathered 10,000 Israelites and went to Mount Tabor. When Sisera heard that they were going to that place, he gathered 900 chariots and marched towards the stream of Kishon.

Then Deborah said to Barak, "Attack! Today the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. God goes before you."

Barak and his 10,000 men descended from the mountain to the army of Sisera. God took control of the situation. When the army of Sisera began to attack, the 900 chariots had serious problems. God caused the valley of Kishon to be flooded, and the wagons were stuck in the mud! When Sisera saw that the chariots could not advance, he got out of his chariot and ran as fast as he could. He was the only one of the entire army that escaped from Barak and the Israelite army. Sisera ran to the tent of a woman named Jael and begged her, "Hide me!" When Barak found Sisera in Jael's tent, he was dead.

That day God helped the Israelites to win the battle against the Canaanites. The Israelites increasingly became strong people.

## ACTIVITIES

### Deborah trusts in God

Ask the children to cut out the figures on the worksheet and paste them on a sheet or card, as if it were a stage. Then, give them time to decorate using colored paper or some other material within reach, such as colored pencils or crayons.

As they work, review the Bible story with them. Encourage them to be brave, even in difficult situations.

### Memorization

On paper cards, write the words of Psalm 121:2, placing a word on each card. Repeat the verse together twice. Then, mix up the cards and allow the children to take turns putting the words in the right order. Repeat the verse each time they order it correctly.

Keep the cards in a plastic bag for use in the next class.

### To end

Thank your children for their attendance and announce something about the next lesson to spark interest in them.

Emphasize that we can trust in the power of God in difficult times. Finish with a prayer, thanking God that He helps us to be brave, even when we feel afraid.



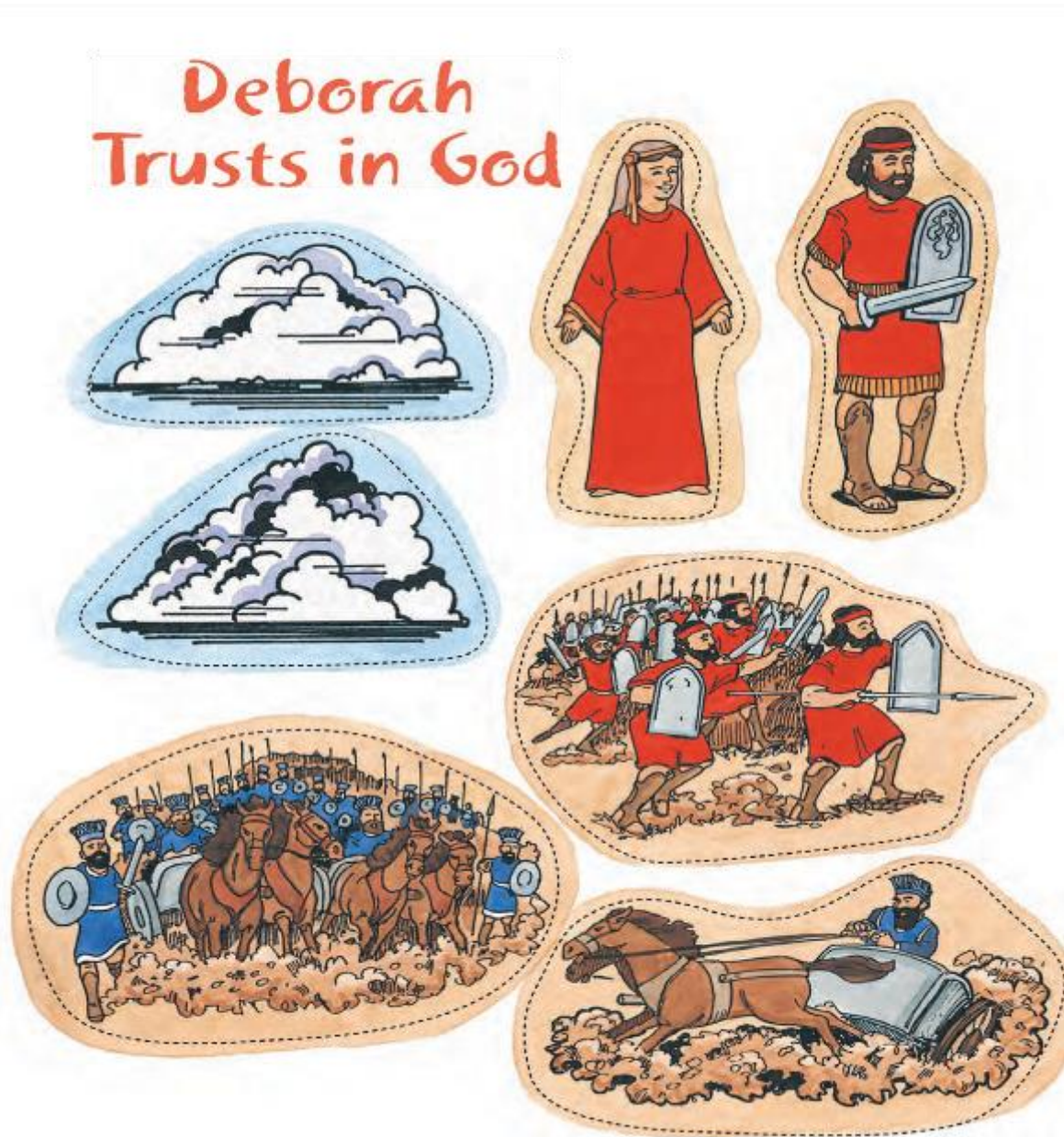
## DEBORAH TRUSTS IN GOD

**Biblical References:** Judges 4—5

**Lesson Objective:** That the students should learn to trust and obey God even if it's difficult.

**Memory Verse:** “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth”

(Psalm 121:2).



Cut out the figures, and paste them on a piece of cardboard/or construction paper to recreate the Bible story. Show it to your friends and family and tell them how Deborah trusted God and obeyed him in difficult times.

## 03

## RUTH IS FAITHFUL

## Unit 01

Biblical References: Ruth 1—4

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should know that God wants to bless others through them.

## Memory Verse:

“My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

This lesson will help the children understand that God is faithful, dedicated, constant, and loyal. In addition, they will begin to understand how they can be faithful, loyal, and dedicated to God, their parents, and their friends.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

## What will happen to me in the future?

Explain that trust is having knowledge that God will help us move forward, even when we cannot see the way. Having faith in God is an act of trust.

## BIBLE STORY

Ruth 1 – 4

**Ruth, a faithful woman**

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, and their two sons went to live in a distant place called Moab.

After some time, Elimelek died. His sons grew up and married Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. Ten years later, Naomi's sons also died.

Naomi was very sad. She was alone in a foreign country, far from home. Then she said to Ruth and Orpah:

“I will return to my land. I have heard that God blessed Israel and now there is food there.”

“We'll go with you,” her daughters-in-law answered.

“My children,” said Naomi, “go back to live with your families. You were very good with my sons and with me. May God have compassion on you and give you other husbands.”

Naomi approached to kiss them before leaving, and they began to cry because they were sad they did not want her to go.

But Naomi insisted that they return to Moab, so Orpah kissed her goodbye and took the road back to her land.

“Look, Ruth,” Naomi said, “Orpah will return to her village with her family. Go with her.”

“No, I will not go,” Ruth replied.

“But I do not have other sons with whom you can get married, daughter.”

“It does not matter, I will not leave you. Wherever you go, I'll go with you. Your people will be my people and you're God, 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 the harvesters cut the grain and picked it up, some grain always fell to the ground.

God had commanded the Israelites to leave the fallen grain on the ground so that the poor people could pick it up and have food. Since Ruth was poor, she went behind the harvesters, collecting the grain that fell from them.

Ruth was very hardworking and she did rest. She knew that if she did not work, Naomi and she would not have anything to eat.

While Ruth worked non-stop, Boaz, the owner of the fields, was supervising the harvest. Boaz went to where Ruth was working and said, “Do not work in any other field, because someone could hurt you. It is better to work in my fields. Here you will be safe.”

“You are very kind!” said Ruth. “Why are you so kind to me, being a foreigner?” “Because I’ve heard you’re very good to Naomi,” Boaz replied.

When Ruth returned home that night, she told Naomi about the grain she had collected and the kindness of the owner of the fields.

“Boaz is a relative of my husband,” said Naomi. “I’m glad that he treated you well.

So do not be afraid to work in his fields, he will protect you.”

As time passed, Boaz fell in love with Ruth. They got married and had a baby they called Obed. When Obed grew up, he had children and then many grandchildren. One of those grandchildren was named David, the one who killed a giant named Goliath. David was a descendant of Ruth and Boaz. God rewarded Ruth’s faithfulness and faith, allowing her to be part of the family of King David, but above all of the Lord Jesus.

## ACTIVITIES

### **Ruth is faithful. God is faithful.**

Ask for some volunteers to tell the first part of the story, using the figures of Ruth, Orpah, and Naomi. Emphasize Ruth’s fidelity to Naomi when she decided to travel with her to Bethlehem. Turn the stage around so that it is on the side where it says “God is faithful”. Choose some children to narrate the second part of the story, using the figures of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.

Emphasize that God was faithful to Naomi and Ruth, providing them with food and work. He also prepared a husband for Ruth and allowed them to have a beautiful baby.

Encourage them to use this activity to tell their family members what they learned during class.

### **Monthly review**

As the unit’s last lesson, we suggest that you briefly review the three lessons learned this month.

### **Memorization**

For this week we suggest you use the cards that the last class prepared. Divide the class into small groups or in pairs. Give them time to arrange the cards on the table. Say the verse together to memorize, and re- mix the cards. The team that takes less time to arrange in order the cards will be the winner.

### **To end**

Distribute the work your children have done during these three lessons, and encourage them to be brave and trust in God’s care.

Form a circle, and intercede for each of them. It is important that even if it takes more time, mention the name of each child when praying.



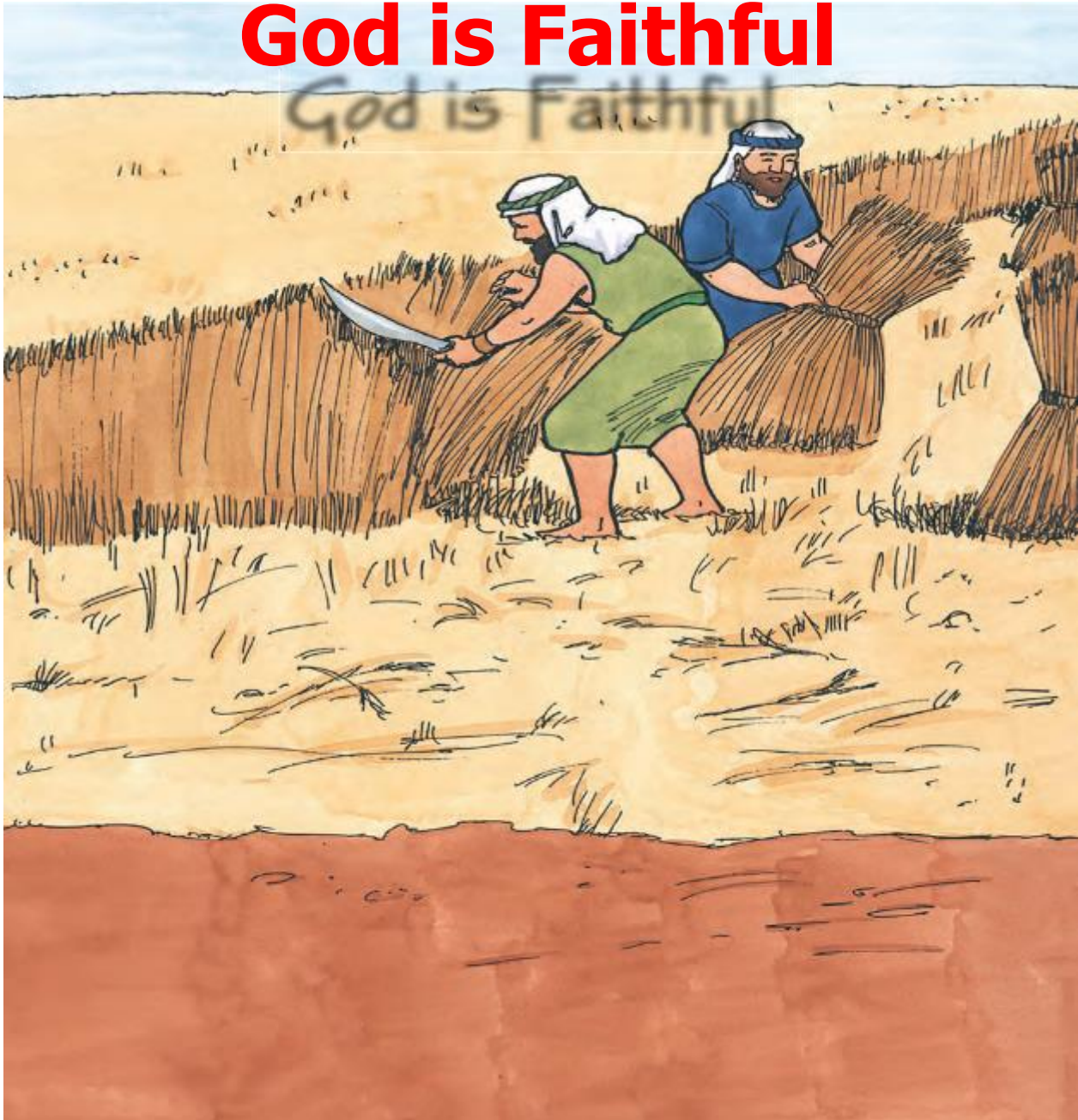
## RUTH IS FAITHFUL

**Biblical References:** Ruth 1—4

**Lesson Objective:** That the students should know that God wants to bless others through them.

**Memory Verse:** “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2).

# God is Faithful





## THE BIBLE TEACHES US HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS

**Biblical References:** 1 Kings 3:4-15; 4:29-34; John 1:35-42; Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 25:14-30; Daniel 1:3-20; Luke 12:13-24.

**Unit Memory Verse:** “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help your children to:

- Understand that the decisions they make are important.
- Want to make decisions that honor God.
- Make decisions based on Biblical principles.

### LESSON UNIT

Lesson 4: **Solomon Makes a Wise Decision**

Lesson 5: **Andrew Decides To Help Peter**

Lesson 6: **Mary and Martha Decide To Serve Jesus**

Lesson 7: **A Wise Steward Makes A Good Decision**

Lesson 8: **Daniel Chooses Healthy Food**

Lesson 9: **A Rich Man Makes a Bad Decision**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Children are beginning to be more independent. They have started their school life and feel “bigger”. Normally, many of them do not want to be compared with young children.

They explore around without fear and they can make decisions for themselves. With the level of independence they have achieved, they must also accept the responsibility of making the right decisions. Therefore, they need a guide that helps them make decisions that honor God.

The lessons in this unit will provide biblical principles that will help children make wise decisions.

Provide opportunities for them to exercise their ability to decide. Provide a safe environment in the classroom, where your children explore and have new learning experiences. Observe the decisions they make during class time, and praise them when they choose something that glorifies God.

## Lesson

## 04

## SOLOMON MAKES A WISE DECISION

## Unit 02

Biblical References: 1 Kings 3:4-15; 4:29-34

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn that God helps them make wise decisions.

## Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Daily life is full of choices. Even young children face series of new decisions every day that they must make. Some are simple; others will affect the rest of their life.

This lesson provides you with a great opportunity to guide your children , teaching them to seek divine direction before they make any decisions.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

Tell the story using your own words and modulating the tone of your voice to give it more realism. Another option is to invite someone to help you read and act out the part of Solomon.

## BIBLE STORY

1 Kings 3:4–15; 4:29–34

**Solomon is wise in deciding**

“I have taken a long journey to get to Gibeon to worship God,” thought Solomon. “I am very tired and I need to rest to recover my strength.”

As soon as Solomon went to bed, he fell asleep immediately and began to dream.

In the middle of his dream, God appeared to him and said, “Ask me what you want and I will give it to you.”

“Lord,” answered Solomon, “you were very good to my father David. Now you have allowed me to be king of this great nation. But I am very young and I do not know how to be a good king. I’m not wise enough. Give your servant wisdom to govern your people. Help me know what is good and what is bad.”

“You have asked for something very good,” said God. You could have asked for long life or wealth. But, since you have asked for wisdom to govern the people, I will give you what you want. There will be no one wiser than you. And since your request was unselfish, I will give you much more; I will give you many riches and glory. In addition, if you follow my ways and obey me, as your father David did, I will also give you a long life.”

Solomon woke up and realized that it was a dream. God fulfilled his promise and endowed Solomon with great wisdom. And he was known throughout the world as the wisest king in history. Solomon wrote and collected wise sayings throughout his life, some of which are written in the Bible in the book of Proverbs.

## ACTIVITIES

### Solomon's decision

Explain why it is important to seek help while making wise decisions, and where they can find it:

- Bible. If in making decisions we follow biblical principles, we are sure that God will be pleased with our choice. The Bible is full of good advice that helps us make wise decisions.
- Prayer. Through prayer, we ask God to help us make wise decisions.
- Jesus. He is always willing to help us when we must make decisions. He is wise and knows what is best for us.
- Parents. They love us and want us to make the best decisions.
- Pastor. He/She cares about our spiritual well-being and is willing to help us make decisions that please God.

Talk with the children about the impact of their decisions. Remind them that Solomon's decision in his youth impacted the rest of his life and that of his people.

### Memorization

Write the memory verse on a piece of paper and place it in a visible place in the room.

Ask the girls to come forward and read it; then ask the boys to do read it also. Then choose different groups (for example all those who have black shoes, everyone who has clothes of the same color, etc.). Continue the game with different variants, until the verse has been read at least five times.

Finally, ask some volunteers to say it from their memory.

Hand out the verse cards of the month so they can take them home and review the verse with their parents.

### To end

Sing a song, and come together to pray. Ask the Lord to help everyone make wise decisions during the week, and intercede for each other.

Before saying goodbye, ask everyone to help you clean the room and put away the materials they used.

## SOLOMON MAKES A WISE DECISION

**Biblical References:** 1 Kings 3:4-15; 4:29-34

**Lesson Objective:** That the students should learn that God helps them to make wise decisions.

**Memory Verse:** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33).



Choose the correct word to complete each sentence. Then write the correct word in the boxes. Use the letters in the colored squares to discover the missing word in the last sentence.

1. God spoke to Solomon in a

--	--	--	--	--

2. God told Solomon:  
"I will give you what you..."

--	--	--

Ask

need

have

3. Solomon asked God to give him

--	--	--	--	--	--

Health

Riches

Wisdom

4. God is pleased  
when we make  
decisions that are

--	--	--	--

## Lesson

## 05

## ANDREW DECIDES TO HELP PETER

## Unit 02

Biblical References: John 1:35-42

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn that they can influence other people to make right decisions.

## Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

All people are likely to be influenced, whether by friends, family, media, or ideologies, among others. Children of this age are easily influenceable.

When children learn to identify good influences, it is easier for them to make the right decisions.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**What does influence mean?**

Write the word “INFLUENCE” on a card, and the following definition on another one: “The power to get someone to do what you want.”

Then, cut the cards as if they were pieces of a puzzle.

Divide the class into two groups. Give each group the pieces that make up the word or the definition. Ask them to put the puzzles together, and then read what they formed out loud. Give them time to think about what it means as an introduction to the Bible story.

## BIBLE STORY

John 1:35-42

**The disciples follow Jesus**

“Look, there it is!” said John the Baptist. “He is the Lamb of God of whom I spoke.”

John was very excited! He had told Andrew and his friend about Jesus. Suddenly, Jesus was there, in front of them.

“Let’s go with him!” Andrew told his friend.

Andrew and his friend followed Jesus. After a while, Jesus turned around and saw them.

“What do you want?” Jesus asked. “Teacher, please tell us where you live,” they replied.

“Follow me and I will show you,” Jesus answered.

Andrew and his friend went with Jesus to the place where he was staying. There they spent the rest of the day talking.

When the two men left, Andrew was very excited.

“He is Christ, the Messiah!” exclaimed Andrew. “I have to find my brother Simon to tell him this

good news.”

Andrew quickly ran to his boat, which was on the Sea of Galilee. Since they were fishermen, Simon was busy preparing the nets for another day of work.

When Andrew saw him, he said, “Simon, I have very good news. We met Christ, the Messiah!”

“What are you talking about?” Simon asked. “Are you sure?”

“It’s true!” Andrew answered. “I saw him; his name is Jesus. Come with me. I will take you to where he is and you will see that he is the Messiah.”

Simon ran after Andrew to look for that man his brother was talking about. Finally, they arrived at the place where Jesus was staying.

Andrew took Simon to Jesus. Upon seeing him, Jesus said to him, “Your name is Simon, but from now on you will be called Peter.” And, from that day on, Peter and Jesus were very good friends.

### **Mysterious characters - II**

Place the letters of the two names on a table or the floor. Ask several volunteers to help you carry out this activity.

Each one must go through and try to put together the names of the two disciples as quickly as possible. Whoever does it in the shortest time will be the winner.

### **Andrew’s decision helps Peter**

Hand out the children worksheets for lesson 5. Provide scissors and glue. Instruct them to cut out the boxes at the bottom with the figures and paste them into the blank spaces, following the sequence of the story. As they work, review the story, and ask questions about the Bible story to reinforce learning.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **What kind of influence do you exert?**

Read the following situation to your children. Talk about the ability we have to influence others positively or negatively, and what God wants us to do as Christians.

On many occasions, Samuel invited his best friend David to church, but he never came. One day, David invited Samuel to go to a lake to spend the weekend.

Samuel thanked him for the invitation but told him that he could not miss church on Sunday, because he liked to go to his Sunday school class. On Sunday, when Samuel was ready to go to church, David decided to go with him. What kind of influence did Samuel have on David?

### **Memorization**

To study the verse of this unit, cut strips of papers, and on each strip write some words of the verse to memorize. Tape them on the wall or on the blackboard, so that, after repeating the verse several times, you can put them in a different order so that your children can point out the correct order.

### **To end**

Form some groups or ask for volunteers to put away the materials they used in class and pick up trash. Then, sing songs of praise.

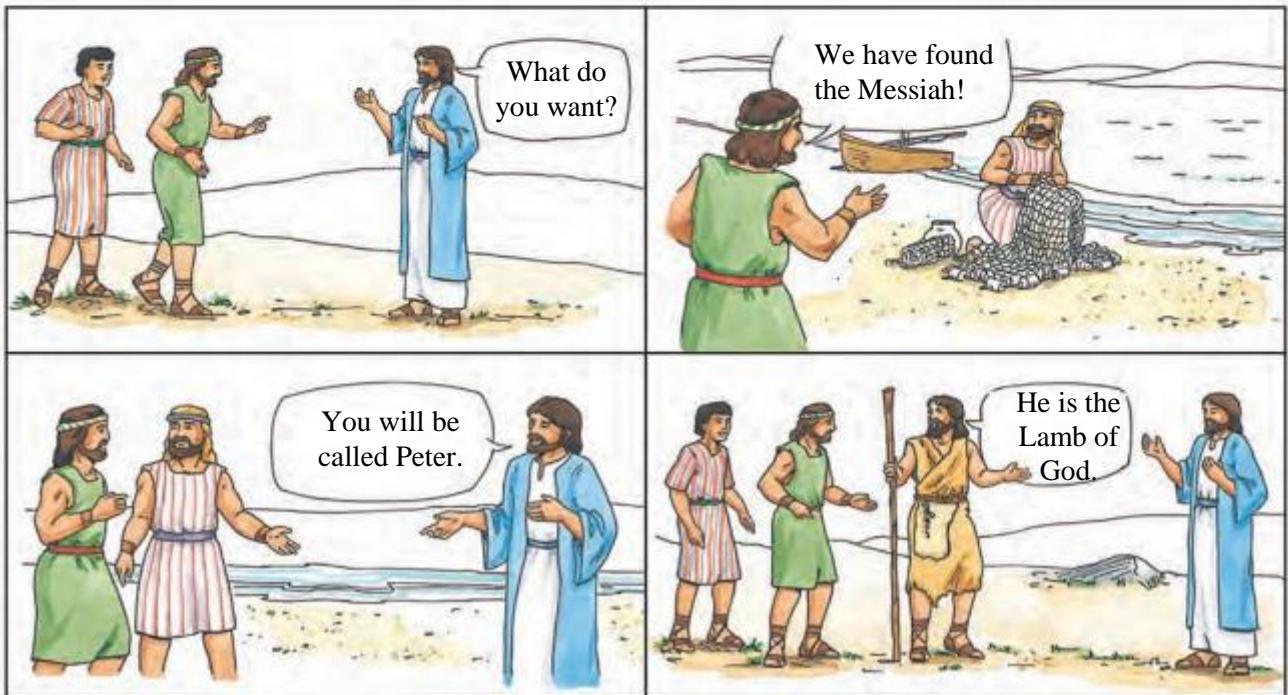
Conclude by guiding them in prayer, asking God to help all of you exert a good influence wherever you are. Say goodbye, and do not forget to invite them to the next class.



**ANDREW HELPS PETER**

Cut out the pictures from the bottom and paste them in the blank spaces in the order as they took place in the Bible story.


**The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon (Peter) and tell him, “We have found the Messiah.” (John 1:41-42)**



## Lesson

## 06

## MARY AND MARTHA DECIDE TO SERVE JESUS

## Unit 02

Biblical References: Luke 10:38-42

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should understand that at times they must decide the best among various options.

## Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

It is possible that many children need guidance to recognize their talents. Once identified, they can discover the joy of using their time and abilities to please and serve God.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**God's gifts**

For this activity, you will need an instrument or music box, a paint brush, a ball, and a book.

Place the objects on the table, and tell children: God gave us all special gifts; that is called gifts or talents (show the objects).

Talk to them about the gifts that each object represents, and how or where we can put them into use. Write on the board the gifts and talents they mention (for example service, talents for music, sports, crafts, etc.). Tell them that in today's story we will learn more about that topic.

**What can I do?**

Bring the children together and ask them: What kind of skills or talents do you have? As they respond, write on the board the name of the children and the talent they mentioned. Make sure everyone participates in that activity. If necessary, help those who have difficulty recognizing their talents.

## BIBLE STORY

Luke 10:38-42

We suggest that you invite two young women from your congregation to represent Martha and Mary. Get two tunics or fabrics to make the skit more real. Ask them to tell the Bible story from each character's point of view, and let each one tell how she expressed her love for Jesus.

**Mary and Martha decide to serve Jesus**

“Look, there's Bethany,” said one of the disciples. That's where Martha and her family lived. Maybe we could rest for a while at their house.

“That is a good idea!” affirmed Jesus. They arrived at Martha's house.

“Jesus!” Martha exclaimed as she opened the door. “What a nice surprise! Please come in.”

Martha called her sister. “Mary, come quickly! Jesus and his friends are here!”

“Surely they will be very tired,” said Martha. “Sit down and rest. I'll prepare something for you to eat.”

Martha hurried and went to plan what she was going to cook. “I have to make a very special meal for Jesus,” she said to herself and thought about what she would need to feed everyone. Then, she worked hard preparing the food and cleaning the house. She was worried because she wanted to serve them very well.

While Martha prepared the food, Jesus sat down to talk with his disciples. Mary, Martha's sister, sat



at the feet of Jesus to listen to what he was saying.

After a while, Martha came to where everyone was and saw that Mary was sitting, listening to the words of Jesus. She was so busy working, so she got very angry because her sister wasn't helping her."

"Jesus, Mary has left me alone doing the work. Please, tell her to help me!" said Martha. "Martha, Martha," Jesus answered. "You are very worried and busy with the small things. Only one thing is necessary and important, and Mary has discovered it. She chose the most important thing, and nobody can take it away."

### **The most important**

Briefly review the Bible story, and ask your class: What was the most important thing that Mary chose? (Spending time with Jesus).

Emphasize that there is time to do work for Jesus, and time to be alone with Him. It is important to use our talents to serve the Lord, but they should never replace our time of prayer and communion with Him.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Decide to use your gifts**

Pass out the worksheets for this lesson. Based on the Bible story, ask your children to circle the phrases that represent the way Martha and Mary decided to serve Jesus. Then, give them time to color the drawing.

As they work, emphasize the importance of recognizing and putting our talents and abilities at God's service.

### **Let's use our gifts!**

This activity will help them put their gifts into practice and use their talents.

Give a specific job to each member of your class, based on their talent or ability. For example those who have the gift of service, will pick up the offering and organize the materials when the class ends. On the other hand, those who can do manual work will help the children and the teacher when necessary.

Others can lead during singing time, or receive the visitors that arrive in the class and attend to them. No matter what task you assign to each child, remind them that all the work we do for God is important and valuable.

### **Memorization**

Ask your group to sit in a circle, and you stand in the center. Lightly throw a light ball to them. The child who catches it should stand up and say the memory verse.

Repeat the exercise so that all your children participate. Help the little ones or those who have difficulty with memorization.

### **To end**

Sing a song that deals with the subject of the lesson. Remind the class that God gave those gifts and talents that will help them serve Him better.

Pray giving thanks to God for the gifts you all have received, and ask Him to help you use them for His service.

## Lesson 6

Circle the phrase that shows how Martha chose to serve Jesus.

She made food for him.

She complained about Mary.

She cleaned the house.

She washed the dishes.

She shouted at Mary.

Color the drawing of Mary and Martha serving Jesus. Fold the page along the dotted lines to find the Bible verse.



Circle the phrase that shows how Mary chose to serve Jesus.

She listened to Jesus.

She got angry with Martha.

She learned about Jesus.

She sat down and did not help Martha.

How will you  
use your gifts?

## Lesson

## 07

## THE WISE STEWARD MAKES A GOOD DECISION

## Unit 02

Biblical References: Matthew 25:14-30

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn to use their talents and abilities to serve God.

## Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Children must recognize that God is the owner of everything and the giver of all gifts. They are simply stewards of what He gave them and, as such, they must learn to be faithful to God.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

## Use your skills

Ask your children to sit in a circle. Have a musical instrument or a song at hand.

Play the music while your children pass a small ball from hand to hand. Stop the music after a while.

When the music stops, the child with the ball must stand up and say how and where he can use his talents to serve God. Continue playing until everyone has participated.

## BIBLE STORY

Matthew 25:14-30

To enrich the learning, we suggest that you prepare visual aids to illustrate the lesson. Prepare graphics that represent servants and talents. If you wish, use the example of the illustrations in the children worksheet.

## The wise servants

Crowds followed Jesus everywhere he went. Everyone wanted to hear his teachings. Jesus often told stories to help them understand what he wanted them to know. “Who is a faithful and wise servant?” asked Jesus. And he told them this story:

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who had to make a long journey. He called his servants and handing them his money, he asked them to take care of his possessions during his absence. One servant was given five sacks, and each sack had a large amount of money. To another servant he gave two sacks, and to the third one he handed him one. He entrusted his money to each servant according to their abilities, and then the man went on a trip. The servant who received the most money went to work immediately.

He took the five bags, invested the money, and earned five more bags. The servant who had two sacks did the same and earned two more. But the man who received a single sack dug a hole in the ground and hid the money for fear that it would be stolen.

The homeowner was on a trip for a long time. When he finally returned, he called his stewards to review the accounts. The man who had received five sacks gave ten to his lord. “You gave me five bags. I have earned five more,” he said with satisfaction.

The servant with the two bags of money approached his master and said, “Sir, you gave me two sacks of money. I’ve earned two more.” His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servants! You have been faithful with the little I gave you; now I will give you more responsibility. Let’s celebrate!

Then, the man who had received one sack of money approached his master and said, “Sir, I know it is difficult to please you; that is why I was afraid and hid your money in the ground. Here is the sack of money that belongs to you.” His master replied, “You bad and lazy servant! You should have kept my money in the bank; at least that way I would have earned interest! Take the money and give it to the one who has ten bags. And, throw the useless servant out,” ordered the master.

## ACTIVITIES

### Who was wise?

Hand out the children worksheet. Ask the children to complete the figures, adding the bags of money that the servants brought to their master (boss). Give them time to draw the expressions on the faces of the servants when they were in front of their master. Use these questions to help them reflect on the meaning of the story:

How do you think the servants felt when they were in front of their master? What lesson did Jesus want to teach when he told this parable?

### Faithful stewards

For this activity, you will need cardboard, tape, paper strips, and colored pencils.

On the top of the card write: “Faithful stewards.” Distribute the strips of paper and the colored pencils, and have the children write a phrase that indicates how they can be good stewards (for example: taking care of my toys, cleaning my room, feeding my pets, watering the plants, etc.).

Then, each one should put a piece of adhesive tape on his strip and stick it on the cardboard. When all have done so, place the cardboard on the door of the room or in some hall of the church so that the members of the congregation can see the work your students did.

### Memorization

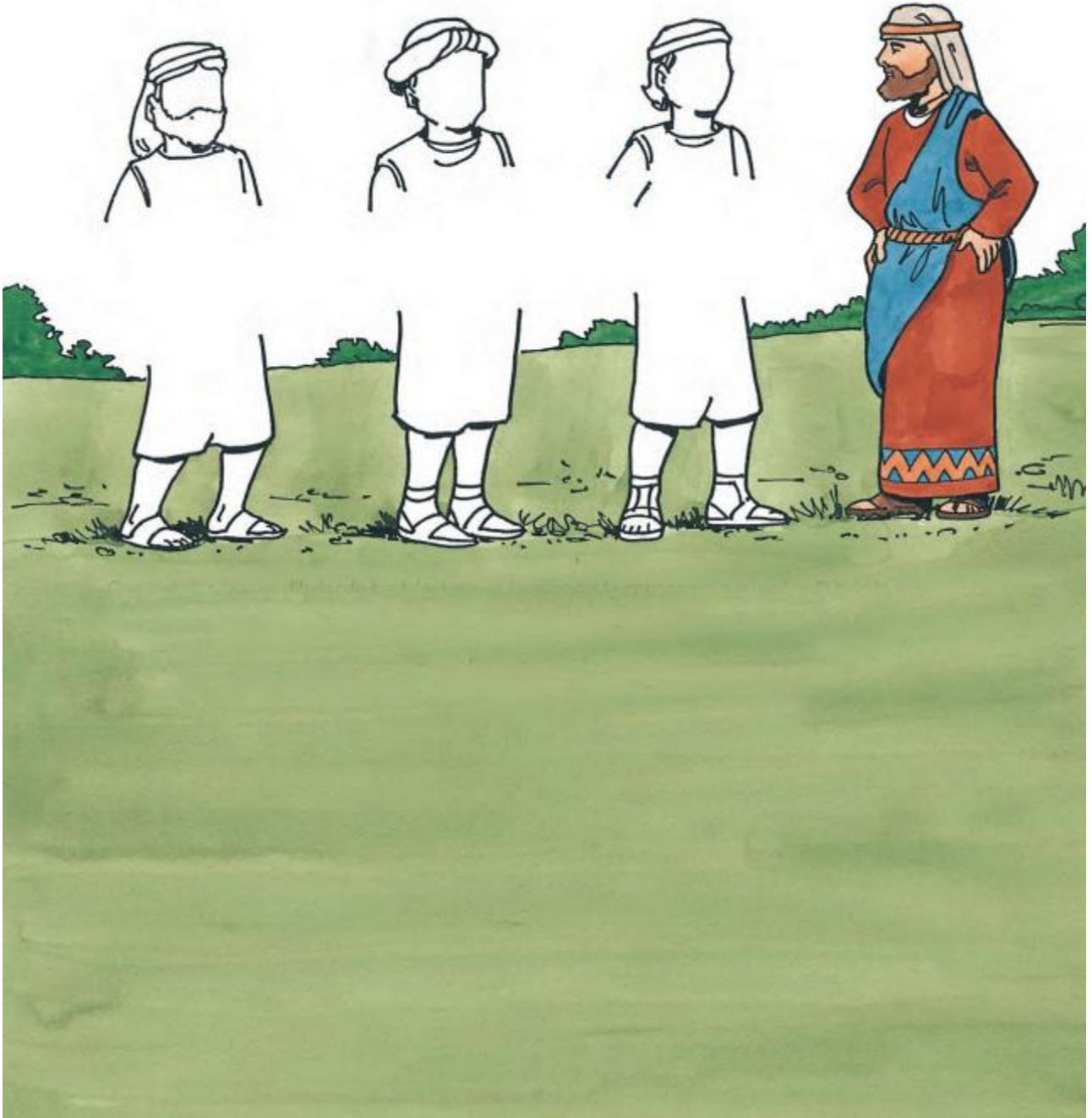
Divide the class into two groups. Ask one group to say the first sentence of the memory verse, while the other group repeats the second part. Then, let both groups say it together. Exchange the phrases of the two groups to study the full text. Repeat the exercise several times, and then choose some to say it alone.

Hand out the Club cards of the verse of the month to take them home and review the verse of this unit.

### To end

Before leaving, allow time for everyone to participate in the cleanup, and to organize the room and the materials. Then, sing some songs, and lead them in prayer, asking the Lord to help them be faithful stewards of what He gave them.

# Who Was Wise?



Complete the pictures by drawing what the servants gave back to their master. Draw the expressions that the servants had on their faces when they came before their master.



## Lesson

## 08

## DANIEL CHOOSES HEALTHY FOOD

## Unit 02

Biblical References: Daniel 1:3-20

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn to honor God by taking care of the body He gave them.

## Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Although we do not know in detail why Daniel and his three friends refused to eat the king’s food and wine, we know that they were considered a threat to their faith. Daniel 1:8 tells us, “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.”

This lesson will help children understand that by caring for their bodies and deciding not to contaminate themselves with what could harm them, they are honoring God.

Most children are impulsive when choosing what they want to eat. Excessive advertising stimulates their egocentricity, causing them to say, “Let’s eat what we like!” This lesson will teach them that God is the owner of their bodies. They can honor God by making decisions that reflect good stewardship of their body.

## BIBLE STORY

Daniel 1:3-20

**Daniel chooses healthy foods**

“Bring some young Israelites to serve me in the palace,” ordered Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon.

The king’s chief officer listened carefully to the instructions:

“Choose strong, healthy, and good-looking boys,” said the king. “They must be smart and have the ability to learn quickly. They must eat the food from my kitchen” the king ordered. “I want them to be strong and healthy so they can serve me better.”

Daniel and three of his friends -Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah- were part of the group that the Babylonian soldiers had chosen.

The chief officer gave the young Hebrews Babylonian names. Daniel was called Belteshazzar; Hananiah became Shadrach, and Mishael became Meshach, and Azariah was called Abednego.

But when the king’s food was served to them, Daniel told the officer, “I cannot eat the king’s food. God warned my people that we could not eat certain foods. I have to obey God’s commandments.”

“But I cannot disobey the king’s orders,” the officer said. “If you do not eat what the king ordered, you will become weak and thin, and the other boys will be stronger. The king will think that I am not doing my duty, he will be furious, and maybe even order me to be killed!”

Then Daniel spoke with the guard who watched them, “Please,” Daniel asked. “Give us a test. For

ten days, give us only vegetables and water. After that time, you can compare us with the other boys who eat the king's food. Then you will decide who looks healthier and stronger."

The guard agreed to give the test.

After ten days he took Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to where the other boys were.

The guard could not believe what he saw! Daniel and his friends looked much healthier and stronger than the other young people.

"The king will be happy when he sees how well you look," the guard said. "From now on, you can choose the foods you want to eat."

God blessed Daniel and his friends by giving them knowledge and intelligence.

When the training time ended, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered the chief officer to bring the young men before him. After asking them some questions, the king realized that Daniel and his friends were ten times stronger and smarter than all the other people of the kingdom who were at his service.

### **Biblical review**

Tell your children: Daniel and his friends decided to please God through this decision. God blessed them, giving them better health and greater strength and intelligence than others. As Daniel did, we can honor God when we decide to keep our bodies healthy.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **God wants me to take care of my body**

Hand out the children worksheet, and read the instructions for your children to do the suggested activities.

### **Time to eat healthy foods**

Explain the benefits that our body receives by eating vegetables and fruits.

Tell them: God made fruits and vegetables because they are good for us. They have vitamins that help us grow healthy and strong. We must also drink at least 5 glasses of water a day, because it keeps us hydrated, and helps our kidneys and other organs function properly.

### **Memorization**

To review the memory verse, ask your children to form a circle. A volunteer must stand in the center of the circle blindfolded. Give a bell to one of the children in the circle. He/she should pass it to the next child, who passes it to the next, and so on.

The blindfolded child should say "Stop" whenever he wants, and the one with the bell should repeat the verse. The child in the center then tries to guess who said the verse. Then, blindfold the eyes to the child who said the verse and he/she then goes to the center of the circle and repeats the exercise. Let the group help those who still do not know the verse.

### **To end**

Encourage your children to decide to take care of their health and strive to honor God in that way. Pray before saying goodbye, thanking God for creating us and sustaining us.

Invite them to the next class, which will be the last of this series of lessons about decisions.

# Daniel's Decision

Draw a line connecting the picture with the correct phrase.



1 “Feed them food from my table. I want them to be strong”.



2 “I will not eat the king's food because I do not want to contaminate myself”.



3 “I will give Daniel and his friends what they want to eat”.



4 This is what Daniel and his friends ate.



5 They looked better than the other young men.

# What my body needs?

Circle the pictures of the things your body needs to stay healthy. Put an X over the things that can damage it.





## Lesson

## 09

## A RICH MAN MAKES A BAD DECISION

## Unit 02

Biblical References: Luke 12:13-24

## Lesson Objective:

That the desire of the students is to love God and learn how to share.

## Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

This world is too materialistic. What is valued is not the person, but what he has. And children are not immune to that kind of influence. They want to be accepted and often relate acceptance to material possessions. They need guidance to eliminate the false idea of what provides happiness.

By studying the parable of the rich fool, your children will understand that people should not be “possessed” by their goods. That will help them develop a healthy attitude towards their belongings. They need to learn that their relationship with God is more important than what they have or wear.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**The most valuable**

Draw, or get from magazines, illustrations of objects that are valuable to society: cars, houses, money, clothes, electronic games, jewelry, etc.

Before your children arrive, hide the pictures in the room.

Ask the children to look for them, and after they find them, give them time to describe the objects.

Discuss the value of such possessions, and explain that during the lesson they will talk about what is most valuable.

## BIBLE STORY

Luke 12:13-24)

**A rich man makes a bad decision**

“Master,” said to one of the crowds, “tell my brother to divide the land and the money that our parents left us, and give me the part that belongs to me.”

“Who has put me as a judge over you to decide those things?” Jesus answered. “Be careful not to become greedy people! Nor should you desire everything that you do not possess. It is not important how much money or how many possessions you have. Life does not consist in that. Let me tell you a story,” said Jesus.

There was once a rich man who had a beautiful estate. There he cultivated different kinds of grains. His harvests had been plentiful and he had no place to store it all. The rich man began to think,

“What should I do? I no longer have room to store all of My harvests.” Finally, he exclaimed, “I know! I will tear down my old barns and build bigger ones to keep all the grain I have. Then I can sit down to rest,” said the man. “I will have a lot of stored grain and enough wealth for many years. Then I will not worry anymore; I will just enjoy life. I will be able to eat and drink as much as I want. I’ll have all the fun I want and enjoy instead of working all the time.”

Jesus let people meditate on that story for a moment. Then he continued, “But God said to the rich man, ‘Foolish man! Tonight you will die, and who will keep all that you have saved for yourself?’” That is what happens with people who invest all their time and energy trying to obtain possessions. They do not devote time to love and serve God, much less to their neighbor. It is not important what you eat or what you wear. Life is worth much more than that. If God cares for birds and flowers, he will surely take care of us.

## ACTIVITIES

### **The most valuable thing to me**

To reinforce learning, ask the children to draw, in light of what they learned today, what they consider most important. As they work, observe their drawings, and emphasize the importance of valuing things according to God’s perspective.

Then, ask everyone to come forward and give a brief explanation of what they drew and why.

### **The rich man**

For this activity, you will need paper fasteners and scissors.

Ask a volunteer to help you distribute the children worksheets. Give them time to cut out the two circles on the sheet. Then, join them in the center with the paper fastener. Make sure that the circle with the drawings is below the yellow circle.

Encourage these children to use their craft to tell their family what they learned in class.

### **Memorization**

Since this is the last class of the unit, prepare simple prizes for those who have learned the memory verse. Remind them to use their Club verses of the month cards to review the unit’s verse in their homes.

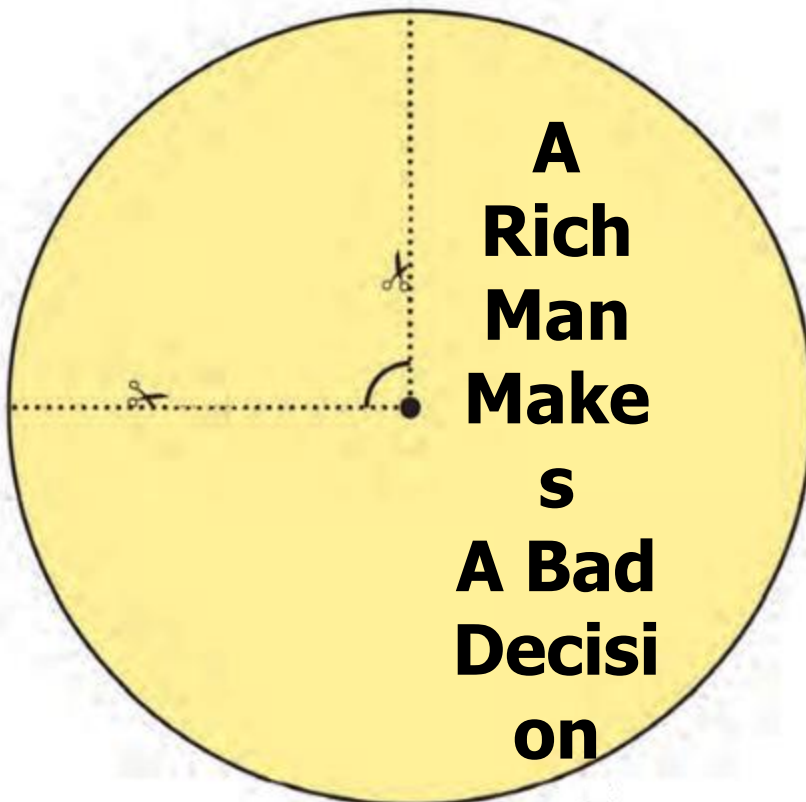
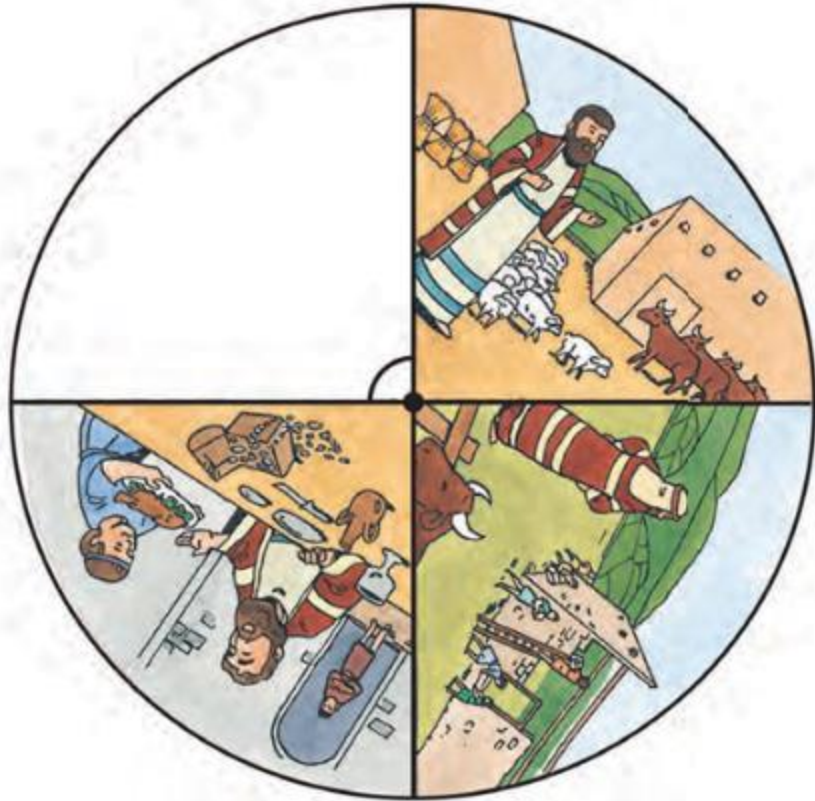
### **To end**

Distribute the crafts done during this unit then organize groups of volunteers to clean the room and put away the materials they used.

Thank them for attending class and invite them to the next unit that will begin next week.

Pray with them, thanking God for the blessings received, and ask Him to help all of you make wise and useful decisions.

If the Holy Spirit tells you to, guide your children to apologize for the bad decisions they have made. Tell them that the most important decision someone can make in their life is to accept Christ in their hearts.



Cut out the two circles. With a paper fastener (brad), attach them at the center, which is indicated by the dots. Now you can review what you learned in the Bible story. Remember that you should be grateful for what you have.

## THE HOLY LOVE OF GOD

**Biblical References:** Genesis 2:16—3:24; 4:1-16; 6:5—9:17; 18:16—19:29; Leviticus 4; Hebrews 10:1-14.

**Unit Memory Verse:** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children to:

- Know that sin separates people from God.
- Understand that, even when we disobey, God continues loving us.
- Compare the consequences of disobedience with those of obedience.
- Ask for forgiveness from God and accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

### LESSON UNIT

- Lesson 10: **Wrong decisions**
- Lesson 11: **Painful results**
- Lesson 12: **Our God of love and mercy**
- Lesson 13: **Our God of justice and grace**
- Lesson 14: **Our God of forgiveness**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

This unit provides the opportunity to relate the learning of the previous unit. Children often decide if something is good or bad depending on the consequences it will have. However, their reasoning is limited and they do not reflect on the consequences that will occur in the long term.

This unit will help them understand why it is important to allow God to guide them in their decisions. Children can understand that the decision to disobey God is a sin. In a world so confused about what is good or bad, it is important to help them understand what sin is and to accept responsibility for their negative actions. Maybe “sin” is a new term for some of them. However, they are aware that people can do “bad things” or “hurt someone.” They also know that some behaviors are “acceptable,” and others “unacceptable.”

By studying the biblical stories of this unit, they will learn what sin is and its consequences, as well as God’s solution to that problem. They will discover that sin is all that one thinks, does, or feels that separates them from God. Once the children understand the problem, they will be ready to hear that God has a solution to remove sin from the hearts of people, because we trust in a holy and loving God.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should understand that disobedience of God is sin and separates us from Him.

**Memory Verse:**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

The children must learn that God has the right to guide our lives, for he is our Creator. When, instead of trusting him, we ignore his direction and disobey him, we break our relationship with him. In that way, we let something different occupy the place that belongs to God. That is sin.

Separation is the consequence of a broken relationship. This lesson gives us an example of the separation that sin produces. The children can feel the distance from God when they disobey Him. However, there is hope because God is merciful and does not treat us as we deserve. He devised a plan to restore His relationship with us.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****What should I choose?**

Introduce the topic of the class, saying: Sometimes we must make simple decisions; other times, more complicated. For example, we must choose between being good and obedient, and the opposite. God wants us to obey Him. In today's Bible Story, we will learn about an important decision that Adam and Eve made.

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 2:16—3:24

**Wrong decisions**

In the beginning, God created a wonderful world and filled it with beautiful plants and animals. Afterwards, he created man and woman. He decided to make them different from all other creatures and gave them the privilege of making decisions.

“You can eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because if you eat it, you will die,” God said to Adam and Eve.

One day Eve walked through the garden. Suddenly, she heard a strange voice calling her, “Woman!” “What is that? Who is calling me?” Eve asked herself. She looked around and saw a snake in a tree. The serpent came and said, “So God has told you not to eat the fruit of any tree in the garden?”

“We can eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden, except God told us, ‘Do not eat the fruit of the

tree that is in the middle of the garden, and neither should you touch it, or you will die,” said Eve. “I assure you that you will not die!” said the snake. God knows that the day you eat the fruit of that tree you will see what you have never seen. You will be able to know what is good and what is bad; then you will be like God.” Eve knew that she had to get away from the snake, but decided to stay and contemplate the appetizing fruit. “The fruit looks tasty; besides it’s so pretty. The serpent says that God is wrong and that if I eat it I will not die. God should allow us to eat this fruit,” thought Eve. Then she decided, “I’m sure this fruit will make me as wise as God! I will do what I want. I’ll eat the fruit!”

So Eve took the fruit and bit into it. “The snake was right, this fruit is delicious!” Eve thought.

Then, she offered it to her husband, and he also decided to eat the forbidden fruit.

Suddenly, Adam and Eve felt different, but that did not make them feel happy. On the contrary, they felt guilty and ashamed.

“God is coming! What will we do now?” they asked each other.

“Let’s hide,” said Adam.

“Adam and Eve, where are you?” God called out.

“When we heard you were coming through the garden, I was scared because I’m naked, that’s why I hid,” replied Adam.

“Did you eat from the tree that I prohibited you from eating from?” God asked them.

Adam and Eve had never before been afraid of God. “Eve gave me the fruit to eat,” Adam replied fearfully.

“What have you done?” God asked Eve. “The snake said it would be good for me.

It lied to me and I ate,” Eve answered with great fear.

“Why didn’t you trust me? Now you will have to suffer the consequences of your bad decision,” said God. “I warned you that if you ate it you would die. But first, you will have to work hard to get your food. Having babies will be painful, and you will no longer be able to live in this garden.”

Everything had changed for Adam and Eve. And every day they thought sadly, “Why did we make that bad decision and disobey God?”

## ACTIVITIES

### The first sin

Ask the children the following questions as a review:

- Why was it bad to eat that fruit?
- How did Adam and Eve feel after they had disobeyed?
- What did God do about their disobedience?
- Was it the serpent’s fault that Adam and Eve disobeyed?
- What did the serpent tell them to deceive them?

### Memorization

Use the mural to review the verse. Ask that three or four volunteers read it using different voice modulations, for example: in a low voice, with a low voice, with a high voice, etc. Then ask those who already know it by heart to say it without reading it.

### To end

Talk with your children about the importance of applying what they learn in class to their daily lives. Ask them to stay alert this week to everything that encourages them to disobey God, and pray for God to strengthen them.

Form a circle, and pray for each of your children. Also, intercede for sick family members and for children who missed.



# WaRning signs



Circle the warning signs that you often see



Circle the ways we may receive warnings from God each day.



## Lesson

## 11

## PAINFUL RESULTS

## Unit 03

Biblical References: Genesis 4:1-16

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn that ignoring God's warnings brings painful consequences.

## Memory Verse:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Many children know that making decisions always have consequences. However, some consequences are difficult to face (for example emotional wounds, restriction of privileges, distrust, broken relationships, and punishments).

Cain suffered painful consequences due to his bad decision. Even so, he experienced the mercy of God. Help the children understand that the decision to sin has painful consequences, but God is merciful. He always treats us better than we deserve.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**What would happen if...?**

Pass out to the children worksheets for Lesson 11. Ask the children to draw what would happen if they ignored those warnings. Then, give them time to show their drawings and ask them: Why do you think there are warnings? Warnings are not posted to ruin our fun, but to keep us safe from danger. God warned us to stay away from sin.

Ask them: What do you think happens when we ignore God's warnings? Allow them to respond, and emphasize what happened to Adam and Eve when they ignored God and ate the forbidden fruit.

## BIBLE STORY

Genesis 4:1-16

**The disobedience of Cain**

Life was difficult for Adam and Eve outside of the beautiful garden that God had made for them. But one day God sent them something that made them feel happy again.

"God has blessed me by giving me this son," said Eve. They called their first son Cain. Then they had another baby, which they named Abel.

The brothers grew up, and Abel decided to be a shepherd of sheep, while Cain was devoted to agriculture.

The two boys worked with effort and dedication.

One day they decided to offer an offering of gratitude to God. Cain offered part of his harvest, while Abel chose a sheep from his flock.

"Abel," said God, "I accept your offering. But I cannot accept yours, Cain." Upon hearing those words, Cain became very angry and jealous of his brother.

“Why are you angry?” God asked Cain. “If you do the right thing, I will accept your offering. But if you do not, you will be sinning. Sin wants to rule your life, but if you decide to trust me you will be strong to resist sin.” Cain decided not to listen to God’s warning. On the contrary, his jealousy grew more and more.

One day Cain said to his brother, “Abel, let’s go to the country for a walk.” When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother and killed him. Soon after, God asked Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I do not know,” said Cain, “I do not have to take care of him.”

Then God said to him, “What have you done? You cannot hide anything from me. You killed your brother, and therefore you will never have good harvests again. You will live on the move, always traveling from one place to another.”

“That is too much!” Cain replied. “My punishment is terrible, and anyone who finds me will want to kill me.”

“No,” replied the Lord. “I will put a mark on you, as a sign that no one can kill you. If someone kills you I will punish them seven times more than you.”

## ACTIVITIES

### Water and oil

Use these elements to illustrate to the children that God is holy and that he is separate from sin. Get a glass jar with a lid. Fill it halfway with water, and add a few drops of red vegetable dye to make it easier to observe. Fill the rest of the bottle with oil and cover it well.

Tell the children: Our God is holy and does not tolerate sin. Sin is disobeying God and separates us from him.

Ask some volunteers to shake the container to try to mix the two liquids. Tell them to watch how they separate.

Explain that in the same way, sin separates us from God. The holiness of God and the life of sin cannot be mixed. That is why we must repent and seek God.

### Memorization

In advance cut out several large circles of cardboard. Write in each of them one or several words of the memory verse. Hide them around the room before the children arrive. Then, ask them to look for them and put them in order according to the original text. Repeat it together several times.

Save the circles for use next week.

### To end

Encourage the children to obey God’s warnings and stay away from sin. Ask them to stay alert and avoid getting close to what could separate them from God.

Intercede for your children. When you pray for them, it helps them feel appreciated and valued as part of the church family.

## What would happen if...?

Draw what might happen if you don't pay attention to these warnings.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should be thankful to God for his mercy, and wish to obey Him.

**Memory Verse:**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Many times a child is expected to obey simply because he must do so. Understanding what the reasons are for doing something is better than obeying just because someone orders it. Help them understand that God loves them and wants them to obey Him.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON**

Choose some of the following activities to complement the development of the class.

**Repeat the phrase!**

Have the children sit in a circle, and tell them:

When God created the world He made everything perfect. What happened that changed everything?

Allow them time to respond, and remind them that sin came through the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

**Mural**

Pass out figure 3 of the cut-out section, where the ark with the word PROMISE is seen, and have the children paste it on the corresponding strip on the class mural. Take this time to review with them what they have learned in the previous lessons, and briefly introduce today's topic.

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 6:5—9:17

Gather the children to hear the Bible story, and tell them: After the first sin of Adam and Eve, their children and grandchildren continued to disobey God. Today we are going to learn about a man named Noah and what he did.

Try to use some visual materials when teaching the story. If you do not have printed illustrations, draw an ark on a card.

Then, get drawings or photographs of animals and use them as visual aids to illustrate the story.

**Noah obeys God**

After God created Adam and Eve, the number of people was increasing. They all lived in the beautiful world that God had created. However as time passed, people forgot God and began to do evil. They no longer heard the voice of the Lord, and disobeyed Him; they did things that they knew were not the right. That hurt the heart of God and made him feel very sad, so much so that he wished he had not created mankind.

But among so many bad people, there was a man who loved the Lord and had obeyed him all his life. His name was Noah. One day God told him, “You are the only person of this time who lives

according to my will. The others are bad and disobedient. That is why I am going to send a great flood to cleanse the earth of all evil. Build an ark of the measures that I will give you. In it, you and all your family will be safe. You must also, put in it a pair of each species of animals. In this way, they will be protected from the water.”

Noah worked day and night to build the ark. When he had finished it, he put food and everything needed in it.

After all the animal pairs were inside the ark, Noah and his family took their belongings and entered there as well. Then, God closed the door of the ark and it started to rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights.

When at last it stopped raining, the whole earth was covered with water. Noah could only see water everywhere. The only ones left alive were those on the ark.

After many days, the water level began to fall, leaving the ark on top of a mountain. Forty days passed and Noah sent a raven outside. But not finding a dry place, it returned to the ark. After a few days, he sent out a dove, which also returned to the ark. Noah waited another seven days. When he sent the pigeon again, it returned with an olive branch in its beak. That meant that the earth was beginning to produce again.

Seven days passed and Noah sent the pigeon again, but this time it did not return because it had found dry land to live on. When the water finally dried up, Noah, his family, and the animals left the ark. God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky as a reminder of his promise that he would never again send another flood to destroy the earth. Noah built an altar of stones and thanked God for having saved him from the flood.

## ACTIVITIES

### Hidden words

Hand out the children worksheet and ask them to look for the seven words hidden in the drawing of Lesson 12 (love, obedience, goodness, hatred, sin, evil, faithfulness). Help those who have reading difficulties to identify the letters.

Talk to them about the difference between Noah and the other people. Ask them to look in their Bible for Genesis 6:8-9 and emphasize the characteristics that Noah had. Have them go to the next page, and give them time to color the marked spaces to find the hidden message.

### Handwork

Provide each child with half a paper plate, and provide the time needed to decorate it with pencils or colored crayons, as if it were heaven. Prepare several strips of paper of different colors to stick on the plates forming a rainbow. Glue the strips following the outline of the plate; let the edges protrude so that, when the plate is shaken, the movement of the strips makes the work look attractive.

As they work, emphasize that the rainbow reminds us that we have a God of love and mercy.

### Memorization

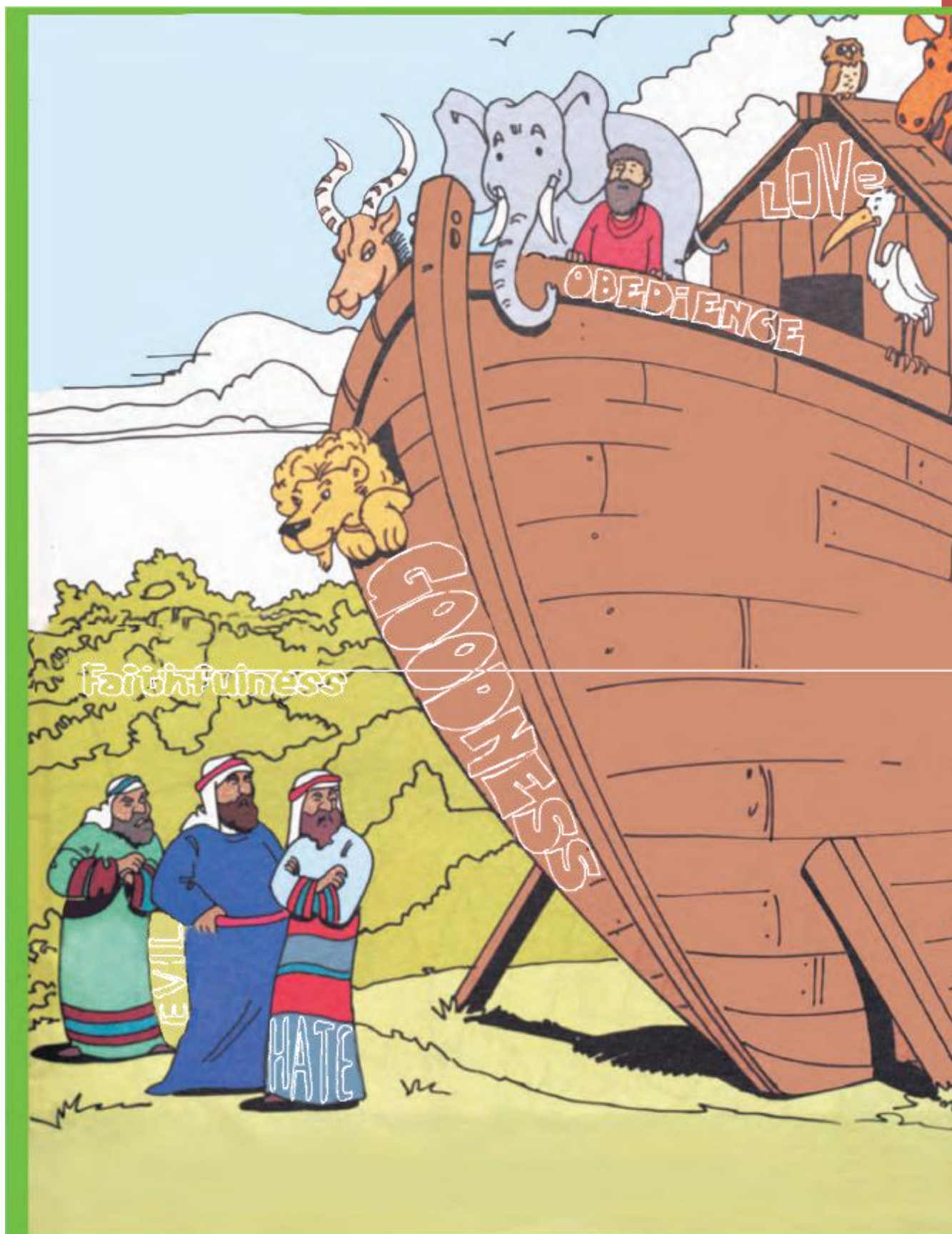
Divide your class into two teams, and put on the table the circles you prepared last week. Mix them, and ask that each team try to put the memory verse in order in the shortest possible time. Every time a team finishes, everyone should repeat the text aloud.

Then ask that some volunteers stick the circles on the wall to keep them in a visible place for the rest of the unit.

### To end

Conclude the class by thanking God for the love and mercy He has for His children. Remind the children that God cared for Noah because he was obedient. Encourage them to bring guests to the next class, and say goodbye in praise of God.





Find the words that are hidden in the drawing. What were the differences between Noah and the people outside the ark?



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should understand that God is just and that disobedience brings serious consequences

**Memory Verse:**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

The justice of God demands a response. Those who continue to reject God will suffer the consequences of their sins. But, we can be sure that God will save the righteous.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****What does it mean to be fair?**

Explain to the children that being fair means giving each one what they deserve; to not show favoritism; act correctly.

Use this activity as an introduction to the Bible Story.

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 18:16—19:29

**Rescued from Sodom**

“Welcome!” said Abraham to the foreigners who came to his tent. “Please, come and rest a moment, and stay for lunch with us.”

They were not ordinary travelers. They were messengers of God! “Within a year or so, you will have the son God promised you,” they told Abraham. But that good news was not the only news that the messengers brought. They were going towards two cities where there was a lot of evil. Abraham walked with them for a while when they continued on their way.

Then God said through the angels, “The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is so terrible that I will destroy those cities and all the people who live there.”

Abraham was very worried. His nephew Lot lived in one of those cities. Abraham prayed, “If there are 50 good and righteous people in Sodom, will you kill them all? Will, you not save the city for the love of the 50 righteous? I know you would not treat the good the same as the bad. You are merciful and forgiving!” “If I find 50 righteous people in the whole city, I will not destroy it,” answered God.

“And if there were only 45 righteous people, will you destroy the whole city because of those other five bad people?” Abraham asked.

“If there are 45 righteous, I will not destroy it,” said God.

“Do not get angry now, my Lord, but maybe there are only 30 good people,” Abraham continued.

“I will not destroy it if I find 30 good people,” God answered once more. “What if there were 20?” Abraham asked again.

“For those 20 people I will not destroy it,” God answered.

“I will ask for the last time. What would happen if there were only 10 good people in Sodom?” Abraham asked.

“For the love of the 10 righteous, I will not destroy it,” concluded God.

Finally, the angels arrived in Sodom. When they reached the city gate, they saw Lot there and approached him. When Lot saw them, he got up and bowed before them.

“I beg you to stay at my house tonight,” said Lot.

“No, we’ll camp on the street,” the visitors replied. “Stay at my home,” insisted Lot. In the end, they accepted.

The visitors were sad to see what was happening in the city. The perversion and sin of the city was terrible! There were not 10 people in the whole city that loved or obeyed God!

“Do you have more family in this city?” the visitors asked Lot. “Get them out of here because we will destroy this place. The clamor against the people of Sodom and Gomorrah is so great that God has sent us to destroy it.”

Very quickly Lot went to look for the men his daughters intended to marry and when he found them, he said to them, “Come on, let’s get out of this city because God is going to destroy it.” But they thought it was a joke.

At dawn, the angels told Lot, “Get up, and take your wife and your daughters so they do not die when the city is destroyed!”

“I’ll go get them,” Lot said.

Since Lot and his family took a long time, the angels took them by their hands and took them out of the city. “Save yourselves!” the visitors told them, “and do not look back.”

So Lot and his family ran to save their lives. But Lot’s wife looked back, and at that moment she became a statue of salt. God destroyed those wicked cities, but He remembered Abraham’s prayer and rescued his nephew Lot.

## ACTIVITIES

### The rescue

Distribute the children worksheets, scissors, and glue. Hand out the figures of Abraham and the city from the Cut-Out section and follow the instructions to make the booklet.

Help those who have difficulties understanding the directions or with cutting.

Take time to walk through the Bible story, using the booklets they have just completed.

### Memorization

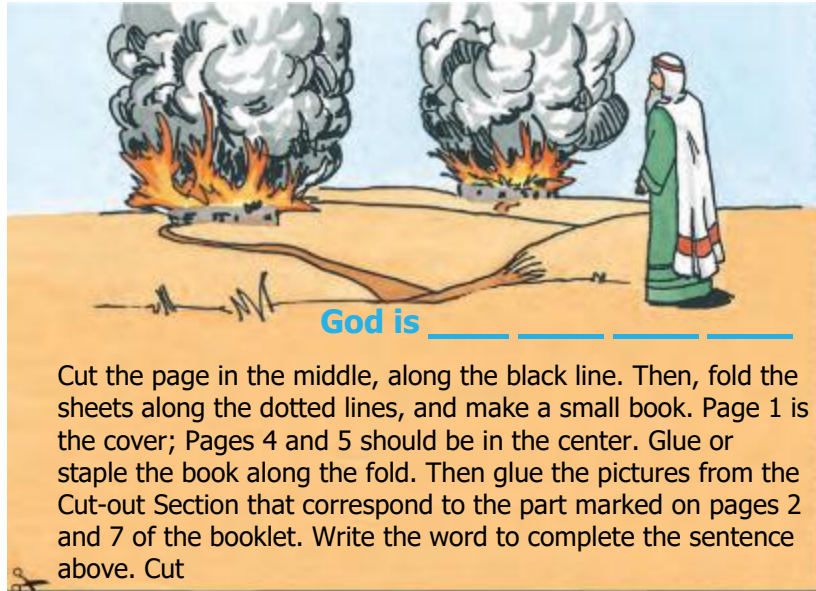
Ask your children to close their eyes as you write the memory verse on the board.

Then, ask them to open their eyes and read the verse several times.

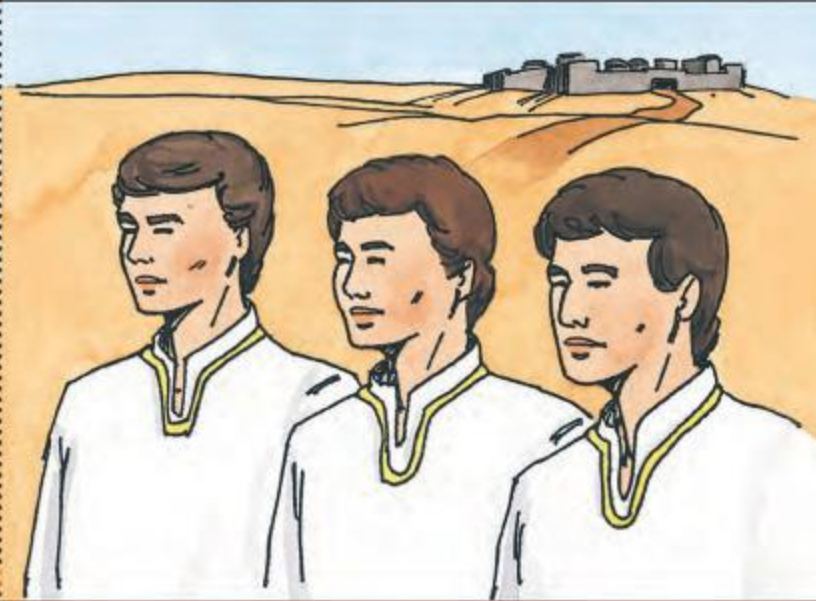
Ask them to close their eyes again, and delete a keyword. Then have they read it again, adding the missing word. Continue until all the text is deleted.

### To end

Cultivate in the children the discipline of prayer, interceding during each class for each of them and their families. If possible, write the petitions on a poster board and stick them in the classroom. In this way, they will remember them, and each time God responds, they can put a star next to the petition. Pray giving thanks to God for his mercy and justice. Encourage them to attend the next class of this unit next week.



# The Rescue



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that God has provided a way for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Memory Verse:**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Most of your children have a tender conscience. They feel their guilt when they do something wrong, and they know that sin separates them from God. Use this lesson to bring them closer to God and to discover that he offers forgiveness and has provided a way for us to receive salvation.

**BIBLE STORY**

Leviticus 4; Hebrews 10:1-14

**The sacrifices of Israel**

One day, when Moses was on a mountain, God told him, “Moses, tell the Israelites that although I am the sole owner of the whole earth, I chose them to be my special people. They will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation to me. If the people obey me, they will be my special treasure.” Moses came down from the mountain quickly. He wanted to tell the people what God had told him. After he had done so, they responded, “We will do all that God has said.”

To remind people that they were His chosen people, God gave them the Ten Commandments. These laws helped them know what was right and wrong. God told Moses to build a special tent, which they would call a tabernacle so that people would remember that God was always with them.

God expected his people to obey him. But he knew that sometimes they would break his commandments. That is why he made a way in which he could forgive people for their sins.

So he said to Moses, “When people disobey any of my commandments, they will have to offer a sacrifice. Tell them they should choose their best animal, whether it’s an ox, goat, or lamb. It must be a perfect animal, without spots, wounds, or diseases. And then they must take their animal to the tabernacle. When they are there, they should put their hands on the animal to show that they are sorry for what they did. Then, the priests will take the animal and sacrifice it as I have indicated.”

God gave very clear instructions about how they should prepare and offer animals as sacrifices. Day after day, year after year, they followed the instructions that God had given them. They chose animals and sacrificed them, as an offering of repentance for their sins.

Some were very sorry for the wrong they had done. But others were not. They made sacrifices only because everyone else did. The prophets knew that some sacrifices that people made did not show their repentance.

“God was not satisfied with your sacrifices,” said the prophet Jeremiah. “God told us how to offer them. He wants you to love him and obey him.”

Although God’s plan for sacrifices was good, many people offered burnt offerings only out of habit, but in their hearts, there was no repentance or love of God.

However, God had a better plan for the forgiveness of sins for our good. He sent his Son Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. God allowed Jesus to be sacrificed so that our sins would be forgiven without offering more animal sacrifices. Also, when people trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in their hearts and changes them so they can love God more.

## ACTIVITIES

### Two types of sacrifice

Explain that there are two types of sacrifices which were provided by God for the forgiveness of sins. Both must be perfect for God to accept them. However, animal sacrifices had to be made again and again. But when Christ died, he did it once for all people. The sacrificed animals could not change the hearts of people, but Jesus has the power to change us and transform us into his image.

### Evangelistic invitation

If the Holy Spirit guides you, encourage the children to make a personal decision to follow Christ and repent of their sins.

To be a child of God you must:

- Recognize that you have sinned. (Romans 3:23)
- Believe that Jesus died for you. (Rom. 5:8)
- Repent of your sins. (Romans 6:23)
- Ask God to forgive you. (1 John 1:9)
- Now you are a child of God. (1 John 1:12)

Use this simple prayer to help those who have trouble praying:

*Dear God, I recognize that I have sinned and I repent for all the wrong I did. I ask you to forgive me. I believe that Jesus died for me and I receive Him as my Savior and Lord. Help me to obey and love you every day. Thank you for forgiving me and allowing me to be your son. Amen.*

It is important that you set aside a special time to talk with each of the children before or after inviting them to receive Christ in their lives. Help them understand that this is a personal and decisive decision for the rest of their lives.

### Memorization

Write the words of Romans 3:23-24 on different cards or sheets. Glue them with tape on the table or the board, so that it is easy to take them off and put them back on. Read the verse several times. Ask a volunteer to move the cards and another to arrange them in order again. Do this exercise several times, and repeat the verse each time the cards are in order.

### To end

Get together to pray and give thanks to God for having provided a way for our salvation.

Sing a song of praise, and congratulate those who have accepted Christ.

You must keep track of these children to help them grow in the Christian faith. We suggest that you also talk with their parents, and let them know the decision their child made, and make a plan for discipling the child.

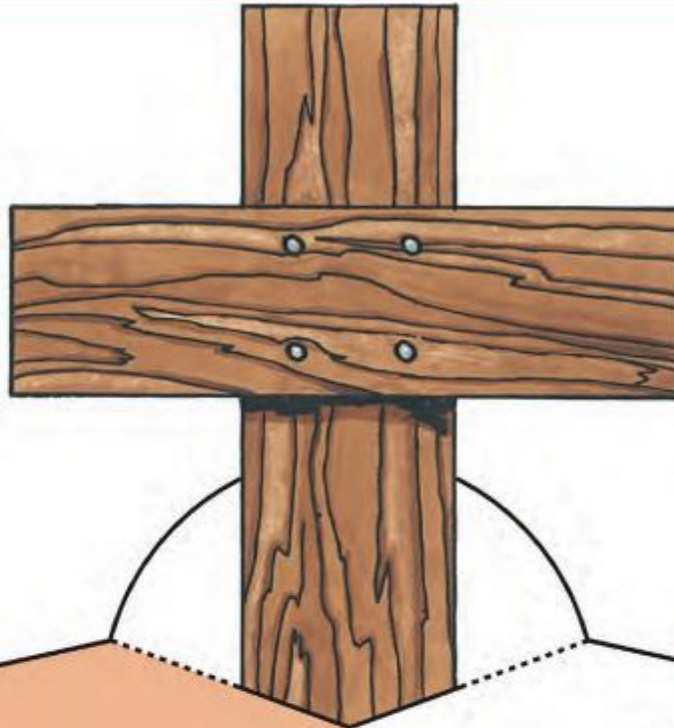


Cut out the picture along the black lines.

Fold the picture along the dotted lines so that the cross is seen when the card is opened.

Fold in the top.

Open it so you can see what God planned to forgive us



### **You can be a child of God.**

Admit that you have sinned.

Romans 3:23

Believe that Jesus died for you.

Romans 5:8

Repent of your sins.

Romans 6:23

Ask God to forgive you.

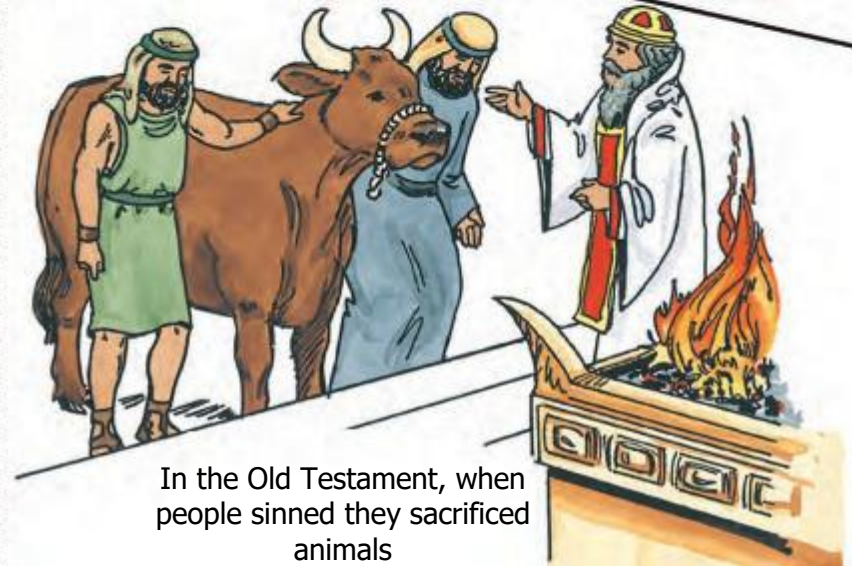
1 John 1:9

When you do these things,

You become a child of God.

John 1:12

**Our holy and loving God Loves You!**



In the Old Testament, when people sinned they sacrificed animals

## WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK

**Biblical References:** Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-38; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:13-35; Acts 1:1-11

**Unit Memory Verse:** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children s to:

- Worship God for what He did through Jesus Christ.
- Believe that Jesus lives.
- Know that Jesus went to heaven and will return to get us.

### LESSON UNIT

- Lesson 15: **We celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry!**
- Lesson 16: **We celebrate Jesus’ resurrection!**
- Lesson 17: **The Emmaus Road**
- Lesson 18: **Jesus is always with us!**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Society and the media have diverted children’s attention from the true meaning of Holy Week. Many secular symbols continue to captivate the children, who are not properly prepared for this solemn celebration.

The focus of this unit is on the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. The children will be excited to know who Jesus is and what he did for them.

During these lessons, you will have the opportunity to pass on to the children the plan of salvation, and guide them to a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you prepare these lessons. Remember that, through your teaching, God can transform not only the lives of your children but also those of their parents. Take this opportunity to tell others what Christ did for you!

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should worship God for sending Jesus as our Saviour.

**Memory Verse:**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

On the first Palm Sunday, the crowd worshiped God for the miracles they had seen Jesus do. They also praised him because they thought he would free them from the Roman rule and establish Israel as an independent nation. However, realizing that this was not Jesus' mission, their praises became complains.

As you study these lessons, help your children discover what Jesus did for them that is to give them salvation and eternal life.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Palms of praise**

Make paper palm tree leaves with your children, or get real palm tree leaves. To make them, you will need palm stencils to draw them on green paper, or you can also make them on white paper and provide green pencils for children to color. Then, ask them to cut them out.

Tell them: Today is Palm Sunday, and I will tell you a very special story. These are palm branches. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people waved palm branches like these and shouted: "Hosanna, Hosanna!" They were very excited and happy because they were praising Jesus. You can also wave your palm branch and shout "Hosanna!" to Jesus.

**What is praise?**

Have the children sit in a circle, and ask them: Do you know what "praise" means? After listening to their responses, explain: Praise is our response to someone who did something extraordinary. Praise is an expression of love and admiration towards someone special.

God is the only one worthy of our praise. What are some reasons why it is good to worship the Lord? Write them on the board (for example: because he created everything that exists, because it is good, because he takes care of us, etc.).

**BIBLE STORY**

Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-38

**Praise the Lord!**

Sing a song of praise while they wave their palm branches and march around the room. Ask the children to sit down to listen to the story. Instruct them to put their palm branches on their legs and, during the story, each time they hear the word "hosanna," shake them. Before starting the story, show the Bible and tell them: This is the Bible, the Word of God. We learn to know God better by listening to the stories in this precious book. Holy Week is a very beautiful and special time in which we celebrate the surrender of Jesus, the Son of God. In today's story, we will learn what happened before the first Holy Week, when the children sang and praised Jesus.

## The triumphal entry

“Tell us the story of Easter again,” the children asked their father.

“A long time ago, our people were slaves in Egypt,” began the father. “God told Moses to guide us to our land, but Pharaoh did not allow us to leave. Finally, the angel of death passed through Egypt. All the firstborn of the Egyptian families died. Then Pharaoh released us.” “When will the Romans let us be free?” asked the children. “Someday a King Messiah will come and deliver us,” said the father. “The Messiah will deliver us from the Romans.”

The people of Jerusalem were enthusiastic. Thousands of Jews had gathered there to celebrate the feast of the Passover. Jesus and his disciples were also heading to Jerusalem for the celebration.

“Go to the next town,” Jesus said to two of his disciples. “Upon entering, you will find a tied-up donkey that was never ridden. Untie it and bring it.”

Jesus needed the donkey for a special reason. A long time ago, the prophet Zechariah had said that the king of Jerusalem would arrive peacefully, riding on a donkey. As Jesus had told them, the disciples found the donkey. Then they put their cloaks on him and took him away. Then, they helped Jesus get on and they took the road to Jerusalem.

When they saw Jesus approaching, some people spread their coats on the road. Soon the crowd became aware of the presence of the Lord. “Is not he the man who has done so many miracles?” they asked each other. “Yes, it’s him! Look, he’s coming to Jerusalem!

Do you think he is the promised Messiah?” Immediately the people began to praise God with joy for all the miracles they had seen, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Hosanna!”

Many went to cut palm tree branches and put them along the way. And, as Jesus passed, many exclaimed, “Hosanna, Hosanna!”

## ACTIVITIES

### Hosanna!

Ask the children to look at their worksheet for Lesson 15, and cut out the bottom strip. Tell them to fold the sheet next to the dotted lines.

Then, double the figure of Jesus where the dotted lines indicate and glue/tape the bottom together. Move the figure through the crowd, to review the story of Palm Sunday.

### Praise mural

During the week, prepare illustrations about different ways that children can praise God in their daily lives. Include scenes of children who help their parents, pray, sing praises, read the Bible, etc. Show them in the class and tell them that they can praise God in different ways. Ask them to stick the illustrations on the wall or somewhere that you indicate.

### Memorization

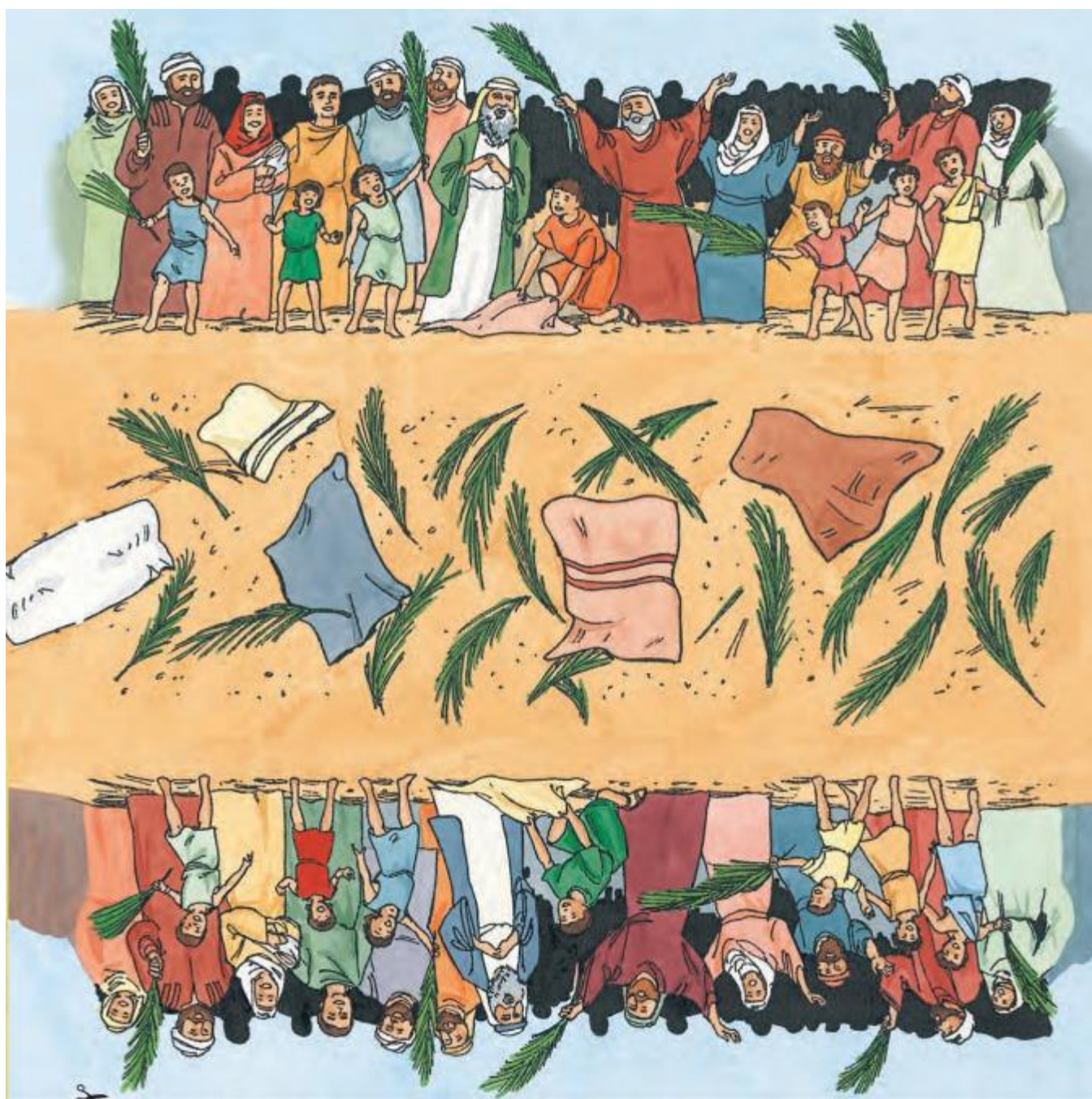
Ask the children to look up the memory verse (Romans 10:9) and read it out loud. After repeating it several times (by rows, by groups, only boys, only girls, etc.), ask some volunteers to say it from their memories. Hand out the Month’s Verse Club cards for review at home. Ask parents to study with their children during the week.

### To end

Make sure children take home their work, and thank them for attending the class. Announce something about the next lesson, trying to make a connection and awakening the interest so that they do not miss.

Form two circles, and assign a prayer leader for each. At the end of the class, lead them in a united prayer. Do not forget to include the petitions, and encourage the children to praise God every day.





Cut this strip off along the black line. Fold the page along the dotted lines (on the reverse side) to see the crowd that cheered for Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Fold the figure of Jesus along the dotted lines, and glue the tabs at the bottom. Move the figure through the crowd while you tell the story of Palm Sunday.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

**Memory Verse:**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Through the resurrection, we better understand the great love that Christ showed in dying for us on the cross.

At the same time, God demonstrated His power in the resurrection. Both events proclaim the message of hope, love, and salvation. Any other type of celebration is insignificant when compared to the great gift of God.

Be sensitive to the reactions of the children when they hear the story of the resurrection. The fact that Christ was resurrected will bring hope to their hearts and a new perspective on life. The message of Christ's death and resurrection will help them to understand more deeply God's love for them and others.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Handwork**

For this activity, you will need crosses made of cardboard or poster board, glue, and clean, dried, crushed eggshells.

Ask the children to put glue on the cross and then sprinkle the shells on them. Place the finished work on a table so that the glue dries and the shells adhere completely.

Talk about the meaning of the cross and what it represents for Christians.

**BIBLE STORY**

John 20:1-18

**Mary's happiness**

"Poor Jesus," Mary thought as she walked towards the garden. It was so early that the sun had not yet come out. "I miss him so much! The least we can do is appropriately bury him. We did not have much time to finish everything before the Sabbath."

Mary could not believe what had happened. She had placed all her hopes on Jesus, however, he had died and he would no longer be with them.

When she continued walking through the garden, she saw something that filled her with amazement. "It cannot be!" exclaimed Mary. "Someone moved the stone. Someone has taken Jesus' body! Where is my Lord? I must go and tell Peter!"

When Peter and John heard what Mary told them, they ran to the garden. Their hearts were pounding, and they were confused.

John was the first to arrive. He approached and looked inside the cave, but only saw the cloak in

which Jesus had been wrapped. “Mary was right,” he thought. “Jesus is not here.”

As soon as Peter arrived, he entered the tomb and began searching everywhere, but he did not find Jesus.

“John, come here!” shouted Peter. “Look, the linens are here! But where is the Master’s body?”

The two disciples returned to tell the others what they had seen. However, Mary stayed there. “My Lord is gone,” she said crying.

Then she looked again into the grave and, to her surprise, the tomb was no longer empty. There were two angels in shining white robes!

“Woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her.

“It is that they have taken my Lord and I do not know where they have put him,” said Mary sadly. When Mary was about to leave, suddenly, she saw a man in the garden.

“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

“Surely he’s the gardener,” Mary thought. “Maybe he took Jesus to another grave.” “Sir, did you take Jesus’ body elsewhere? Do you know where it is? Please tell me where you put it and I’ll go find it,” Mary said.

“Mary!” said the man. When Mary looked at him attentively, deep happiness filled her heart and she exclaimed, “Teacher!”

That man was not the gardener. It was Jesus! He was there, talking to her in the garden. Jesus was alive!

“Do not touch me yet, Mary,” Jesus said tenderly. “I have not returned to my Father yet. Go and tell our friends that I will go up to where they are.”

Mary ran down the road to tell the others the good news.

“I have seen the Lord!” she exclaimed excitedly. “I have seen him, he has risen!”

## ACTIVITIES

### Jesus lives!

Ask them to color the picture that appears at the end of Lesson 16. Then, fold the sheet along the dotted lines to form a booklet. Encourage them to use the work they did to tell the story of Jesus’ resurrection to their friends and family.

### Memorization

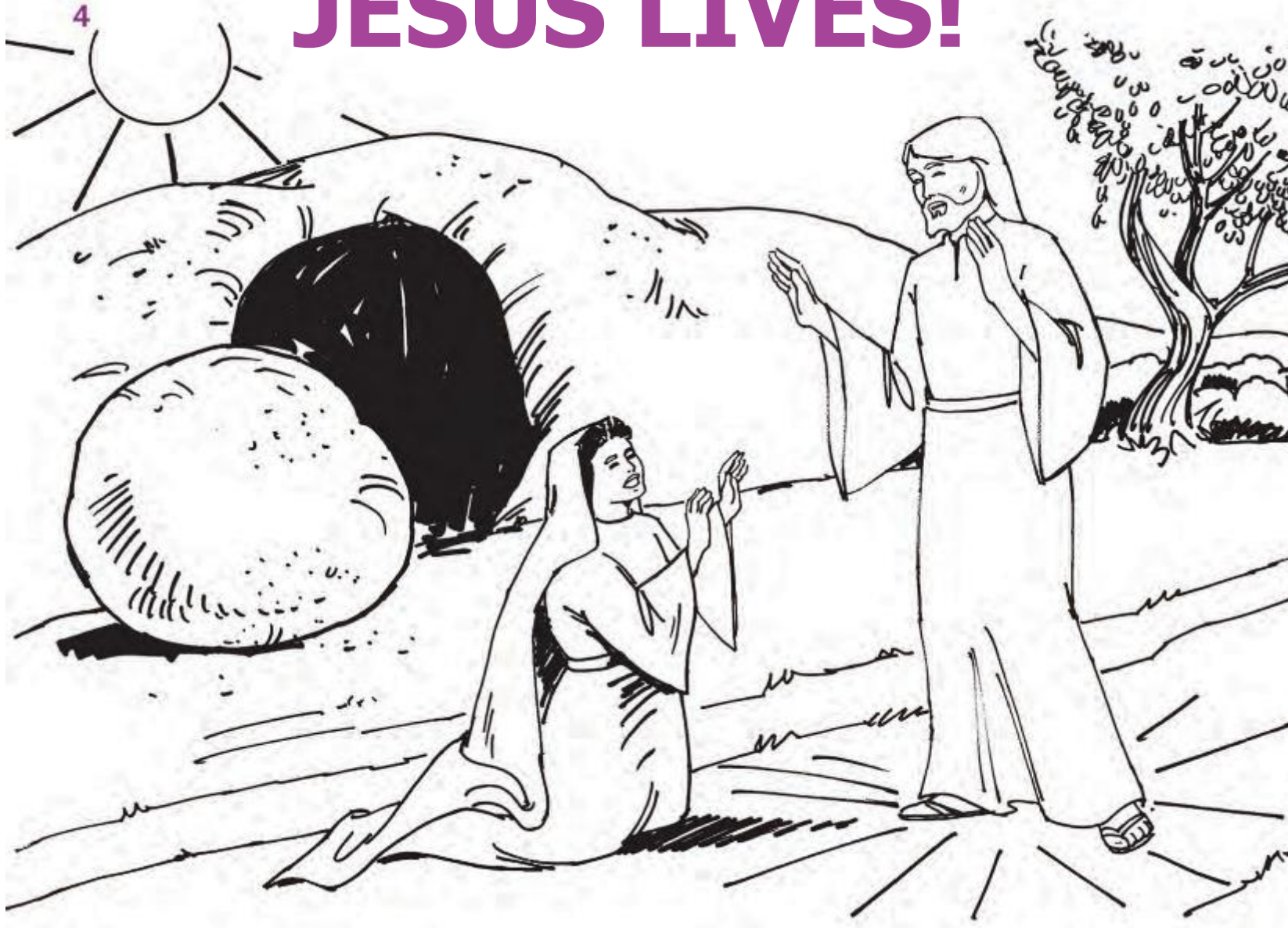
Line the children up in a row. Tell them that when you say “up,” they should stretch as much as they can, like trying to touch the ceiling, and say the memory verse loudly. And when you say “down,” they should duck and repeat the memory verse in a low voice. Repeat the game several times to reinforce memorization.

### To end

Encourage your class to say their prayer requests. Ask if a volunteer wants to pray aloud. This will increase their confidence to pray in public. Conclude by thanking God for the resurrection of his Son Jesus.

Invite them to the next class, and do not forget to visit those who are sick or missed class.

# JESUS LIVES!



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that Jesus helps us to know him better.

**Memory Verse:**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Last week your class learned that God raised Jesus from the dead. This week they will learn that he showed that he was alive, appearing to his followers. These apparitions strengthened the faith of the first Christians. In the same way, knowing that Jesus lives will strengthen the faith of your students.

Prepare your heart to tell this important biblical truth to the children.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****The road to Emmaus**

Get a map of the Holy Land, or use some of the Bible maps to show the children. Indicate the location of the cities of Jerusalem and Emmaus, more than 11 km away from each other. For children to have a reference about the distance the disciples walked, make a comparison with known places that are at that distance from your church. Explain that the Bible story is about two disciples who walked that distance to get to the city of Emmaus, but something very special happened to them on the way.

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 24:13-35

**On the road to Emmaus**

"Did you hear why Mary was so excited this morning?" Cleopas asked.

"Yes," said his friend. "Can you believe what she said? She says she saw angels!"

"She also said that Jesus is alive," Cleopas said. "That would be wonderful, but I can't believe it's true."

"Exactly. We saw with our own eyes how Jesus died on the cross. He died, so he won't be with us anymore. Now, what will we do?"

While traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a third traveler joined them.

"Hello," the mysterious stranger greeted them. "What are you talking about with such interest?"

"Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about everything that happened these days?" Cleopas answered.

"What happened?" the stranger asked. "What they did to Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth."

"He was a powerful prophet! Everyone listened to him."

"All, except the Jewish priests and our rulers," Cleopas said. "Three days ago he was executed on a

cross.”

“It was terrible!” lamented Cleopas’ friend. “We thought that he would make Israel a great nation again, but now he is dead.”

“We were talking about a friend who told us that she had had a vision of angels. She also said she saw Jesus alive! We’re very confused and don’t know what to believe.”

(Pause the narration, ask the children how they think the two travelers felt, ask them to guess who the mysterious stranger might be.)

“Don’t you remember what the Scriptures say?” The stranger asked. “Didn’t the Promised One of God have to suffer first, and then enter into his glory?”

Cleopas and his friend listened attentively while the mysterious traveler spoke to them of the Scriptures.

When they were near the city of Emmaus, the unknown traveler pretended to go further, but they told him, “Please, stay with us. It’s late.”

“Thank you very much,” the stranger replied. “That’s a good idea.”

The three entered the city. When dinner was ready, they sat at the table. Then, the stranger took a piece of bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave a little to the two men. It was at that moment when the disciples could recognize him, but he disappeared.

“It was Jesus! Didn’t we feel something special when he told us about the Scriptures?” said Cleopas and his friend. At that moment they decided to return to Jerusalem to tell others what had happened to them.

The eleven apostles and many of Jesus’ other followers were gathered together, telling the stories of people who had seen Jesus. “It’s true!” Said some of the disciples. “The Lord has risen! Peter and some others saw him!” Suddenly, the door opened. Cleopas and his friend came running in.

“We just saw Jesus!” they announced almost breathlessly. “He’s alive!”

## ACTIVITIES

### Let’s tell the good news!

Ask the class: How did Jesus reveal himself to travelers on the road to Emmaus?

Perhaps they’ll answer that Jesus came and walked with them. Although this is true, remind them that: Jesus revealed himself to them through the Scriptures. He used the Old Testament to help them understand who he was and what his mission was on earth.

Ask: How is Jesus revealed now? (Through the Bible, the Word of God. Also through the community of believers, the church, and prayer.)

### Memorization

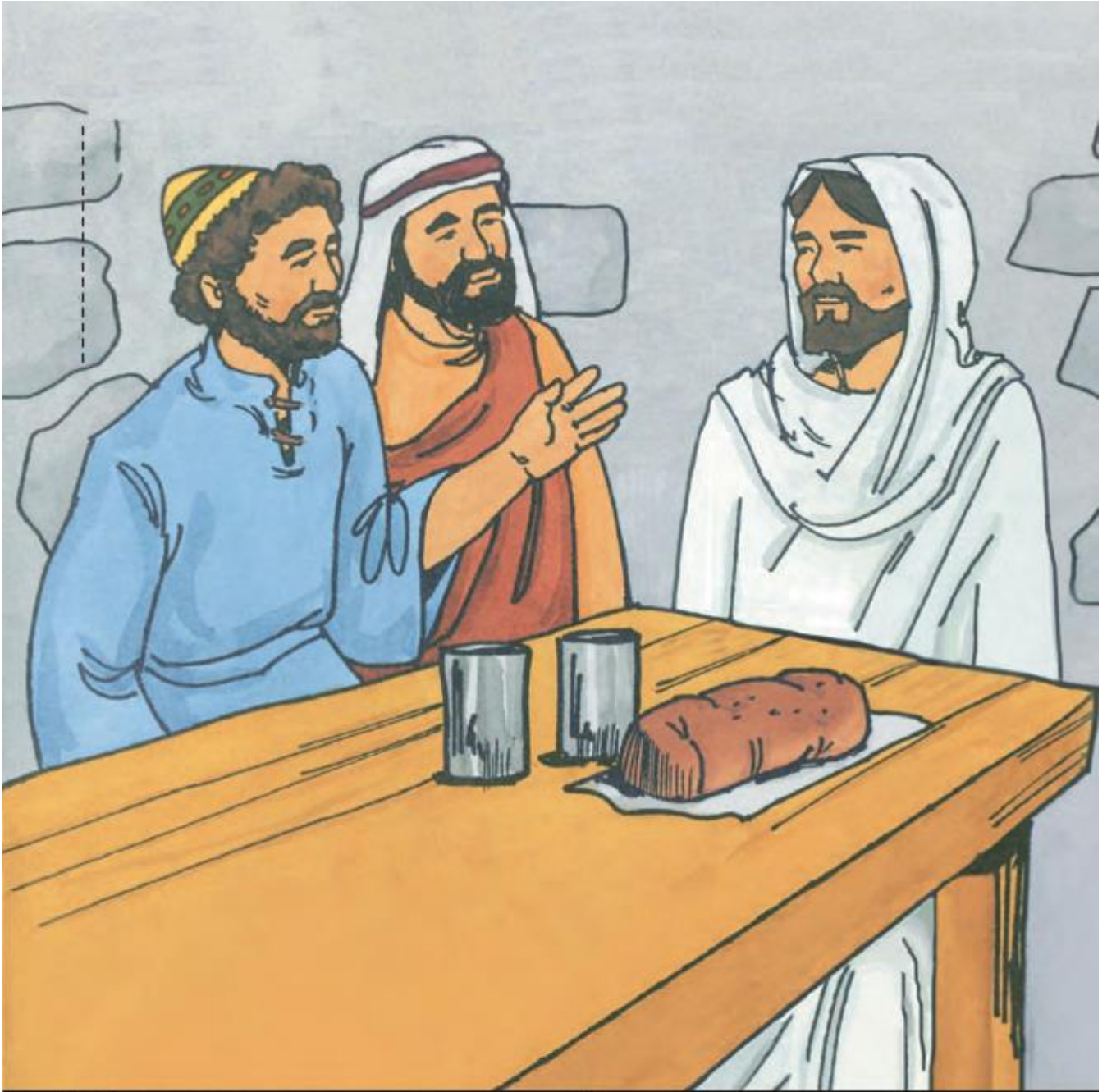
Have the class hold hands and form a circle. Then while walking in a circle, they are to repeat the memory verse together a couple of times. When you tell them to stop, one of the children should say the verse alone. Then, have everyone start walking in a circle again and repeat it together, following the same instructions. The game ends when everyone has participated.

### To end

Thank God for allowing us to know his Son, Jesus. Sing songs of praise before saying goodbye. Make sure that the children take home their handicrafts and personal belongings. Say goodbye with affection, and encourage them to attend the next class on time.



# Jesus Is the Son of God



Cut off this strip along the black line. Cut out the box with the two disciples' faces and glue it above on the dotted line, so you can see the disciples' faces when they recognized Jesus. Tell this story to your family and friends.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that they must be prepared for Jesus' return.

**Memory Verse:**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

The resurrection of Jesus is not just an event that happened in the past. He was not just a good man who lived a long time ago. Our risen Lord is alive today and will return to earth. When? Nobody knows, except God. However, the church has always waited for the return of Christ. This instills value in believers and gives meaning to the mission of the church. This lesson forms a bridge between Easter Sunday and the beginning of the church and its mission. Jesus ascended to the Father, but before leaving he left his followers a job to do. When he returns, will he find that we are faithful in fulfilling his work?

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****How is the sky?**

Provide various materials for the children to make drawings of the sky, according to the way they imagine what is and what is in it. As they work, praise their drawings and encourage them to use their imagination.

**Special guest**

Invite a mission leader from your congregation to talk about a missionary for whom the church is praying, or for whom they have info. Then ask the class: What do you think missionaries do? Why do you think our church supports them and prays for them?

They may respond that the missionaries help people and speak to the people of God. Listen to their answers and tell them: As you listen to today's lesson, try to discover the most important reason why our church supports missionaries.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 1:1-11

Since the book of Acts is a letter, we suggest that to tell the story, copy it on paper and put it inside an envelope. Tell the children that you are going to read them a letter that Luke sent, and start the story.

Remember to read slowly and with pauses. Explain the words that are difficult for your class to understand.

**Jesus is with us**

Dear Theophilus, you do honor your name. It must be nice to have a name that means "someone who loves God." Well, I have much more to tell you. Do you remember that in my first letter I wrote to you about Jesus? There I told you who he was, what he did, and what he taught. I told you everything, from his birth until he ascended to heaven. Now I have much more to tell you. The events were many. Where do I start? I know, I will continue from where I finished the previous time. As I told you, Jesus indeed suffered and died. But God raised him from the dead. At first, we doubted

that it was true, but Jesus appeared to us and we saw him several times during 40 days. He gave us many proofs of his resurrection, and he convinced us all. He continued to speak to us about the kingdom of God. Once, when he was eating with us, he told us, “Do not leave Jerusalem. Stay there to wait for the gift that my Father promised you, of which you have heard me speak.” That caught our attention.

Present! What gift? Jesus continued to tell us about the baptism with the Holy Spirit, but we did not understand that it was the gift. We kept thinking that Jesus would have a throne and be crowned as king of Israel.

When we saw Jesus for the last time, we asked him, “Lord, will you now restore the kingdom of Israel?”

It was a bit embarrassing to keep asking the same question and always receiving the same answer. Jesus told us that we could not know when he would do it. That meant: “No”, or at least, “not yet.” We were on a mountain, talking with Jesus and trying to learn more about the gift of God and his kingdom. Then, Jesus said something we will never forget: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

We were still trying to understand what he had told us when suddenly, Jesus began to rise from the ground. We all followed him with our eyes as far as we could, but then a cloud covered him and we could not see him anymore. Then, we saw two men dressed in white.

They asked us. “Why are you looking at heaven?” And, before we could answer, they added, “This same Jesus, who has been taken from you to heaven, will come as you have seen him go to heaven.”

So we did what Jesus told us. We returned to Jerusalem to wait. We did not know that only 10 days later we would receive the best gift of our entire lives!

## ACTIVITIES

### Jesus ascended to heaven

Distribute the children worksheets and the strip with the Jesus figure from the Cut-out Section (pg. 140). Help them make the cuts at the marked black lines on the worksheet, and fold the sheet in half. Show them how to insert the drawing strip through the openings. Move the strip from top to bottom to represent the ascension of Jesus.

Then, go to the next page to continue with the activity. Remind your class that Jesus will return to earth and will do so as He went to heaven. We call this the “second coming of Christ.”

### Ready!

Tell the children: Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he asked his disciples to do something. What were they to do? (Wait for the Holy Spirit and be his witnesses.)

What should we do while we wait for the second coming of Christ? (Be his witnesses.) Talk about what it means to be a witness for Christ. One way to do this is to talk about Jesus or to live in such a way that people see that Jesus has changed our life.

Prepare a mural about what it means to be a witness for Christ, and place it in a visible place in the church.

### Memorization

Since this is the unit’s last lesson, prepare simple prizes for those who have memorized the verse. Give time for everyone to individually say the verse and tell others what they studied during these lessons.

### To end

If time and space allow, present an exhibition of the work your children did during this unit. In this way, you will recognize the work of the children, and the parents will be able to identify with what their children studied. If parents attend that are not regular members of the congregation, attend to them with courtesy, and talk with them about the plan of salvation if the situation warrants it.





**Jesus ascended to  
heaven!**

**Jesus  
Will  
return!**

## THE CHURCH GROWS

**Biblical References:** Acts 2:1-41; 6:1-7; 6:8—8:3; 9:36-42.

**Unit Memory Verse:** Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children:

- Know that the church grows through its members believing in the message of salvation and passing it on to others.
- Understand that the church works to supply its own needs and to help the needy.
- Actively participate in the church's ministries.

### LESSON UNIT A

Lesson 19: **The Church starts to grow**

Lesson 20: **The Church needs helpers**

Lesson 21: **The Church is persecuted**

Lesson 22: **The Church shows God's love**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Children are just beginning to understand that the Christian world is bigger than their local church.

This unit presents the early church, its development, and growth.

They need to know what it means to be part of the church. Help them understand that being part of the church is more than attending Sunday school or weekly services.

Through this unit, the children will better understand what the church is, its mission, the Christian fellowship, and the blessing of belonging to the great family of Christ, and in that way appreciate it more.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that the Holy Spirit helps the Church to grow.

**Memory Verse:**

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"(Mark 16:15).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Children understand the concept of growth because they are growing rapidly. It is common for them to notice changes in their bodies, and that the clothes that they wear get too small at any moment.

Through this lesson, they will better understand the work of the Holy Spirit, and desire to be part of God's work on earth.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****How does the church grow?**

Tell the children: We have seen that plants, animals, and people need certain things that help them grow. In the same way, the church of Jesus needs very special help for its growth. Listen to the story carefully to know what it's about.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 2:1-41

**The church begins to grow**

Throughout the city of Jerusalem, voices and laughter of old friends who were reunited could be heard.

Many people had traveled hundreds of kilometers from other places to attend the Pentecost celebration. For many Jews, this was the favorite celebration of the whole year. It had been only ten days since Jesus had ascended to heaven. Do you remember what he told his disciples to do? (Wait in Jerusalem until God sends them the promise of the Holy Spirit to empower them.)

Now, on the day of Pentecost, 120 followers of Jesus were gathered. In that group were Peter and the other disciples, and many other people who loved Jesus. Suddenly, they heard something.

"Listen!" one of the believers exclaimed. "Listen to that wind!"

Suddenly, the wind began to blow even stronger, and something special happened. Flames of fire that looked like tongues descended from heaven, and a bright light filled the room. The believers saw that the tongues of the fire remained on them, but did not hurt them. Then, all who were there were filled with the Holy Spirit. Their hearts were filled with love and joy.

From that moment on, Jesus' followers wanted all people to feel that joy and love. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit-empowered them. Filled with emotion, they rushed out of the house, praising God. They were no longer afraid to talk about Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave them the power and courage to speak.

The people who had come to celebrate Pentecost heard the noise and commotion, so they approached with curiosity. And seeing they were amazed because, even though they came from many different countries, they all understood what the disciples were saying."

“What is happening?” They asked each other. “These men are from Galilee, but they are speaking in our languages. What does that mean?” Then Peter stood up for all to see, and began to preach:

“Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let me explain what is happening. Listen carefully to what I have to tell you. Long ago God promised to send the Holy Spirit. The prophet Joel told us about that promise. And today God has fulfilled his promise, and the Holy Spirit has come.”

Then, Peter spoke to them about Jesus: “God sent Jesus of Nazareth to us. He was a very special man. He did many miracles to prove that God had sent him. Everyone knows it because it happened here, among you. Even so, you allowed perverse men to kill him on a cross. Those bad men believed that they had killed Jesus, but that had been God’s plan for a long time. He knew all of that would happen. However, God resurrected Jesus, and we witnessed that amazing event. Do you understand me? Jesus of Nazareth, the man they nailed to the cross, is our Lord and Savior.”

When the people heard that, the Holy Spirit helped them recognize that they had disobeyed God, and they repented of their sins.

“Brothers, what should we do?” they asked with sadness and concern.

“Each of you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins are forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,” Peter told them.

That day, 3,000 people believed in Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they asked God to forgive them for being disobedient. And the Holy Spirit came into their lives. Then the church began to grow, just as God had planned.

## ACTIVITIES

### Biblical review

- What were the 120 followers of Jesus doing on the day of Pentecost? (They waited for the promise of the Holy Spirit.)
- How did they feel after receiving the Holy Spirit? (Joyful, full of power and courage to talk about the Good News of Jesus).
- What did they do after receiving the Holy Spirit? (They spoke in other languages.)
- Who preached to the crowd in Jerusalem? (Peter)
- What did the people do when they heard Peter’s message? (They repented of their sins and were baptized.)
- How many people believed in Jesus that day? (3000)

### The Holy Spirit helps the church grow

Hand out the children worksheets, and allow time for the children to draw some ways in which the Holy Spirit helps the church grow. If they have difficulty doing so, give them some ideas or discuss the subject.

### Memorization

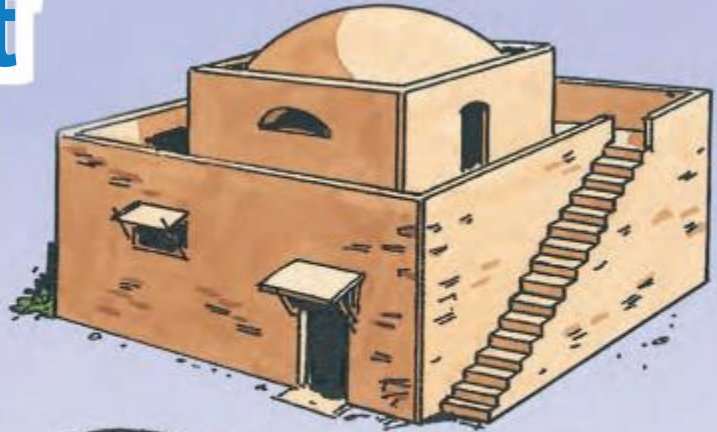
Use the second page of the children worksheets for the children to review the memory verse. Ask them to look for Mark 16:15 in their Bibles, and fill in the blanks.

Hand out the Verse of the Month Club cards for them to take home and study the verse during the week.

### To end

Form teams of children to help you clean the room and put away the materials before you say goodbye. Get together to pray, thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Intercede for each other, and remember also the sick and needy.

# The First Church



The Holy Spirit helps  
The church grow



# The Church Today

Draw ways in which the Holy Spirit helps the church grow.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn to work in the Church to serve others.

**Memory Verse:**

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

What do the children think of when they talk about “working in the church”? The pastor? The teachers? They may think they are not old enough to take responsibility in the church. Or maybe they think it’s the church that should do something for them. Although adults have greater responsibilities, children must understand that the church grows when its members work together to solve problems and help others. During this stage, elementary students want to help in what they can. Generally, they are helpful and cooperative. Take this opportunity to assign tasks they can do, and recognize their efforts.

This is the best age to teach the children that God is pleased when we do his work, and to motivate them to serve in their local church.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****What is my work?**

Have the children to sit in a circle, and together make a list of the jobs they can do in the church. Write the answers on the board or on a poster board. Afterward, each one must choose a job and commit to do it during the next week. (Remember that the work should be appropriate for the age of your children, for example sort classroom materials, pick up trash, clean tables, organize Bibles, help collect the offering, welcome visitors, help the teacher, etc.)

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 6:1-7

**The church needs assistants**

“Peter, James, Matthew, we need to talk with you. You are forgetting to take care of our widows when you distribute the daily food.”

The apostles listened attentively to what they were telling them. They were Greeks who had come to Jerusalem from a distant place. When they heard the good news about Jesus, they had become Christians. The church was growing rapidly, but now these Greek brothers had a problem.

“Your custom of giving food to widows and orphans is very good,” the Greek believers said, “but they are not fair. Most of the food is given to the Hebrew widows, but Greek widows and orphans do not receive enough.”

“If that is what is happening, it is not fair,” the apostles answered. “Let’s gather all the Christians to talk about this problem.”

“That sounds good to us,” the others replied. In that meeting, the apostles reported on the complaint that the Greeks had presented. “There is a problem,” said the apostles. “It would not be right for us to stop preaching, because that is the ministry that Jesus left us. But the widows and orphans need food,

so we thought of a plan that we are sure will work. We are going to pray and then we will choose seven men, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will give them the task of caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, and taking care of the widows and orphans. Thus we apostles can devote ourselves to prayer, teaching, and preaching the Word of God.”

“It’s a great idea!” expressed the others. “Who will we choose?”

“What do you think of Stephen?” someone suggested. “He is a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.”

“We recommend Philip,” said others. “He is also a Christian filled with the Holy Spirit.” In this way, they chose Stephen, Philip, and five other Christians filled with the Spirit. Then, they were presented to the apostles for their approval.

The apostles prayed, putting their hands on the seven deacons, and told them, “The work of the Lord is being carried out.”

Thanks to that help, all the widows and orphans received the necessary food. The apostles had time to study the Word of God, preach, teach and pray. And more and more people heard the good news about Jesus and became Christians. The church grew even more because everyone worked together to fulfill God’s work.

## ACTIVITIES

### Whose job is that?

Hand out the children worksheets for this lesson. Instruct the children to draw a line from each figure (one of the apostles and one of the seven deacons) with the things they did.

Ask them to circle the three jobs they consider most important.

When they are finished, explain that everything that is done in the church is valuable, however small it may seem. Remind them that this is the teaching of today’s story: any work that is done for the Lord is important.

### I can do it!

Ask them to go to the next page, and tell them: There are many tasks that children can do to help in the work of the church. Can you give me some examples? (Allow them to respond, some suggestions: help keep the church clean, invite our friends, participate in services and classes, sing for a special occasion in a choir, pray, help those in need.)

Ask them to look at the illustrations on the second page. Then, color the ones that show jobs they can do in the church. Then, ask them to make a drawing in the blank space about how they can use their talents and abilities to help in the church.

As they work, ask: What do you think would happen if everyone in the church worked together to solve problems and help others? Let them respond, and read Acts 6:7 as a conclusion.

### Special guests

In advance, invite one or two church members who are actively serving in a ministry. Ask them to tell your children about the work they do in the church, and why their work is important. Remind them to keep it brief since the children’s attention is short...

### Memorization

Write the memory verse on the board and read it once with your children. Then, delete the first and last words, and ask for a volunteer to say them. Go on erasing words until the board is blank and your students say the text by heart.

### To end

Form a circle to pray, thanking God for the people who work in the church. Ask each student to pray for a church leader during this week. If possible, give them a piece of paper with the name of the person they will pray for. Sing a praise song before saying goodbye, and do not forget to invite them to the next class.



# I Can Do That!



Color the pictures of the jobs that you think you could do to help your church. Draw in the blank space something else you could do to help.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn to trust in God when they have to suffer for defending their faith.

**Memory Verse:**

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

As the children develop more friendships at school and in their neighborhoods, they become more sensitive to what others think of them. This makes them more susceptible to the influence of their peers, so they easily feel hurt when they reject or treat them badly. In particular, they find it difficult to tolerate ridicule and rejection for doing the right thing. If they are not advised appropriately, they may stray from what they have been taught and adopt the behavior of others, with the sole reason of being accepted. Assure them that God is always with them and understands them when they face persecution. Encourage your students to be faithful witnesses of Christ wherever they are.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****What is persecution?**

On the blackboard or a card, write the word PERSECUTION in capital letters.

Ask the children: Have you ever heard the word “persecution”? What do you think it means? Allow them to respond. Then, supplement their answers by explaining that: Persecution means bothering someone or making them suffer as much as possible. Some people are cruel to others for what they believe or what they are.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 6:8—8:3

**Stephen trusts in God**

One day Stephen was preaching to many people. Suddenly, he heard angry voices approaching.

“Stop talking like that! You are speaking against God!” a man shouted.

“It is not right to speak badly about the temple,” said another. “The temple is a sacred place.”

“You are inciting people to disobey our religious law,” others said. “Why don’t you shut up?”

Stephen saw that everyone was very angry. But why did those people hate him so much? He hadn’t done anything he was accused of. They were all lying. The only thing Stephen had done was to teach people about Jesus.

But that didn’t matter to the people around him. They didn’t want to love Jesus. They just wanted to get rid of Stephen.

That day, they attacked him and took him to the Sanhedrin, which was a group of religious leaders of the Jews. There these men told more lies about Stephen.

“The only thing he does is to speak badly about the temple and the law. We heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses taught us.”

Afterward, they looked at Stephen. He did not look angry. On the contrary, his face showed love, like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, “Is everything they say against you true?”

Instead of responding yes or no, Stephen began to remind them of all that God had done out of love for his people.

“God called Abraham to a new land and gave him a big family,” said Stephen. “Later, God rescued his people from the bondage of Egypt. He gave them good laws to help them live well, and he sent prophets to teach them the way of God. Finally, he sent his Son Jesus to be our Savior. But you killed him, just as you killed the prophets. God has shown you His love again and again, but you do not want to hear it or obey it.”

When the religious leaders heard that, they became enraged against Stephen. “Blasphemer,” they responded indignantly.

“Look,” he said, looking at the sky, “I see the heavens open and I see Jesus at the right hand of God.”

“Enough!” the leaders shouted, covering their ears and shouting.

Then they took Stephen and dragged him out of the city. They threw him on the ground and started throwing big stones at him.

The pointy stones hit Stephen on the head, arms, legs, and all of his body. Soon, blood began to flow down his face and his body.

Stephen looked at the men who were stoning him, and prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit, and do not take this sin into account.” After that, he died.

Stephen’s death did not cause these men to repent for what they had done. On the contrary, they wanted to destroy all Christians, so they started to persecute them and lock them in prisons.

To escape the persecution, many Christians fled from Jerusalem to other cities and countries. They had to leave their homes, their jobs, and many of their possessions, but they did not give up their faith in Jesus.

Everywhere they went they talked about the good news of Jesus. Upon hearing the message, the people of those places also believed in Jesus. Enraged men could persecute Christians, and even kill them, but they could not stop the church from growing.

## ACTIVITIES

### **The persecution of Stephen**

Distribute the children worksheets and the strip of drawings for lesson 21 from the Cut-Out Section.

### **Memorization**

Write the words of Mark 16:15 on a poster board. Then, divide the class into four groups and the verse into four sentences: (1) Go into all the world (2) and preach the gospel (3) to all creation (4) Mark 16:15.

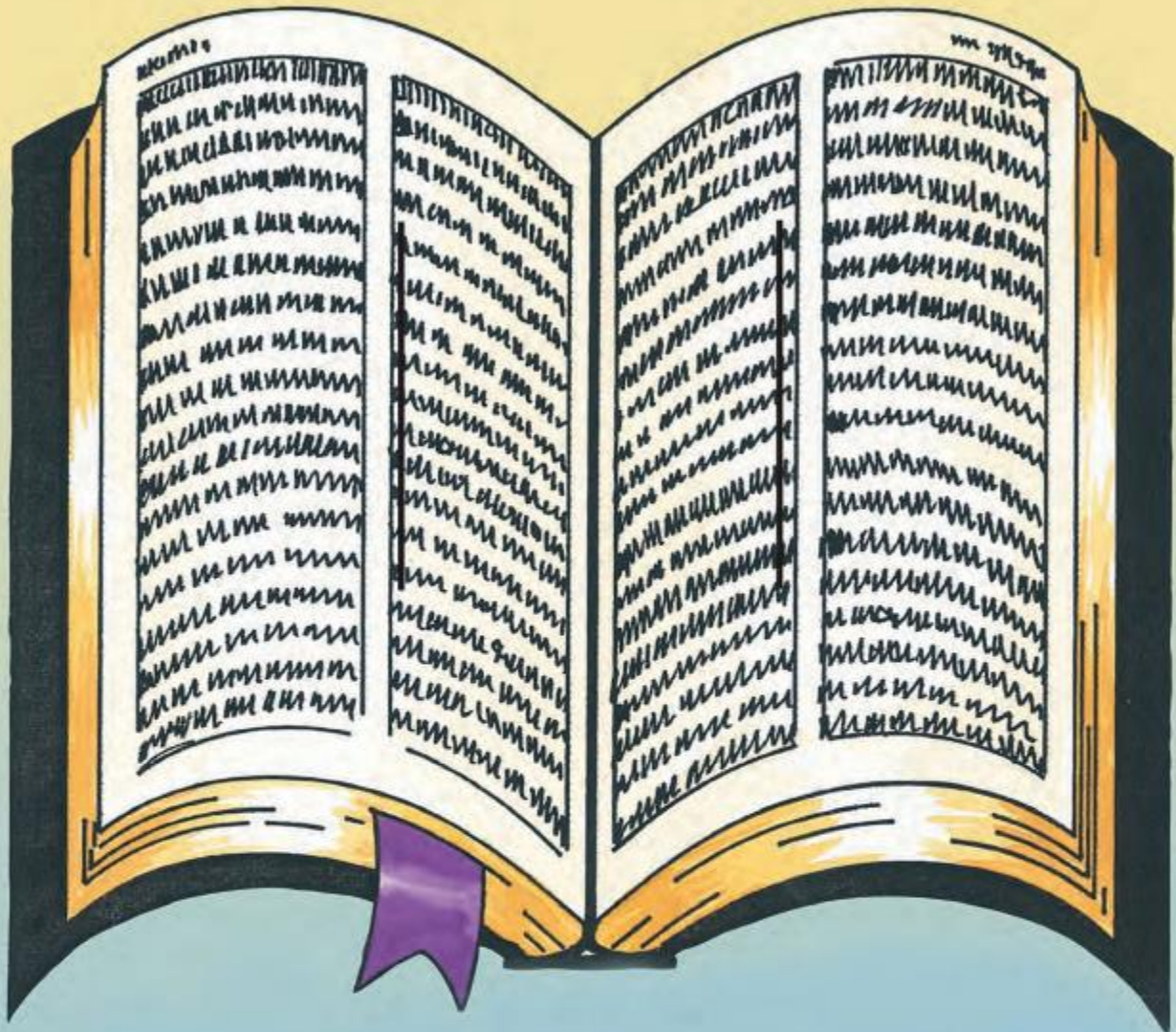
Assign a phrase to each group to say when it is their turn. Then, rotate the phrases among the groups so that everyone learns the full text.

### **To end**

Encourage the children to trust in God in difficult times. Pray for each other.



# *The Persecution of Stephen*



**“But they could not stand  
Up against the wisdom the  
Spirit gave him as he spoke.”  
(Acts 6:10)**

Cut the vertical black lines to form two openings in the Bible above. Cut out the strip of figures from the Cut-out Section and insert it into the openings in the Bible. Move the strip to review the Bible story of what happened to Stephen when he was preaching about the kingdom of God

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that the church grows when believers show God's love to others.

**Memory Verse:**

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Your class will understand that they can show God's love by considering the needs of others. Cultivate in your children the desire to help. Soon they will realize that, even though they are small, they can use their talents and abilities in the name of the Lord.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****How I can help?**

Provide white paper and colored pencils. Ask the children to draw pictures of different ways they can show God's love by helping others.

Then, paste the drawings on a poster board to make a mural. Allow time for your children to decorate it and stick it on the wall.

Talk about the importance of being imitators of Christ by helping others.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 9:36-42

**The church shows the love of God**

"I just finished this dress for you," said Tabitha. "I hope you like it."

"Oh, Tabitha! It's beautiful. Thank you very much," said a young mother.

Almost all the people of Joppa knew Tabitha, especially the poor. She cared very much for the needy, and she showed them by making beautiful dresses for them. She knew how to sew very well, so she used her talent to help people.

"I did this for you," said Tabitha as she handed a beautiful dress to an old woman. "Thank you very much, Tabitha!"

One day she became seriously ill, and soon after, she died. Her friends put her in a room. "Why did such a good person have to die? We will miss her so much, we love her so much!" her friends said sadly.

"She did so many good things for us. What will we do without her?" they were asking each other.

"Peter is in Lydda," said one of Tabitha's friends. "Maybe he knows what to do." "You two, go get him!"

Two men went from Joppa to Lydda. When Peter was told what had happened, he went immediately to Joppa.

Upon arriving at the house, he was surprised. Many people were crying!

"Peter! We are so glad you came. Poor Tabitha. She was so good to us. Look at the beautiful clothes she made us. We will miss her very much." "Leave me alone," Peter told them. "Please, wait



outside.”

People went quietly into the other room. Then Peter knelt and prayed. Then, he looked at the face of the dead woman and said, “Tabitha, get up!”

By the power of God, Tabitha opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up on the bed.

“You can go in now,” Peter told her friends.

“Look, everyone! Tabitha is alive! The power of God restored her life,” Peter explained to the people.

The people were very happy. They praised and thanked God. And when the other people of Joppa heard about God’s wonderful miracle, many believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ACTIVITIES

### **Project of love**

Organize with your class a community support project, or compassionate ministry, to put into practice what they learned today. We suggest you collect food to donate to a family in need.

Or, if you know of someplace where some tragedy has occurred, they could collect an offering and send it to the missionary or to the pastor who works there.

### **Let’s show the love of God**

Ask for some volunteers to help you distribute the children worksheets.

Allow time for the children to cut out the boxes at the bottom of the page and paste them in the blanks, according to the order of the Bible story.

While doing this activity, briefly review what they learned in this lesson.

### **I can also show the love of God**

Encourage the children to put into practice the biblical principles they studied. Using their worksheet, ask them to write or draw each day how they demonstrated God’s love to others.

Remind them that some ways to show God’s love are: helping the elderly, sharing food with those who don’t have it, helping their parents, etc.

Tell them that next week they should bring the completed worksheet to class to report to the rest of the group what they did to show God’s love to others during the week.

### **Memorization**

Ask that some volunteers come forward and recall the memory verse of this unit.

Prepare small prizes to recognize the effort of your children.

If you wish, invite the parents of the children, and prepare a demonstration of what they learned in these four lessons.

### **To end**

Briefly review the stories they studied during the unit. Then, form a circle and pray for the Lord to help you all love your fellow human beings. Make sure everyone takes home the crafts they did.

# Let's Show God's Love

1	2
3	4

Cut out each of the boxes below. Put them in order according to the Bible story events, and glue them into the blanks above. Now you can tell others how Tabitha showed God's love.



## THE GREAT COMMISSION

**Biblical References:** Acts 1:1-14; 10; 3:1-12; Philippians 2:25-30; 4:14-20.

**Unit Memory Verse:** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children to:

- Recognize the importance of being witnesses of Christ.
- Learn that by supporting missionaries and serving Jesus, they respond to the call of the Great Commission.
- Support missionaries with their prayers and offerings.

### LESSON UNIT

Lesson 23: **The Great Commission**

Lesson 24: **Peter talks about Jesus to Cornelius**

Lesson 25: **The Church sends Paul and Barnabas**

Lesson 26: **Offerings for the mission**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Children of this age are beginning to show a marked interest in exploring the world. They are curious and want to know more every day.

This unit will help them know that God not only wants them to be saved but also that they care about people all over the world. God desires that his Word be known even in the most remote and inhospitable regions.

Help them understand that each Christian is a “witness,” and therefore has the responsibility to tell others the Good News of God’s love. This is what we call “the great commission.”

Taking advantage of the ingenuity and energy of your children, look for ways to transmit the Word of God in your community.

In these lessons, they will also learn about the apostles. They will study the work they did to achieve the growth of the early church and spread the message of salvation through Jesus.

Use this lesson as an opportunity to involve them in missionary work, and teach them to pray for those who work preaching the gospel around the world.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn that the Holy Spirit helps us talk to others about God's love.

**Memory Verse:**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

It is likely that the children have friends or have met people who profess other religions or beliefs. They may have noticed that they go to other churches or that their holidays are different from the ones that Christians celebrate.

Through this lesson, they will understand that it is important to speak to others about Christ's love. Help them develop ideas for inviting their friends to the Sunday school class.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Missionaries**

Ask the children if they know what it means to be a missionary. Tell them that a missionary is a person who dedicates his/her life to preaching the Word of God in faraway places. Talk about missionaries who work away from their extended families, and in many cases, in countries where the people speak a different language. Sometimes they find it difficult to buy food and get other things they had in their home country.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 1:1-14

**The Great Commission**

"He lives, He lives!" the disciples repeated, giving the good news. It was incredible. Some still doubted that it was true, but Jesus was patient. He showed them the marks on his hands where the nails had pierced, and also the wound in his side. After he spoke to them, he ate and walked with them. And he said to them, "Do not leave Jerusalem; wait for the promise of the Father."

"A promise? What promise?" asked the disciples. They did not understand what Jesus was saying.

They thought that he was going to have a kingdom here on earth, like the other kings. In addition, they wanted to be an important part of that kingdom.

Jesus tried to explain to them one more time: "You do not know the day or the hour in which it will happen, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

Later, Jesus was taken to heaven, and the astonished disciples watched him ascend until a cloud hid him.

They stayed there, looking towards the sky. They could not believe what their eyes had seen! "What does this mean? Where did he go? How can we be his witnesses?" they asked each other.

While they were still looking toward the sky, two men appeared in white robes standing next to them, asked them, "Galileans, why are you looking at the sky? This same Jesus, whom they have seen ascend to heaven, will come again in the same way."

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem. After a long day on the journey, they arrived at a room on

the second floor of a house and stayed there.

Then they prayed, asking God to help them understand the meaning of what Jesus had told them before he had left.

## ACTIVITIES

### **Adopt a missionary!**

Get in touch with a missionary who works in your area to invite them to your class. If he or she cannot come, ask them to provide you with information about their job and family, including photographs, birthday dates, and their mailing or e-mail address.

Make the presentation of the missionary to your children, and explain what their work consists of and what their main needs are. During this unit, gather a special offering, and make drawings or write letters to send to the missionary.

### **Acts 1:8**

Distribute the children worksheets and the figure of Jesus that corresponds to lesson 23 in the Cut-out Section. Then on the worksheet, have they make a cut in the black line in the center to form an opening, and insert the figure of Jesus. Show them how to fold the page on the dotted line, and review the bible story.

Turn the page over, and ask: Do you know anyone who needs to hear the message of Jesus?

Use the illustrations on the worksheet to help them think of people they could talk to about Christ.

Allow time for the children to write those names on the lines.

### **Memorization**

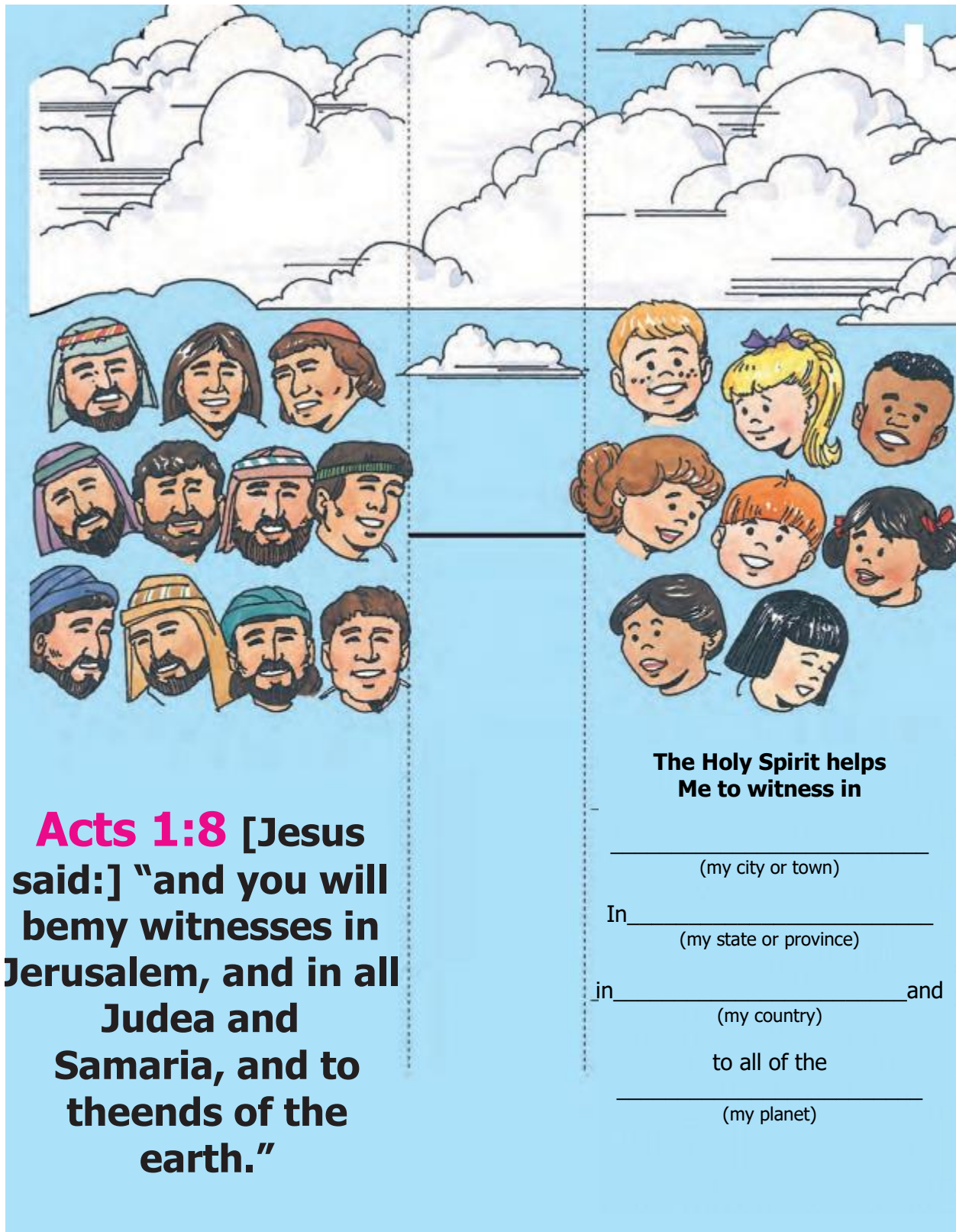
We suggest that you write the text on colored cards, putting some words on each card. Explain that the passage they will learn is known as the “great commission,” and that it was the special work Jesus gave his disciples before going to heaven. Have the children repeat the text several times. Then, give a card to each child, and ask them to line them up so that the verse can be read.

### **To end**

Thank them for having attended, and remind them that in the next class they will continue talking about the “great commission”.

Help them pick up the materials they used, and end up singing a song.





Cut along the black line in the center of the page. Cut out the picture of Jesus from the Cut-out Section and insert it into the opening. Fold the sheet along the dotted lines so that the faces of the children are folded back. Move the picture of Jesus up while you tell what happened to him after he instructed his disciples. Read Acts 1:8. Bend the faces of the disciples back and those of the children forward. Fill in the blanks so you can remember where you can tell others about Jesus.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should understand that God's love, shown through Jesus Christ, is for everyone.

**Memory Verse:**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Children should understand that Jesus died for all the people of the world and that the mission of the church is to tell everyone about the love of Jesus.

Emphasize the teaching of Acts 10:34: "God does not show favoritism." When your children understand that God loves all people wherever they are, it will be easier for them to reach others for Christ, and tell them about his love.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON**

Make a poster with the memory verse, and ask your children to decorate it. Then, stick it on the wall and repeat the verse together a couple of times. Ask that some children read it aloud and then say it by heart.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 10

**Peter talks about Jesus to Cornelius**

One day Cornelius was in his house.

Suddenly, he saw an angel of God enter where he was and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius was amazed, and looking at the angel, asked him, "What do you want, Lord?" The angel replied, "God has heard your prayers and knows everything you have done to help those in need. Send some men to Joppa to bring Peter. You will find him in a house near the sea."

Cornelius was a centurion, that is, a Roman soldier who was in charge of many men. So he called two of his servants and a soldier and communicated the angel's message to them. They knew that Cornelius was a good man, so they immediately obeyed and left for Joppa to look for Peter.

The next day in Joppa, Peter went to the roof of his house to pray. While there he had a vision. He saw a large cloth that descended from the sky, hanging from the four corners. In it were all kinds of animals, including reptiles and birds.

Then, a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat."

When Peter looked at what was in the cloth, he saw that all the animals it contained were those that the Jews did not eat.

"No, sir, by no means! I have never eaten anything impure or prohibited," Peter answered firmly.

"Do not call impure what God has cleansed," the voice answered. This happened three times. Then, the cloth rose again to heaven.

Peter was still on the roof when the men sent by Cornelius arrived at his house. "Does a man named Peter live here?" they asked.

While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Peter, three men are looking for you. Get up and do not be afraid to go with them because I have sent them."

Peter obeyed and came down from the roof. The men who waited for him were Gentiles. The Jews

thought that Gentiles were impure people and did not want to be with them. They were never invited to their homes, but Peter remembered the words of the vision: “Do not call impure what God has cleansed.”

Then Peter invited them to rest at his house that night. The next day he chose some friends to accompany him, and they left for Cornelius’ house in the city of Caesarea.

When they arrived the next day, Cornelius was waiting for them with a group of relatives and friends he had invited.

Peter told them, “You know that according to our law, we Jews must not visit Gentiles, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure. That’s why I came when you called for me. Could you tell me why they came for me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago I was praying at my house, about 3:00 in the afternoon. Suddenly, I saw before me a man in shining clothes who said to me, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayers and has seen your alms for the poor. Send men to Joppa to bring Peter. He is in a house near the sea.’ So I sent for you, and you have done well to come.

Now we are here in the presence of God to hear all that God has commanded you.”

Then Peter began to say to them, “Now I understand that in truth God does not favor certain people, but accepts people of all nations who fear him and do what is right.” Then, he spoke to them about Jesus and his love for all people.

Cornelius and his friends began to praise God. While they were doing that, the Holy Spirit descended on all those who had heard the message.

The Jews who had gone with Peter were surprised to see that the Gentiles were also receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Then, Peter said to them, “They have received the Holy Spirit just as we received it.” Then he told them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Cornelius was happy to know about Jesus, so he invited Peter to stay at his house for a few more days.

## ACTIVITIES

### **We are all the same**

Prepare a poster with photographs or drawings of people of different races, and allow your children to look at them. Tell them: In today’s story, we learned that God has no favorites. He loves us all equally and wants everyone to know and trust in Jesus.

Encourage them to talk about Christ to all people, regardless of who they are.

### **Memorization**

Place the cards you made for the previous class on the table. After repeating the verse a couple of times as a group, ask a volunteer to order the words in 10 seconds. Then call another, and so on until everyone participates.

### **To end**

Praise God and give thanks for loving all of us equally. Exhort your class to be witnesses of Christ wherever they are, and to invite their friends and family to Sunday school.



# God Loves Peter and Cornelius

87



- He had a vision ●
- He was in the Roman Army ●
- Jewish ●
- He saw an Angel ●
- He obeyed God ●
- Gentile ●
- Apostle ●
- He saw animals coming down from heaven ●
- He had a new friend ●
- God Loved him ●



Read the above phrases. Draw a lines to connect the phrases with the man it describes. Some phrases define Cornelius, some Peter, and some both of them.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that God calls some people to be missionaries.

**Memory Verse:**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

The world of children is expanding beyond their home through school, their friends, sports, etc. As they discover the needs of others, they will learn to respond to those needs according to the will of God.

This lesson will help them understand that all Christians have the mission to communicate the love of Christ to our neighbors, but also that God calls some people for a specific task. We know these Christians as missionaries. He calls them through the Holy Spirit to take the gospel to other countries and cultures. Although we must all communicate the love of God, the call of missionaries implies leaving their homes and taking the good news of salvation to other cultures and places of the world.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Missionary trips**

Look in magazines for some travel illustrations (for example: suitcases, boats, airplanes, cars, etc.). Place the clippings on a table, along with a poster board and glue. Allow time for your children to make a poster related to travel. Talk to them as they work, and ask them how people prepare for a trip. Explain that in today's story they will talk about a mission trip.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 13:1-12

**The church sends Paul and Barnabas**

The leaders of the Antioch church were praying and fasting. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit told them, "Separate Paul and Barnabas to do the work to which I have called them."

For many years Paul and Barnabas had been witnesses of Jesus, speaking to many people about him. But now they would be missionaries. Missionaries are witnesses of Christ who go to other cultures or countries to preach the good news of God's love.

The leaders of the Antioch church prayed and sent them to fulfill the mission that God had assigned them. The Holy Spirit led Paul and Barnabas to Seleucia, and from there they went by ship to Cyprus. Upon arriving in Salamis, the new missionaries preached in the Jewish synagogues. Then they crossed the whole island, preaching in each city. After a while, they came to Paphos, on the other side of the island, where the governor of Cyprus lived.

"Bring Paul and Barnabas to me," the governor ordered. "I want to hear the Word of God."



When the missionaries arrived to meet the governor, there was Elymas, a wicked magician who did not want the governor to believe in the teachings of God.

When Paul saw what the evil man was doing, he said, “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”

At that moment Elymas shouted, “I cannot see!” and staggered away looking for someone to guide him. The governor was amazed at what God had done and by Paul’s teachings. So he believed in Jesus and became a Christian.

## ACTIVITIES

### The call of God

Pass out the children worksheets, and ask the children to cut out the strip with illustrations on the right side of the page. Give them time to cut out the figures and paste them into the scenes, according to the order of the biblical story.

### Biblical review

Organize a competition to review the following questions:

- What were the leaders of the Antioch church doing when the Holy Spirit spoke to them? (They were fasting and praying.)
- What did the Holy Spirit tell them? (God wanted Paul and Barnabas to do a special job.)
- What do we call the people that God calls to preach and teach people from other cultures and countries? (Missionaries)
- Name some missionaries you know.
- What island did Paul and Barnabas go to preach? (To Cyprus)
- Who did the missionaries meet in Pafos? (The governor and the magician Elymas)
- What did Elymas do when Paul and Barnabas arrived to meet the governor? (He tried to prevent the governor from believing in Jesus.)
- Who gave Paul the power to announce to the evil magician that he would be blind? (The Holy Spirit)
- What did the governor do when he saw what God had done and had listened to Paul’s teaching? (He believed in Jesus.)
- What do we call people who communicate the love of God in their land? (Witnesses)

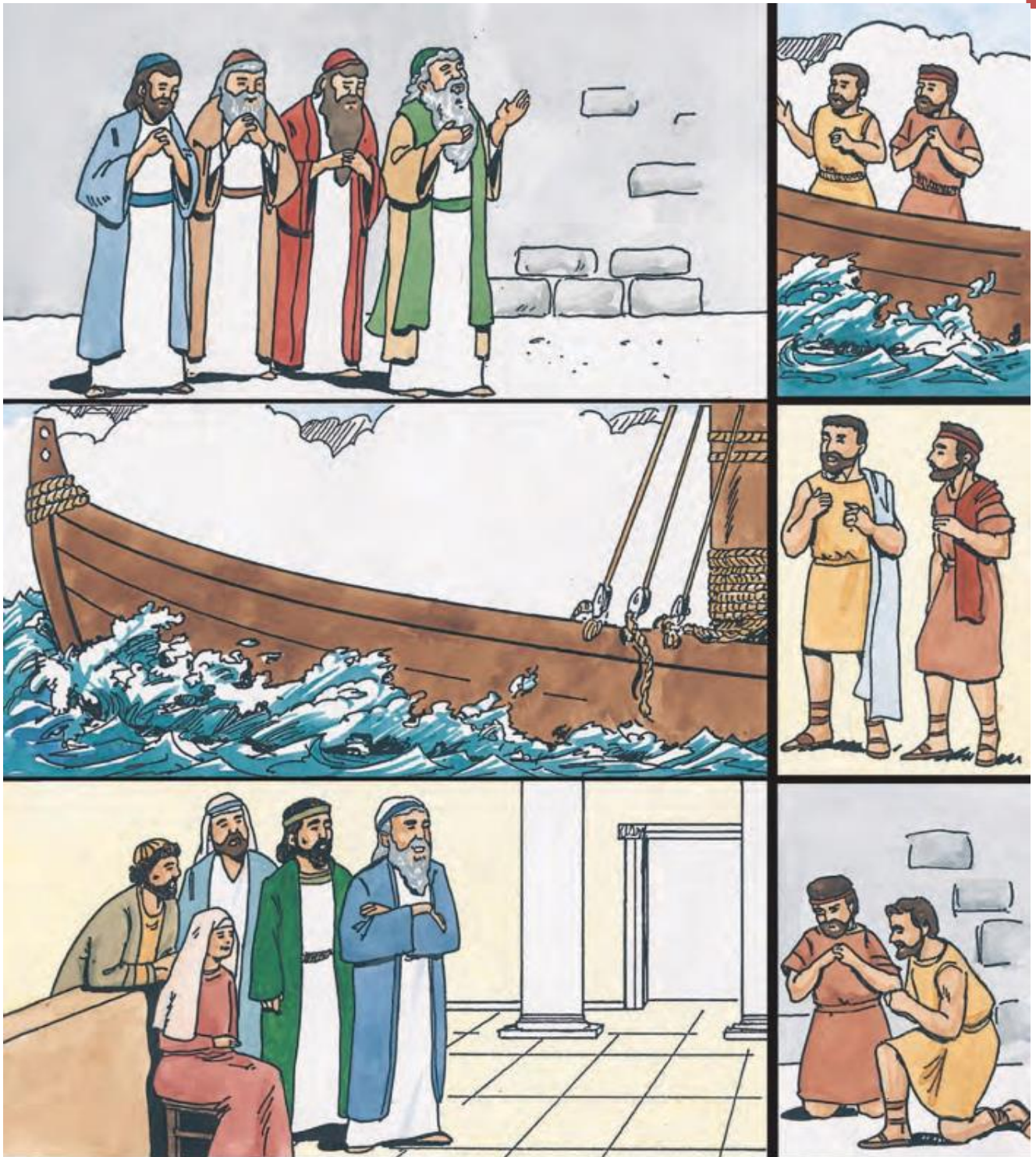
### Memorization

Hand out the cards with the memory verse. After repeating the words several times, say the first sentence and ask those who have those words to come forward. Continue to the end, and repeat the biblical text together.

### To end

Have the children sit in a circle and tell them: Today we learned that God calls some people to be missionaries. Although not all of us will be missionaries, we can help the growth of the kingdom of God. We fulfill the great commission when we obey God and tell others about the love of Jesus.

Say goodbye with a prayer and intercede for the missionaries around the world.



Cut along the thick vertical line to separate the figures on the right side of the page. Cut apart the three pictures. Paste each one in the correct scene to show how God called and sent Paul and Barnabas as missionaries.

**Lesson Objective:**

To encourage the students that they could help missionaries accomplish the work that God has entrusted to them.

**Memory Verse:**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Likely, the children are not familiar with missionary work. Some may think that the “great commission” is something that the apostles did in the past and that the missionaries do today. Others may have never heard that term. With certainty, your students have not prepared their backpacks to go to talk about Christ to the most remote places in the world. However, this lesson will teach them that the task of the great commission is for every Christian, not only for missionaries or evangelists. Your students can learn to participate in the mission of the church “now.” They do not have to wait until they are adults! God can use them even at an early age.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Offerings**

Prepare a poster that illustrates various ways in which missionaries invest the offerings they receive: food, shelter, and clothing, for people who don't have sufficient resources: materials to evangelize; teaching; preaching; medicines, etc.

Show it to your children, and talk about the importance of supporting missionary work through offerings and gifts.

**A special offering**

For this activity, you will need small boxes, colored paper, and glue.

Give a box to each child, and ask them to decorate them with colored paper. When they are finished, let the glue dry. Tell them to take their boxes home and put the offerings they will send to the missionaries in those boxes. That little box will be a reminder that they should give an offering for missionary work.

**BIBLE STORY**

Philippians 2:25-30; 4:14-20

To tell this story we suggest that you write it on paper and keep it in an envelope as if it were a letter. Open the letter in front of the children and tell them that you are going to read them the message that Paul sent to the church in a place called Philippi.

The Christians of that church were very worried. Some time ago, upon learning that Paul was in prison, they had sent a man named Epaphroditus with some gifts for Paul.

“Epaphroditus please take these gifts to Paul and stay with him to help him in whatever he needs,”

the members of the church had told him.

He gladly carried out what was asked of him. But after a while, they received bad news: “Epaphroditus is very sick, about to die!”

Paul knew that the members of the Philippian church were worried about their friend. So, when Epaphroditus had the strength to travel, Paul told him, “I think you should go back to Philippi. Our friends want to see you and know that you’re better.”

Epaphroditus agreed, but before traveling, Paul wrote a letter for his friend to take to the believers of the Philippian church. *Dear brothers and sisters of Philippi:*

*I think it’s time for my friend Epaphroditus to come back to be with you. He is like a brother to me. You sent him to be with me when I needed him the most. You sent him as a messenger to take care of me; now he is eager to return. He does not want you to worry about his health.*

*He was very sick, but God had mercy on him and me. I want you to see him so you know he’s okay. Receive him in the Lord with much joy. He almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to do what you could not do for me.*

*Thank you for participating in my sufferings. You were the only ones who sent me help. Thanks for everything you did for me. I no longer expect to receive more gifts. I am happy because you learned to give and help others with joy. I received everything you sent me and I have an abundance. Your offerings please the Lord.*

*My God, then, will supply everything you lack according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To God and our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

*A servant of Christ, Paul*

## ACTIVITIES

### Epaphroditus and Paul

Hand out the children worksheets. Have the children number the pictures according to the Bible story. As they work, talk with them about the importance of helping in the missionary work by giving our offerings.

### Adopt a missionary!

Together with your children, develop a plan to help a missionary from your area or another part of the world. Establish the monthly or annual amount that they will send as an offering. Write on a calendar the dates of their birthdays or wedding anniversary to send them a greeting card. Explain to the children that by adopting a missionary, they are committing to praying and supporting their ministry constantly.

### Memorization

Close the unit by making a collective review of the biblical text. Give opportunity for those who have learned it by heart to come forward and say it out loud. If possible, reward them with a treat, a pencil, or a bookmark for their Bible.

### To end

Briefly review the unit lessons, and stress the importance of fulfilling the Great Commission that Jesus left us. Form a circle and pray for missionaries from around the world.

Give them the work they did during the unit, and encourage them to attend the next class to start a new unit, which is titled: “Great stories of God’s power.”





Number the drawings in the order that they happened in the story. Read the phrase above to remember what the Philippians did for Paul and what you can do today.



## GREAT STORIES OF GOD’S POWER

**Biblical References:** Genesis 11:1-9; Exodus 13:17—15:2; 2 Kings 5:1-15; 6:8-23; Jonah; Daniel 3:1-30.

**Unit Memory Verse:** Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children:

- Know that God has control of the world, even though situations are difficult.
- Feel thankful for God’s wisdom, love, patience, and forgiveness.
- Trust in God in whatever situation they find themselves.
- Know that God guides and sustains us.

### LESSON UNIT

Lesson 27: **God is in control**

Lesson 28: **God rescues His people**

Lesson 29: **God honors Naaman’s obedience**

Lesson 30: **God’s invisible army**

Lesson 31: **God is patient and forgiving**

Lesson 32: **God is more powerful than the fiery furnace**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Children learn about God through the Bible stories and the testimony of the believers around them. Children have learned to consider God as Father, friend, or pastor, taking into account His loving qualities. However, it is important to balance that perception with emphasizing His great power and majesty. This unit will deal with the power of God.

Your children need to feel safe, so they seek refuge with their parents, friends, and teachers. With these lessons, you can teach them that God is sovereign and controls all situations in the world. Even when situations seem complicated, God shows his fidelity to those who love him.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn that God is in control of every situation.

**Memory Verse:**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Children are aware of the evil that exists in the world. On many occasions, evil seems to dominate; furthermore, it would seem that often people who reject God prosper, while those who believe in Him suffer.

It is important that your children know that no matter how big evil may seem, God is sovereign. He gave us the freedom to choose between good and evil, but sometimes God intervenes and says, "Enough!" Knowing that God has control over everything that exists will help your students trust him. God has been working with humanity since its creation; we can see it through all of history. Help them understand that God is greater than evil and that he has absolute control over everything.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Do you understand me?**

As your children enter the room, welcome them by saying "good morning" in different languages. Use these examples: bonjour (French); good morning (English); buona mattina (Italian); bom dia (Portuguese); guten morgen (German).

Tell them: It is difficult to communicate when other people speak a language that we don't understand. Did any of you understand what I said? Listen to their answers and explain that in today's Bible story, they will study about some people who could not understand each other.

**Let's work together**

Ask your children to work together without communicating through speech. Divide the class into groups of two or three. Whisper to one of the members a simple task to do with everyone in their group (for example: move a table, arrange the chairs, make a tower with blocks, etc.).

Give them time to try to complete the task. After a few minutes, ask them to stop and ask them why they did not complete the activity. Based on the answers, tell them that the same thing happened to a group of Old Testament people when they tried to do a project.

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 11:1-9

**Tower of Babel**

When Noah and his three sons left the ark, the world was clean. It was a whole new world, ready to be inhabited.

Noah and his children built new houses. Then, Noah's children and their wives had children. And these in turn had children.

Later, some families went to live in another region, where they found a great and beautiful place to live.

There those people decided that they wanted to be together forever. They did not like the idea of going to different places. God had commanded them to settle the earth, but they did not want to obey. Some said, "Let's build our city, with a big tower that reaches the sky. That way we will be famous and we will all be together, and not be scattered all over the world."

Some started making bricks; others prepared the mixture to join them; others brought the bricks and the mixture to the builders.

Seeing what the people were doing, God became sad. They were not obeying what he had commanded. Instead of filling the land, they were building a big city and a tower to be all together. God had promised them that he would not destroy the earth again with a flood. The rainbow was a reminder of that promise he had made to Noah. But despite that, God was in control of the situation.

At that time, everyone spoke a single language and used the same words. But since the people decided to disobey God, he made them speak different languages. Those who were making bricks suddenly did not understand each other anymore. Nor did they understand those who loaded the mortar. And those who loaded the mortar did not understand those who carried the bricks. Also, those who were building spoke different languages.

Soon people had to abandon their plans. They stopped building the city with the big tower, and they moved to other places and filled the land, just as God had told Noah

## ACTIVITIES

### Confusion!

Distribute the children worksheets for this lesson. Allow time for your children to cut out the figure following the outline. Then, ask them to bend it along the dotted lines and glue the small tabs on the large tabs.

Encourage them to use their finished work to tell their families the story of the Tower of Babel.

### Memorization

On a poster, draw the figure of a tower and write the memory verse inside. Allow time for the children to color the figure and decorate the edges of the card. Hang up the finished poster in the classroom, and repeat the verse a couple of times. Cut out the Verse of the Month club cards corresponding to this unit, and ask the children to take them home to review the verse of this unit.

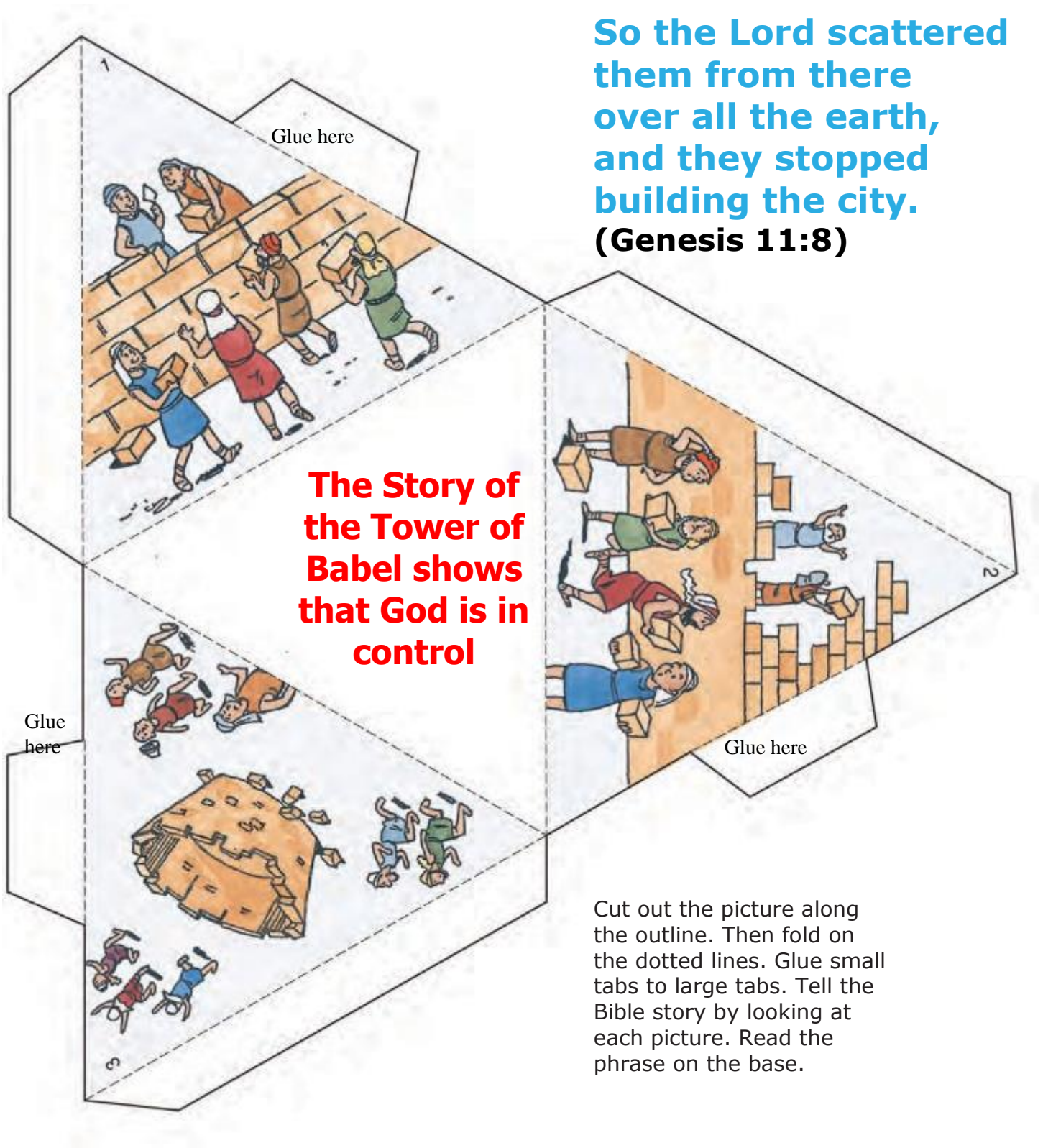
### To end

Tell your children that this lesson taught us that God controls all situations, even when people are disobedient. Encourage the children to observe signs that God controls the world around them.

Then, pray giving thanks to God because he has control over everything. Invite them to the next class, and encourage them to invite a friend or friend.

**So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. (Genesis 11:8)**

**The Story of the Tower of Babel shows that God is in control**



Cut out the picture along the outline. Then fold on the dotted lines. Glue small tabs to large tabs. Tell the Bible story by looking at each picture. Read the phrase on the base.



## Lesson

## 28

## GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE

## Unit 07

Biblical References: Exodus 13:17—15:2

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should know that God uses His power to take care of his kids.

## Memory Verse:

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

It is not unusual for the children of our church to spend hours in front of the television, watching cartoons of superheroes with fantastic powers. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish where fantasy ends and reality begins. Therefore, they must understand that God is the only one who has the power to perform supernatural events because He is the Creator and sustainer of all that exists.

They must be sure that God's power is real and that he is willing to help His children, even in the most difficult trials. The history of the liberation of the chosen people of God will increase their confidence in the care and protection of God.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**What is the sea like?**

Show your class pictures or illustrations of the sea, and ask if anyone has ever visited it. Allow some children to relate their experiences. Complement their information by talking about marine animals and plants. Emphasize that only God has the power to control the sea, as they will learn in today's story.

## BIBLE STORY

Exodus 13:17—15:2

**God rescues his people**

"No, you will not leave here! I will not let my slaves leave Egypt!" cried Pharaoh. Then, he ordered his officers, "Increase their workload."

Moses and his brother Aaron went before Pharaoh many times to ask for the freedom of God's people, but he refused to let them go. Time after time, God showed him His power. He caused the waters of the Nile River to turn to blood, and covered the earth with frogs. But the sorcerers of Pharaoh copied those miracles with their magic tricks.

Later, God sent a terrible plague of lice. This time the Egyptian magicians could not imitate what God had done. However, the king's heart was still hardened.

Then God sent a plague of flies. Next, the Egyptians and their cattle were filled with sores that produced intense pain. God sent other plagues to punish the Egyptians for their stubbornness: hail, locusts, and darkness on the earth.

Finally, God sent the angel of death to strike the firstborn of all the families and cattle of the Egyptians.

Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Tell the Hebrews that I will set you free. Get out of my country!"

The people were happy with the news. They all quickly followed Moses, because God had promised to take them to a beautiful land. The people praised God because at last, they would be free from Egyptian slavery.

God made a special plan to guide the Hebrews to the land of Canaan. To help them know that he was with them, a pillar of cloud guided them during the day, and at night a pillar of fire lit them as they walked.

When they reached the shores of the Red Sea, the village decided to camp, and that's where the problems began.

"The Egyptians are coming!" Someone shouted. "Look at the dust their carriages are raising! They are getting closer!"

"We should have stayed in Egypt!" others shouted. "Why did you bring us to die in the desert?" they asked Moses.

God had told Moses that the Egyptians would go after them, but Moses knew that the power of God was greater.

"Do not be afraid! You will see that the power of God will free us from danger!" Moses proclaimed to the people.

The noise of horses and chariots was heard closer and closer.

When it began to get dark, God moved the pillar of cloud and placed it between the Hebrews and the Egyptians. The people of God would have clarity to continue traveling, while the Egyptians would remain in darkness.

"Lift up your rod over the sea," God commanded Moses. Moses obeyed God, and the wind blew so hard that it split open the sea in two, forming a dry road for the Israelites to cross upon.

Very early in the morning, the whole group began to cross over in the middle of the sea. When they looked back, they saw that the Egyptians were following them the same way.

However, God caused the wheels of the Egyptian chariots to break, and everyone shouted, "We must get away from the Hebrews! Their God is fighting against us!"

When all the Hebrew people had safely crossed to the other side, God told Moses to raise his staff again. Then, the waters of the sea returned to their place, covering the Egyptian soldiers, their horses, and their chariots. God saved his people with his great power.

Moses and all the people praised God, singing the words that we find in Exodus 15:2: "The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."

## ACTIVITIES

### The crossing of the Red Sea

Pass out the worksheets for Lesson 28, and have your children cut out the action figures of the soldiers and Hebrews at the edges of the page. Then, cut out the figure of the Red Sea and shorelines along the solid lines, and fold it along the dotted lines. This will create a stage for the biblical story. Tell them to take it home, and encourage them to tell their family members what they learned in class using the action figures and stage.

### Memorization

Form a circle, and place yourself in the center with a sponge ball and throw it to one of your children. The child who receives it should say: "I can trust that God will help me because 'Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.'" (Psalm 147:5). Continue with other kids.

### To end

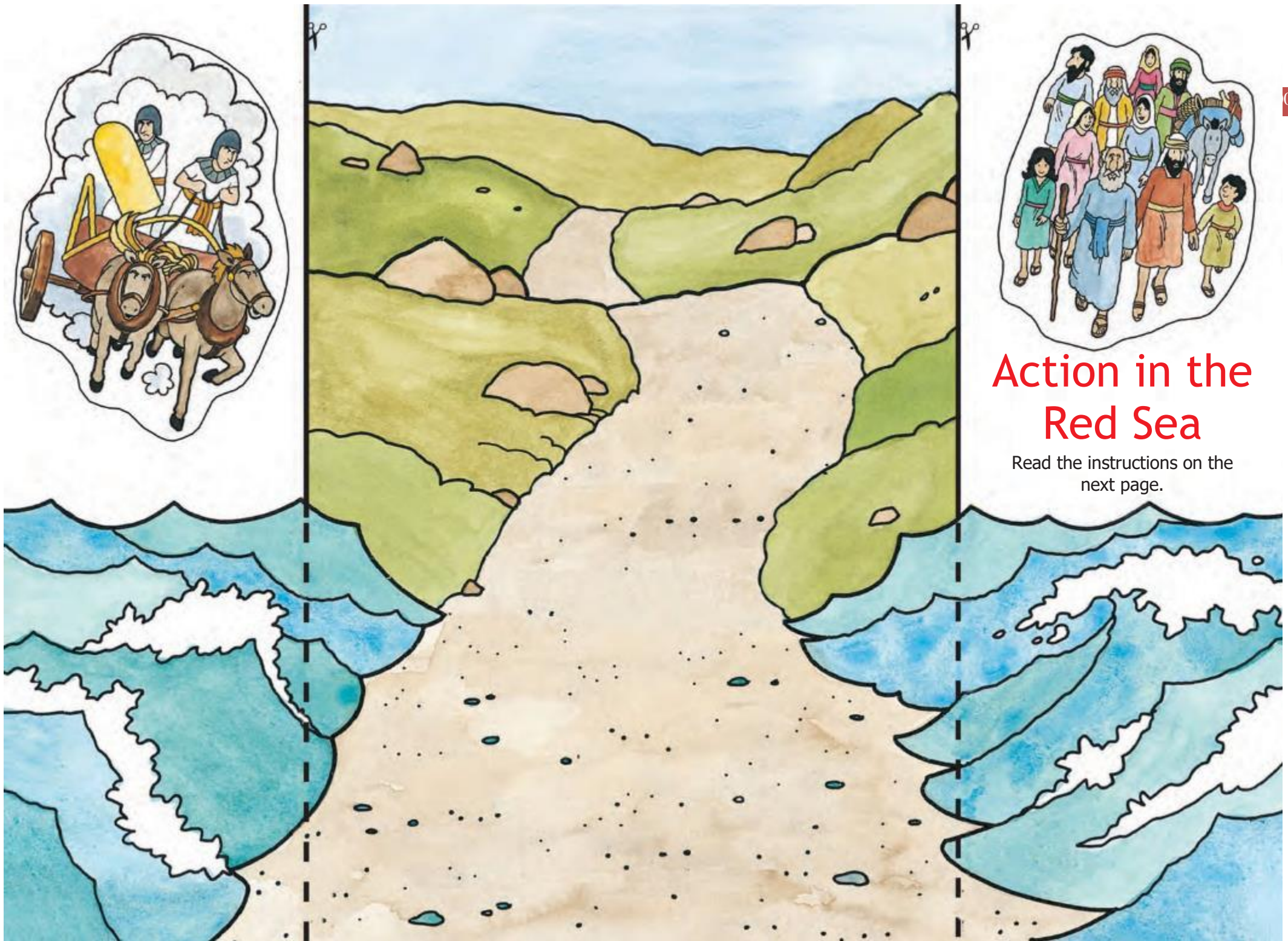
Pray, giving thanks to God for who He is and for what everyone learned today. Conclude by singing praises about God's great power.





## Action in the Red Sea

Read the instructions on the next page.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn to trust in God's great power.

**Memory Verse:**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Through this lesson, your children will learn that they can trust in our great and powerful God.

At this stage of physical and emotional changes, it will give them stability to know that they are children of a God who does not change and who is willing to help them.

Emphasize that Naaman was a real person, not the product of someone's imagination like the characters they see on television. Naaman learned to trust in God when he faced a difficult illness and, as a reward for his obedience, God restored his health.

Help them understand that although Naaman was a very important official in the Syrian

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Sick!**

Look in magazines or newspapers for illustrations of medicines, hospitals, doctors, sick people, etc. Show them to your children and talk about the various diseases that affect children. Give opportunity for two volunteers to share a brief experience of being sick. Tell them that today's lesson will be about a person suffering from a serious illness.

**BIBLE STORY**

2 Kings 5:1-15

**Naaman's trust**

Naaman was a general in the army of the king of Syria. The king valued him very much because he was a good man and a brave soldier. But unfortunately, Naaman had leprosy and nobody knew how to cure that disease.

In the house of Naaman, a girl worked. She had been taken captive from the land of Israel. One day, she told Naaman's wife, "If my lord Naaman asked the prophet who lives in Samaria for help, he would heal him of his leprosy."

Naaman's wife told him what the girl had told him: "My servant says there is a prophet in Israel who can heal you."

Naaman immediately went to see the king of Syria, and said, "Your Majesty, my wife's servant says that in Israel there is a prophet who can cure me of leprosy."

"Then, go," said the king. "I will send a letter to recommend you to the king of Israel."

In this way, Naaman was ready to go on his journey, carrying much gold, silver, and clothing as gifts. The letter that he brought to the king of Israel said: "I am sending you

This letter through my servant Naaman so that you may heal him of his leprosy."

When the king of Israel read the letter, he became very worried and said, "I cannot cure leprosy. Why does the king of Syria want to fight with us?"



When the prophet Elisha heard what had happened in the palace, he sent a messenger to the king of Israel: “Tell Naaman to come to my house and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.”

Naaman got into his carriage and went to Elisha’s house, but there he got a big surprise. Although Naaman was a very important man in his country, Elisha did not go out to meet him. Rather, he sent a messenger to instruct him.

“Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your flesh will be restored and you will be clean, and completely healthy from that disease.”

When Naaman heard the message, he left angry and told his servants, “I thought the prophet would come out and talk to me. I thought that he would pray to God and touch my wounds, and that would cure me of leprosy. Also, he wants me to wash in the Jordan River when there are many better rivers in my country. Can’t I wash in one of them to be healthy?”

When preparing to return to Syria, one of his servants said to him, “Lord, if the prophet ordered you to do something difficult, wouldn’t you do it? However, he has asked you to do something very simple. Why don’t you try it?”

So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and submerged himself seven times, just as the prophet had commanded. After the seventh time, Naaman saw that his body was completely healthy.

“I’m healed!” shouted Naaman with joy. So he returned with his servants to

Elisha’s house and said, “Now I know that in the whole world there is no God but in Israel. From now on, I will not worship other gods, but only the God of Israel who has healed me.”

## ACTIVITIES

### The king says...

Gather your children in front of you and tell them: Let’s play ‘The King says.’ If I say, “The king says touch your nose,” you must touch it. But if I just say, “Touch your nose,” without saying “The king says,” and you do, you must sit down.

Repeat the game several times (jump, run, sing, etc.) until most children lose and sit down. Explain that when they follow the rules of the game, they are being obedient. In the same way, God wants us to always obey His Word and His commands, just as Naaman did.

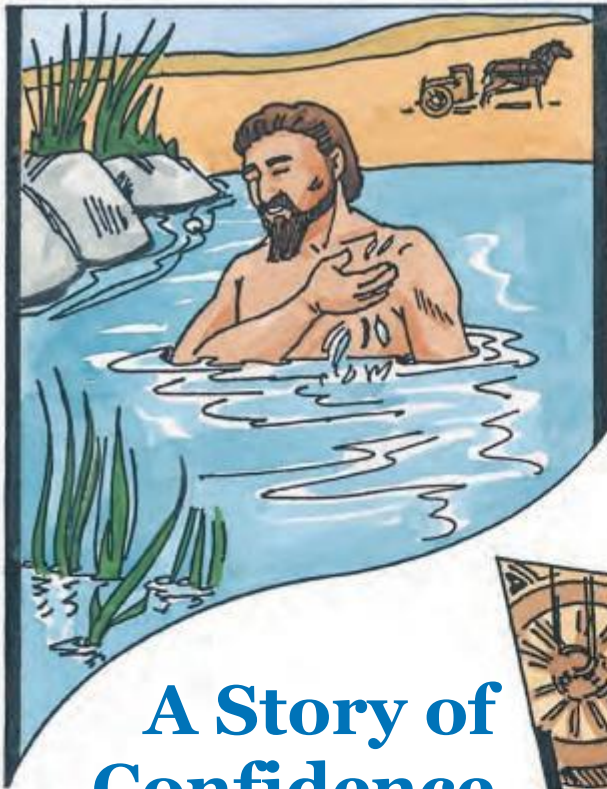
### Memorization

Write the words of the memory verse text on different cards and hide them in the room. Tell the children they should look for them. As they find them, they are to assemble the verse and repeat it aloud together. Reward them by giving them time to play their favorite game.

### To end

Lead your children in prayer, and intercede for those with special needs. Encourage them to attend the next class, where they will study about an invisible army.





## A Story of Confidence

Cut out the pieces of the puzzle and arrange them according to what you learned in the Bible story. When the puzzle is finished, it will be in the shape of a T. Turn over the puzzle and you will find a special message on the other side.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that God is always with them.

**Memory Verse:**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Children are aware that there are people in the world who do not treat others well. They know that injustices are committed, and they are disturbed by situations that are beyond their control. Through this lesson, they will have the assurance that God controls everything that exists, although sometimes there is pain and injustice. Help them understand that God cares for those who trust him. When the Christian trusts God, he can feel His care and protection, even when others do not care about him. This does not mean that the believer never experiences discouragement, but faith will help him in those difficult times. Although it is sometimes difficult to perceive the presence of God, it comforts us to know that he is always

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Invisible message**

Before class, prepare the following message for each of your children. On the white paper write with a white crayon (wax pencil): I love you and I am always with you! God. Give your children the notes with the invisible message and a marker.

Tell them: Sometimes we feel alone and think that our enemies are stronger than us. But not everything is always as it seems. Use the markers to color the note and you will find a secret message.

Allow your children to do the activity and read the message they discovered.

We can trust in God even when situations are very difficult. In today's Bible story, you will learn about someone who trusted God amid terrible danger.

**BIBLE STORY**

2 Kings 6:8-23

**The invisible army of God**

The king of Syria was at war against the king of Israel. Together with their officers, they organized secret plans for the battle. "We will hide in this place, and when the Israelites come, we will attack them," said the king.

Although the plans were secret, God knew them and warned the prophet, Elisha. Then Elisha warned the king of Israel: "Be careful because the Syrians have planned a trap against you!"

The prophet told the king the exact place where the Syrians planned to attack. He was right!

Time after time, Elisha warned the king, and thus the Hebrew army was prepared and successful. One day the king of Syria shouted angrily, "Why does the king of Israel always know where we are going to attack? Surely there is a spy among us!"

Then he gathered all his officers and asked them, “Which one of you is on the side of the king of Israel? Who is the spy?”

“None of us is a spy,” said one of his officers. The prophet Elisha is the one who tells the king of Israel everything you say in secret.

“Go and find out where that man is!” The king ordered. “I will send men to capture him.” After a while they told the king that Elisha lived in Dothan, so he sent chariots, horses, and a large army. It was still night when they arrived at that place.

The next morning, Elisha’s servant got up early and saw that the enemy army was surrounding the city. “What will we do now?” he asked Elisha.

“Do not be afraid,” the prophet answered. “There are more who are with us than those who are with them.” Elisha’s servant did not understand what his master was telling him.

All he saw was the Syrian army surrounding the city and ready to attack them.

Elisha prayed, saying, “God, I beg you to open his eyes so that he sees.” Then God opened the eyes of the servant, who saw that in the hills between the Syrians and Dothan, there was a multitude of soldiers mounted on horses and chariots of fire.

When the enemies advanced towards Elisha, he prayed to the Lord saying, “I pray you will strike them with blindness.”

Instantly God made all the Syrian soldiers go blind, as Elisha had requested. Then the prophet came to them and said, “This is not the way or the city that you seek. Follow me and I will take you to the man you are looking for.”

The soldiers were blind and confused, so they followed Elisha to Samaria, the capital of the kingdom of Israel. After they entered the city, Elisha prayed again and said, “Lord, open their eyes so that they may see.”

When God opened their eyes, they realized that they were in the city of Samaria. They were prisoners of the Israelites because Elisha had captured them!

“Elisha, should I kill them?” asked the king of Israel.

“No, do not kill them!” replied the prophet. “Would you kill a prisoner of war? Give them food and water. In this way, they will recover their strength and will be able to return to where their king is.”

The king of Israel prepared a great banquet for the Syrians, and when they had finished eating and drinking, sent them back to their country. After that day, the armies of Syria did not attack the territory of Israel again.

## ACTIVITIES

### An invisible army

Hand out the children worksheets. Ask the children to cut out the figure, following the solid line, to detach the figure of Elisha and his servant. Then, fold this figure along the dotted line and glue the base so that it remains standing.

Allow time for the children to cut the stage following the perpendicular line. Then, bend one of the triangles backward and another forward, so that the part of the army remains standing. Encourage them to use their finished work to tell the Bible story they learned today.

### Memorization

Ask the children to open their Bibles to Psalm 147:5. Allow girls to read it first, then the guys, then those who have black shoes, and so on, naming different groups. Look for other fun ways to do the reading that will help them review the memory verse.

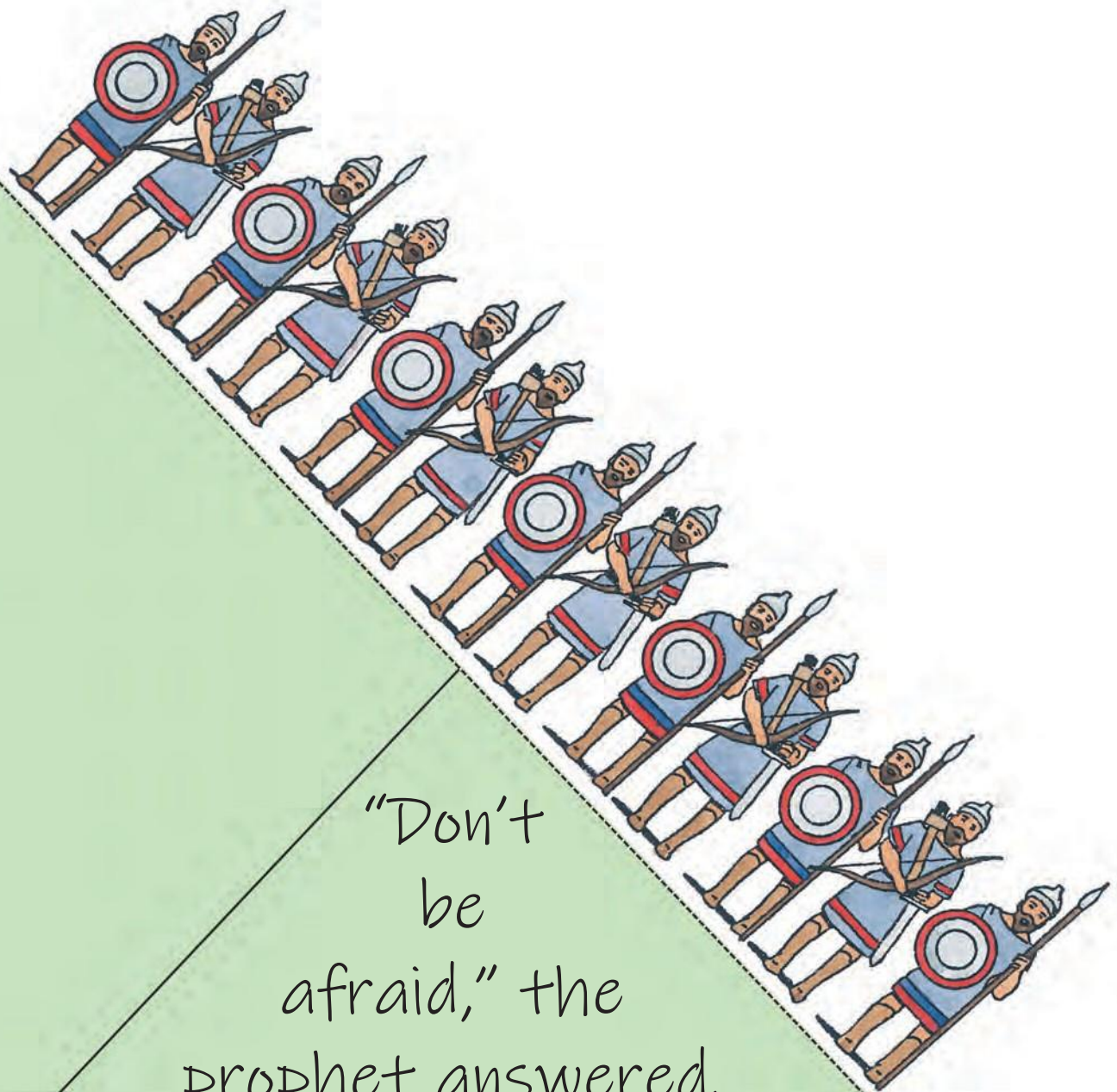
### To end

Sing praises to God in gratitude for His constant love and protection. Let the class express their prayer requests, and intercede for each other.

Then, distribute the craft that they made.

Do not forget to visit or call those who did not attend the class or are sick.





"Don't  
be  
afraid," the  
prophet answered.  
"Those who are with us  
are more than those who are  
with them." (2 Kings 6:16)

Cut off the bottom of the sheet along the thick line. Then cut along the line between the two triangles. Fold the sheet along the dotted line. Fold one part back and another forward to create a stage. Fold the picture of Elisha and the servant in the center. Fold along the dotted lines at the base and glue them so they stand. Place it on stage 1, and then on stage 2, as you tell the Bible story.



## Lesson

## 31

## GOD IS PATIENT AND FORGIVING

## Unit 07

Biblical References: Book of Jonah

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should know that God is patient and forgives us.

## Memory Verse:

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Children are learning to recognize their mistakes and repent for their wrongdoing. Emphasize Jonah's disobedience, its consequences, and God's reaction to it. Through this story, help them understand that if they are wrong, God is willing to forgive them and give them a new opportunity.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

## Jonah in the sea

Ask your children to tell you everything they know about the Bible story.

## BIBLE STORY

Book of Jonah

## God forgives

One day God told Jonah, "Go to the great city of Nineveh. I have seen that the people there only do bad stuff and I am tired of their behavior. You must go and tell them to repent of their sins."

But Jonah did not want to obey God. So he escaped to hide in the city of Tarshish, which was the opposite direction of Nineveh. Jonah went to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship bound for Tarshish. After paying for his ticket, he went aboard and was prepared to flee as far as possible from the Lord.

While Jonah was traveling, God sent a strong wind and a terrible storm. The wind was so strong that it looked like the ship was going to be split in half. All the sailors and passengers were very worried, and each one cried out to their gods to protect them.

To lighten the weight of the ship, they threw part of the luggage into the sea. And where was Jonah while all this was happening? Sleeping!

Finally, the ship's captain found Jonah and asked, "How can you sleep? Get up and pray to your God! Maybe he will see what is happening and protect us so we don't die."

The sailors said, "Let's see if we can find the reason for this terrible storm."

When they learned that Jonah was the reason for the storm, they said to him, "Tell us, who is responsible for this happening to us? Who you are? What do you do? Where do you come from? From which country do you come from?"

"I am a Hebrew and I fear Jehovah, God of heaven, who made the sea and the land," answered Jonah.

When they heard this, they were afraid and asked, "What have you done to make this terrible storm try to finish us? What should we do to calm the sea?"

"Take me and throw me into the sea," said Jonah. "Only then will it calm down. I know that this terrible evil has come upon you because of me."

The sailors did not want to throw Jonah into the sea, but the situation was getting worse. In the end, they threw Jonah overboard and the sea calmed down. When the sailors and passengers saw that the storm had ceased, they realized the great power of God and praised Him.

Meanwhile, God had prepared a big fish to swallow Jonah.

Jonah spent three days and three nights inside the animal. There he prayed to God and promised that he would not disobey him again. In addition, he apologized for running away and promised to do God's will, going to Nineveh as he had been ordered.

God heard Jonah's prayer and forgave him for his disobedience. Then he ordered the fish to throw Jonah up on dry land. Jonah was very happy to have another opportunity to obey God.

Then God spoke to Jonah a second time and said, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim the message I have given you."

This time Jonah obeyed! He went to Nineveh and told the people that God was going to destroy the city in 40 days. Upon hearing that message, the inhabitants of Nineveh believed in God, and the king sent this message to all his subjects: "Cry all to God. Stop doing bad and violent things. Maybe God will decide not to destroy us. Maybe he will feel sorry for us and we will not die."

When God saw that the inhabitants of Nineveh were repentant, He had compassion on them and did not destroy them.

When Jonah realized that God had forgiven the people instead of destroying them, he became very angry. "God, I knew that this would happen! That's why I ran away. I knew you were compassionate, patient and forgiving, and that you would not destroy our worst enemies. Now it would be better if you killed me!"

Then God answered him, "Do you have the right to be so angry? You are only thinking of yourself, but in Nineveh, there are more than 120 thousand people. Don't you think I should worry about such a big city?"

God wanted Jonah to learn an important lesson. God is patient, forgiving, and merciful. He loves all people, no matter who they are or what they have done. When someone repents and leaves sin, God gladly forgives them. How wonderful our God is!

## ACTIVITIES

### Jonah learns a lesson

Distribute the worksheets so that your children can make the booklet suggested in this activity.

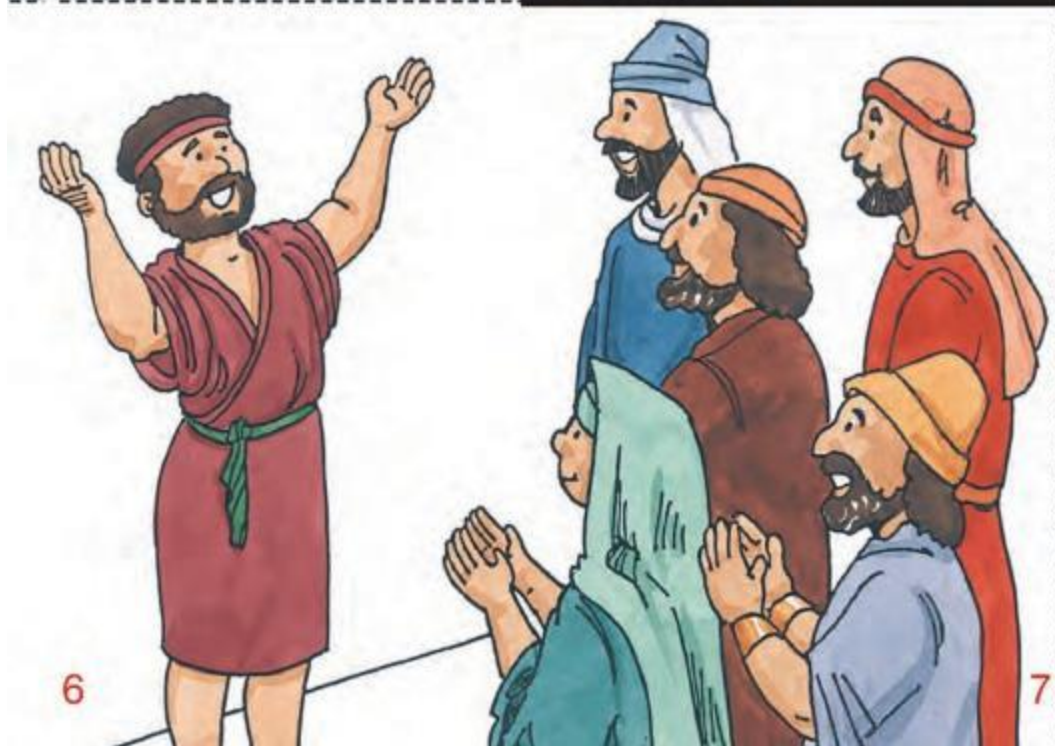
### Memorization

Prepare in advance the figure of a large fish and write the memory verse on it in large letters. Ask the children to sit in a circle and read the verse several times. Then, hand the fish to one of them and tell them to pass it to the person on their right, who passes it to the person on their right, and so forth. When you say "STOP", the one with the fish must say the verse. Continue the game until everyone has participated.

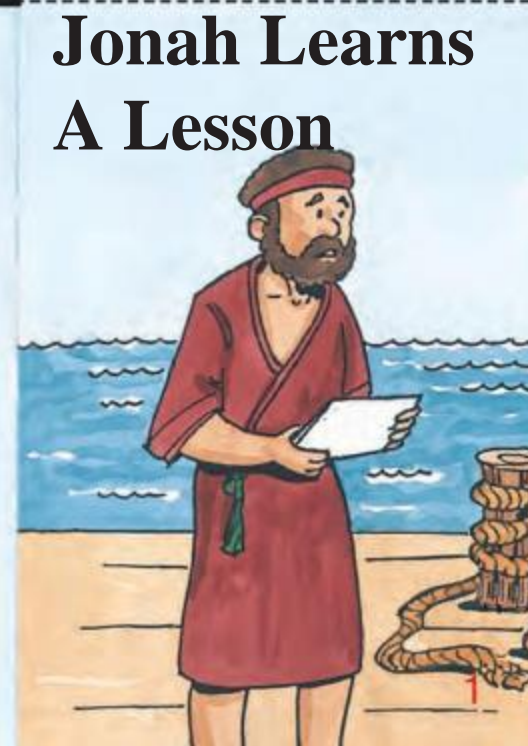
### To end

If the Holy Spirit leads you to do so, allow your children to confess their sins and ask God for forgiveness. Pray with those who decide to ask for forgiveness, and also intercede for others. Remember that it is important to keep track of new children, so try to keep in touch with them during the week.





God is  
patient,  
forgiving,  
and  
just with all  
people.



## Jonah Learns A Lesson

## Lesson

## 32

## GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE FIERY FURNACE

## Unit 07

Biblical References: Daniel 3:1-30

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn to do the correct thing and trust in God.

## Memory Verse:

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Trust is an essential Christian principle. We must trust in God when we decide to follow him and serve him. Often, we talk with elementary students about trust. However, the lessons of this unit focus on exercising their trust in God. Recognizing the power of God will inspire confidence in your students, and help them understand that they are not alone in difficult times.

However, it is important that they learn to always trust God, not only when he uses his power

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

Tell your children: The story we will tell today happened many years ago in Babylon.

## BIBLE STORY

Daniel 3:1-30

**Freed from the fiery furnace**

The king of Babylon was an arrogant man. His name was Nebuchadnezzar. He was very proud of all the great endeavors he had made, and he liked that other people thought he was great.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar had a new idea. He ordered his servants to make a giant statue, all covered with gold. Then he put it in a place where everyone could see it, and sent a messenger throughout the kingdom to announce: "Come to the dedication of the beautiful golden statue."

During the dedication, the king's messenger said loudly, "When you hear to the music, everyone should bow down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has made. Whoever does not kneel and worship it will be immediately thrown into a blazing furnace."

In those times it was very dangerous to disobey an order from the king, so when the music began, everyone prostrated themselves on the ground and worshiped the golden statue. All did, except three Jewish men named Ananias, Mishael, and Azariah, who worshiped the only true God. Then, some servants of the king saw the three Jews who had remained standing, while all the others were kneeling, so they went to tell the king.

"King, live forever," the servants said. "We know that you have made a law that requires that when hearing the sound of the musical instruments, everyone must go and worship your golden statue. And you warned that those who disobey would be thrown into the fiery furnace. However, some Jews didn't pay attention to your orders. They have important positions in your kingdom, but they don't worship your gods and they don't bow before your golden statue."



King Nebuchadnezzar was furious and ordered that Ananias, Mishael, and Azariah be brought before him.

“Young Hebrews, is it true that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden statue that I have built?” asked the enraged king. “Now when you hear the sound of musical instruments, you must bow and worship my statue. If you refuse, you will be thrown into a blazing furnace.” “King Nebuchadnezzar, if you throw us into the furnace of fire, the God we serve has the power to save us, and he will rescue us from your hands. And even if he doesn’t, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image you have made,” the three young men replied.

King Nebuchadnezzar became even angrier and shouted at his servants, “Heat the oven seven times hotter than usual! Then tie Ananias, Mishael, and Azariah and throw them in.” The oven was so hot that the flames killed the soldiers who threw the three friends into the oven. King Nebuchadnezzar and his servants watched closely at what was happening. Suddenly, the king got up surprised and asked, “Were there not three men tied and thrown into the fire?”

“Yes, that’s the way it was,” the servants replied. “Look!” said the king with amazement. “I see four men walking in the middle of the fire. They aren’t tied up and seem to be well, and the fourth man looks like a child of the gods.”

Nebuchadnezzar approached the furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego (the Babylonian names of the young Hebrews), servants of the Most High God, come out of there!”

Everyone looked at them in amazement. The three young men were unharmed from the furnace. The fire hadn’t burned a single hair. They didn’t even smell of smoke!

Nebuchadnezzar recognized that the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was more powerful than the gods he worshiped, so he made a new proclamation.

“Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted him and disobeyed the king’s order, being willing to die rather than worship another god. Therefore, I order that if a person of any nation speaks against the God of these men, their heads will be cut off, and their house will be destroyed because no other God can save in this way.”

Nebuchadnezzar did something more. He gave the Hebrew youth new jobs, more important than the previous ones. He knew he could trust these brave men because they served an almighty God.

## ACTIVITIES

### Trust and obey

Distribute the children worksheets. Ask the children to cut along the solid line to detach the strip with the instructions. Encourage them to use their finished work to tell their family members what they learned in class.

### Memorization

Use the sheet from the children worksheets to review the biblical text of this unit. If time permits, invite parents to listen to their children say the text by heart. This encourages the children to continue participating and learning in the class.

### To end

Since this is the last class of the unit, briefly review the previous lessons. Emphasize the importance of knowing that our God is almighty and willing to help his children.

Encourage your children to tell their friends this great truth and to invite them to participate in Sunday school. Conclude by praying for one another.

**You can  
trust**



**God!**

**In our  
powerful**

Cut this strip along the black line. Fold along the dotted lines so that the triangles cover the picture. Read the words that are in the triangles. Then open them and look at the drawing. What happened to these young men according to the Bible story? Cut out the angel on the next page. Glue it in the fiery furnace with the three young Hebrews who trusted in God.

Write your name on the line and read the message that is there for you. Turn the page over and read the Bible verse for this lesson.

## JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

**Biblical References:** Luke 6:12-16; 11:1-4; John 17:6-26; Matthew 26:36-46.

**Unit Memory Verse:** I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer (Psalm 17:6).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children:

- Recognize that Jesus teaches us to pray, giving us an example and specific instructions.
- Pray for themselves and other people.
- Develop the habit of prayer.
- Believe that prayer is the way that God provided for us to communicate with Him.
- Recognize that God responds to the prayers of his children.

### LESSON UNIT

Lesson 33: **Jesus prays before deciding**

Lesson 34: **Jesus teaches his disciples to pray**

Lesson 35: **Jesus prays for others.**

Lesson 36: **Jesus prays when he is sad.**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

It is important for elementary-age children to learn to pray. They should know that they can ask for God's help when they make decisions or when they have to choose between the good and the bad.

Your children need to be heard, either by their friends, their parents, or other family members. They need to know that God is willing to listen to them when they pray. No matter the place or circumstances, God is never too busy to help them.

During this unit, you will learn some important aspects of prayer and the basic teachings we see in the Lord's Prayer.

At this age, caring about others is important. So elementary children will know that they can express their love and concern by interceding for other people.

These lessons will teach them to face their fears and concerns with the help of prayer and to express gratitude and love to the Lord when they talk to him.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn to pray before making decisions.

**Memory Verse:**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer (Psalm 17:6).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Prayer is the cornerstone of the lives of Christians. Through it, our communication and relationship with God is nurtured and strengthened. Children should exercise the habit of prayer from an early age. It is sad to see that many people consider prayer synonymous with boredom, or that they simply do not know what to say to God.

Elementary-aged children will have to make more and more decisions. Therefore, encourage them to pray and ask for God's direction to know how to act.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****My prayer book**

Give each child cardboard or poster board and four white pieces of paper. Ask them to fold the card in half and write on the front: "My prayer book." Fold the paper in half, and put them inside the cardboard. Fasten or stick the sheets along the fold to make a notebook. Allow time for your children to write their names there and decorate the outside of their prayer books. Keep them in the room to use during this unit.

**When can we pray?**

Ask the children when they or their parents pray. They may say that they pray when they are in church, before eating, or before going to sleep. Tell them it is important to pray on those occasions, but emphasize that God always listens to us, and we can pray at all times and in all places.

**Decisions**

For this activity, you will need a bag of sweets or candies of two different colors. Show the sweets to your children and ask them to choose one of the colors they prefer to take home with them at the end of the class. Allow everyone to come forward and take the candy of their choice.

Ask them to save it, and ask if it was difficult to choose the correct color. Tell them that many times the decisions we make are simple and we do not need to think too much. However, other decisions are much more important. Through this biblical story, God wants to teach us to ask for his advice before deciding.

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 6:12-16

Jesus prays before making a big decision

"I need help," thought Jesus. "Many people want to know God, and I have to train some men to help me do that job. Who do I choose?" Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere. They wanted to hear his teachings and know how to live to please God. Later, some of these people could be leaders



who would teach others?

“This decision is important and there is only one way I can make it,” thought Jesus. “I will ask my Father to help me decide.”

The decision was so important that Jesus went alone to a mountain to pray. Do you know how much time he spent praying? All night! While the people were sleeping, he prayed. Perhaps he began to pray about nine o’clock at night, and when midnight came, he continued to pray. At two o’clock in the morning, Jesus was still praying, and this continued until four in the morning. “Father, whom should I choose?” he asked in prayer. Then, Jesus knew who he should choose and prayed for each one.

He prayed for Simon Peter. Peter would be strong as a rock and would preach to many people about the kingdom of God. Then he prayed for Andrew, Peter’s brother. Andrew was the one who brought Peter to know Jesus. Surely he was going to guide many other people to know Jesus.

When he prayed for James and John, he prayed for Peter again. Peter, James, and John were going to be Jesus’ best friends.

Then he prayed for Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, and Thomas.

Among the twelve apostles, there was another Jacob and another Simon, so Jesus prayed for them too.

Also, he prayed for two men called Judas. One would be a faithful follower, but the other would one day betray Jesus and deliver

Him to his enemies.

When it was already morning, perhaps like seven or eight, Jesus came down from the mountain to look for the men that God had chosen for this special work.

## ACTIVITIES

### Pray before deciding

For this activity, you will need paper fasteners with two legs and scissors.

Hand out the worksheets for Lesson 33, and have the children cut out the three circles following the contours. Read the instructions together, and explain in detail each of the steps to do the activity. After trimming the circles, they should place the circle of the title on the top, the circle of words in the middle, and the circle of figures below, and join them in the center with the paper fastener. Make sure everyone follows the instructions so the circles spin easily. As they work, tell them: Jesus prayed before making important decisions. God wants us to pray and ask for wisdom before deciding.

### It is important to pray

Hand out the prayer books that your children made at the beginning of the class. Ask them to write down the title of the lesson and then draw or write an important decision for which they should pray. Then, talk with them about the importance of making wise decisions in light of God’s Word.

Tell them they will use the prayer books during class and they can take them home when they finish the unit.

Encourage them to pray during the week when they have to make decisions.

### Memorization

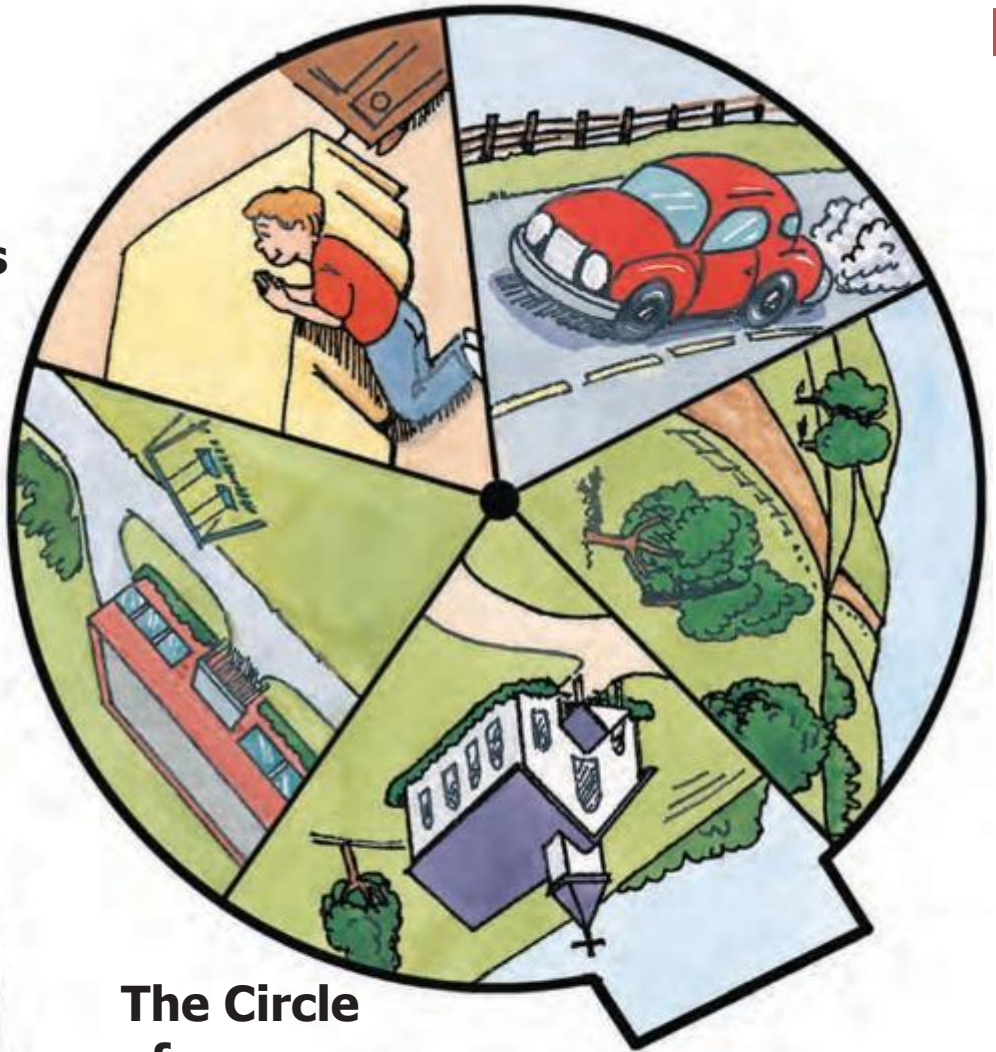
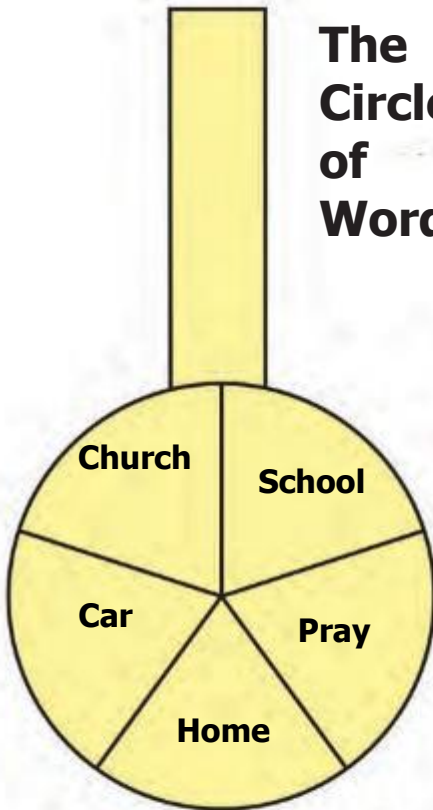
Write the memory verse on a piece of poster board, and show it to your children. Teach them the following gestures to accompany each phrase of the verse, as they review it: I call on you (place your hands around your mouth as if calling someone), my God (point above); for you will answer me (point to yourself), turn your ear to me (put a hand behind your ear), and hear my prayer (point to your mouth) (Psalm 17:6).

Guide your children to make these gestures each time they repeat the memory verse.

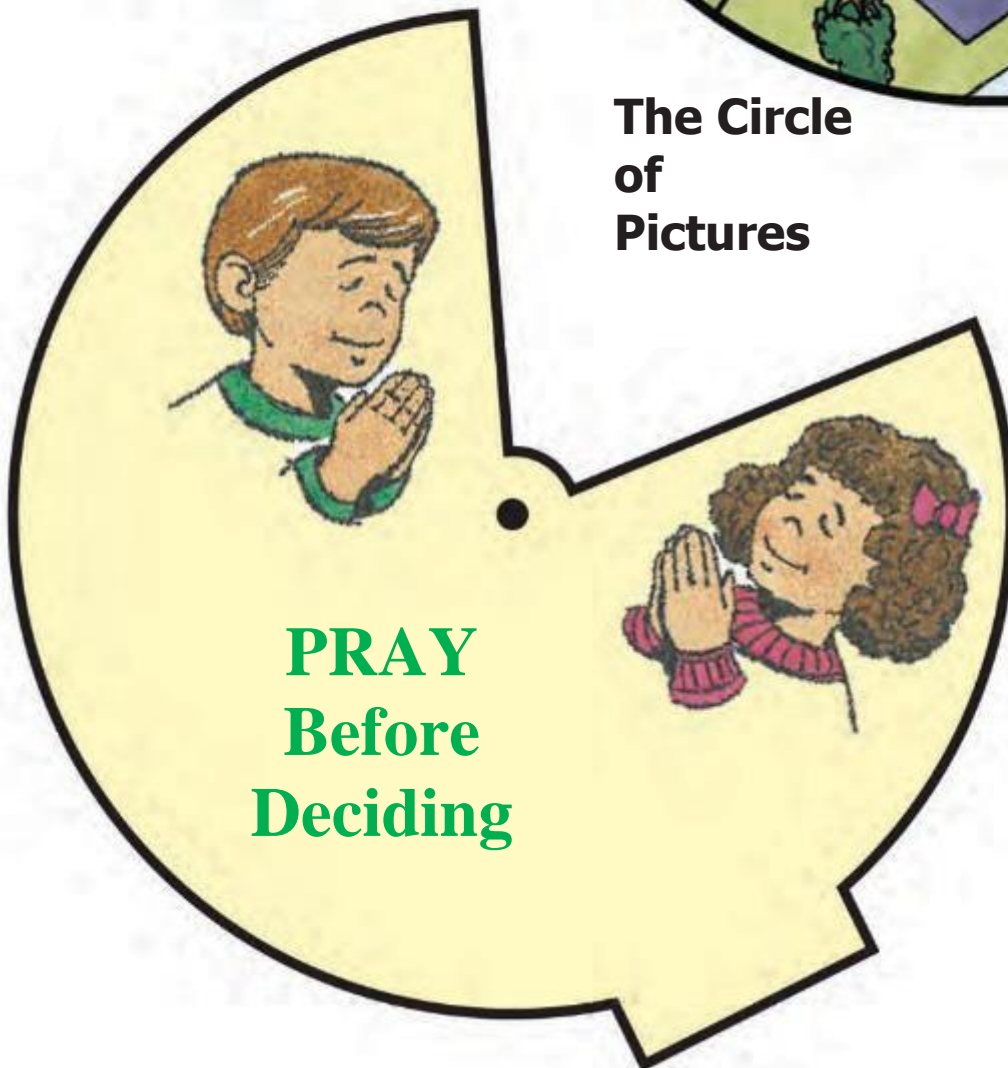
### To end

Lead the class to sing a song about prayer. Then, have some volunteers offer short prayers to conclude.

## The Circle of Words



## The Circle of Pictures



- Cut out the three circles along the outline.
- Cut out the window in the top circle.
- Connect the three circles in the center with a paper fastener (brad). The top circle goes on top; the circle of words, in the middle; and the circle of drawings on the bottom.
- Turn the circle and tell how Jesus prayed before making decisions.
- Turn the circle again, and choose a word from the word circle. Then, look for the corresponding picture. Talk about the type of decisions we can make in the location pictured. Also, talk about how you should pray before making a decision. Repeat the last two steps with each word and picture.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that Jesus was an example for his followers about how to pray.

**Memory Verse:**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer (Psalm 17:6).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Many children of this age are experiencing growth in their relationship with God. Through this lesson, they will learn how to talk to God in prayer. Children appreciate the people who listen to them. So understanding and experiencing prayer in their daily life will strengthen their relationship with the Lord. Above all, it will encourage them to know that God is always willing to listen to them when they talk with Him. The emphasis of this lesson is to help children follow the pattern of the Lord's Prayer.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****My prayer book**

Ask a volunteer to distribute the prayer books. Help them write on the second page some model prayers to give thanks for the food. Allow them to include some drawings. Tell them that at the end of the month they will have a collection of model prayers. This book will serve as a guide for when they need to talk to God.

**God's phone**

For this activity, you will need several phones. Ask your children: Have you ever talked on the phone with a friend? Allow them to respond, and then tell them: When you talk to a Friend, you don't need to use special or difficult words, but you speak naturally and can say whatever you want. God wants to be your best friend. You can talk to him confidently, using simple words.

God knows everything about you and wants you to talk to him, just as you do with your friends.

Allow them to take turns saying a small prayer on the phone. Remind them that God hears their prayers and is never busy. He always has time to listen to his children.

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 11:1-4

Write the Lord's Prayer on the board or on a card to use as you tell the Bible story.

**Jesus' prayer**

When Jesus prayed, his disciples listened to him and watched him closely. One day when he had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray. John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray. Please, teach us to pray as you do."

Jesus told them, "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily

bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen (Matthew 6:9-13).”

When Jesus taught this prayer to his disciples, he did not mean that we should always use the same words when praying. It was an example for us to know how to talk to God. In many places, this prayer is known as the “Lord’s Prayer,” or the “Our Father” prayer.

We can say the Lord’s Prayer as part of our prayers, but it is also necessary that we use our own words to speak with God.

## ACTIVITIES

### **My prayer box**

Distribute the children worksheets and the prayer hands for lesson 34 and write their name on the line.

Then have them cut along the solid lines of the figure of Lesson 34. Show them how to fold the sheet along the dotted lines to assemble the prayer box. Help them to glue their prayer hands in the marked spaces. Then glue the sections that make up the box.

Explain that this box will help them keep their prayer requests. In addition, they can invite their family and friends to add other requests to intercede for them.

### **Our Father**

Elementary children are becoming familiar with this prayer, and it is important that they begin to memorize it. Therefore, devote a special time to explain its meaning and make sure they understand it well.

Talk to them about the meaning of each phrase. Allow them to express their ideas and add information when necessary.

**Our Father:** When we address God in this way, we express that he represents a loving and wise father. It shows us that we are part of

The family of God.

**Hallowed be your name:** Show respect and honor to God. It means that the name of God is holy.

**Your kingdom come:** Recognize that the ways of God are the best option.

These first phrases express honor and worship to God. There are also other ways to refer to God and to worship him, such as God is wonderful, powerful, loving, most high, etc.

**Give us today our daily bread:** By setting these words as an example, Jesus wanted us to know that God is the one who provides everything we need to live each day. If we go through times of need, we can ask for God’s help. He promised that he would provide for our needs.

The next part of the sentence is very important:

**Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors:** When we do something that does not please God, we should ask for forgiveness. It’s the only way we can come back to him. God always forgives us when we ask him with sincerity. In the same way, we must forgive those who do us wrong.

### **Memorization**

Review the memory verse using the gestures learned in the previous lesson. Ask that some volunteers come forward and lead the group while repeating the verse a couple of times.

Hand out the Verse of the Month Club cards so that the class takes them home and reviews the text during the week.

### **To end**

Give your children all the work they did, and form a circle to pray. Write the petitions on a card, and intercede for them.

Say goodbye by singing a song about prayer, and encourage them to attend the next class.



**Section B**

"Father, hallowed be  
your name, your  
kingdom come. Give  
us each day  
our daily bread."  
(Luke 11:2-3)

**Section C**

Glue a  
praying  
hand  
here.

Cut along the black lines. Then, fold  
along the dotted lines. Glue sections B  
and C behind A. Glue sections E and  
F behind D. Cut out the praying hands  
from the Cut-out Section. Glue one of  
the hands to each side of your prayer  
box (see the example).

Draw or write prayer requests on  
small pieces of paper, and put them in  
your box. Invite your family members  
to do it too. Each day choose a prayer  
request and pray for it. Remember  
that Jesus gave us the example of  
how we should pray.

Glue a  
praying  
hand  
here.



**Section E**

"Forgive us our sins,  
for we also forgive  
everyone who sins  
against us. And lead  
us not into  
temptation"  
(Luke 11:2-3)

**Section F**

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should follow Jesus' example and pray for others.

**Memory Verse:**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer (Psalm 17:6).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Children have a lot of memory, as they demonstrated in learning the memory verses. This will help them remember that they should pray for others. Teach them to use their memory to develop an effective prayer ministry.

Your example regarding prayer is important for children. Include prayer for others as part of your class. Also, let your students know that you pray for them during the week, and encourage them to pray for each other.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****My prayer book**

Hand out prayer books, and give time for your children to make a list of the people they should pray for. Do not forget to include the pastor of the church and the missionaries.

Ask them to write as a title: "I must pray for ...", and decorate the page to their liking.

**BIBLE STORY**

John 17:6-26

Read the following passages from John 17, and explain to the class that they are part of the prayer that Jesus prayed to God shortly before he died. If you wish, ask them to open their Bibles and follow the reading with their eyes, or if you have good readers in your class, assign them apart to read out loud.

Jesus prays for others "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ... They believed that you sent me.

I pray for them ... Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me...

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world...

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known so that the love

## ACTIVITIES

### **I will pray for my neighbor**

Have the children find the worksheet entitled “Why did Jesus pray?” Remind them that Jesus prayed for his disciples and all believers. Ask them to write the names of the people they will pray for. If they have difficulty choosing these people, suggest that they may be relatives, friends, the pastoral family, leaders, missionaries, etc.

Encourage the children to pray each day for the people on their list, and draw a star in the box that corresponds to the date they prayed.

### **Memorization**

Use a puppet to review the memory verse. Have the puppet talk with the children so that they have to say the verse to correct the puppet’s mistakes. For example, the puppet could say: “I do not remember the verse, can you help me?”

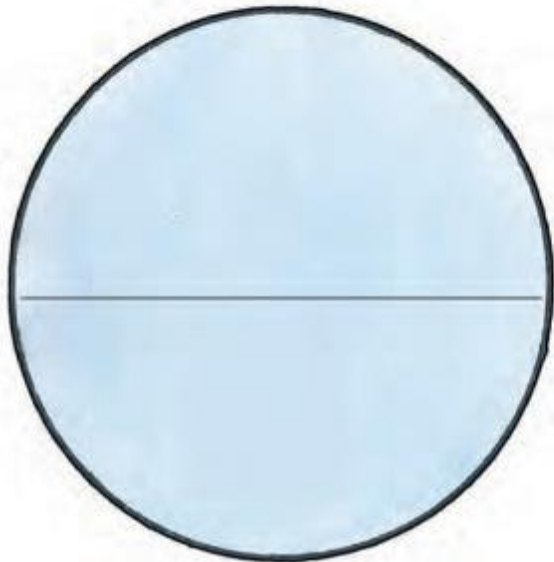
Another option is that the puppet says the verse incorrectly and then the class must correct its mistakes. When the puppet finally says the verse without errors, invite your children to repeat it with him.

### **To end**

Ask if it is better to pray long or short prayers: In our lesson today we learned that Jesus prayed a long prayer, but sometimes he prayed short prayers. Do you think Jesus listens to us better when we pray long prayers? Explain that the length of our prayer does not matter. God always listens to us and understands our needs.

Ask for two volunteers to lead the class in prayer before saying goodbye.

# Why did Jesus pray?



## Jesus prayed for...

Write your name in the empty circle.  
Find the strip of Praying Hands in the  
Cut-out Section and cut them out.  
Then, stick one set of hands-on each  
of the drawings that represent the  
people Jesus prayed for in the Bible  
story. Complete the sentence above.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn to pray when they are sad or worried.

**Memory Verse:**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer (Psalm 17:6).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Since children often think that Jesus never had problems, this lesson may surprise them. Knowing that Jesus also sometimes felt distressed by circumstances will comfort them to know that he understands how we feel when things are not going well for us.

Elementary-aged children are afraid to face new situations, to be rejected, to get lost, to be alone, to change their routine, or to fail. By teaching them about God's love and care, it will give them the security they need to confront complex situations.

With this lesson, your students will also understand that sometimes God does not free us from difficulties, but gives us the strength to face them. By learning to submit to the will of God, they will understand that God wants the best for them.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****My prayer book**

Distribute the prayer books to your children. Ask them to write the words from Psalm 120:1 and draw a picture to illustrate it. Tell them that prayer is how we talk with God about our sadness and troubles. Review the prayers they wrote during the unit, and give them time to finish the drawings or fill in the missing information. They should take the books home after class today.

**BIBLE STORY**

Matthew 26:36-46

Jesus took his disciples to a very special and peaceful place called the Garden of Gethsemane. When they arrived, he said, "Sit here. I will go to pray. Peter, James, and John, please come with me." As they walked, Jesus began to grieve and worry. Then he told his best friends, "My heart is so sad that I feel like I'm going to die. Stay here and pray with me." Then, he walked on a little more to pray.

Some people frown when they are sad; others cry, and some do not want to talk to anyone. When Jesus was sad, do you know what he did? He knelt on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it's possible, I don't want to suffer. But, if it's not possible, let your will be done."

Jesus knew that soon he would suffer a lot. He did not want to, but he knew it was the only way to save people from their sins. So he prayed, "Father, your will be done. Do what is best for everyone."

When he finished praying, he returned to where his three friends were. And what do you think they were doing? Were they waiting and praying as Jesus had told them? No, they were asleep.

"Couldn't you stay awake for an hour?" asked Jesus. "Pray that you can resist the temptation."

Jesus again left his disciples and went away to pray. After kneeling, he said, "My Father, if it is not possible to remove this suffering from me, may your will be done."

When Jesus returned to where his disciples were, he found them sleeping again. Although

They tried to stay awake, sleep had overcome them. Jesus let them sleep and went to pray to the Father, just as he had done before.

When he returned and found his disciples still asleep, he told them, “Sleep now and rest. Soon the suffering will begin.”

Finally, he said, “Get up, and come on. The man who will deliver me to my enemies is coming.”

## ACTIVITIES

### Thy will be done!

After distributing the activity sheets for this lesson, ask the children to fold the page along the dotted line to remember what Jesus did when he was sad.

Then, have them go to the next page and fill in the blanks to review the memory verse.

Let's teach children to pray

### What is prayer?

- Prayer is one of the ways God chooses to communicate with us.
- To pray means to talk to God with freedom, from the depths of our hearts.
- To pray is to express our fears and concerns to God.
- To pray is to talk with him about our problems, needs, and questions, and also about our dreams and joys.

Essential concepts about prayer that children should learn:

- I can pray at any time, day or night.
- I can pray anywhere.
- God always listens to our prayers.
- God knows our weaknesses and strengths. He knows what makes us happy and what makes us sad.
- God knows about our lives and those of all the people around the world.
- God has a purpose for answering our prayers according to his will.

### Memorization

Prepare a contest in which your children show their ability to memorize and say the full verse. Have simple prizes to stimulate them to continue learning the Word of God.

Option: Ask the pastor to allow your class to participate in the worship service to recite the memory verse they learned.

### To end

Pray for each one, interceding for their family, studies, health, and above all, for their spiritual growth. Pray also for the sick and those who did not attend the class.

Distribute all the work they did during the unit, and remind them that in the next class they will begin to study the unit on the Bible.

# PRayer is the Key

Look in your Bible and fill in the blanks with the missing words to complete the Bible verse.

**"I \_\_\_\_\_ on you,  
my God, for you will  
\_\_\_\_\_ me;  
turn your \_\_\_\_\_  
to me and hear  
\_\_\_\_\_ prayer."  
(Psalm 17:6)**



## THE BIBLE

**Biblical References:** Jeremiah 36; Luke 4:16-44; 2 Chronicles 34; Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:1-7; 2:1-6, 16-18; 3:10-17; 4:13-22.

**Unit Memory Verse:** Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children:

- Love and respect the Bible as being the Word of God;
- Discover the origin of the Bible and its passage through time;
- Develop the skill to locate the Old and New Testaments, the Gospels, the Psalms, Genesis, and Revelations;
- Realize that God changes our lives when we study His Word.

### LESSON UNIT A

Lesson 37: **The Bible is God's special book**

Lesson 38: **The Bible tells us about Jesus**

Lesson 39: **The Bible helps us to do the right thing**

Lesson 40: **The Bible teaches us every day.**

### WHY ELEMENTARY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Many of your children likely have prior knowledge of the Bible; maybe they even know some memory verses. However, this lesson allows them to go deeper into the study of this precious book. They will learn to locate the Old and New Testaments, as well as some other books of the Bible.

Through these lessons, they will follow the journey of the Bible through time to the present day. They will also understand that through his Word, God reveals his love to us and teaches us how to live correctly.

The first lesson, based on the story of how God revealed his Word to Jeremiah, teaches them that the Bible is “inspired by God.”

In the second lesson, they will learn that the Bible reveals God's love for people; and in the last two, they will study that God wants to change lives through his Word.

Help your children discover the spiritual truths we find in the Bible. While listening to the Bible stories, children will learn more about God.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that the Bible is special because it contains God's message for us.

**Memory Verse:**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Through today's lesson, your children will learn that God inspired the Bible so we can know His will. It is important that they understand that God speaks to us through biblical stories and gives us guidelines for living correctly.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON**

Tell your children that the Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. In this unit, they will study stories from both sections.

**BIBLE STORY**

## Jeremiah 36

**God gives a message to Jeremiah**

The Hebrew people did not want to hear the message that God wanted to give them through the prophet Jeremiah. However, Jeremiah knew that he must obey God and continue proclaiming His messages.

"Why do you worship these idols?" Jeremiah asked "If you continue to disobey God, the enemy army will come to fight against you and take you to a distant place where you will be enslaved. Leave your bad behavior and ask God for forgiveness!" However, the people and King Jehoiakim refused to listen to the prophet's warnings and continued to disobey God.

After the fourth year of Jehoiakim as king of Judah, God told Jeremiah, "I want you to write down all the messages I have given you. Maybe when they hear the punishments that I plan to send upon them, they will stop disobeying me. If they do, I will forgive all their sins. "God did not want to punish his people. He loved them and wanted them to listen to his warnings and obey him. Writing all the messages was going to be an arduous job, so the prophet asked his friend Baruch to help him. Baruch got animal skins because, in biblical times, skins were used to write on instead of sheets of paper.

"Baruch, please come here," Jeremiah called him, "and write down all the messages I'm going to dictate to you." For more than a year, Jeremiah dictated God's messages to Baruch to write on parchments.

Do you know what parchment is? It's a roll of animal skin that people used to write on, just like we use paper now. Jeremiah and Baruch finally finished their work.

"You know I am forbidden to enter the temple," Jeremiah told Baruch, "so you will have to do it. Go to the house of God and read to the people everything I have dictated to you."

Baruch obeyed and went to the temple to read the contents of the scroll. Micah, one of the king's officers, heard what Baruch was reading and went to tell the other officers. "I just heard the message that God gave to the prophet Jeremiah," Micah said. "God says we will be punished if we keep disobeying his commandments."

When they heard that, they sent to tell Baruch to bring the parchment and read it.

Then Baruch read to them. When he finished reading, the officers looked at each other, and with great fear said, "The king must hear this. But you and Jeremiah must hide or the king will kill you." So the officers went before the king to tell him what had happened. One of the officers, named Jehudi, read the scroll to the king and to all the leaders who were with him.

Since it was winter and very cold, the king was sitting near the fire to warm up. When Jehudi read three or four sections of the parchment, the king cut them with a knife and threw them into the fire. He continued doing that until he had burned up the whole roll. Some officers begged him not to burn it, but the king paid no attention. Then he ordered Baruch and Jeremiah to be arrested, but the officers who went to look for them could not find them because God had hidden them and kept them safe. God spoke again to Jeremiah and said, "Find another parchment and rewrite everything that I dictated to you before.

Also, add these new messages for King Jehoiakim and the people. Tell them I will take their land because they did not listen to my words. Also, no member of King Jehoiakim's family will reign in Israel." Jeremiah and Baruch obeyed God and wrote all the messages again. We can read them in our Bible. These messages remind us that God loves us and wants us to be obedient to His Word.

## ACTIVITIES

### Phylacteries

For this activity, you will need scissors, glue, pencils, and a piece of yarn or wool for each child. Distribute the children worksheets and guide them to make their phylacteries by following the instructions.

Explain the meaning of the phylacteries by saying: The phylactery is a small box containing biblical verses. The Hebrews put them on their foreheads or their arms as a permanent reminder of the commandments and the promises of the Word of God.

### Memorization

Hand out the Verse of the Month Club card corresponding to this unit, and read the biblical text together. Then, ask the all-girls to read the verse, then all the guys, then by those who are 8 years old, etc. Remind them that the card will help them review the verse of the unit during the week.

### To end

Give thanks to God in prayer for having given us His Word to learn more about Him. Sing songs about the Bible, and invite the children to the next class. Do not forget to tell them that it is very important that they bring their Bibles.

# Phylactery



**"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength . . . Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads." (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 8)**

**"In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery . . . And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.'" (Exodus 13:14,16)**

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that the Bible teaches them about Jesus, the Son of God.

**Memory Verse:**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Many children think that the Bible is a collection of stories; others know that the Word of God contains rules and commandments, and some have heard that the Bible speaks about God and Jesus.

This information is valuable to them, but the most important thing is that they begin to recognize that the Bible is a unique book, unlike all other history books or manuals with rules. This book talks about God's love and gives the right answers to many of our questions. The message of the Bible is unique and available to everyone.

This lesson will help them understand that Jesus is more than a great teacher who lived a long time ago. He is the Son of God and, through many biblical stories, they can learn about the great miracles he performed.

Guide your children as they learn not only to read and memorize passages of the Bible but to love, respect, and above all, obey it.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Bring your Bible**

Thank the children who brought their Bibles to class this week, and ask them to open them to the first page. Explain that the Bible is divided into two major parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Ask them to locate where one Testament ends and where the other begins. Repeat this several times until the children locate the divisions with ease. Ask them what is the first book of the Old Testament and which is the last. Help them become familiar with the divisions and books of the Bible as they study these lessons.

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 4:16-44

**Jesus in the synagogue**

"Look who came back to the city!" people said. Jesus had come to Nazareth to visit the place where he had grown up.

Jesus went to the synagogue and looked for a place to sit. "Isn't that Jesus, the son of Joseph, the carpenter?" some asked.

"Yes, it's him," someone answered. "His mother will be happy to see him. I would like to hear him read the Scriptures. They told me that he taught in some Galilean synagogues and that he is a great teacher."

So they invited Jesus to come forward to read the Scriptures. The people who were there wanted to



hear him, and they were attentive while Jesus opened the scroll and began to read.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight

For the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

The people recognized the portion of the Scripture that Jesus was reading. Many years ago, the prophet Isaiah had written those words, announcing the fulfillment of a promise.

That passage referred to the Savior of the world, whom God had promised to send.

Jesus closed the scroll and said, “Today the Scripture that you have just heard has been fulfilled.”

“What?” said the people? “Is it true what he is telling us?” “Isn’t he Joseph’s son?” they asked each other.

Jesus tried to explain more about the Word of God and what it said about the Savior, but they didn’t want to hear it.

Rather, all who were in the synagogue became angry with Jesus. So they took him out of there to the top of a hill to throw him off. However, Jesus passed through them and went to Capernaum. There he performed many miracles, healed the sick, and taught many about the love of God. Jesus showed the people that he was the promised Messiah. “Do not leave us!” the inhabitants of Capernaum asked him.

But Jesus answered, “I have to go. I must go and tell others the good news of the kingdom of God. For that, I have been sent.”

So Jesus went to many others, healed the sick, and taught in other synagogues the message of God’s love.

Although it was very sad for Jesus to have been rejected by his people, in other places many believed in his Word.

## ACTIVITIES

### The Bible tells us about Jesus

Ask a volunteer to help you distribute the children worksheets. Instruct the class to look at the pictures and number them according to the order of the biblical story. As they work, tell them that the story they learned is in the Gospel of Luke.

Next, ask them: Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? Listen to their answers. If you see that many are still confused, ask them to open their Bible and locate the Gospel of Luke.

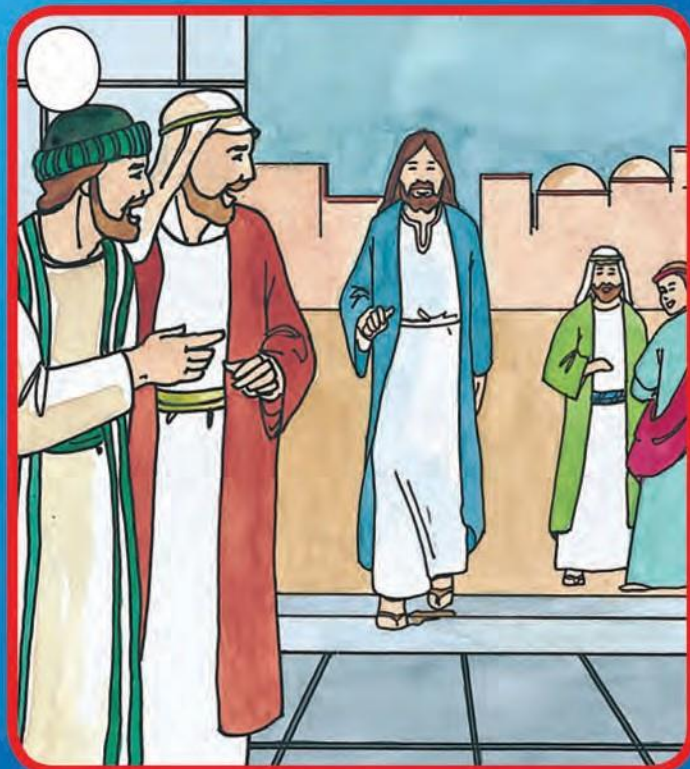
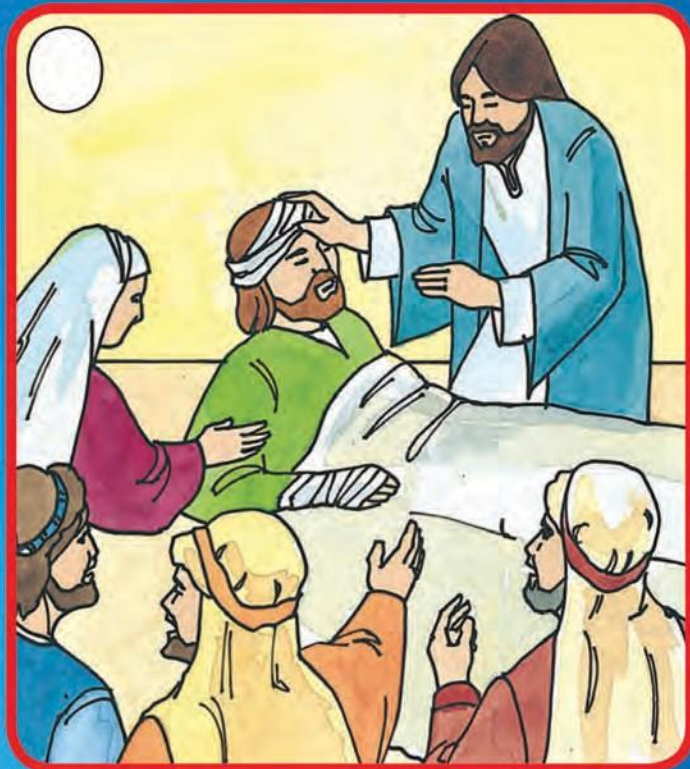
### Memorization

Write the words of Philippians 4:19 on different cards. Tape them on a wall or blackboard, so that you can peel them off and put them back on. Read the text several times, and ask the children to repeat it. Change the cards for your children to reorder them. Repeat this activity several times and say the text each time the cards are ordered.

### To end

Pray for your children, and give thanks to God for allowing us to know Jesus more through his Word. Remind them to pray during the week and bring their Bibles to the next class.

# The Bible Talks About Jesus



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that God uses his Word to teach His children to do the right thing.

**Memory Verse:**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Your children are beginning to understand that the Bible is a special book because it is the Word of God. They understand more of the Bible than we suppose. They do not question its teachings, nor compare them with ideologies or philosophies as many adults do. The time you spend ministering to them and telling them Bible stories will be of great value for their spiritual formation. Remember that not only will you impart knowledge, but you will develop in them the spiritual sensitivity and desire to learn more about the kingdom of God.

This unit focuses on the response of people when they hear the message of the Word of God. Take advantage of this lesson to teach your class that the Bible is not just a book to read; we must believe it and put it into practice.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Where is the Bible?**

Before your children arrive in the classroom, hide your Bible in a place where it is not easy to find it. After welcoming the children, tell them you need to find your Bible and ask them to help you find it. When they locate it, ask them how they felt while they were looking for it. Tell them that today's story is about a king who found the Word of God and how that changed the course of his life and the country he ruled.

**My Bible**

Review the divisions of the Bible with the children. Ask them to locate the Old and New Testaments in their Bibles. Then, ask them to locate some books (for example Genesis, Matthew, Revelation, and Psalms). Then, tell them to look for 2 Chronicles, because that is the location of today's story.

**BIBLE STORY**

2 Chronicles 34

**Josiah finds the Word of God**

Josiah began to reign in Israel when he was only 8 years old. His father and his grandfather had been evil kings who built idols of wood and other materials and put them in the temple of God.

Josiah's grandfather killed some of his children, offering them as sacrifices to the idols he worshiped. When Josiah turned 16, he decided to follow and obey God. He did not want to do evil like his ancestors, but to follow the one true God.

Four years later, he removed the altars where false idols were worshiped and destroyed all the images.

In addition, he asked his messengers throughout the kingdom to give the following announcement: "From now on, no one in this kingdom will worship idols. We will only obey the living God, the



only God of Israel.”

But Josiah’s work was not over. He knew that the temple of God was in ruins, so he ordered a man named Shaphan to repair it. He asked him to look for the best builders and carpenters to restore the temple so it would look as beautiful as before. A large number of people worked hard in the repair and decoration of the house of God.

Suddenly, the priest Hilkiah saw something in the rubble. “What is this?” he asked as he lifted a large scroll and shook off the dust.

Hilkiah could not believe what he had in his hands. It was the book of the Law of God! On that scroll were written the laws that God had given Moses long ago. These laws taught the people how God wanted them to live before him.

“Look what I found,” Hilkiah told Shaphan, showing him the parchment. When he recognized the book of the Law of God, Shaphan said, “We must show it to King Josiah at once!”

Upon receiving the news, the king was very moved and asked Shaphan to read it to him. That scroll said that God wanted his people to love him, obey him and serve faithfully.

Upon hearing these words, Josiah became very sad, knowing that everyone in Israel had disobeyed God.

The king tore his clothes in sadness and said to Shaphan, “God is angry with us because we have not listened to his Word or obeyed his commandments.”

Then he told Hilkiah and others to pray and ask what would happen to the kingdom.

Hilkiah and his companions went to speak with the prophetess Hulda, a woman who loved and obeyed God. The Lord showed her what she should say to the messengers of King Josiah: “God does not like it when people do not listen to him or obey his words. Therefore, he had decided to send a great punishment upon the people of Israel. But now he has seen the heart of Josiah and knows that this king wants to obey him and love him. God wants all people to listen to him, obey him, and love him.”

Then King Josiah called all the people together to read them the Word of God. Then he promised: “I will do everything God wants me to do.”

And the people also promised: “We will obey and love God.”

The people of Israel followed God and obeyed him during all the time that Josiah reigned.

## ACTIVITIES

### The Bible helps us know the right thing

Hand out the children worksheet for Lesson 39. Ask the children to cut out the shape following the outline, and fold it along the dotted lines. Then they should cut out the small lines in sections 1 and 5. Explain how to assemble the figure by inserting section 1 into section 5. Review the biblical story, discussing how the study of the Bible helps us to be different.

### Memorization

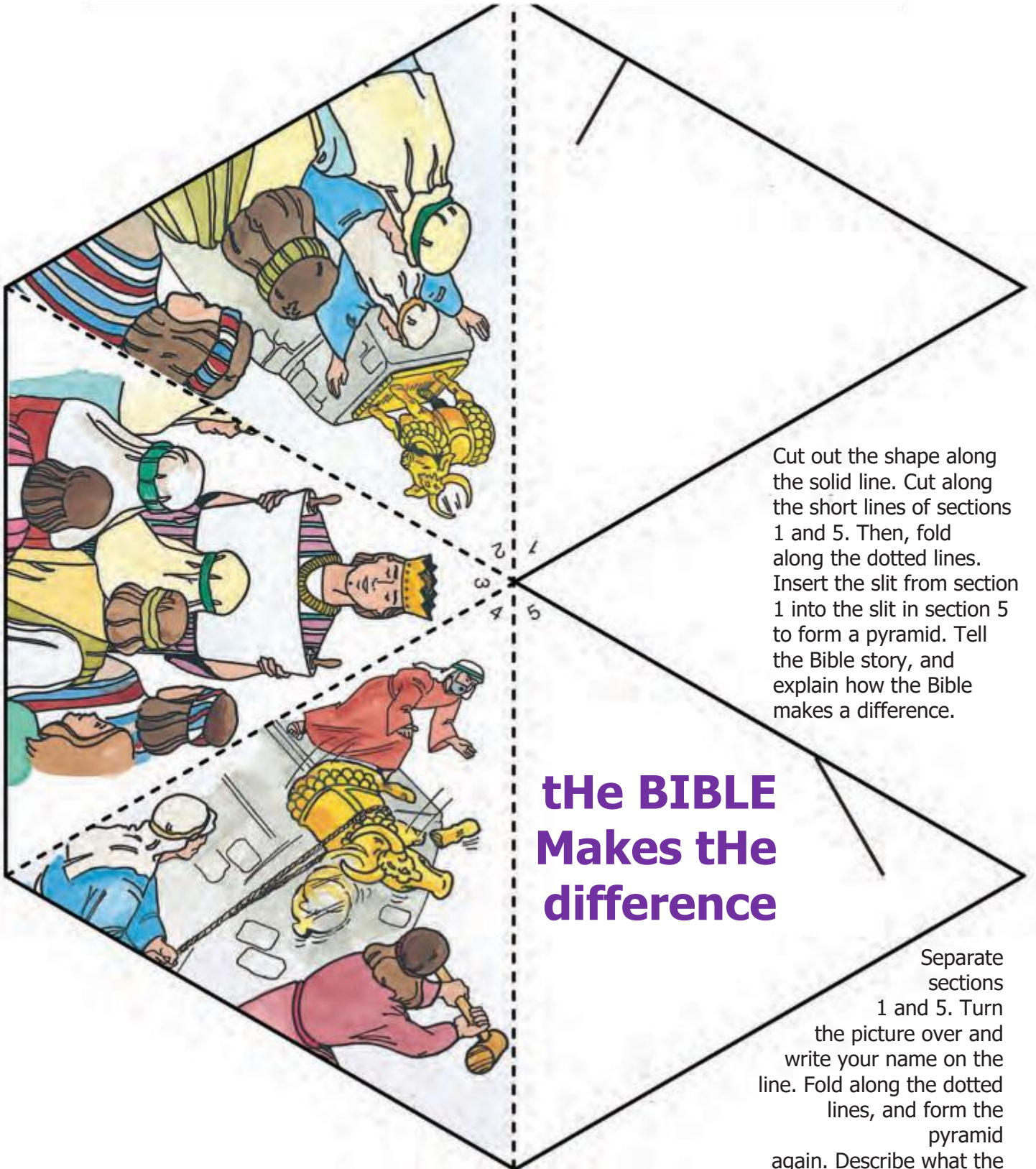
Ask the children to sit in a circle. Give a Bible to one of them, who must pass it to the next, and so on. When you say STOP, whoever has the Bible should say the verse. Let the group help the child who has difficulty memorizing it.

### To end

Give thanks to God in prayer for having given us His Word to learn more about Him. Sing songs about the Bible, and invite the children to the next class.



# the Bible Helps Me Know what Is right



Cut out the shape along the solid line. Cut along the short lines of sections 1 and 5. Then, fold along the dotted lines. Insert the slit from section 1 into the slit in section 5 to form a pyramid. Tell the Bible story, and explain how the Bible makes a difference.

**the BIBLE  
Makes the  
difference**

Separate sections 1 and 5. Turn the picture over and write your name on the line. Fold along the dotted lines, and form the pyramid again. Describe what the pictures represent and read the verse.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that the Bible teaches them to live rightly.

**Memory Verse:**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

The Bible is a practical book that guides us to live according to God's will. In this unit, your class will learn that the message of the Bible is for them, and that will help them differentiate well from bad.

In this unit, the children have learned basic biblical concepts which will help them understand that the Bible is a book in which they can find all the answers they need. They have also learned to easily locate the books that compose it. Take advantage of this last class to reinforce the importance of reading, studying, and living the Word of God.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Reminder**

During the week, draw figures of open Bibles on a piece of poster board and cut them out. Make enough for all your children. Make sure that the size is large enough for the children to write the memory verse in it. Provide pencils or colored markers to decorate them and have them take them home as a reminder of the unit theme.

**BIBLE STORY**

Acts 16:1-5;

2 Timothy 1:1-7; 2:1-6; 16-18; 3:10-17; 4:13-22

Photocopy the Bible story and keep it in an envelope, as if it were a letter. Open it in front of your children and tell them that they are going to read a very important letter that the apostle Paul wrote to his friend Timothy.

**The letter to Timothy**

Paul was in prison while awaiting his trial in Rome. His "crime" had been to tell others about Jesus. To make matters worse, many of his friends had left him alone and winter was coming. But Paul, without being discouraged himself, wrote a letter to his friend Timothy.

Dear Timothy,

I feel very grateful for your friendship and I pray for you every day. You are like my son and I am glad to know that you are a good Christian, just like your mother and your grandmother.

Be strong always and follow God's direction. I know that hard times will come, but remember that athletes run the entire race, regardless of the difficulties.

Many bad things happened to me while I was preaching, but God rescued me from all of them. Those who serve God and obey Him will face problems. They are likely to be persecuted, just as I am in prison! However, it is worth serving Jesus.

Be careful, because many people will preach false teachings and deceive many, but don't be confused. Continue to believe in what you know is right. Remember that you can trust the Scriptures because God inspired and guided the people who wrote them.

Don't forget that the Scriptures teach us to do the right thing, exhort us when we are wrong, and show us what God's will is for us. Studying the scriptures will help you prepare for God's work for you.

I am waiting with great excitement for your visit. When you come, please bring me the coat that I left at Carpus' house. Also bring my books, especially the scrolls.

I'm still waiting for the day of my trial. In my first defense before the authorities, nobody helped me. They all left me alone. I ask God not to punish them for that. But the Lord Jesus was by my side, giving me strength and peace. I know that the Lord will deliver me from all evil and will protect me until I am brought to his heavenly kingdom.

Say hello to all my friends. Do everything possible to come before the winter begins.

All the brothers here send you greetings.

God bless you! Sincerely, Paul.

## ACTIVITIES

### **The Bible helps us know what we should do**

Distribute the children worksheets and read the instructions out loud for the class to do the activity. Encourage them to reflect and make wise decisions in light of the Word of God.

Turn to the next page and cut out the figures on the drawing strip; then fill in the blanks in the biblical text.

### **Memorization**

Since this is the unit's last lesson, prepare some prizes for those who have learned the memory verse. Hand out Bible-shaped cards or bookmarks with the memory verse. Allow those who wish to do so to say the verse by heart.

### **To end**

Do a brief review with the class of the lessons they learned in this unit. Ask which of the stories they liked best. Emphasize how important the Bible is to all Christians. Invite them to read it and study it, but, above all, to obey it and love it. If possible, invite the parents of your children to see the work their children did. Encourage them to foster love and respect for the Word of God in their children. Pray before saying goodbye, and give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of having the Bible as a guide for our lives.



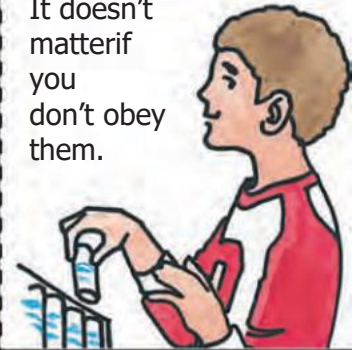
# MY Bible Helps Me Know What I Should Do

**1** When it's  
hard to obey  
the rules...

Be  
strong  
and  
obey



It doesn't  
matter if  
you  
don't obey  
them.

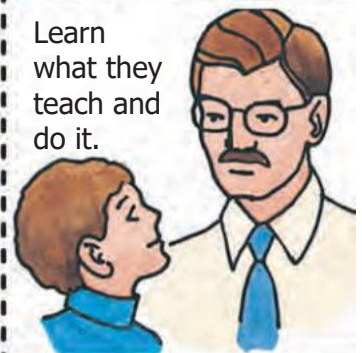


**2** When  
someone  
teaches  
something  
new...

See if  
the Bible  
says it's  
correct.



Learn  
what they  
teach and  
do it.



**3** When  
someone  
hurts me...

Forgive and pray  
for that person.



Look for a way to  
get back at them.



**4** I can trust  
the Bible  
because...

It's old.



It's the word of God.



Instructions: Cut off this strip. Save the pictures on the other side to use later. Read the title of the activity and the beginning of each sentence. Circle the correct ending for each sentence. Then, fold the right side of the sheet along the dotted line. Did you choose the correct answers??



# THE POWER OF JESUS

**Biblical References:** Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 5:17-26; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 19:1-10.

**Unit Memory Verse:** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

## UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children:

- Understand that Jesus, the Son of God, can change the life of those who approach Him and get to know Him.
- Know that Jesus' presence makes a big difference in people's lives.
- Learn to resist temptation
- Trust in Jesus' Power and help

## LESSON UNIT

Lesson 41: **Jesus heals the two blind men**

Lesson 42: **Jesus shows that he is the Son of God**

Lesson 43: **Jesus defeats temptation**

Lesson 44: **Jesus visits Zacchaeus**

## WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

By studying this series of lessons, your children will learn that Jesus transformed the lives of many people during his ministry on earth. They will also know that he can do many wonders because he is the Son of God, and no one can match his power.

Jesus has the power to heal a sick body, forgive sins and transform a sad soul into one with hope and joy.

This stage of the development of your children is crucial for their spiritual formation. During this stage, they adopt role models and tend to imitate people they consider "special." Therefore, take every opportunity to teach them that Jesus is the primary model they should follow. Guide them to understand that they need to have a personal encounter with Christ and walk always hand in hand with the Lord.

## Lesson

## 41

## JESUS HEALS THE TWO BLIND MEN

## Unit 10

Biblical References: Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should develop compassionate feelings, following Jesus' example.

## Memory Verse:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Your children are growing up in a world where compassion is often secondary. Help is conditional: they help only if they receive something in return. Thus it is important that they learn that Jesus was compassionate and selflessly helped others.

If we teach them to respond to the needs of others with compassion, they will grow up with a healthy perspective of the Christian life and the love of neighbors.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

## Identify the objects

Have several objects (balls, dolls, a book, a brush, etc.) in a bag for your children to identify through touch. Ask several volunteers to come forward, put their hands in the bag and try to say what object they are touching.

Explain that blind people depend on their sense of touch to identify many of the objects that surround them. In today's story, we will learn what some men did to recover their sight.

## BIBLE STORY

Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52

Jesus and his disciples traveled many kilometers to teach and heal people. How do you imagine they traveled from one city to another? By car? By bus? On a train? By plane? At that time there weren't all those means of transport that we have now, so people walked great distances to go from one place to another. Only those who had money could travel on a cart or horseback. In today's story, we will learn what Jesus did while walking to Jerusalem.

## Jesus heals two blind men

One day Jesus and his disciples left Jericho and headed to Jerusalem, and a large crowd followed them on the road. Everyone wanted to hear the teachings of Jesus.

"I'd like to hear what Jesus says," one man said. "It's wonderful to see people's happiness when Jesus heals them," said another one.

"Did you hear that?" the blind man Bartimaeus asked his friend.

"Hear what?" answered the friend. "What people are saying? I heard someone say that Jesus is coming along the way. Listen! Here he comes. Jesus is coming here!" Bartimaeus continued talking excitedly. "I heard that Jesus does miracles. Maybe he can heal our eyes so we can see!"

As the crowd approached, the two blind men stood up and began to shout as loud as they could, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!" "Shut up!" Someone shouted at them.

"You're making a lot of noise." "Keep silent! Show a little respect," others demanded.

But the two blind men did not shut up. On the contrary, their voices were heard louder and louder.

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!” Then Jesus stopped and called the two blind men. “Have confidence, Jesus is calling you,” a man told them.

The two men left their cloaks and walked towards Jesus as fast as their legs allowed. “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked.

The blind men felt their hearts beat faster and faster. They were so excited! What they had wanted so much was about to become reality. “Sir, we want to see!” the blind men pleaded. Jesus realized that these two men believed in his power, and he had compassion for them. So, he extended his hand and touched their eyes. At that moment, the two men could see Jesus. They could see everything! The trees, the blue sky. What a wonderful day!

The two men, jumping with joy, praised Jesus and followed him along the way.

## ACTIVITIES

### Where is Matthew?

Tell the children to look for the book of Matthew in their Bibles and mark the place with bookmarks. Ask them to identify which book is before Matthew and which is after. Explain that this Gospel is the first book of the New Testament and contains wonderful teachings about the life and ministry of Jesus. Today’s story is found in this book.

### Compassion mural

For this activity, you will need white paper, colored pencils, glue, and a large piece of cardboard or paper.

Write the word “COMPASSION” as the title on the card. Ask the children to draw pictures of how they can show compassion to others (visiting the sick, helping the needy, sharing food, etc.). When they are finished, have them stick their drawings on the poster board. Place the mural on the classroom door so parents can see the work they did.

### Jesus shows compassion

Hand out the children worksheets and ask the class to trace the written words. Then, fold the page along the dotted line to see what happened when the two blind men approached Jesus. Turn to the next page and explain that next to “What the blind man said” they should copy the letters in the red boxes in order; and next to “What Jesus did” they must copy the letters of the yellow boxes.

When the activity is over, read the answers together, and talk about how Jesus showed compassion in today’s Bible story.

### Memorization

Divide the children into three groups and assign them a part of the memory verse. Follow this example: (Group 1) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, (Group 2) the new creation has come: the old has gone; (Group 3) the new is here (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Each group must say its part in the correct order to complete the text. Repeat the exercise a couple of times, have group’s trade parts, repeat, and then encourage them to say it together.

### To end

Form a circle with your children and allow each one to say a short prayer of thanksgiving if they want to. Conclude, praising God for the miracles of healing he does among his people, and asking that he help all of you to be compassionate and loving to one another. Sing a song before saying goodbye, and invite the children to the next class.



# Compassion

Fold Up

Love that Helps



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should understand that Jesus has the power to do amazing things because he is the Son of God.

**Memory Verse:**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Today, as happened in biblical times, many people believe that Jesus was only a teacher and prophet. However, he is the Son of God; His presence and love made a great difference in the ancient world and today's world. His birth divided history into two periods and transformed the lives of countless people. He alone has the power to forgive sins and restore the relationship between people and God. He was the only one who performed amazing miracles, such as giving sight to the blind and healing the paralyzed. In these lessons, by emphasizing the qualities of Jesus' character encourage children to be imitators of Christ in their daily lives.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Special Needs**

After telling the children to sit in a circle, talk about people who have special needs. It is likely that in your class or the congregation there is someone with a certain disability. It is important that your children learn to respect and love all people equally, regardless of their condition.

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 5:17-26

**Jesus heals a paralytic**

The people of Capernaum were happy because Jesus was with them. Many wanted to hear his teachings, so the house where he was had filled with people.

Many had stayed outside, but they could look in through the door and the windows.

Four men passed near the house and saw the large crowd. "What's happening here?" asked one of them. "Jesus is in that house," someone answered.

Then, one of the four men said, "I know what we can do. Let's go bring our friend.

I'm sure Jesus can heal him." "You're right. Let's go get him!" called another. Everyone agreed, so they went looking for their friend who could not walk. "You must come with us to see Jesus," they said to him after they found him. "But I can't go," said the paralytic. "I can't walk; how could I get there?"

"We'll take you. You must listen to the teachings of Jesus and see the miracles he does."

"Ok, let's go!" he said excitedly.

Each of the friends held tightly to one of the corners of the mat on which their friend was lying and set out on the road. When they arrived near the house, one of them said, "There are too many people in front of the door and we'll never reach the place where Jesus is. What can we do?"

"Look! There is a stairway that leads to the roof," said another of the friends.

Everyone knew what they should do, so they very carefully held their friend and climbed the ladder

to the roof. One by one they began to remove the tiles that covered the roof until they made a big hole. Then, they tied the mat with ropes and carefully lowered their friend, until they put him in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus.

Some people who were in the house began to say things about the paralytic.

“Poor man! Surely he did something very bad to deserve such punishment,” thought someone. Then Jesus approached the paralytic and said, “Friend, I forgive you of all your sins.” Upon hearing those words, many people became angry and began to speak badly of Jesus.

“Who do you think you are to forgive sins?” they said annoyed. “Only God can do that.”

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he spoke again to the man, saying, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

Then in front of the whole crowd, the man stood up, rolled up his mat, and headed for the door. While walking, he shouted, “Glory to God! Look what Jesus did for me. He healed me!”

Everyone was amazed to see the man walking, and they began to praise God saying, “What wonders we have seen today!”

## ACTIVITIES

### A hole in the roof!

Hand out the worksheets for Lesson 42, and give each child a piece of wool/yarn. Explain that they must cut off the strip on the bottom of the paper and cut out the bed and the figure of the paralytic.

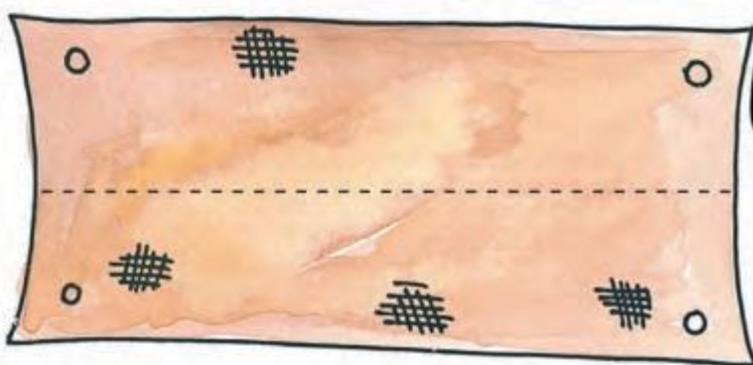
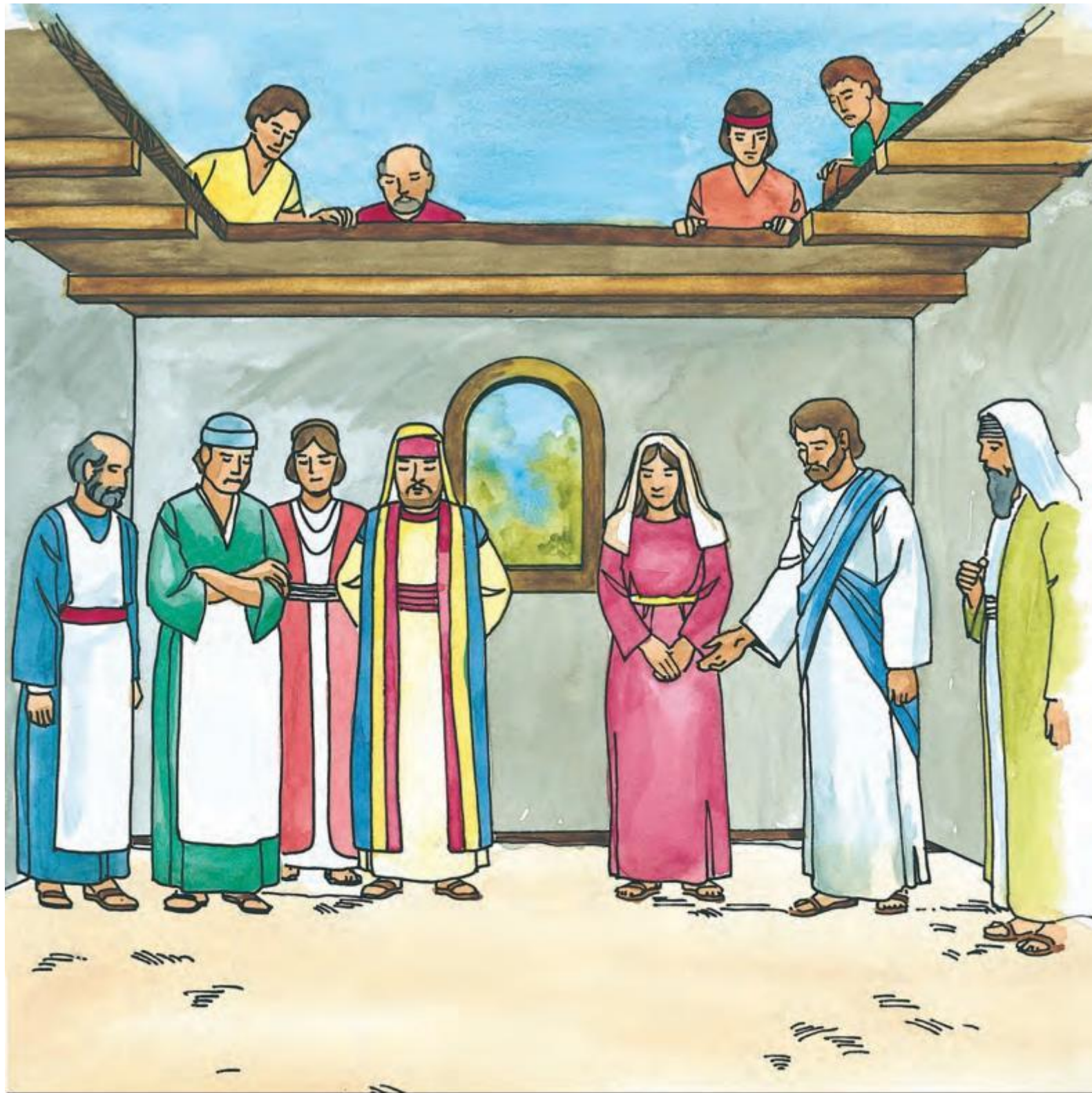
### Memorization

Pass out the Verse of the Month Club card for the unit (pg. 137). Then, tell them to divide into pairs to review the memory verse. Each person should say the text to his or her partner using different voice tones. Pay attention and choose the most creative to come to the front and tell others the text, modulating their voice in different ways.

### To end

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for having sent his Son Jesus to save us from our sins.

As your children prepare to go home, remind them to use their activity sheet to tell their family members the Bible story. Encourage them to study the biblical text during the week and not miss the next class.



Cut the bottom strip off the sheet. Then cut out the stretcher and the paralytic man. Fold the stretcher along the dotted line (the brown part should be left facing out). Put the figure of the paralytic on the stretcher and review what you learned in the Bible story. Option: poke the holes marked on the stretcher and the roof. Insert strips of yarn or string through the holes of the stretcher. Pass them through the holes in the ceiling and tie them in a knot. Use the string to simulate lowering the stretcher to Jesus.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should learn what they must do when faced with temptation.

**Memory Verse:**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Use this lesson to teach y o u r s t u d e n t show to resist temptation through Jesus' example. Help them understand that although Jesus was the Son of God, he was also human, and was subject to the same feelings and emotions that we have. Explain that, like them, Jesus felt hunger, cold, and fear. He had worries and faced temptations. However, he clung to God's promises and was able to resist temptation, even in the most difficult moments.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON**

Talk to the children about the sins that at first seem innocent, but make us fall into Satan's trap. Tell them that in today's class, they will learn how to deal with temptations.

**BIBLE STORY**

Matthew 4:1-11

**The temptation of Jesus**

Before starting to preach and teach people, Jesus went to see John the Baptist be baptized in the Jordan River.

After his baptism, Jesus had to face a difficult test. The Holy Spirit took him to the desert, where he spent 40 days and 40 nights without food.

Of course, Jesus was very hungry and weak. Then Satan decided to tempt him. So he approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread."

Jesus looked at the stones, and it is very possible that he thought about the hunger he felt, but he answered with courage, "It is written: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Jesus refused to yield to temptation. However, Satan tried to tempt him in another way. This time he took him to the highest part of the temple in Jerusalem. There he said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

It would be a spectacular way to begin his ministry! The temple was full. Surely the religious leaders would recognize him as the Son of God if the angels came to rescue him. But knowing that this was not God's plan, Jesus said to him, "It is also written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

Thus, Jesus used another verse from the Old Testament to overcome temptation.

But Satan did not give up, and once again he tempted Jesus. He took him to a High mountain so that he could see all the kingdoms of the world and its riches, and said to him, "All this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me."

It seemed so simple! Jesus knew that his ministry on earth would not be easy. People expected the promised Messiah to be a great leader. They wanted a king, and Satan was promising that he would



make him king. People would not listen to the carpenter's son of Nazareth, but if Jesus became king, they would all listen to him, and everything would be very easy.

Then Jesus said to him, "Go away, Satan, for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

The enemy had used his best temptations when Jesus was weakest. But for the third time, Jesus used a verse to destroy the devil. Satan knew that Jesus had defeated him, and seeing that he could not overcome him, Satan left.

Jesus stayed in the desert, alone, exhausted, and hungry, but he had passed the test, resisting the temptations of the enemy. Suddenly, angels from heaven came to where he was to serve and help him.

## ACTIVITIES

### Who is the tempter?

For this activity, the children are to look at the images and identify the kind of temptation. Then they are to mention the tools that help us overcome temptation.

Conclude this activity by reading together Hebrews 2:18.

### Memorization

Draw a line on the floor, or place a string, which will be the "memory line." Make a circle with your children. Ask one of them to stand outside of the circle with his/her back to the others. Give him/her a tambourine or other musical instrument, and tell them to make it sound without looking at their classmates.

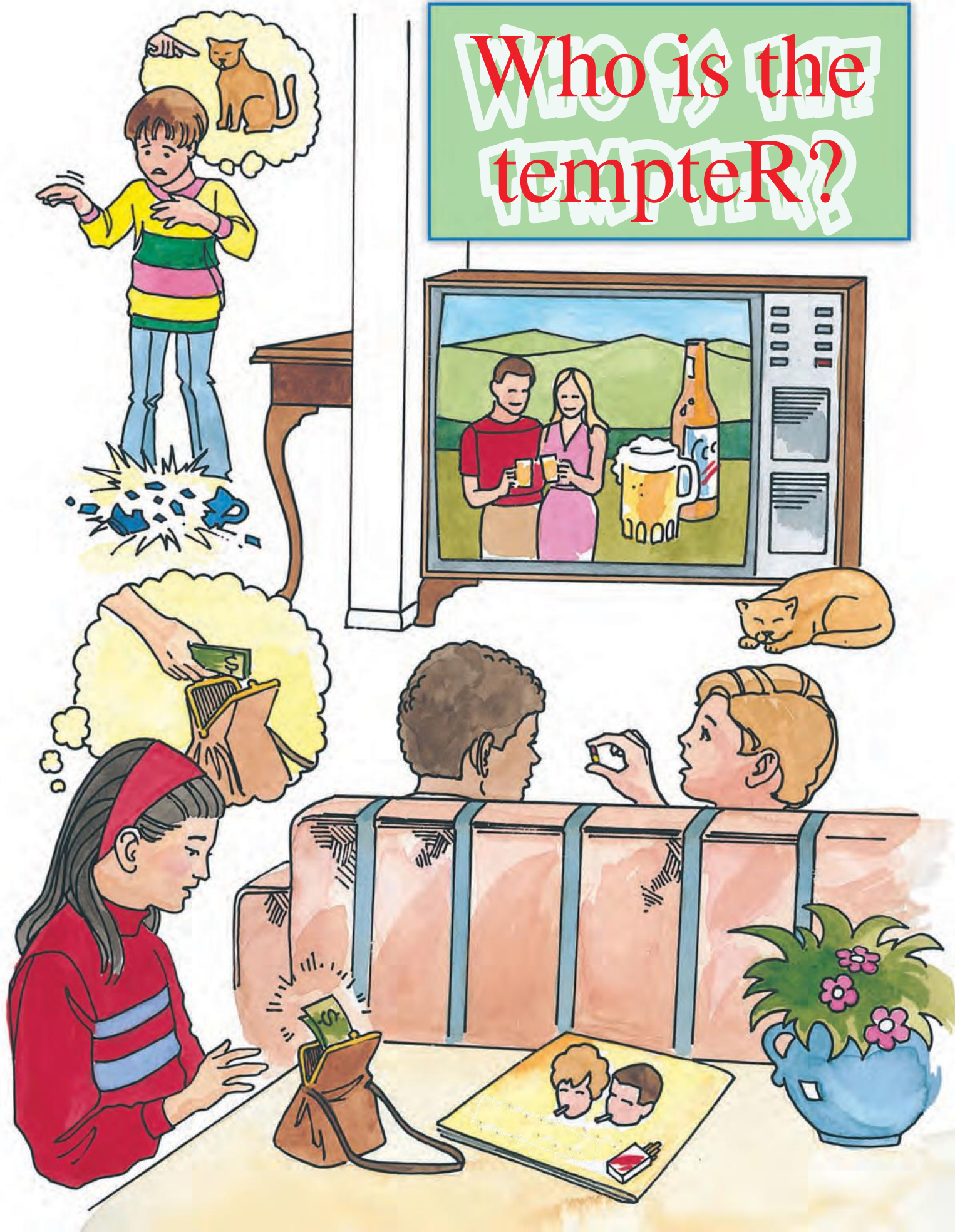
The others should start walking in a circle, going over the memory line. When the child with the tambourine stops playing, everyone should stop. The person who is on the line or just in front of it will have to say the memory verse. Continue the game until most children have said the biblical text.

### To end

Get together to thank God for today's class. Pray also for your children, asking God to give them the strength and wisdom to resist temptations.

Encourage them to attend the next class, and call or visit the ones who were missing.

# Who is the tempter?



## Lesson

## 44

## JESUS VISITS ZACCHAEUS

## Unit 10

Biblical References: Luke 19:1-10

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should understand that people's hearts change when they decide to follow Jesus.

## Memory Verse:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

All children like to feel loved. In today's story, when Jesus stops to talk with Zacchaeus, we see the love of God in action. He seeks us, no matter what situation we find ourselves in. Through this story, your children will experience Jesus' love and acceptance. When they understand and accept Him, their attitudes and behavior will change, as happened with Zacchaeus, and begin to reflect the love of God in their lives.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**Geometric figures**

In advance, draw and cut out geometric shapes (diamonds, squares, circles, ovals, etc.) of different colors. Keep in mind that each children will need at least eight.

You will also need white paper or small pieces of construction paper, glue, scissors, and colored pencils.

Give the materials to the children, and ask them to use the shapes to make a tree and a human figure. Allow them to identify the geometric shapes that would best serve to make the figures. Then, ask them to decorate the paper using colored pencils.

Tell them that in today's story they will talk about a man who climbed a tree to see a very important person.

## BIBLE STORY

Luke 19:1-10

**Zacchaeus meets Jesus**

"One, two, three ... how much money have I earned today!" Zacchaeus said. He was counting the tax money that the townspeople had paid him.

"I think I did a good job. I like to collect taxes because I can ask for the amount of money that I want. I give the Romans their part and the rest is for me. When people complain, I just tell them that taxes have gone up. I love this job!"

The people of the town knew that Zacchaeus deceived them, charging them more than they should. That's why nobody wanted him around.

While Zacchaeus kept his money in a safe place, he heard a great uproar in the streets of Jericho. "Almost certainly someone important is going through here," he thought as he tried to listen to what they were saying.

"Hurry up! Jesus is coming through the town. Let's see him!" someone said.

When Zacchaeus heard that news, he ran and joined the crowd that followed Jesus.

He so wanted to meet him!



However, there were so many people that Zacchaeus could not get close, and since he was short, he couldn't see anything. He tried to jump to see better, but still, he didn't succeed.

"I have to find a way to see Jesus," he thought. "I know! I will climb up that tree, and from there I will be able to observe everything." Zacchaeus ran down the street to climb a large sycamore tree that was where Jesus was going to pass.

Although there were many people around him, Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was watching him from the tree. So, when he got to that Place, he stopped.

"Why did Jesus stop?" the people asked each other. "Zacchaeus, come down from there because I want to visit your house and your family," Jesus said.

Zacchaeus, happy that Jesus wanted to go to his house, came down from the tree as fast as he could.

"Isn't that man the cheater who charges taxes?" asked a man.

"Yes, it's Zacchaeus, the traitor who works for the Romans. Everyone here knows that he tricks us to get extra money for himself," they replied.

"So, why does Jesus want to go to his house?" they asked. Jesus knew what Zacchaeus was like. He was aware that he cheated on his neighbors to get money. However, Jesus loved him and wanted him to be different. He didn't accuse him or tell him he was a terrible person. Instead, he treated him with love and kindness.

For the first time in a long time, Zacchaeus was ashamed of what he had done. He was sorry for deceiving people and treating them badly.

He decided to follow Jesus and he wanted to do everything right. So he stood up and said, "Jesus, I want to follow you. I regret everything bad that I have done. I will give half of what I have to the poor, and those I cheated I will give them four times more than I stole from them." Jesus was very happy and said, "Salvation has come to this house and your family. For that I came to the world, to seek and save what was lost."

## ACTIVITIES

### Zacchaeus meets Jesus

Distribute the children worksheets and the strips and the Zacchaeus figure from the Cut- out Section.

They can draw Zacchaeus. Tell them to move the figure of Zacchaeus up and down to pretend to climb up and down the tree.

### Memorization

Prepare an exhibition with the work your children did during the week. Ask everyone to say the memory verse by heart as special participation. They can also sing a song or dramatize the story.

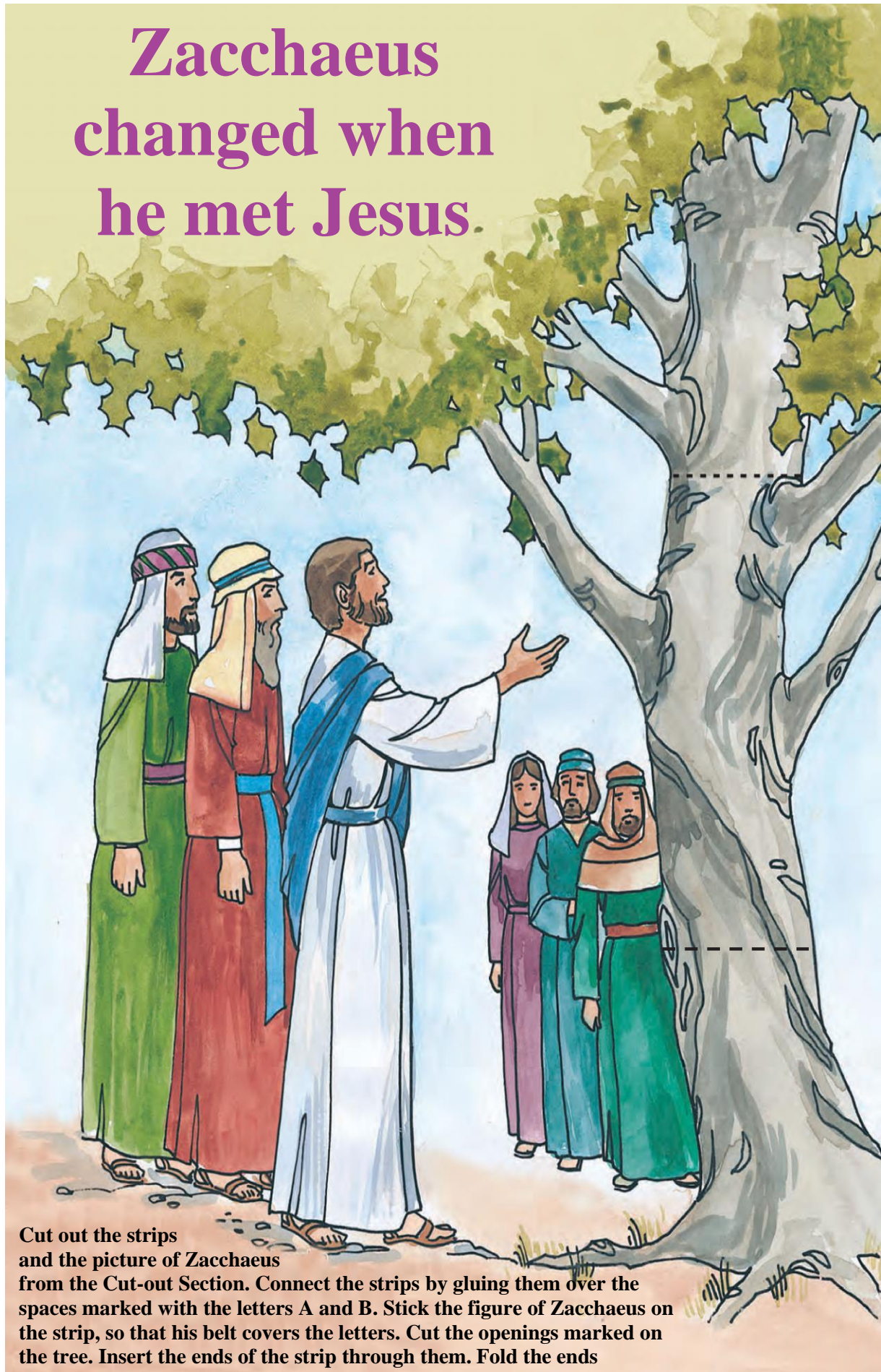
For parents, it will be very interesting to see what their children do in class and will motivate them to continue taking with them.

### To end

Thank them for their attendance during these four weeks, and tell them that in the next class they will start studying a new unit about a very special family.



# Zacchaeus changed when he met Jesus.



Cut out the strips and the picture of Zacchaeus from the Cut-out Section. Connect the strips by gluing them over the spaces marked with the letters A and B. Stick the figure of Zacchaeus on the strip, so that his belt covers the letters. Cut the openings marked on the tree. Insert the ends of the strip through them. Fold the ends backward along the dotted lines. Move Zacchaeus up and down to simulate that he is going up and down the tree.

## A FAMILY CHOSEN BY GOD

**Biblical References:** Genesis 12:1-7; 13; 15:1-5; 17:1-5, 15; 18:1-12; 21:1-7.

**Unit Memory Verse:** And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him” (Joshua 24:24).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children:

- Learn that God’s children must love and trust in Him.
- Be considerate of others.
- Always trust in God.
- Know that God helps us make decisions
- Value and respect the members of their families.

### LESSON UNIT

Lesson 45: **God calls Abraham**

Lesson 46: **Abraham lets Lot choose first**

Lesson 47: **Abraham believes in God**

Lesson 48: **A wife for Isaac**

Lesson 49: **Isaac the peacekeeper**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

This unit deals with several important aspects of the social and spiritual development of your children (for example: consideration towards others, living in peace with everyone, loving, trusting, and being faithful to God).

This unit will help your children understand the relationship between God and the people he chose. All of these stories focus on the importance of the family and how God uses it to bless others.

For your children, the center of their activities and affections revolves around the family nucleus. That is why it is important to teach them biblical principles that reinforce the importance of loving and respecting the members of their family. They will also know that God chooses faithful families to serve in his work.

**Lesson Objective:**

That your students should know that God chooses and calls faithful people to serve Him.

**Memory Verse:**

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him" (Joshua 24:24).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

In this lesson, your class will learn two fundamental truths:

1. God keeps his promises.
2. God wishes to bless our families.

Your children should understand that God is interested in their families and wants to bless them. Using the life of Abraham and his family as an example, teach them that God wants families to serve and obey him. So He can bless others and spread the gospel through them.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****A great move**

Take the children out of the room for a moment. Have playtime while a volunteer adult helps you put all the chairs in disarray at one end of the room. Then come back and tell them: Someone moved our chairs! We're going to have to put them where they were before and organize them!

When the room is ready, give them some time to rest, and tell them: Moving from one place to another is hard work. We got tired just moving the chairs from one place to another, but God asked Abraham to move to a distant land. We're going to learn more about this in today's Bible story.

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 12:1-7

**Abraham obeys God**

Abraham's friends and relatives became very sad when he told them he was moving to another place. "God told me that I must leave," explained Abraham. "He wants us to live in another land, so I must leave you."

"Are you sure, Abraham?" one of his friends asked him. "It is dangerous for you to leave the city. We will no longer be around to protect you and your family. Why do you want to do it? All your relatives live here!"

"Don't worry. I am obeying God's will. He told me that he will bless all the families of the earth through my family."

"But how is that possible?" they asked. "You are too old to have children. You are almost 75 years old! You and your wife Sara have never had children. So how is God going to bless the world through your family if you don't even have a family?"

Abraham looked at them smiling and said, "I know it's hard to believe, but I trust God. I don't know how he will fulfill his promise, but I know he will."

"You're right, Uncle Abraham," Lot said. "Can I go with you?"

"I don't know where the Lord will take us, but you are welcome if you want to go with us," Abraham

replied.

Abraham's friends and relatives helped them prepare everything for the move. They filled baskets with food; then they folded the clothes with great care and put them in sacks; and when they had finished, they put the entire luggage on donkeys and camels.

Finally, the day of departure arrived. Abraham, Sara, and Lot said goodbye to their relatives and friends and began a long journey to fulfill God's will.

After many weeks of traveling, they arrived at a place called Canaan. There God spoke again to Abraham.

"This land will be for you and your descendants," God told him.

Abraham believed in God's promise and built an altar to worship and thank him for having taken them safely to the new land.

## ACTIVITIES

Pass out the worksheets for Lesson 45. Ask the children to write their names on the line. Provide scissors to cut the figure of the house following the outline. Then, help them trim the windows and doors, as indicated by the solid black lines. Show them how to fold along the dotted lines to open the door and windows.

### Memorization

Write the memory verse on a piece of poster board or the board, and repeat it together with your children.

Then, ask them to form a circle and have a volunteer placed in the center. Use a bandana to cover the child's eyes and give him a softball. He should throw it to others. The one who receives it must say the verse from memory and take the place of the one in the center.

When most of the children have participated, show the card again and repeat the verse together.

### To end

Allow time for your children to mention their prayer requests, and intercede for them. Remind them that God is pleased that we pray for one another, especially for the members of our family.

Encourage them to be punctual in attending the next class to study more about the story of Abraham.



**The  
Family of**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**



## Lesson

## 46

## ABRAHAM LETS LOT CHOOSE FIRST

## Unit 11

Biblical References: Genesis 13

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn to be considerate to others.

## Memory Verse:

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him" (Joshua 24:24).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Children are experts at pointing out when something seems unfair, especially if they think someone is trying to take advantage of them.

At this age, most children are self-centered by nature; they believe that they are the center of all, and always seek to satisfy their needs without taking others into account.

Today's lesson, which shows Abraham's generosity, will help your children recognize that God's provision is for all. They will also learn that He is pleased when they joyfully share what they have with others.

Use this teaching to sow in the hearts of your children the desire to consider the needs of others, and motivate them to share with joy.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

## To share!

For this activity, you will need a bag of cookies or pieces of fruit (apples, oranges, etc.), paper towels, or disposable plates.

While the children watch, spread the cookies or fruit on the napkins or plates, making sure some pieces are larger than others.

Then, ask them to choose the piece they want to eat. When everyone has done so, ask them why they chose the piece they did.

Surely some children chose the larger pieces, and some would have liked the piece that another had already chosen.

Explain: Many problems arise because people think of themselves first. That is called selfishness. A selfish person does not consider the needs of others, because they are only concerned with their well-being.

In today's class, we will talk about a man who was generous and allowed his nephew to choose first. Distribute the cookies in equal portions, and share them with your children.

## BIBLE STORY

Genesis 13

## Lot chooses where to live

Abraham and Lot had many animals, especially sheep and cattle. Those animals eat grass, and since both had a lot of livestock, there wasn't enough grass for all the animals.

For that reason, the shepherds who worked for Abraham and those who worked for Lot often argued. They were always fighting to get the best places with more grass.

Abraham found out about this situation, so he went to talk to his nephew.

“Lot, you and I are family and there shouldn’t be fights between us, nor between our shepherds. There isn’t enough land here for everyone, so I think it is time to separate. If you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.”

Lot was surprised when Abraham gave him the opportunity to choose first. According to the custom of those times, the oldest person had the right to choose first. However, Abraham was generous and allowed Lot to choose the land where he wanted to live.

Lot looked around, and saw that the plain of the Jordan River never lacked water. The pastures were always green because it was a very fertile land. In addition, there were two large cities nearby.

“I choose to live in the plain of the Jordan!” said Lot. So he left with his family, his workers and his animals to the land where they would live.

Abraham knew he had done the right thing. Although the land he would stay on wasn’t as fertile, he knew that God would take care of him and his family.

Once again the Lord spoke to him, saying, “All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you” (Genesis 13:15-17).

Abraham continued to believe that God would fulfill his promises, so he lived on that land for a long time and God prospered him a lot.

## ACTIVITIES

### Time to share

Distribute the children worksheets and colored pencils. Ask the children to connect the related figures with a line. Point out that one of the figures represents a problem, while the other represents a solution.

Ask them to tell a brief story about what they think is happening in each situation.

Conclude by reviewing what they studied in the Bible story.

### Learn to be considerate

Sit with your children and make a list of ways they can show consideration to their peers (For example: sharing toys, lending colored pencils, allowing others to choose first, etc.).

Remind them that God blessed Abraham because he was generous and thought of Lot’s well-being rather than his own.

Encourage them to put into practice the ideas they said, and to exercise their generosity during the week.

### Memorization

Allow time for your children to fill in the blanks at the bottom of the second page of the worksheet with the letters from the wheel. Thus they will form the memory verse: “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him” (Joshua 24:24).

After repeating the text together several times, give some volunteers a chance to say it by heart.

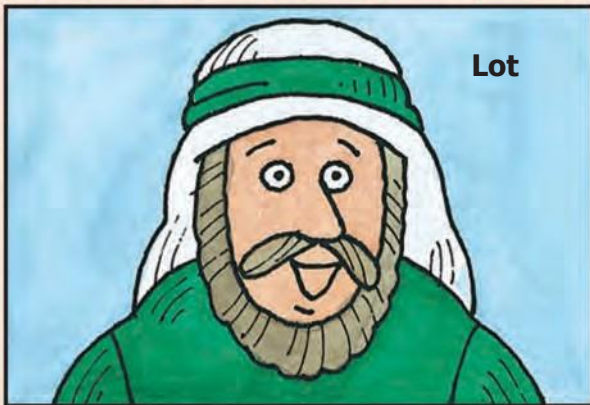
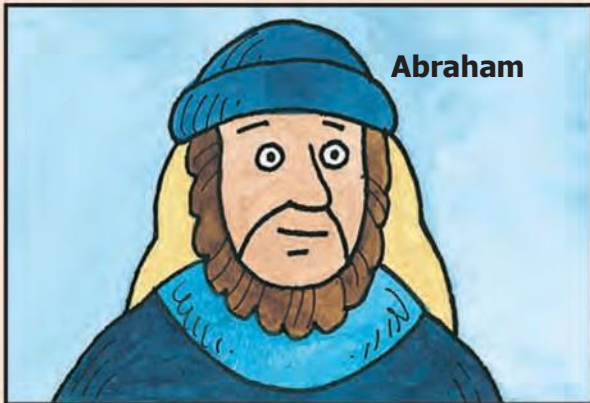
### To end

Ask one of the children to pray out loud and intercede for the requests. Conclude by asking the Lord to help your children be considerate to their peers.

Sing a song before saying goodbye, and invite them to the next class to learn more stories about Abraham, the friend of God.



# Let's Be Generous



Draw a line to connect the pictures that go together.



## Lesson

## 47

## ABRAHAM BELIEVES IN GOD

## Unit 11

Biblical References: Genesis 15:1-5; 17:1-5, 15; 18:1-12; 21:1-7

## Lesson Objective:

That the students learn to trust more in God.

## Memory Verse:

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him" (Joshua 24:24).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

In today's complex world, it is often difficult for children to know who to trust. Your children need to be reassured that God keeps his promises. Unfortunately, perhaps some of them live in homes where promises are never fulfilled. It may be difficult for them to understand that God fulfills what He promises. Elementary children learn easily to trust and distrust. If someone they love fails, it is often difficult for them to trust again without hesitation. It is therefore important to teach them through this lesson that, despite the circumstances, God is faithful and always keeps his promises.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**Guess!**

Fill a clear container with seeds or buttons that you have previously counted. Place it on a table, so that all children can see it. Then, ask them: How many buttons (seeds) do you think there are in this container?

Then, tell them: God told Abraham that his offspring would be more numerous than the stars of heaven. Do you think Abraham's family was more numerous than the buttons (seeds) in this container? It is hard to imagine such a large family, but God promised Abraham that his family would be a great nation, and God always keeps his promises.

## BIBLE STORY

Genesis 15:1-5;

Genesis 17:1-5, 15; 18:1-12; 21:1-7

**God keeps his promise**

Eleven long years had passed since God promised Abraham that he would make a great nation from him. Could God have forgotten his promise?

Abraham was already starting to get discouraged. But one day God told him, "Don't be afraid. I'll take care of you and give you a wonderful gift."

"But, what can you give me, Lord?" Abraham replied. "I have no children and my servants will inherit everything I have."

Then God took Abraham outside and told him, "Look at the stars of heaven; can you Count them?"

"No, Lord, I can't," replied Abraham. "There are too many!"

"Well, so will your descendants be on earth. They will be so numerous that no one will be able to count them," replied God.

Abraham believed in God's promise, but many more years passed, and he and his wife still had no children.

One day it was very hot and Abraham was resting outside his tent. Suddenly, he saw three men approaching him.

"I will bring you water to wash your feet and rest," he said. "I will also bring you something to eat."

Abraham and Sara planned to share a special meal with the visitors, and chose the best foods they had. Sara used the finest flour to prepare bread. Abraham chose one of his best calves for the servant to cook. Then, he brought milk and butter, and attended to the visitors, offering them a delicious meal. "Where is your wife Sara?" asked one of the visitors.

"She's here in the tent," Abraham replied. Then the man said to him, "Within one year of this date, your wife will have a child."

Abraham knew that God had sent the visitors to reaffirm His promise.

Sara, who had heard everything from the tent, laughed. "I'm too old to have a baby," she thought. "Abraham is also old. How can something so wonderful happen?"

But after a year, God fulfilled his promise, and Sarah had a beautiful baby whom they named Isaac.

## ACTIVITIES

### I can also believe in God!

Tell the children to fold the page along the dotted line and read the verse together: "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God..." (Deuteronomy 7: 9a).

Ask them to trace the dotted word and talk about the importance of believing that God will always keep his promises.

### Memorization

Hand out paper and pencils to your children. Ask them to write the memory verse without seeing or copying it. Review their work and help those who need it. Allow time for each to decorate their paper to their liking, and stick them on the wall of the room. Encourage them to use the Verse of the Month Club card to study the verse at home.

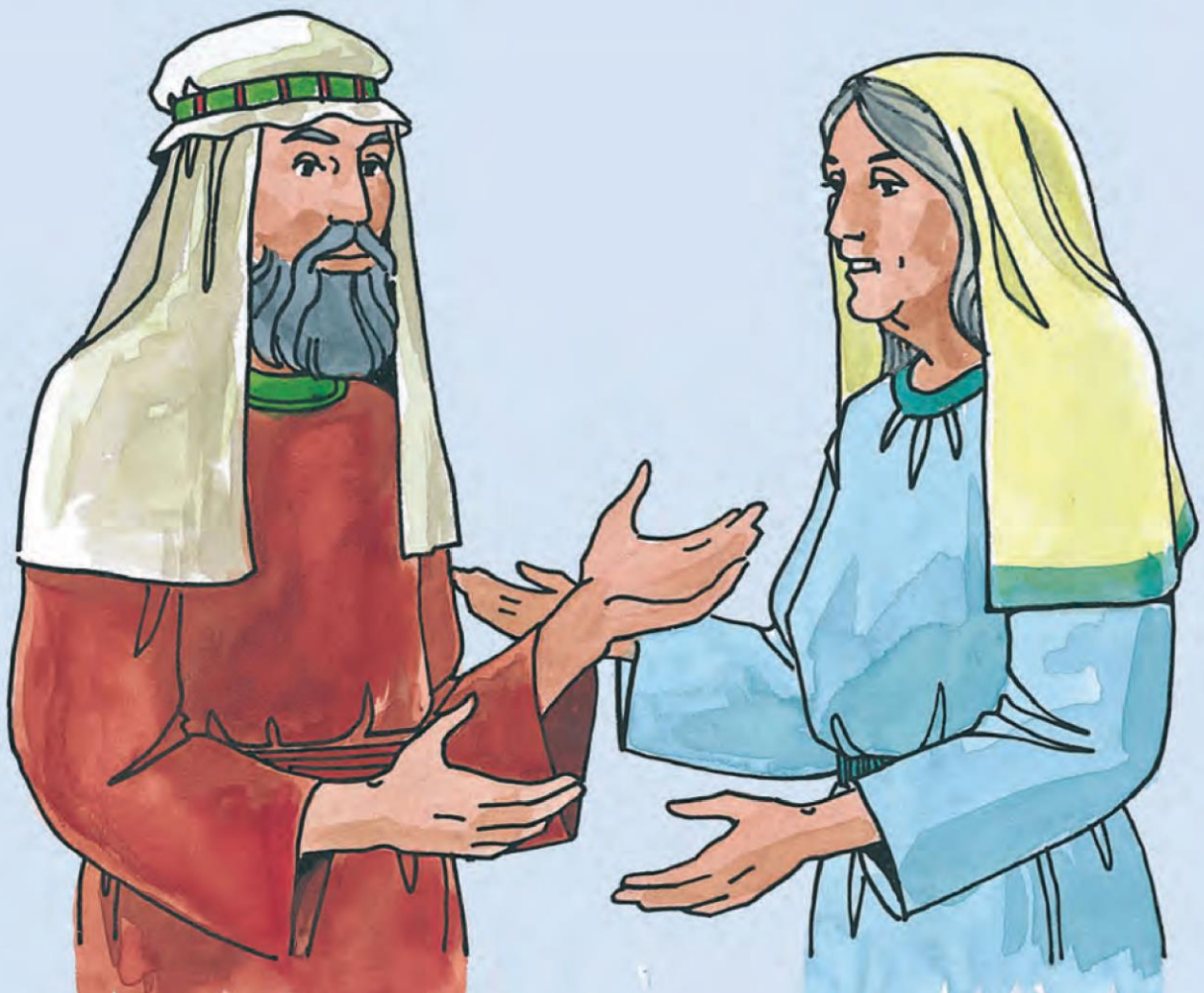
### To end

Sing some songs and give thanks to God for being faithful and always keeping his promises. Encourage your children to exercise confidence in God during the week and to tell others what they learned in class.

Remind them that their attendance next week is very important because they will study what happened when the baby Isaac grew up.

# I can in God!

"Know therefore that the Lord  
your God is God;  
he is the faithful God . . ."  
(Deuteronomy 7:9a)



## Lesson

## 48

## A WIFE FOR ISAAC

## Unit 11

Biblical References: Genesis 24

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should know that God helps us make decisions

## Memory Verse:

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him" (Joshua 24:24).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Your children are increasingly independent and have the ability to do many things on their own. In their eagerness to become independent, they may turn their eyes away from authority figures. However, even in this stage of "I can do it myself," they welcome the help of an adult if they have already tried to do something on their own and did not succeed. Through the story of Abraham's servant Eliazer, teach your class to seek God's help and guidance in their daily lives.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**Isaac grows**

For this activity you will need clippings or photographs that illustrate the growth of a person. Glue them on a poster board, showing the stages of growth, starting with a baby and ending with an elderly person.

Show the illustrations to your children, and explain: All people go through a process of growth. The same happened with baby Isaac, who we studied last week. After baby Isaac was born, he didn't stay a child forever. He grew up and became an adult. God had fulfilled the promise he had made to Abraham with the birth of this baby. Now he would continue the promise of creating a great nation through Abraham. Isaac also had to have children, and in today's story, we will see what happened to him when he was old enough to get married.

**A wedding!**

Show your children pictures of different weddings. Ask them to describe what a wedding is like and what is done in it. Explain that most people now choose for themselves whom they will marry. However, in the time of Abraham, the parents chose the people with whom their sons and daughters would marry. The father of the man spoke with the lady's parents and they agreed. If everything was favorable, the parents of the bride received gifts from the parents of the groom.

In today's story, we will see what happened when it came time to find a wife for Isaac.

## BIBLE STORY

Genesis 24

**A wife for Isaac**

Abraham was sitting under his tent. It had been many years since his son Isaac had been born, and Abraham was already very old and getting tired more and more.

His servant Eliezer took care of him and his belongings. Abraham loved him very much and trusted



him as if he were his own son. One day Abraham said to him, “Eliezer, I want you to promise me that you’ll help me find a wife for Isaac. I don’t want her to be a woman from this country. Go to my land and find a woman from my people.”

Eliezer promised Abraham that he would find the right woman for his son. So he began packing special gifts and some food. After putting everything on ten camels, he started the trip. The desert was a very hot place and Eliezer was worried, because he didn’t know where to find a good wife for Isaac.

After several days of travel, Eliezer arrived in Nahor. There he found a water well and prayed, “God, I beg you to help me find a wife for Isaac. I ask that the woman who comes to draw water from the well and share it with me and the camels will be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac.”

Before Eliezer finished praying, a beautiful young woman approached the well with a jar to carry water. When Eliezer saw that she had filled the jar with water, he asked for some, and she said, “Drink, sir. I will also get water for your camels to drink.”

God had answered Eliezer’s prayer, sending the woman he wanted for Isaac to the well!

Eliezer went to Rebekah’s house and spoke with her father and her brother Laban. He told them that Abraham had sent him to find a wife for his son Isaac. Then, he handed the gifts to Rebecca’s family.

They agreed to the wedding, and preparations began for the return trip. Rebecca said goodbye to her father, her brother Laban and her other relatives, and along with Eliezer, took the road to Canaan.

Isaac and Rebecca soon got married. Eliezer knew that God had helped him find the ideal wife for his master’s son. God’s promise to Abraham would now continue through his son.

## ACTIVITIES

### Trust and obey

Hand out the worksheets for Lesson 48. Instruct them to join the points according to the numbering to find the figure of Eliezer. Then, give them time to color the drawing.

As they work, briefly review what they learned in the Bible story.

### Memorization

To review the memory verse, write the words of Joshua 24:24 on a piece of poster board or on the board. Read it several times all together. Then, delete a word and read it again; erase a second word and so on, until the board is blank, and they can say the memory verse by heart.

### To end

Allow time for your children to pick up and organize the materials they used, and get their belongings. Then pray, asking the Lord to take control of their lives and their decisions. Intercede for the sick and remember those who missed the class.

Sing a song before saying goodbye, and invite them to the next class to study the last lesson of this unit.

# Trust and Obey

164



Connect the dots starting at #1, then color the drawing.  
Tell your family or a friend what you learned in the Bible story.

## Lesson

## 49

## ISAAC THE PEACEMAKER

## Unit 11

Biblical References: Genesis 26:1-33

## Lesson Objective:

That the students should learn that God wants them to be peacemakers.

## Memory Verse:

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him" (Joshua 24:24).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Unfortunately, the environment in which your children develop is increasingly hostile. Just look at the news to see that our society is increasingly corrupt, and the opportunity for a peaceful life is increasingly limited.

Hearing of murders, fights and violence are common for elementary children. However, that is not the way of life that God wants for them. Today's lesson gives us an example of the kind of behavior that God wants us to adopt.

Isaac showed that there is a different way to resolve conflicts. Instead of seeking strife and enmity, he turned away and let God take control of the situation. God blessed Isaac, who tried to maintain a peaceful relationship with his discourteous neighbors.

In a society as conflictive as ours, children need the example of peacemakers.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

**Peaceful work**

For this activity, you will need different colors of play-doh or modeling clay, and plastic bags or newspapers to cover the work area.

Depending on the number of children, divide the class into groups of two or three. Give each group play-doh of one color. Then, ask them to create a figure in which they use all the colors. This means that they will have to share the different colors.

Watch the children's behavior closely as they interact, and encourage them to be friendly while they work.

When they finish, gather them and ask them: What would have happened if one of the groups had refused to share their play-doh color? Do you think you could have finished your project? Listen to their responses and tell them: When everyone works together there is peace and harmony. However, when someone decides to fight, the environment is different. In today's Bible story we will study about a man who decided to seek peace, even though his neighbors wanted to fight him.

## BIBLE STORY

Genesis 26:1-33

**Isaac decides not to fight**

Isaac was going through a difficult time. There was a great famine in the land where he and his family lived. Soon they would be left without any food. For that reason, he decided to move to Gerar, the land of the Philistines.

Isaac was sure he was doing the right thing because God had told him that he would always be with

him.

From the beginning, the Philistines felt a lot of jealousy toward Isaac. First, because his wife Rebecca was a very beautiful woman; and second, because God had prospered him a lot in a short time. When he planted crops, his harvest was so abundant that he earned a lot of money and became rich. He also had many sheep, cows, and other types of animals.

The Philistines were so jealous that they prepared a plan to upset Isaac. They knew that Isaac's animals needed water and that he used the wells that his father Abraham had dug. So, when no one was watching, they filled all the wells with dirt. Abimelech, the king of the region, asked Isaac to leave Gerar because he was more powerful than them.

Then Isaac went to another valley with his family, his servants, and his animals. There, Isaac's servants found other ancient wells and opened them. However, the Philistine shepherds soon arrived to tell them, "The water is ours!"

Isaac didn't want to fight, so he went to another place and dug another well, but the Philistines didn't stay calm. Again they went to fight over the water.

Again, Isaac decided to leave without fighting and reopened another well, but this time Philistines didn't bother him. After a while, Isaac went to live in Beersheba. One night, God spoke to him saying, "I am the God of your father Abraham, and through him, I will bless you and increase your descendants.

Don't be afraid because I am with you."

Then Isaac made an altar to worship God and there he put his tent. Then, his servants dug the earth and found another well with fresh and clear water. When King Abimelech heard this, he went to Beersheba to talk to Isaac.

"Why do you come to see me since you treated me very badly and threw me out of your country?" asked Isaac.

"We have seen that God is with you. That's why we want to be your friends and make a deal so you don't hurt us," said King Abimelech.

Isaac was a peaceful man, so he decided to make the deal with the Philistines and prepared a big banquet for them. The next morning they got up very early, and the king and Isaac promised not to hurt each other. After this, the visitors went in peace to their land and God continued to bless and prosper Isaac, the peacemaker.

## ACTIVITIES

### Who is who?

In this unit, your children learned about different characters, and this activity will serve as a review. Hand out the worksheets for Lesson 49. Ask the children to connect the figures with the appropriate description.

Some figures will be related to more than one phrase. Emphasize God's faithfulness to this family. Use this activity to review each lesson in the unit. Point to a character, and ask the children to say what they did and how they showed their obedience to God.

On the next page, ask them to fold the page along the dotted line and emphasize the word "Happy." Discuss how they feel when they get along with others. Listen to their comments and encourage them to put their biblical learning into practice. It is good to avoid fights and be peacemakers.

### Memorization

Ask for some volunteers to come forward and quote the memory verse. Prepare simple prizes to recognize the effort of your children.

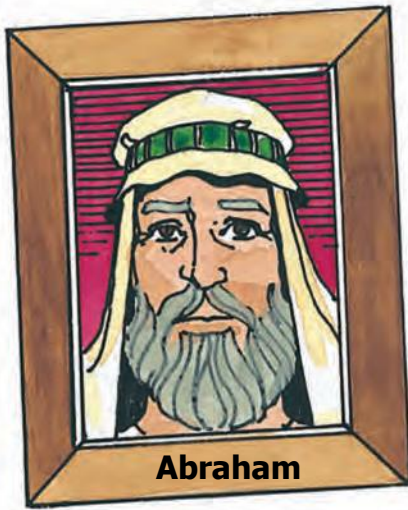
If you wish, prepare a demonstration of what they studied during these five lessons, and invite their parents to visit the class.

### To end

Briefly review the biblical stories they studied. Then form a circle and ask the Lord in prayer to help you all be peacemakers and obey his will, as Abraham and Isaac did.

Make sure everyone takes home the work they did during these five weeks. Invite them to the study of "The Good News of Christmas."





Abraham

# Who is Who?

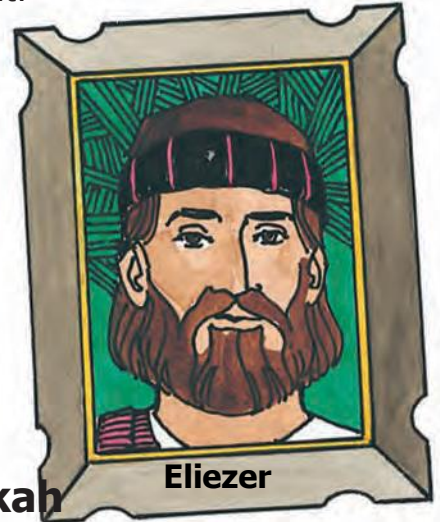


Sarah

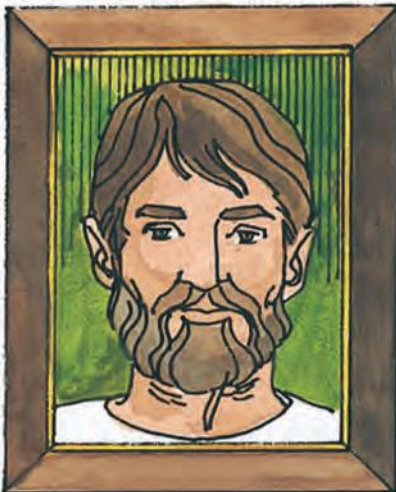
Connect with a line the name of each family member with their portrait.



Laban



Eliezer



Isaac



Rebekah

1. Spouse of Isaac
2. Sister of Laban
3. Son of Abraham
4. Mother of Isaac
5. Spouse of Rebekah
6. Spouse of Abraham
7. Brother of Rebekah
8. Father of Isaac
9. Spouse of Sarah
10. Servant of Abraham

Jesus said: **Happy** are the  
peacemakers

## THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS

**Biblical References:** Luke 1:5-25, 57-80; 1:23-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20; 2:21-40.

**Unit Memory Verse:** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11).

### UNIT OBJECTIVES

This unit will help the children:

- Celebrate Christmas with joy, thanking God for having sent His Son.
- Understand how the Christmas story shows us that God fulfilled His promise.
- Trust in God knowing that He fulfills His Word.
- Learn that Jesus, the Son of God, came to the world as a gift from the Father.

### LESSON UNIT

Lesson 50: **Good News for Zechariah and Elizabeth**

Lesson 51: **Good News for Mary and Joseph**

Lesson 52: **Good News for the shepherds**

Lesson 53: **Good News for Simeon and Anna**

### WHY CHILDREN NEED THE TEACHING OF THIS UNIT:

Most elementary children know the story of Christmas. Now they are ready to learn the meaning of this event that changed the history of mankind. They will learn that through this event, God showed us that we can trust him because he always keeps his promises.

Each lesson emphasizes the fulfillment of a promise. In the first place, Zechariah and Elisabeth received the promise of a son who would be responsible for preparing the way of the Messiah. Joseph and Mary received the promise that they would be the earthly parents of Jesus, the Son of God. Also, the shepherds received the news of the fulfillment of a promise since Christ was born in Bethlehem. Finally, Simeon and Anna, who had waited a long time for the promised Savior, could see him with their own eyes.

Through these four lessons, help your children understand that even in a world full of falsehood, we can trust that our God is faithful and always fulfills what He promises.

**Lesson Objective:**

That the students should know that God accomplishes what He promises.

**Memory Verse:**

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Christmas is one of the most exciting times for children. Now that December has begun, they are likely to be more restless. Therefore, try to channel their energies into productive activities that are related to the lesson. Talk to them about the preparations made by their families before Christmas, but emphasize that the center of this holiday is not gifts or food, but commemorate with joy the birth of Jesus, the Son of God.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Without speaking**

Ask the children how long they think they could go without speaking.

Listen to their responses, and ask how people communicate when they lose their voice (sign language or in writing).

Ask the class to try not to talk while doing the following activities.

Tell them that today's Bible story is about a man who was promised something special by God and could not talk for almost a year.

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

**One answered prayer**

"Today I have to offer the incense," thought Zechariah as he entered the temple. He had prepared himself very carefully for that special day. Soon he saw that the smoke of the incense rose gently through the air, reminding him of the prayers of the people.

Suddenly, an angel appeared before him, and Zechariah was frightened.

"Don't be afraid, Zechariah. God has heard your prayer," said the angel. "Your wife Elisabeth will have a son. His name will be John, and many people will rejoice and praise God for his birth. He will be great before God. Because of him, many people will come to God. Your son will go before the Lord with the spirit and power of the prophet Elijah. He will help people return to God and prepare them to receive the Lord."

"But I am very old, and my wife Elisabeth is no longer of child-bearing age. How can I believe what you tell me?" asked Zechariah. "I am Gabriel," said the angel. "I stand in the presence of God and he has sent me to give you this good news. But since you didn't believe, you won't be able to speak until after the baby is born. Then you will see that everything I have told you is true."

Meanwhile, the people outside the temple asked themselves, "Why is Zechariah taking so long to come out?" When he finally came out, he tried to tell people what had happened with the angel and the message God had given him. But he couldn't because he couldn't speak.



“Look, Zechariah can’t talk! See how he signs with his hands? Surely he had a vision of the Lord!” people said.

Zechariah went home and tried to explain to his wife Elisabeth what had happened, but he couldn’t speak. Soon after, Elisabeth knew she was pregnant. She was going to have a baby. She was so excited!

“God, thank you,” Elisabeth prayed. “We wanted a child for so long, and now you have given us one.” “How good God has been in granting Zechariah and Elisabeth a child!” said his friends and neighbors. “They have wanted one for a long time.”

“Now Zechariah will have someone who bears his name,” they said. After the required time, the baby was born. “It’s a boy! It’s a boy! Zechariah and Elisabeth have a baby boy!” the neighbors said with joy.

When he was eight days old, Elisabeth and Zechariah took the baby to the temple. The Jewish custom was that when families had a new baby, they had to offer a special sacrifice to God, and they named the baby.

Zechariah still couldn’t talk. So, when the priests brought the baby to the Lord, they would give him the father’s name, but Elisabeth said: ‘No! He will be called John!’

“Why?” they asked. None of his relatives is named John. That’s very strange; let’s ask the father what he wants to call his son.

“What name do you want to give the child?” they asked Zechariah.

Zechariah asked for a tablet and everyone was surprised when he wrote: “John is his name.”

At that moment Zechariah recovered his voice and could speak again.

“Praise the Lord!” He exclaimed. “And you, my son will be called prophet of the Most High because you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.”

## ACTIVITIES

Tell the children to color in the pictures of the people that they can trust.

### Memorization

Divide the class into two groups. Ask one group to say the first part of the verse, and the second group to say the second part. Then, both groups should say the full text together. Exchange the phrases of the two groups so that everyone studies the full text. Repeat the exercise several times, and then choose some children to say it on their own. Hand out the Verse of the Month Club cards to take home to review the memory verse of this unit.

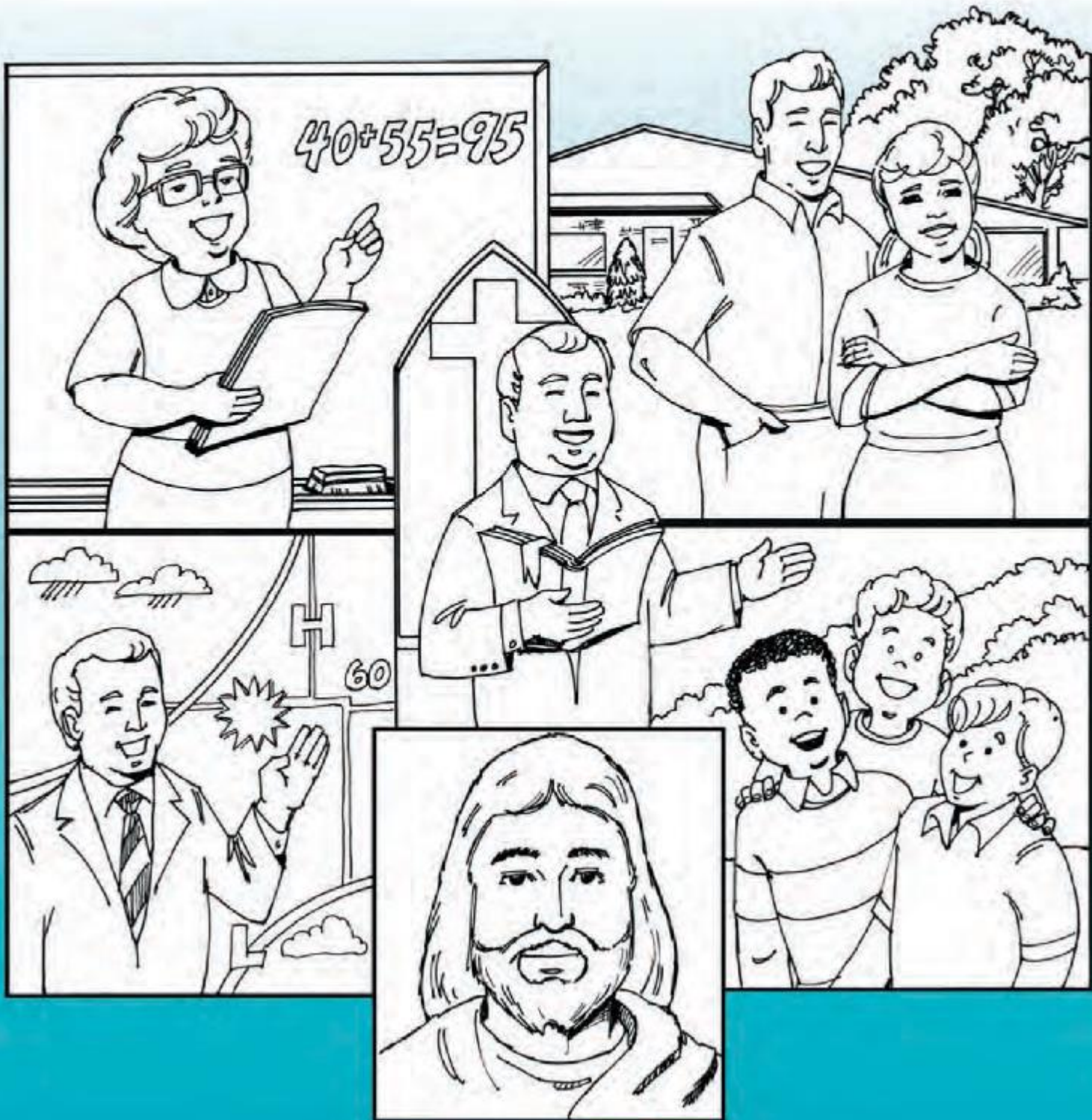
### To end

Thank your children for attending, and pray for them. Thank God for their faithfulness and for having taught them through this class that He is trustworthy.

Remind them that next week they will continue to study about special people that God chose to carry out his plans, and invite them to come.



# Who Can I Trust?



Color in the pictures of the people that you can trust.

## Lesson

## 51

## GOOD NEWS FOR MARY AND JOSEPH

## Unit 12

Biblical References: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

## Lesson Objective:

That the students want to be faithful and obedient to God.

## Memory Verse:

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11).

## Prepare Yourself To Teach

Obedience is a very important subject that is mentioned time and time again in the Word of God. This lesson focuses on “voluntary obedience,” which implies a cheerful and willing attitude.

Children usually think that obedience is something they have to do although they would prefer not to. This lesson will help them recognize that when we obey out of love, we feel satisfaction and joy.

God included people willing to obey Him in His plan to send the promised Messiah. Some, like Zechariah, at first showed themselves to be incredulous or reluctant. Others, like Mary, obeyed with pleasure.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

Explain: Last week we heard the story of Elisabeth and Zechariah, the parents of John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for the Lord. In today's lesson we will talk about two special people who were obedient to God's will.

## BIBLE STORY

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

**Joseph and Mary listen and obey**

“I’ve been so happy since I found out that my cousin Elisabeth is going to have a baby,” Mary thought. “She and Zechariah have wanted to have a child for a long time. It’s wonderful that it will finally happen! Maybe one day after Joseph and I get married, we’ll have a baby too.”

It was only three months before Elisabeth’s baby was born and the whole family was excited.

Suddenly, an angel appeared to Mary and said, “The Lord is with you. He has blessed you in a special way among all women.”

Mary began trembling. “Who are you?” she asked. “What do you want?”

“Mary, do not be afraid,” said the angel Gabriel. “God has chosen you to have a baby.

You will name him Jesus. He will be great and they will call him Son of the Most High.” “How can I have a baby?” Mary asked. “I have not married yet.” “Nothing is impossible for God,” said the angel.

“I am the servant of the Lord,” Mary answered. “I will do what God wants.” Mary was engaged to marry Joseph and did not know how to break the news to him. “Joseph,” said Mary, “I have something important to tell you.”

“What is it, Mary?” Joseph asked. “I’m going to have a baby.”

Joseph was surprised, and asked, “How is that possible?”

“Don’t fear,” Mary answered. “An angel told me that this baby will be special. He’ll be

The Son of God and we must call him Jesus.”

Joseph left Mary’s house very confused. “I love Mary, but I don’t understand what she said about a baby. Maybe we shouldn’t get married,” he thought as he walked home.

“I need to sleep,” thought Joseph, “I’m going to lie down and rest for a while.”

Joseph fell asleep right away. While he was sleeping, an angel of God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, don’t be afraid to marry Mary. The baby she’s waiting for is the Son of God. You must call him Jesus. He will save the people from their sins.”

Joseph woke up with a start. His dream had been so real! He already knew what he had to do. He would marry Mary and be a father to the promised Son of God.

Joseph obeyed God and took Mary as his wife. They were Jesus’ earthly parents.

Everything happened just as the angel had said.

## ACTIVITIES

### What is the difference?

Pass out the children worksheets for Lesson 51. Ask the children to fill in the blanks and find the mysterious word (voluntarily). Then, have them cut through the black lines in the center of the sheet to make two openings.

Remind them that today’s story teaches us to be obedient to God’s will.

### Memorization

On thick cards, copy the words of the memory verse, writing a word on each card. Repeat the verse together twice. Then mix up the cards, and give an opportunity to your children to take turns ordering the words. Repeat the verse each time they order them correctly. Save the cards to use for the next class.

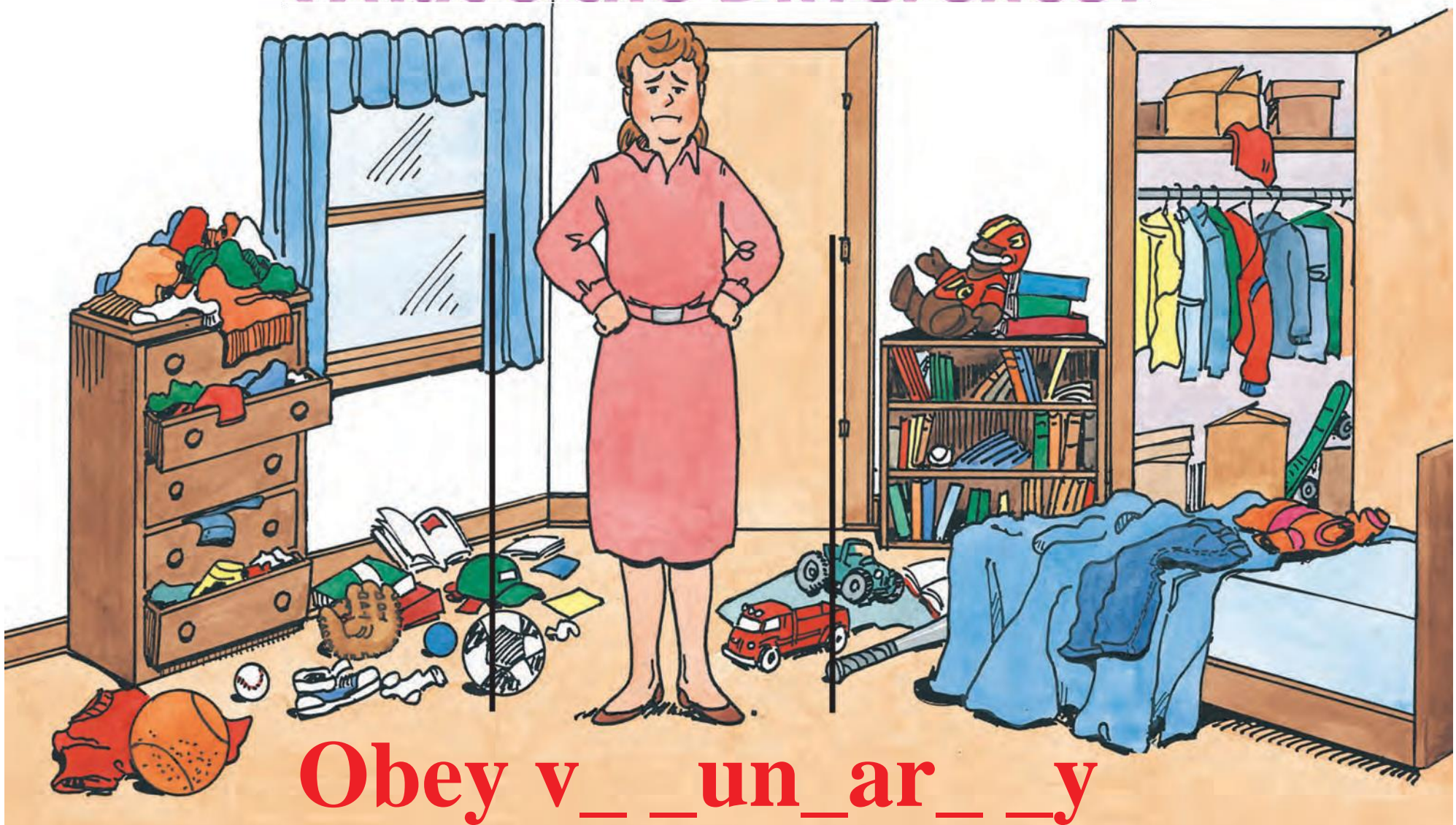
### To end

Thank your children for their attendance, and say something about the next lesson to arouse their interest. Emphasize that it is important to obey the voice of God, just as Joseph and Mary did. End with a prayer, and sing Christmas songs.

If time and resources allow, prepare a small celebration to remember Jesus’ birth in the next class.



# What's the Difference?



## Obey v\_\_un\_ar\_\_y

Fill in the blanks to know how we should obey. Cut two openings in the sheet, cutting along the solid black lines. Cut out the picture from the Cut-out Section. (You will need the two angels on the back for the next part of this lesson.) Insert picture of the boys through the openings you made. Describe what is happening. Move the figure to see how the child attitude changes. Remember that it is important to obey voluntarily.



**Lesson Objective:**

Trust in God knowing that He fulfills His Word.

**Memory Verse:**

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Elementary-aged children identify easily with the shepherds of this story. Often they also feel on the outside, and may not have money to buy gifts for others. However, they will learn that as soon as the shepherds heard the Good News, they went to see the baby Jesus. Then, with great joy, they told everyone about the great gift of God. Help your children understand that, even if they do not have great gifts, the most important thing they can give to others is the Good News of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON****Attendance sheet**

Using the figures, briefly review the previous two lessons. Tell them that today's story is about something special that happened to a group of shepherds.

**BIBLE STORY**

Biblical References: Lucas 2:1–20

**Shepherds receive Good News**

"This is terrible!" exclaimed Joseph. "So many people came to Bethlehem to fulfill the order of the governor that there is nowhere to spend the night. All the inns are full!"

Mary sighed. She was so tired from the long trip they had made. Suddenly, she said, "Look, I see a light in that window. Maybe there is a room for us there."

"I doubt it," said Joseph.

"Please, Joseph, try it. I'm very tired and we need a place where we can sleep." Joseph went to ask, but there were also no rooms available at that inn.

Joseph and Mary walked away slowly. "They look so tired," the innkeeper thought. "I feel bad for them. Maybe I can find a way to help them."

"Wait a moment!" the innkeeper shouted. "I have a stable in the back. Maybe you could spend the night there, although it's just a barn. There is clean straw where you can rest."

"If it's warm and dry, we'll be fine," Joseph replied. "My wife is very tired and needs a place to sleep."

That night was very special because Jesus was born. Mary wrapped her little baby in cloth and lulled him to sleep. In the stable, there was no cradle for Jesus, but Joseph put clean straw in the manger, the place where they put food for the animals.

On the outskirts of Bethlehem, there was a group of shepherds in the field, taking care of their sheep.

"The sky is clear tonight. How the stars shine!" said a shepherd.

“Look!” exclaimed another, pointing to the sky. “See that bright light there?” “What could it be?” they asked each other in amazement.

“It’s an angel!” the shepherds exclaimed. “He is an angel of God!”

The angel told them, “Don’t be afraid. I bring you Good News that will be a great joy to all the people. Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born, who is Christ the Lord. You will find him lying in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes.”

Suddenly, the sky was filled with angels who sang: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men!”

“Did you hear that?” a shepherd asked. “Of course!” answered another. “It’s the most wonderful news I’ve ever heard! It’s

Happened as the prophets had announced.”

“Then let’s go to Bethlehem to see that which God has announced to us,” one of them suggested, and the others agreed.

The shepherds went quickly to Bethlehem and there they found the baby in the manger, just as the angel had told them.

“It’s true. Everything was fulfilled as the angel announced. He is the Messiah!” they repeated to each other.

The shepherds were very joyful, and they told the Good News of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, to all the people they met.

## ACTIVITIES

### Christmas songs

Lead a time of Christmas carols and let them accompany themselves with homemade instruments. If there are rhythm instruments in your church, use them also in this time of praise to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Explain to your children that one way to praise God is by singing, as the angels did the night Jesus was born.

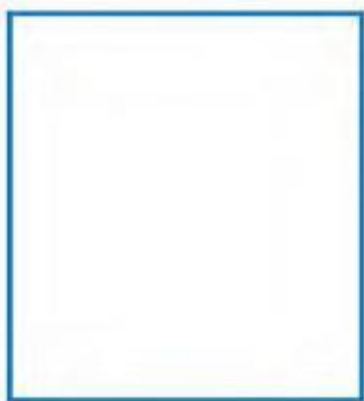
### Memorization

Ahead of time, hide the cards you used in the previous lesson and ask the children to find them. Then, organize small groups so that in the shortest possible time they put the verse in order and say it out loud. Repeat the exercise until everyone has participated.

### To end

Give thanks to God in prayer for having fulfilled his promises by sending Jesus into the world, and then sing songs of praise. Remind the class that the important thing at Christmas is to celebrate that Jesus came to earth to save mankind from their sins.

# Peace to the World!

**1****2****3****4**

Cut out the four pictures at the bottom of this page and glue them in the squares above in the order in which they happened while you tell the story of Jesus' birth.



**Lesson Objective:**

That the students learn that through Jesus Christ, God fulfilled His promise to send a Savior to the world.

**Memory Verse:**

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11).

**Prepare Yourself To Teach**

Today is a special day for your children. Since they have just celebrated Christmas, we suggest that you be flexible in class today. Maybe some children want to tell what they did with their family, or maybe mention the gifts they received. After listening carefully, direct the conversation towards the teaching of this unit: the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. Encourage them to imagine the emotion that Simeon and Anna felt when they first saw Jesus, the Messiah. Although he was only a little baby, these servants of God knew that in him, the prophecies had been fulfilled, and that he would be the Savior of the world.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON**

Choose some of the following activities to make the study of biblical truth more relevant and enjoyable.

**Simeon and Anna**

Write on cards the letters that form the names of Simeon and Anna. Mix them up and place them on a table. Then, ask several children to put them in order to form the names. Give time for everyone to try. When done, tape or glue the letters together and hang the names in a visible place in the room. Gather your children and tell them: These are the names of two people who loved God and rejoiced at the birth of Jesus. We'll learn more about them in our Bible story.

**Attendance sheet**

Distribute the figure of Simeon and Anna from the Cut-Out Section (pg. 125), and have your children paste it in the correct space on their attendance sheet. Then, ask them to draw a picture of themselves in the last space under Simeon and Anna. As they work, remind them that God chooses special people to help Him carry out His plans.

Review each of the stories they learned. Tell them that just as God worked through all those important biblical characters, He also wants to work through them.

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 2:21-40

**Good News for Simeon and Anna**

"When will I see the Messiah that God promised?" Simeon wondered every day. "Will it be today?" Simeon was a very good man who loved God. He liked to hear the messages of hope that announced the arrival of a Savior. God had told him that he would know the Messiah before he died. But Simeon, being very old, wondered how and when he would see the chosen one of God.



One day the Holy Spirit led Simeon to the Temple, so he walked until he reached the main courtyard. As always, there were a lot of people gathered. People from everywhere were coming to worship God. Some offered sacrifices, while others prayed special prayers. The new parents took their newborns to dedicate them to God.

In the middle of the crowd, Simeon saw a man and a woman who were taking their baby to dedicate him. Somehow he knew that the baby was special, and decided to approach.

Although the couple looked poor, and the sacrifice they were going to offer was one of the smallest that the law allowed, there was something different about them.

When Simeon saw the baby, he was sure that it was the child he had expected to see for so long. Then he took him in his arms and exclaimed, “Lord, now I can die in peace because my eyes have seen the salvation you prepared in the presence of all people!”

“This is amazing!” said Joseph and Mary in awe.

At that time, an old woman named Anna also approached them to see the baby Jesus. She was very wise and had devoted her entire life to serving God. When she looked at the baby, she recognized him immediately.

“Thank God!” she exclaimed. “What a wonderful day! We have seen the promised Messiah of God who came into the world to save us from our sins.”

## ACTIVITIES

### Jesus is the promised Messiah

Hand out the worksheets for Lesson 53. Instruct them to cut through the vertical black line at the bottom. Then, fold the page along the dotted lines to create a three-dimensional stage.

Encourage them to use their figures and the stage to recreate the story in which Simeon and Anna meet baby Jesus.

### Memorization

This is the last lesson of the unit, and it is very possible that most of your children already know the memory verse. If possible, ask the Sunday school director or pastor if they will give your children the opportunity to tell what they learned in the service.

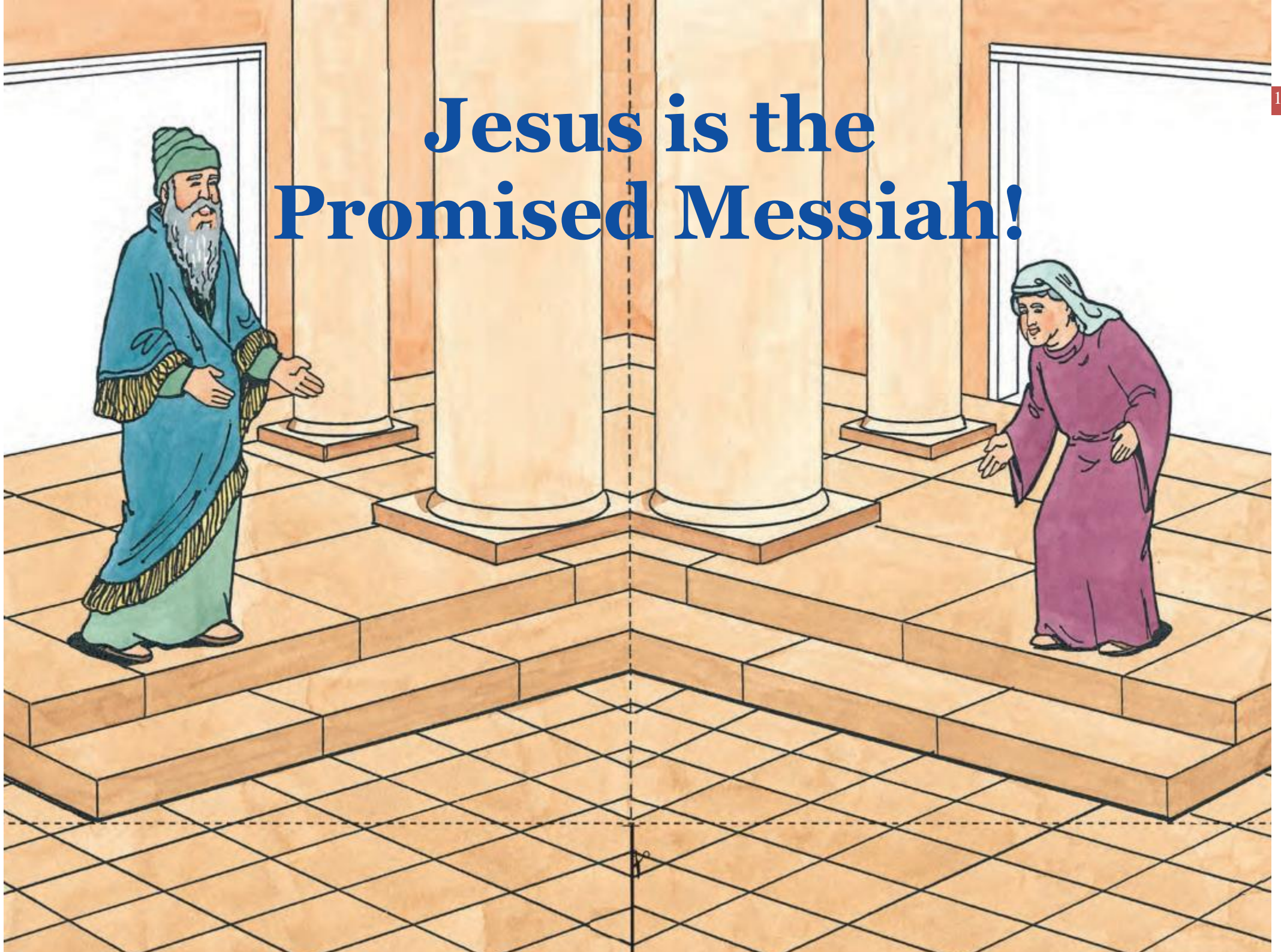
### To end

Since this is the last lesson of the book, prepare a recognition for the children who faithfully worked throughout the year. Remind them that the teachings they learned are biblical truths that God wants them to apply to their daily lives.

Gather them together to pray. Give thanks to God for having fulfilled his promise by sending Jesus as Savior of the world. Also thank them for the year of work in the class, and intercede for the requests that the children have.

If you have time and resources, organize a simple celebration as a way to close the course. Do not stop praying for your children and their spiritual growth, even when they are no longer in your class.

# Jesus is the Promised Messiah!







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