

Papua New Guinea Edition

The Children's **GOSPEL BOX** CURRICULUM



A partnership between
Gospel Light Worldwide
and Foursquare Missions Press

*"He will teach us His ways,
so that we may walk
in His paths."
Isaiah 2:3*

**Contains
Reproducible
Activity Pages**



English

Preschool Teacher Guide

Ages 4 – 6

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PERSONAL CALENDAR

Use this calendar to personalise the curriculum.

- As Easter is at a different time each year, check to see when it would be best to teach the Easter unit.
- Next, mark the school holidays or any other weeks you will not be teaching lessons.
- Now fit in the lessons to suit your schedule. Just remember to keep lessons within the same unit together.

January	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

July	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

February	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

August	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

March	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

September	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

April	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

October	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

May	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

November	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

June	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

December	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>

FOR A PERFECT FIT,
CUSTOMISE IT!

Every class is unique in terms of size, combination of ages and genders, tendencies towards activity or quiet, and the kinds of activities preferred. Every class session also has its own time, supplies and space limits. Class time may be brief or confined to a small room, requiring you to choose activities carefully to fit available time, supplies or space. Or, your time may be expanded and your space may be large, allowing you to use nearly every activity suggested.

As the teacher, you are uniquely qualified to customise each lesson. You know best how to make the lesson connect for every child! As you get to know your children, you can choose activities that best help them connect Bible truth to their lives. Not every activity will work in every class, but the activity and schedule choices are there to help you customise each lesson. iVangeli Curriculum is committed to giving you a complete lesson plan as well as opportunities to build relationships with your children- relationships that will lead your children to know and love Jesus Christ (see page 75 for more on building relationships).



Bible Learning Activity Time

20 - 30 minutes

sit quietly. They are filled with energy; they want something to do! **Bible Learning Activities** provide purposeful activity. In addition, **Bible Learning Activities** are designed to capture children's interest and to guide their thinking towards the day's learning goals.

A good session for young children begins with one or more **Bible Learning Activities**. Why? Few children come to Sunday School mentally and physically ready to

Hands-on activity is the young child's most effective way to learn. Young children are not yet able to play with ideas; young children must play with actual objects. Therefore, in order to teach children Scripture in a way that reaches into their hearts and minds, we must provide active play experiences. More than making a cute craft and more than learning story facts, Christian education happens when a child's activity is connected through conversation to Bible truths. So make use of the suggested conversations in Talk About.



Bible Story Time

10 - 15 minutes

regardless of age or cultural setting. For a story to be effective in capturing children's interest, children should be able to identify with a person or object in the story. When the situations of the Bible story characters are similar to situations children have already encountered, children will be more likely to connect the example to their own world.

How can Bible stories from a book written centuries ago in a vastly different culture have meaning for today's young children? The stories chosen for this curriculum deal with basic human needs which are the same for all persons,

The Bible verse for each lesson is carefully chosen so that teachers can help children apply the truth of the Bible story to their own lives. An essential part of Christian education is to help children go beyond the facts of a Bible story and begin to connect the story to everyday life.



Bible Sharing Time

15 minutes

the action the page illustrates. Suggested questions also provide the link between the Bible story truth and the child's own life situation.

During **Bible Sharing Time**, teachers guide children to respond to the session's Bible story and Bible verse. As children complete the *Activity Page*, ask specific questions to help children recall

Completing the *Activity Page* gives each child the opportunity to make a personalised Bible story visual aid for each lesson. The child benefits from your conversation with him or her about the Bible story. Even better, however, the benefits of the *Activity Page* extend into the child's home as well. Encourage the children in your class to tell the Bible story to their family members, using their *Activity Page* as a reminder of the story.

WHAT YOU NEED

USE EVERYDAY
ITEMS!

We've written these lessons with you in mind. We understand the lack of facilities and supplies that often exist in churches across Southern Africa. For that reason, we've tried as far as possible to provide you with activities that require readily-available and affordable materials.

Once again, remember that this is a Teacher's *GUIDE*. We encourage you to adapt activities to suit your environment. To make your preparation easier, here is a list of commonly used items. You may wish to keep your own personal supply, or liaise with your Children's Ministry leader to keep a ready supply at church.

Bibles: As the teacher, you need to have your Bible available throughout the session. It is good to allow children to handle the Bible, too. As you teach children the Bible verse and tell them the Bible story, have your Bible open. This reinforces the fact that the story you are telling comes from the Bible. If children bring their own Bibles (including picture Bibles), encourage them to open them during the session.

Blocks: The Blocks Centre in the Bible Learning Activity Time provides you with a variety of activities to keep children interested. Wooden blocks work best, although plastic ones can be used. Remember, be creative! Commercially available blocks are expensive and often small. Ask a member of your church who is a carpenter or someone familiar with working with wood to cut blocks for you. They can be a variety of sizes and shapes. Ensure that blocks are properly sanded - painting them will ensure there are no splinters.

Brown Paper: This is used for murals, bulletin board activities, or other art activities that require large sheets of paper. You can buy rolls of brown paper normally used to cover school books, or invest in a roll of butcher paper.

Dress-Up Clothes: Some of the Dramatic Play Centres within the Bible Learning Activity Time may suggest you provide clothing for children to dress up in. Look around your home for clothing to use, remembering that the clothes need to be big in order to fit over children's clothing. Also look for simple accessories such as ties to represent a dad, a handbag for a mom, etc.

Khokis and Crayons: You will need a thick marker as the teacher to prepare some activities. A black khoki will work, although you may wish to buy a

thicker permanent marker. On occasion, the art activities may call for children to use khokis, but in most activities it is best for children to use wax crayons or colouring pencils.

Masking Tape: There are times when you need to mark a line on the floor. Masking tape will work wonderfully on most surfaces, and will pull up easily. If you don't meet in a building, adapt the activity by marking the outline in sand with a stick, or on grass using string, wool or small stones.

Scissors and Glue: These are used in art activities. Blunt paper scissors are best for Preschool children. Remember that children can take turns using scissors, so you don't need one for each child. Glue sticks work best, although there may be activities where white glue is needed. Place a small amount of white glue in a container and let children use old paint brushes, ear buds, or even their fingers to apply the glue.

Squares of Paper: Look for refill packs of office notelets, available in all stationery departments in shops. Or cut up scrap paper into smaller pieces. The paper does not have to be square! You can also buy packs of index cards.

Woza kuJesu Activity Pages: The reproducible pages are essential in guiding children to apply the Bible truth to their own lives, and to extend teaching into the home. Arrange with your church for photocopies to be made (don't steal from your place of work by making copies without paying!). Please note that only the *Activity Pages* may be photocopied. The lesson guide (pages 1 - 77 of this book) may not be photocopied. Each teacher or helper in your church needs to have their own copy of the Teacher Guide. This helps us keep the curriculum affordable and available.

BE CREATIVE! Never discard an activity before you have carefully considered how you could adapt it to suit your situation. If you find that you struggle to think creatively, prepare your lesson early in the week with another teacher. Ideas flow more easily when there are two or more heads thinking together. You can then combine resources, too.

When you adapt activities, ensure that you keep the focus of the Lesson Goals. As you plan any activity, always ask yourself which Lesson Goal you are meeting, and what guided conversation will best lead children to focus on that goal. In all your preparation, whether you have abundant or limited resources, depend on the Holy Spirit to guide you in your preparation so that the needs of the children in your class may be met.

TEACHING A GROUP OF TWOS THROUGH FIVES!

There are times when one class of preschool-aged children may range from two years to five or six years of age. It's important for a teacher of any class containing such a large developmental span to be well prepared! Such varied levels of development require that a teacher tailor some activities so that each child learns best at his or her own level of development.

To a degree, younger children will enjoy being with the "big kids" and will be attracted to the activities in which older children are involved. Generally speaking, however, the younger the child, the more easily he or she will be distracted. Therefore, the younger children needs more direct, first-hand activity for effective learning. So that all activities need not be set at the level of the very youngest ones, divide the class into older and younger groups as time and helpers allow. If materials are used with older children that are not suitable for use by younger children, provide careful supervision at all times.

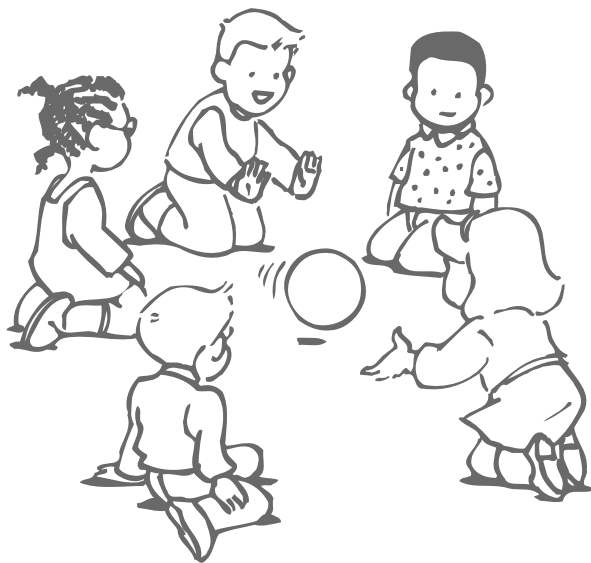
If some children don't stay in their age-related groups, don't panic. Such a natural adjustment is probably best! As teachers and helpers get to know each child, they can be observant as children interact. They will then be better able to adjust members, times and activities for any group as needed.

Plan to use activities that are open-ended. When children are all expected to produce the same craft item, the activity will require a great deal of adult intervention (and result in a great deal of adult frustration!). Instead, give children creative materials and let each one work at an individual level. Engage children in conversation about the process of what they are going. "Tell me about your picture." "I see lots of dots on your page. What colour are your dots?" "Which kind of dough is softer? Which one do you like best?" Talk about colours and shapes you see, what the child seems to be enjoying, etc. Especially in a class of mixed ages, don't focus on activities where a finished product is the goal. This avoids comparison (older ones have already heard this kind of thing from even older children) and eliminates frustration.

Many early childhood activities can be stretch to fit different ability levels. For example, if making a collage of magazine pictures, a two-year-old may have finished after gluing two or three pictures, a three-year-old may want to cover the entire paper, a four-year-old may want to trim the pictures before gluing and a five-year-old may want to dictate captions for each picture. Wise teachers of mixed ages will choose activities that will provide each age level with successful participation.

During Bible story time, having at least one teacher and one helper for each group makes it possible to schedule two story times. This way, all children are taught the Bible story on their own level. If this is not possible, involve older children in telling the story. Invite them to answer questions and tell details that they want to share from the story. This not only gives older ones a sense of helpfulness and importance, but it also gives the teacher a chance to gauge what children do or do not understand about the story.

As with any other adjustment, ask for God's wisdom in the situation. Look for creative ways to see the matter of age span as a benefit, instead of a problem. Your attitude of accepting things as they are and your relaxed calmness will help each child sense God's love for him or her. As each one works at his or her own level, all ears will be open to the words you say about God and His care.



Life Focus

I can thank God.

Who?

God.

What?

God made daytime and night-time, water and dry land, plants and trees, and the sun, moon and stars. (Genesis 1:1-19)

When & Where?

In the beginning.

Why?

To help children thank God for making the world.

Bible Verse

“God made the world and everything in it.” (See Acts 17:24.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 NAME items God made;
- 2 DESCRIBE items God made;
- 3 THANK God for making the world.

Teaching Tip

The first segment of each lesson is called Bible Learning Activity Time. While almost any room can be adapted for use with young children, it is helpful if the classroom has considerable open space, furniture of the proper size and the basic equipment for each centre. If your church has limited resources, begin with child-sized tables and chairs and the supplies for a few basic activities such as art and blocks.

God Made the World



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, dark-coloured paper or card, star stickers.

DO

Children make night-time sky pictures by attaching star stickers to dark-coloured paper. Alternatively, children make dots with white or yellow chalk to show stars.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, God made the sun and the moon and the stars. How many stars do you think God made? God made so many stars that we can't count them all. You can put lots of stars in your picture.
- *Gugu*, what is something you are glad God made? We can thank God for making stars and mountains and rivers, too. Open your Bible. Our Bible tells us, “God made the world and everything in it.”
- Pray briefly with children. Dear God, thank You for the world You made. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, a real or artificial leaf or flower for each child.

PREPARE

Hide leaves and flowers in your room.

DO

At your signal, children in the classroom collect hidden leaves and flowers (one item for each child). Repeat game letting children take turns to hide items.

TALK ABOUT

- Our Bible story today is about the time when God made the world. Some of the first things God made were things that grow. Look in our room to find some hidden things that come from plants.
- Refer to open Bible. The Bible says, “God made the world and everything in it.” *Mark*, I see you found a leaf. Is your leaf narrow or wide? God made everything that grows.
- *Lolo*, what colour flower did you find? What are some other colours that God made flowers?
- Pray, Thank You, God, for making the world.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, real or artificial plant.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Acts 17:24. **The Bible says, "God made the world and everything in it."** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, leading children to cup hands around mouth as if speaking into a megaphone.

PRAYER

What would you like to thank God for making?

Volunteers answer. Lead children in a prayer of thanks to God for making the world, mentioning items children named.

God Made the World

Genesis 1:1-19

INTRODUCTION

Show real or artificial plant and invite volunteers to describe it.

What colour is this plant? Is this plant smooth or rough? Listen to find out about the time when God made the first trees and other plants.



IN THE BEGINNING

Long, long ago, there were no rocks. There were no seashells. There were no trees, no animals and no people. There was just darkness. But God was there and this is what God did.

DAYTIME AND NIGHT-TIME

God said, "Let there be light." And just like that - there was light! God called the light "day." Part of the time it was dark. God called the dark "night."

Next God made the sky. He stretched this beautiful blue sky up, up, up high overhead. And God made lots of fluffy, puffy white clouds to float in the beautiful blue sky.

WATER AND DRY LAND

Then God gathered up all the water and put some here and some there, until the world was filled with huge oceans and long rivers, clear blue lakes and little streams.

In between all the big oceans and lakes and long rivers and little streams, God put dry land. God made tall, tall mountains, little round hills and low flat places.

GROWING THINGS

Next God said, "Let trees and flowers and grass grow on the earth." And just like that, plants began to grow! Soft green grass and tall, tall trees and tiny plants grew and grew. Fruit trees and berry bushes, vegetables and flowers blossomed and grew. But that's not all God made!

SUN, MOON AND STARS

God made the bright warm sun to shine in the daytime sky. The sun warms the air in the daytime and helps plants to grow. God made the moon and the twinkling stars to light the night-time sky.

God looked at all the things He had made for our world. God said, "It is good." And it was good because God made it!

CONCLUSION

God made everything in our wonderful world. God is so great! We can thank God for making the world. The Bible says, "God made the world and everything in it."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Story Flaps

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 1* for each child, scissors, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God made the world and everything in it."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed. (Optional: Children glue sand to beach.)

TALK ABOUT

- **Open the flaps in order to find pictures of things God made. After you open the last flap, draw the sun and moon in the sky.**
- **What colours did God use when He made the things on this page?**
- **What did God say when He finished making the sun, moon and stars? ("It is good.")**
- Read Bible verse with children. **The Bible tells us that God made...** Children complete sentence by naming items pictured on their *Activity Pages*.
- **Let's thank God for making the world and everything in it.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

TEACHING TIPS

1. Have tape available if children mistakenly cut lines too far.
2. Number the flaps on the back of the page from 1 to 4, starting at the top.

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Play a game by giving children clues to items pictured in the scenes. Children point to items on their pages.

Life Focus

I can thank God.

Who?

God.

What?

God made fish, birds and other animals.
(Genesis 1:20-25)

When & Where?

In the beginning.

Why?

To help children thank God for the good things He made.

Bible Verse

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” Genesis 1:31

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

1 IDENTIFY animals and birds God made;

2 COMPARE sizes, shapes and colours of animals God made;

3 Thank God for the good things He made.

Teaching Tip

Leading children in Bible Learning Activities provides significant benefits. As children are involved in first-hand activity, the teacher’s words connect their actions with the lesson’s Bible story or verse. Children benefit not only from the joy of creative activity but also by learning Bible truths in the way they learn best - active participation.

God Made Animals



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Block Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, toy animals.

DO

Children play with toy animals and use blocks to build animal homes (caves, nests, barns, zoos, etc.).

TALK ABOUT

- **The Bible story tells us that God made fish, birds and other animals. What animals can you name? Fish? Birds? Let’s build homes for some of the animals God made.**
- **What kind of home does a lion have? Where might a mouse live? Eagle?**
- Open Bible to Genesis 1:31. **The Bible says, “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” Everything God made was just right!**
- **Pray, Thank You, God, for the good things You made.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, large sheet of brown paper, khokis or wax crayons, foil or metallic wrapping paper, scissors, glue sticks.

PREPARE

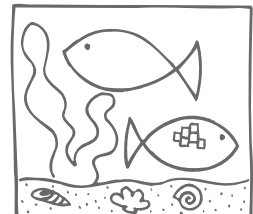
On large sheet of paper, draw a simple underwater scene, including one or more large fish. Cut foil or metallic wrapping paper into small squares.

DO

Children glue small squares to fish shape(s) and colour underwater scene with crayons or khokis.

TALK ABOUT

- **In our Bible story today, God made fish, birds and other animals. Everything God made was just right!**
- Hold open Bible. **The Bible says, “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” God made all the animals.**
- **What colours of fish have you seen? What colours of birds have you seen? God made many different colours of birds and fish. You can decorate the fish any way you want to.**
- **Let’s thank God for all the good things He made.** Lead children in a brief prayer.





Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, toy or stuffed animal.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Genesis 1:31. **The Bible says, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, each time letting a volunteer name an animal in place of the words "all that He had made."

PRAYER

What would you like to thank God for making? Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, thank You for making the world. Thank you for making** (volunteers name animals God made). **In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God Made Animals

Genesis 1:20-25

INTRODUCTION

Show toy or stuffed animal. **Where does this animal live?** Volunteer answers. **Listen to hear about the time when God made all the animals in the world.**

THE WORLD

God made our beautiful world! After God made day-time and night-time, He filled the world with blue oceans and rivers and lakes. He made beautiful green plants everywhere. Then God made the yellow sun. He made the silver moon and golden stars. God's world was good.

FISH

But God's world was VERY quiet. The lakes, rivers and oceans were empty. So God said, "Let the water be full of fish." And then there were fish swimming in the water. God made some fish to live in the big oceans. And some fish God made to live in the lakes and rivers.

God made big gray fish and little green fish. God made yellow fish that look like stars, and fish that have heads like tiny, tiny horses.

BIRDS

Then God looked at the beautiful blue sky. Nothing was there but clouds! So God said, "Let birds fly in the sky." And there they were! God made big birds like eagles and tiny birds like hummingbirds. He made birds with short legs and birds with long legs. And the birds were every colour - blue and green and red and yellow. There were even beautiful pink birds.

ANIMALS

The dry land was full of grass and flowers and trees. But nothing moved there. So God said, "Let there be all kinds of animals." And just as God said, there were animals everywhere - great big elephants and little grey mice, barking dogs and meowing cats.

There were even brown fuzzy bugs and fat worms, black and white cows and roaring lions. God made brown rabbits that run very quickly and green tortoises that crawl along very s-l-o-w-l-y.

God looked at all the fish, birds and other animals He had made for our world. He said, "It is good." And it WAS good because God made it all.

CONCLUSION

God made everything in our world. We can thank God for making all the fish, birds, and other animals! The Bible says, "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Standing Story

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 2* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors; optional - fish and bird stickers.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- Point to the elephant dot-to-dot. **What is this animal? What does an elephant do with its trunk? What are some other things God made that you see on this page.** Turn page around to show second picture. **What do you see on this page that God made?**
- **The Bible says "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." God made so many different kinds of animals! What animals do you like, *Thabisile*? I'm glad that God made horses, too.**
- **We can thank God for the wonderful things He made. Pray with children. Thank You, God, for making our wonderful world. Thank You for making so many different animals. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

TEACHING TIP

Younger children simply colour animals. Older children will be able to connect the dots in the pictures.

Life Focus

I can thank God.

Who?

God, Adam and Eve.

What?

God made Adam and Eve and gave them a beautiful garden in which to live. (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-23:3:20)

When & Where?

In the beginning, in a garden thought by many scholars to be in the area known as Iraq.

Why?

To help children thank God for making people.

Bible Verse

“Pray always and be thankful.” (See Colossians 4:2.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 NAME the categories of family members God made;
.....
- 2 TELL the people God made for his or her family;
.....
- 3 THANK God for making people.
.....

Teaching Tip

Your preparation is a key element in leading children during Bible Learning Activity Time. Before class, it is essential to collect and set out the supplies needed. Children will look for something interesting to do the moment they enter your classroom. During the activity, refer frequently to the Talk About section.

God Made People



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

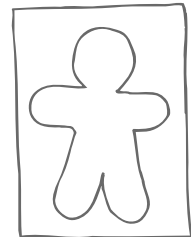
Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, paper, pen, wax crayons or colouring pencils; optional - scissors, fabric scraps, glue.

PREPARE

Draw a gingerbread person shape on a sheet of paper and photocopy, making one or more for each child. (Optional: Cut fabric scraps into shirt, dress and pants shapes.)



DO

Children colour people shapes to make pictures of family members. (Optional: Children glue on fabric for clothes.)

TALK ABOUT

- **In our Bible story today, God made the very first people. Adam and Eve were the first family. Who are some of the people in your family? You can make a picture of someone in your family. I'm glad God made our families.**
- Refer to Colossians 4:2 in your Bible. **The Bible says, “Pray always and be thankful.” We can thank God for making the people in our families.**
- *Joshua*, which family member are you making a picture of? Let's thank God for making people like your daddy.

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, masking tape or string; optional - CD player and children's worship music.

PREPARE

Place masking tape or string on floor in a large square or triangle.

DO

While you clap your hands (or play music on CD player), children walk around the square or triangle. After five to eight seconds stop clapping (or stop music). Children who are at the corners tell names of family members God made.

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible story today tells us that God made a man and a woman. I'm glad God made people.**
- Open Bible to Colossians 4:2. **The Bible says, “Pray always and be thankful.” We can thank God for many things, but today we want to remember to thank Him for making the people in our families.**

TEACHING TIP

While many children have families composed of the traditional members, others do not. Explain that each family is different and that God has planned for someone to care for each child. Explain that the people we live with are our family.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, family photo.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Colossians 4:2. **The Bible says, "Pray always and be thankful."** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, leading them to put their hands together for "pray" and lift their hands in the air for "thankful."

PRAYER

We can thank God for the people in our families. Who would you like to thank God for? Volunteers name people. Then lead children in saying individual prayers. *Emily, you may pray, "Thank-You, God, for my mommy."* After each child who wishes to has prayed, conclude by saying, **Dear God, thank You for making each of us and our families. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God Made People

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-23: 3:20

INTRODUCTION

Show family photo and name the family members who are pictured. **I'm glad God made the people in my family. Listen to find out the people in the first family God made.**

GOD MAKES THE WORLD

In the beginning, long, long ago, God decided what He would do to make our world.

God made the day-time and the night-time, the sky, the water and the dry ground. God made tall trees. He made green grass, pretty flowers and the sun, moon and stars. He made fish and birds and all the animals. But God wasn't finished yet!

GOD MAKES A MAN

Our Bible tells us that God made someone to talk to. God made a person. This person was a man! God called the man Adam. Now there was one person in the world. God loved Adam.

ADAM LIVES IN THE GARDEN

God wanted Adam to live in a special place that would have everything Adam needed. So God put Adam in a beautiful garden. This garden had many lovely trees and plants. And God gave Adam jobs to do. God first told him to take good care of this garden.

Then God gave Adam another job to do. God brought all the fish and birds and other animals to Adam and said, "Adam give each of these fish and birds and other animals a name." Now that was a BIG job!

Adam kept busy taking care of the beautiful garden. But Adam was lonely. God knew Adam needed someone who could help him take care of the garden.

GOD MAKES A WOMAN

So one day, God put Adam in a deep sleep. While Adam was asleep, God made a woman. Adam named the woman Eve. Adam and Eve loved each other. Adam wasn't lonely any more. Now there were two people in the world.

"Adam and Eve," God said, "I want you to take care of all that I have made. Use the plants and trees for your food."

Adam and Eve lived in the beautiful garden God made. (The garden was called the Garden of Eden.) Adam and Eve ate the tasty fruit that grew on the trees. God loved them very much. And Adam and Eve loved God. After God made everything in the world, He rested! God saw that everything He had made was very good.

CONCLUSION

God made Adam and Eve. God made all the people in the world! The Bible says, "Pray always and be thankful." We can thank God for making us and all the people in our families.



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Moving Figures

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 3* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape, 20cm length of string for yourself and each child.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Pray always and be thankful." We can thank God for making us and the people in our families.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What jobs did God give to Adam?** (Take care of the garden. Name the animals.) **Move your Adam figure to show Adam naming all the animals.**
- **Who did God make to live with Adam? Who are the people God made to live with you?**
- Read verse with children. **Let's thank God for making us and the people in our families.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

TEACHING TIPS

If a child needs help cutting paper, hold paper steady while child cuts.

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Children draw members of their family on the back of their *Activity Pages*.

Life Focus

I can thank God.

Who?

God; Adam; Eve; Satan, God's enemy.

What?

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's rule, He showed His love for them and promised to send a Saviour.

When & Where?

In the beginning in a garden thought by many scholars to be in the area known today as Iraq.

Why?

To help children thank God for showing His love by sending Jesus.

Bible Verse

"God has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world."
(See 1 John 4:14.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 IDENTIFY what Adam and Eve did to disobey God;
- 2 TELL rules he or she must obey;
- 3 THANK God for showing His love by sending Jesus to forgive us when we don't obey God's rules.

Teaching Tip

Too often we don't think an activity is a success unless children complete crafts or colouring pages or build recognisable constructions. For young children, however, using materials is about the experience of creating and discovering.

God Loves Adam and Eve



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Verse Option Music Centre

COLLECT

Bible, a variety of rhythm instruments (shakers, bells, drum, tambourine, *ibhit*).

DO

Children experiment with rhythm instruments. Collect instruments. Demonstrate how to say 1 John 4:14 in a simple rhythmic pattern, playing an instrument on the capitalised syllables: GOD has SENT his SON to BE the SAV-iour OF the WORLD. Children take turns saying verse and playing instruments.

TALK ABOUT

- Open your Bible to 1 John 4:14. **The Bible says, "God has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world." God's Son is Jesus. The Bible calls Jesus our Saviour. God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we do when we don't obey God's rules.**
- **Listen and obey my directions as we say the words of the verse.**
- **What rules are we obeying when we say this verse?** (Take turns playing the instrument. Play instruments at certain times.)
- **God gives us rules to help us. God loves us, even when we disobey His rules. One of God's rules we can obey is to say kind words. What are some kind words we can say to each other?** ("Please." "Thank-you.")

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, red and green paper, scissors.

DO

Cut a round circle to make a stop sign from red paper and a go sign from green paper.

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible story today tells us that God loved Adam and Eve, even when they did not obey Him. God loves us, too! Let's practise obeying as we play a game.**
- **Look at the sign I am holding. Does it mean stop or go? That's right, Busi, the red sign means stop! You obeyed!**
- **God loves us! He loves us when we obey. He even loves us when we don't obey! Our Bible says, "God has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world."**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, one or more pieces of fruit.

BIBLE VERSE

Lead children in saying this finger play and doing the suggested actions. Repeat finger play several times.

This is God's Word, the Bible. 

Open its pages wide. 

"God has sent his Son to be the 

Saviour of the world" 

Is what I read inside. 

PRAYER

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God Loves Adam And Eve

Genesis 2:16-17; 3

INTRODUCTION

Show one or more pieces of your fruit. **What kind of fruit do you like to eat? Where does fruit grow?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to find out about a fruit tree that grew in a beautiful garden**

A RULE

When God made Adam and Eve, He gave them a beautiful garden to live in. There were fish, birds and other animals in the garden. The trees grew delicious fruit, so Adam and Eve had plenty to eat. Adam and Eve had everything they needed in the garden.

God gave Adam and Eve only one rule to obey. "You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden EXCEPT this special tree," God said as He showed them the one special tree.

A LIE

God's one rule was so simple, it didn't seem like anything could ever go wrong. But it did! One day Eve heard a beautiful serpent, or snake, speaking to her. "Nothing bad will happen to you if you eat the fruit from this tree," the snake said. (The snake was really Satan, God's enemy.)

But that's not what God had said! Now Eve had to choose. Would she obey God? Or would she believe the snake?

Eve picked some fruit and ate it. And she gave some of the fruit to Adam so that he could eat it, too. The minute Adam and Eve did what God has said not to do, they began to feel afraid. They KNEW they had disobeyed God.

When God came to visit them that day, Adam and

Eve were so frightened that they hid in the garden. "Adam, where are you?" God called.

"I'm hiding because I am afraid," Adam answered

"Why are you afraid? Did you eat from the special tree?" God asked.

Adam answered, "Eve and I ate from the special tree." Adam and Eve had disobeyed and that spoiled the perfect world God had made. That made God very sad.

A PROMISE

God told Adam and Eve they must leave the beautiful garden. But God never stopped loving Adam and Eve, even when they had done wrong. God cared for Adam and Eve and gave them warm clothes to wear.

God also made a wonderful promise to Adam and Eve. Many, many years later, God kept that promise. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Saviour. Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we do when we don't obey God's rules.

CONCLUSION

God showed love for Adam and Eve, even when they disobeyed Him. God showed His love by sending Jesus, His Son. The Bible says, "God has sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Booklet

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 4* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page.

Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- Find the page in your booklet that shows what Adam and Eve did to disobey God.
- What did God do to show that He still loved Adam and Eve, even when they disobeyed?
- Adam and Eve disobeyed God's rule. Sometimes we disobey God's rules, too. When we disobey, God still loves us. Read the verse with children. God sent Jesus to forgive us for the wrong thing we do when we disobey.
- Let's thank God for showing His love by sending Jesus. Lead children in brief prayer of thanks.

Life Focus

I can do good things.

Who?

Noah and his family.

What?

God told Noah to build a big boat, called an ark, and Noah obeyed. (Genesis 6:5-22)

When & Where?

In early times, probably in the part of the world known today as Iran and Turkey.

Why?

To help children obey God by doing good things.

Bible Verse

“God made us to do good.” (See Ephesians 2:10.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what good thing Noah did to obey God;
- 2 IDENTIFY ways to obey God by doing good things;
- 3 ASK God’s help in doing good things.

Teaching Tip

Each class is unique in terms of size, combination of ages and genders, and the kinds of Bible Learning Activities preferred. Not every activity will work in every class, but the activity and schedule choices are there to help you choose the Bible Learning activities that will best help your children connect Bible truth to their lives.

Building the Big Boat



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, roll of brown paper, khoki, paper - brown if possible, scissors, glue.

PREPARE

Draw outline of ark on brown paper. Cut paper into strips of varying sizes.

DO

Children glue paper strips onto brown paper to fill the ark outline. Children may also decorate ark with khokis.

TALK ABOUT

- **In our Bible story today, a man named Noah loved and obeyed God. Noah did many good things. One way Noah obeyed God was by building a BIG boat called an ark.**
- Show your Bible open to Ephesians 2:10. **The Bible says, “God made us to do good.” God made us so that we can obey Him by doing good things.**
- *Thabiseng*, when we’re making this ark picture, what are good things we can do? That’s right! We can take turns using the glue.

Bible Story Option Nature Centre

COLLECT

Bible, one or more dishpans half full of water, a variety of wooden objects (spoons, chopsticks, small pieces of wood, toothpicks, etc.), craft sticks, masking tape, several towels.

DO

Children float wooden objects on water. Children tape several craft sticks together to build rafts and float them on water.

TALK ABOUT

- **Today in our Bible story, a man named Noah obeyed God by building a big boat called an ark. Noah did good things to obey God.**
- **God told Noah how to build the ark so that it would float. Noah and his family built the ark from wood. Let’s float some pieces of wood in this water**
- Point to Ephesians 2:10 in your Bible. **Our Bible says, “God made us to do good.” Noah obeyed God and did good things. We can obey God and do good things, too.**
- *Amber*, when you are playing with a friend, what is a good thing you can do?



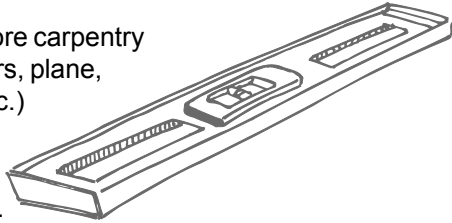
Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, one or more carpentry tools (level, pliers, plane, file, hammer, etc.)



BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Ephesians 2:10.

The Bible says, "God made us to do good."

Repeat Bible verse with children several times. Then say, **Point to yourself if you can think of a place where you can do something good.** Let children who respond say the verse and add a location: "God made us to do good *at the playground.*"

PRAYER

Lead children in prayer, mentioning places suggested by children. **Dear God, we love You and we want to obey You. Help us do good things at home and at our friend's house. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Building the Big Boat

Genesis 6:5-22

INTRODUCTION

Show and/or let children examine one or more carpentry tools. **What are some other tools a carpenter might use? What do carpenters build?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to find out what God told a man to build.**

After God made the world, more and more people were born. Adam and Eve had children and THEIR children had children, until finally there were more people than you could count!

But a very sad thing was happening. As the years went by, people forgot about God. They were too busy thinking about themselves. They did not obey God. They told things that were not true. They took things that did not belong to them. They did things to hurt each other. These things made God very sad.

No one loved and obeyed God - no one except a man named Noah and his family..

GOD TALKS TO NOAH

One day God said, "Noah, I am going to stop all the terrible things that people keep doing."

What God said next must have really surprised Noah! "Noah," God said, "I want you to build a big wooden boat." God told Noah what kind of wood to use. God told him how tall and how long to make the boat, also called an ark. God even told Noah where to put the windows and the door!

Noah wondered WHY God wanted him to build a big boat. This is what God told Noah: "I'm going to send a lot of rain. The rain will cause a big flood so that the whole earth will be covered with water. But you and

your family will be safe in the big boat." So THAT was why Noah needed a boat!

NOAH OBEYS GOD

Noah and his family started building the big boat. First, they found the right trees. Then Noah and his three sons cut down the trees. Chop! Chop! Chop! Then they sawed the wood into boards. ZZZ-zz-zz! ZZZ-zz-zz! ZZZ-zz-zz! Then they hammered the boards together. Bang! Bang! Bang! Noah and his family worked hard.

Finally, the boat was finished. Noah and his family were ready for the flood of water. They were glad God helped them know how to build the big boat. They knew God was taking care of them.

CONCLUSION

Noah and his family obeyed God by doing good things. We can obey God by doing good things, too. The Bible says, "God made us to do good."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Cut and Paste

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 5* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, glue.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God made us to do good."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Point to Noah in this picture. Who else is in this picture? What good things are people in this picture doing? What did Noah and his family build?**
- Read verse with children. **What good things did Noah do to obey God.**
- *Thembi*, **what good things can you do in our classroom? at home?**
- **Let's ask God for His help in obeying Him and doing good things?** Lead children in prayer.

TEACHING TIPS

For younger children, cut out the pages before class.

BIBLE STORYTELLING IDEA

Wear a simple Bible-times costume (towel for head covering, dressing gown for tunic, sandals, etc.) and tell today's Bible story in the first person ("I," "we") as though you are Noah. (Optional: Invite a guest to play the part of Noah.)



Life Focus

I can do good things.

Who?

Noah and his family.

What?

God helped Noah take his family and the animals into the ark.
(Genesis 7:1-16)

When & Where?

In early times, probably in the part of the world known today as Iran and Turkey.

Why?

To help children do good things, even when it's hard.

Bible Verse

"Do what is right and good."
Deuteronomy 6:18

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 ACT OUT the actions of Noah and the animals as the ark was loaded;
.....
- 2 REPEAT a Bible verse about doing good things and tell ways to obey the verse, even when it's hard;
.....
- 3 THANK God for His help in doing good things, even when it's hard.
.....

Teaching Tip

In every class there is bound to be a wide variance in children's abilities. Some children will be advanced beyond others in their development. Some classes may include children in Grade 0. Look for "Grade 0 Challenge" suggestions for extending or enriching the activities.

Loading the Big Boat



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible.

DO

Children form pairs and line up behind you or a child who volunteers to be Noah. Whisper to each pair the name of an animal (elephant, dog, kangaroo, monkey, cat, etc.) Noah leads children in walking around the room, each pair making the appropriate animal sounds and/or actions. Continue activity, assigning different animals and letting different children be Noah.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, God helped Noah load lots and lots of animals into a big boat called an ark. Let's pretend we're the animals going into the ark.
- The Bible says, "Do what is right and good." Noah did what was right and good. We can do good things, too.
- When we're playing with friends, we can do good things by taking turns. *Zama*, what friend do you play with? What can you take turns doing? God helps us do good things, even when it's hard.

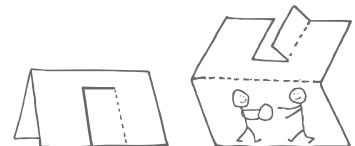
Bible Verse Option Block Centre

COLLECT

Bible, A4 white paper, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Fold one paper in half width-wise for each child and draw lines for a wide door.



TALK ABOUT

- Point to Deuteronomy 6:18 in your Bible. **The Bible says, "Do what is right and good." Everywhere we are we can obey this verse and do good things. Let's say the words of our verse together.** Repeat verse with children.
- *Charles*, what building would you like to make with your paper? What good thing can you do when you are home?
- *Michael*, you're drawing your school. What good thing can you do there?
- **Sometimes we might get tired of taking turns or doing other good things. God promises to help us do good things, even when it's hard.**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, baking tray, block of wood, ball.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Deuteronomy 6:18. **The Bible says, "Do what is right and good." We can do good things to obey the words of this verse.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, each time saying the verse in a different way (whispering, in a normal voice, loudly, slowly, etc.).

PRAYER

Invite volunteers to name people who do good things by helping them. Then lead children in prayer, mentioning the people named by the children. **Dear God, thank You for the people who do good things by helping us. We thank You for** (name the people children mentioned). **Please help us do good things, too. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

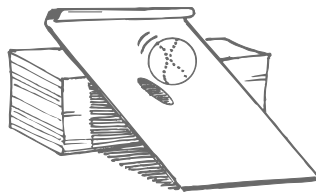
Loading the Big Boat

Genesis 7:1-16

INTRODUCTION

Invite volunteers to take turns rolling ball down a ramp built from the baking tray and block of wood.

People use ramps in different ways. Listen to find out why Noah built a ramp.



LOTS OF ROOM

Finally Noah and his family finished building the big boat called an ark. And what a BIG ark it was! Now why would God want Noah to build such a BIG ark? Noah's family wasn't very big. They didn't need THAT much room!

LOTS OF ANIMALS

After the ark was built, God said, "Noah, go into the ark now with your family. And take every kind of bird and other animal with you." Every kind of bird and other animal? That's what God said! God told Noah exactly how many of each kind of animal to take into the ark. What a big job!

The hardest job of all for Noah might have been figuring out how to get the elephants and other big animals into an ark. Some animals are too big and heavy to pick up! Noah and his sons probably built a ramp for the animals to walk up into the ark.

But wait! Big elephants and giraffes can't walk into an ark at the same time little rabbits and chickens are walking into an ark. Someone might get stepped on! So Noah must have planned very carefully WHEN each animal was to go into the ark. And he must have planned WHERE each animal would live inside the

ark. What a lot of thinking and planning Noah needed to do! But that was not all!

LOTS OF FOOD

When God had told Noah how to build the ark, He had also said to Noah, "I will make it rain for 40 days and nights until the earth is covered with water." That's a LONG time! So Noah and his family had to plan the kinds of food to take for themselves and all those animals. And everyone needed water. Noah and his family made many, many trips carrying load after load of water and food into the ark.

And then it was time to load the animals. Hippity-hop, hippity-hop came the rabbits. Then came the giraffes and foxes. Thump, thump, thump, came the big grey elephants. Trot, trot, trot came the horses. God helped the animals come to the big boat. Finally, Noah his family and all the animals were safely inside the boat.

CONCLUSION

Noah obeyed God. Noah did what was right and good! Even when it was hard and seemed like a big job, Noah did good. We can obey God and do good things, too, even when it's hard. The Bible says, "Do what is right and good."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Where's the Animal?

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 6* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils; optional - straw, glue.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Do what is right and good."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed. Optional: Children glue straw in Noah and son's arms.

TALK ABOUT

- **What hard work did Noah and his family do?**
- **What are some of the things Noah and his family had to load in the ark?**
- Read verse with children. **What is a good thing you can do, even when it's hard?**
- **Sometimes it's hard for me to be patient. But I'm glad God helps me do good things, even when it's hard.**
- Lead children in a brief prayer, thanking God for His help in doing good things.

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Children write numbers by each animal pair to show the order they might enter the ark.

Life Focus

I can do good things.

Who?

Noah and his family.

What?

When God sent the rain, Noah and his family took care of the animals in the ark. (Genesis 7:17-8:14)

When & Where?

In early times, probably in the part of the world known today as Iran and Turkey.

Why?

To help children show their love for God by doing their best to help others.

Bible Verse

“Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord.”
(See Colossians 3:23.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL ways Noah and his family helped each other take care of the animals in the ark;
- 2 IDENTIFY ways to do their best in helping others;
- 3 Help others in class.

Teaching Tip

Young children cannot think abstractly, so need help understanding what “helping” and “sharing” look like in action. As you observe children interacting in your class, affirm positive behaviour, stating what the child did. **Thabo, you shared the crayons with Sifiso. That is being kind.**

Safe in the Boat



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, several shallow plastic bowls, water, cotton wool balls, glue, dark-blue or black paper or cardboard, white chalk.

PREPARE

Pour small amounts of water into bowls.

DO

Children glue cotton wool balls to papers to make clouds. Children then dip chalk into water and make short chalk marks on papers to depict raindrops.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, God sent a BIG rainstorm. Noah and his family and many animals were safe in a big boat called an ark. Let’s make rainstorm pictures!
- What do you think Noah and his family did to care for the animals? (Gave them food and water.) What would have happened if Noah got tired of feeding the animals?
- How might Noah and his family have helped each other? (Carrying water or food together.)
- Hold open Bible. The Bible says, “Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord.” We can do our best work and help each other.

Bible Story Option Nature Centre

COLLECT

Bible, several aluminium foil pie tins, nail, hammer, two plastic jugs, water, several dish pans.

PREPARE

Use hammer and nail to punch holes in bottom portion of each pie tin. Fill jugs with water.

DO

Children take turns helping each other hold pie tins over dish pans and slowly pour water into the pie tins to make a rainstorm. Refill jugs as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, God sent a BIG rainstorm. Noah and his family and many animals were safe in a big boat called an ark. Let’s make a rainstorm!
- While it was raining, Noah and his family helped each other take care of the animals in the ark. What jobs do you think they did? They must have worked hard!
- Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23. The Bible says, “Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord.” We can do our best work whenever we have jobs to do.





Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, umbrella.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Colossians 3:23. **The Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. This verse tells us that when we do our best work, it shows we love God.** Invite volunteers to suggest an action to do for the word "work" (pounding fists, sawing motion, polishing motion, etc.). Repeat verse with children several times, each time doing a different action as the word "work" is said.

PRAYER

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, thank You for people who help us. Please help us to do our best work when we help others. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Safe in the Boat

Genesis 7:17-8:14

INTRODUCTION

Open umbrella. **How many people do you think could stay dry under this umbrella.** Volunteers answer. **Listen to find out what happened when a whole family and lots of animals stayed dry in a big rainstorm.**

A RAINSTORM

Noah finished loading the animals into the big boat called an ark. As Noah and his family stood in the ark looking around at all the birds and other animals, they began to hear something! Ping, ping. Ping, ping. Noah and his family listened. Plink, plink, plink! Rain started coming down faster and harder! Plink, plink, PLUNK! Now it was raining harder and faster!

A FLOOD

At first the rain made little puddles on the ground. After a while the puddles got larger. Finally, the ground around the ark was covered with water. The ark began to float on the water! The rain kept falling until one day, even the tallest mountain was covered with water. It rained for a LONG time. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. But inside the ark the people and the animals were safe and dry.

WORK TO DO

Every day, there was much work to do inside the ark. Noah and his family gave hay to the horses and elephants. They scattered grain and seed for the birds to eat. They gave all the animals cool water to drink. They collected eggs from the hens. They probably had to scrub the floor, too! Noah and his family helped each other do lots of work!

DRY LAND

After it stopped raining, God made a wind blow over the earth to dry up the floodwater. Slowly, slowly,

slowly the water went down, down, down. It took days and days and weeks and weeks for the water to go down.

One day, Noah opened a window to send a bird called a dove out of the ark. Noah knew that if the dove did not come back, the dove had found a dry place to live. But the dove did come back. There was no dry ground to be found.

Noah waited seven days and sent the dove out again to look for a dry place to land. When the dove came back this time, it had a new green leaf in its beak. The water was going down!

Noah waited seven more days, sent the dove out again and waited - and waited. The dove never came back. Then Noah knew that land was finally dry. Soon it would be time to leave the ark!

CONCLUSION

Noah and his family helped each other take care of the animals in the ark. We can help each other, too. We can do our best work. The Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Maze

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 7* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Noah and his family help each other do?**
- **Make the sound of animals Noah and family fed.**
- Read verse with children. **Every day we can find ways to do our best work. We can do our best when we help others.**
- **What can you do to help someone today?**

TEACHING TIPS

If a child is reluctant to complete the *Activity Page*, say, **You can watch for a while and see if you want to do the page later.** Often, once the child sees others participating, he or she will join in. If not, provide paper and crayons for colouring and let the child take the *Activity Page* home to complete it.

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Cut completed page apart into six strips. Mix up strips. Child puts strips together like a puzzle.

Life Focus

I can do good things.

Who?

Noah and his family.

What?

Noah and his family thanked God for His help, and God sent a rainbow as a promise of His love. (Genesis 8:15-22; 9:8-17)

When & Where?

In early times, probably in the part of the world known today as Iran and Turkey.

Why?

To help children thank God for His help and love.

Bible Verse

“God, we give you thanks.”
1 Chronicles 29:13

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL ways God helped Noah and showed His love;
- 2 IDENTIFY ways God helps him or her;
- 3 THANK God for His help.

Teaching Tip

Following the same order of activities in each session gives children the consistency they need. To meet the needs of children from week to week, however, you may adjust the specific times as needed. You may find that if you have a class of less mature children, you need to spend a longer time in Bible Learning Activity Time and plan less “sitting still” time in Bible Story Time.

God Sends a Rainbow



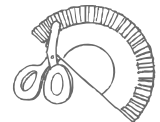
Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

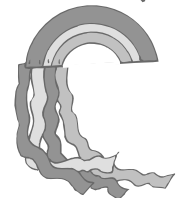
COLLECT

Bible, large white paper plates, scissors, crepe paper streamers in several rainbow colours, stapler, wax crayons or khokis.



PREPARE

Cut each paper plate in half and then cut off rim. Make one half circle for each child. Cut streamers into 45cm lengths.



DO

Help children staple several streamers to one end of plate rim. Children decorate plate rims with khokis or crayons and wave completed rainbow streamers in the air.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, Noah, his family and all the animals left the ark to live on dry land. Noah thanked God for keeping them safe during the flood. God put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His love.
- Hold Bible open to 1 Chronicles 29:13. The Bible says, “God, we give you thanks.” Noah thanked God for His help and love. We can thank God for His help, too.
- I’m thankful God helps me do good things. *Kirsten*, what good thing does God help you to do?

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, paper in a variety of rainbow colours (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple). If necessary, use a wax crayon on white paper to colour paper.

PREPARE

Cut papers into quarters. Hide a large number of papers around the room.

DO

Guide children to hunt for paper sheets and then identify colours and arrange the sheets on the floor to make a rainbow.

TALK ABOUT

- The Bible story today tells that God put a rainbow in the sky to remind people of His love. Noah thanked God for His love and help.
- Our Bible says, “God, we give you thanks.” Noah thanked God. We can thank God for His help, too. Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, red, blue, yellow crayons, elastic band.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to 1 Chronicles 29:13. **The Bible says, "God, we give you thanks." It's good to thank God for His help and love.** Say Bible verse with children, inviting each child to hold up one finger for each word. Repeat verse several times.

PRAYER

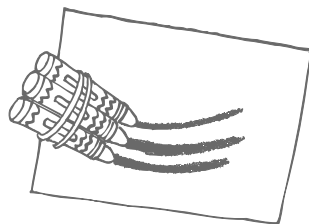
Invite volunteers to say one-sentence prayers of thanks. Conclude the prayer time by leading children in prayer. **God, thank You for Your help. Thank You for loving us and helping us do good things. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God Sends a Rainbow

Genesis 8:15-22; 9:8-17

INTRODUCTION

Let children take turns drawing rainbow shapes on white paper with crayons held together by the elastic band. **We like to see rainbows. Listen to find out why God put a rainbow in the sky.**



THE GROUND DRIES UP

Noah and his family had been shut up inside the big boat for a long, LONG time! But then God said, "Noah, come out of the ark now. Bring your family with you. And bring all those birds and other animals that have been living in the ark with you, too."

What a day that must have been! At last, Noah and his family and ALL those birds and other animals could go outside onto dry ground.

EVERYONE LEAVES THE ARK

Noah and his family must have been VERY happy! Noah opened the great big door of the ark. He and his family had to get all the birds and other animals ready to leave the ark. It must have looked like a parade as the animals came down the ramp.

Hippity-hop, hippity-hop came floppy-eared rabbits. The woolly lambs said "Baaa" as they skipped out the door. Thump! Thump! Thump! The elephants came out, waving their trunks. Trot, trot, trot came the horses. The ducks quacked and waddled. The chickens clucked and bobbed. And the birds flew high, high, up into the sky.

Finally all of the birds and other animals were out of the ark. Now Noah and his family walked down the ramp. They stood on dry ground, looking at each other.

NOAH THANKS GOD

The first thing Noah did was to build a special place (called an altar) to thank God for keeping him and his family safe during the flood. The whole family must have thanked God!

God showed His love for Noah and his family. God made a wonderful promise. God promised, "I will NEVER again cover the whole earth with floodwater. I will put a rainbow in the sky." And there, high in the sky, shone a beautiful rainbow! It was a reminder of God's love!

Of course, Noah and his family remembered God's promise every time they saw a rainbow! And even now, whenever we see a rainbow, we can remember God's love and help.

CONCLUSION

Noah thanked God for His love and help. God helped Noah do good things and kept Noah and his family safe in the ark. We can thank God for loving and helping us, too. We can thank God for helping us do good things. The Bible says, "God, we give you thanks."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Moving Page

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 8* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God, we give you thanks."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did God do to show love and to help Noah and his family?**
- **What did Noah remember to do when he and his family came out of the ark?**
- Read the words of the verse with children. **Noah thanked God for His help. God helps us in many ways. God helps us do good things.**
- *Justin*, when can you thank God for helping you? **Let's thank God for His help right now.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks right now.

TEACHING TIPS

Before class, roll each *Activity Page* and cut slits in doorway.

Life Focus

I can obey God.

Who?

Abraham (first called Abram) and his family.

What?

Abraham chose to obey God when God told him to leave his home and travel to a new land. (Genesis 12:1-8)

When & Where?

About 2000 B.C. from the region of Ur, Abraham's homeland in Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq), to the land of Canaan (present-day Israel).

Why?

To help children know they can choose to love and obey God.

Bible Verse

"Obey the Lord."
Deuteronomy 27:10

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 IDENTIFY what Abraham did to obey God;
- 2 TELL ways to love and obey God in everyday life;
- 3 DEMONSTRATE ways of obeying.

Teaching Tip

The Bible Story provided here is told with simple sentences, written with preschool listeners in mind. Unfamiliar vocabulary is either rewritten or explained so that young children can listen with understanding. When you tell the story, use your own words and lots of expression.

Abraham Obeys God



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, bed-sheet, table, snack in a bowl (raisins, savoury biscuits, etc.) paper cups, paper or plastic bags.

PREPARE

Spread sheet to cover three sides of a table to make a tent.

DO

Children use paper cups to scoop snack from bowl and pour into paper or plastic bags and then act out going on a long trip. Children pretend to sleep in a tent at night and eat snacks during their trip.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story, God told Abraham to move to a new land. Abraham obeyed God. Abraham and his family slept in tents during their long trip. Let's pretend we are going on the long trip with Abraham and his family.
- What do you think Abraham and his family took with them on their trip? They probably took some food. Let's pack up some food to take with us on our pretend trip.
- Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 27:10. Our Bible says, "Obey the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. When God told Abraham to move, Abraham chose to obey God. Abraham loved God. We can ask God to help us to love and obey Him.

Bible Verse Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible.

DO

Lead children in playing a game similar to Simon Says by describing actions and doing them with children. Extend the activity by leading children in playing Follow the Leader.

TALK ABOUT

- Hold Bible open to Deuteronomy 27:10. The Bible says, "Obey the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. Abraham obeyed God. We can choose to love and obey God, too. Let's play a game to practise obeying.
- To obey means to do what someone says. I'm going to tell you to do something. You can show how well you obey. Ready? Simon says, "Put your hands on your head." You know how to obey!
- Every day we can obey God. Pray briefly with children.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, kitbag or small suitcase.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Deuteronomy 27:10. **Our Bible says, "Obey the Lord."** Lead children in repeating the verse and clapping their hands on each word. Vary the action by asking children to jump, nod heads, etc.

PRAYER

Pray, pausing to let volunteers substitute their names in place of the word "us." **Dear God, help (volunteers, say their names) choose to obey You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.** (Note: If some children are reluctant to say their names, end the prayer time by repeating the prayer and including those children's names.)

Abraham Obey's God

Genesis 12:1-8

INTRODUCTION

Show kitbag or suitcase. **When do people use a bag like this? We usually use a bag like this when we pack things for a trip. What kinds of things do you pack when you are going on a trip?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear where a man named Abraham went on a long trip.**

TRIP TO A NEW LAND

Abraham was a man who loved and obeyed God. One day God said to Abraham, "Abraham, I want you to leave your home and move far away to a new land. I will show you how to get there."

Abraham told his wife, Sarah, and his nephew Lot, "We are going to move to a new land. God will show us how to get there."

Abraham and Lot had sheep, goats, cows, camels and donkeys. And we know they had helpers to take care of all their animals. Abraham told all their helpers to get ready to move to the new land.

PACKING UP

What a busy time! There were so many things to do to get ready for the long trip. The helpers filled water bags with water for the animals and people to drink along the way.

Sarah and her helpers packed food for the long trip. They packed pots and pans. They tied their clothes into big bundles. Finally, they all rolled up big tents in which to sleep.

And then, Abraham, Sarah, Lot and all their helpers and all their animals started out on their long trip to a new land. Step, step, step. Day after day they walked.

Each night they had to carefully unroll their tents and set them up. Then every morning they took down the tents and rolled them up again. It was a big job!

A NEW HOME

Finally after many weeks of travel, God told Abraham, "This place will be your new home."

Abraham and his helpers unrolled and put up the tents. They unpacked all their bundles. Then Abraham built a special place to pray to God. Abraham thanked God for bringing him, his family and all the helpers safely to the new land. God was very good to Abraham and Sarah!

CONCLUSION

Abraham chose to obey God when God told him to move to a new land. We can choose to obey God, too. Our Bible says, "Obey the Lord."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Interactive Story

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 9* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Obey the Lord."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Abraham do to obey the Lord?**
- **Let's help Abraham and his family set up and pack up their tents as they walk to their new home. When do you think was a good time to set up their tents? (At night-time. When they were tired.) Where do you think was a good place to set up their tents? (At a place near water.)**
- **What did Abraham do when he arrived in the new land?**
- **Abraham obeyed God because he loved Him. What are some of the things we can do to obey God?**

TEACHING TIPS

1. Explain, **What was very important to have for Abraham's family and for his animals on their long trip. They needed water to drink, to cook with and for washing up. They may have tried to find places near water to rest.**
2. If you have young children in your class, cut out and fold the tents before the session.
3. Remember that children do not need to present a perfectly coloured-in page. The value of this activity is in the setting up of tents along the path. Have children draw the trees, but then allow them freedom to interact with the story.

Life Focus

I can obey God.

Who?

Abraham, Lot, Abraham's helpers, Lot's helpers.

What?

Abraham chose to be kind to his nephew Lot by giving Lot first choice of the land. (Genesis 13)

When & Where?

About 2100-2000 B.C. in the land of Canaan (present-day Israel).

Why?

To help children know they can choose to be kind to others.

Bible Verse

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what Abraham did when he chose to be kind to Lot;
- 2 SHOW kindness to others in class;
- 3 ASK God for His help to be kind to others.

Teaching Tip

To prepare children for the Bible story, during Bible Learning Activity Time, you can choose the Bible Story Option designed to help you talk about the Bible story with children. Young children need - and like - to hear the story again and again. As children become familiar with the story, they can help you in its telling.

Lot Chooses First



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, blue, green and light brown paper, toy people and animals.

DO

Children use blocks to outline a path. On each side of the path, children tear and arrange paper to represent water and grass, making more grass and water on one side than the other. Children use toy people and animals to act out story.

TALK ABOUT

- Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about Abraham and Lot. They had many, many sheep. It was so crowded that there wasn't enough grass and water for all the animals.
- Abraham chose to be kind and let Lot choose first where to live. Lot chose land with a lot of water and grass. Abraham's land was dry and sandy.
- Show open Bible. Our Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." When we are kind, it shows how we want to be treated. What are some ways you can be kind to others? *Patrick, you were kind to Lebo, when you handed her a block.*

Bible Verse Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, tablecloth, toy food, paper plates, plastic utensils, serviettes.

DO

Children pretend they are eating lunch at a friend's house and act out ways to be kind to one another (let others choose where to sit, help set the table, let others choose food, etc.).

TALK ABOUT

- Hold Bible open to Luke 6:31. The Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."
- When we treat others in kind ways, it shows how we want to be treated. We like it when our friends are kind to us, and our friends like it when we are kind to them!
- Giving first choice to others is a way to be kind. Let's pretend we're eating lunch at a friend's house and act out ways we can be kind to others. What kind of food might you eat for lunch? Letting your friend choose a sandwich first is a way to be kind!
- Pray, Dear God, thank You for people who are kind to us. Help us to be kind to others.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, snack item (savory biscuit, raisins, etc.).

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Luke 6:31. **Our Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." We want others to be kind to us, so first we can be kind to them.** Lead children to repeat verse, pointing to a different person in the class each time they say "others" and "them" and pointing to themselves each time they say "you."

PRAYER

Pray, **Dear God, thank You for the people who are kind to us. Please help us to be kind to others. We love You and want to obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Lot Chooses First

Genesis 13

INTRODUCTION

Serve snack to children. **When we share a snack, we are being kind. Listen to hear how a man named Abraham was kind.**

LOTS OF ANIMALS

Our Bible tells us about a family who lived in a big tent. The father of this family was named Abraham. And nearby, Abraham's nephew Lot lived with his family in a big tent, too. Lot and Abraham each had many cows and sheep and goats and camels and donkeys.

A LITTLE GRASS

Every day Abraham's helpers and Lot's helpers took their animals to find green grass to eat and cool water to drink. But sometimes the helpers could not find enough grass and water for all the animals. That's when trouble started.

Lot's helpers wanted the same grassy land for their animals as Abraham's helpers did. "This is OUR place!" Lot's helpers shouted. "We were here first!"

"Oh, no, you WEREN'T!" Abraham's helpers shouted back. "This is OUR grass!"

Abraham was sorry when he heard that his helpers were arguing with Lot's helpers. Something had to be done! "We have lived together happily for a long time," Abraham said to Lot. "But now our helpers are arguing. We need more land so that all our animals will have enough grass and water. It would be better if we did not live on the same land any longer."

As they talked, Abraham and Lot walked up a hill. "Please choose first," Abraham told Lot. "Choose the land you want for your family and helpers and animals."

LOT'S LAND

Lot looked all around. Some of the land had lots of

grass and water. Lot pointed to that land and said, "I choose THAT land to live in." So Lot moved his family and his helpers and his animals to the grassy land he chose.

ABRAHAM'S LAND

What would happen to Abraham now? He had been kind to Lot and let Lot choose first. Now Lot seemed to have the best land. Had Abraham made a mistake? No! God told Abraham that ALL of the land - even the part that Lot had chosen - was going to be Abraham's and his children's FOREVER. God promised to give Abraham more land than he ever imagined!

Abraham, all of his family and his helpers packed their food and clothes. They folded their tents and moved with all their animals to the land that didn't have much green grass and cool water. Abraham was kind and now there would be no more arguing.

CONCLUSION

Abraham chose to be kind to Lot. He gave Lot first choice of the land. We can choose to be kind to others, too, by giving others first choice. Our Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Colour the Sheep

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 10* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **How many sheep can you count in this picture? Which sheep were Abraham's sheep and which sheep were Lot's? With all those animals, it was hard to know whose sheep were whose and whose grass was whose! What did Abraham and Lot decide to do?**
- **What did Abraham do to be kind to Lot? Where did Lot choose to live?**
- **Our Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." What can you do to be kind to others?**
- **We can obey God by being kind to others. Pray, Dear God, we love You. Help us to be kind to others and obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Life Focus

I can obey God.

Who?

Abraham, Sarah, three visitors, Isaac.

What?

God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah by giving them a son. (Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 21:1-8)

When & Where?

In Canaan (Israel) during the time of the patriarchs.

Why?

I can choose to believe God keeps His promises.

Bible Verse

“I trust in God’s word.”
(See Psalm 119:42.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL how God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah;
.....
- 2 NAME a promise for which he or she can thank God;
.....
- 3 THANK God for always keeping His promises.
.....

Teaching Tip

The Introduction paragraph to every Bible story pictures an everyday-life “hook.” Each hook, like this lesson’s doll, gives you a concrete object to help focus your children’s attention. Each object is an easily available household or classroom object.

Isaac is Born

.....



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, sheet, table.

PREPARE

Spread the sheet over a table for a tent. Fold back one corner of the sheet to make a tent flap.

DO

Lead children in taking turns to act out Bible story of three visitors coming to visit Abraham and Sarah.

TALK ABOUT

- In today’s Bible story, three visitors came to Abraham and Sarah’s tent. Abraham and Sarah brought food and water to their visitors. Let’s act out what happened.
- One of Abraham and Sarah’s visitors was God. God promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son. God did what He promised.
- Show Psalm 119:42 in your Bible. The Bible says, “I trust in God’s word.” When we choose to trust in God’s Word, it means we believe God will keep His promises.
- God promises to be with us everywhere we go. *Kaylee*, where are some places you go?

Bible Verse Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible.

PREPARE

Hide a Bible in your classroom.

DO

One child searches for Bible. While child searches, lead the others in saying: **The Bible tells about our God. It is a special book. I hope that we can find it, but where should (child’s name) look?** Children take turns in hiding and finding the Bible.

TALK ABOUT

- Point to Psalm 119:42 in your Bible. The Bible says, “I trust in God’s word.” We can trust, or believe, that what God says is true. God gives us many promises in His Word, the Bible. God always keeps His promises.
- One promise God makes is to hear our prayers. *Sipho*, when is a time to pray to God?
- Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for always keeping Your promises. We trust You to do what You say.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.
10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, doll.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Psalm 119:42. **The Bible says, "I trust in God's word."** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, pointing a thumb at your chest while saying "I" and pointing a forefinger at Bible when saying "God's word."

PRAYER

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, Thank You for keeping Your promises to us. Thank You for keeping Your promise to hear our prayers. Thank You for keeping Your promise to be with us wherever we go. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Isaac is Born

Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 27:1-8

INTRODUCTION

Show doll. **Dolls remind us of babies. When a baby is born, how does the baby's family feel? What do they do to celebrate? Listen to find out what Abraham and Sarah did when their baby was born.**

GOD TELLS A PROMISE

Abraham was now a very old man. He was 99 years old, and his wife Sarah was 89. They were older than your parents and probably older than your grandparents! Abraham and Sarah had been married for many years, but they had no children of their own. One day God spoke to Abraham. "Abraham," God said, "I am going to send a baby boy to you and Sarah." Abraham laughed. *A baby boy?* he thought. *How can two people who are so OLD have a baby?* But God meant what He said. "Yes! You WILL have a son. You will name him Isaac."

ABRAHAM WELCOMES VISITORS

One day Abraham was sitting at the door of his tent. Looking up, he saw one, two, three men nearby. Abraham didn't know that one man was really the Lord God and the other two were angels. Abraham hurried to welcome them.

"Come and rest in the shade!" Abraham said. "I'll bring water to wash your feet and food to eat." Abraham called helpers to bring water for the visitors. The visitors washed their hot dusty feet. The water felt cold and fresh! Abraham said to Sarah, "Please make some bread - quickly!" Sarah stirred and patted and shaped loaves of bread. She baked them in the hot oven. Abraham chose some of his best meat and a helper cooked it. Abraham served the food to his visitors as they sat in the shades of his trees.

SARAH LAUGHS

As the visitors ate, God said to Abraham. "Your son will be born next year." Sarah was listening from behind the tent door. *A baby!* she thought. *How can two people who are so OLD have a baby?* She laughed softly to herself.

But God heard Sarah laugh. "Abraham," He asked, "why did Sarah laugh? Doesn't she know that I can do ANYTHING? Nothing is too hard for Me. Next year you and Sarah will have a son!"

ISAAC IS BORN

Months later, baby Isaac was born - just as God promised. Abraham and Sarah were SO happy to have a baby of their very own! Isaac grew and GREW - just like you grow! When he was big enough to run and walk and play, Abraham said, "Now it's time to have a party. We will invite our friends to come and be glad with us because God has sent Isaac to us." Abraham and Sarah were happy God kept His promise to send them a son.

CONCLUSION

Abraham and Sarah believe God's Word. They trusted that God would do what He said. God wants us to trust in His Word, too. Our Bible says, "I trust in God's word."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. **15 minutes.**

Activity Page Booklet

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 11* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "I trust in God's word."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did God promise to Abraham and Sarah?**
- **How did God keep His promise?**
- Read verse with children. **When we read God's Word, the Bible, we can find out about the promises God makes to us. God promises to be with us always. God promises to hear our prayers. God promises to love us.**
- **Let's thank God for always keeping His promises. *Lebo*, which promise shall we thank God for?** Lead children in a brief of thanks, mentioning promise suggested by child.

Life Focus

I can obey God.

Who?

Abraham; his helper, Eliezer; Isaac; Rebekah; Rebekah's family.

What?

God answers Eliezer's prayer for choosing a wife for Isaac. (Genesis 24)

When & Where?

In Canaan (Israel) and the Mesopotamia (Turkey or Syria) during the time of the patriarchs.

Why?

To help children choose to pray to God.

Bible Verse

"The Lord hears when I pray to him." (See Psalm 4:3.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL that God answered Eliezer's prayer for help in choosing a wife for Isaac;
- 2 IDENTIFY times he or she may pray;
- 3 PARTICIPATE in one or more prayer times.

Teaching Tip

When your children think about your class, you want them to remember your loving face and your Bible. Sometimes, teacher guide books keep children from seeing your most precious book, the Bible. Make notes of the lesson plan and place them in your Bible. That way your children will know you are teaching from God's Book.

Eliezer Prays



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

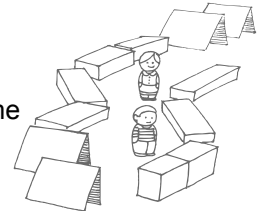
Bible Story Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, paper, blocks, toy people.

DO

Help children fold paper to make tents for Eliezer's home and Rebekah's home. Children build road between the tents and move toy people to show story action.



TALK ABOUT

- **The Bible story today tells about a time Abraham's helper, Eliezer, went on a long trip. Eliezer travelled to the home of a young woman named Rebekah.**
- **On his trip, Eliezer prayed to God. Eliezer asked God to help him. And God did!**
- **Point to Psalm 4:3 in your Bible. The Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him." "Lord" is another name for God. God hears our prayers. When we choose to ask God for help, God will help us.**

Bible Verse Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, masking tape or string. (Optional: CD player and children's music.)

PREPARE

On the floor use masking tape or string to make several shapes large enough for several children to stand in.

DO

Children walk around the room while you clap hands, After 10 to 20 seconds, stop clapping. Each child moves to stand in the nearest shape. Identify each shape as a different location (mountain, beach, back yard or friend's home). Children tell what they might thank God for at those locations. Repeat activity, naming different locations for each round.

TALK ABOUT

- **Open your Bible. The Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him." God hears us pray wherever we are.**
- **Mpho, how did you get to church today? God hears you pray when you are in the taxi.**
- **Jennifer, what is another place where God hears us pray?**
- **Pray, Thank You, God, for hearing our prayers!**
- **Let's pretend the triangle is a beach. What might we thank God for at the beach? When might we need His help at the beach?**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, water bottle or thermos flask.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Psalm 4:3. **The Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him."** "Lord" is another name for God. We can pray to God everywhere we go. The Bible tells us that God always hears our prayers. Repeat Bible verse with children several times, pausing after each word for children to echo the word.

PRAYER

Dear God thank You for hearing us every time we talk to You. Thank You for answering our prayers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Eliezer Prays

Genesis 24

INTRODUCTION

Show water bottle or thermos flask. **When might someone use this water bottle?** Volunteers answer. **Sometimes I take a water bottle when I go on a trip. Listen to find out what happened when a man went on a long trip.**

ELIEZER OBEYS

The Bible tells us that little Isaac grew and grew, just as you are growing. When Isaac was a man, his father Abraham talked to his helper. "I want you to go far away where my relatives live," he told Eliezer. "There you will find a woman to be Isaac's wife. God will help you find her."

ELIEZER TRAVELS

So Eliezer rode off to find a wife for Isaac. Clop, clop, clop, clop went the camel's feet.

After many days Eliezer came to a well, a deep hole in the ground filled with water. This well was in the town where Abraham's relatives lived. Eliezer knew that the women who lived nearby would soon come to fill their jugs with water. Eliezer waited and prayed, "Lord, let the woman that You have chosen give me a drink. And let her gladly give my camels a drink, too!"

REBEKAH IS KIND

Then Eliezer saw a pretty woman. He watched her fill her jug with water. "Please give me a drink," he said to her. "Oh, yes, sir!" she answered. "And I will be glad to give water to your camels, too!" First, she gave Eliezer a drink. Then she filled and emptied her jug again and again and again - until all the camels had enough to drink

This must be the woman God has chosen, Eliezer thought. *She has done just what I prayed she would do.* Eliezer gave the woman some beautiful gold jewellery! The woman's name was Rebekah. Rebekah took Eliezer to meet her family. Eliezer found that

Rebekah and her family were Abraham's relatives.

Eliezer said, "May I take Rebekah back with me to be Isaac's wife?"

"We'll have to ask Rebekah if she wants to go with you," her family said. They asked Rebekah, "Will you go with this man?"

Rebekah answered, "I will go."

And the very next day Rebekah and Eliezer started on the long trip to Abraham and Isaac's home.

Abraham's helper thanked the Lord many times for helping him to find a wife for Isaac.

CONCLUSION

Eliezer chose to pray for God's help to find a wife for Isaac. God heard Eliezer's prayer and helped him. God wants us to choose to pray to Him, too. The Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Folded Page

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 12* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Abraham ask his helper to do? How did Eliezer obey?**
- **What did Eliezer do when he came to the well? How did God answer Eliezer's prayer?**
- Read verse with children. **God heard Eliezer's prayers. God promises to hear our prayers, too.**
- **What can you and your family thank God for? When might you need to ask God for help?** (When I need help being kind. When I need help in doing what's right.)

TEACHING TIPS

Before class, fold and open *Activity Pages*. In class, children will find it easy to fold pages following the pre-folded lines.

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Children count items on page (camels, trees, people, etc.).

Life Focus

I can obey God.

Who?

Isaac, Isaac's helpers, Isaac's neighbours.

What?

Isaac showed God's love to his neighbours, instead of arguing with them about the wells. (Genesis 26:12 - 33)

When & Where?

During the time of the patriarchs, in the valley of Gerar in the foothills of the Judean mountain.

Why?

To help children choose to show God's love, instead of arguing.

Bible Verse

"Love your neighbour."
Matthew 22:39

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

1 NAME the way that Isaac chose to show God's love to his neighbours;

2 TELL ways he or she can show God's love to others;

3 SHOW love in class

Teaching Tip

To help you in telling the Bible story, each Bible story in this curriculum includes an Introduction and a Conclusion. The Introduction helps you get children's attention. The Conclusion helps you summarise the main truth of the lesson and how children can apply this truth to their everyday lives.

Isaac Digs Wells



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

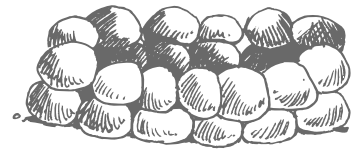
Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, play dough.

DO

Give each child a fist-sized amount of play dough. Children break dough into small pieces and roll pieces into balls. Children build wells with balls.



TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible story today tell about some wells Isaac's helpers dug. Isaac's neighbours came and said, "These wells are ours." They were unkind to Isaac. But Isaac showed God's love to them. He did not argue.**
- Hold Bible open to Matthew 22:39. **The Bible says, "Love your neighbour." We can show God's love to people who live near us. We can show God's love to our friends and families.**
- *Thembi*, **thank you for picking up Darren's play dough. You did just what the Bible verse is talking about. You showed God's love.**

Bible Verse Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, magazine pictures of household items (toys, games, sports items, food, etc.) toy people.

DO

Children build houses with rooms using the blocks. Set out magazine pictures for children to choose from. Children use pictures and use toy people to act out ways they may show God's love to others.

TALK ABOUT

- Refer to open Bible. **The Bible says, "Love your neighbour." We can show God's love to our neighbours. We can show God's love to our family and friends.**
- *Chelsea*, **who lives at your house? You have a picture of some biscuits. What can you choose to do with biscuits to show God's love.**
- *Nathan*, **I see you have a picture of a soccer ball. What can you do with a soccer ball to show God's love.**
- *Pray briefly.* **Thank You, God, for people who show Your love to us. Help us choose to be loving, too.**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, trowel or small spade.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Matthew 22:39. **The Bible says, "Love your neighbour." God's Word, the Bible, tells us to show God's love to our neighbours. Our neighbours are people who live near us, our friends and our family.** Repeat Bible verse with children, guiding children to do a different rhythmic action each time the verse is repeated (clap hands, stomp feet, pat thighs, snap fingers, etc.).

PRAYER

Invite volunteers to name people to whom they wish to show God's love. Lead children in prayer, mentioning people children named in the prayer. **Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us show love to (Gugu). In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Isaac Digs Wells

Genesis 26: 12 - 33

INTRODUCTION

Let volunteers take turns pretending to use the spade. **What are some things we use spades for? In Bible times people used spades to dig deep holes that filled with water. These holes are called wells. Listen to find out what happened when some wells were dug.**

ANGRY NEIGHBOURS

Isaac needed a well. His sheep and goats and family were thirsty! Isaac told his helper to dig until they found water.

Isaac's helpers dug. They dug out rocks and sand. Then suddenly water began to come up from the bottom of the hole. They had dug a well!

They were happy! But Isaac's neighbours were NOT happy. When they heard about the well, they came to Isaac and shouted, "That water is ours!" Isaac did not want to argue or fight with his neighbours. He wanted to be their friend. So he did not argue. He let his neighbours have the well and moved to another place. Then Isaac told his helpers to dig another well.

MORE WELLS

Dig, dig, dig - the helpers shovelled out the rocks and sand. They worked and worked! After a while, water began to come into the hole. They had dug a new well!

But again, Isaac's neighbours came. They wanted THIS well for themselves, too. "That water is ours!" they shouted again.

Isaac did not want to argue. So again, Isaac let his neighbours have the well. Isaac and his family moved again. And he told his helpers to dig another well.

It was hard work. Isaac must have wondered if his neighbours would try and take this well, too.

GOD'S PROMISE

One night, God spoke to Isaac. "Do not be afraid, Isaac," God said. "I will always be with you. I will take good care of you." Isaac thanked God for being with him.

It wasn't long until some of Isaac's neighbours were back again. *Do they STILL want to argue and fight?* Isaac must have wondered. He asked, "Why have you come here? You were unkind to me and sent me away before."

They answered, "We know God is with you. He does good things for you. We don't want to argue any more. We want to be friends."

A SPECIAL DINNER

Isaac must have been GLAD to hear that! He invited the neighbours to stay for supper. And Isaac's neighbours promised NEVER to argue with him again.

CONCLUSION

Isaac showed God's love to his neighbours. Isaac chose not to argue with them. We can show God's love to our neighbours, too. We can choose to be kind, instead of arguing. The Bible says, "Love your neighbour."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Maze

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 13* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page.

Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Love your neighbour."**

We can choose to show God's love to the people who live near us and to our friends and family.

Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Isaac's neighbours want?**
- **What did Isaac choose to do? How did Isaac choose to show God's love?**
- **What could Isaac have chosen to do, instead of being kind?**
- Read verse with children. Tell children about a way you plan to show God's love to a neighbour, friend or family member. **What can you choose to do to show God's love?**
- Pray briefly, **Dear God, please help us show God's love to others.**

Life Focus

Thanking God for Jesus.

Who?

Jesus, crowds of people, Jesus' friends, Temple leaders.

What?

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, people praised Him and laid palm branches and coats on the ground in front of Him. (Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16; Mark 11:1-10)

When & Where?

About A.D. 30 in Jerusalem, at the beginning of the week in which Jesus died on the cross.

Why?

To help children thank God for Jesus.

Bible Verse

"How good it is to sing praises to our God."
Psalm 147.1

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL ways that people praised Jesus;
- 2 NAME reasons to be thankful for Jesus;
- 3 THANK God for Jesus in song and/or prayer.

Teaching Tip

There is probably no more powerful way to implant God's Word and its principles in young children than to sing with them! A music activity in your lesson is not an entertainment detour. It is one more open door for guided learning. Choose the songs you sing carefully!

Jesus Enters Jerusalem



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, green and brown paper, pencil, tape, scissors.

PREPARE

Fold green papers lengthwise and outline a palm branch on each, making at least one for each child.

DO

Help children tape brown paper onto wall to make trunk of palm tree. Children cut out palm branches. Tape palm branches to trunk. (Make more than one tree if time permits.)



TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, lots and lots of people were glad when they saw Jesus coming to Jerusalem. They laid palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus.
- With your Bible open to Psalms 147:1 say, **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." The word "praise" means to thank or to tell how great and good someone is. The people in Jerusalem praised Jesus. We can be thankful for Jesus, too.**
- **I'm thankful that Jesus loves me and helps me.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks for Jesus.

Bible Verse Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, large paper plate, khoki, scissors.

PREPARE

Write "Jesus" in large letters on paper plate and cut plate into five strips.

DO

Show strips assembled to spell "Jesus." Then mix up strips and place them on one side of the room. Children stand on the other side of the room and take turns hopping across the room to collect strips. When all strips have been collected, lead children to work together to put strips together to spell "Jesus." Repeat as time permits.

TALK ABOUT

- Hold Bible open to Psalm 147:1. **Our Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." I like to sing praises to God, I'm glad we can sing about how thankful we are for Jesus.**
- **I'm thankful for Jesus because He helps us do good things. Let's thank God for Jesus.** Briefly pray.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, coat, jacket, or jersey.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Psalm 147:1. **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God."** (Children say the words "good" and "sing" louder in a joyful way.)

PRAYER

Let's talk about some of the reasons we are thankful for Jesus. Invite children to answer these questions by saying the name "Jesus": **Who loves us? Who helps us? Who hears our prayers?** Then lead children in prayer. **Dear God, we love You very much. We thank and praise You for Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16; Mark 11:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Show coat or jersey. **What do you usually do with a coat or jersey?** Volunteers tell. **Listen to find out what some people in our Bible story did with their coats.**

HELPING JESUS WITH A DONKEY

It was a wonderful, exciting day! Crowds of boys and girls and mothers and fathers and grandparents were on their way to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus was going to the Temple, too. But first, Jesus asked two of His friends to go and bring Him a donkey. His friends went exactly where Jesus told them to go. Sure enough, there was a little donkey! They brought it to Jesus. Then they laid their coats over the donkey's back, so Jesus would have a soft place to sit. Jesus sat on the donkey's back and began to ride to the city.

Soon Jesus and His friends were in the crowd of people going to the Temple. When people noticed Jesus, someone must have shouted, "Jesus is coming!" Then so MANY people crowded the road to see Jesus, it looked like a parade.

PRAISING JESUS ALONG THE ROAD

Some people cut palm branches from trees to welcome Jesus. They laid the branches on the road. Some people took off their coats and laid them on the road. The coats and branches made the road look like a beautiful long carpet for Jesus to ride on. As the happy people walked along, they sang an old, old song to Jesus. "Hosanna! Hosanna! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!" ("Hosanna" is a word that was shouted to praise someone important.)

PRAISING JESUS IN JERUSALEM

The people in Jerusalem heard the singing. They saw the great big crowd coming. So even MORE people

ran to meet Jesus! They began to shout "Hosanna!" Jesus rode the little donkey all the way into the city and up to the Temple. At the Temple some children in the crowd sang and shouted "Hosanna!" to Jesus

The Temple leaders saw the children praising Jesus. They became very angry! They did not want to hear people - young or old - praise Jesus. They angrily asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

"Yes," answered Jesus. "Haven't you read what it says in God's Word? God said the children would praise Me." It was an exciting day in Jerusalem! The old people, the parents and the boys and girls all praised Jesus. And Jesus was glad to hear the children praise Him!

CONCLUSION

The people in Jerusalem were excited and glad to see Jesus. They praised and thanked God for Jesus. We can thank God for Jesus, too. The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Story Card

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 14* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape; optional, fabric scraps, glue.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." We can thank and praise God for Jesus.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed. (Optional: Children glue fabric to coats.)

TALK ABOUT

- **What did the people do when Jesus came down the road? How do you think they felt when they saw Jesus?**
- **What did the people do to praise Jesus?**
- Read verse with children (Psalms 147:1). **It was good for the people in Jerusalem to praise and thank God for Jesus. We can praise God for Jesus, too. What does this verse say we can do to praise God? (Sing songs.) We can also praise and thank God when we pray to Him.**
- Lead children in a brief prayer thanking God for Jesus.

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Children draw more coats and palm leaves on road.

Life Focus

Thanking God for Jesus.

Who?

Jesus, religious leaders, Jesus' friends, two angels.

What?

After Jesus let people kill Him, He became alive again. (Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33-24:9; John 19:38-42)

When & Where?

In Jerusalem, about A.D. 30.

Why?

To help children thank God that Jesus is alive.

Bible Verse

"Jesus is risen from the dead." (See Matthew 28:7.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL that Jesus' friends were joyful when they learned that Jesus is alive;
- 2 IDENTIFY ways that people today show joy that Jesus is alive;
- 3 THANK God that Jesus is alive.

Teaching Tip

Think back to the earliest songs you can recall. Did a song comfort you? Instruct you? Give you a way to express joy? Songs learned early in life retain significance, and simple songs can plant truth deeply in young hearts where it can grow strong. Look for simple songs that relate to the life focus or Bible story in each lesson.

The Empty Tomb



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible.

DO

Play a game like Follow the Leader, using these Bible story actions: walk sadly, stop in surprise when you see that the stone is rolled away, tiptoe up to the tomb, look inside, run to Jesus' friends, hand to mouth to tell good news. Repeat game as time permits.

TALK ABOUT

- **The Bible story today talks about women who went to Jesus' tomb. They were surprised to see the big stone was rolled away. The women looked inside the tomb, but Jesus' body wasn't there. They learned that Jesus is alive! The women ran to tell Jesus' friends the good news.**
- Refer to open Bible. **The Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead." "Risen" means alive. At Easter, we show how happy and joyful we are that Jesus is alive. What happy things have you done today?**
- Pray briefly, **Thank You, God, that Jesus is alive.**

Bible Verse Option Block Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, toy people and cars.

DO

Children work together to build a church and use toy people and cars to show people coming to church.

TALK ABOUT

- Show open Bible. **Our Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead." "Risen" means that Jesus is alive. Today we are celebrating that Jesus is alive. We can show how glad we are that Jesus is alive.**
- **Today we sing songs and pray to thank God that Jesus is alive.**
- **David, what can we do in our class to thank God that Jesus is alive? (We can pray and sing together.) What are the toy people you're using going to do to show they are glad that Jesus is alive?**
- **Let's thank God that Jesus is alive.** Lead children in a brief prayer. **God, thank You for making Jesus alive again. We are glad Jesus is alive. Thank You for loving us.**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, real or artificial flower.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Matthew 28:7. **The Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead."** Repeat Bible verse with children. Then invite children on one side of the group to stand and say the verse, and then lead children on the other side of the group to stand and echo the words.

PRAYER

We can pray to thank God that Jesus is alive.

Lead children in prayer, inviting volunteers to say the words "Thank You" as directed in the prayer. **Dear God, we are glad Jesus is alive. We want to thank You that Jesus is alive.** (Pause and lead children to say "Thank You.") **We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33-24:9; John 19:38-42

INTRODUCTION

Show flower. **Where do flowers grow? What other things might you see in a garden?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to our Bible story today to find out why Jesus' friends went to a garden.**

VERY, VERY BAD

When Jesus was here on Earth, He did many wonderful things for people. He made blind people see. He made cripple people walk again. He taught people about God. Jesus loved people very much. And many people loved Him. But not everyone loved Jesus.

Some of the leaders hated Jesus. In fact, they were looking for a way to stop Jesus from teaching about God. They didn't like it that many men and women wanted Jesus to be their leader! These angry people said, "If we let Jesus go on like this, everyone will believe in HIM, and WE won't be the leaders!"

VERY, VERY GOOD

These people decided to kill Jesus. And Jesus let them kill Him. These people were doing something very, very BAD; but Jesus knew that God would turn their plans into something very, very GOOD. Jesus knew that the reason He came to Earth was to take the punishment for all the wrong things people had ever done and ever would do. Jesus knew God was in charge of what was happening, so Jesus let those people kill Him on a cross.

VERY, VERY SAD

It was a sad day for Jesus' friends. They didn't know God's plan for Jesus. The sad friends put Jesus' body in a tomb in a garden. (A tomb is a little room cut out of the side of a hill.) They left Jesus' body in the tomb and rolled a BIG rock in front of the tomb.

On the first day of the week, some women who were Jesus' friends walked sadly to the garden where the tomb was. Their wonderful friend Jesus was dead. But when the women got to the tomb, God had a big surprise for them! The huge rock in the front of the doorway had been moved. They looked inside, but Jesus' body was GONE!

VERY, VERY HAPPY

Suddenly, the women saw two angels wearing bright shining robes. "Why are you looking for Jesus here?" the angels asked. "Jesus is not dead. He is alive! He is risen - just as He told you." NOW the women remembered! Jesus had told them He would die, but God would make Jesus rise and live again.

As the women ran to tell the good news, Jesus met them and said, "Hello, don't be afraid." Now the women weren't sad any more - they were very, very HAPPY!

They ran to share the glad news with Jesus' friends - "Jesus IS living!"

CONCLUSION

Jesus's friends were very glad to know that Jesus is alive. We're glad to know that Jesus is alive, too. We can thank God that Jesus is alive. The Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Puppets

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 15* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Why did the women look sad when they were coming to the tomb?**
- **What did the women see when they got to the tomb? What did the angels tell the women?**
- **How did the women's faces look when they heard the news that Jesus is alive? Make your face look like the women's.**
- **Mpho, I see your glad face. What special things do we do at Easter to show we are glad Jesus is alive?**
- Read verse with children. **"Risen" means alive. We can thank God that Jesus is alive.**
- Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

Life Focus

Thanking God for Jesus.

Who?

Jesus, Jesus' friends.

What?

After Jesus came alive again He appeared to two friends. (Luke 24:13-35)

When & Where?

On the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus, on the first Easter.

Why?

To help children thank God that Jesus is with them.

Bible Verse

"Thanks be to God for Jesus."
(See 2 Corinthians 9:15)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 IDENTIFY how Jesus' friends felt when they learned that Jesus was with them;
.....
- 2 TELL places he or she goes;
.....
- 3 THANK God that Jesus is with him or her.
.....

Teaching Tip

Singing is an important part of every lesson. While this lesson guide doesn't have songs listed, find appropriate Bible songs for young children that fit the theme of the lesson. It's fine if children do not sing along. They are processing and learning by listening, and they may surprise you or their parents by singing the songs when least expected.

The Road to Emmaus



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, paper, khoki, small squares paper, prestik; optional - picture of Jesus.

PREPARE

Write "Jesus" on a sheet of paper. Attach paper to wall at children's eye level. Stick small squares of paper with prestik on sheet of paper to cover the word "Jesus". (Optional: cover a picture of Jesus with small pieces of paper.)

DO

Children line up opposite paper. One at a time, children take turns walking across room and removing small squares of paper until the name of Jesus is revealed.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, two of Jesus' friends were walking on a road. Jesus walked and talked with them, but at first they did not know who He was.
- When Jesus friends realised who was with them, they were excited and thankful! Hold open Bible. The Bible says, "Thanks be to God for Jesus." We are thankful that Jesus is with us, too.
- *Melissa*, what is your favourite way to go somewhere? We can thank God that Jesus is with you on the bus.

Bible Verse Option Block Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, toy people, animals and cars.

DO

Children build places they like to go to. They play with toy people, animals and cars at the places they build.

TALK ABOUT

- Point to 2 Corinthians 9:15 in your Bible. Our Bible says, "Thanks be to God for Jesus." We can thank God that Jesus is with us everywhere we go.
- *Xoliswa*, tell me about the place you are building. Jesus is with you at the shop.
- *Moses*, you are using long and short blocks. What are you building? I'm glad Jesus is with you when you are at your house.
- Let's thank God that Jesus is with us. Lead children in a prayer. Dear God, thank You that Jesus is with us everywhere we go.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, several bite-sized portions of bread.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to 2 Corinthians 9:15. **The Bible says, "Thanks be to God for Jesus."** Sit in a circle and say verse together several times. Then lead children to say the verse by going around the circle with each child standing up and saying one word of the verse. Repeat verse until everyone has stood up. Then say the verse in the same way but with each child sitting down and then saying a word of the verse.

PRAYER

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive. Thank You that He is always with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

The Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

INTRODUCTION

Serve each child several bit sized portions of bread. **In Bible times, Jesus and two of His friends ate some bread together. When do you eat bread? Volunteers share answers. Listen to find out what happened when Jesus and His friends ate bread together.**

LEAVING JERUSALEM

Two of Jesus' friends walked out of the big city of Jerusalem. They were on their way to a little town named Emmaus. They were talking, and they were VERY sad. They were sad because Jesus had died.

As the two friends walked, another man came up and walked with them. The two friends did not know that this man was Jesus. He asked them, "What are you talking about?"

"We are talking about Jesus," they answered.

"Haven't You heard that Jesus was killed on a cross? That was three days ago. But now some women have told us that Jesus is not dead. They say He is alive!"

The man walked quietly beside the two friends. He listened to everything they told Him. Then He told them some wonderful things.

"Long ago," said the man, "God promised He would send a Saviour into the world. God said this Saviour would have to die and that He would live again." As the man talked, the two friends must have wondered how this man could know so much about God's promise!

COMING TO EMMAUS

When they reached the town of Emmaus, it was getting dark. The friends said to the man, "Please stay and eat with us." Before they ate, the man

thanked God for the food. Then He tore the bread and began to hand out pieces of it. Suddenly, the two friends knew that this man was JESUS!

The friends were VERY excited! Now they knew Jesus was alive! Then suddenly, Jesus was gone.

RETURNING TO JERUSALEM

The friends were just bursting to tell the good news that they had seen Jesus. So they hurried back to Jerusalem! Even though they had just sat down to eat, even though it was already dark and even though it was nearly 11 KILOMETRES away, they ran! They must have been huffing and puffing!

They ran to where some of Jesus' other friends were staying. "It's true!" they said. "Jesus IS alive!" Then they told their story. "We walked with Him. He told us wonderful things!" The friends told what Jesus had said. They were so happy! Jesus is alive!

CONCLUSION

Jesus' friends were excited and thankful when they saw that Jesus was with them. We can be thankful that Jesus is with us at all the places we go. The Bible says, "Thanks be to God for Jesus."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Moving Story

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 16* for each child, crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page.

Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Thanks be to God for Jesus." We can thank God that Jesus is always with us. Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.**

TALK ABOUT

- **Move the figures on your page to show who came to walk and talk with the two friends. How did Jesus' friends feel before they saw Jesus?**
- **When Jesus prayed, the friends knew that Jesus was with them. How did the friends feel? Turn the flap over to show what the friends did.**
- **Read verse with children. Jesus' friends were thankful that Jesus was with them. We can thank God that Jesus is with us, too.**
- **Where do you like to go, Jane? Jesus is with you at the library. Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.**

TEACHING TIPS

Before class stick short lengths of tape to the table edge so that children can easily use them.

Life Focus

Thanking God for Jesus.

Who?

Jesus, Jesus' friends.

What?

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His friends He would be with them and help them tell the good news about Him. (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-9)

When & Where?

In Jerusalem and other nearby cities during the days after Jesus' resurrection.

Why?

To help children thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

Bible Verse

"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever!'"
(See Revelation 1:18.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what Jesus promised before He went to heaven;
- 2 REPEAT a Bible verse telling that Jesus is alive;
- 3 THANK God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

Teaching Tip

Look for songs that fit the lesson or unit aim and that use tunes, rhythms and actions that involve a child's whole self. This will help a child remember well what God's Word says.

Jesus is Alive



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, white paper, scissors, glue, cotton wool.

PREPARE

Cut paper into a variety of cloud shapes.

DO

Children glue cotton wool onto cloud shapes. Display in classroom.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, Jesus talked to his friends. He promised to be with them always and help them tell the good news about Him. Then Jesus went up into the sky. A cloud covered Him up. Jesus went back to heaven.
- Hold open Bible. The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever!'" What does this verse tell us about Jesus? (He will always be alive.)
- Jesus' friends were glad to know the good news that Jesus is alive.
- Let's thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

Bible Verse Option Music Centre

COLLECT

Bible, rhythm instruments such as tambourines, drums, triangles, bells, shakers, etc.

DO

Lead children to say the words of today's verse as they play instruments or clap hands. (Optional: Sing the words of the unit verse "How good it is to sing praises to our God" to the tune of "Skip To My Lou".)

TALK ABOUT

- Our Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever!'" We can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.
- Musa, what other instruments can we play when we sing praise and thanks to God?
- One reason to be thankful that Jesus is alive is because He loves us. Lionel, who are some people Jesus loves? You're right! He loves us all.
- Let's thank God together for the good news that Jesus is alive. Lead children in a brief prayer.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.
10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, photo of friends.

BIBLE VERSE

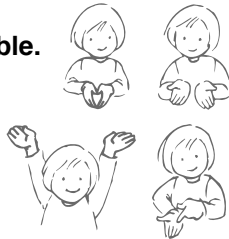
Lead children in saying this finger play and doing the suggested actions. Repeat finger play several times.
I'm thankful for the good news that Jesus is alive.

This is God's Word, the Bible.

Open its pages wide.

**"Jesus said, 'I am alive
for ever and ever!'"**

That's what I read inside.



PRAYER

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, thank You for the good news that Jesus is alive. We are glad to know that Jesus is alive and that He is always with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Jesus is Alive

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-9

INTRODUCTION

Show photo of friends. **These are some good friends of mine. Where do you think we are in this picture? Volunteers answer. Listen to find out what happened when Jesus and His friends were together on a hilltop.**

EXCITED AND HAPPY

"It's true! It's really true!" Jesus' friends said to each other. "We have seen Jesus. He is not dead! He is alive!" These friends were very excited and very happy!

Suddenly while they were talking, Jesus was in the room with them - just like that! His friends were SO surprised that they did not know what to say!

"Don't be afraid," said Jesus. "It's Me." His friends must have smiled. They weren't frightened any more. Jesus was with them again! "Don't you remember?" Jesus asked. "I told you that I would die but that I would live again."

WALKING AND TALKING

After that, Jesus was with His friends many times. He taught His friends things God wanted them to know. Jesus' friends were happy that Jesus was with them again. But soon it was time for Jesus to go back to heaven.

One day Jesus and His friends walked out into the country. He said to them, "I want you to go and tell everyone about Me. Tell them what you have seen and teach them all the things I have told you. And remember, I am always with you!" Jesus wanted His

friends to know that He would always help them tell others the good news about Him.

HIGHER AND HIGHER

Then something amazing happened. Jesus began to go up, up, up from the ground. Jesus rose into the sky! Then as His friends watched, a cloud covered Jesus and they couldn't see Him any more. They must have looked at each other, very surprised! But Jesus had told them many times that He would go back to heaven. They were happy because they knew Jesus was still alive, even though they couldn't SEE Him. And they knew they would see Him again someday!

The friends walked back to Jerusalem. They went into the Temple. And what do you suppose they did? They sang praises to God! They prayed and talked about God! They worshipped God and were happy because they knew the good news that Jesus is alive. And they knew He would ALWAYS be with them, even though they couldn't see Him.

CONCLUSION

Jesus' friends were glad that Jesus is alive and that He would always be with them. We're glad to know the good news that Jesus is alive, too. We can thank God for this news. Our Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever!'"



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Picture on a String

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 17* and 30cm length of string for yourself and each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, hole punch, tape.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever!'"** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Move your Jesus figure to show Jesus talking with His friends. What did Jesus tell them?**
- **How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they heard Jesus say He would always be with them and help them tell the good news about Him?**
- **Move your Jesus figure to show what happened to Jesus. Read verse with children. We're glad and thankful to know that Jesus is alive and will always be with us.**
- **Let's thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

Life Focus

I'm glad God loves me.

Who?

Paul, Paul's helpers, Ananias.

What?

God showed His love to Paul by showing Paul that Jesus is God's Son and by sending Ananias to help Paul. (Acts 9: 1-20)

When & Where?

On the road from Jerusalem to Damascus, during the time when believers were being persecuted for believing in Jesus.

Why?

To help children know that God shows His love for them in many ways.

Bible Verse

"God's love for us is great."
(1 John 3:1)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

1 TELL how God showed love to Paul;

2 IDENTIFY ways God shows love to him or her

3 SING about God's love.

Teaching Tip

The beginning of a session may be a time when you consistently find it difficult to gain children's attention. Whether all children arrive at once or straggle in at a variety of times, beginning with the Bible Learning Activity Time allows you to quickly involve children in a fresh and interesting activity.

Paul Meets Jesus



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks.

DO

Children build a road wide enough to walk on. With one child keeping eyes closed, pairs of children take turns leading each other on the road.

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible story today is about a man named Paul. God loved Paul and helped Paul learn that Jesus is God's Son.**
- **One day when Paul was walking on a road, Paul saw a bright light. He heard the voice of Jesus. Then Paul believed that Jesus is God's Son. Because of the bright light, Paul could not see. Let's pretend we're Paul's friends and help him walk down the road.**
- Refer 1 John 3:1 in your Bible. **Our Bible says, "God's love for us is great." God showed His love for Paul, and God shows His love for us.**
- **Pray, Thank You, God, for showing Your love to us every day.**

Bible Verse Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, scrap paper, scissors, grocery items (empty boxes or lightweight items), grocery bags.

PREPARE

Cut scrap paper into rectangles for money. (Optional: use toy money.)

DO

Children place grocery items on table or floor to make a grocery store. Children take turns pretending to buy and sell grocery items. Help children recognise ways God shows love to them.

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible says, "God's love for us is great." I'm glad God loves us by helping us have good food to eat. Let's pretend we are at the shops to buy food.**
- *Jared*, what would you like to buy? What do you like to eat?
- **How does God help us have good food to eat?** (God made fruit trees and sends rain and sun to help the trees grow.) **God gives us good food because He loves us.**
- **Let's thank God for His love.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, torch.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to 1 John 3:1. **The Bible says, "God's love for us is great."** Repeat Bible verse leading children to clap when they say the word "love." Repeat Bible verse several times, clapping on a different word each time.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for loving us. We love You, too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Paul Meets Jesus

Acts 9:1-20

(Note: To lessen the confusion for children, the name Paul [instead of Saul] is used throughout the lesson.)

INTRODUCTION

Turn on torch. **What are some other things that make bright lights?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear what happened when a man saw a very bright light.**

PAUL IS ANGRY

The Bible tells us that many people loved Jesus. But one man, whose name was Paul, did not love Jesus. Paul didn't want anyone to love Jesus! In fact he hated people who loved Jesus so much that he put them in jail.

Paul heard that in a faraway city called Damascus many people loved Jesus. He wanted to stop them from talking to Jesus.

"If I find people in Damascus who love Jesus," Paul said, "I'll put them in jail, too." So Paul and his helpers started on the long trip to Damascus.

PAUL MEETS JESUS

Finally, Paul and his helpers were getting near Damascus. Suddenly, a very bright light shone. Paul couldn't see! He was so surprised that he fell down!

Then he heard a voice ask, "Paul, why are you trying to hurt Me?"

Paul said, "Who are You, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, the One you are trying to hurt. Now get up and go into the city. You will find out what to do there."

Paul got up from the ground. He was blind - he couldn't see anything! But he was ready to obey. Because he could not see, Paul's friends had to lead him to the city. For three days Paul did not eat or drink anything. He prayed.

ANANIAS OBEYS

A man named Ananias lived in this city. He loved Jesus very much. While Ananias was praying, Jesus

said to him, "I want you to go and pray for a man. Paul is his name."
Ananias said, "But this man is hurting Your friends!"
Jesus said, "Yes. But I have chosen him to tell many people about Me. Now go to him."

Ananias may still have been a little afraid. After all, Paul had come to put people who love Jesus in jail! But Ananias obeyed Jesus. Soon he found the place where Paul was. He went inside and gently touched Paul. Ananias said, "Brother Paul, Jesus sent me to help you." And then Paul could see again! More than that, now Paul loved Jesus! Paul began to tell people all over the city that Jesus is God's Son.

CONCLUSION

God showed His love to Paul by helping Paul believe in Jesus and by sending Ananias to pray for Paul. God loves us, too. Our Bible says, "God's love for us is great."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Walk Along the Path

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 18* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors; optional: glitter pens.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God's love for us is great."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed. (Optional: Child colours light with glitter pens.)

TALK ABOUT

- **Why was Paul going to Damascus? Move the figure of Paul to show what Paul saw on the road.**
- **Who did God send to help Paul? Move the figure of Ananias to show what he did.**
- **What does God give us to show His love for us?**
- **We can talk and sing about God's love for us. Thank God for His love.**

SONG IDEA

Sing the words of the Bible verse to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" or make up your own tune.

God's love for us is great.

God's love for us is great.

God's love for us, oh,

God's love for us is great.

Life Focus

I'm glad God loves me.

Who?

Paul, religious leaders, Paul's friends, Barnabas.

What?

God showed His love for Paul by helping Paul escape in a basket down the wall of Damascus. (Acts 9:20-28)

When & Where?

In the city of Damascus, during the time when the believers were being persecuted for believing in Jesus.

Why?

To help children know that when they are afraid, God is with them and loves them.

Bible Verse

"In God I trust; I will not be afraid." Psalm 56:4

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 DEMONSTRATE the way Paul's friends helped him to be safe;
- 2 NAME times children may feel afraid;
- 3 THANK God for His loving care.

Teaching Tip

The transition between Bible Learning Activity Time to Bible Story Time can be difficult. Select a simple song to sing. When children hear the song they know they must pack up and sit on the story mat. Use the same song to establish routine. Or use a hand puppet to call the children together.

Paul Escapes In a Basket



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, large basket, beanbags.

DO

Place baskets on the floor. Children stand near the basket and take turns tossing beanbags into the basket. Encourage children to attempt tossing the beanbags from different places.

TALK ABOUT

- Today in our Bible story, a man named Paul escaped from some angry men. Paul climbed into a big basket and his friends lowered him down a high wall.
- How do you think Paul felt when these men were angry with him? God gave friends to Paul to help him escape.
- Open your Bible. The Bible says, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid." When we trust in God, it means we remember that He is with us and loves us.
- Sometimes we might feel afraid or worried. We can remember that God loves us.

Bible Story Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, a variety of baskets.

DO

Children fill baskets with blocks and carry them to another place in the room. Children stack blocks to make walls.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, some people wanted to hurt Paul. But Paul's friends helped Paul escape from the angry people. Paul climbed into a basket and his friends lowered the basket down a wall. Then Paul was safe from the angry people.
- Paul must have felt very afraid when the angry people wanted to hurt him. But God loved and helped Paul. God loves and helps us, too.
- One way God shows love to us when we're afraid is by giving us people who help us and care for us.
- Pray, Thank You, God, for loving us and helping us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, basket.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Psalm 56:4. **The Bible says, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid."** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, cupping hands around mouth as speaking into a megaphone. **I'm glad that when I'm afraid, I can remember the good news that God is always with me and loves me.**

PRAYER

When are times some children your age might feel afraid? Volunteers respond. **Dear God, sometimes we might feel afraid. Thank You for loving us when we're afraid. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Paul Escapes In a Basket

Acts 9:20-28

(Note: To lessen the confusion for children, the name Paul [instead of Saul] is used throughout this lesson.)

INTRODUCTION

Show basket. **What is the biggest thing we could fit in this basket?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear about a basket so big that a man fitted in it.**

SURPRISED PEOPLE

After Paul learned that Jesus is God's Son, he didn't want to hurt the people in God's family any more. He wanted to tell everyone that Jesus is God's Son and that Jesus is alive. The people in Damascus, the city where Paul was staying, were very surprised to hear Paul talking about Jesus.

ANGRY MEN

Some of the men who heard Paul talking about Jesus were not happy that Paul was telling people about Jesus! These men were angry. They decided, "We must stop Paul!"

The men decided to watch the gates of the city. They knew Paul would have to come out one of the city gates. They wanted to catch Paul before he left Damascus. But God loved Paul and had a very unusual way for Paul to escape the city!

HELPFUL FRIENDS

One night when the sky was dark, some of Paul's new friends took him to a where there was an opening in the wall of the city. Paul looked through that opening. It was a long, long way down to the ground on the other side of the wall. That was why Paul's friends had brought a very big basket and a rope. They would need a long rope to get Paul out of Damascus!

Paul climbed into the basket. His friends tied the long rope tightly around the basket. They held on to the rope and carefully began to lower the basket down the outside of the city wall. The basket began to drop

down, down, down. It swung from side to side as it went down. Paul must have felt a little frightened. But Paul knew that God loved him and would take care of him.

Soon there was a THUMP! The basket was on the ground. Paul climbed out of the basket. He was safe

NEW FRIENDS

Paul was glad to be out of Damascus and out of that basket! He went to Jerusalem. Some of Jesus' friends in Jerusalem thought that Paul might want to hurt them. They were afraid to be Paul's friend. But one man, Barnabas, became Paul's friend. He told everyone that in Damascus Paul had learned to love Jesus. Barnabas told them that Paul was Jesus' friend now. Paul didn't want to hurt them any more!

Finally, Jesus' friends in Jerusalem became Paul's friends, too. Paul must have been very glad that God had helped him escape from Damascus.

CONCLUSION

God showed Paul how much He loved him. When Paul might have felt afraid about the angry men who wanted to hurt him, God gave Paul good friends to help him. When we feel afraid, God loves us, too. We can trust in God. Our Bible says, "In God I trust, I will not be afraid."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Basket on a String

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 19* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, 20cm length of string for each child, tape.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Why did some people want to hurt Paul?**
- **God showed His love for Paul by giving him friends to help him. What did the friends do?**
- **Move the basket on your page to show how Paul escaped from the city of Damascus. How would you have felt if you were Paul in this basket?**
- **When we're afraid we can remember that God is with us. God loves and helps us.**
- *Thami*, **when might you feel afraid? When you hear a big dog bark, remember that God loves. God gives you a mom and dad to help you when you feel afraid.**

Life Focus

I'm glad God loves me.

Who?

Peter, Dorcas, Dorcas's friends.

What?

Dorcas made clothes for windows and when she died, God loved and helped her by bringing her back to life when Peter prayed for her. (Acts 9:32-43)

When & Where?

In the city of Joppa, when Peter was travelling from city to city to visit believers in Jesus.

Why?

To help children know that God loves and helps them.

Bible Verse

"God will help you."
1 Chronicles 12:18.

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what Dorcas and Peter did to show God's love and help to others;
- 2 NAME ways Gods helps him or her;
- 3 REPEAT a Bible verse about God's help.

Teaching Tip

During Bible Story Time, children sometimes lose interest in the group activity. Keep children involved by using the prayers and interactive ways of repeating the Bible verse and storytelling. In addition, limit group size to 24, and make sure teachers sit among children to redirect distracted children.

Peter Helps Dorcas



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, a variety of dress-up clothing. Optional: camera.

DO

Children take turns wearing dress-up clothing. (Optional: Take pictures of children wearing clothing. A cellphone camera will work well.)

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible story today is about a woman named Dorcas. Dorcas showed God's love and help to others. Dorcas made clothes for people who needed them.**
- **Dorcas was glad to show God's love and help to others. God loves and helps us, too. God gives us people who show His love and help to us.**
- **Kelly, who shows God's love to you? What does your dad do to help you?**
- **Refer to your Bible. Our Bible says, "God will help you." Thank You, God, for helping us.**

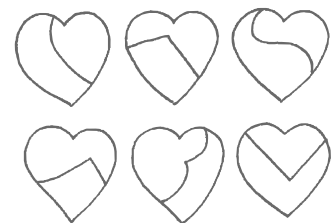
Bible Verse Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, paper or light card, khoki or pen, scissors.

PREPARE

Cut six to eight heart shapes, each approximately 15cm in size, from paper. Cut each shape into two puzzle pieces.



DO

Children take turns putting heart puzzles together.

TALK ABOUT

- **Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 12:18. The Bible says, "God will help you." This verse reminds us of God's love and help. Let's put together these heart puzzles and talk about some ways that God loves and helps us.**
- **One way God loves and helps us is by giving us people who care for us. Mandla, who cares for you? God loves and helps you by giving you a granny and aunt.**
- **Another way God loves and helps us is by hearing our prayers. Pray, Thank You, God, for Your love and help.**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, item of clothing.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Chronicles 12:18. **Our Bible says, "God will help you." Each time we say the word "you" point to someone in our class.** Repeat verse with children several times. **God helps each one of us and I'm glad.**

PRAYER

Dear God, we are glad that You love us. We are glad that You help us. Thank You for Your love and help. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Peter Helps Dorcas

Acts 9:32-43

INTRODUCTION

Show item of clothing. **Who might wear this clothing?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear how a woman who made clothes showed God's love and help.**

DORCAS HELPS OTHERS

There once was a woman whose name was Dorcas. People knew her and loved her because she was always showing God's love and help to others. Dorcas worked hard sewing clothes for many, many people who needed them. And she always helped poor people.

DORCAS DIES

But one day, Dorcas became very sick. Soon after, Dorcas died. Dorcas's friends loved Dorcas very much! They were very sad. But then someone had an idea! "One of Jesus' friends named Peter is teaching about Jesus in a town near here," one of them must have said. "Let's ask him to come."

So right away, two men hurried to get Peter. When the men got to where Peter was, they said, "Peter! Come quickly!" Peter hurried back to their town with them. As they walked the two men told Peter what had happened.

When he got to the house where Dorcas's body was, Peter went right upstairs. There were many people in the room. They were crying. They missed Dorcas! These people showed Peter the clothes Dorcas had made for them while she was still alive. Peter saw that everyone loved her. Peter wanted to show God's love and help to these people and to Dorcas. Peter kindly said, "Please leave the room."

PETER PRAYS

When everyone had gone, Peter got down on his knees and prayed to God. After he had prayed, he turned to the dead woman's body. He said, "Dorcas, get up!"

Dorcas opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up. God had answered Peter's prayer by making Dorcas alive again! Peter took her gently by the hand and helped her stand on her feet. Then Peter opened the door. He called down the stairs to Dorcas's friends, "You may come back in the room now."

PEOPLE ARE HAPPY

Can you imagine how excited those people were? They must have been laughing and singing and praising God! Dorcas was alive! They knew she'd been dead. And now, there she was standing and smiling at them. They were all so happy that God had made Dorcas alive again!

CONCLUSION

God loved and helped Dorcas by bringing her back to life when Peter prayed for her. God loves and helps us, too. Our Bible says, "God will help you."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Folded Story

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 20* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God will help you."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What does our Bible say God will do?** Repeat "God will help you" with children.
- Show page with flaps closed. Play a simple guessing game. **Guess which flap shows a picture of how Dorcas showed God's love and help.** When volunteers guess, open the flaps until the correct picture is revealed. Close flaps and continue with other picture descriptions.
- **What did Peter do to show God's love and help?** (He prayed for Dorcas.)
- **God helps us by giving us people who care for us. Jane, who cares for you?**
- **God helps us by giving us good food to eat. Thandi, what food do you like to eat?**

TEACHING TIPS

Before class, pre-fold and open flaps. In class, children will find it easier to re-fold the flaps.

Life Focus

I'm glad God loves me.

Who?

Peter, Peter's friends, angel, Rhoda the servant girl.

What?

God loved Peter and sent an angel to help Peter escape from jail. (Acts 12:1-18)

When & Where?

In Jerusalem, during the time when King Herod was arresting and killing Jesus' followers.

Why?

To help children know that God is with them and loves them wherever they are.

Bible Verse

"God is with you wherever you go." (See Joshua 1:9.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what God did to show His love for Peter when Peter was in jail;
.....
- 2 NAME places he or she goes;
.....
- 3 PRAY and SING thanks to God for His love.
.....

Teaching Tip

Young children complete lesson activities at various rates. Some add a few marks to their *Activity Pages* and announce "Done." Others spend considerable time carefully colouring the page. As much as possible, let children participate in activities at their own pace, with at least one other activity for the early finisher.

Peter Escapes From Prison



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible; optional - Bible-times costumes.

DO

Help each child choose a Bible story character to be: Peter, soldiers, angel, Peter's friends and Rhoda. Briefly tell the story, guiding children to act out the story. Children knock on wall or table at appropriate time.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story, God showed love to Peter. Even though Peter had done nothing wrong, he was in jail. God helped Peter escape. Soldiers guarded Peter, but an angel came and let Peter out of the jail. Peter went to his friend's house and knocked on the door. When a girl called Rhoda, came to the door, she was so excited that she left the door closed and ran to tell Peter's friends.
- God was with Peter when Peter was in jail. God is with us wherever we go, too.
- Refer to your Bible. Our Bible says, "God is with you wherever you go." *Vusi* where is some place you go? God is with you when you go to preschool.

Bible Verse Option Block Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks; optional - paper and crayons.

DO

Children use blocks to outline roads. Optional: children draw places they go on paper and place them along the road.

TALK ABOUT

- Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9. Our Bible says, "God is with you wherever you go." Let's make some roads and talk about places we go.
- When you leave our church today, where will you go? God is with you and loves you at your house.
- Even though we can't see God, we know He is with us and loves us. God loves us all the time.
- Let's thank God that He is always with us and that He loves us. Lead children in a brief prayer.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible.

BIBLE VERSE

Lead children in saying this finger play and doing the suggested actions. Repeat finger play several times.
God is with each one of us. And I'm glad!

This is God's Word, the Bible.



Open its pages wide.



"God has sent his Son to be the



Saviour of the world"

Is what I read inside.



PRAYER

Dear God, we're glad that You are always with us. Thank You for being with us when we are at (volunteers name places). Thank You for loving us. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Peter Escapes From Prison

Acts 12:1-18

INTRODUCTION

Knock on a door, wall, or table. **When a friend comes to your house and knocks on your door, what do you usually do?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear what happened when a man knocked on the door of his friend's house.**

TROUBLE IN JERUSALEM

After Jesus died and rose again, more and more people believed that Jesus is God's Son. But that made some people in Jerusalem very unhappy. They wanted to stop Jesus' friends from telling others about Jesus. Soon Jesus' friends were being put in jail, even though they had done nothing wrong.

One day Jesus' friend Peter was put in jail, because he kept teaching people about Jesus. Peter's friends were very sad, so they started praying. They prayed that God would help Peter.

PETER'S ESCAPES FROM JAIL

One night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers in the jail. He had chains around his arms and legs. Suddenly, Peter's jail cell was bright with light. God had sent an angel to help Peter!

The angel woke Peter. "Quickly - get up!" the angel said.

Peter looked down. The chains around him fell off. The angel told Peter to get dressed. Peter quickly put on his clothes and shoes and followed the angel. The gates to the jail opened. The guards were asleep, so they didn't stop Peter and the angel.

When the last big iron gate opened up, Peter must have thought he was dreaming! Suddenly, the angel was gone. Peter said, "Now I know God had sent that angel to come and rescue me!"

FRIENDS IN A HOUSE

Peter went to his friends house where many of his friends were. He couldn't wait to tell them that God had helped him.

Peter knocked at the door. A servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Before she opened the door she asked, "Who is it?"

"It's ME!" said Peter. Rhoda was so excited, she left Peter outside and ran right back to tell the people who were praying.

"Peter is at the door!" she shouted. Everyone looked up at her in surprise. They thought Rhoda had made a mistake. They were sure that Peter was still in jail.

All this time Peter was still knocking at the door! Finally his friends opened the door. They were so happy to see Peter! Peter told them all about the angel, the gates that opened, the guards that didn't stop him - everything!

Peter's friends were so amazed. They were so happy that Peter was free from jail.

CONCLUSION

God had been with Peter, even in jail. God showed His love in a wonderful way! God promises to be with you, too. Our Bible says, "God is with you everywhere you go."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Folded Story

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 21* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God is with you everywhere you go."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Even though Peter did nothing wrong, he was put in jail. Open the prison doors to see Peter in jail.**
- **God was with Peter in jail. Mike, where is a place that you go with your family? God is with you wherever you go.**
- **We can say "Thank You, God, for always being with us."** Lead children to say that thank-you prayer with you.

Life Focus

I'm glad God loves me.

Who?

Paul, Barnabas, lame man, crowd of people.

What?

Paul and Barnabas showed love to a lame man and told others about God's love. (Acts 14:8-20)

When & Where?

In a Roman town of Lystra while Paul was travelling on his first missionary journey.

Why?

To help children know that they can show God's love to others.

Bible Verse

"Jesus said, 'Love each other as I have loved you.'" (See John 15:12.

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what Paul and Barnabas did to show God's love;
- 2 IDENTIFY words and actions that show God's love;
- 3 ASK God's help in showing love to others.

Teaching Tip

At the end of each session, the coming and going of children, teachers and parents may be chaotic. To lesson the confusion, plan with all teachers who will be responsible for children, who will ensure children take their belongings, and who will greet parents.

Paul Helps a Lame Man



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, chalk.

PREPARE

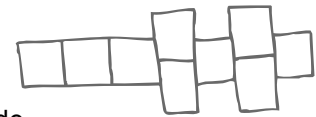
Draw a hopscotch path on a paved area outside.

DO

Demonstrate jumping with both feet and then one foot. Give children time to practise both actions. Then children hop on the Hopscotch path.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, a man was lame. He couldn't use his feet like you can. When Paul and Barnabas saw the man, they showed God's love to him. God helped the man walk again.
- Isaac, show us how God made your legs and feet strong enough to hop and jump. God loves you! And you can show God's love to others. Waiting your turn to hop on the path is a way to show God's love.
- Refer to your Bible. Our Bible tells us, "Jesus said, Love each other as I have love you."



Bible Verse Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, toy people, toy trucks and cars, small boxes.

DO

Children build houses and roads with blocks. Children act out moving day activities, packing blocks in the boxes.

TALK ABOUT

- Open Bible to John 15: 12. The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, Love each other as I have loved you." Jesus loves us and we can show His love to others
- *Nomvula*, what are the people in your house doing to get ready for moving day? How could they show love to each other?
- Pray, Thank You, God, for loving us. Please help us show love to others.
- My friend shows God's love by making *vetkoek* for me. *Byron*, who is one of your friends? How can you show God's love to him? What can you say?



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to John 15:12. **The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'Love each other as I have loved you.'" Repeat Bible verse with children several times, clapping together on capitalised syllables: "LOVE each OTH-er as I have loved YOU." I'm glad Jesus loves me. And I'm glad to show His love to other people.**

PRAYER

Invite volunteers to name people to whom they wish to show God's love. Lead children in prayer, asking God's help in showing His love to others, mentioning the names suggested by children.

Paul Helps a Lame Man

Acts 14:8-20

INTRODUCTION

Ask children to jump up and down. **What are some other things you like to do with your legs and feet?** (Run. Ride scooter.) **Listen to hear to what happened to a man whose feet did not work.**

TWO TRAVELLING FRIENDS

Paul and his friend Barnabas travelled together. They walked to many different cities and told people in each city about Jesus. They helped people who were sick. Many, many people believed that Jesus is God's Son.

A LAME MAN

One day Paul and Barnabas came to a city called Lystra. They began telling the people there about Jesus. "Jesus is God's Son," they said. "Jesus helps people." They told the people that God loves everyone. As Paul talked, he looked at one man in the crowd. This man had never walked in his life. The man was lame. Being lame means that the man's feet didn't work properly. He couldn't run, jump, skip, or even walk.

A SURPRISED MAN

But the man was listening very carefully to everything Paul said. And Paul could see that the man believed in Jesus. And the lame man believed that God could make his feet well and strong.

So Paul said to the man, "Stand up on your feet!"

The man must have been surprised. Everyone must have been surprised! But suddenly the lame man jumped up on his feet! He began to walk around. His feet were well.

AN EXCITED CROWD

The man was so happy he probably began walking all around! When the people in the crowd saw the man

walking around, they got very excited. They began to shout to each other. The people didn't understand that God had helped the lame man. They thought Paul and Barnabas had made the man's feet well again.

Of course, that wasn't true! Paul and Barnabas were just people like everyone else. Paul and Barnabas rushed into the crowd to tell them the truth. They wanted everyone to know that it was God who made the lame man's feet strong and well.

Paul said, "We are only men, just like you! We came here to bring good news about God. He made everything. He cares for you and gives you good things." Paul and Barnabas wanted people to understand that God loves everyone.

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

CONCLUSION

Paul and Barnabas knew how much God loved them. They were glad to help others learn about God's love. We can show God's love to others, too. Our Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'Love each other as I have loved you.'"



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Booklet

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 22* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Jesus said, 'Love each other as I have loved you.'" Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.**

TALK ABOUT

- Show page 1 and point to Paul and Barnabas. **Paul and Barnabas knew God loved them. They wanted to show God's love to others.**
- Open book to show pages 2 and 3. **Who did Paul and Barnabas show God's love to?** (The lame man.) **What happened to the lame man?**
- Show page 4. **What did Paul say to the crowd about God?**
- **We know that God loves us. We can show God's love to others. What is something kind you can do to show God's love?** (Take turns. Share toys. Tidy up.) **What is something kind you can say?** ("Thank you." "Please." Say "Jesus loves you.")

Life Focus

Learning about God's love.

Who?

Baby Moses, Miriam, Moses' mother, Egyptian princess.

What?

God gave Moses a family to care for him. (Exodus 2:1-10)

When & Where?

While God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt.

Why?

To help children thank God for caring for them by giving people to love them.

Bible Verse

"God cares about you."
(See 1 Peter 5:7.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 IDENTIFY ways people cared for baby Moses;
.....
- 2 NAME people God has given to care for him or her and describe their caring actions;
.....
- 3 THANK God for His care and for the people who love him or her.
.....

Teaching Tip

When talking about families, be sensitive to those children who don't live in a traditional family with a mom and dad. Refer to family members as "people who take care of us" or "the people we live with." Accept each child, regardless of their home environment.

Baby in a Basket



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, baby dolls, doll clothing, blankets, bottles.

DO

Guide children to act out the ways Moses' family cared for him. Suggest children feed, rock and dress baby dolls.

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible story today is about a baby named Moses. God gave him a family who took care of him. What do you think they did to take care of baby Moses?**
- **What do you think Moses' family did when he was hungry? When he was tired? When he was cold?**
- **God gives us people who are for us. Who are the people who care for you? How does your granny show she cares for you?**
- Refer to your open Bible. **Our Bible says, "God cares about you."**

Bible Verse Option Art Centre

COLLECT

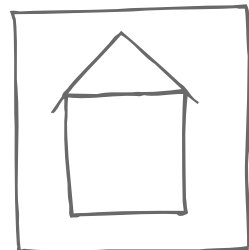
Bible, paper, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

PREPARE

Draw a sample house.

DO

Children draw a simple house outline on their paper. Children draw people and objects in their houses.



TALK ABOUT

- Show your Bible open to 1 Peter 5:7. **"God cares about you" is what our Bible says. One way that God cares for you is by giving you a house to live in and people to care for you.**
- **Who are the people God made in your family?**
- **What are some of the things your mom does to take care of you? Your big sister?**
- **Who reads you stories? Who helps you learn new things?**
- **What has your preschool teacher helped you learn?**
- Pray. **Thank You, God, for loving Mark. Thank You for making his family.**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, basket.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to 1 Peter 5:7. **“God cares about you,” our Bible tells us. Each time we say the word “you,” point to someone in our room.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times. **God cares about each one of us. And I’m glad!**

PRAYER

God cares for us. He gives us people to help us. Let’s thank God for caring for each one of us. Invite teachers and children to repeat after you: **Dear God, ... thank you for giving people...who love us...and help us...Thank you for loving us...We love You...In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Baby in a Basket

Exodus 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Show basket. **If this was your basket, what would you put in it?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear what a mother put into her basket.**

OUR NEW BABY

“Our new baby is here!” Big sister Miriam was very happy about her new baby brother! Each day Miriam and her family helped take care of him. They rocked the baby. They patted him when he went to sleep. Baby Moses’ family loved him! But not everyone was happy that this baby had been born. The king of that land wanted to hurt many babies. He sent his soldiers to find the babies and take them away. But God gave THIS baby’s mother an idea!. She thought of a way to keep her baby safe.

THE BABY IS HIDDEN

“I’ll make a basket just the right size for my baby,” Mother said. “I’ll fill in every little hole in the basket, so water can’t get in. Then the basket will float. I’ll put some warm blankets inside it.” Mother got the basket all ready. Then she laid her baby in the basket, very gently. She and Miriam carried the basket to the river and put it into the water.

“Miriam, watch our baby in the basket,” Mother said. So Miriam hid in the bushes by the river. She watched and waited.

THE BABY IS FOUND

While Miriam was watching, she heard some women walking down to the river. Miriam peeked through the grass to see who they were. It was the PRINCESS - the king’s daughter - and her servants! *Would they see the basket?*

“What’s that basket doing in the water?” one servant asked.

“Bring it to me,” the princess said.

Miriam must have held her breath! She watched as the princess opened the basket. Then the baby cried. The princess felt sorry for the little baby.

THE BABY IS CARED FOR

Quickly Miriam came from her hiding place. She ran to the princess. “Would you like me to find someone to take care of this baby for you?” she asked.

“Yes!” answered the princess. “This baby will need someone to take care of him.” So Miriam ran. And who do you think she brought back to the princess? Her own mother! The princess PAID Moses’ mother to take care of her own baby! The family was VERY glad to have their baby back home again. The princess names the baby Moses. She made sure the king’s soldiers did not hurt him. The baby was safe!

CONCLUSION

God planned for baby Moses’ family - and the princess - to keep Moses safe. God gives people to love and take care of you, too. It’s one way God shows how much He cares for us. Our Bible says, “God cares about you”.



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Stand-Up Figures

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 23* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, “God cares about you.”** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Why did Moses’ mother make a special basket?**
- **How did Moses’ sister help care for her baby brother? Who else took care of him? How?**
- **God gave people to care for baby Moses. God gives the people you live with to care for you.**
- **Who cares for you at home or at school? How?**
- **We can say “Thank You, God, for my family.”** Pray a thank-you prayer with children.

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Children find on the *Activity Page* as many items as they can that begin with the sound of the letter *B* (bushes, basket, baby, bird).

Life Focus

Learning about God's love.

Who?

Moses, Egyptian king (Pharaoh), God's people.

What?

Moses led God's people out of Egypt and God showed them where to travel with a pillar of fire at night and a cloud during the day. (Exodus 12:31-38; 13:20-22)

When & Where?

When the Israelites escaped from slavery in Egypt and began their journey to the Promised Land.

Why?

To help children recall God's promise to care for them wherever they go.

Bible Verse

"God said, 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.'" (See Genesis 28:15.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 DESCRIBE two ways God guided His people on their trip;
- 2 NAME places he or she goes;
- 3 TELL ways in which God cares for him or her wherever he or she goes.

Teaching Tip

Try provide two Bible Learning Activities for children to choose from. Even young children prefer to make their own choices, and they will learn more from an activity they have chosen.

Escape From Egypt

.....



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, various household and clothing items (washcloth, slippers, comb, toothpaste, shirt, jersey, dress, hat, etc.), suitcase.

PREPARE

Clear an open area in your classroom. Place the household and clothing items on one side of the open area. Place suitcase on the other side.

DO

Children line up next to household and clothing items. One at a time, each child takes one item across the room and packs it in the suitcase. Repeat game as time and interest permits, packing and unpacking the suitcase.

TALK ABOUT

- **When have you gone on a trip? What did you pack in your suitcase? Today our Bible story tells us about a time when God's people had to pack for a long trip. They knew God would keep His promise to be with them.**
- **Hold open Bible. In the Bible we read, "God said, 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.'"**
- **No matter where God's people went, God cared for them. Where are some places you travel to? I'm glad that God is always with us, no matter where we go.**

Bible Verse Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, cardboard circle or paper plate; optional - chairs.

PREPARE

Seat children in two rows as if on a bus. If using chairs, place chairs in rows.

DO

Children pretend to ride in a bus to different locations: shop, church, park, church, library, etc. Children take turns using circle as a steering wheel.

TALK ABOUT

- **Where have you gone on a trip? How did you get there?**
- **God is with us wherever we go. God promises in the Bible, "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." God loves and takes care of us wherever we go.**
- **God gives us people to help us when we travel. Who has gone on a trip with their granny? with an aunt or uncle?**
- **Pray, Thank You, God, for caring for us wherever we go.**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, torch or candle.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Genesis 28:15. **God has made a promise to us . We can read it here in the Bible. "God said, 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.'" Repeat verse several times. Then divide group in half. After everyone says, "God said," invite one side to say "I am with you." Then invite the other side to say "and will watch over you." Repeat several times, alternating which group begins, until children are familiar with the activity.**

PRAYER

Invite children to complete this prayer by naming places they go. **Dear God, thank You for being with us and caring for us at...**

Escape From Egypt

Exodus 12:31-38; 13:20-22

INTRODUCTION

Show torch or candle. **When have you used a torch (candle)?** Volunteers answer. **Torches can help us see where to go. Listen to hear two ways God helped His people find the way to go on a long trip.**

A NASTY KING

"Work, work, WORK!" the nasty king told God's people. "Faster, faster, FASTER!" the king's soldiers said. God's people were having trouble. The nasty king made them work harder and harder every day. God's people were very sad!

GOD SENDS MOSES

But God loved His people. He knew how sad they felt. He had a special plan to help them. He told His plan to a man named Moses. "Moses," God said, "I want you to lead my people away from the nasty king. I want you to lead them to a new home." At first Moses did not want to be the leader. He didn't think he could do a good job. But God told Moses, "I will be with you." Then Moses told God's people about God's plan.

THE PEOPLE LEAVE

The people must have been very excited! "We're going on a trip! We're going away from this nasty king!" they may have said. "Let's get ready!"

Mothers cooked special food to take on the trip. Grannies and grandpas tied clothes and blankets into big bundles. Boys and girls filled water bags. Fathers got the goats, sheep, cows and donkeys ready.

Soon it was time to start on the long trip. The people came running - ready to follow Moses.

Moses told the people, "God will take care of us. God will show us the way to go." Boys and girls, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers walked down the road. Step, step, step. The goats, sheep, cows and donkeys came along, too. Everyone walked along, following Moses. It must have looked like a big parade!

GOD LEADS THE PEOPLE

There weren't any roads where God's people went. There were no street signs or road maps to show them the way. But they had God to show them the way! During the day God put a huge white cloud in the sky to lead the people. The cloud made shade in the desert. God's people followed it wherever it went. At night God put a blazing cloud of fire in the sky to show the way. It gave the people light in the dark night.

When the people saw the white cloud or the blazing fire in the sky, they knew God was taking care of them. And they were glad!

CONCLUSION

God showed that He was with His people and caring for them on their long trip. God is with us and cares for us, too, no matter where we go. In the Bible we read God's promise: "God said, "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.""



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Story Scenes

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 24* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God said, 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.'" Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.**

TALK ABOUT

- **Why were God's people glad to leave Egypt? Who did Moses say would show the way to a new land?**
- **What did God put in the sky to lead His people?**
- **God's people were travelling in the desert. Where are some of the places you go? God is with you there.**
- **When have you stayed away from home overnight? God is with you and cares for you wherever you are.**

Life Focus

Learning about God's love.

Who?

Moses, Egyptian army, God's people.

What?

Moses and God's people thanked God for rescuing them from the Egyptian army when He made a dry path through the sea. (Exodus 14, 15:20)

When & Where?

While the Israelites were on their journey to the Promised Land.

Why?

To help children thank God for His care and for keeping them safe.

Bible Verse

"I thank and praise you, O God." Daniel 2:23

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL that God kept His people safe by making a path through the sea;
- 2 NAME ways God cares for him or her and keeps him or her safe;
- 3 THANK God for His care and for keeping him or her safe.

Teaching Tip

If you have time for two Bible Learning Activities, but are the only Preschool teacher, lead children in each activity, one after the other. Or choose one activity that you will lead, but also set out supplies for another activity that requires minimal teacher help (puzzles, toys, etc.).

A Path Through the Sea



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blue fabric or large sheet of blue paper.

DO

Hold fabric or paper with another child. As children walk between the two of you, lower and raise the fabric or paper sea for each child to pass through. Children line up at one end of the room. Secretly choose a child. One at a time children skip up to the sea and back to the line. When the chosen child reaches the sea, raise the fabric or paper; all the children run through the sea to the other side of the room. Repeat activity until each child has been chosen.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, God kept His people safe while they were travelling to live in a new land. Once, God made a dry path through a big sea of water so that the people could escape from a nasty king's army.
- God's people thanked God for keeping them safe. Who has God given to help you stay safe? Our Bible says, "I thank and praise you, O God."
- Pray, Thank You God, for keeping us safe.

Bible Verse Option Music Centre

COLLECT

Bible, rhythm instruments (tambourine, bells, triangle, shakers, *ibhit*), magazines or newspapers, scissors.

PREPARE

Cut out magazine or newspaper pictures of items that are reminders of God's care (food, people, houses, water, etc.).

DO

Lead children in repeating the words of the Bible verse while one or two volunteers play rhythm instruments. Show pictures. Children identify things in the pictures for which to thank God and say, "I thank and praise You, O God, for *apples*." Repeat until each child has had a turn.

TALK ABOUT

- When we praise God, it means we talk about how great and wonderful God is. Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about a time God kept His people safe. God's people said thank-You to God. Our Bible says, "I thank and praise you, O God."
- Pray, Thank You, God, for Your care.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, drinking straw, shallow pan with small amount of water.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Daniel 2:23. **God loves and cares for us. We can thank Him for His love.** Ask children to repeat "I thank and praise you, O God" with you several times, each time saying the words in a different way (quietly, loudly, whispering, mouthing, etc.).

PRAYER

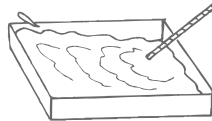
If you'd like to thank God for a person He gives to keep you safe, you may stand up. When I touch your shoulder, you may thank God by saying "Thank You, God, for my mommy." Lead volunteers in praying. End the prayer time by saying, **We are glad You give us people to keep us safe. Thank You, God, for Your care, Amen.**

A Path Through the Sea

Exodus 14, 15:20

INTRODUCTION

Show straw and pan of water. Gently blow through straw to make waves in the water. **When have you seen the sea or a lake? If there were waves what did they look like?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear how God used wind to keep His people safe when they were at a big sea of water.**



STOPPING AT THE SEA

God's people were travelling to the new land God had promised to give them. They were going away from the king who had been so nasty to them. They must have been very happy!

The people kept walking until they came to a sea. There was lots and lots of water. God told them, "Camp here by the sea." And that's just what the people did. They put up their tents and settled down for the night.

CHASED BY SOLDIERS

It was quiet. Then they heard a sound, far away. And the sound was coming CLOSER! It was the sound of soldiers and horses, rumbling like thunder. The people were afraid!

"Moses," they said, "why did you bring us out here?" The people were sure that the nasty king's army was going to get them and take them back! But Moses said, "Don't be afraid. God will take care of us. He has told me what to do."

CROSSING THE SEA

Moses walked to the edge of the sea. All the people were watching him. Moses raised his hand out over

the water, and the people heard ANOTHER sound! It was the sound of a big wind! Whoooo! Whoooo! God sent a BIG wind. It blew harder and harder, until the water moved back out of the way!

Soon there was a dry place to walk, right there where the water had been! God's people began to walk across, leading their sheep and donkeys and camels. The water was standing up like a wall on either side of them! They walked and walked until EVERY ONE of God's people walked through that wide sea, and they were all safe.

SAFE AND THANKFUL

Then God told Moses the next thing to do. Moses held out his hand again and the wind stopped. The walls of water fell down with a HUGE SPLASH! The path was GONE. And the nasty king and all his soldiers were stopped! God's people didn't have to worry any more about them coming!

The people were so happy! They sang and clapped their hands. Moses made up a new song for them to sing. It was a special song to thank God for keeping them safe. They sang, "The Lord is my God and I will praise Him!" God loved His people. He made a path through the sea to keep them safe.

CONCLUSION

God showed how much he loved His people by keeping them safe. God's people were so glad that they thanked God by singing a special song. We can thank God, too. Our Bible says, "I thank and praise you, O God"



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Puzzle

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 25* for each child (you may consider copying onto card for this activity), wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "I thank and praise you, O God." We can thank God for caring for us and for helping us stay safe.** Pray a thank-you prayer with children. Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **How did God show that He cared for Moses and the people?**
- *Debbie*, who are the people God gives to help keep you safe?
- **We can thank God for His care and for keeping us safe. Our Bible says, "I thank and praise you, O God"**

Life Focus

Learning about God's love.

Who?

Moses, God's people.

What?

God gave food and water to His people while they were travelling in the desert. (Exodus 15:22-25; 16)

When & Where?

While the Israelites were travelling to the Promised Land.

Why?

To help children thank God for showing His care for them by giving them food and water and other things they need.

Bible Verse

"Lord, you are good to us." (See Psalm 86:5.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL that God gave food and water to His people;
- 2 NAME ways God gives food and water to him or her;
- 3 SAY the words of Psalm 86:5 to thank God for giving food and water.

Teaching Tip

An important ingredient of an effective Bible Learning Activity is the teacher who talks about the child's activity and connects it to the lesson's Scriptural truth. Without this important link, an activity may hold a child's interest, but the truth being taught won't become a part of the child's understanding.

A Desert Surprise

.....



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, white scrap paper; optional - several baskets.

PREPARE

Tear white paper into small pieces, making at least three pieces for each child. Hide pieces in classroom or outside.

DO

Children hunt for the pretend manna. Briefly tell Bible story. (Optional: Children put manna in baskets.) Repeat activity several times, hiding manna while children cover their eyes.

TALK ABOUT

- **Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about a time God's people were very hungry. God gave them a special food called manna. Manna was like thin, flaky bread.**
- **God gave His people food to eat and water to drink because He cared for them. God cares for us, too.**
- **What is your favourite kind of food to eat? God loves you so much He is glad to give you the food you need.**
- Hold open Bible. **The Bible says, "Lord you are good to us." Thank You, God, for giving us food and water.**

Bible Story Option Snack Centre

COLLECT

Bible, honey, bread, cups and water.

DO

Children take turns spreading honey onto the bread. Teacher then cuts bread into triangles. Children eat snack and drink water.

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible story today is about a time when God gave His people food and water in the desert. The food God gave His people was called manna. Manna was like small bits of flaky bread. Today we're eating a snack to remind us of the food God gives.**
- **When have you been very thirsty? We can thank God for giving us food to eat and water to drink.**
- **Our Bible says, "Lord, you are good to us." "Lord" is another name for God. God is good to give us food and water. What are some other good things God gives us? (Friends. Family. Pets).**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, jug of water, cup.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Psalm 86:5. **The Bible says, "Lord, you are good to us." The word "Lord" is another name for God. We can say these words as a prayer to God, telling how good and great God is.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, leading them to clap on the words "Lord, "good" and "us."

PRAYER

If you can think of some ways that God is good to us, put your hand on your shoulder. As volunteers tell their responses say, **Lord you are good to us because You give us people to look after us.** As you repeat the words encourage children to repeat them with you.

A Desert Surprise

Exodus 15: 22-25; 16

INTRODUCTION

Pour water into cup. **What do you feel like doing when you are very hot?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear how God showed love to His people when they were hot and thirsty.**

A HOT DESERT

God's people were walking to their new land. To get there, they had to walk through a desert. Now a desert is VERY hot and VERY dry. It is mostly sand and rocks. "We're hot," God's people complained to Moses. "We're thirsty!" The sun got hotter and HOTTER. There isn't much water in a desert. It had been three days since the people had filled their water bags. And all their water was just about gone.

Then someone shouted, "Look! WATER!" The people hurried to the edge of the cool water. They took big drinks - but then they stopped. "This water tastes BAD!" the people complained. "Moses, what are we going to do?" the people asked.

GOOD WATER

Moses knew God loved His people, so Moses asked God what to do. God showed Moses a special piece of wood. He told Moses to throw the wood into the water. And Moses did! Slowly, someone leaned over and took a sip of water. "It tastes GOOD!" the people shouted. Everyone drank and drank!. They splashed their faces and filled their water bags.

The people were happy to have good water! BUT their food was almost gone! And there was NOTHING to eat out in the desert! "NOW what will we do, Moses?" they asked. "We're hungry!" they grumbled. The people even wished they were back with the nasty

king! God heard them grumble. And Moses talked to God again. God told Moses how He would feed these grumpy people.

GOD GIVES FOOD

That night, God sent many, many birds called quail to the camping place. Now there was plenty of meat for everyone! But that wasn't all! The next morning when the people came outside, the ground was covered with little white flakes. The people bent over and picked up the little flakes. "What is it?" the people asked each other.

"This is the bread that God has sent," Moses said. The people tasted it. "It tastes good," the people said. In fact, it was VERY good! It was sweet and tasted like honey biscuits! The people called it manna. They knew God was taking care of them! He had shown them His love by giving them all the food and water they needed.

CONCLUSION

God took care of His people by giving them food and water in the desert. God loves and cares for us, too, by giving us the food and water we need. God is so good!



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Follow the Path

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 26* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Lord, you are good to us."** "Lord" is another name for God. **God is so good to give us food and water.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did God tell Moses to do so that the water would taste good? When we are thirsty, how does God give us water?** (Rain falls into lakes and rivers.)
- *Mpho*, **move your figures to show how God's people picked up manna to eat. God is good to give us food to eat. Our Bible says, "Lord, you are good to us."**
- *Thando*, **what are some foods you like to eat for breakfast? God is good to give you porridge to eat.**

TEACHING TIPS

Explain, **God made trees and plants to grow. We enjoy eating the fruits and vegetables that grow on them. God cares for us by giving us people who grow and cook our food.**

Life Focus

Learning to love and obey God.

Who?

Hannah and Elkanah, Eli the priest, Samuel.

What?

Hannah asked God for a baby and her prayer was answered when Samuel was born. (1 Samuel 1; 2:18,19)

When & Where?

When the Israelites were living in the Promised Land, toward the end of the time period when they were ruled by judges (Samuel was the last judge).

Why?

To help children know that praying to God is a way to show love for Him.

Bible Verse

“I love the Lord.” Psalm 116:1

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL that Hannah loved God and prayed to Him;
- 2 DESCRIBE situations in which children may talk to God;
- 3 PRAY, expressing love to God.

Teaching Tip

To help young children fold on a line, fold the page before class, and open it up again. Children can then easily fold on the line. Or, using a dry ballpoint pen and a ruler, score the line so it will fold easily. Allow children the satisfaction of completing the task themselves.

Hannah's Prayer



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, white sheet of paper for each child, 5cm paper squares, crayons, glue; optional - 5cm fabric squares.

PREPARE

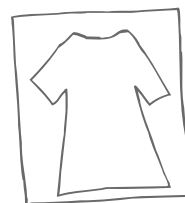
Draw a coat outline on each child's paper.

DO

Children make collages of Samuel's coat by gluing squares to coat. As children work, briefly tell Bible story.

TALK ABOUT

- The Bible tells about a woman named Hannah who asked God to send her a baby boy. God did! Hannah named the baby Samuel. When Samuel grew up, he lived at the Tabernacle - the place where God's people came to pray to Him. Every year Hannah made a coat for Samuel to wear. Today we're going to make coats.
- Hannah prayed to God because she loved Him. We pray to God to show our love for Him, too.
- Our Bible says, "I love the Lord." The word "Lord" is another name for God. I love God because of the ways He helps us. Let's tell God how much we love Him. Briefly pray with children.



Bible Verse Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks; optional - toy cars.

DO

Children use blocks to outline a road. Children walk on the road, pretending to go to church. (Optional: Children play with toy cars on the road.)

TALK ABOUT

- Refer to open Bible. The Bible says, "I love the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. When we come to our church, we can talk to God. We can tell Him that we love Him.
- Today we'll learn about a man and woman who went to the Tabernacle. They went to pray and learn about God. The Tabernacle was like a church. What do you like to do when you come to church?
- Let's build a road to church. How did you get to church today?
- I like to talk to God when I go to church. When are some other times we can talk to God?



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, item of baby clothing.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Psalm 116:1. **Our Bible says, "I love the Lord." When we say those words, we are telling God how much we love Him. Let's say those words together.** Repeat verse with children several times, clapping hands in a different way each time (in front, to the side, over head etc.).

PRAYER

Let's pray to tell God that we love Him. Pray with children. **Dear God, we love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Hannah's Prayer

1 Samuel 1; 2:18,19

INTRODUCTION

Show an item of baby clothing. **Who wears something like this?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear what a woman named Hannah did when she wanted a baby.**

HANNAH IS SAD

Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, loved God. And they loved each other. But Hannah was very sad. She had no children. Hannah wanted a baby!

Every year, Hannah and Elkanah went to a very special place. This special place was called the Tabernacle. At the Tabernacle, Hannah and Elkanah joined many people in singing and praying to thank God for the good things He had given them.

HANNAH'S PRAYER

One year Hannah and Elkanah came again to sing and pray at the Tabernacle. But Hannah was thinking again about how much she wanted a baby. She was very sad. She got up and went to the Tabernacle to pray.

She prayed, "Lord, see how sad I feel! If You will give me a baby boy, I promise I will bring him back to the Tabernacle to be Your helper."

A man named Eli, who led the people in praying and singing, saw Hannah praying. Eli asked God to answer Hannah's prayer. Now Hannah felt much better! She knew God would answer her prayer. The next morning Hannah and Elkanah packed up and went home. And do you know what? Soon Hannah found that she was going to have a BABY! She was so happy! She sewed clothes for the baby. She got everything ready for her baby. And then the baby was born! Hannah named him Samuel.

SAMUEL'S COAT

Baby Samuel grew and Hannah loved him. She took such good care of her baby boy! But she hadn't

forgotten her promise to God. She told Elkanah, "When the boy is old enough, I will take him to the Tabernacle to be God's helper."

Finally, the day came when Samuel was big enough. He was ready now to go to the Tabernacle. Hannah, Elkanah and Samuel went to the Tabernacle. Samuel stayed there with Eli to learn to be God's helper just as his mother Hannah had promised.

Every year Samuel's mother made a special new coat for him. And every year she had to make a bigger and bigger coat! Do you know why? Because Samuel GREW, just like you do. And as he grew a little taller and a little stronger, Samuel also grew to love God!

CONCLUSION

When we love God, we want to talk to Him just like Hannah prayed to God. Every day we can pray to God. We can tell Him that we love Him and thank Him for the good things He gives us. Our Bible says, "I love the Lord."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Folded Surprise

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 27* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "I love the Lord." Because we love God, we can pray to Him and tell Him how much we love Him.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed. (See the Teaching Tip for ideas on folding lines.)

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Hannah do at the Tabernacle?** Show Scene 1. **Hannah loved God and she prayed to Him. What did Hannah ask God for?**
- **Mandla, fold your page to show how happy Hannah was when baby Samuel was born.** Fold page to show Hannah holding Samuel in Scene 2.
- **Hannah loved God. Samuel grew to love God, too. The Bible says, "I love the Lord." Because we love God, we can pray to Him and tell Him how much we love Him.**
- **When I pray to God, I thank Him for my friends. What is something you want to thank God for?**

Life Focus

Learning to love and obey God.

Who?

Eli the priest, Samuel.

What?

Samuel obeyed God by learning to be a helper in the Tabernacle. (1 Samuel 1:28;2:11,18-21,26)

When & Where?

When the Israelites were living in the Promised Land, toward the end of the time period when they were ruled by judges (Samuel was the last judge).

Why?

To help children know that helping and obeying is a way to show love for God.

Bible Verse

“Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord.” (See Colossians 3:23.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 DESCRIBE ways Samuel helped in the Tabernacle;
.....
- 2 TELL ways children may be helpers;
.....
- 3 HELP others in the classroom.
.....

Teaching Tip

In order for you children to truly learn, they must hear the same message over and over again. With irregular attendance, it is important that the entire Sunday School session is planned to accomplish a single set of learning goals.

Helping at the Tabernacle



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible.

DO

Children line up at one side of the classroom. Say this story poem, pausing between lines for first child in line to run to other side of the room, demonstrate the action you described and then run to the back of the line. Repeat several times.

- Samuel, Samuel, carry wood.
- Samuel, Samuel, stir the food.
- Samuel, Samuel, polish candlesticks.
- Samuel, Samuel, light their wicks.
- Samuel, Samuel, sweep the floor.
- Samuel, Samuel, open the door.

TALK ABOUT

- Samuel was a helper at the Tabernacle. People came to the Tabernacle to learn about God and pray to Him. Which of his jobs would you have liked to have done?
- Hold your open Bible. The Bible says, “Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord.” When we do our best work and help others, we show our love for the Lord.
- What are some of the jobs you do to help others? How do you help your daddy? The people in our class?

Bible Verse Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, brooms, brushes and dustpans, dishpan or bucket with small amount of water, cloths for washing and cloths for drying.

DO

Children follow your example to clean furniture and floors in the classroom. Talk about ways children are being helpers.

TALK ABOUT

- Cleaning our room is a way to help. Let’s be helpers and wash our furniture. *Jabu* is sweeping the floor. *Jabu* is a helper.
- Hold open Bible. “Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord” is what the Bible says. We can be helpers to show our love for the Lord.
- Pray, Thank You, God, for all these helpers. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, cloth and an item to polish.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Colossians 3:23. **The Bible tells us, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord."**

Ask children to repeat the verse with you several times, pointing to a different person in the class each time they say the words "you" and "your."

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to do our very best work. We want to do our best work because we love You. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Helping at the Tabernacle

1 Samuel 1:28; 2:11,18-27; 26

INTRODUCTION

Polish item with cloth. **When we polish something, what happens to it?** (It gets shiny. It gets bright.)

Listen to hear who in the Bible story polished something and find out what else he did to be a helper.

SAMUEL AND ELI

Eli was the leader of the people. He lived and worked in the Tabernacle, a special place to worship God.

"Samuel, Samuel," Eli called. "Samuel, it's time to get up. We have lots of work to do here at the Tabernacle."

Samuel sat up and stretched. Then he jumped out of bed. Quickly he put on the coat his mother made for him. Then he ran to breakfast. When Samuel sat down, Eli prayed, thanking God for their food.

SAMUEL HELPS

After breakfast, Samuel began his important work of helping Eli at the Tabernacle. Sometimes Eli would say, "Today it's time to polish the tall candlesticks. The big bowl needs to be filled with water. And you can help carry firewood to the storeroom."

Samuel obeyed and did what Eli had told him to do. He rubbed and rubbed the candlesticks. He rubbed them until they were shiny bright.

Very carefully Samuel poured water into the big bowl. And then Samuel probably helped Eli carry some firewood into the storeroom. Samuel might have swept the floors, too.

When everything at the Tabernacle was ready Samuel did another important job. He opened the doors to the Tabernacle. Once the doors were open, many people came inside the Tabernacle.

They came to thank God and sing glad songs to Him and tell Him they loved Him. When the people went home, it was Samuel's job to close the door.

SAMUEL GROWS

All the people who came to the Tabernacle year after year watched Samuel grow. God was glad to see Samuel learning to help Eli at the Tabernacle! Samuel must have listened quietly while Eli read from the big Bible scrolls.

Samuel learned from God's Word how to do his best work just like you do!

CONCLUSION

Samuel obeyed God by learning to be a helper in the Tabernacle. We can be helpers, too. We can do our best work to show how much we love the Lord. Our Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Booklet

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 28* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page.

Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Samuel do to help Eli take care of the Tabernacle? What do you think Samuel did first each morning?**
- **Which of Samuel's jobs do you think was fun to do?**
- **It's time for people to come inside the Tabernacle. What is Samuel's job? Samuel did his best work.**
- **What will Samuel do to keep the candlesticks shiny?**
- **Samuel helped at the Tabernacle. How can we help at our church?**

TEACHING TIPS

The Talk About questions above may not appear important to you, but this is what links the child's activity to the child's life. Hands-on activity is the young child's most effective way to learn. Young children are not yet able to play with ideas; young children must play with actual objects. Therefore, in order to teach children Scripture in a way that reaches into their hearts and minds, we must provide active play experiences. More than making a cute craft and more than learning story facts, Christian education happens when a child's activity is connected through conversation to Bible truths.

Life Focus

Learning to love and obey God.

Who?

Samuel, Eli the priest.

What?

Samuel showed His love for the Lord by listening to and obeying His words. (1 Samuel 3)

When & Where?

When the Israelites were living in the Promised Land, toward the end of the time period when they were ruled by judges (Samuel was the last judge).

Why?

To help children show love for God by listening to His Word and obeying Him.

Bible Verse

“Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” (See Joshua 3:9.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what Samuel did to listen and obey;
- 2 IDENTIFY times children his or her age can listen to God’s Word;
- 3 LISTEN to God’s Word and tell one way to obey Him.

Teaching Tip

Providing both small and large group activities in each session benefits children. They will tire less easily when they are given a change of activity, and doing something new is likely to spark their interest.

Samuel Listens and Obeys



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Game Centre

DO

Children sit in a circle on the floor to play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose. A volunteer walks around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each child on the head. After walking around the circle at least once, child says “Samuel, Samuel” while tapping one child on the head. “Samuel” jumps up and runs to the centre of the circle while volunteer runs around the circle back to Samuel’s place. Repeat game as time permits.

TALK ABOUT

- What do we have to listen for in this game?
- Today in our Bible story, we’ll hear about a boy named Samuel. One night while Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone call his name three times. It was the Lord talking to Samuel. Samuel listened to the Lord and obeyed His words. “Lord” is another name for God.
- The Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” When are some times you can listen to God’s words in the Bible? (When I hear a Bible story.)

Bible Story Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, one or more sleeping bags or small blankets.

DO

Children act out getting ready for bed (eating supper, brushing teeth, reading a book and saying a prayer). Guide children to take turns lying down on sleeping bag or blanket. While child is pretending to be asleep, call out “Samuel, Samuel.” When child jumps up, say “Lie down again, Samuel, and listen to the Lord.”

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, a boy named Samuel was asleep in his bed. He heard someone calling his name. It was the Lord! Samuel listened to the Lord and obeyed what He said to do.
- Our Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” When do you hear stories from the Bible? At home? At church? Who reads or tells you Bible stories?
- Listening to God’s Word and obeying Him are ways I show that I love God. Pray briefly, thanking God for the Bible and asking for His help to obey.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.
10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, small pillow.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Joshua 3:9. **The Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.”** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, leading them to make actions for the words “come” (beckon with hand) and “listen” (cup hand behind ear).

PRAYER

Invite a volunteer to hold your Bible while you pray, **Thank You, God, for Your words that we can read in our Bibles. Help us listen to your words and obey them. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Samuel Listens and Obeys

1 Samuel 3

INTRODUCTION

Show small pillow. **When do you like to lay your head on a pillow?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear what happened when a boy named Samuel went to sleep and how he listened and obeyed.**

A BUSY DAY

Every day Samuel was busy learning and helping Eli at the Tabernacle. Samuel worked with Eli to get the Tabernacle ready for the big crowds of people who came there to worship God. One day at bedtime Samuel was very TIRED! Samuel closed the big Tabernacle doors and went to bed. Samuel lay down and closed his eyes.

THE VOICE

As Samuel was just about to go to sleep, something strange happened. Someone called his name! “Samuel, Samuel!” a voice called. Samuel sat up in his bed.

Maybe Eli is calling me, Samuel thought to himself. He jumped up and ran pitter-pat, pitter-pat to where Eli slept. “Here I am, Eli. What do you want?” Samuel asked.

Eli opened his eyes. He looked surprised “I did not call you,” Eli said. “Go back to bed, Samuel.”

So Samuel went back to bed. Everything was quiet. But THEN He heard the voice again! “Samuel, Samuel!” Again Samuel ran to Eli. “Here I am, Eli. I heard you calling me.” “No Samuel,” Eli said. “I did not call you. Go back to bed.”

So Samuel obeyed and went back to bed. Again, everything was quiet until Samuel heard the SAME voice! “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel ran to Eli’s room.

“Here I am. You called me, Eli.” Eli thought a minute. Suddenly, Eli knew! *GOD was calling Samuel.*

SAMUEL OBEYS

Eli told Samuel, “Go lie down again. And if you hear someone calling your name, say ‘Speak to me, Lord. I am listening.’”

Samuel obeyed Eli and went back to bed. And it wasn’t long before he heard that voice again.

“Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel knew just what to do. He lay very quietly and said just what Eli told him to say. “Speak to me, Lord. I am listening.”

And something WONDERFUL happened. The Lord spoke to Samuel! God told Samuel how to obey him. Samuel listened carefully to everything God told him. Samuel learned a special lesson that night: it’s always important to listen and to obey God’s Word!

CONCLUSION

Samuel showed his love for the Lord by listening to and obeying His words. We can show that we love the Lord, too. We can listen to God’s Word in the Bible. We can obey God. Our Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.”



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Story Squares

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 29* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” We can listen to the word of the Lord by hearing and listening to Bible stories.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Where was Samuel when he was listening to God? What did Samuel say to God?**
- **Our Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” Where might you be when you hear words or stories that are God’s words from the Bible?**
- **When we love God, we want to listen to His words in the Bible and obey Him. Pray, Dear God, we love You. Help us listen to Your words in the Bible and obey You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

GRADE 0 CHALLENGE

Children retell the story of Samuel. Write children’s words on paper or chalkboard. Read the story aloud; children turn their story squares to show the appropriate pictures.

Life Focus

Learning to love and obey God.

Who?

Samuel the last judge; Jesse; Jesse's seven oldest sons; Jesse's eighth and youngest son, David.

What?

Samuel obeyed God when he chose David to be the new king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

When & Where?

While Israel was ruled by its first king, Saul, who had disobeyed God.

Why?

To help children obey God and do what's right to show their love for Him.

Bible Verse

"We must obey God."
Acts 5:29

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 IDENTIFY the ways Samuel obeyed God;
.....
- 2 REPEAT a Bible verse that tells him or her to obey God;
.....
- 3 ASK God to help him or her obey God and do what is right.
.....

Teaching Tip

A necessary ingredient for a child's learning is adequate time. You'll notice that up to half of the session is planned for Bible Learning Activities. This time provides a setting for children to develop Christian ways of behaving towards others. They need repeated opportunities to share, take turns and show kindness.

Samuel Obeys God



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, blue and green paper, toy people, cotton wool balls.

DO

Children build a house for Jesse and arrange blue and green paper to represent water and grass. Children use cotton wool balls for sheep and use toy people and sheep to act out this lesson's Bible story.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, Samuel is grown-up. He went to visit Jesse. Jesse had many sheep. Jesse's sons took care of their family's sheep. Where can you put the water and grass? Where will you put the sheep?
- When Samuel talked to Jesse, God told Samuel that Jesse's son David was to be the new king. Samuel obeyed God by choosing David as the king.
- Point to Acts 5:29 in your Bible. Our Bible says, "We must obey God." Samuel loved and obeyed God. We can obey God, too, when we do what's right.
- What right action can you do when you play with your friends? (Take turns. Let friends choose what to play.)

Bible Verse Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, four carpet squares or hand towels.

DO

Make a path of carpet squares or towels, placing them about 15 to 20cm apart. As children jump from one carpet square or towel to the next, they say the words of Acts 5:29 aloud.



TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible, we read the words "We must obey God." When we love God, we want to obey Him.
- Today we're talking about ways to obey God. Taking turns is a way to obey God and do what is right. Thank you, Jessica, for waiting until it's your turn to jump on the towels.
- When are some other times kids your age can take turns?
- Let's ask God to help us obey Him. Pray, Dear God, we love You. Please help us to obey You and do what's right.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, bottle of olive or vegetable oil.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Acts 5:29. **The Bible says, "We must obey God."** Repeat verse several times with children, inviting them to echo each word in a whisper.

Who must obey God? (We must. Everyone must.)

Why do we want to obey God and do what's right? (Because we love God. We know He loves us and knows what is best for us.)

PRAYER

Let's ask God to help us obey Him. Invite teachers and children to repeat each phrase after you. Pray, **Dear God, we want to obey You. Help us to remember to obey and to do good things. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Samuel Obeys God

1 Samuel 16:1-13

INTRODUCTION

Show bottle of oil. Place a small amount of oil on the back of each child's hand. Child rubs oil into skin. **In Bible times, people used oil in many different ways. It was used as medicine and to cook with. Listen to our Bible story to hear how Samuel used oil in a special way and obeyed God.**

GOD INSTRUCTS SAMUEL

Samuel was grown-up now. God had made him a leader.

One day God said to Samuel "My people need a new king. I want you to show who the new king will be."

"I'll do what You say," Samuel answered.

"Take a little animal horn full of olive oil and go to the town of Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse," God told Samuel. "I have chosen one of Jesse's sons to be the king. When you talk to Jesse, I will show you whom I have chosen."

SAMUEL GOES TO BETHLEHEM

Step, step, step. Samuel obeyed God and went to Bethlehem. He talked to Jesse and looked at Jesse's seven sons. First Samuel noticed Eliab, the oldest son. Eliab was tall and strong. *Surely this is the one God wants to be king,* thought Samuel.

"No," God said, "he is not the one." God told Samuel, "You can only see how he looks on the outside. But I have chosen a man who loves Me and will obey Me. That doesn't always show on the outside."

Then Samuel looked at the next son, Abinadab (uh-BIHN-uh-dab). *Surely this is the one God wants to be king,* Samuel thought. But God said, "No, he is not the one." One after another Jesse's sons walked by.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven of them went by. Each time God said, "No, he is not the one."

Samuel thought for a moment. Then he asked Jesse, "Do you have any *more* sons?"

"Yes," Jesse answered, "I have one more son. David, my youngest son, is out in the hills taking care of the sheep."

DAVID IS CHOSEN KING

"Tell David to come here to me," Samuel said. Soon David walked in. His cheeks were rosy and his eyes sparkled. But there was something about David that only God knew. God knew that David loved Him. So God said to Samuel, "This is the one I have chosen to be king." David was not the tallest or the strongest. He was the youngest and he loved God.

So Samuel took out the little animal horn filled with olive oil. He poured the oil on David's head to show that David was special and had been chosen by God to be king.

CONCLUSION

Samuel loved God. Because he loved God, he obeyed Him. We can show our love for God by obeying Him, too. The Bible says, "We must obey God."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Slide-a-Strip

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 30* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page.

Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "We must obey God."**

Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- Insert the strip into your *Activity Page* so that the first son shows. **Samuel looked at Jesse's oldest son. But God said...**Pause for children to join you in saying, "**No, he is not the one.**" Repeat for each of the sons.
- **What did Samuel ask Jesse? What did God tell Samuel when he saw David?**
- **How did Samuel obey God?**
- **Our Bible says, "We must obey God." One way to obey God is to be kind to our friends. How can you obey God and be kind to a friend? To your mom and dad?**
- **What are some other right actions we can do to show that we love and obey God?**

Life Focus

Good News: Jesus is born.

Who?

Mary, angel, Joseph, innkeeper, Jesus.

What?

After the angel's announcement, Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. (Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-7)

When & Where?

In the cities of Nazareth and Bethlehem when Herod the Great ruled Palestine.

Why?

To help children be glad that God's Son, Jesus, was born.

Bible Verse

"God's Son is born for us." (See Isaiah 9:6.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL events from the story of Jesus' birth;
- 2 PARTICIPATE in an activity to express gladness that Jesus was born;
- 3 THANK God for Jesus.

Teaching Tip

We teach best what we know ourselves. Henrietta Mears asked, "Are you proving that the Christian life is a joyful happy thing? Make the Christian life contagious." To experience each lesson personally, read the Scripture passage (from your Bible, not this book) early in the week. As you meditate on its truth, you will teach children out of your own deep contagious knowing.

Baby Jesus



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Block Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, dolls; optional - straw or raffia, baby blankets.

DO

Children use blocks to build manger(s) and lay dolls inside. (Optional: Children place straw or raffia in manger and wrap dolls in baby blankets.)

TALK ABOUT

- **The Bible story today tells that baby Jesus slept in a manger. A manger is a wooden box in which food for animals is put. Let's build mangers.**
- *Paul and Tristan*, I see you are building a manger together. **Jesus' first bed was a manger. What kind of beds did you sleep in when you were babies?**
- Open Bible to Isaiah 9:6. **The Bible says, "God's Son is born for us." God's Son is Jesus. Mary and Joseph were glad when Jesus was born. We're glad Jesus was born!**
- *Dora*, what are some things we do at Christmas time to show we're glad Jesus was born?
- Pray, **Thank You, God, for Jesus.**

Bible Verse Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, large sheet of paper or roll of brown paper, khaki, a variety of collage materials (star stickers, paper shapes, buttons, etc.), glue, green crayons.

PREPARE

On sheet of paper, draw the outline of a large Christmas tree.

DO

Children colour tree with green crayons and glue on collage materials to decorate it..

TALK ABOUT

- Point to Isaiah 9:6 in your Bible. **The Bible says, "God's Son is born for us." God's Son is Jesus. We can be glad that God sent Jesus to be born.**
- **At Christmas time, some people make beautiful decorations to hang on their walls and doors. We make decorations because we are glad Jesus was born. Today we are decorating a picture of a Christmas tree.**
- *Jaco*, what are some other decorations people use at Christmas time? *Themba*, what are some decorations your family puts up at Christmas time to celebrate Jesus' birthday.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, baby blanket.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Isaiah 9:6. **The Bible says, "God's Son is born for us." Let's show how glad we are that Jesus was born by clapping as we say this verse.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, guiding children to clap as each word is said.

PRAYER

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, we're glad Jesus was born. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.** (Optional: Volunteers pray individually by saying "Thank You for Jesus.")

Baby Jesus

Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION

Show baby blanket. **What do people use blankets for? What other kinds of things do people use to care for babies?** Volunteers share ideas. **Listen to find out what Mary and Joseph did to care for baby Jesus.**

SEEING AN ANGEL

One day a young woman named Mary was all alone. Suddenly an angel was right in front of her! Mary had never seen an angel before!

"Do not be afraid, Mary," the angel said. "God loves you very much. You will be the mother of a special baby boy. Name the baby Jesus. This baby will grow up to be very great, for He will be God's special Son."

The angel also came to Joseph, the man Mary was going to marry. "Joseph," the angel said, "the baby that Mary will have will be very special. Name the baby Jesus." Then the angel was gone.

The next months were very busy. Mary and Joseph got ready for the baby the angel had promised.

TRAVELLING TO BETHLEHEM

One day when it was almost time for the baby to be born, Joseph said, "We must go to Bethlehem and write our names in the king's book and pay our taxes." It was a long way to Bethlehem! But the trip was part of God's plan for the birth of this special baby, so Mary and Joseph packed their things. They started their trip with Mary probably riding on a little donkey. Clippety-clop, clippety-clop went the donkey's hooves as it moved along. Joseph walked alongside the donkey. All day long they travelled. At night they stopped to rest. Finally they came to Bethlehem.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP

Oh, there were SO many people in Bethlehem! The streets were crowded with grown-ups and children, donkeys and camels. Mary and Joseph looked

everywhere for a place where travellers could stay. But the places to stay were already full of people. Finally, Joseph knocked on the door of an inn. (An inn is like a hotel.) "May we stay here tonight?" he asked the man who opened the door.

"No," said the innkeeper. "There is no room in my inn. All I have is a place in the stable with the animals. You may stay there." And that was where Mary and Joseph stayed.

HOLDING BABY JESUS

That night, God's wonderful promise came true. A very special baby boy was born! The baby was Jesus, God's Son! Mary wrapped baby Jesus in the soft cloths that she had prepared to keep Him warm. Then she gently laid Him in the manger on clean hay. Joseph stayed nearby to help Mary take care of the baby. They named the baby Jesus, just as the angel had said.

CONCLUSION

Mary and Joseph were glad Jesus was born. We are glad that Jesus was born, too! We can thank God for Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. The Bible says, "God's Son is born for us."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Colouring Page

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 31* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God's Son is born for us." We're glad that Jesus, God's Son was born.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- Read verse with children. **Who was Jesus born for? (Us).**
- **I'm glad Jesus was born.** Briefly tell children about a way you show gladness that Jesus was born. **Selo, what is something your family does to be glad and celebrate at Christmas time?**
- **Let's thank God for sending Jesus.**

TEACHING TIPS

Play a game to help children remember the Bible verse. Start with children seated on floor or on chairs. Repeat "God's Son is born for us" together with children, leading them to stand up as they say the first word and sit down as they say the second word. Continue standing and sitting until the verse is complete. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Life Focus

Good News: Jesus is born.

Who?

Shepherds, angels, Mary, Joseph, Jesus.

What?

After angels appeared to shepherds, the shepherds hurried to see Jesus and then told everyone the good news. (Luke 2:8-20)

When & Where?

In and around Bethlehem, when Herod the Great ruled Palestine.

Why?

To help children tell the good news that Jesus was born.

Bible Verse

“Good news! Today Jesus has been born.”
(See Luke 2:10-11.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL what the angels and shepherds did the night Jesus was born;
.....
- 2 THANK God for sending Jesus to be born;
.....
- 3 NAME someone to talk to about Jesus’ birth.
.....

Teaching Tip

Storytelling is a centuries-old teaching technique and helps a young child understand a sequence of ideas. To help you prepare the Bible story quickly and effectively, the section above highlights all the fundamentals of the story for you: Who? What? When and Where? Reading this will help you understand the text the first time you read it.

Shepherds at the Stable



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, paper plates, scissors, cotton wool, glue.

PREPARE

For each child, cut the centre out of a paper plate.

DO

Children glue cotton wool to paper plate rims to make sheep masks. Children hold sheep masks in front of their faces and pretend to be sheep.



TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, an angel told good news to some shepherds. The angel said that a very special baby had been born. *Khosi*, who was the baby?
- *Erika*, what kind of animals were the shepherds taking care of? When the shepherds heard the good news, they went to see baby Jesus.
- The shepherds were glad when they saw baby Jesus. After they left the manger, they thanked God for sending Jesus to be born. We can thank God, too.
- Refer to Bible open to Luke 2:10-11. The Bible says, “Good news! Today Jesus has been born.”

Bible Verse Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, A4 paper or light card, khoki, scissors, wrapping paper, glue.

PREPARE

Fold each paper in half to make a card. Make one card for each child. Write “Good news!” on the outside of each card and “Today Jesus has been born” on the inside. Cut strips of wrapping paper.

DO

Children decorate cards by gluing on wrapping paper.

TALK ABOUT

- Refer to open Bible. The Bible says, “Good news! Today Jesus has been born.” We can thank God for sending Jesus to be born.
- At Christmas time, people give each other cards to tell the good news that Jesus was born. What are some other things we do at Christmas to remember the good news that Jesus was born?
- *Korabo*, who is someone you can give your card to? What will your card help granny know about Jesus?
- Pray, Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be born.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, baby photo.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Luke 2:10-11. **The Bible says, "Good news! Today Jesus has been born." We're glad God sent Jesus to be born.** Divide class into two groups. Each group calls out one part of the verse to the other group. Group One: "Good news!" Group Two: "Today Jesus has been born." After a few repetitions, group switch tasks.

PRAYER

What do you like to do at a birthday party?

Volunteers answer. **At birthday parties, we show how glad we are that someone was born. At Christmas time, we show how glad we are that Jesus was born. Jesus' birth is good news for everyone!** Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, we are glad that Jesus was born. We love You very much. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Shepherds at the Stable

Luke 2:8-20

INTRODUCTION

Show baby photo. **Where are babies usually born?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to find out how God helped shepherds know where baby Jesus was born.**

A FEW SHEPHERDS

The night-time sky was dark. Out on a hill, there were some men sitting together. They were shepherds, and they were taking care of a flock of sheep. They may have been sitting around a little fire as they talked in quiet voices.

LOTS OF ANGELS

Suddenly, there was a bright light - a very bright light - in the night-time sky! And right before their eyes was an ANGEL! The shepherds were very frightened!

"Do not be afraid," the angel said to them. "I have good news for you and for EVERYONE! Jesus, the Saviour, is born!" The shepherds listened. The angel told them, "Tonight in the city of Bethlehem, Jesus is born. You will find the baby lying in a manger." (A manger is a box in which food is put for animals to eat.)

Before the shepherds had a chance to say anything, the sky was filled with more and more and MORE angels. The angels praised God together: "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!" The angels were thanking God for sending Jesus.

Then all the angels went back to heaven, as quickly as they had come. The sky became quiet and dark once more. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's hurry to Bethlehem. We want to see this baby the

angel told us about!" And they did! They hurried down the hillside and along the road to Bethlehem. They ran - step, step, step - until they came to the town.

ONE BABY

When they found the stable, they saw Mary, the baby's mother. And there was Joseph close by. And there in the manger was baby Jesus!

Shhhhhhhh. Oh, so quietly, the shepherds came near to see this baby who was so important that an ANGEL told about Him! They saw baby Jesus and loved Him. The good news was true!

Then the shepherds went back to their sheep. And as they went, they told the good news to everyone they saw. "Jesus is born! Jesus is born in Bethlehem!" they said.

CONCLUSION

The shepherds thanked God for sending Jesus to be born. We can thank God for sending Jesus to be born, too. We can tell others the good news that Jesus was born. The Bible says, "Good news! Today Jesus has been born."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Open the Door

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 32* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Good news! Today Jesus has been born."** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did the angel say to the shepherds?**
- **After the angel told the good news to the shepherds, what did the shepherds do?**
- **Use your page to show who the shepherds saw when they came to the stable.** Children open stable doors.
- Read verse with children. **Who is someone you can tell the good news that Jesus was born?**
- **Let's thank God that Jesus was born.** Pray briefly.

TEACHING TIPS

Assist children by placing two short lengths of tape on the edge of the table near each child so that they will be available when needed. If you have a large class, precut the pages.

Life Focus

Good News: Jesus is born.

Who?

Wise men, King Herod, angels, Joseph, Mary.

What?

After the wise men travelled to see Jesus, God protected Him from King Herod. (Matthew 2:1-15)

When & Where?

In the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, when Herod the Great ruled Palestine.

Why?

To help children thank God that He is always with them.

Bible Verse

“The Lord your God is with you.” Zephaniah 3:17

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 DESCRIBE how God led the wise men to Jesus;
- 2 NAME places God is with him or her;
- 3 THANK God for His promise to always be with him or her.

Teaching Tip

The purpose of teaching is to help children connect Bible truth to their own lives. While teaching the facts of Bible stories is very important, we must go beyond information to life application. The Why? statement above and the Bible Verse show the life-related focus of the lesson. Each activity helps you direct children’s thinking and conversation to this focus.

Escape to Egypt



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

Bible Story Option Snack Centre

COLLECT

Bible, star shaped biscuits (one or two for each child), icing in several small bowls, hundreds-and-thousands sprinkles, plastic knives, serviettes or paper plates.

DO

Children ice biscuits and add sprinkles to biscuits. Children eat biscuits.

TALK ABOUT

- In our Bible story today, God put a bright star in the sky to lead wise men from a faraway place to Jesus. God took care of them on their trip and showed them where to find Jesus.
- Hold Bible open to Zephaniah 3:17. The Bible says, “The Lord your God is with you.” God is always with us.
- Britney, where do you like to go? God is with you when you go to the shopping centre.
- I’m glad that God is with me when I travel on a taxi. Let’s thank God for His promise to always be with us.
- Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

Bible Verse Option Game Centre

COLLECT

Bible, bean bag, six to eight magazine pictures of familiar places (shopping centre, park, zoo, etc.).

PREPARE

Set magazine pictures on floor in several rows.

DO

Children take turns tossing beanbag onto pictures. Children identify locations pictured on or near where beanbag lands.



TALK ABOUT

- Open Bible to Zephaniah 3:17. Our Bible says, “The Lord your God is with you.” Even though we can’t see Him, God promises to always be with us. God loves and helps us everywhere we go. Let’s play a game to talk about some places where God is with us.
- Lebo, which one of these places would you like to go to? Who else likes to go to the park? Darren, what do you like about going to the park?
- Let’s thank God for being with us at the park. Lead children in a brief prayer.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, map.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Zephaniah 3:17. **The Bible says, “The Lord your God is with you.”** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, asking the question “Who is always with me?” before each repetition.

PRAYER

Ask children to name places they go. Then lead children in prayer, inviting volunteers to complete the prayer by naming locations. **Dear God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for being with us at ... In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-15

INTRODUCTION

Show map. Let children point to something on the map. **What do we use a map for? Listen to find out how God helped some wise men to find baby Jesus.**

SHINING

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God put a very BRIGHT star in the sky. When the wise men saw the star, the wise men knew that a great new King had been born!

“Let’s go and find this King!” the wise men said. “We’ll take gifts - gold and perfume and incense.” (Incense is a mixture of good-smelling spices.) They packed their camels and rode for many, many days. Clop, clop went the camels’ feet.

LOOKING

The wise men travelled until they came to Jerusalem. They went to King Herod’s palace. They asked King Herod, “Where is the new King that was born? We want to worship Him.”

Their question made King Herod angry! He didn’t know that a new king had been born. HE wanted to be the only king! King Herod asked his helpers where the great new King would be born. “God’s word says He will be born in Bethlehem,” they said. So King Herod told the wise men, “Find the child. Then come and tell me. I want to worship Him, too.” But King Herod was lying. He really wanted to hurt this new King!

FINDING

The wise men travelled to Bethlehem. They saw the bright star over the house where Jesus was! When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed to Him. They showed their love to Jesus by giving Him their gifts of gold, perfume and incense.

ESCAPING

The wise men probably would have gone back to tell King Herod where Jesus was, But God told the wise

men in a dream, “Do NOT go back to King Herod.” The wise men went back home on another road. And they never told King Herod where Jesus was!

After the wise men had left, an angel talked to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” the angel said. “King Herod wants to hurt Jesus. Take Mary and Jesus to Egypt.” Joseph got up while it was still night. He woke Mary. “We must hurry,” Joseph said. “An angel told me to take Jesus to Egypt.”

Mary and Joseph DID hurry. They packed a few things and picked up Jesus. They started for Egypt in the night-time, going quietly, so no one would notice them. All the way, God was with them. After many days, they were in Egypt! Joseph and Mary and Jesus were safe!

CONCLUSION

God was with the wise men. He helped them find Jesus. God was with Joseph and Mary and helped them keep Jesus safe. God promises to be with us, too, everywhere we go. Our Bible says, “The Lord your God is with you.”



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. **15 minutes.**

Activity Page Wandering Star

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 33* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, “The Lord your God is with you.” God was with the wise men and put a bright star in the sky to show them where to go.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **Move the star across the sky.** *Jordan*, why did God put this bright star in the sky?
- *Musa*, what did King Herod tell the wise men?
- **What gifts did the wise men bring to show their love for Jesus?**
- Read verse with children. *Hannah*, **God promises to always be with you. Who is someone else in our class God promises to be with? That’s right. God promises to always be with Sello.** Continue conversation until all children have been named.
- **Let’s thank God for His promise to always be with us.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

Life Focus

Good News: Jesus is born.

Who?

Mary, Joseph, Jesus crowd, teachers and leaders at the Temple.

What?

Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus as He grew up and when they journeyed to Jerusalem. (Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:41-52)

When & Where?

In Nazareth and Jerusalem, approximately 5 B.C. to A.D. 5.

Why?

To help children know that God loves them as they grow.

Bible Verse

“God’s love for me is great.”
(See Psalm 86:13.)

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 TELL ways Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus as He grew;
- 2 IDENTIFY ways God shows love and helps him or her grow;
- 3 THANK God for His love and for helping him or her to grow.

Teaching Tip

The Goals stated above give you direction for your teaching efforts. Every child may not accomplish each goal every week. However these goals will help you to assist the child to understand the central point of the Bible story, how its truth connects to their lives, and to express a personal response.

Jesus at the Temple



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

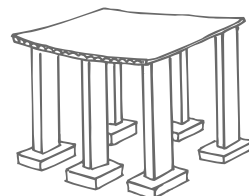
Bible Story Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, a sheet of cardboard, toy people.

DO

Children build a big building with blocks and put the cardboard on top as a roof. Children use toy people to show actions of Mary and Joseph.



TALK ABOUT

- **The Bible story today tells about the time that Mary and Joseph and Jesus went to a place like a church to pray to God. It was a big building in the city of Jerusalem. The building was called a Temple. Let’s build a big building with blocks.**
- **On their way home from the Temple, Mary and Joseph couldn’t find Jesus. They looked for him everywhere! Finally, they went back to the Temple and found Jesus there. Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus as He grew bigger and stronger.**
- **Refer to Bible open to Psalm 86:13. The Bible says, “God’s love for me is great.” God loved Jesus by giving him people to care for Him as He grew. God loves you by giving people to care for you as you grow. Who has God given to care for you as you grow?**

Bible Verse Option Dramatic Play Centre

COLLECT

Bible, dress-up clothes and items used by people of different ages (shawls, handbags, wallets, spectacles, high heels, boots, etc.).

DO

Children play with dress-up clothes and items, pretending to be people of different age groups (teenagers, grown-ups, etc.).

TALK ABOUT

- **Our Bible says, “God’s love for me is great.” God loves each one of us. God loves us when we’re babies, when we’re children and when we’re grown-ups. You can have fun today pretending you are grown-up.**
- **God shows His love for us by helping us grow bigger and stronger.**
- **Lolo, you’re wearing high heels like your mom wears. God loves and helps you now when you’re four years old. God will love and help you when you’re a grown-up, too.**
- **Let’s thank God for His love and help for us as we grow. Lead children in a brief prayer.**



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, measuring tape.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Psalm 86:13. **The Bible says, "God's love for me is great." I'm glad God loves me, and I'm glad He loves you!** Lead children to say verse with actions: *God*: point up; *love*: place hands over heart; *me*: point to yourself; *great*: spread arms wide.

PRAYER

Lead children in prayer, **Dear God, thank You for loving us and for helping us to grow. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Jesus at the Temple

Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:41-52

INTRODUCTION

Show measuring tape. Ask one or more volunteers to stand and be measured. **As you get older, you grow taller. Listen to today's Bible story to find out what Jesus did as He grew older.**

A LITTLE BOY

Joseph and Mary and Jesus were living in Egypt. Jesus kept on growing and getting bigger and bigger. Mary and Joseph took good care of Jesus. One night, God sent an angel to tell Joseph, "It's safe to take Mary and Jesus home now."

So Joseph and Mary packed their things and headed back home. They walked and walked until they came to their own town of Nazareth. There, Jesus grew and He learned. God loved Him and so did everyone else!

Joseph was a carpenter. So Jesus must have learned to use a hammer and a saw to help Joseph make things out of wood.

A BIG BOY

Every year Joseph and Mary went to a big celebration at the Temple in Jerusalem. People came from all over to pray and learn about God in the Temple. (The Temple was like a big church.) When Jesus was 12 years old, He travelled with His family to the Temple. They walked for several days. Many families walked together. EVERYONE went to Jerusalem if they could!

Finally, they were in Jerusalem! They could see the beautiful Temple shining in the sun. They must have been very excited! For about a week, many, MANY people came to the Temple. They prayed and sang glad songs to God. They listened to God's Word. They ate special meals and visited friends.

A MISSING BOY

When the week was over, Joseph and Mary, their friends and families began walking home. The roads

were FILLED with a big crowd of people walking home! Jesus was not walking with Joseph and Mary. They thought Jesus was with some of their friends. But Jesus wasn't! He wasn't with the crowd of people. They didn't know it, but Jesus was still in Jerusalem!

When everyone stopped to camp for the night, Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus. They asked everyone they saw, "Where's Jesus? Have you seen Him?" NO ONE had seen Him. Joseph and Mary began to worry. They hurried back to Jerusalem, looking everywhere, asking everyone about their lost boy!

Finally, they went all the way back to the big Temple. There was Jesus - talking with the teachers and leaders! He wasn't afraid. He knew God was with Him. Joseph and Mary must have been VERY glad to find Jesus! They took Jesus back home with them. Mary and Joseph kept taking good care of Jesus. And Jesus continued to grow, just as God had planned.

CONCLUSION

God loved Jesus as He grew. God loves us as we grow, too. God helps us grow. Our Bible says, "God's love for me is great."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Story Square

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 34* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils, scissors, tape.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page. Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "God's love for me is great." God loves me and He loves you. He helps you as you grow.** Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **When Jesus was 12 years old, where did Jesus and His family go? What happened on their way back home?**
- **Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus. Move your figures to show Mary and Joseph looking for Jesus.**
- Read verse with children. **God showed His love for Jesus as Jesus grew. God shows His love for us as we grow.** Children complete each sentence: **God gives us moms and grannies who... God gives us arms and legs so that we... God gives us good food to...**
- Lead children in a brief prayer thanking God for His love.


 RELATIONSHIPS
TRANSFORM
LIVES

When we adults are focused on the details of getting through a class session, it can be easy to forget that no matter how good our activities or how important our point, nothing transforms a life more effectively than building a relationship. In fact, relationship is the very reason Christ died and rose - that we might live in relationship, first with God the Father through Him and then with each other by the power of His Spirit! Relationship is the essence of God's Kingdom.

THREE REASONS TO CARE

- ▶ On any given day, a child who enters your classroom may be under tremendous stress. Even a young child may be dealing with situations such as a recent move, a new creche, death of a pet, lack of food or shelter, illness in the home, divorce or even child abuse. Attention from parents may be limited. We never know where a child has been emotionally and spiritually. It is imperative that *every* child be given loving acceptance, hugs, smiles and genuine interest! Often the child with the most negative behaviour is the one who needs the greatest measure of loving acceptance and positive interest.
- ▶ School and creche settings generally cannot make up for a lack of relationship at home. Most teachers are overburdened and must focus on the group, rather than individual children. But we have the opportunity to minister to young children simply through seeing each one as a real person made in God's image. As we use each child's name, as we touch, talk and encourage each one as a person worthy of our respect and love, children absorb information about what God's love looks like, sounds like and feels like.
- ▶ Coming from different neighbourhoods, children in a class may not know each other well. We can minister to them by gently helping them learn how to build relationships with other children in a safe, loving environment where relationship is valued highly. Children need to know that at church, people love them and love each other. These are people whom they can love freely and safely. There is no better place to begin building unity in the Body of Christ than here!

THREE BENEFITS OF CARING

- ▶ We are giving the child a model to imitate. Paul instructed in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." Our job is to show, rather than tell, what it means to live as a follower of Jesus. As we are transparent with children, they will get to know us. They will begin to unconsciously identify with and imitate Christlike character, beliefs and values. Our smiles, our touches, our hugs and our gracious reactions to surprising situations teach more effectively what it means to live as a Christian than even good curriculum or excellent activities.
- ▶ As we help children get to know and appreciate each other, we are also leading them to experience the Church, the Body of Christ. Children have the chance to know first-hand that believers in Jesus live and work together as a team, living in sympathy and harmony, instead of competition.
- ▶ We benefit by getting to know young children! Not only do we become better teachers by understanding their needs and feelings, but we also have the delightful privilege of seeing the world through their fresh and unspoiled eyes! We often gain surprising insights that help us better understand Christ's desire that we come to His Kingdom as little children.

THREE WAYS TO SHOW YOU CARE

Make it a rule in your classroom that these three behaviours welcome every child:

- ▶ Conversation and attention to what the child says at his or her eye level
- ▶ A kind touch on the shoulder
- ▶ A genuine smile that says, "I'm glad to see you today!"

The job of welcoming children should be assigned to the same helper or teacher each week so that children who have difficulty separating from their parents will have the opportunity to build a relationship with a friendly adult. Don't leave this important job unassigned. When children feel welcomed and are given a choice of activities as they enter, they will play and work together better and will more easily learn to obey God's Word in real, practical ways!



Woza kuJesu

Activity Pages

Reproducible

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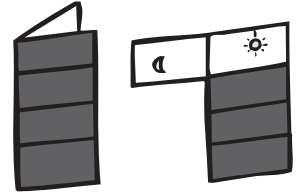
Thank you,

iVangeli Curriculum

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 1 God Made the World

Instructions:

- Child colours page. Child cuts on solid lines from edge of paper to dotted lines, folds flaps and closes the four flaps.
- Child opens flaps from top to bottom to retell Bible story, drawing the sun and moon last to show the order of creation.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



Lesson 1

Name _____

draw moon

draw sun

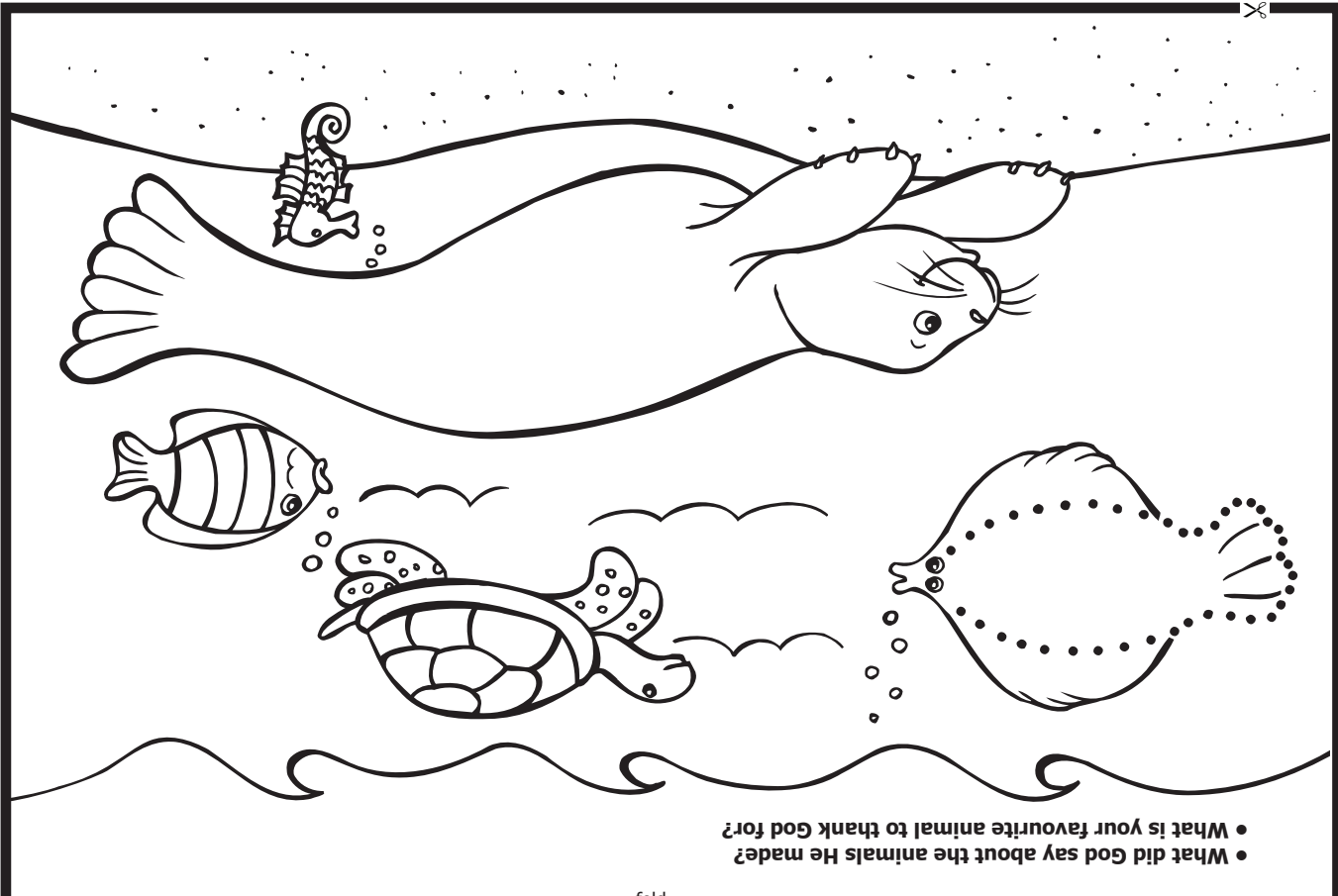
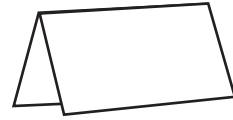
"God made the world and everything in it."
(See Acts 17:24.)

- Who made the sun, the sky, the water and the trees?
- What would you like to thank God for making?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 2 God Made Animals

Instructions:

- Child connects dots on elephant and fish.
- Child colours page. (Optional: child attaches fish or animal stickers to the page.)
- Child cuts out page and folds in half to make a standing picture (see sketch).
- Child identifies animals and uses page to review story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

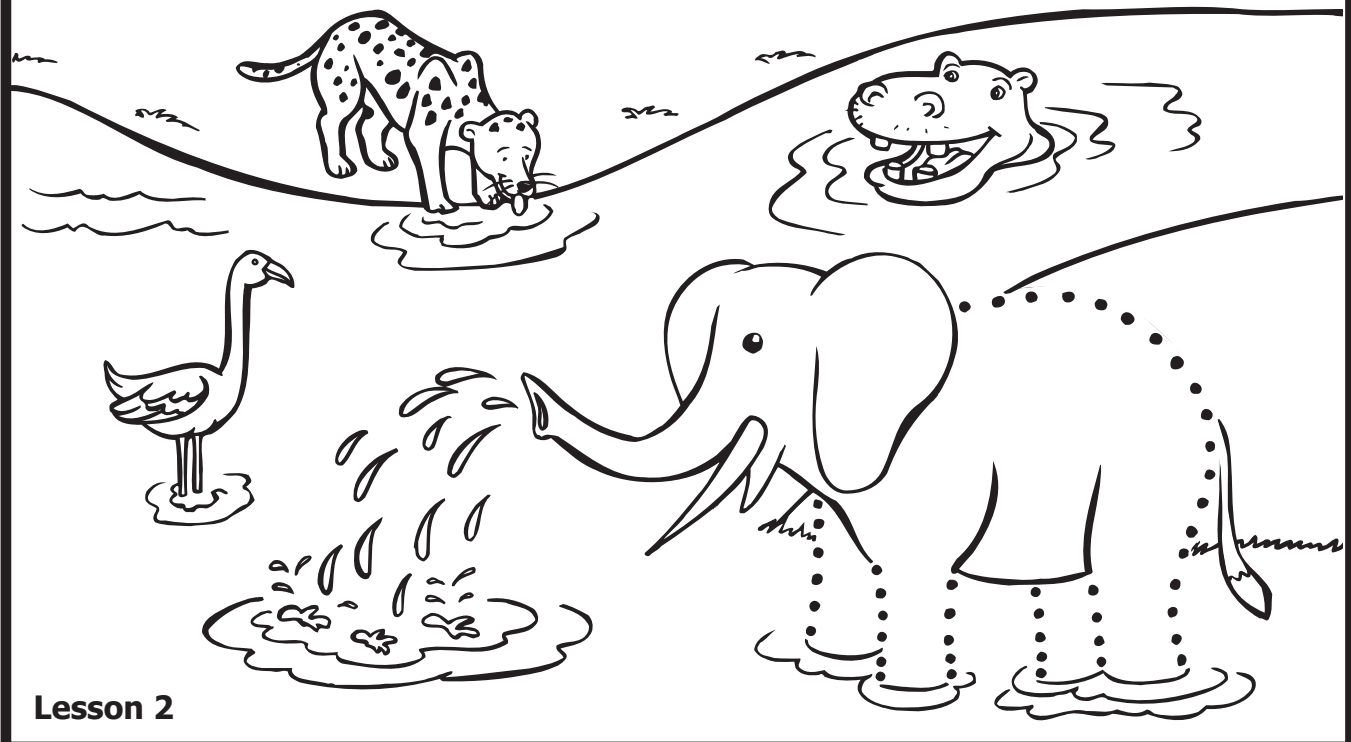


• What did God say about the animals He made?
• What is your favourite animal to thank God for?

fold

Name _____

**"God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good."** Genesis 1:31



Lesson 2

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 3 God Made People

Instructions:

- Teacher cuts two 10cm lengths of string for each child.
- Child cuts off Adam and Eve figures and tapes one end of a 10cm string to the back of each figure, taping other ends to X.
- Child colours page, drawing additional animals if desired. Child moves figures to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

Lesson 3

"Pray always and be thankful." (See Colossians 4:2.)

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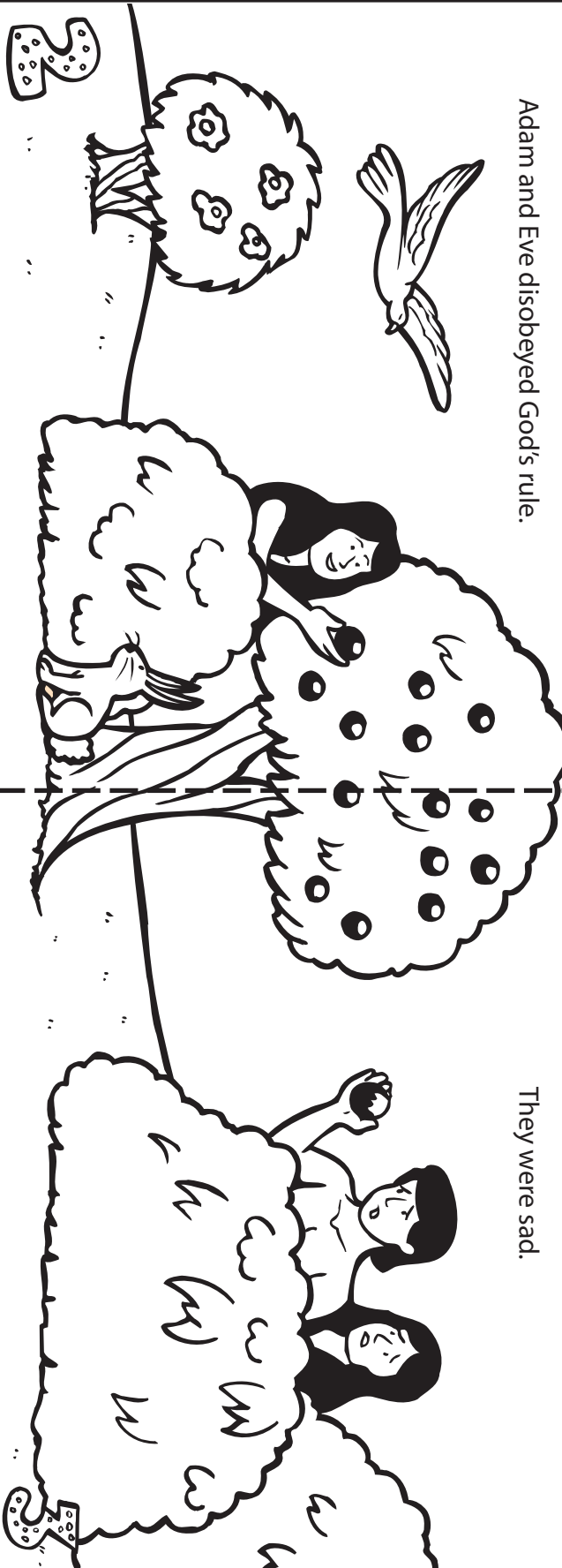
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Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 4** God Loves Adam and Eve

Instructions:

- Child cuts out around the solid lines.
- Child colours page.
- Child folds page and opens booklet to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

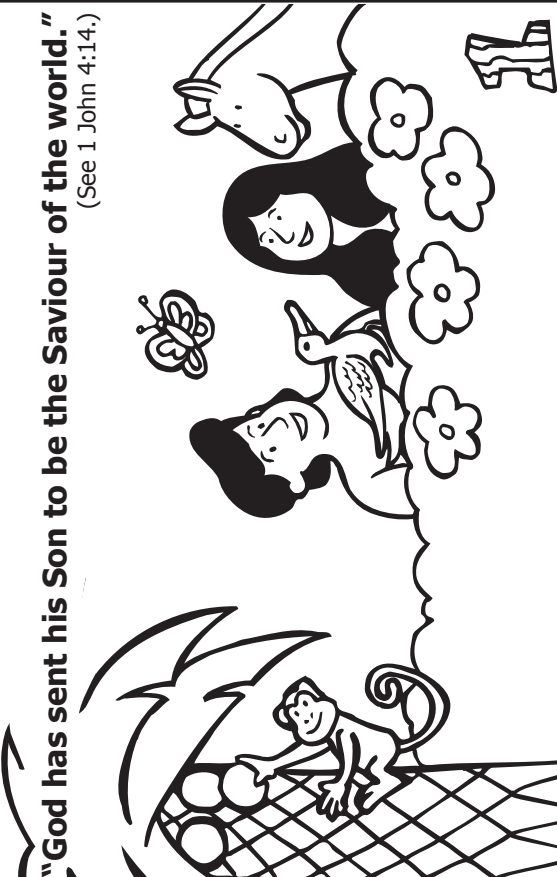


They were sad.

Lesson 4


Name _____

"God has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world."
(See 1 John 4:14.)




fold second

But God still loved Adam and Eve.



God loves you.

- What did Adam and Eve do to disobey God?
- What did God do to show love for Adam and Eve, even when they disobeyed?



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 5** Building the Big Boat

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child cuts out hammer, pegs and saw and glues in place.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

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Lesson 5

"God made us to do good."
(See Ephesians 2:10.)

Name _____

glue hammer

glue pegs

glue saw

• What good thing did Noah do to obey God?
• What good thing can you do to obey God?

X

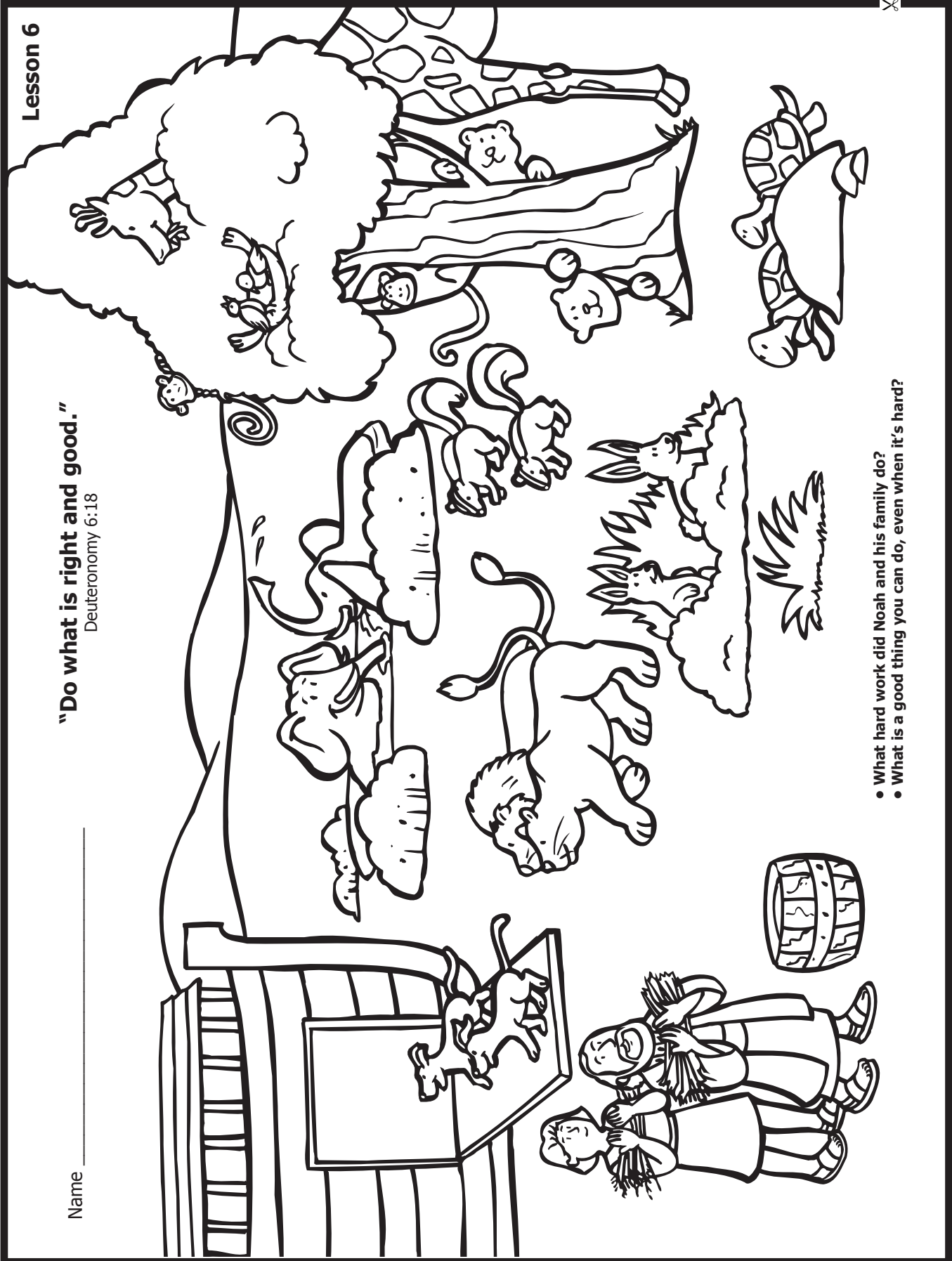
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Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 6** Loading the Big Boat

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child retells story and names animals.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 7** Safe in the Boat

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child draws a line on path through ark to show Noah's actions.
- Child retells story.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

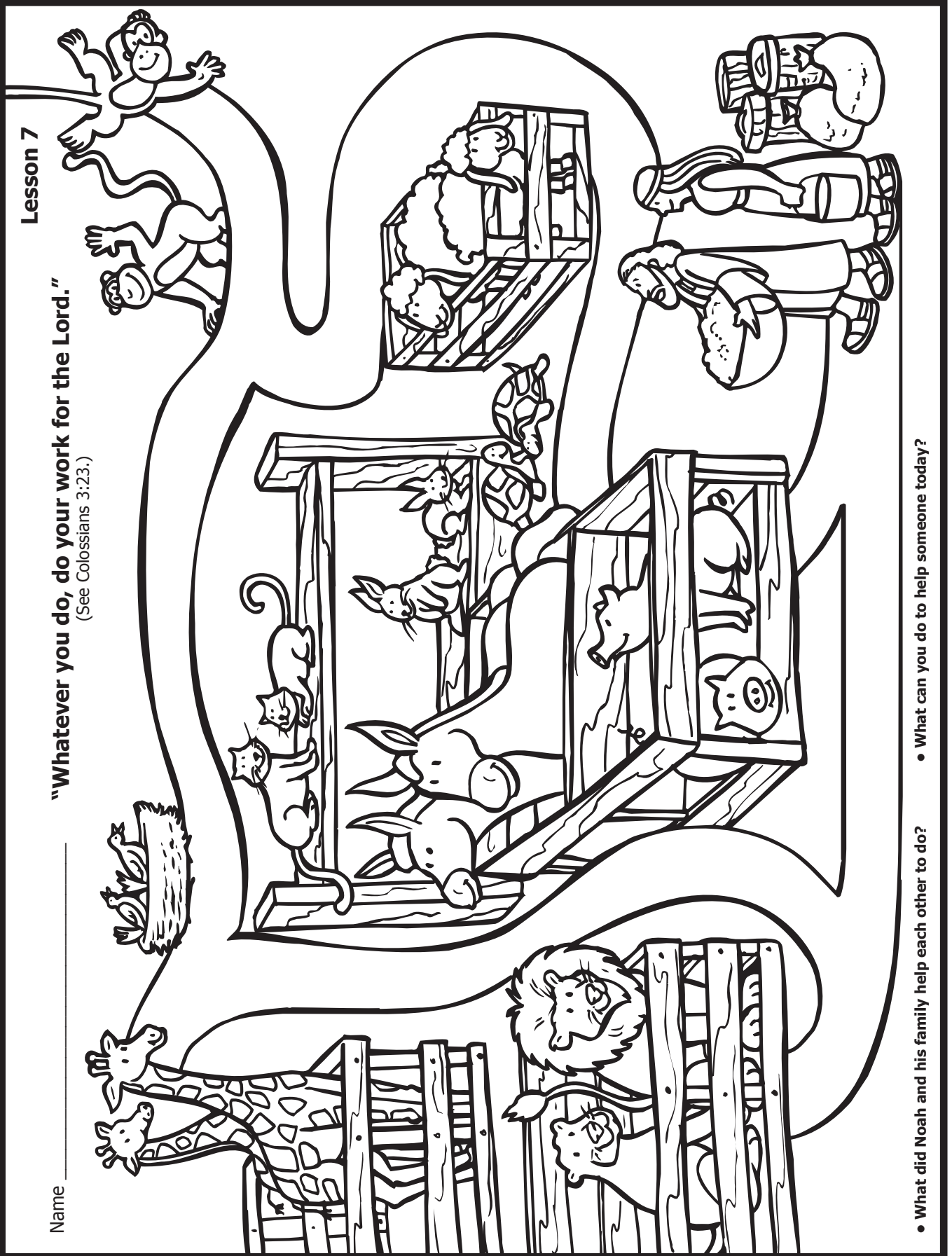
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Name _____

"Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord."

(See Colossians 3:23.)

Lesson 7



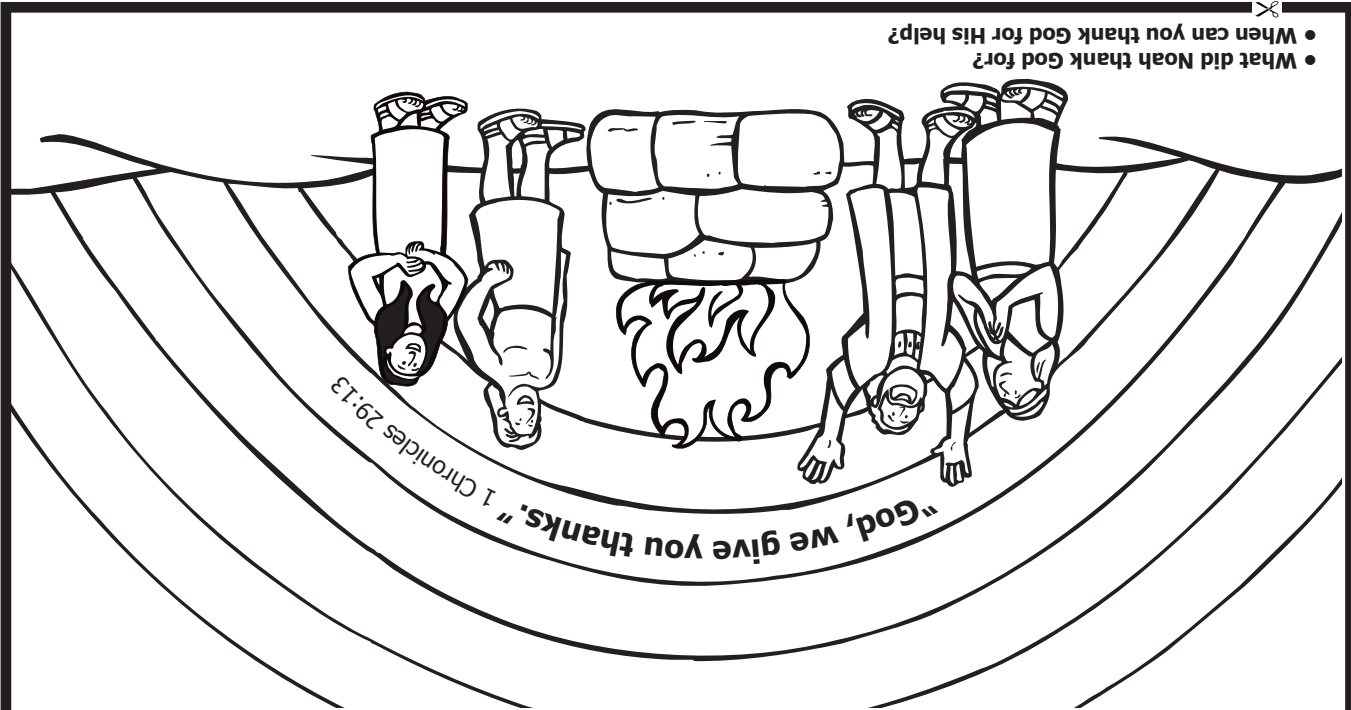
• What did Noah and his family help each other to do?

• What can you do to help someone today?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 8 God Sends a Rainbow

Instructions:

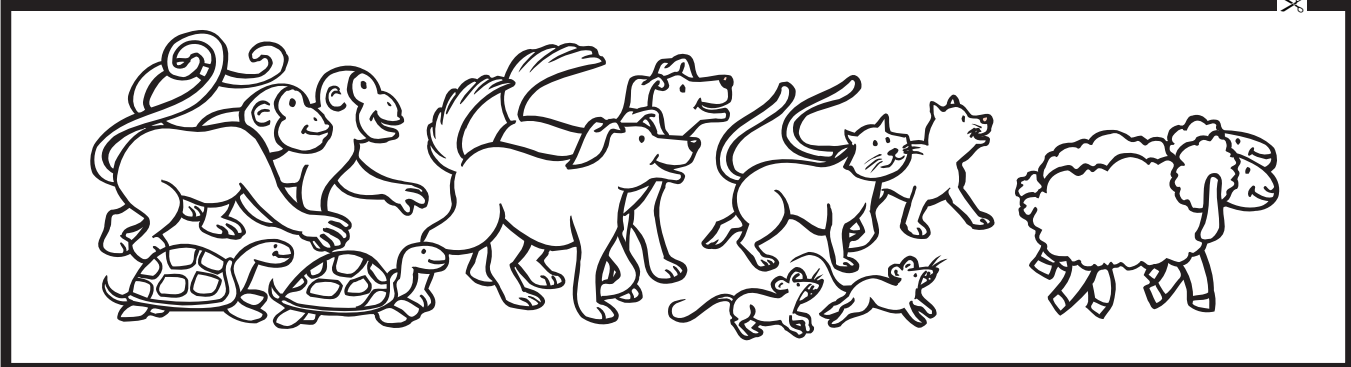
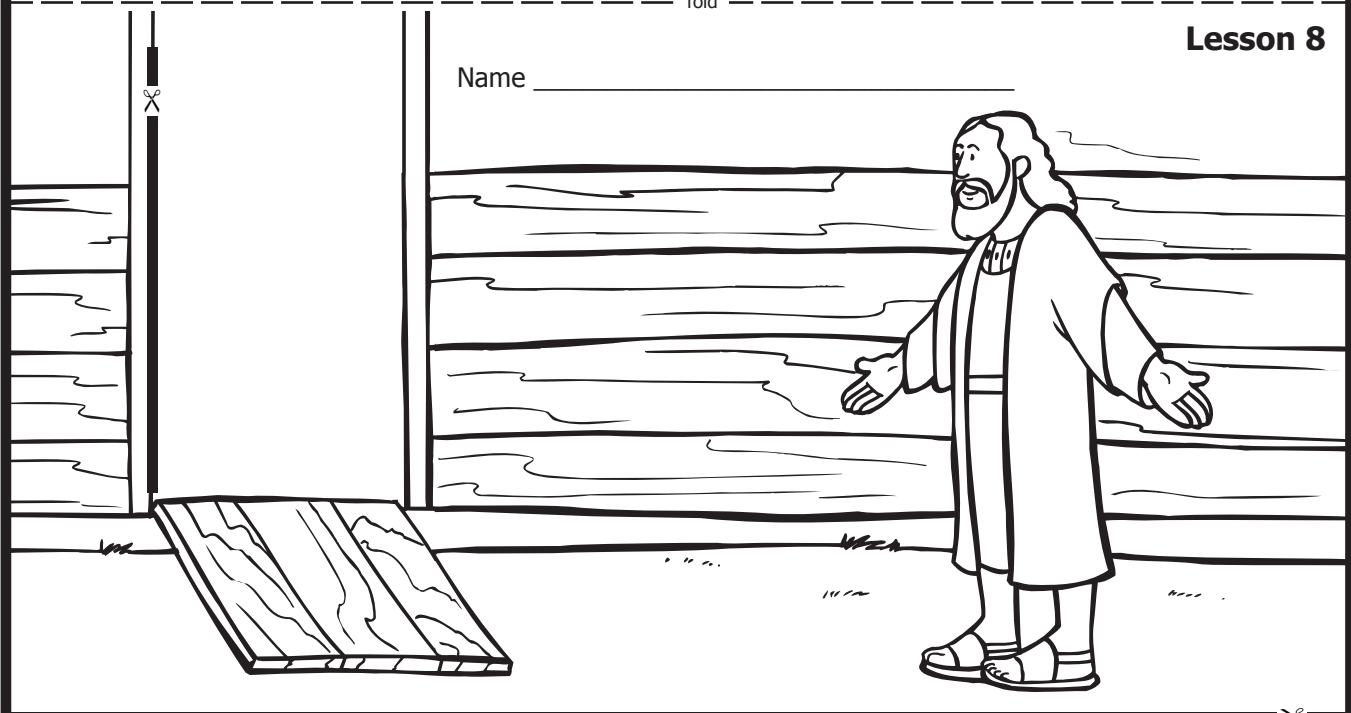
- Teacher cuts slit in doorway.
- Child colours page.
- Child cuts off animal strip, folds page in half and slides animal strip through the slit to retell story (see sketch).
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



fold

Lesson 8

Name _____



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 9 Abraham Obeys God

Instructions:

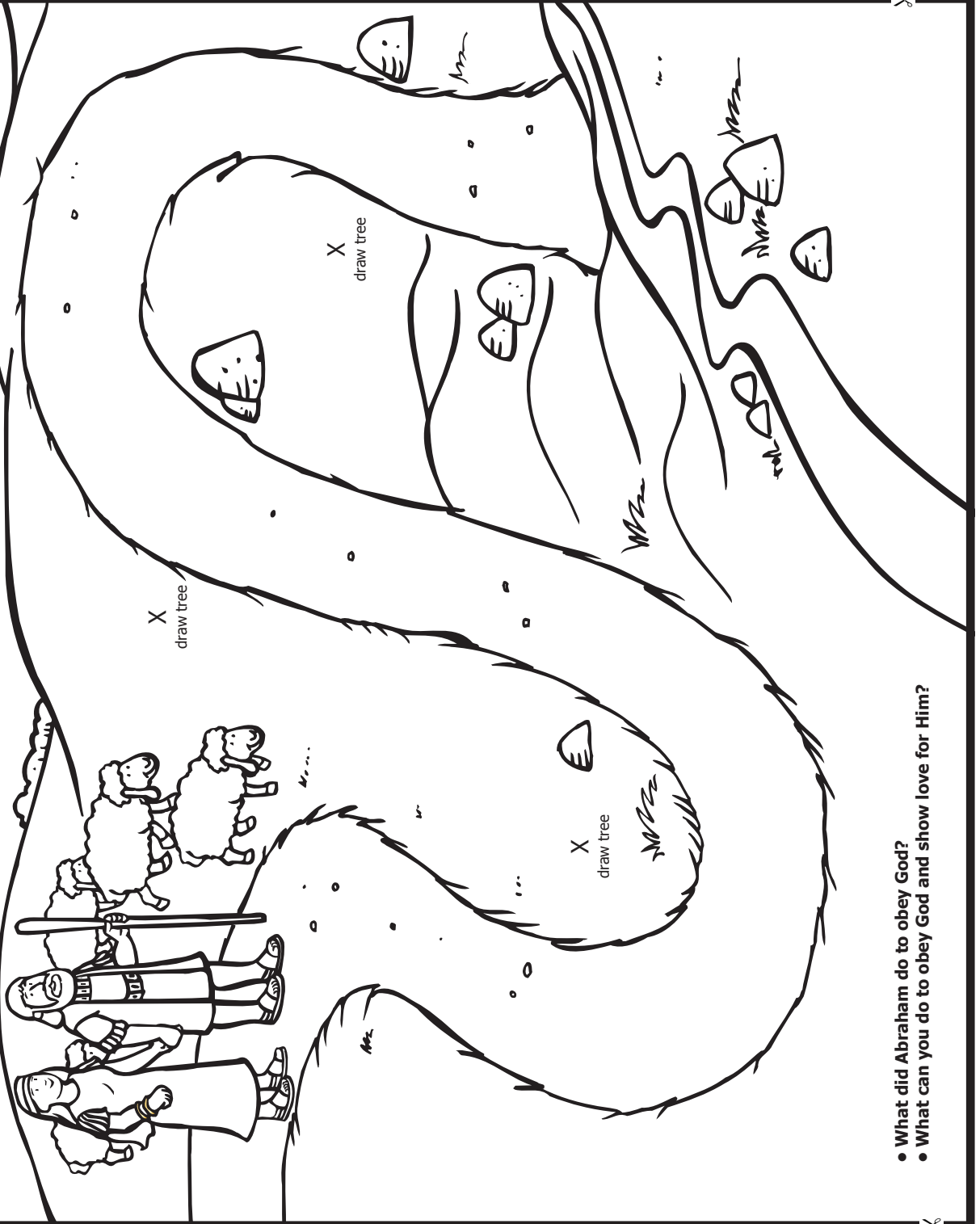
- Child colours page and draws trees where indicated.
- Child cuts off and folds tent figures.
- Child shows story action by making tents along path, setting them up each tree.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

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Lesson 9

"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

Name _____



- What did Abraham do to obey God?
- What can you do to obey God and show love for Him?



fold



fold



fold



fold



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 10** Lot Chooses First

Instructions:

- Child colours Abraham's sheep brown and colours Lot's sheep yellow (or allow children to choose two other colours).
- Child colours page and retells story.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

Lesson 10

Name _____

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31



- What did Abraham choose to do to be kind to Lot?
- What can you do to be kind?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 11 Isaac is Born

Instructions:

- Child cuts out around the solid lines.
- Child colours page.
- Child folds page and opens booklet to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.


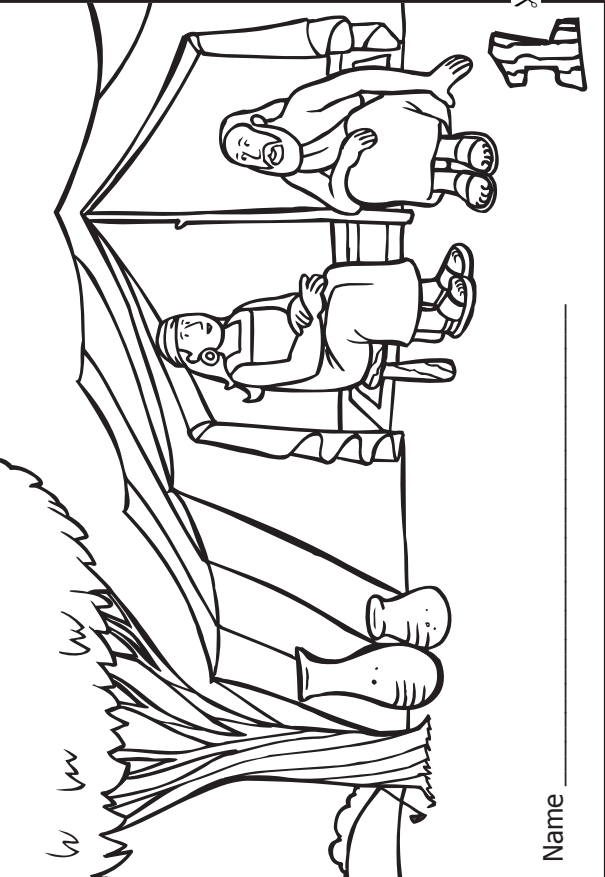
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Lesson 11

fold second

"I trust in God's word."
(See Psalm 119:42.)

Name _____

3

1

3

1

3

1

3

1

- What did God promise Abraham and Sarah?
- What book tells us about God's promises?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 12 Eliezer Prays

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child folds on the dotted line, the first fold back and the second forward.
- Child folds page to retell story (see sketch).
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



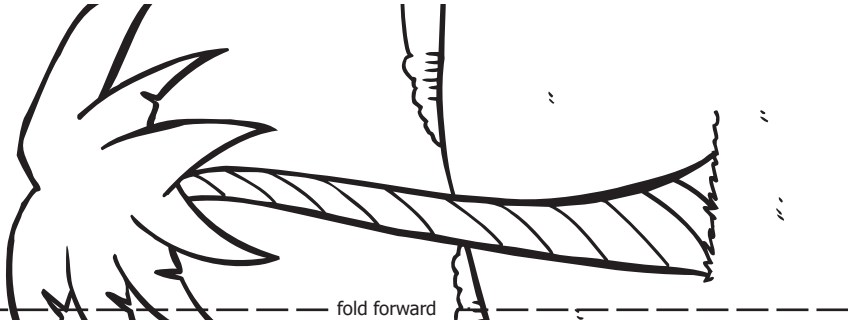
Lesson 12

"The Lord hears when
I pray to him."
(See Psalm 4:3.)

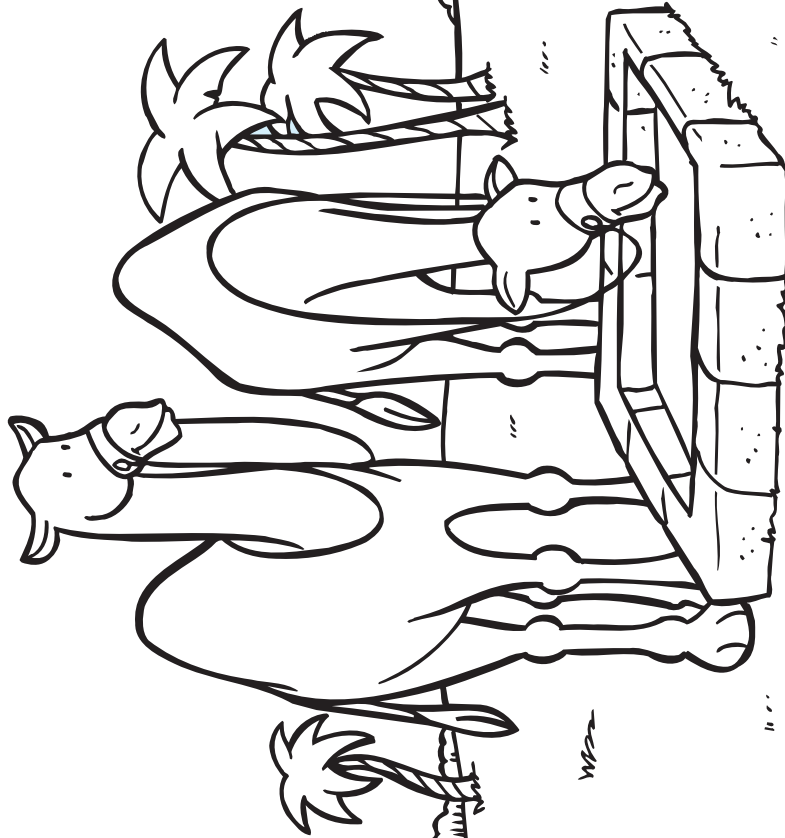
Name _____



— fold back —



— fold forward —

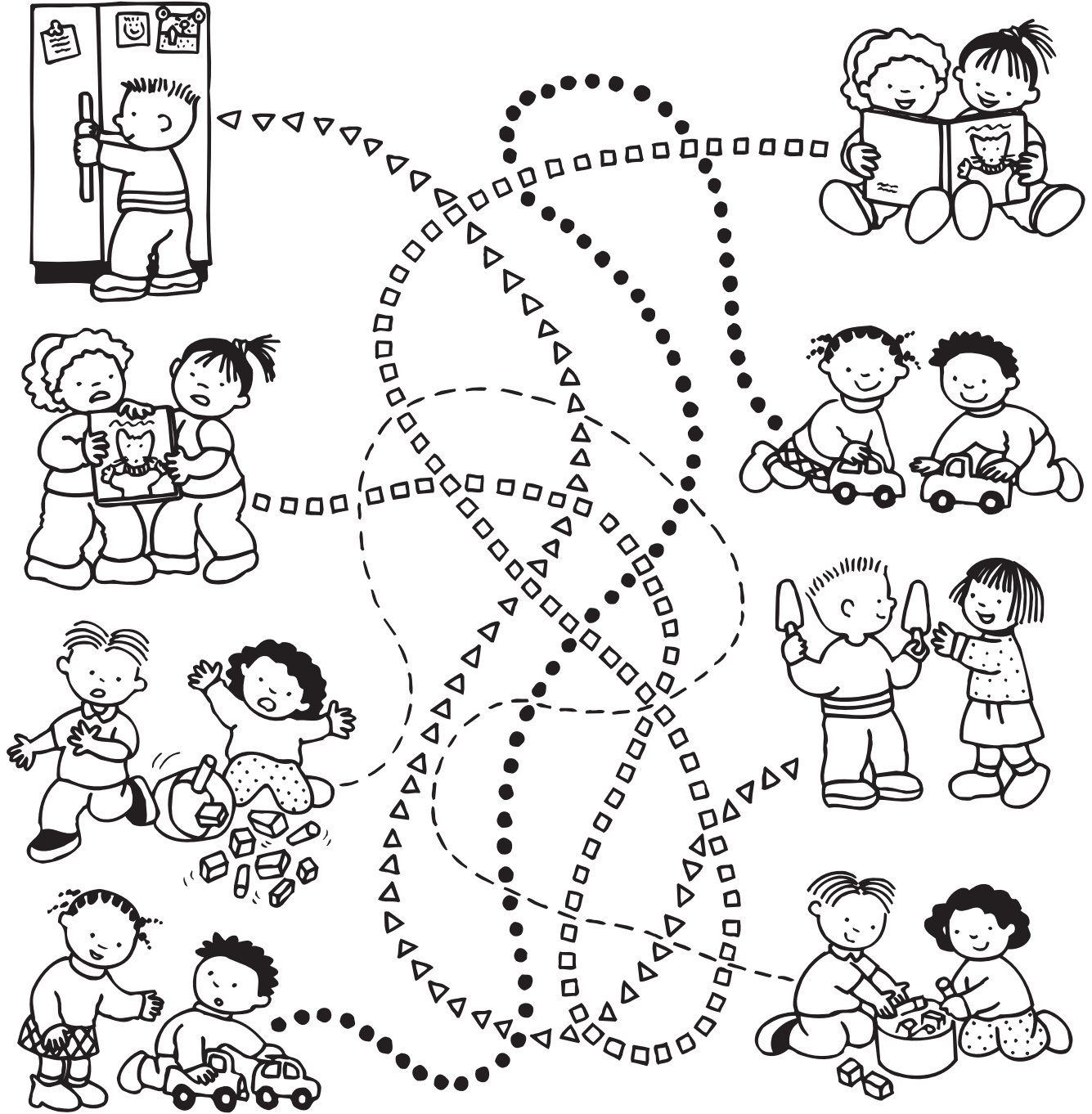


- What did God do to answer Eliezer's prayer?
- When can you pray to God?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 13** Isaac Digs Wells

Name _____

Trace each path to find out what happens next.



We can choose to show God's love

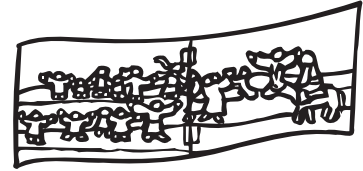
- What did Isaac do to show God's love?
- What can you choose to do to show God's love?

Our Bible says, "**Love your neighbour.**" Matthew 22:39

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 14** Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Instructions:

- Child colours page. (Optional: child draws more branches and coats on road.)
- Child cuts along line and tapes the two pieces together (see sketch).
- Child shows scenes to retell story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



Lesson 14

Name _____

"How good it is to sing praises to our God." Psalm 147:1

Here are palm branches they laid in the way.
Here is Lord Jesus on this happy day.

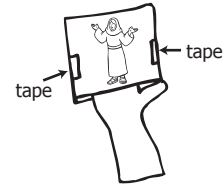
- What are the people in the picture doing, and how do they feel?
- What can we do today to praise God?

Here are people walking along.
Here are the children singing a song.

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 15 The Empty Tomb

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child cuts out, folds and tapes puppets (see sketch).
- Child retells story action with puppets.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



<p>Name _____</p> <p>tape</p> <p>tape</p>	<p>tape</p> <p>Lesson 15</p> <p>fold</p> <p>"Jesus is risen from the dead." (See Matthew 28:7.)</p> <p>tape</p>
<p>tape</p> <p>• How did the women's faces look when they heard "Jesus is alive"?</p> <p>tape</p>	<p>tape</p> <p>tape</p>
<p>tape</p> <p>• What can you do to show joy that Jesus is alive?</p> <p>tape</p>	<p>tape</p> <p>tape</p>

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 16** The Road to Emmaus

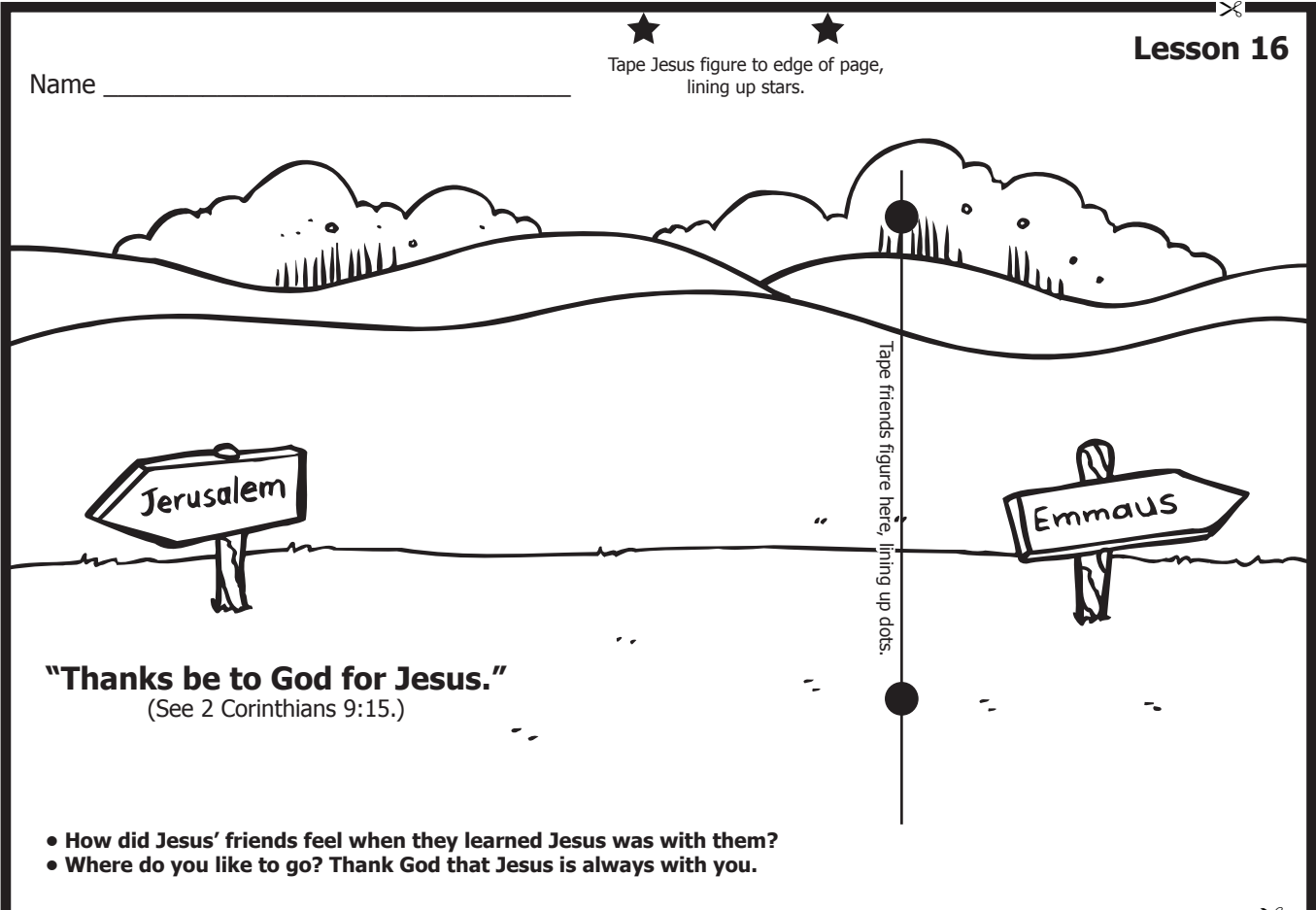
Instructions:

- Child colours page, cuts along lines and folds friends figure.
- Child tapes Jesus and friends figures to page (see sketch below) and moves them to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

Lesson 16

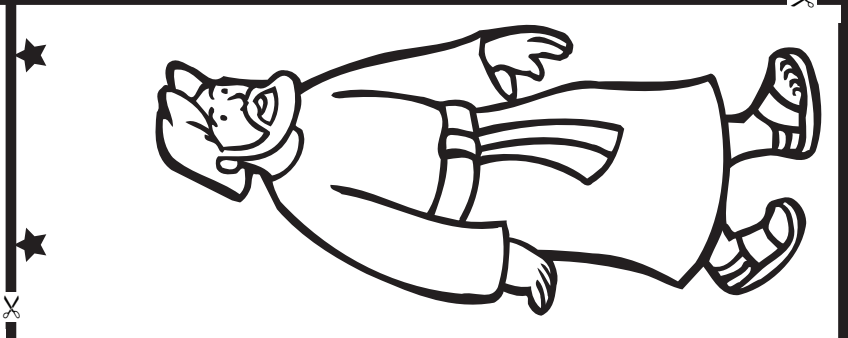
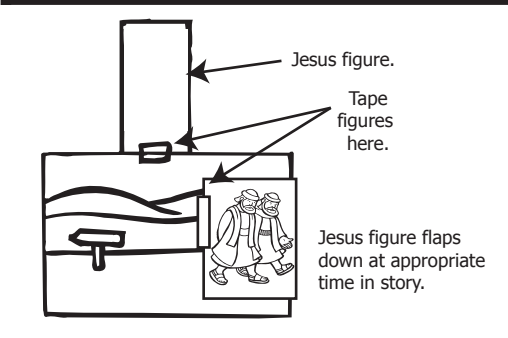
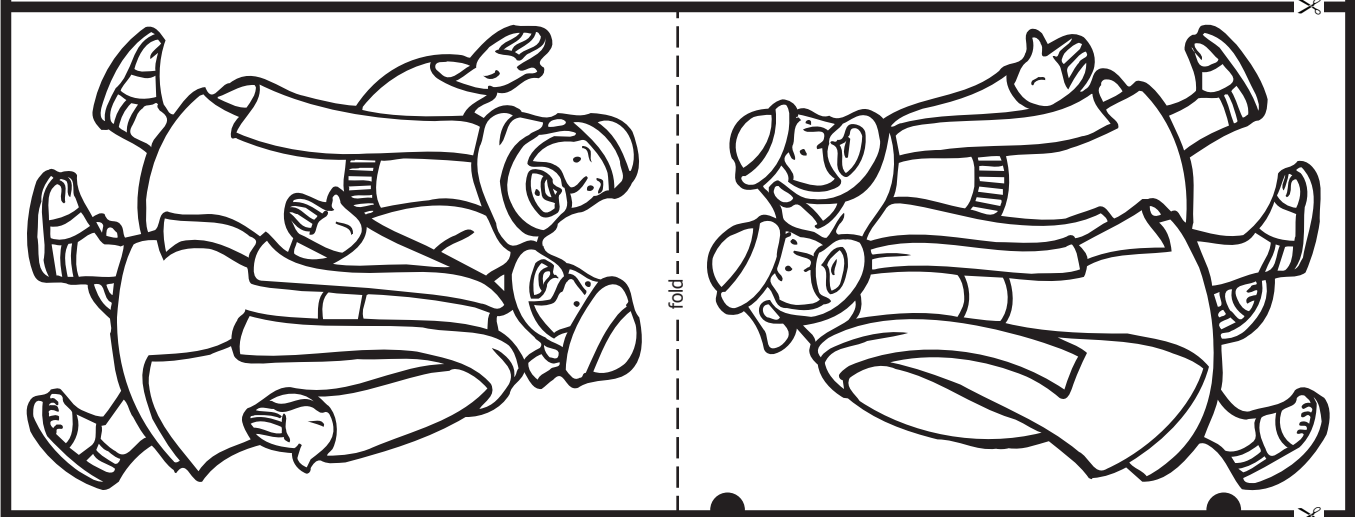
Name _____

★ ★
Tape Jesus figure to edge of page,
lining up stars.



"Thanks be to God for Jesus."
(See 2 Corinthians 9:15.)

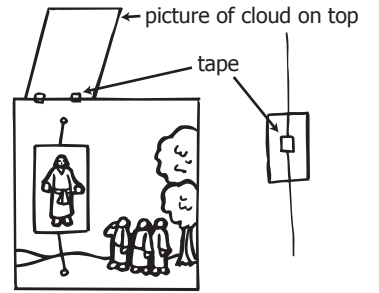
- How did Jesus' friends feel when they learned Jesus was with them?
- Where do you like to go? Thank God that Jesus is always with you.



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 17** Jesus is Alive

Instructions:

- Child colours page, cuts off Jesus and cloud figures and punches holes at X's.
- Child tapes Jesus figure to middle of 30cm string and then inserts one end of string in top hole and the other end in bottom hole. Tie ends of string together.
- Child tapes cloud figure to top of page (see sketch).
- Child pulls Jesus figure up and folds down cloud figure to retell Bible story.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



Tape cloud here.

Lesson 17

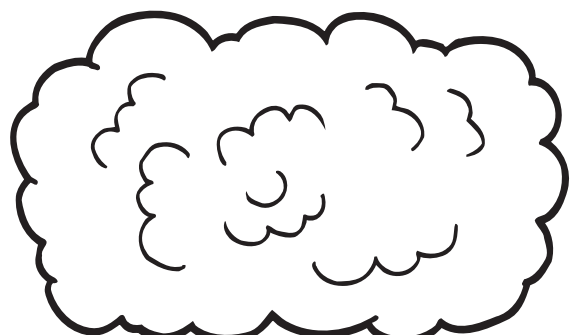
Name _____

"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever!'" (See Revelation 1:18.)

X



- What did Jesus promise before He went to heaven?
- What is the good news about Jesus you can thank God for?



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 18** Paul Meets Jesus

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child cuts apart and folds Paul and Ananias figures and then moves figures along path to retell story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

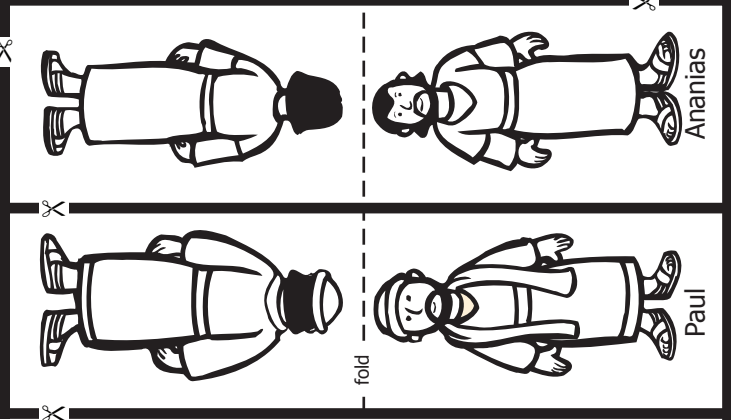
Lesson 18

Name _____

"God's love for us is great."
(See 1 John 3:1.)

- What happened to Paul? Who did God send to help Paul?
- What does God give us to show His love for us?

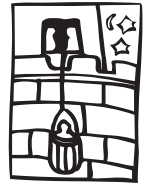
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Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 19** Paul Escapes in a Basket

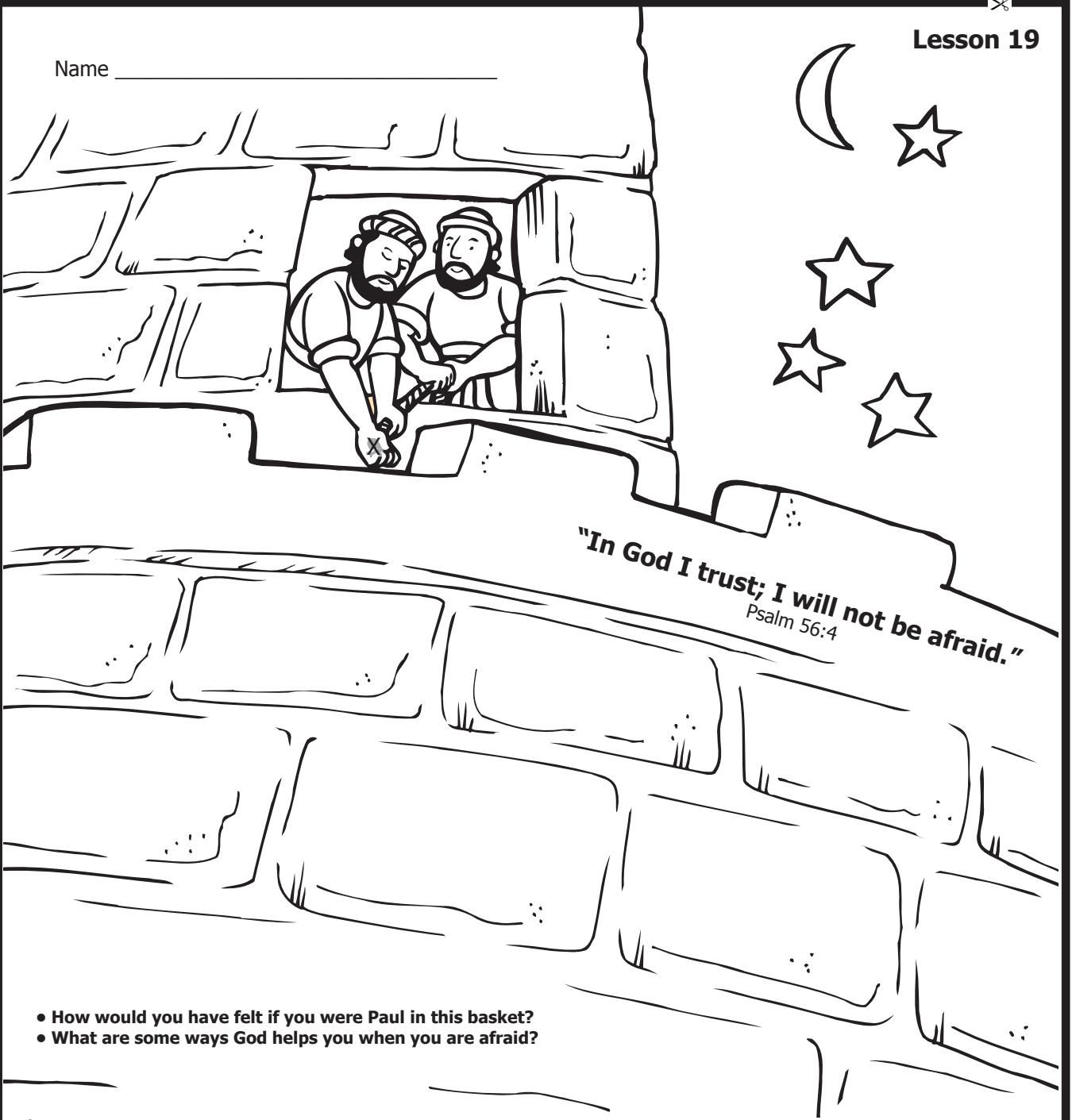
Instructions:

- Teacher pokes hole in X on page.
- Child colours page. Child cuts off basket and Paul figure, folds basket and tapes along sides of basket. Child inserts Paul into basket and tapes string end to back of basket.
- Child inserts other end of string through the hole and tapes to back of page. Child lowers and removes Paul from basket when basket reaches bottom of page.

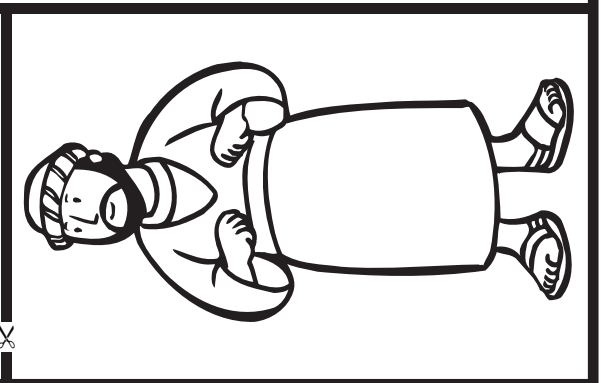
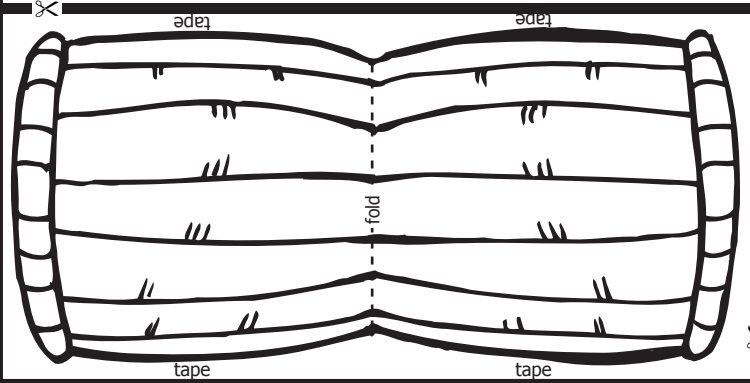


Name _____

Lesson 19



- How would you have felt if you were Paul in this basket?
- What are some ways God helps you when you are afraid?



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 20 Peter Helps Dorcas

Instructions:

- Child colours page and cuts on bold lines.
- Child folds corners to thin line and numbers each flap (see sketch).
- Child lifts flaps to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



fold corners to here

Lesson 20

Name _____

"God will help you."
1 Chronicles 12:18

- What did Dorcas do to show God's love and help to others?
- What did Peter do to show God's love and help to Dorcas?
- Who did God give to show His love and help to you?

fold corners to here



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 21** Peter Escapes From Prison

Instructions:

- Child colours page and cuts out along solid lines.
- Child folds along lines (see sketch).
- Child opens flaps and shows scenes to retell story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



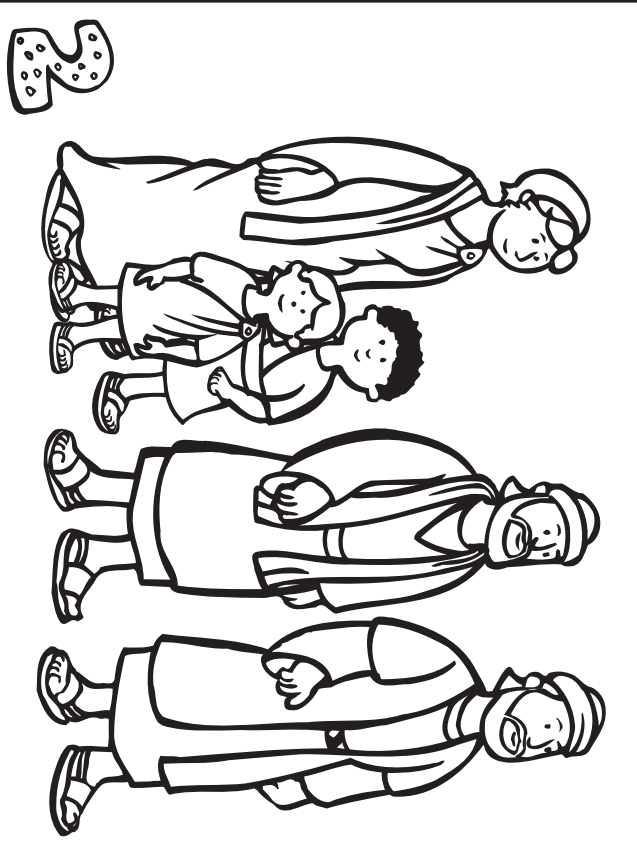
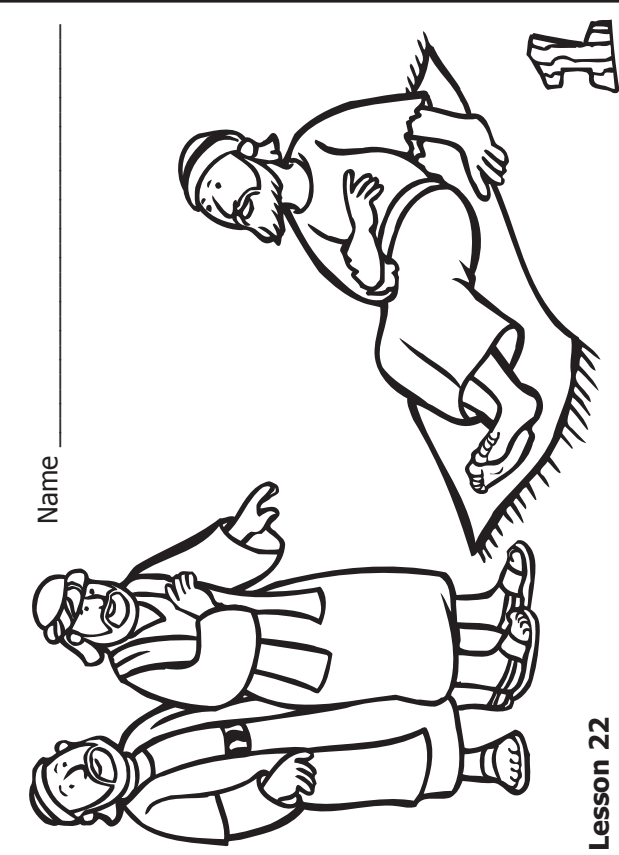
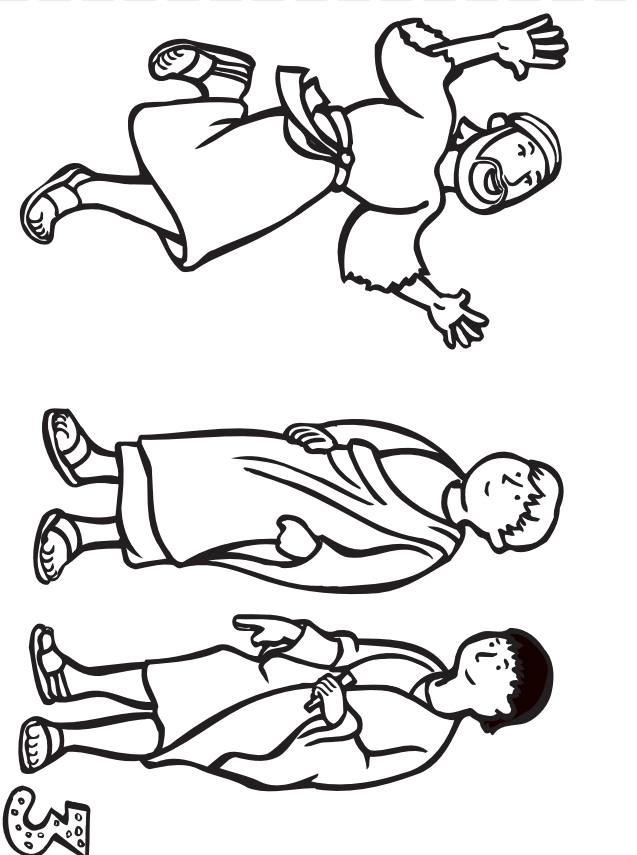
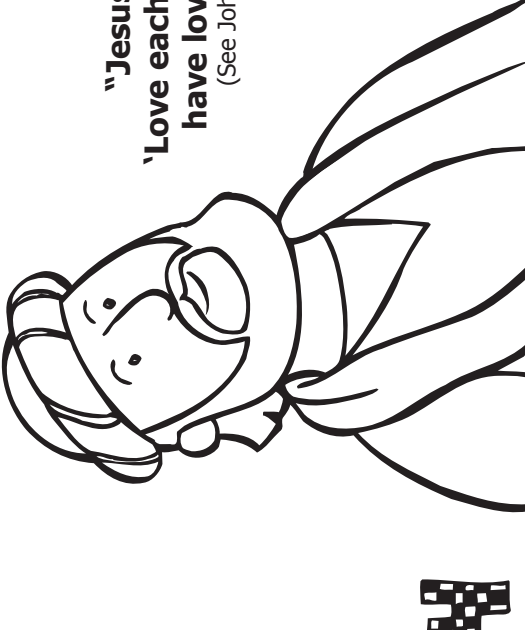
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<p style="text-align: right;">Scene 1</p>	<p>_____ Name</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Scene 2</p>	<p>— fold first —</p> <p>"God is with you wherever you go." (See Joshua 1:9.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 21</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">— fold second —</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">— fold third —</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did God do to show Peter He was with him and loved him? • God is with you wherever you go. Where are some places you go?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 22 Paul Helps a Lame Man

Instructions:

- Child cuts out around the solid lines. (For 2- and 3-year-olds, cut out pages before class.)
- Child colours page.
- Child folds page and opens booklet to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

 <p>2</p>	<p>fold first</p> <p>Name _____</p>  <p>Lesson 22</p>
 <p>3</p>	<p>fold second</p> <p>• What did Paul and Barnabas do to show God's love? • What can you do to show God's love to others?</p> <p>"Jesus said, 'Love each other as I have loved you.'" (See John 15:12.)</p>  <p>4</p>

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 23 Baby in a Basket

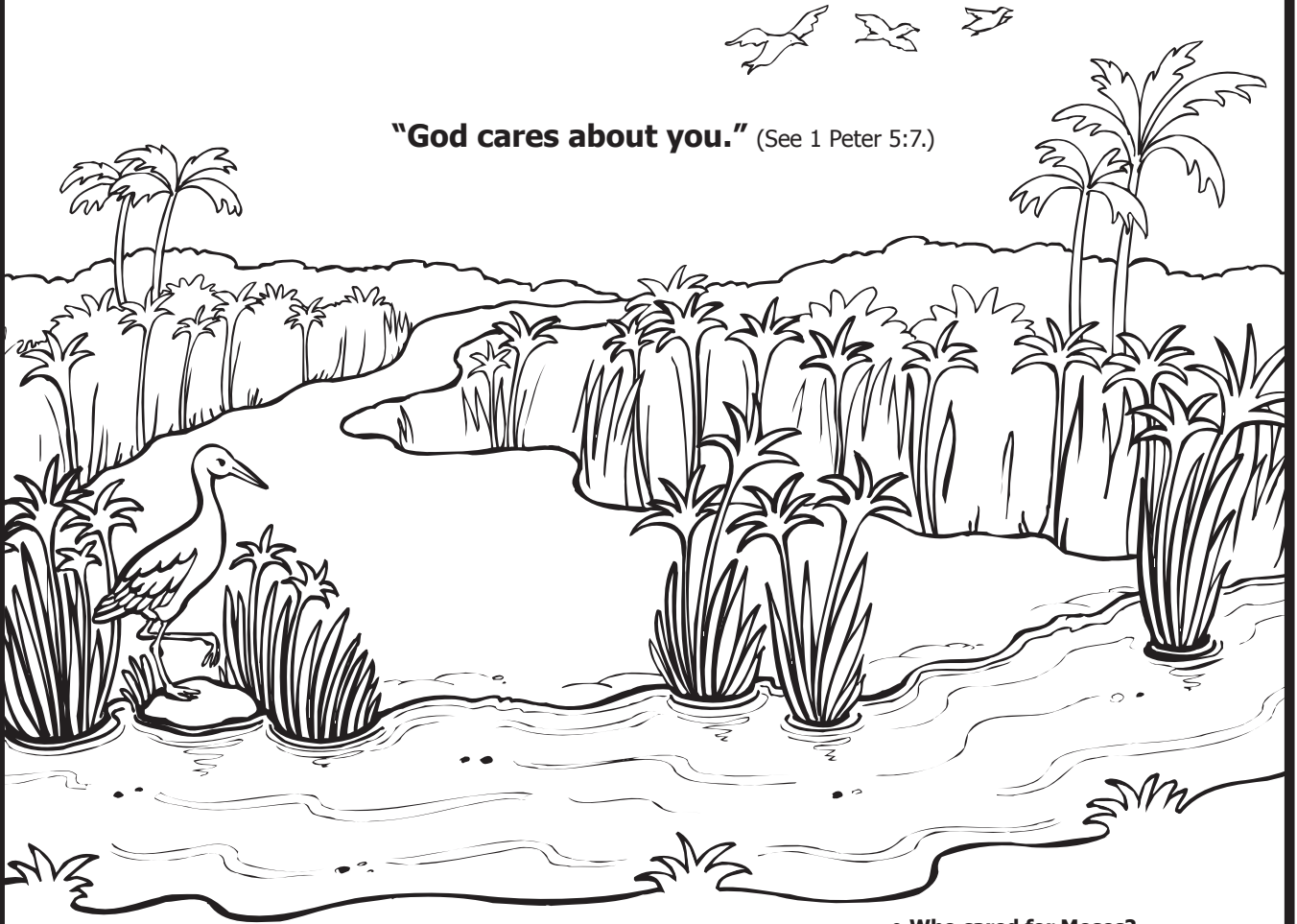
Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child cuts out, folds and moves figures to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

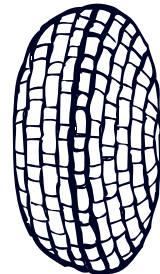
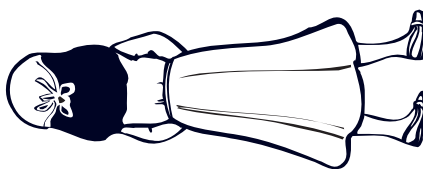
Lesson 23

Name _____

"God cares about you." (See 1 Peter 5:7.)



- Who cared for Moses?
- Who did God give to care for you?



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 24 Escape From Egypt

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child folds page on dotted line and turns page to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



"God said, 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.'" (See Genesis 28:15.)

Lesson 24

Name _____

fold



- How did God show He was with His people in the desert?
- Where do you go each day?
How does God take care of you?

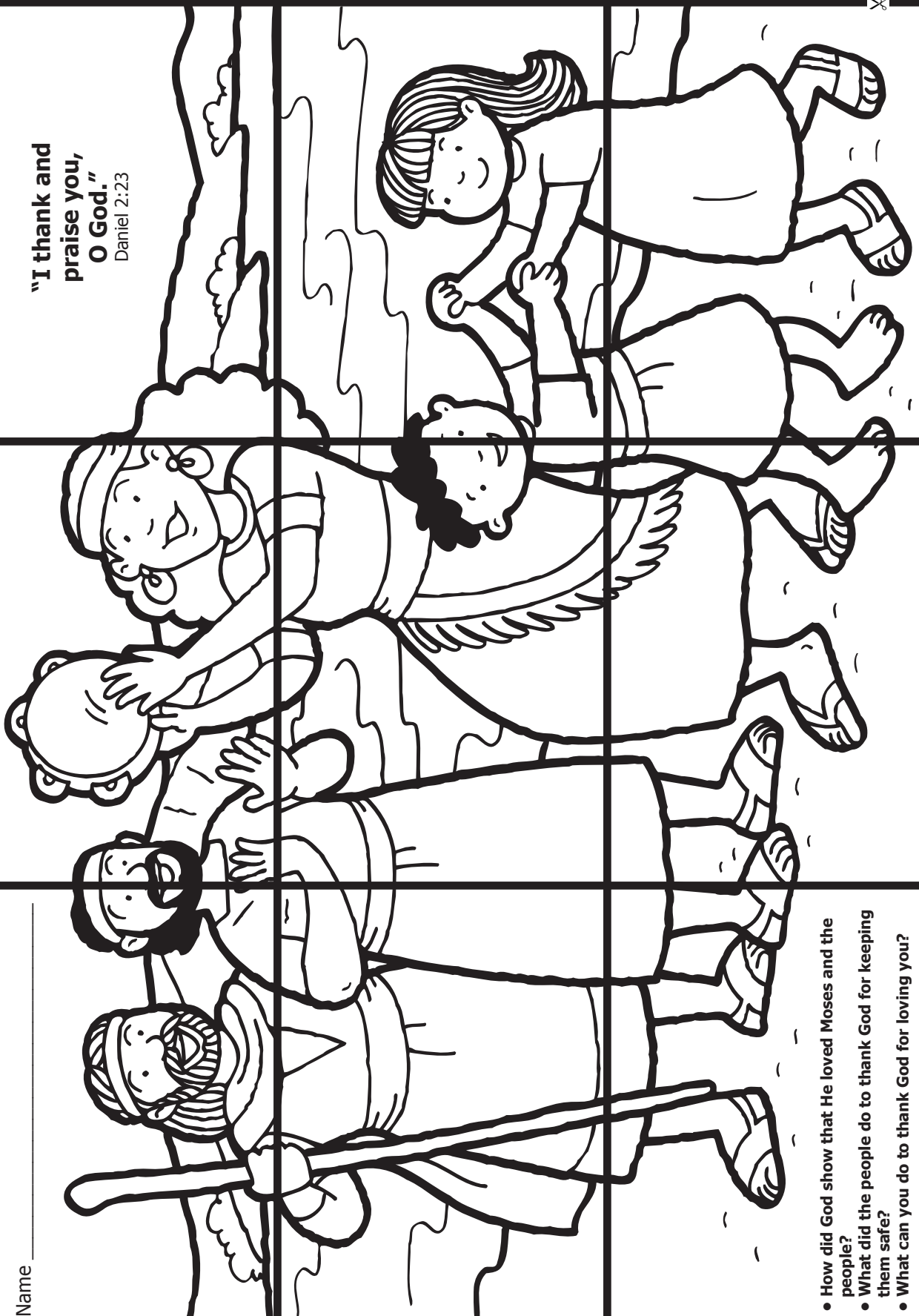
Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 25** A Path Through the Sea

Instructions:

- Child colours page, then cuts along solid lines.
- Child assembles the puzzle and tells the story.
- Secure puzzle pieces with a paper clip or place them in an envelope or plastic bag so no pieces get lost.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

Lesson 25

**"I thank and
praise you,
O God."
Daniel 2:23**



Name _____

- How did God show that He loved Moses and the people?
- What did the people do to thank God for keeping them safe?
- What can you do to thank God for loving you?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 26 A Desert Surprise

Instructions:

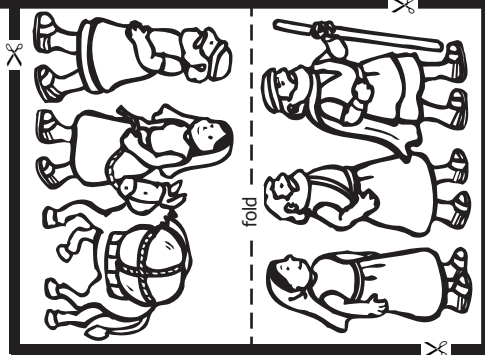
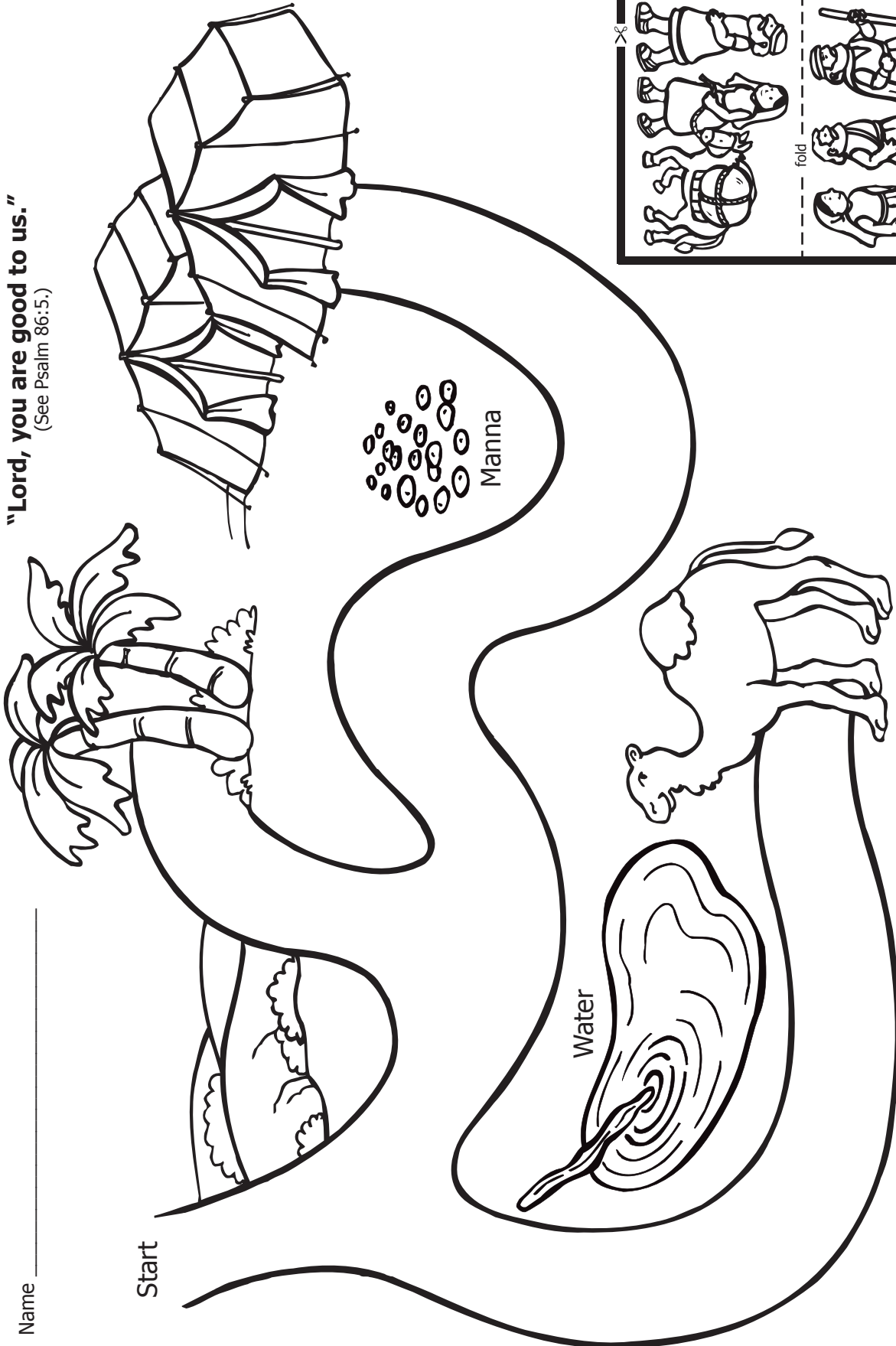
- Child colours page.
- Child cuts out and folds figures.
- Child walks figures along path and tells the story.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

Lesson 26

"Lord, you are good to us."
(See Psalm 86:5.)

Name _____

Start

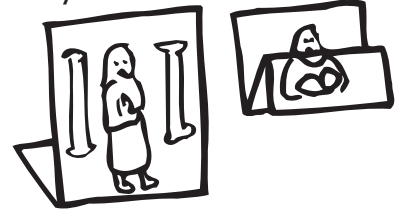


- How did God show love to His people when they were thirsty and hungry?
- What kinds of food does God give you to eat?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 27 Hannah's Prayer

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child folds on the dotted lines, the first fold back and the second forward.
- Child folds bottom flap back to show Scene 1 and tells story, bringing the bottom flap up to reveal Scene 2 at the appropriate point in story.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



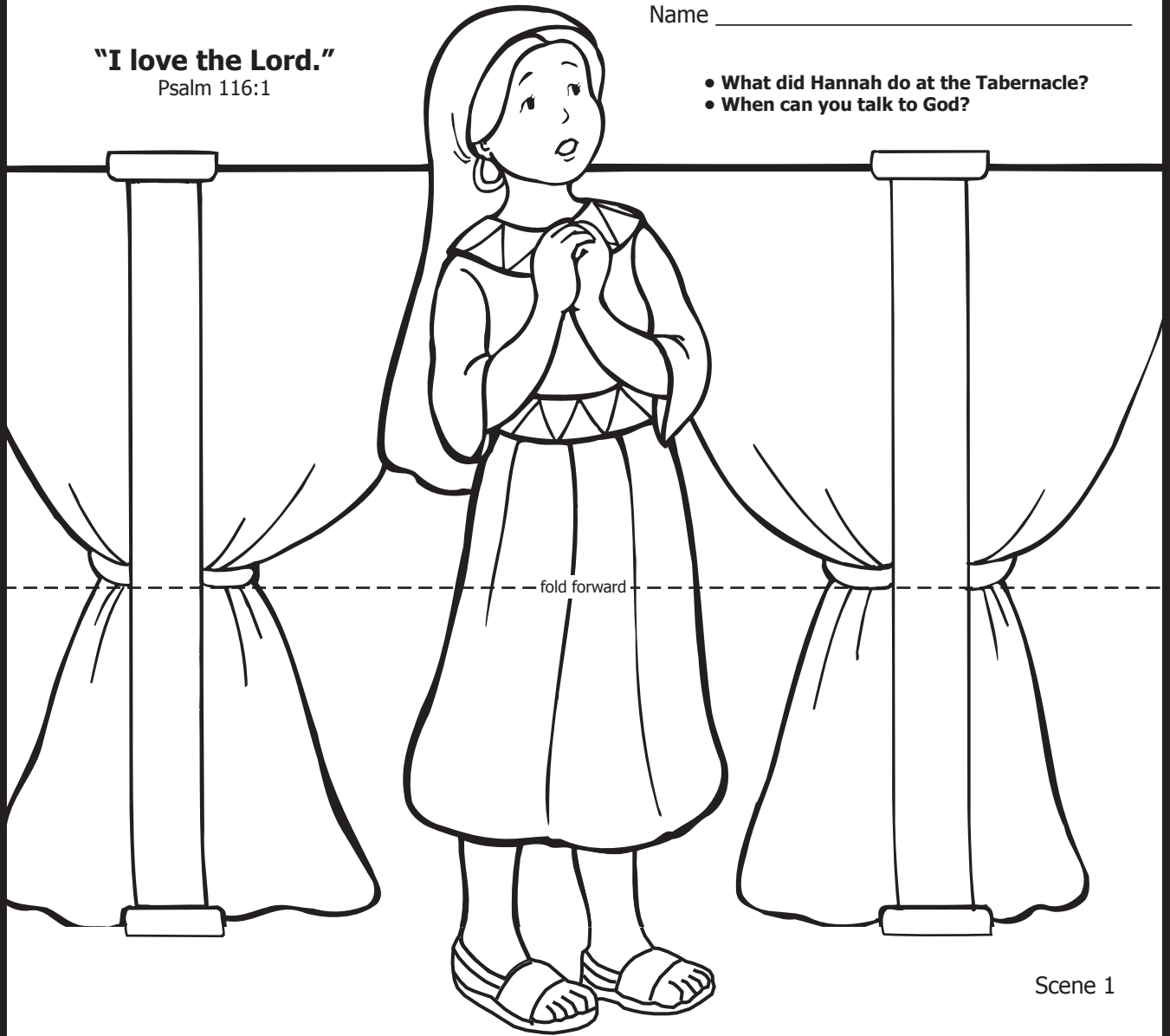
Lesson 27

Name _____

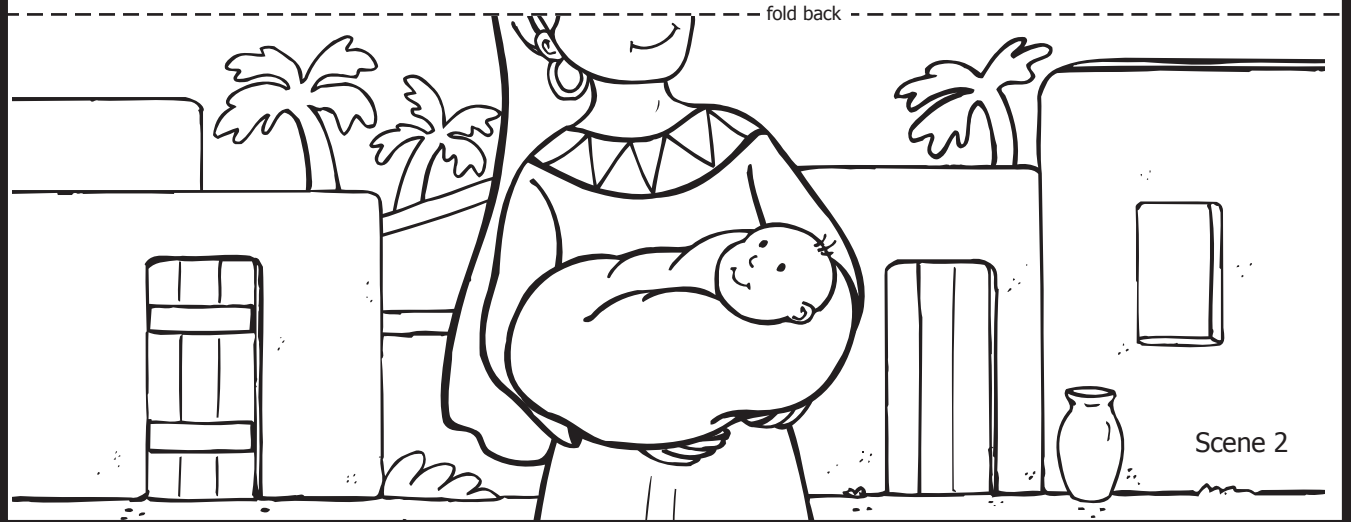
"I love the Lord."

Psalm 116:1

- What did Hannah do at the Tabernacle?
- When can you talk to God?



Scene 1

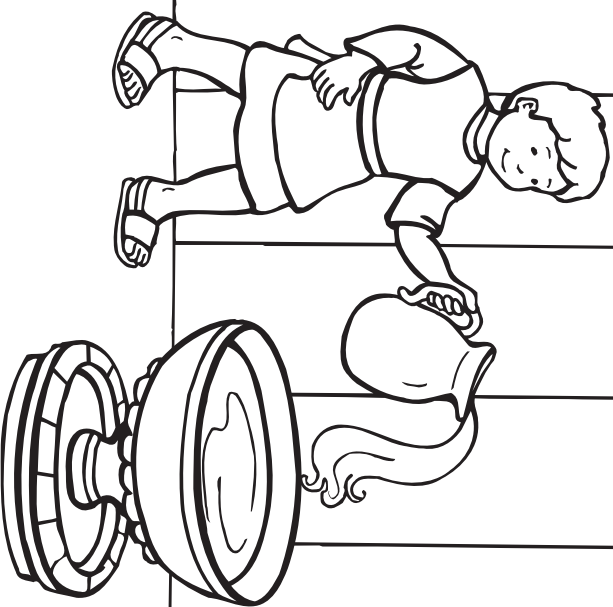


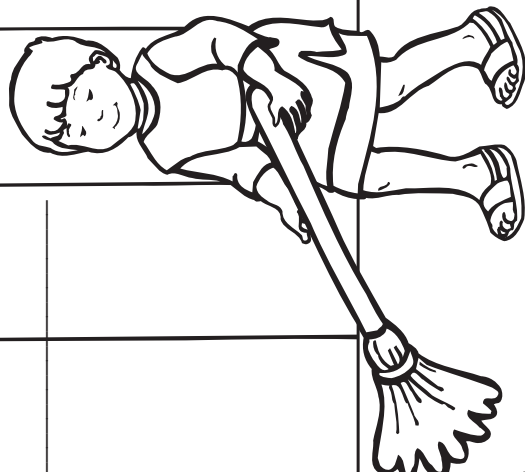
Scene 2

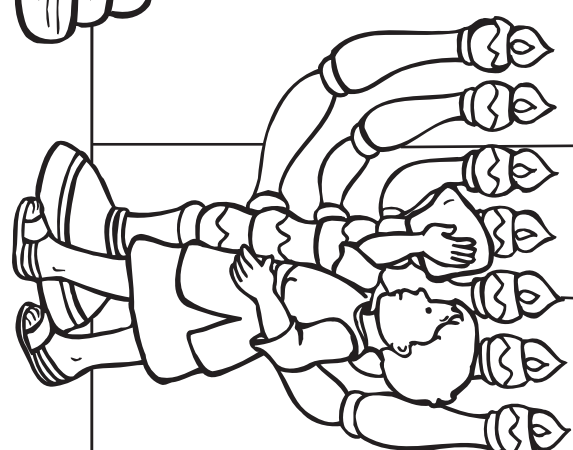
Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 28** Helping at the Tabernacle

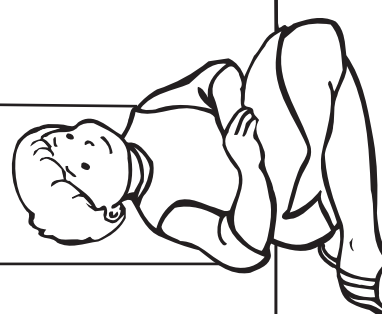
Instructions:


- Child cuts out around the solid lines. (For 2- and 3-year-olds, cut out pages before class.)
- Child colours page.
- Child folds page and opens booklet to show story action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

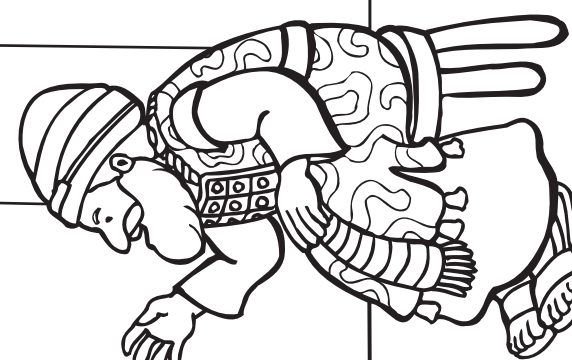












fold first

fold second

Lesson 28

Lesson 28

Name _____

“Whatever you do,
do your work for the Lord.” (See Colossians 3:23.)

• What did Samuel do to help in the Tabernacle?

• What work can you do to help others?

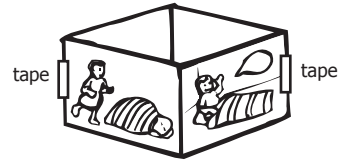
• What did Samuel do to help in the Tabernacle?

• What work can you do to help others?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 29 Samuel Listens and Obeys

Instructions:

- Child cuts page on solid lines and colours page.
- Child folds page on dotted lines and tapes together at X's to form a square (see sketch).
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



X

Lesson 29

X

fold

X

fold

X

"Come and listen to the words of the Lord."
(See Joshua 3:9.)

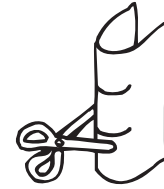
Name _____

- Who did Samuel listen to? Who did Samuel obey?
- When can you hear words or stories from God's Word?

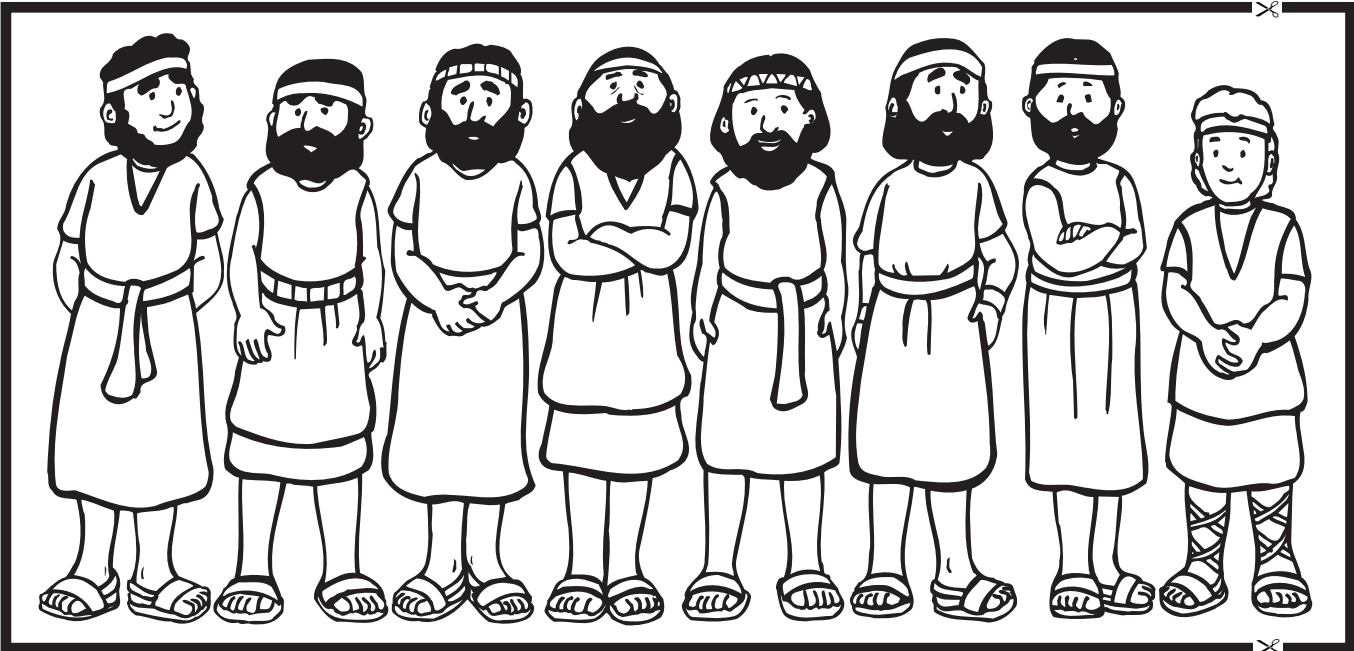
Bible Sharing Time Activity Page Lesson 30 Samuel Obeys God

Instructions:

- Teacher cuts slits as shown in sketch.
- Child colours page and cuts off strip.
- Child threads strip through slits and pulls it through to retell Bible story.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



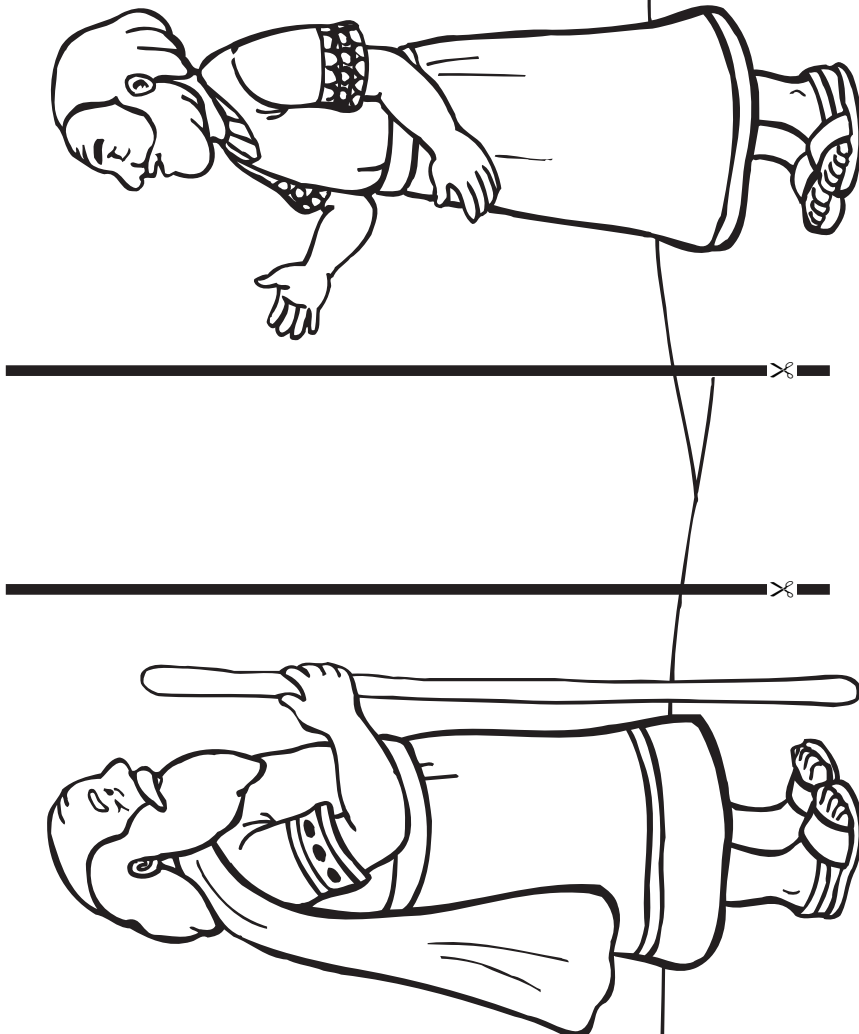
Roll page for easy cutting of slits.



Lesson 30

"We must obey God." Acts 5:29

Name _____



- How did Samuel obey God?
- Name some ways you can obey God.

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 31** Baby Jesus

Instructions:

- Child colours page and reviews story.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.

Lesson 31

"God's Son is born for us."
(See Isaiah 9:6.)

Name _____

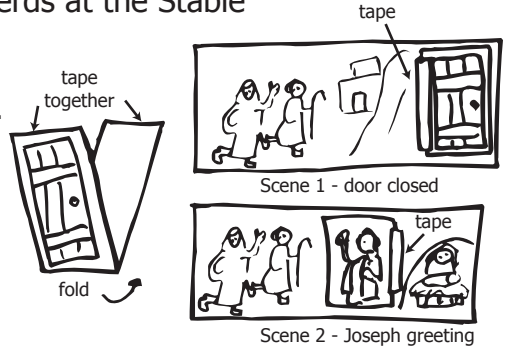


- Who is God's Son?
- What do you and your family do to show you are glad Jesus was born?

Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 32** Shepherds at the Stable

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child cuts as indicated and folds to have door and Joseph back-to-back.
- Child tapes stable door where indicated (see sketch).
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



**"Good news! Today
Jesus has been born."**
(See Luke 2:10-11.)



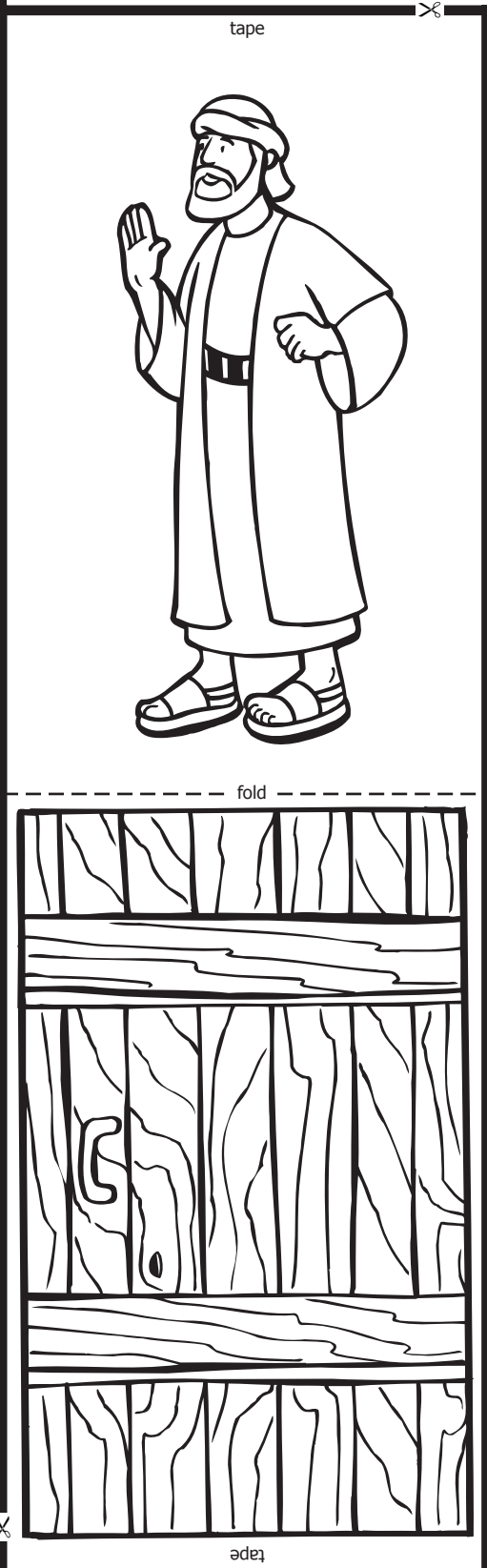
Tape stable door here.

Lesson 32

Name _____



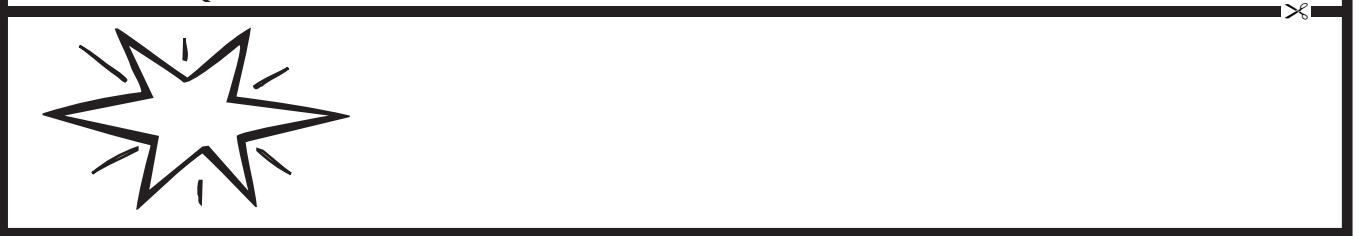
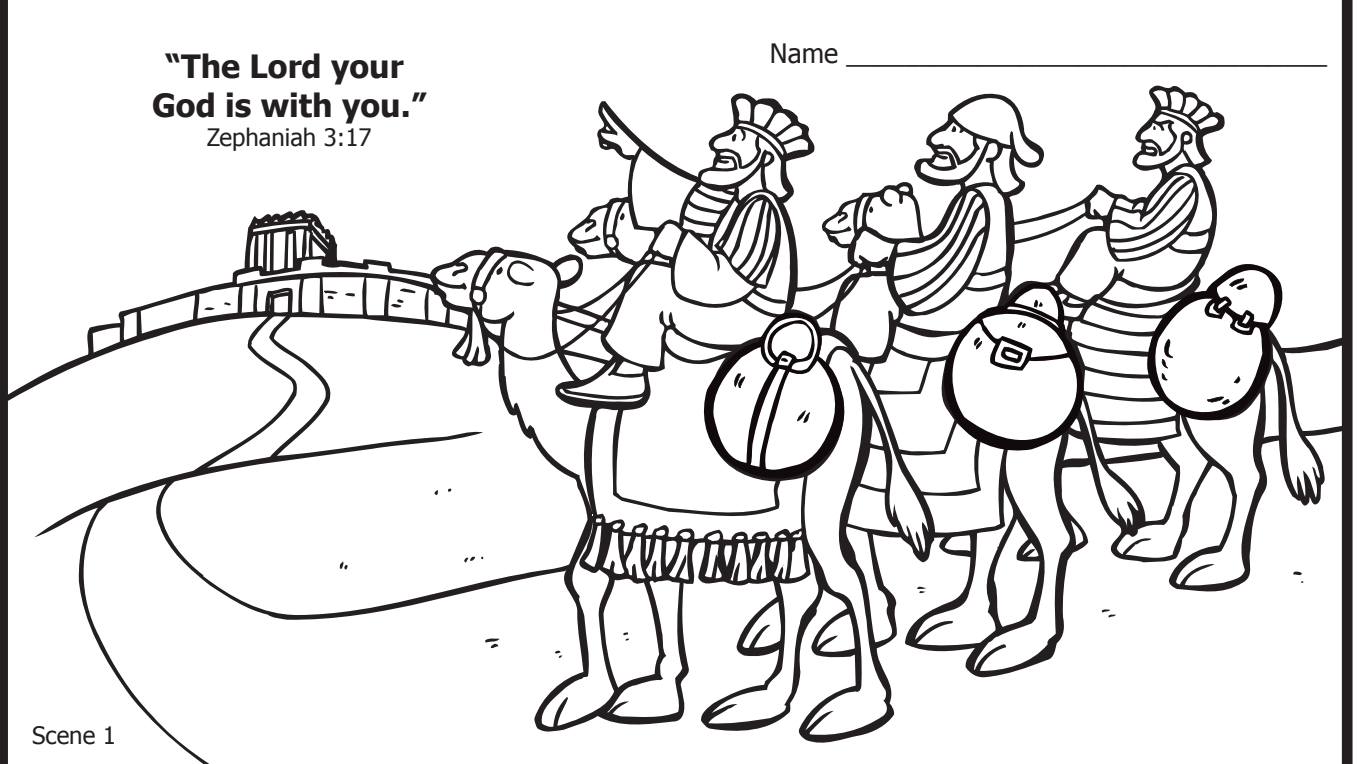
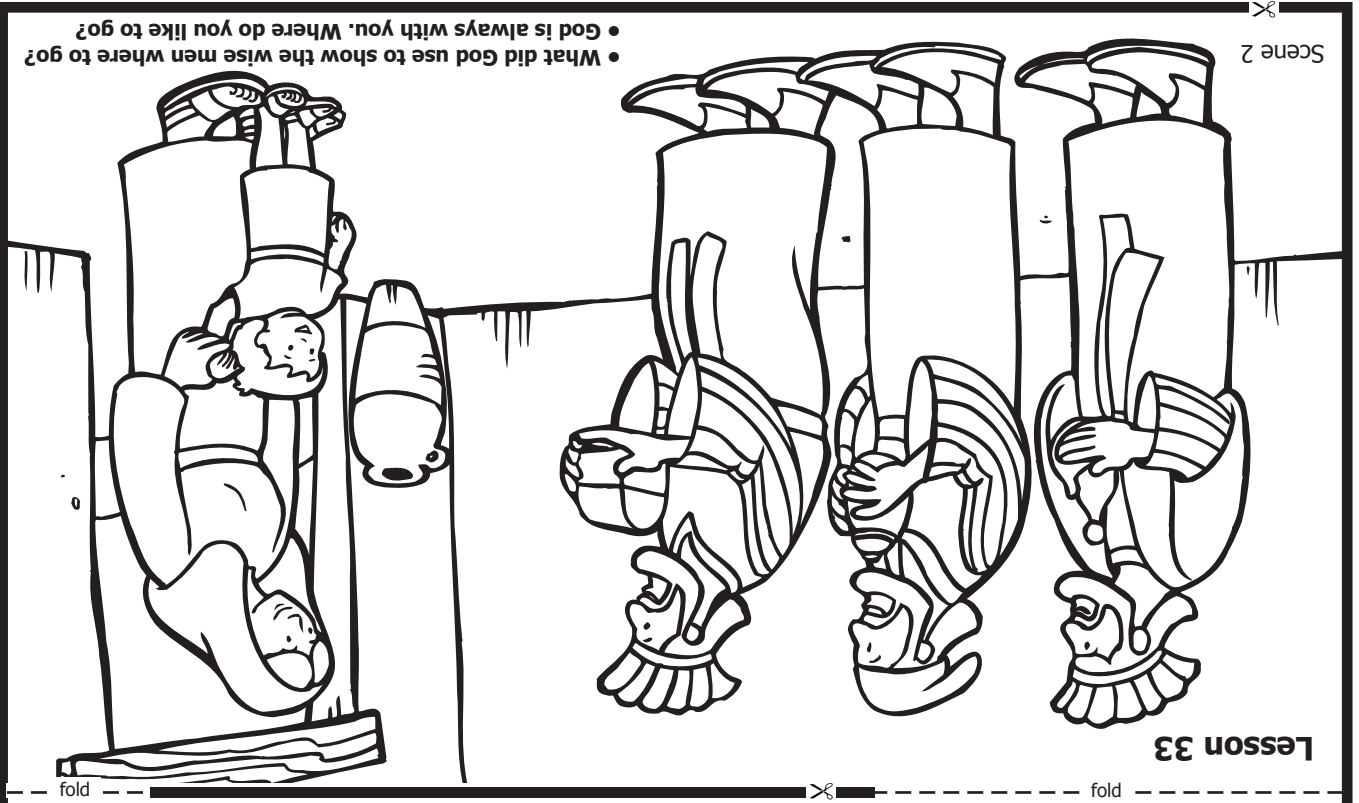
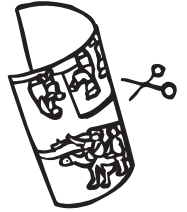
- What did the shepherds do after visiting baby Jesus?
- Who is someone you can tell about baby Jesus' birth?



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 33** Escape to Egypt

Instructions:

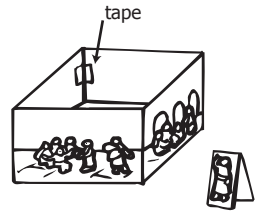
- Teacher cuts slit in rolled page (see sketch).
- Child colours page.
- Child cut's off star strip, folds page and slides strip into slit to review story action.
- Child turns star strip around for Scene 2 (or draws a star behind printed star).
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



Bible Sharing Time Activity Page **Lesson 34** Jesus at the Temple

Instructions:

- Child colours page.
- Child cuts page and cuts off figures, then folds figures and Temple sections.
- Child tapes sections at X to form a story square (see sketch). Child moves figures around story square to show action.
- Use the Talk About questions to guide discussion during this activity.



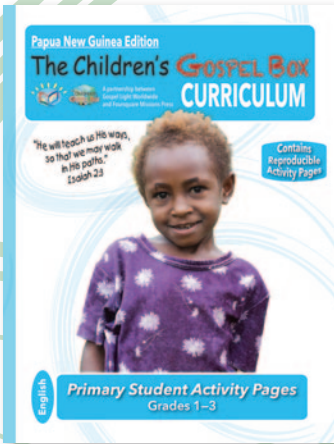
Name _____

Lesson 34

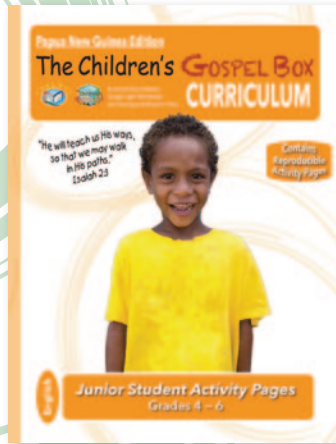
"God's love for me is great." (See Psalm 86:13.)

• Who did God give to care for Jesus as He grew?
• Who did God give to care for you as you grow?

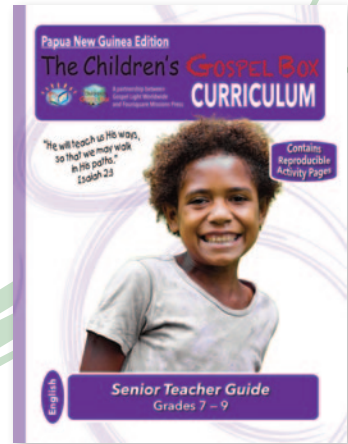
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