

Sunday School Lessons for Children

Volume 15

**Sunday School
Lessons for
Children**

Volume 15

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Ideas for Teaching Children

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

You might want to plan a project for the year of making their very own "Memory Verse Book". Each week have A5 or A6 papers for you or the children to write out the weekly memory verse in the language they understand best. Punch one or two holes in the edge of the paper and tie all the pages together with a string or piece of wool to make a book.

HOW TO PREPARE A SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Beginning of the Year:

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

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

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

Two Hours Each Week

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

HOW TO PRESENT A SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Children should be actively involved in learning by sharing experiences and feelings, discovering truth, and choosing something they can do each week in response to the information learned in the lesson. Your lesson time should be carefully planned and organized to put into practice your preparation and thought. We would like to suggest the following basic outline for your Sunday School class time. Times given are based on an hour class. Numbers in parentheses are for 45 minute classes. Arrive at least ten minutes before class to prepare your teaching area and set out any lesson materials that you may need.

- Use the first **10 (5) minutes** to greet your students as they arrive. Start the lesson with a prayer (you may want to allow the children to take turns to pray at this time). Give them a chance to share any exciting news and events that have happened to them since last week. Take attendance and receive the offering. Follow-up on any assignment from last week and review last week's lesson.
- The next **10 (5) minutes** should be used to introduce the lesson and center the students' thinking onto the main point of today's lesson.
- The lesson should be shared with the students in around **15 minutes**. Remember not to PREACH or READ to them. Present the lesson like a story in your own words.
- The next **20 (15) minutes** should be used to work on the activities and talk about the discussion items given at the end of the lesson. Help the children to see how the truths learned in the lesson apply to their everyday lives.
- During the last **5 minutes**, close with a prayer and have the children help clean up the class area before going on to church. This is a good time for one-on-one interaction with the children.

Review the success of the lesson as soon as you can. Spend a few minutes making a note to yourself of what worked and what did not work for future reference

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

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

Memory Verse Work

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

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

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

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

Project Ideas

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

10 g (2 teaspoons) Cream of Tartar
250 g (1 cup) Flour
2.5 g (1/2 teaspoons) Salt
15 g (1 tablespoon) Cooking Oil
250 ml (1 cup) Water

Mix all ingredients together in a cooking pot until a smooth paste is formed. Cook slowly over low heat until dough comes away from side of pot. Remove dough from pot and knead for 3 minutes. Add food coloring.

Drama: Use your children's natural talent and enjoyment of acting to act out any of the Bible stories. Let the children take turns playing the main characters.

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

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

God Reveals Himself

Lesson 1

UNIT 1: *THE GOD WE SERVE*

BIBLE TRUTH

God reveals Himself as Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that our God is One
- Understand that our God reveals Himself to us as the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
- Realize that God must be served as One

MEMORY VERSE

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith I: The Triune God
- Copy of Student Activity sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Before class, collect objects which are to be used for illustration e.g. tripod stand, three legged pot, a triangle, an egg, etc. In class, let the children talk about the collected objects. The teacher should emphasize the importance of all the three parts that make up an object. End this discussion by relating it to the Triune God. It is important for children to understand that the objects used are mere illustrations of the relationship within the Triune God but they can never fully explain it.

BIBLE STORY

“God Reveals Himself at Jesus’ Baptism”

Matthew 3:16-17; John 10:30; Acts 5:3, 4d

God is the only Being who was not created. All life came from Him for He created all things. People only know God by the way He reveals Himself to them. As Christians we believe that God reveals Himself as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – one God but three Persons. The baptism of Jesus is one of the events in which we see these three Persons.

Jesus, the Son of God came to earth to show us how to live for God. He came from God the Father in heaven and He is one with God the Father (John 10:30). One day Jesus went to His cousin John who was baptizing people in the river Jordan. He needed to be baptized before doing the work God had sent Him to do. John was surprised that Jesus would come to him to be baptized. But Jesus told him that it was necessary. Jesus’ baptism showed that He was in agreement with the message of righteousness that John was preaching. John then agreed and baptized Him.

However, something very special happened. As soon as Jesus went out of the water, the Holy Spirit, who is the third Person of the Triune God, came upon Him. John saw the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove coming down upon Jesus. He anointed Jesus for the work He was to begin. The Holy Spirit is also one with God the Father (Acts 5:3,4d). And, He is the One that continues the work Jesus did while here on earth.

At that very same time, a voice from heaven said: “This is my Son whom I love; with whom I am well pleased”. This was God the Father speaking. He is the first Person of the Triune God. In this way, the One true God revealed Himself in three Persons at the baptism of Jesus.

The three are sometimes named together (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14). This is the God we serve. We cannot worship one and not the others. It would be like destroying a triangle by removing one side of it. Or separating the three parts of an egg shell, egg white and egg yolk. Who would enjoy eating egg white alone? Or worse, the shell?

This is the God who loves us so much. Although the three Persons are always working together, it sometimes helps to think of God the Father as our Creator; God the Son as our Savior and God the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. He is the only true God.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Ask these questions and allow children to respond:

- *How many gods are there that we must serve?*
- *Who are the three Persons through whom God reveals Himself to us?*

Explain and help the children memorize the first three Articles of Faith, using the picture on the activity sheet.

1. ***The Triune God (Triune means three.)*** - *We believe that there is only one God. God has always been and will always exist. He is the creator of all things. God is revealed to us in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity.*
2. ***Jesus Christ*** - *We believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God. He was born as a human being. His mother was Mary, who was a virgin when he was born. Jesus Christ is both fully man and fully God. Jesus Christ died for our sins. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He returned to heaven where He now helps us live as Christians.*
3. ***The Holy Spirit*** - *We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is everywhere in the world. He works especially in and through Christians and the Church. The Holy Spirit shows people they are sinners and leads them to become Christians. The Holy Spirit helps the Christian live to please God.*

Have the children sing or teach them a song about God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Close with prayer thanking God for revealing Himself to us. Make the prayer as simple as possible so that the children can also learn to talk with God.

God Speaks to Me Everywhere

Lesson 2

UNIT 1: THE GOD WE SERVE

BIBLE TRUTH

God reveals Himself through all His creation

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that we can always be aware of God's nearness and of His glory that shines in all that is fair and beautiful.
- Understand that creation is God's unspoken Word to us.

MEMORY VERSE

"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me" (Psalm 139:1)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith I: The Triune God
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

How do we know that God is everywhere and that He speaks to us all the time? Allow the children to discuss this question.

BIBLE STORY

"God Speaks to Me Everywhere"

Psalm 139:1-14

We learn that He speaks through His Word, but He also speaks to us through the world. All around us is God's creation. What are some of the things God has created? The butterflies, the lions, the elephants, the blue sky, the sun, the moon and stars, the flowers, the running water, the rain, the newborn baby, the animals. Everywhere we look, we can see the beauty of God through His creation.

The Bible is God's spoken and written Word to us. God will never go against what is written in His Word. God's creation is His unspoken Word to us. As we look at the beauty around us, it reminds us of His nearness. God has put many lovely things in the world for us to use and enjoy and to help us think of Him. How do created things remind us of God's nearness or teach us about Him? Let us thank God for so many lovely things.

There is a special kind of song called a doxology, which is a form of praise to God. It is also available in many other languages. Let us sing it together:

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Discuss: *What do you think is the most wonderful thing that God has created?*

Let the children go outside and have each collect two different flowers and leaves or anything small that is an example of God's creation. Paste one of each item collected onto a big sheet of paper and write the following words under them, 'Thank You, Jesus, for opening our eyes'.

Help children paste or draw the second item they have collected in the space provided in their activity sheet.

Pray for the preservation of our world, that people will take care of God's creation and not destroy the environment.

God is Great and Powerful

Lesson 3

UNIT 1: *THE GOD WE SERVE*

BIBLE TRUTH

God is always happy to display His power to unbelievers when His children trust Him.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize the greatness and the power of God.
- Trust in God's power and greatness for themselves and for others.

MEMORY VERSE

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel". (2 Kings 5:15b)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith I: The Triune God
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Do you know any great men or women? Can you name one and tell why you think he or she is great?

BIBLE STORY

"God is Great and Powerful"

2 Kings 5:1-15

Our Bible story today is about a great man in the Syrian army. His name was Naaman, and he was a very important man. Those people who knew him said that he was strong, great, brave, and victorious. Even his name means 'charm' or 'pleasant'. What do all these words mean? What kind of a person do you think Naaman was?

As great as Naaman was, he still had a very big problem. He had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. There was nothing any doctor could do to make him well. In our story, God shows His power through ordinary people like you and me. There was a Hebrew girl who was the servant to Naaman's wife and she knew that her God could help Naaman. She was very proud of her faith and how God worked through His prophet Elisha. So the servant girl told her mistress that God could heal Naaman through Elisha.

So Naaman went to see Elisha, arriving with horses and chariots. Elisha was a very ordinary type of man, but he was not impressed by the proud elegance of Naaman's party. He casually sent his messenger to meet the visitors with his instructions of what Naaman must do to be healed. Elisha was not afraid of the leprosy or of Naaman, but he wanted to show Naaman that God was in charge of the miracle and would do it His way. How often do we think we know what is best for us? Naaman was like that, too. So he became angry when he was told to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. 'Why must I wash in the dirty Jordan when we have good, clean rivers at home? I am going home', he said.

Naaman's servants begged him to do what he had been told. They reminded him that if he had been told to do some big thing, he would have done it without question. So Naaman humbled himself and washed seven times in the Jordan. He was healed by the power of God. He also recognized that

Israel's God was the only God.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Ask the children to talk about a time when they were sick. Ask: *What did you do? Did you trust the doctor or your parents when they gave you medicine that you did not like? Did you take it because it would make you better?* Talk about times when they have trusted God.

Bring a scarf or piece of cloth that can be used as a blindfold. Ask for a volunteer. Tie the cloth over the child's eyes. Tell the volunteer to trust you as you lead him or her around the room. Now blindfold another child and have one of the children lead him around. Do this several times. Remind the guides to be very careful as they lead the blindfolded person around. The object of this exercise is to see how well we trust our guides. Let the children talk about how it felt to be led around, and also how it felt to be responsible for someone else. Trusting God is like going around blindfolded and depending on Him alone to guide your life.

Allow the children to color in a picture of the Hebrew slave girl and her mistress with the inscription: "God shows His power through ordinary people"

God Watches Over Us

Lesson 4

UNIT 1: THE GOD WE SERVE

BIBLE TRUTH

God watches over us and protects us. Therefore, we must trust Him, for like Gehazi, we would be surprised to see all that God is protecting us from.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Understand that God is always watching over us.
- Understand that those who trust Him will realize His presence with them.

MEMORY VERSE

"And Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.'" (2 Kings 6:17a)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith I: The Triune God
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Let the children sing about God's power and presence, e.g. *'What a Mighty God We Serve'*.

Even though we sing about God's power and say that we trust Him, how many times do we believe something if we cannot see it? People of the world say, 'seeing is believing'. By this they mean that they will only believe something when they see it happen. However, as Christians we must trust God always. People of faith know that 'believing is seeing' through the eyes of faith.

BIBLE STORY

“God Watches Over Us”

2 Kings 6:15-23

Elisha was a prophet of God and he acted as the eyes of faith for the king of Israel. Every time the enemy made secret plans to go and fight the Israelites, Elisha knew the battle plans exactly and told the king of Israel. The enemy’s king heard that it was Elisha who always told of his plans, so he sent his men to kidnap Elisha. Of course, Elisha knew they were coming. One morning Elisha’s servant saw the Aramean army surrounding the village, and he was very afraid. He asked Elisha ‘what shall we do?’ Elisha comforted his servant and told him that he did not need to be afraid. He said, ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them’. But the servant did not see any army on Elisha’s side. Who do you think was with them? Yes! it was God’s invisible army. Then Elisha prayed that the attacking army would be blinded for a time. So even though they had eyes to see, God made it as though they had blinders covering their eyes. The army was led away to the town of Samaria, where they were captured. Elisha showed them love and kindness. He fed them and sent them back to their homes. They never raided Israel’s territory again.

We see in this story that Elisha trusted God. Yes, we also have power over our enemies. We also have God’s invisible army helping us. Love and kindness is the best way for us to fight our enemies as well. All that people need to know is that we care. Even when people are surrounding us with injustice and unfairness, we should always show them love and kindness. God watches over those who trust Him.

When Christians trust in God, they can sense His care even when others may not care. This does not mean that we will not feel discouraged at times. But if we use our eyes of faith, we will realize that God is always with us, even if we cannot see Him.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

We can trust God even when we cannot see how things might work out. He is always with us. In today’s Bible story, someone discovered something about trusting God. See if you can tell me who it was and what they learned.

Give them a trusting challenge – ask them to watch for ways they can see God taking care of them. He may take care of them with miraculous protection, as He did with the invisible army, or it may be a more simple way, like helping their parents have a job so they can have food.

Have the children color the picture on their activity sheet of the Lord’s army versus that of the Arameans.

God is Patient and Forgiving

Lesson 5

UNIT 1: THE GOD WE SERVE

BIBLE TRUTH

God is patiently waiting for all His children to come back to Him so He can forgive them. He wants to be good friends with them.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that that God is patient, forgiving, and fair with all people.

MEMORY VERSE

“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” (Luke 15:24)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith - I: The Triune God
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

*What if our parents were not patient with us when we were still small? For example, sometimes we would spill our food as we tried to feed ourselves. Over and over they would calmly show us how to do it properly. They did this until we could feed ourselves without their help. **Patience** means that if you do something wrong, your parents and others will give you another chance to do it right. It is like they are waiting for you to ultimately get it right. Think of things you have done wrong. How many times did they have to forgive us? **Forgiving** means letting you start over without reminding you about what was done wrong. However, patient and forgiving your parents or other people are, they will never beat God. Listen to our story today.*

BIBLE STORY

“God is Patient and Forgiving”

Jesus told the story of the lost son to teach about God’s patience and forgiveness. Once there was a man with two sons. The younger son wanted to leave home and ‘enjoy life’, so he asked his father for his inheritance early. The father gave him the money and the boy left home and went to the big city. Soon he had wasted all his money on wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a terrible famine and he began to be in need. So he got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food he was giving the pigs.

One day while he was sitting in the pig pen, he thought of his father’s house. He remembered how wonderful it was at home, how the servants were well-fed, and everything was so nice. He decided to go home and ask his father’s forgiveness for being such an ungrateful son. Since he had run away and done so many bad things, the son knew that his culture said that his father should disown him and act as though he were dead. He thought he would ask his father if he could become his servant, so he started to make his way home.

While he was still far away down the road, his father saw him. He had looked down the road many times every day since his son had left, hoping and praying that he would come back home. When he saw his son, he ran to meet him and threw his arms around him and kissed him. The younger son apologized to his father and asked for forgiveness for being such a bad son. Then he asked his father if he could work for him as a servant. But his father was so excited to see his son again that he ordered his servants to make a big feast. His whole household celebrated that his son was restored to him – though he had been lost, though the culture taught that he had been dead, he was now alive again. The loving, forgiving father restored his son to the place he had before he went away.

God is also patient and forgiving towards His children. It makes Him sad when we disobey Him. He is sad about the millions of people who are living in sin and have never heard about Jesus.

He does not want anyone to be separated from Him. He wants everyone to come home to Him and experience His love and forgiveness.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Divide your class into several teams and put them in lines. Place a needle and thread a short distance in front of each team. When you give the signal, the first person in each line will run to where the needle and thread are and thread the needle. When the needle is threaded, they must dangle the needle by its thread to show that they have done it. Then they must unthread it again, put it down, and run back to the next person in line. The first team to have everyone thread the needle and come back is the winner. Notice each person's reaction and patience in waiting for their teammates. Now discuss about the game with a focus on:

- how they had to wait for each other
- how they had to forgive themselves and others who could not perform as expected
- how they felt about their experience – being patient and forgiving of others while others were patient and forgiving of them

Impress upon them that patience and forgiveness are important characteristics of God. That is why, even though He desires that all people return to Him, He will not force them but rather patiently waits for them. Will you keep God waiting for long or will you return to Him and enjoy His forgiveness for the rest of your life?

Have the children color the picture on the activity sheet of the forgiving father.

Jesus Shows His Love

Lesson 6

UNIT 2: JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became God-man. He came to show us love. He died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead and ascended to heaven where He is now interceding for us.

LESSON GOALS

To help children appreciate that:

- although Jesus was God, He became man and was born by the virgin Mary.
- He came to show us how to live for God through His lifestyle and teachings.
- He came to save us from our sins so that we can live as He did.

MEMORY VERSE

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Pledged or engaged to be married was taken as seriously as a marriage. That is why Joseph is referred to as her husband and that he wanted to divorce her.
- Manual, Article of Faith II: Jesus Christ
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Before class, collect items for preparation of a baby's birth, e.g. napkins, towels, baby oil, safety pins, baby bath, vests, nightgown, etc.

In class, let the children name things which mothers prepare when expecting a baby. Talk about preparations for receiving a baby.

Summarize the discussion about ways in which expectant mothers prepare for a new baby. Tell the class that today's lesson is about the birth of a baby who was to be the Savior of the world.

BIBLE STORY

“Jesus Shows His Love”

Luke 1:26-37; Matthew 1:18-25; Acts 2:22-36

A long time ago in Israel, there was a man called Joseph who was engaged to a virgin girl called Mary. An angel of the Lord appeared to Mary. He told her she will be with child through the power of the Holy Spirit and give birth to a baby boy. This baby was to be called the "Son of God". His other names included Jesus (because He will save his people from their sins) and Emanuel (God with us).

When the time came, Baby Jesus was born and He grew everyday just like all babies do. He grew up in Nazareth, a town in Galilee as a son of Mary and her husband Joseph. He was always obedient to His mother and father and was also loving and kind to everyone.

Before Jesus lived here on earth, He lived in heaven with God, His heavenly Father. He came to live here to show us how much he loved us. He also came to show us how to live for God through His teachings and by the way He lived. Jesus grew up to be a very special man. He performed many miracles. Jesus forgave those who repented of their sins, made the sick well, the blind to see, the lame to walk and even raised some who had died. He calmed a big storm and walked on water. Although He was a special and good man, some people did not like Him. They were angry because He could do things no one else could do. These bad people wanted to hurt Jesus. They even wanted to kill Him.

And so one day they took Jesus away and nailed Him on a cross so that He could die. He died and was buried. But on the third day He rose again through the power of God His Father. Jesus is still alive. He is in heaven now and is praying for us. He loves everyone even those who do not love Him.

He died to forgive us our sins so that we can be able to live as He did. When we receive Jesus into our lives he becomes our friend whom we can trust to care for our daily needs. And He wants us to go and live with Him in heaven when we die.

CONNECTIONS TO LIFE

Review the three articles of faith (put more emphasis on the second) and the song or hymn learned last week. Make crosses as a class and give to church members after Sunday service to show that Jesus died on the cross for us all.

Help the children write “Thank you Jesus” notes to express their appreciation and their desire to imitate Him, eg. Thank you Jesus for I want to be like you by Encourage the children to put these notes where they can see them every day as reminders of their appreciation and desire.

Have the children color the pictures on their activity sheet of baby Jesus, Jesus teaching and doing miracles, Jesus on the cross, Jesus raised from the dead, and Jesus ascending to heaven. Encourage them to use their colored pictures to share the story of Jesus with others.

Dismiss the children with a word of prayer.

Meeting Jesus

Lesson 7

UNIT 2: JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus makes a difference in our lives if we allow Him.

LESSON GOALS

- To introduce the children to Jesus as a living friend.
- Realize that having Jesus in one's life make a big difference.

MEMORY VERSE

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 2: Jesus Christ
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Bring copies of last week's newspapers to Sunday School. Have your class to go through them and cut out all the stories that show the ugliness of what people do. Then cut out all the stories that show the nice things that people do. Get a large piece of paper and make a poster. Divide the poster down the middle, on one side write the heading "Before" and write "After" on the other side. Now paste the ugliness type stories on the Before side. This represents life without Jesus. Meeting Jesus makes a difference in people's lives as will be shown by our lesson today.

BIBLE STORY

"Meeting Jesus"

Luke 19:1-10

There was man named Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector and a very rich man. He seemed to have everything anyone could want. But there was something missing in his life. He had no friends, because as a tax collector he had stolen from people or cheated them into paying too much tax. If you tell lies and steal and cheat from other people, you will never have friends either, and you will be very unhappy. Like Zacchaeus, something will be missing in your life.

Now Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his village and he very much wanted to see Him. He was a very short man, so he knew he would not be able to see through the crowds because no one liked him enough to give him a place on the roadside to see Jesus as He passed by. He knew he might not get a chance to see Jesus. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a fig tree so he could see Jesus. As Jesus walked down the road, He suddenly stopped under the fig tree. When He looked up and saw Zacchaeus, Jesus told him to come down from the tree so Jesus could visit at his house. Zacchaeus was so excited that Jesus stopped and spoke to him that he came down at once and gladly welcomed Jesus to his home.

Do you know that Jesus wants to stay with us as well? He wants us to invite Him into our hearts so that He can be with us always. When we do that, He will give us peace.

This lonely little man who had everything in life except what was really important became a changed

man because he made an effort to meet Jesus. The presence of Jesus makes new people out of us. Zacchaeus immediately started helping other people. He paid back all the money he had stolen or cheated from anybody and gave half his possessions to the poor.

Won't you invite Jesus into your life today? He can make a difference in your life as well.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Now paste the good type stories on the After side. Discuss with the class what kind of world it would be if those people who did the ugly things accepted Jesus in their lives.

Have each child make a list (or draw pictures) on their activity sheet describing what life is like before meeting Jesus and what life is like after Jesus comes into your heart.

Have a class prayer for all the people in your town or village asking God to make a difference in their lives.

Jesus Makes Time for Children

Lesson 8

UNIT 2: JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus made time for children – they are important!

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that Jesus is reaching out even to them.
- Realize that because Jesus loves and accepts them, they are an important part of the church too.

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me.”” (Luke 18:16).

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 2: Jesus Christ
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Ask the children how they feel when it seems like they are being left out or pushed away because people are busy doing very important things. But if the most important person on earth made time for them, how would they feel? Take note of their responses especially to the second question.

BIBLE STORY

“Jesus Makes Time for Children”

Luke 18:15-17

Jesus went from village to village, reaching out and teaching the people about God and the Kingdom of God. As He was going about, many people came to Jesus asking Him to heal them. Have you ever seen it when lots of people crowd around somebody important? Especially if that person can give them something. It is very hard to get near them. People are pushing, pulling, and jumping to get close to the important person. There must have been lots of noise as the crowds were talking and shouting.

*One day Jesus and His disciples were very busy. There were lots of people with problems wanting attention. In the middle of this, some people brought their babies to Jesus so He could touch them. There wasn't anything wrong with the babies. Their parents just wanted Jesus to bless them. The disciples got cross with the parents and told them to stop bothering Him. They thought that Jesus was too busy doing things they thought were more important and He did not have time to touch their children. Jesus heard the disciples telling the mothers to go away, so He called out to the parents, **"Let the little children come to me"**. He told the disciples that they must not stop the children from coming to Him.*

Children are very important people – not only to their parents but to Jesus as well. He said that the Kingdom of God belongs to people with faith like children. He wants all children to meet Him.

You should be happy to know that Jesus loves you so much that He will always have time to listen to you when you talk to Him. He always has time to reach out to you. Tell Him today that you love Him. Tell others that they must meet Jesus because He cares about them.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Knowing that Jesus loves and accepts children, and that they ARE an important part of the church, how does that make them feel? Allow them to discuss.

Have the children color the picture of Jesus and the children on their activity sheet.

Jesus Prays before Making Decisions

Lesson 9

UNIT 3: JESUS' PRAYER LIFE

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus totally depended on God to make decisions. Thus He spent the whole night in prayer seeking God's will.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that we can know God's will if we seek it.
- Understand the need to pray before making decisions.

MEMORY VERSE

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9).

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 2: Jesus Christ
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Using a little match stick or stone or something small, hide it in one of your hands behind your back so children will not see. Then holding out your two fists, ask them to guess where the stick or stone is. The first one to get it right has a turn. Repeat this a few times giving more children an opportunity to participate. Ask the children what helped them choose the hand with the object.

Ask them if they understand what a decision is. Explain that the choices they made in the game were their decisions. *Some decisions are easy and not so important like picking the hand with the stone. But others are not easy even though they are very important. For example, it would be like your uncle wanting to give you a gift. He then gives you some choices to select from, but then he wants you to tell him which gift you want by the next day. If you are not certain which one you should take, you could ask your mother or father to help you make a choice. When the time comes to tell your uncle what choice you have made, you will have decided which gift you would rather have. Our story today is about Jesus praying before He made an important decision.*

BIBLE STORY

“Jesus Prays Before Decisions”

Luke 6:12-16

Jesus was starting to go around the villages telling the people about the Kingdom of God and God’s love. He was helping them in all kinds of ways. There were many people who were following Him and listening to His teaching. But before Jesus started travelling to other places, He needed to select some of His followers to be His special helpers or apostles.

Before Jesus made His choice, He went to a quiet place on the surrounding mountainside to pray. He had to be very sure that He was making the right choices, so Jesus spent the whole night praying to God. Jesus always talked to God about everything He did. After His night of prayer with God, Jesus called His followers together and chose the twelve apostles.

There was Simon (whom Jesus called Peter), and Simon’s brother Andrew. Then there were James and John, the sons of Zebedee. He also chose Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Is there a decision in your life that you need to pray about? Kneel by your bed and tell Jesus about it. Talk to Jesus and listen to what He says. Jesus can speak to us through the Bible, our parents or through mature, wise Christians. His Holy Spirit will give us peace in our hearts when we make the right choice.

Allow your class to talk about their needs in life.

Give each child a few pieces of writing paper. Have them fold each page in half. Then make two holes on the folded side of the papers, take a piece of string and tie it through the holes to make a book. Each child should write the words: ‘My Book of Prayer’ on the front cover and then decorate the cover the way they like. For the next month, have the children write their prayers to God in the book (if they cannot write yet, they should draw pictures of what they are praying about – family members, etc.). The children should bring their prayer books with them to class each week.

Have the children write the names of Jesus’ disciples underneath the picture of Jesus praying, and color the picture.

Jesus Teaches His Disciples How to Pray

Lesson 10

UNIT 3: *JESUS' PRAYER LIFE*

BIBLE TRUTH

Prayer is very important to Jesus and He wants to teach us to pray.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Learn how to pray
- Realize that prayer was very important to Jesus even though He was the Son of God
- Seek to become people of prayer

MEMORY VERSE

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 2: Jesus Christ
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Every child needs to learn the Lord's Prayer. Ask someone in their family to help them learn it. Each week keep on asking them if anyone has learned the whole Lord's prayer until they can say it.

BIBLE STORY

"Jesus Teaches His Disciples How To Pray"

Luke 11:11-4; Matthew 6:9-13

*Prayer was very important to Jesus. He spent a lot of time praying – talking and listening to God. One time after Jesus had finished praying, one of the disciples came to Him and asked, "**Lord, teach us to pray**". Jesus wants everybody to learn how to pray, so He taught His disciples a model prayer that we call the Lord's Prayer.*

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven
our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from the evil one."*

Jesus did not mean that these are the only words we should say when we pray. This is an example of a good prayer. What Jesus wanted His disciples to learn is that we should keep our prayers simple and talk in the language that we understand best. We should not try to show off or impress someone else with how good we are at praying. No, we should pray to God by speaking simply and directly to Him.

In your prayers, tell Jesus how good He is to you and your family. Thank Him for helping you in your daily needs. Then ask Him to be with you and help you, ask Him to take care of your family and their needs. Pray for forgiveness for any wrong things you have done. Maybe you were naughty at home and did not listen to what your parents told you to do. Go and say sorry to them before you pray.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

In the prayer book you made last week, write a little mealtime prayer thanking God for the food He has provided.

Let the children discuss their prayers with you. Give each one an opportunity to give a little testimony about answered prayer.

Have the children read and then decorate the scroll with the Lord's prayer on their activity sheet.

Jesus Prays for Others

Lesson 11

UNIT 3: JESUS' PRAYER LIFE

BIBLE TRUTH

We can and should pray for each other.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- See that Jesus prayed for His disciples and for us and
- Realize that Jesus want us to pray for others.

MEMORY VERSE

"Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:11-12)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 2: Jesus Christ
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Discuss: *Why do Christians pray for other people? Why do we pray for people when they are sick? How do you feel when someone prays for you? Do you think prayer makes a difference?*

BIBLE STORY

"Jesus Prays for Others"

John 17:6-26

Our Bible story today is about a special prayer that Jesus prayed just before He was arrested. Jesus knew what was going to happen, so He prayed for Himself and then He prayed for His disciples. Jesus didn't just pray for the disciples who were following Him at that time – no, He prayed for everyone who would ever be His disciple. That means that He also prayed for you and for me.

Jesus wanted God to look after His disciples and protect them from evil attacks while they were busy

doing His work here on earth. He talked to His Father about the work that they were sending the disciples to do. You see, Jesus' disciples were going to be His legs, His arms, His eyes, His mouth, His ears here on earth after Jesus went back to heaven. Do you know what that means? That means that if Jesus wants to do something for someone, He needs a disciple who will let Jesus use him or her to help someone else. When Jesus wants someone to hear about God's love, He needs one of His followers to go and tell that person.

Just like the disciples who walked with Jesus before, we also have a task to do. Our job is to pray for others and reach them for Christ. Are you ready to pray for your family and friends? Jesus prayed that all Christians would come together in love to be witnesses to the world under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Draw shapes similar to the ones on the activity sheet (two of each), cut the pieces out and place them in a bag or basket. Let each child draw one shape out of the basket or bag. Each child must find the other child with the shape that matches his or hers. The person with the same shape must now write the other person's name on his shape. These children are now prayer partners. Let them paste the shape with their partner's name on it on the matching shape on their activity sheet. They must now share prayer needs with each other, write them in their prayer book and pray for those needs all week.

If time allows, let the children sing the chorus 'Read Your Bible, Pray Every day':

Read your Bible, pray every day

Read your Bible, pray every day

Pray every day, Pray every day

Read your Bible, pray every day

And you'll grow, grow, grow

Jesus Prays When He is Sad and Troubled

Lesson 12

UNIT 3: JESUS' PRAYER LIFE

BIBLE TRUTH

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble". He is always happy to help those who call Him.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Know that they can pray when they are upset, sad, or hurt, and God will hear them.

MEMORY VERSE

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 2: Jesus Christ
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Have you ever felt sad or troubled? Everybody does sometimes. Maybe our brother or sister, or mother or father are very sick and we feel we cannot help them. That makes us sad. Did you know even Jesus felt sad and troubled?

BIBLE STORY

“Jesus Prays When Sad and Troubled”

Matthew 26:36-46

Jesus and His disciples were walking in the Garden of Gethsemane, a place that was quiet and restful – maybe there were birds and trees and little streams there. When we are sad, we often look for a place that is quiet to think and pray. Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to watch with Him while He prayed. Jesus began to feel sad and troubled and He told them, ‘My heart is so heavy with sorrow, I feel as if I could die’. So He went off by Himself to pray.

Some people frown when they are sad. Others cry, and still others get very quiet and will not talk to anyone. Jesus was very sad. Do you know what He did? He prayed and asked God, ‘if it is possible, Father, please take away this suffering. But if it is not possible, then go ahead and do Your will. I will obey You’. Jesus knew there was terrible suffering ahead for Him. He did not look forward to the suffering any more than you would. But He was willing to go through it if that was the only way to save people from sin.

There are times when we pray because we are sad and other times when we are glad. It is very important to do that – to tell God of those times and even to ask Him if it is possible to change a sad situation into a happy situation. God hears all our prayers, but sometimes He does not answer them in the way we want. Even Jesus prayed, ‘Father, if it is possible, please take away this suffering. But if it is not possible, then go ahead and do Your will. I will obey You’. In our prayers we should say to God, ‘here is my problem, please change it if it is possible, but if not, I am happy to let Your will be done’. Remember God wants what is best for you. We must also pray for strength to get through the difficulties and trials that God allows us to go through. When He hears you pray, He will come to your assistance.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Prepare questions to review this lesson or the series on Jesus’ prayer life. Have the children sit in a circle. Blindfold one child and have him sit in the middle of the circle. Give one of the children in the circle something easy to pass around (ball or stone). The child in the centre claps his hands and the object is passed around the circle. When the child claps again, the ball stops. Ask a lesson question, e.g. What does Jesus call God in the Lord’s Prayer? The child holding the ball answers – others help if he cannot answer. The one who answers correctly trades places with the child in the center. Continue playing the game as long as time allows. Be careful to involve as many children as possible.

End by having the children decorate the frame on their activity sheet.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 13

UNIT 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE TRUTH

The promise of the Holy Spirit is for all believers to help them tell others about Jesus.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for them too.
- Understand that the Holy Spirit helps Jesus' followers tell others about God.
- Desire to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 3: *The Holy Spirit*
- **Witness** – is one who tells others about Jesus and His love. Other people will know that they know Jesus by seeing how they act, how they talk, how they listen, and how they love all people. Remember, wherever we go Jesus is with us helping us to talk about Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus will be with us always.
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

What would you do if someone promised you a gift? Allow the children to discuss this question with a focus on the expectation and excitement brought about by the promise of a gift. What if that person was Jesus?

BIBLE STORY

“The Promise of the Holy Spirit”

Acts 1:1-11

After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent another 40 days with His followers before He went away to heaven. One time while He was eating with His apostles, He told them that it was almost time for them to receive the gift His Father had promised them. Now, we know that Jesus' Father was God – can you imagine God promising you a gift? You know it would be a really good gift, and this gift was really good.

The gift that God was giving to the apostles was the Holy Spirit. God gives us gifts for special reasons. The special reason God was giving the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers was to help them tell others about Jesus and His love for them. Jesus wants His followers to tell other people that He wants to be their friend.

Jesus told the disciples that they should not be sad that He was going away, but they couldn't help it. They were very sad. They wanted Jesus to stay with them in Israel and be their king. But Jesus tried to teach them again that His Kingdom is different. Jesus had to go away so that the Holy Spirit could come and make Jesus the King of their lives. God's gift makes it possible for His Kingdom to last forever and to spread all over the world, to every country and every nation in every country. And that was a better gift than what the apostles thought they wanted.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Even today, Jesus wants you to receive that same gift so that you can tell all your family and your friends about Jesus and how He can make their lives different. Jesus wants you to be His witness.

What to do to receive the Holy Spirit. You must:

1. *want to receive the Holy Spirit*

2. ask God for the gift in prayer – talking to God, listening to Him and obeying all that He says
3. accept the Holy Spirit by faith

Have the children color the picture of the Spirit Filled Disciples.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 14

UNIT 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit came to teach and enable believers and direct the Church.

LESSON GOALS

To help children...

- Know what happened when the Holy Spirit first came upon the church.
- Appreciate how He enables believers Peter is an example.
- Understand that even today the Holy Spirit still enables believers.

MEMORY VERSE

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

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Examples of special peoples who received the Holy Spirit include the seventy elders (Numbers 11:24-29); Samson (Judges 13-16)
- Manual, Article of Faith III. *The Holy Spirit*
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Pre-select familiar songs and Bible verses about the power and the work of the Holy Spirit. If you can do both, divide the children into smaller groups so that some will sing and others recite verses – alternating singing with recitation.

Summarize the message of the songs and the Bible verse about the Holy Spirit as you draw the group into the lesson about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE STORY

“The Coming of the Holy Spirit”

Acts 1:1-9; 2:1-11

Before Jesus went back to heaven after He rose from the dead, He told His disciples to go to Jerusalem. He wanted them to wait there for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This was the gift that the Father had promised (1:1-4).

*The disciples obeyed Jesus, went to Jerusalem and waited in prayer (1:14). Then, on the day of Pentecost, while they were still together in one place, the Holy Spirit came upon them. Before this time, the Holy Spirit had only come upon a few special people. But, “**Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven ... what seemed to be tongues of fire ... and (they) began to speak in***

other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (2:3-4). This was the beginning of a new covenant. It was the birth of the Christian Church. The people “from every nation under heaven” (2:5) who were in Jerusalem heard the sound and gathered to see what was happening. They were amazed because they could hear the disciples “declaring the wonders of God” (2:11) in their own languages! However, others made fun of them saying that they were drunk.

But Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, stood up and boldly spoke up about Jesus. That was amazing because this was the same Peter that had denied Christ three times before He was crucified! This was the second indication of the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to live and do the things that God requires of us. It was the beginning of what Jesus meant when He said that they will receive power and be His witnesses after receiving the Holy Spirit. After Peter’s fearless and powerful message three thousand (3 000) people were added to the church! The disciples and especially Peter became witnesses as Jesus had said.

From that day onward, the Holy Spirit enables believers and directs the church. We read the story of His powerful acts in the book of Acts. This book could be titled the Acts of the Holy Spirit as He is seen working in the lives of believers and in the church. The power of the Holy Spirit to enable believers to be witnesses still continues, and therefore the story of the book of Acts continues through the church today.

CONNECTIONS TO LIFE

Using the study-map from the activity sheet #1, review the first three articles of faith with more emphasis on the third.

You also can be a witness for Christ

Discuss with children what Jesus means to them. Allow them all to tell at least one thing that is different from the others and list them. Allow them to pick one thing from the list that they would really like to share with others and how they would want to do it.

Then list some of the things that might hinder them from telling others what Jesus means to them. Talk about how these may be overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit. Briefly remind them of how the Holy Spirit helped the disciples to speak in other languages and Peter to preach boldly to the crowd. Have the children color the pictures of the Pentecost story (Disciples praying; the Holy Spirit descending, people gathering, Peter preaching), and explain to them how they can use the pictures to share this lesson with their friends.

Encourage them to take time this week to pray for an opportunity to be a witness for Christ. Pray for each one of them as you dismiss.

God Shows His Love for Every Nation

Lesson 15

UNIT 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE TRUTH

Because God loves every nation, He enables His children to go across cultures to share the good news with everyone.

LESSON GOALS

To help children to:

- Realize that God’s love is for everyone, everywhere.
- Understand that God expects us to be willing to share the good news with people of other cultures
- Be encouraged that God is with them always

MEMORY VERSE

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

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

What is your favorite color, food, clothes? Let the children talk about their favorite things. What would it take them to like the opposite? For example, if their favorite fruit is apple, what would it take for them to like grapes?

What would life be like if people did not have favorites? Did you know that God does not have favorites? Teach the song, ‘Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight; Jesus loves the little children of the world’ or similar to the class.

BIBLE STORY

“God Shows His Love for Every Nation”

Acts 10

Peter was staying in a town called Joppa. Peter was one of Jesus’ best friends and one of the leaders of the church. But Peter was also a part of the Jewish nation, and he still followed the Jewish cultural rules. He was very busy telling the Jewish people about Jesus, but he did not spend time with people who were not part of the Jewish nation.

Now there was another man who was from another nation that lived many miles away in Caesarea, a town by the sea. The man’s name was Cornelius and he was a very good man. He and his whole family prayed to God regularly and were very generous to the poor, but they did not know about Jesus. One day an angel came to Cornelius while he was praying and told him that God had heard his prayers. Then the angel told Cornelius that he was to send for Peter in Joppa who would come and tell him and his family all about Jesus.

Jesus knew that Peter’s Jewish culture would make him think that he could not go visit Cornelius. So Jesus spoke to Peter to teach him that God’s wishes are more important than culture. Peter had a vision three times showing him that he must not be afraid to become friends with people of other cultures and tell them about Jesus. Just then Cornelius’s messengers arrived and invited Peter to come to Joppa to meet with Cornelius.

Peter obeyed God and went to Caesarea to meet Cornelius and found that Cornelius had invited many people to come hear what Peter had to say. When Cornelius explained to Peter about the angel and why he sent messengers to bring Peter to his house, Peter realized that God fully accepted these other people into His Kingdom. So Peter preached to Cornelius and his family and friends and they accepted Jesus. Peter had them baptized in the name of Lord.

Peter of the Jewish culture and Cornelius of the Gentile culture discovered that God does not show favoritism. God’s love is for all people everywhere. Will you be like Cornelius and accept Jesus into your life? If Jesus is already in your heart, will you be like Peter and share the story of God’s love for all people everywhere?

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Have paper or postcards available for each child in your class. Help the children write out an invitation to a person they know from another culture, inviting them to come to class next week. Let them take the invitation and give it to that person.

Teach and encourage the children to make friends with all the new children who will come to Sunday School especially those from a different background.

On their activity sheet, help the children choose from pictures of friendliness and unfriendliness, and things they will do to make friends with the new children of other cultures coming to class or to church.

The First Missionaries Are Sent

Lesson 16

UNIT 4: *THE HOLY SPIRIT*

BIBLE TRUTH

Whether we are sent or sending as God calls us, we are all involved in His mission.

LESSON GOALS

To help children to:

- Understand the difference between a witness and a missionary
- Be open to God's calling for their lives
- Talk about their calling

MEMORY VERSE

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:2)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Today we will discover that God calls some people to be missionaries. Though we won't all be missionaries, we can all be involved in mission. We are all witnesses when we obey God and tell others about His love.

BIBLE STORY

"The First Missionaries Are Sent"

Acts 13:1-12

*The church in Antioch was very strong in the Lord. They were very eager to worship and obey God. One day while they were worshipping together, the Holy Spirit told them, '**Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them**' (verse 2). So all the people in the church fasted and prayed and then they placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them off to do the work just as the Holy Spirit had said.*

All these people in the church at Antioch were obeying God and serving Him. This made God happy. The people were doing what He wanted, but God had something special for Barnabas and Saul to do. Even today, everyone in the church should obey and serve God, but God still calls some people to special service, like He called Barnabas and Saul. Everyone who knows Jesus is a witness for Him.

That means that we must tell others about Jesus. Also, we must be the boys and girls that Jesus would want us to be so that others can see that knowing Jesus really makes a difference.

Missionaries are witnesses called by God and sent by the Church to preach and teach boy and girls from other nations in the world. Not everyone is a missionary, but all Christians must be witnesses. You will see that God wants to use all His people to tell others about the good news of Jesus. Some people, like Saul and Barnabas, God wants to go far away from their homes so they can tell many nations about God's love. God wants us to be witnesses to people around us, wherever we are – whether we are with other nations or our own nation. If you think God is calling you to a special work, you should tell your Sunday School your parents, teacher and your pastor so that everyone can pray and fast to hear and understand what God wants. They might also sense that same call that the early church did for Paul and Barnabas.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Tell your class that witnesses for Jesus Christ have become fishers of men. Bring a long stick or pole to class. Tie a long piece of string to the end so that it looks like a fishing rod. Put a bent pin or wire on the other end of the string. Have your class draw fishes and people on pieces of paper and let them cut them out. Place the paper fishes and people on the floor in fish groups and people groups. Hang your fishing rod in one of the groups so they can see that fishers of men are followers of Jesus – Christians (Mark 1:17).

On their activity sheet, have the children complete and color in a picture of the church praying for Paul and Barnabas. Children may draw a picture of themselves next to Paul and Barnabas as an indication of their openness to be sent by God.

Our Gifts Make God Happy

Lesson 17

UNIT 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE TRUTH

Missionaries and Christian workers need our support through encouragement, prayer and offerings.

LESSON GOALS

To help children to:

- See one way that they can participate in the mission.
- of the Church now through their Sunday School class.

MEMORY VERSE

“They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.” (Philippians 4:18)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

What do you think would happen if people stopped giving offerings for mission work? Why is it important to pray for missionaries?

Oh! How good it is to receive gifts. How do you think the people in your church would feel if they were to receive a letter from Paul thanking them because they helped him? It always pleases God when we help support the missionaries and Christian workers who are doing what He has called them to do.

BIBLE STORY

“Our Gifts Make God Happy”

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

The book of Philippians in the Bible is a ‘thank you letter’ from Paul to the believers in Philippi. They had sent Epaphroditus to help Paul, because Paul was in prison. Not only did they send Epaphroditus to help Paul, they also sent gifts for Paul to support him. So when Epaphroditus got sick and needed to go back to Philippi, Paul took the opportunity to send him back with a letter of thanks.

Dear Christian friends in Philippi,

You sent help to me when I really needed it. Your messenger, Epaphroditus, took care of me. Thank you for sharing in my troubles. You were the only ones that sent me the help I needed. Thank you for all you have done for me. I am not looking for more gifts. I am excited you have learned the joy of giving and helping others. I have received full payment through your service, and I have plenty. Your gifts are pleasing to God.

My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

From a fellow servant in Christ. PAUL

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Get information about your LINKS missionary from your NMI President. Share it with the children as you help them fill in their activity sheet. Assign prayer requests to at least one per child.

Help your class write a letter to your LINKS missionary – tell the missionary that you are praying for him (or her). Let each child in the class sign the letter. Spend time praying for the missionary, his work, and the people to whom he is ministering. Talk about how you can support the missionary.

Challenge each child to bring an offering to class next week. Put the offerings in an envelope and write ‘WEF’ (World Evangelism Fund) and the class’ name on the envelope. Have the class choose one member who will put the envelope into the offering during the morning service.

God Speaks to me Through the Bible

Lesson 18

UNIT 5: THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

BIBLE TRUTH

The Bible is not just a storybook but the book that tells us about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that the Bible is not just a storybook but the book that reveals God’s will
- Understand that the Bible speaks to our hearts through the Holy Spirit

MEMORY VERSE

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 4: The Holy Scriptures
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Start the class by singing “Read Your Bible Pray Every Day” and teach them “The best book to read is the Bible” or “The B-I-B-L-E” or any similar song about the Bible.

BIBLE STORY

“God Speaks to Me Through My Bible”

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Did you know, children, that the Bible is not an ordinary book? It is the book that tells us about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible was written to tell us everything we need to know in order to have a right relationship with God. We learn from the Bible that God made the earth and everything in it. He also made people. That’s right – He made you and He made me. When we realize that God made us, then we should be very happy and be ready to give Him all the glory for every good thing. The Bible tells us about what God has done and is still doing for His people. It tells us why God made the earth and what He wants to happen on earth. How does God talk to us today? God talks to us through the Bible, but the only way He can do that is if we read it and learn all we can about what it says. We must memorize the verses that speak especially to us. We must read the Bible every day. Sometimes God also speaks to us through other Christians, like our parents, the Sunday School teacher or the pastor.

We must never forget what the Bible says. The only way to do this is to make sure you always ‘see it’, ‘read it’, ‘learn it’, and ‘live it’. Now we do not all have our own copy of the Bible, so it is very important to learn the verses whenever you are taught. Memorize as many verses as possible. That means that you will always have God’s Word in your head and in your heart. A wonderful thing about the Bible is that the more we learn about God, the more we want to be like Him. His Word becomes part of us. When we have it in our heart, we start to live it out in our actions.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Get some of the children to bring in some straight sticks (you will need about 4) about the length of the child’s forearm. Prepare some scrolls from strips of old white material. Let the children write on them some lessons that they have learned from the Bible, such as ‘Love one another’, ‘Obey your parents’, ‘He cares for you’, ‘God sent His Son’, ‘He died to save you’. At the bottom of the scroll, add the words ‘The Bible tells us so’. Attach each piece of fabric to two sticks by tying them or tacking them on, and roll them up to represent scrolls that were used as the first Bibles. Have volunteers unroll the scrolls and read the messages to the rest of the class.

Help children write the words of their favorite song about the Bible under the picture of the Bible in the activity sheet.

How The Bible Came to Us

Lesson 19

UNIT 5: *THE HOLY SCRIPTURES*

BIBLE TRUTH

God used people to write His Word and saved it through the ages so that we can also have it today. Others passed the Word of God on to us, we must also pass it on.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Understand some of the history of the Bible.
- Appreciate and value the Bible as God’s Word.

MEMORY VERSE

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Luke 21:33)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith 4: The Holy Scriptures
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Go outside with the class and pour water on some ground to make a thick mud pack. It must not be too wet. Divide the children into four groups. Let them take some of the mud and flatten it out so it looks like clay tablets. Let them use sticks as pens and write on their mud tablets: ‘Heaven and earth’; ‘will pass away’; ‘but my words will’; ‘never pass away’. Let the tablets dry as you continue with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY

“How Our Bible Came to Us”

Isaiah 40:6-8

Last week we learned that the Bible is not an ordinary book, but a book that tells us about God. Today we ask the question, ‘How did we get the Bible?’ Our memory verse teaches us that the Word of God will last forever. It is indeed a miracle the way the Bible has come to us. Moses was the very first person to write down the story of God – because he received the law (or the first five books of the Old Testament) from God. The law was carved into soft stones in a very old language.

Later as God revealed more truth to His people, they wrote it down on sheep skins that were sewn together into long scrolls. Remember last week we made some scrolls. When people wanted to read the words of God, they had to unroll the books to the place where they wanted to read. First the Bible was written on stone and later clay, then a type of paper called papyrus, which was made from reeds, followed by parchment and finally paper bound into the Bible as it is today. These writings of old were saved down through the ages by men and women who knew it to be God’s Word. Men and women throughout history were killed, taken prisoner, and scattered all over the world. Yet somehow God’s Word was saved.

If you tell a true story about yourself to your friend, how long do you think he will remember it? Maybe a month or two months. That would not be good enough if it was such a story that it needed to be told again and again. The only other way was to write it down so it could be read over and over

again. God wanted people today to be able to read all about Him, but He didn't want to have to repeat everything He said to every person who ever lived or who will live.

God has things about Himself that He wants us to know, so He gave messages to certain people (prophets and leaders) to share. Because they knew God's words were important for everyone, they not only told people but they wrote down the messages so they would always be remembered. This was for you and me to learn more about God. We have the Bible today because God is making sure that it will last forever.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Use your clay tablets to learn the memory verse. Talk about some of the problems we might have if our only Bible was written on mud tablets. Let the tablets continue to dry and look at them each week this month. Discuss the need and ways to share the Bible and Bible verses with others.

Have the children color the pictures of ways in which the Word can be shared (reading it together, helping others memorize it, quizzing, listening to it, media, etc.). They can also draw their own picture of how they can share the Word with a friends.

Jeremiah Writes God's Word

Lesson 20

UNIT 2: THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

BIBLE TRUTH

The Bible is the written Word of God. We must love it to know God's will so we can live happily with Him.

LESSON GOALS

Help the children:

- Understand that the Bible is the Word of God
- Realize that it is important for to believe and obey what it says
- Find ways of reading, listening and keeping the Word of God
- Begin to develop Bible skills like knowing the difference between Old and New Testaments, books of the Bible, finding verses, etc.

MEMORY VERSE

“... *this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel,...* ” (Jeremiah 36:1-2)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- **Songs:** *Read your Bible, pray every day; The B-I-B-L-E; My Bible and I; The best book to read is the Bible; etc.*
- **Inspired** – God-breathed
- **Scroll** – a form of a book in Bible times
- Manual, Article of Faith 4: The Holy Scriptures
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Before class, write action songs about the Bible to sing in class with the children. Or plan to teach them one or two songs about the Bible that they do not know.

Ask the children questions about the Bible like the following: *What is the Bible? Who wrote it? Why was it written? Who must read it? What are some of the books of the Bible? What are Bible chapters and verses? When should we read the Bible? Why must we read it?*

Although there were many people that God inspired to write His Word, our story today is about one of them, Jeremiah.

BIBLE STORY

“Jeremiah Writes God’s Word”

Jeremiah 36

Jeremiah was a prophet whom God appointed even before he was born. He prophesied during the time when the people of Judah and their kings were refusing to obey God or trust Him for protection. The people did not like Jeremiah because he was always telling them that God was very unhappy with all the bad things that they were doing.

During the time of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, the Lord spoke these words to Jeremiah: “Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now” (vs. 2). God was hoping that if the people heard the written words they might change from their evil ways. He wanted to forgive them if they changed.

Jeremiah had Baruch, his secretary write while he dictated the message of the Lord. Because Jeremiah was unable to read the message to the people, he asked Baruch to do so. Baruch read the words dictated by Jeremiah and written on the scroll to all the people in the Lord’s temple. He went to the room of the secretary and read to all the king’s officials who were sitting there. They feared because of the truth they heard and wanted the king to hear it too. But the king was not moved by the words of God and instead burned the scroll until it was all burned. He also wanted to arrest Jeremiah and Baruch because of the scroll. “But the Lord had hidden them” (vs. 26b). The Lord instructed Jeremiah “to take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll ...” (vs. 28).

This is how we got the message of God through the prophet Jeremiah. Many others wrote under different circumstances as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Like Jehoiakim, others have tried to destroy the Bible but it still stands and its truth brings salvation to all who believe. It pleases God when we read the Bible and change our way of doing things according to its teachings.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Repeat the questions you asked at the beginning and help the children with the answers. Depending on the age and ability of the children, bring as many Bibles as you can to class for some exercises. (If Bibles are not available, use the picture in the Activity Sheet to help them learn the books of the Bible.)

1. Show the Old and the New Testaments.
2. Call out the name of a book and show them how to find it.
3. Give a Scripture reference and teach them how to find it.

Repeat the exercise as time allows.

Depending on the ability of the learners, divide Jeremiah 36 into sections that they can read individually or in groups during the week.

Have the children color the picture of the Bible on their activity sheet, and study the list of the books of the bible.

Dismiss the children with a prayer that they will grow to love and believe the Word of God to change their way of living.

God's Word Shows the Way

Lesson 21

UNIT 5: THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

BIBLE TRUTH

The Bible is the written Word of God. We must read it to change our way of doing things according to God's will.

LESSON GOALS

Help the children

- Understand that the Bible is the Word of God.
- See that it truly serves as a light for the way we live showing people what to do and what not to do.
- Help the children find ways of reading, listening and keeping the Word of God.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- **Suggested songs:** *Read your Bible, pray every day; The B-I-B-L-E; My Bible and I; The best book to read is the Bible.*
- **Covenant** – an agreement between God and His people in which He promises to help and be a friend to those who obey Him while they promise to love and obey Him in all things.
- Manual, Article of Faith 4: The Holy Scriptures
- Copy of Student Activity sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Before class, write action songs about the Bible to sing in class with the children. Or plan to teach them one or two songs about the Bible that they do not know. As time allows, repeat some of the exercises you did last week.

Emphasize the effects of the Bible on life as indicated in the songs, e.g. refer to *Read your Bible and pray every day* to talk about spiritual growth that follows the reading of the Bible. This is important to help children understand that God's desire is that we change the way we do things because of His Word.

Our story today is about Josiah the king of Judah who pleased God because after reading the Word of God, he helped his nation to serve God all the days of his life.

BIBLE STORY

"God's Word Shows the Way"

2 Kings 22-23:23; 2 Chronicles 34:14-33

King Josiah was one of the kings of Judah who was eight (8) years old when he became king. He loved the Lord God with all his heart and what was right in God's eyes. In his eighth (8th) year of ruling, he began to remove all the things that did not please God from the land of Israel. He removed all the images of the false gods and their altars. In his eighteenth (18th) year, he instructed Hilkiah, the high priest, to repair the temple of God with the money that had been brought to the temple.

Arrangements were made for workers to begin the job. These included supervisors, builders, carpenters, masons.

*But, while they were still bringing out money, Hilkiah found the Book of the Law of God. He had Shaphan, the king's secretary, read it to the king. **When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.** This was the way in which the people of Israel showed how sad or angry they were. King Josiah was very sad that his nation had strayed so much away from the Law of God. He was scared because he did not know what God would do to them because of such disobedience.*

He then sent some of his leaders to the prophetess Huldah to ask her what the Lord would do to them. God was pleased with Josiah because he had shown such sadness when he heard the words of the Law. God promised that He will not punish Josiah and his people during his lifetime.

*Thankfully Josiah gathered all the people of Jerusalem – from the least to the greatest at the temple. **“He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the temple”.** Standing by the pillar in the temple, he renewed the covenant **“to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book”.** He had the people pledge themselves to the covenant and they did.*

*Following the Law of God, Josiah continued to remove all the idols from the land of Israel. He **“had all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the Lord, the God of their fathers”.***

If we read, listen and keep the Word of God we will grow as Christians knowing God's will and learning to obey Him in all things.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Encourage children to pay attention to the Word of God at all times. Have the children call out the possible places, events and/or activities like play areas, streets, shopping areas, etc. where children can hear the Word of God. Let them randomly talk about how many times they got to hear the Word of God being read, taught or preached during the past week (Sunday to Saturday). Guide them to think of home, church, radio, TV, camp meeting, etc. as the greatest possibility. If time allows, they could also mention where it was and what was happening.

Focusing on last week's reading assignments, help the children see what each section teaches and how it should help us change the way we do things.

Help the children to complete the faint picture of a heart with the words of the memory verse written inside it by making it bold and more visible, and then they can decorate it.

Close in prayer that the children will increase in their love for the Word of God and depend on it as a lamp to their feet.

Speak the Truth in Love

Lesson 22

UNIT 6: *BEING A CHRISTIAN*

BIBLE TRUTH

Honesty builds the nation and it begins with you.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that being honest strengthens the mind, body, and soul and builds them up in love
- Understand that we are never alone when we stand for the truth

MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in [those] who are truthful.” (Proverbs 12:22)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Read Proverbs 12, 13 and 14 before class to identify the truthful statements (statements about being truthful and honest) you want to give to your class.
- Manual, Covenant of Christian Character
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Have you ever told a lie that got somebody else into trouble because of what you said? Maybe they even got a spanking. Did you just think, ‘I am glad I did not tell the truth or it would have been me to get the hiding’? Have you ever stolen something that belonged to someone else? Have you ever blamed someone for something you have done? Have you told a story that was not true?

People tell lies and steal from others because they do not care about anybody but themselves. They have no love for others. All they want to do is to look out for themselves. Our memory verse tells us that the Lord hates lying lips, but He delights in people who are truthful. God is love, so for Him to hate anything it must be the opposite of love. Lying to or about someone is the same as hating them.

BIBLE STORY

“Speak the Truth in Love”

Ephesians 4:25-32; Proverbs 12, 13 and 14

To be a child of God, we must always be truthful with people. But first of all we must start by being truthful with ourselves. We must feel good about ourselves before we can start loving others. We cannot stay babies all our lives. Telling lies and stealing from others stops us from growing up into the kind of people we are supposed to be. Other people will not trust us or believe what we say if we are caught in a lie. For a time we might get away with being dishonest, but soon others will see through our lies.

When you are an honest and trustworthy person, you are not only showing others that you love them and want to protect them, but you are showing yourself that you love yourself and want to grow up to be the best person you can be. Paul teaches that as children of light, we must always speak the truth in love. Not only because we love ourselves and others, but also because we are part of each other as in a family. Then we will grow up to be like Jesus, letting Him be our example. We will become part of the

family of God, where everyone supports each other in truth and in love. And we will each do our part for the Kingdom of God.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Cut out 12 or more fish shapes from a piece of paper. Taking Proverbs 12, 13 and 14, write on each fish one of the truthful statements mentioned (eg. ‘Truthful witness gives honest testimony’ [12:17], ‘He who walks with the wise grows wise’ [13:20], ‘The righteous hate what is false’ [13:5]). Now put the fish on the floor or in a big bowl. Have each child fish for one of them. They could create static from a plastic pen (rubbing it in their hair or on the carpet) or using only their small finger (lick the finger) to catch a fish. Once caught, let them read the verse printed on the fish. When they have finished reading, have them choose three statements that they like and have them write the words on the fish in the activity sheet.

Discuss the hurtful things that come from stealing and lying. Let someone tell a story about someone who has suffered because of the dishonesty of somebody else. Talk about what should have been done instead of lying.

Pray for the children that they will want to be like Jesus and strive to be honest in all situations.

Be Like Jesus

Lesson 23

UNIT 6 : *BEING A CHRISTIAN*

BIBLE TRUTH

We can be like Jesus if we seek to imitate Him in all things and thus become faithful ambassadors of His kingdom.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that imitating Christ helps us become like Jesus
- Understand that we can be His ambassadors, trusted servants of the Kingdom

MEMORY VERSE

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.” (Ephesians 5:1)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Covenant of Christian Character
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Last week we learned that we must always speak the truth in love, so that we can grow up to be like Jesus, taking our example from Him. This means that we will do our best to imitate or copy what Jesus did. The best part about trying to imitate Jesus is that we do not have to try to do it all by ourselves – when Jesus lives in our heart, He helps us to do the things He wants to do. Thus we can be His faithful ambassadors.

“Be Like Jesus”

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

When a government of a country sends someone to another country to be a representative for their own government in that country, that person is known as an ambassador. Now ambassadors are allowed to speak on behalf of their country’s government. Why? Because they have become trusted servants. Their country’s leaders know that they will only say and do things that are in the best interest of their home country.

Like Paul, we want to be ambassadors for Jesus. This means that we must say and do things that Jesus would say or do. Jesus must be able to trust us to say things on His behalf to others. He knows that other people will see Him in us. As we become more like Jesus, we also draw closer to each other. Have you ever seen a wagon or a bicycle wheel? It has a hub (the middle of the wheel where the axle goes in) and many spokes. Starting from the outer ring going down one of the spokes toward the hub, we start getting closer to the centre and at the same time we are closer to the other spokes. That is what we should always be trying to do as Christians. Jesus is the hub of the Christian wheel. By getting closer to Him, we also get closer to others. When we as Jesus’ ambassadors are very close to Him and speak to others about Him, they can also see a clearer picture of Jesus in our lives.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Get the children to take turns imitating somebody they know. The rest of the class must try to guess who they are imitating.

Draw a wagon or bicycle wheel and write the word Christ on the hub. Then write the name of the children in your class where the spokes are supposed to be, while the children follow along by doing the same thing on their activity sheet. Talk about how keeping Jesus in the centre helps us to become more like Jesus and draws us closer to each other.

Share the Good News of Salvation

Lesson 24

UNIT 6: BEING A CHRISTIAN

BIBLE TRUTH

Bringing others to Christ is one of the signs of being a Christian. There are many ways in which the gospel can be shared. Paul is an example of a true witness of Jesus Christ.

LESSON GOALS

Help the children:

- Understand that bringing others to Christ is a sign of being a Christian
- Encourage them not to be ashamed of telling others about Christ
- Help them find different ways of sharing the gospel

MEMORY VERSE

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ because it is the power of God for the salvation of man.” Romans 1:16

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Christian life should bear fruit. Evangelism is not only for evangelists - we are all called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8
- Be sure to get feedback from the children on the activity next week.
- Manual, The Covenant of Christian Character
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Have one child come to the front. This child must pick a friend from the class and bring him or her to the front. Then have each of the two in front bring another friend to the front. Continue with this activity until all the children are standing at the front and holding hands with those that brought them.

- Ask them how easy or difficult it was for them to bring a friend to the front.
- How did the one brought forward feel?
- Find out how they started coming to church. Ask if any of them were invited by another to come to church. Allow those that have ever invited others to tell how they did it and why.
- *Do you think it is difficult for you to invite a friend to come to church?*

BIBLE STORY

“Share the Good News of Salvation”

Acts 9:1-22; Romans 1:14-17

Saul of Tarsus, also known as Paul, although a Roman citizen by birth, was a Jew who was firmly grounded in Jewish traditions. In his zeal for God and the Jewish law he attacked the church. He did this believing that the church was blaspheming by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Messiah. However, on his way to destroy the church in Damascus, he was miraculously converted when Jesus Christ appeared to him. Jesus called him to be an apostle to the Gentiles. Therefore, soon after his conversion, Paul began to share the good news of salvation from sin and many people believed in Jesus Christ. The book of Acts relates how over years of preaching and teaching Paul started churches especially in the major cities of his world. In addition to visiting the churches he had started, he wrote letters to guide them when he was not able to visit. Thirteen of these letters are included in the Bible and are known as the Epistles of Paul. In this way Paul continues to share the good news even with us today.

*That Paul was completely committed to sharing the gospel is seen in his words in Romans 1:14-17. Here he states that he is obligated to preach to all people including the Romans too (1:14-15). Paul's desire is that he will share the gospel with everyone irrespective of who they are. The reason for his zeal is because the gospel **“is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes”** (1:16). The power of the gospel refers to its ability to save from sin everyone who believes and to change their lives. Paul had seen this power change him from a destroyer of believers to a servant of Christ. He is therefore not ashamed of the gospel.*

The reason why the gospel means salvation for those who receive it by faith is because it reveals a righteousness that is from God (1:17). A righteousness that can be received by faith and that continues by faith alone. That is why Paul was bold and eager to share the good news with everyone because anyone who believed could receive the righteousness that is from God.

By sharing the gospel, Paul was being faithful to his character as a follower of Christ who is obedient to the Lord. He also used different ways to share the good news like encouraging others by visiting them and writing letters in addition to preaching and teaching.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Sharing the good news with others:

Christians must in one way or another tell the good news of Christ to the people around them.

Discuss with children ways in which they can share the good news with others:

- Make a list of the “others” that may be the responsibility of your class, eg. Parents, Sisters and/or Brothers, Extended family, Friends, Neighbors, Teachers, Classmates and/or Playmates, etc.
- List practical ways in which the children can share the good news with them. Have them color the pictures on their activity sheet of ways we can share the Good News of salvation.
- Pick one category from your list and decide with the children on ways in which they will share the good news with those people during the week.

Encourage the children and pray that the Lord will help each one of them to be committed to this task and do as agreed.

Do Good to All People

Lesson 25

UNIT 3: BEING A CHRISTIAN

BIBLE TRUTH

Doing good to others is a sign of being a Christian. Therefore Christians must do good to all people without favor just like Abraham did.

LESSON GOALS

- Help children understand that taking care of the needy is a sign of being Christian.
- Encourage them to do good to others without favor.
- Help them find ways of helping others.

MEMORY VERSE

“He has shown you, O man what is good and what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, and to love mercy and live humbly with the Lord”. (Micah 6:8f)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, The Covenant of Christian Character
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

- Allow the children to share their thoughts about the poor people begging in the streets.
- Ask if any of them has ever been sick in the hospital and let them share their experiences.
- Ask if they have ever been to a prison or jail? If they have, let them share their experiences.

During this discussion, the teacher should take special note of the feelings expressed by and towards those who have had these experiences.

Conclude by summarizing Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:35-36, 40 about doing good to others. Connect to the story today.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

“Do Good to All People”

Genesis 18:1-33

Abraham lived near the great trees of Mamre. He lived in a tent. He had come to live in this place because God had called him out of his village and away from his people. One day when he was sitting at the entrance of his tent, he saw three men standing nearby. Though he did not know these men, he wanted them to visit his home and be refreshed. He hurried to meet them and greeted them by bowing low to the ground. In this way Abraham was also showing how much he respected them. “Please do not pass your servant by”, he said inviting them, “we will give you water to wash your feet and then rest under this tree. We will also prepare some food for you to eat”, he continued. “This is thoughtful of Abraham”, the strangers must have thought as they gladly accepted Abraham’s invitation on this very hot day.

So Abraham, together with Sarah his wife, quickly prepared bread, meat and milk for these strangers. While they were eating, Abraham stood by ready to serve them further as they needed. Abraham did good by inviting and taking care of people expecting nothing in return. But Abraham did not know that these strangers were actually angels sent from the Lord. They had come to tell him the news ever! Sarah, Abraham’s wife was going to have a baby although she was very old – already a grandmother by her age.

As these strangers were leaving Abraham’s home, they also told him about the coming destruction of Sodom because of its sin that was so grievous. Although this was not good news, it gave Abraham a chance to pray for Sodom to be spared.

*The writer of Hebrew 13:2 must have thought about Abraham’s deed when he wrote: “**Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it**”. This is in agreement with Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 25:31-46. Here Christ lays out the Christian’s responsibility to all people in need – the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick or imprisoned in addition to attending to the spiritual needs.*

CONNECTION TO LIFE

“If you were ... what would you want others to do?” Pick some of these words – hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, imprisoned – and use one at a time to complete the sentence above. Discuss each with the children and list their responses where they can see them. Do the same with **“If ... (another child or somebody else) were ... what would you do?”** Compare and discuss the responses. Agree on one or two actions that the class can pursue during the week. You may decide on people needing help and begin collecting items that can be of use to them. These may be delivered without making a show.

Have the children draw (or cut out from old magazines and newspapers and paste) pictures on their activity sheet of good things they want to do for others.

Close with prayer that the Lord will help each one to be faithful in this task and to build an attitude of doing good to others.

Be Faithful and Grow

Lesson 26

UNIT 3: *BEING A CHRISTIAN*

BIBLE TRUTH

Faithfulness is another sign of being a Christian and it helps us grow as children of God.

LESSON GOALS

- Help children understand that being faithful is a sign of being Christian.
- Encourage them to be faithful to do those practices that will help them grow.
- Help them find some of the things they must do to grow as Christians.

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Covenant of Christian Character
- **Baptism** – a testimony that a person has received Christ as their Savior and a symbol that God has forgiven them their sins.
- **Means of Grace** – include worship in church, private devotion, reading the Bible, Bible study, preaching, fellowship, baptism, the Lord’s Supper, witnessing, fasting, etc. – every aspect of worship and spiritual disciplines
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Begin with a poem or song about a growing child. It must include some of the things that a child needs and does to grow. Then discuss the following questions:

- *What are some of the things a child needs to grow?*
- *What should the child do to grow?*
- *What will happen if these things do not happen?*

If there is no song or poem, discuss the questions above with the children. *All who truly believe in Jesus Christ are children of God. Therefore, they must also grow. How can they grow?* Sing “Read your Bible and pray every day” or a similar song about a Christian, faithfulness and growth.

The things we sang about are some of God’s ways to help people grow as Christians. They are called “means of grace”. Our story today tells us about some the things that the Early Church did to grow and these are God’s ways that will help us grow too.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

“Be Faithful and Grow”

Acts 2:42-47

*After Peter’s preaching on the day of Pentecost, many people accepted his message and were baptized. These new believers immediately **devoted** themselves to **meet** in the temple and in their homes everyday to be taught by the apostles. Without the **apostles’ teaching** they would not understand Jesus’ ministry on earth, His suffering and death on the cross and His resurrection and what these truths*

meant for them. Understanding how the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled in Jesus' life and theirs strengthened their faith in God.

They had **fellowship** with one another. By coming together as friends they were showing their joy in the common life they had in Christ. This fellowship made it possible for them to love one another. They were joyful and glad as they praised for who He is and what He has done.

These new believers were committed to **the breaking of bread** (42, 46b). This included both the Lord's Supper and having ordinary meals in their homes. They not only met at the temple but they also visited one another.

Lastly, they were devoted to prayer. They not only learned and talked about God but they also talked to Him. They worshipped Him, meditated on Him and made their requests for themselves and for others known to Him. It seems like they could not have enough of God! The Lord rewarded their faithfulness and devotion. They grew in their relationship with God and in numbers too. They somehow became different and people could see it. Thus all around them were "**filled with awe**" (43) and they were "**enjoying the favor of all people**" (47a). In addition to that the "**Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved**" (47b).

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Of the ways that the Early Church followed to grow, list the ones done in your church. To this list add others that are done in your church.

- Which ones do you like doing? Why?
- How can we help you like the ones you do not?
- What can you do to help yourself like them?

Help children identify a starting point they will commit to in the coming week and report their progress next class meeting. Have them color in pictures on their activity sheet of a family reading the Bible, family praying, children in church, child/children being baptized and/or taking the Lord's Supper.

Dismiss the class with a prayer that the Lord will help each child to be faithful in attending to all the means of grace and especially to their commitment of the week.

Love God and Love Others

Lesson 27

UNIT 7: BEHAVING AS CHRISTIANS

BIBLE TRUTH

God has given us rules to teach us how to live for Him and one another in love, joy and peace. Christians must live by these rules.

LESSON GOALS

- Help children understand that as Christians we must live according to God's rules.
- Encourage them to love God and others according to God's rules.
- Help them find ways in which they can show love to God and to others.

MEMORY VERSE

"If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." (Matthew 19:17c)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Covenant of Christian Conduct
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Pre-select a short but favorite game for the children to play as they come in. Arrange with one child to keep trying to break or change rules to suit him or herself. Have the rest of the class watch. When the game is finished, discuss the importance of having rules for the game – how they help guide and make the game enjoyable and the effect of breaking or changing them for personal benefit during play.

The Ten Commandments that God gave to the Israelites as rules for daily living, are still relevant today. Jesus did not destroy them but showed that they must be obeyed to get eternal life. They teach us how to love God. They also teach us how to love and live with one another in love, peace and joy.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

“Jesus and the Rich Young Man”

Matthew 19:16-22

One day as Jesus started on His way, a rich young man ran up to Him. He said to Jesus, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” Jesus replied, “If you want to enter life, obey God’s rules”. The young man asked, “Which ones?” “Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother”, Jesus answered. These rules were part of the Ten Commandments God had given to Moses. They teach people how God wants them to love each other.

The young man was glad to hear that and he replied, “All these I have kept since I was a boy. What do I still need to do?” “If you want to be perfect”, Jesus said, “go, sell your possessions and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me”. When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. And, he loved his wealth more than God. He did not want to part with it as Jesus showed in His reply.

While the rich young man was happy to love other people according to God’s rules, he refused to follow God’s rules of loving Him. He therefore could not get eternal life.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Help children memorize the Ten Commandments by answering these two questions and using the study-map on their activity sheet:

How should we love God?

- Have no other gods
- Make no idol for yourself
- Do not misuse the name of the Lord
- Keep the Sabbath holy

How should we love others?

- Honor your father and mother
- Do not kill
- Do not commit adultery
- Do not steal
- Do not give false testimony
- Do not covet your neighbor’s things

Please God in Everything

Lesson 28

UNIT 7: BEHAVING AS CHRISTIANS

BIBLE TRUTH

Christians must please God in everything they do – whether they are by themselves or with others. They must always avoid evil.

LESSON GOALS

- Help children understand that as Christians we must please God in everything we do.
- Encourage them to please God in all things.

MEMORY VERSE

“Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual,; Covenant of Christian Conduct – Christian Life
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

As children arrive, have them play “River-Bank” or similar. To play this game, have a leader choose a divider – a string on the ground, a drawn or imaginary line, etc. One side of the divide is declared a “river” and the other “bank”. The children stand side by side on one side of the divide ready to jump in prompt obedience to the leader’s command to be either in the river or on the bank. Not responding, delayed or wrong responses will result in elimination from the game. It will be helpful if those eliminated can help judge who should be out in order to engage them until you finish the game. Play as long as time allows.

*In the game, one could not be in the river at the same time that they were on the bank. In the same way the things that people do, think or say **may or may not** be pleasing to God. No action can be in the middle. However, as Christians we must always strive for things that please God. And unlike in the game, we cannot be jumping back and forth if we will be faithful witnesses for God. Sometimes it is difficult for us to tell if something is or is not pleasing to God. The memory verse today reminds us to “Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid evil”.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

“Please God in Everything”

Acts 5:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Believers in the early church after Pentecost were one in heart and mind. They shared everything they had and nobody among them was needy. From time to time those who had lands and houses sold them and brought the money to the apostles. The money was then given to anyone as he or she had need.

Like others, a man called Ananias and his wife Sapphira agreed to sell their land. However, they agreed to bring part of the money to the apostles and pretend that it was the full amount. So Ananias brought part of the money to the apostles pretending that it was the full amount. God was not happy that they lied about the money and showed that to Peter. Then Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan

filled your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and kept some of the money for yourself. The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God". When Ananias heard this he fell down and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.

After three hours his wife came. She knew nothing about what had happened. Peter asked her if the money given the apostles was what they got for their land. Sadly, she agreed that it was. And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of doing a thing like this – conspiring together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Just outside the door are the young men who buried your husband, and they will carry you out, too". She did not even have time to think about her husband's death for she also fell and died.

Combining good and evil spoils the good. It was a good thing that they thought of selling their property and sharing with others. It was also good for them to keep some of the money for themselves because it was theirs. But they should not have pretended that what they gave the apostles was the full amount. Therefore in all things, Christians must be alert and think of pleasing God first in all they do. We must "test everything. Hold to what is good. Avoid every kind of evil".

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Think before you act

Draw a table like what is on this lesson's activity sheet where children can see it.

List (or paste cut-out action pictures of) different things that people like doing – good and bad – in the left column of the table. Call out any word from those listed, have the children think and then indicate whether the action is good or bad by placing a tick in the right or left column. Have them do the same thing on their activity sheet. Help them understand that this activity is similar to what they need to do in their daily lives. Allow for questions and brief discussions where necessary. Some actions like play, learn, etc. may need to be explained because not all play or learning may be pleasing to God. Indicate that sometimes children may need to ask their parent/s, teacher, pastor, etc. to help them decide. Encourage the children to think before they do or say things to see if God will be pleased. Close in prayer that they will seek to please God in all things.

Adam and Eve Get Married

Lesson 29

UNIT 7: BEHAVING AS CHRISTIANS

BIBLE TRUTH

Marriage comes from God.

LESSON GOALS

- Help children understand that Adam and Eve's marriage, and all that God and Jesus said about it, is God's standard for Christian marriages.
- Encourage them to honor and respect marriage.

MEMORY VERSE

"Marriage should be honored by all." (Hebrews 13:4a)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Covenant of Christian Conduct - Marriage
- **Wedding:** is a marriage ceremony with various activities which may include legal commitment by the couple, feasting, music and dancing, elaborate clothes, etc. This celebration varies from culture to culture.
- **Marriage:** is the relationship of a man and woman as husband and wife after they vow to be faithful to each other for life.
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Cut out and display wedding pictures where children can see them as they come to class. Allow them to talk about the weddings they have enjoyed – what they liked the most about the couple, food, clothes, how they participated, etc. Ask if they know the difference between a wedding and marriage. Help them understand these words with more focus on marriage. If time allows, you may have the children share what their dream marriage would be like and as much as possible draw them closer to God's ideal – one man and one woman committed to each other for life.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

“Adam and Eve get Married”

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6

After God had created the skies, the land and seas, and all that is in them, He planted a garden. It was a beautiful garden with all kinds of trees and He called it the Garden of Eden. God placed Adam, the man He had created, in the garden to tend and care for it. But God saw that Adam was not so happy because he was all by himself. Then He brought birds and animals to Adam to choose and give names to them. In doing this Adam was also trying to find a partner that would be suitable for him. When he had finished, Adam was still lonely because he could not find a partner suitable for him. So the Lord God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took a rib out of him and created a woman from it. The Lord brought the woman He had created to Adam. When Adam saw the woman, he was very happy. He had at last found one that is of his flesh and bone.

*The Lord God was happy that He created man and woman and that they could live together as one in marriage. He said: “**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh**”. In this way God showed that He wants one man to marry one woman. Jesus also showed that marriage must be permanent: “**So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate**” (Matthew 19:4-6).*

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Highlights of the married couples in the Bible

Before class, read the following Scriptures and identify significant and positive facts that could be possible for married couples, eg. Abraham and Sarah were married for more than 62 years.

- Abraham and Sarah – Genesis 12:1-5; 17:15-22; 21:1-7; 23:1
- Joseph and Mary – Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-2:23
- Zechariah and Elizabeth – Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80
- Manoah and his wife – Judges 13
- Aquilla and Pricilla – Acts 18

After coloring in the picture of the wedding couple on the activity sheet, and as you give your findings about each bible couple, help the children match the husband with his wife. You may add others to the list or allow children to include at least one couple that they know and admire.

What are the things that children can do to develop and to show respect for marriage:

- Pray for married people
- Pray for those that are preparing for marriage

Give them a chance to think of a couple that they will pray for through the week.

Honor God – Do not Rob Him

Lesson 30

UNIT 7: BEHAVING AS CHRISTIANS

BIBLE TRUTH

God is the owner of everything we own. As a Christian, you are only a steward of all that God has given you. Therefore you must honor God with what you have.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Know that God is the owner of everything we have
- Acknowledge that we are only stewards of everything we have
- Understand that God has given a way of giving that acknowledges His ownership
- Find things they can give and commit to doing so

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.” (Malachi 3:10a)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Covenant of Christian Conduct - Christian Stewardship
- **Steward:** is one who is trusted to care for what belongs to another.
- **Stewardship:** is the act of caring for what God has entrusted to Christians.
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Bring offering envelopes to class or have children make their own before class. Allow them to use those envelopes when taking up offering. As you are working on the envelopes talk about the children’s experiences of giving things to others or receiving including their offerings at church. You may want to ask them the following questions: *Do you always have money to give when the offering is being taken? How do you feel when you cannot give and others are giving? Why do you want to give? Is money the only thing that we can give? Where do children get money and other things to give? Why should we all give and not the rich only?*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

“Honor God – Do Not Rob Him”

Malachi 3:6-12

After God took the children of Israel from Egypt, He gave them rules that He wanted them to live by. One of these rules was that they must give tithes and offerings of all that they have – money, sheep, goats, cattle, crops, etc. Although people were happy to do this at first, they got tired and started cheating on God. This saddened God and He ended up punishing His people because they continued to

ignore His rule. He sent them away to a faraway land. However, God loved His people so much that He brought them back to their land when the punishment was over.

Our Scripture today was written after the people had been punished and returned to their land. However, we see the prophet Malachi reminding God's people again to be faithful to Him with their tithes and offerings. God wanted them to bring their tithes and offerings to the place of worship (church) and He called it His storehouse. He told them that if they do not obey this rule, it is like they are robbing Him. Can you imagine a person (very small) robbing God (very big)!!

Why did God want them to obey this rule? It would first show that they love Him because true obedience comes from love. He wanted them to think of Him first. In this way they would be honoring Him.

Why did God want them to give? So **“that there may be food in my house”**, God said. God wanted to provide for the priests and their families because He wanted the priests to work for Him only. God still wants us to give this support to the ministers He has called (1 Corinthians 9:14) and “who have given themselves wholly to the work of the ministry” (Manual 38.3). Faithfully giving of our tithes and offering is a symbol of believing and accepting that God owns everything that people have. It is a sign of complete trust in Him.

Therefore, let us not rob God. Our tithes and offerings belong to Him. For **tithes**, He wants us to give at least one out of the ten that He has given us, e.g. 1 coin out of 10 equal coins. This is also called ten percent (10%). When it comes to **offerings**, He did not tell us how much to give. But, He wants us to give as He leads and guide us. This means that we must ask Him what to give and how much to give. God knows all the needs that must be taken care of from His storehouse and will guide us so that our giving will meet those needs.

CONNECTIONS TO LIFE

- Using the diagrams on the student's activity sheet, take time to work out with the children what 10% of 10, 20, 30, etc. is (Answers: 1, 2, 3, etc.). Try to help each child understand this. Have the children find similar objects (one kind at a time), count ten of them and color in God's portion first before colouring the rest of the ten in a different colour.
- Let the children think and mention a few things that they might have as children, from which they can give tithes and/or offering (point out that talking to parents and especially getting permission is necessary).
- Encourage them to develop a habit of asking God to help them see things that they might not be aware that they have in order to give.
- With sensitivity, encourage them to commit to honor God as good stewards of all that He has given them as they seek guidance for what He wants them to give (with the help of their parents).

Close in prayer for the commitments made. Plan to have them discuss their experiences next week. Draw attention to the difference in the spirit and attitude of the giving guided by God.

I am Beautifully Made

Lesson 31

UNIT 7: BEHAVING AS CHRISTIANS

BIBLE TRUTH

You as boys and girls are made in God's image. Therefore, they must love, respect and protect their bodies as they are – that is what God wants to see when He looks at Himself in them.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Appreciate that God created them in His image, boys and girls.
- Understand that our bodies are the temple of God and that we must not sin against them and against God.
- Realize that God used both men and women, boys and girls, to do His will.

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:20b)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Be sensitive to “teachable moments” in the children’s life, and use them appropriately.
- Manual, Covenant of Christian Conduct - Human Sexuality
- Copy of Student Activity sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Sing a song about human body parts eg. Hands, feet, head, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, etc. like “I am special” “Be careful little eyes", etc.

- Talk about the beauty of the human body and some of its functions. Compare it to other creations like the sun, the sea, and animals with an emphasis on the significance of the differences between people and other creations.
- Considering your context, what is expected of girls and boys?
 - *What words are used to describe boys/girls?*
 - *How are they expected to behave?*
 - *What are they expected to do?*
 - *What is their role in the family or community?*

As much as possible, give the children a chance to express their thoughts about these expectations. They may also say how they would describe themselves and what they see as their roles. However, the most important question is what does God say about them – especially with regards to gender?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

“I am Beautifully Made”

Psalm 139:14; Genesis 1:1-27; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

The Bible teaches us that “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”. He created all things including man. God saw that what He had made was good.

*When God created man in the beginning, He made a man and a woman. He created them in His own image. God was very happy that He had created them. He wanted them to love and enjoy the way He made them. After creating man, He saw that all He had made was **very good**. It was as if He just put a*

crown on top of all His creation. By creating them man and woman, God shows He wanted girls to be girls and boys to be boys. That is why you were born a girl/boy!

*You can also join David and say: **“I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made”**. This is true of each one of us. Girl or Boy, each one has been fearfully and wonderfully made. Therefore we must love and respect our bodies and respect those of others too.*

*Although God made different bodies for girls and for boys, He did not tell us what they **should** be or do. He did not tell us what they **can** be or do. Therefore, different groups of people and families have expectations that may be different from those of others. It is important to know these differences because they are what make us who we are. It is always helpful to be aware of each other’s differences and yet accept one another in spite of them.*

Whether boy or girl, you are beautifully made so you can serve Him! Having made you in His image, God urges you to give your body to Him as a living sacrifice so you can live for Him at all times (Rom. 12:1-2). He wants you to know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19) and to treat it as such. This will help you to allow Him to use you for the good things He wants to do in the world. If you would allow Him, He will use you like He did other boys, girls, men and women we read about in the Bible.

CONNECTIONS TO LIFE

Girls or Boys

Have the boys and girls say things can be done that are suitable for their gender. List them under Boys or Girls and see which group will come up with the most actions. Continue with the list in spite of minor disputes that may arise from the exercise. Then have them say which ones can be done by both genders. Emphasize the fact that it matters not what gender they are or what they can or cannot do but who they are as people made in the image of God. For more emphasis and if possible, talk about or bring pictures showing boys and girls from other places especially if they are different from your groups’ expectations.

Help your class complete and color in the pictures of children that represent them and then color children from different cultures from around the world.

Ask each child to think of one thing they like the most about themselves as a girl/boy. Help them respond by writing, drawing or cutting and pasting pictures at the bottom of their activity sheet.

Pray that God will help each one to love themselves and to grow up respecting and honoring God with their bodies.

Always Be Thankful

Lesson 32

UNIT 8: HAVE A THANKFUL HEART

BIBLE TRUTH

God desires that we thank Him for all He does and gives to us. Be always thankful.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Appreciate the many good things God has given us.
- Realize the importance of saying ‘Thank You’ to God.

MEMORY VERSE

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” (Psalm 100:4)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Can any of you children tell me what are the words we must say when somebody gives us something? What about when someone does something good for us or when someone says something nice about us? Yes, you are right, they are ‘THANK YOU!’ Why do you think it is so important to say ‘thank you’ to other people when they do things for us or say good things about us?

BIBLE STORY

“Be Always Thankful”

Psalm 100:1-5

Now I am thinking of someone who has given us everything in the world that we have. He has even given His only Son to die on the Cross for us. He tells us over and over in His Word that He loves us. Who is this? It is God. Don’t you think we should thank God for His care? We have seen His kindness all the time, but sometimes we all forget to say, ‘Thank You’. God likes for us to say thank you to Him, because it shows Him that we recognize that what we have has come from Him. It also lifts our spirits when we say thanks to God. Why do you think that we also feel good when we say ‘thank you’ to God or to someone who has done something nice for us?

David was so thankful to God that he wrote Psalm 100 to really praise Him for doing so many good things. Come let us find it in our Bible and read it together.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Let the children name some things that we should be thankful for. Write them down as they call them out. Show the children how to fill in blessings for each day of the week beginning with today on their activity sheet. Have them write a blessing for today in class as an example. Remind them to repeat the words “Thank you God” for each day.

Let them sing any song they know that gives praise or thanks to God (such as, ‘Count Your Blessings’ or ‘Thank You, Lord’). *Let us all bow our heads in prayer. While everyone is quiet, read each blessing you have written down and pause after each one for a moment while everyone says, ‘Thank You, God’. If time allows, close by singing ‘Father, We Thank Thee’, ‘I Will Enter His Gates With Thanksgiving in My Heart’ or any similar chorus or hymn.*

Joyfully Say ‘Thanks’

Lesson 33

UNIT 8: *HAVE A THANKFUL HEART*

BIBLE TRUTH

A thankful heart comes when we set our hearts to thank God for everything. And that pleases God.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that telling God ‘thank you’ often help them become more thankful to other people too.
- Understand that is an attitude they can build and follow for a lifetime.
- Realize that by being thankful they are fulfilling God’s desire.

MEMORY VERSE

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thes.5:18)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Have the children share their experiences of writing down blessings from last week. Encourage them to share what remembering to thank God everyday has done for them.

Remember it is always important to others and to us that we say ‘thank you’ for things received. There is always so much to be thankful for. So, in addition to our lists, let’s see if we can make another thank-you list:

- *Lord, thank you for the food you have given us this last week.*
- *Lord, thank you for the clothes we are wearing and the homes we live in.*
- *Lord, thank you for this wonderful world you have created.*
- *Lord, thank you for our church.*
- *Lord, thank you for the Bible.*
- *Lord, most of all, thank you for Jesus.*

BIBLE STORY

“Joyfully Say ‘Thanks’”

Luke 17:11-19

As Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He walked along the border between Samaria and Galilee. Jesus went into a village where there were ten men who had leprosy. Leprosy was a disease that made other people stay away from the people that had it. In those days they had to cry out ‘unclean, unclean’ if they came close to other people. As Jesus went into the village, the lepers called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’

What do you think Jesus did? Jesus told them to go see the priests and be declared clean. The priests were the ones who could say if someone had been healed from leprosy. The ten men were so excited that they ran off to see the priests, and they were healed as they were running. Nine of them did not even think about thanking Jesus. But one stopped running when he saw that he was healed, and he turned and ran back to Jesus. In his joy he threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him. Jesus

asked him where the other nine were. Then He said, “Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” He told that Samaritan, “your faith has made you well”.

It is important to people all over the world that others give thanks for things given or done. If you have done something nice to one of your friends, you like for them to say ‘thank you’, don’t you? We do not do things just so people will thank us, but we think people do not like or appreciate the things we do if they never say ‘thank you’. Next time we might not want to do something because we think no one cares.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Have the children sit in a circle and have each one say thank you to the person on their right for something special about that child. Then start again by letting them thank the person on their left.

Show the children how to fill in the chart to remember to Thank others for what they do for them. Have them write a thank you for today in class as an example. Remind them to repeat the words “Thank you God” for each day.

Close in prayer using last week’s thank you list. Add any new things that we need to give thanks for.

Show Your Thankfulness Through Sharing

Lesson 34

UNIT 8: HAVE A THANKFUL HEART

BIBLE TRUTH

Thank God by praising Him and sharing with others.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Express their thanks to God by praising Him
- Express their thanks to God by sharing with others

MEMORY VERSE

“I will sing praise to my God as long as I live” (Psalm 104:33).

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

We live in such a wonderful world – blue skies, green trees, colorful flowers, bright sunshine, refreshing rain, delicious smells, lovely birds, animals, people, eye sight, life. We could go on and on, but sometimes we seem to take these things for granted. How often do we, even from an early age, look at the dark and bad things in our life. We think about the wars, famines, storms, sicknesses, and all kinds of bad things and we become discouraged. Of course, these are things that affect us, and as Christians we should be concerned about them by helping those who are caught up in them. But we must not let them steal our joy.

BIBLE STORY
“Give with Joy, to Say ‘Thanks’”

Psalm 104

As God’s young children, you should always be happy over all the good things He gives. However, you must be prepared to trust Him during the difficult times. God’s presence in our life is what should make the difference.

Like the Psalmist, we must thank God for all the beautiful things He has created. We have one of the most beautiful lands in all the world, open spaces, fresh air, sunshine, just to mention a few. We can enjoy the beautiful mountains, flowing rivers and singing birds. The cattle enjoy the grass while people are grateful for the food growing on the farms and in the gardens. We are thankful because we know it all comes from the Lord. All these are blessings that God graciously gives to us. They all remind us how much He loves us. And yet He says that He takes more care of us than any of these other creatures. Let us therefore join the Psalmist and sing our songs of praise for all the things God has given to us.

Because God has given us so much we must also be willing to give to others. Like God, we can give from our natural resources too. Greeting others make them feel recognized and welcome, a smile goes a long way to earn friendship, kind words, taking time to help another, etc. We can ask the Lord to teach us what we can give to others as a sign of our thankfulness.

During the ‘Thanksgiving Month’ we can look back and thank God for giving us so much including a thankful heart. Make ‘Thanksgiving Month’ great by going out and giving something away – even if it is only by saying ‘thank you’ or ‘I love you’ to someone.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Let the children sing about God’s creation.

Read Psalm 104. Have a sheet of paper prepared with the alphabet randomly scattered on the paper. You can make the letters stand out better if you circle each letter. Now choose a letter by closing your eyes and pointing a pencil or a stick onto the paper. Whatever letter of the alphabet it lands on, have each child (or a selected child) name something that starts with that letter that they are thankful for. For example, if it lands on ‘G’, responses could be ‘Green Trees’, ‘Grass’, ‘God’, ‘Goats’, ‘Ground’. Repeat with another letter. Children can write down their answers on their activity sheet.

Living a Thankful Life

Lesson 35

UNIT 8: HAVE A THANKFUL HEART

BIBLE TRUTH

We must live a thankful life, even when God says no.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that the best way to thank God is to trust and obey Him every day
- Have a desire to trust and obey God

MEMORY VERSE

“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you” (Mark 5:19).

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

It is not enough to just say thank you, or to give a gift of thanks. We must live a thankful life of obedience and love. There are times that Jesus does not answer our prayers as we would like them to be answered, but He does answer them. He knows what is best for us.

Just like when you ask your parents for something, sometimes they know the best thing for you is for them to say no. When Jesus or your parents say no to you, they want you to continue to trust them and be obedient and understand that they know what is best for you. Whether the answer is yes or no, be joyful and thankful that they love and care for you.

BIBLE STORY

“Living a Thankful Life”

Mark 5:1-20

Peter jumped from his fishing boat and pulled it up on shore. The other disciples followed and helped him secure it. They were in a place known as the Gerasenes. As Jesus and the disciples went ashore, they heard loud screams. There rushing to meet them was a violent, demon-possessed man. Jesus knew that the man was possessed by evil spirits, so He commanded the evil spirits to leave the man. They begged Him to send them into a nearby herd of pigs, so He did. When the evil spirits went into the pigs, they ran down the hill into the lake and drowned. The demon-possessed man was healed. When Jesus was ready to leave that area to go to the next village, this man asked Jesus if he could go with them. Even though the man had a great desire to be with Jesus and help Him, Jesus told him very kindly that he could not go with Him. Jesus told the man that the best way for him to show his appreciation for what Jesus had done would be to stay behind and tell his family and friends what God had done for him. So the man went away and began to joyfully share his story with everyone. Truly he showed his thanks to Jesus by obediently living for Him.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Have each child draw the outline of their hand on a piece of paper. They should cut out the handprint and write the words ‘thank you’ on one side and a short thank you message on the other side. They should give the card to one of their parents, sisters, brothers, or teachers that they want to say ‘thank you’ to. When they have finished working on the handprint, have them make drawings of the things they are grateful for on their activity sheet.

Discuss these lessons about thanks. Let the children share what they have learned about showing, saying, giving, and living thankful attitudes.

God Disciplines with Love

Lesson 36

UNIT 9: GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

BIBLE TRUTH

God requires that we obey Him without question as His creations, for He knows best what we should be. Otherwise He teaches us to do so the hard way.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Understand that it is necessary for those who love us to discipline us so that we will become the kind of people we should be.

MEMORY VERSE

“God disciplines us for our good.” (Hebrews 12:10)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Manual, Article of Faith I: The Triune God
- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

What happens if you do not listen to your parents? Allow the children to respond. They do not stop loving you, but their heart will be filled with pain. They will be sad that they have to punish you. Your parents know what is good for you when you are growing up, and because they love you they need to teach you. When children want to do what they want to do and not obey their parents, they become mean, terrible and hateful. Sometimes we must learn hard lessons to teach us to be good boys and girls.

BIBLE STORY

“God Disciplines with Love”

Genesis 6:6 – 9:12-17

How many of you know the story of Noah and the ark? Once there was a man named Noah who really loved and listened to God. The other people who lived at that time did not love or listen to God. The Bible tells us that this hurt God’s heart. He had made people, but they ignored Him and would not listen to Him. God was very sad about this, so He decided that he was going to punish those people who never listened. But God did not want to punish Noah and his family who loved Him, so He told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. Noah and his family and the animals would be safe in the ark when the flood came.

The flood punished the people who wouldn’t listen to God and they all drowned. But God rescued Noah and his family, and He also taught them a lesson about how important it is to listen to God and do what He says. If Noah had disobeyed God and not built the ark, he and his family would also have died.

Your parents will not give you a meal of sweets, no matter how much you like them, because they know you need good food to grow healthy and strong. Many people talk about God’s love and they like to think about God as if He were Father Christmas. But God’s love wants what will be good forever, not just what will last for a few minutes. If we are going to be the kind of people God wants us to be,

then we have to learn obedience and discipline.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Bring a basin to Sunday School. Have one or more of the class members make a little wooden boat (or a stick that would float). Let another child bring a packet with a few ants in it. Put the wooden boat into the basin. Place some ants on the boat and put the rest of the ants in the basin. Now pour water slowly from the side into the basin and begin filling it up. You will see that many ants will be floating around in the water with no way of getting out, but those on the boat will be safe as long as they stay on it. Talk about the choice of rescuing the ants or letting them perish. When completed, do not forget to empty the basin outside with the ants – before they all die. Talk about the difference between punishment and discipline.

On the activity sheet, have the children color Noah's Ark and draw the animals that went with him.

God is in Charge

Lesson 37

UNIT 9: GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

BIBLE TRUTH

Nothing can stop God from doing what He wants to do. He is in charge of everything.

LESSON GOALS

To help children realize that our God is in charge of what happens.

MEMORY VERSE

"Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit" (Psalm 147:5)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Get a few different unfamiliar language translations for some basic instructions you use for your class, such as: 'Help move the table to here', 'Put the chairs around the table', 'All come and sit by the table', etc. Divide the class into several groups. Give each group one of these foreign phrases. Each group is to instruct the other groups to do whatever their phrase says (only the group with the instruction will know what it means – they cannot say anything else but what is on their paper). Do not worry about pronunciation. Have the children stop their activity. Ask, '*What do you think you were working together to do?*' Note their answers and keep them for later.

BIBLE STORY

"God is in Charge"

Genesis 11:1-9

God blessed Noah and his sons. He told them to have children and fill the earth. The flood showed them that God was in control. Now as Noah's grandchildren moved east, the Bible tells us that they forgot about God and they stopped listening to Him. God had told them to 'fill the earth', but they decided to settle in one place and build a mighty city. In this city, all the chiefs came together for talks.

These chiefs only wanted to show people how great and mighty they were and how clever they had become.

Have you ever seen a pigeon on the ground walking about with his chest puffed up? Well, these chiefs were now walking about with their chests puffed up. 'We are so good. Let us build a tower so that we can make a name for ourselves. Nothing can touch us. Why should we be scattered over the face of the earth? Who is God to tell us what to do?' The people were going against God's plan for their lives. They only wanted to do things for themselves.

They started showing pride, lack of faith, and a false security because they were so puffed-up. This was disobedience. God saw their disobedience and He did not like it. He had to show the people again, 'Wait a minute – I am in control here'. So He mixed their languages, so they could not understand each other anymore. Now because they could not understand each other, they scattered all over the world. That was just what God wanted them to do. Who do you think is in charge?

It must have really been confusing when all the people began speaking in a language others could not understand. How do you feel when someone comes up to you and asks a question, but you do not know what they are saying? That Tower the people started to build was named the 'Tower of Babel' because all the people were babbling. 'Babel' means 'confusion' and everyone was confused. Who in the class has a brother or sister that is still a baby and cannot talk yet? All they can do is babble – can you understand them?

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Before class, list incidents from the Bible showing that God is in charge, e.g. Genesis 45:4-7; Hebrews 11:11-12; etc. In class, ask the children to mention incidents or people through whom God showed that He was in charge. Guide the discussion according to your findings – mainly focusing on the display of the mighty power of God working against all odds. Help children list the names and reference on their activity sheet as you discuss.

God Looks at the Heart

Lesson 38

UNIT 9: GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

BIBLE TRUTH

While people can pretend to be something they are not and fool one another, God can never be fooled because He looks at the heart. He chooses people He will use by looking at their hearts.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that God selects people for service not because of their size or appearance but because of their willingness to follow His plan.
- Have the desire to used of God.

MEMORY VERSE

"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7b)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Would you rather have a friend who is pretty or one who is ugly? Would you rather be friends with someone who can run fast or with someone who is crippled? We often have opinions about other people based on how they look on the outside. We think if someone is attractive, strong, or athletic that he or she is also kind, smart, and good. But I have known people who are very pretty but they are mean to people. I have also known people who are crippled but are kind to everyone. Did you know that God has created us all and has made us all different for a reason? God is more concerned with our obedience and attitudes than He is with our appearance.

BIBLE STORY

“God Looks at the Heart”

1 Samuel 16:1-13

God tells His prophet Samuel this exact thing in our Bible story today. God sent Samuel to the home of a man named Jesse to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king of Israel. Samuel had his own ideas about what kind of person should be king, but his ideas were different from God's ideas. Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, was tall and handsome, and Samuel thought 'this must be the one'. But God said to Samuel 'do not consider his appearance or his height. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'. Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Each time Samuel said, 'The Lord has not chosen this one'. After the last one walked by, Samuel asked, 'don't you have any more sons?' So they called the youngest son in from tending the sheep. When Samuel saw David, God told him, 'this is the one'. So Samuel anointed David to be king. God chose David to be the king because David loved God very much. David learned how to be a good king while he was being a good shepherd of his father's flock.

Maybe you think about yourself and you may not be the prettiest or the smartest or the fastest or the best at anything in your class. Do not be discouraged. God has chosen you to be His child, and you can do what He wants you to do. God wants you to obey Him. He wants you to love Him and love everyone He has made. You can do that.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Get a large picture and paste it onto a piece of cardboard. Then cut the picture into simple puzzle pieces (easy for the children to build). Explain that not one single piece makes up the whole picture. Only all the pieces fitted properly into each other makes the picture. God's plan is for all His people to fit together into one big picture. One piece, or one person, will not make the whole picture, but if one is missing, there will be a hole.

Bring old newspapers and magazines with pictures. Have children cut out the pictures they want. And further cut up the picture into smaller pieces to make their own puzzle. Let them paste the puzzle on their activity sheet as a reminder that one part is not the whole. But all parts of the picture are needed to make the whole.

Discuss what you think is your church's plan in the community and who would be the best person to make it work. How would you do if you were chosen to be the captain of your country's national sports team? How would you do if given the task to look after all the babies during the service?

God Calls Us to Obey His Plan

Lesson 39

UNIT 9: GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

BIBLE TRUTH

God depends on people to carry out His plan. He is calling us all but will only use those who obey Him.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Realize that sometimes God calls a specific person to do a certain task.
- Realize that God might call them for specific tasks.
- Be open to God.

MEMORY VERSE

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.” (John 15:16a)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Children of God are used by God to accomplish His plan for the world. The Bible has many stories about how God used particular people for His purpose. Let’s name some of them and how they obeyed God: Abraham, Moses, Noah, Esther, Daniel, Mary, and Paul.

Many times God raised a person up by telling the parents that their child would be called to do a specific task. Can we name some of them? Abraham (father of Isaac), Manoah (father of Samson), Zechariah (father of John the Baptist), Joseph (earthly father of Jesus).

BIBLE STORY

“God Calls People to Obey His Plan”

Judges 13:1-25

Today’s story is about Manoah, the father of Samson. The Israelites had disobeyed God. So, He punished them by delivering them into the hands of their enemies, the Philistines for forty years. God planned ahead for the deliverer to be born so he would be ready at the end of the forty years. He sent an angel to Manoah’s wife and told her all about a son she would have and what she and her husband must do to raise the boy properly. She told her husband and he was very excited. Manoah asked God to give them more instructions so they could be sure to do everything right. So Samson was born to be the deliverer of Israel.

The plan of the Lord is very important – it teaches us about obedience. What would have happened if Manoah disobeyed the Lord? Yes, the deliverance of the Israelites might not have taken place. They might have stayed in bondage for a longer time. What if Zechariah or Joseph disobeyed the Angel of the Lord?

What does all this mean to us today? It teaches us that God uses people to bring about His plan. In the Old Testament times, God chose certain people to be His special servants. But Jesus taught us that everyone who follows Him is God’s servant and will be used to work in God’s plan. Even you are

important to bring about the greater plan of God. All you must do is recognize His calling in your life and obey His Word. Wherever you live, you may be the only hope that others will come to know about Jesus.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Have the children line up. Now tell them that you are going to share a secret with a chosen few. Start selecting from the class. As you choose, get the chosen ones to line up on the opposite side. Call the selected children around you as if to share a big secret with them. Now whisper to them that you have nothing to share, but you want them to laugh and be excited so that the others will feel left out. When they go back to the other children, they must continue to keep the secret until you tell them it is okay to tell.

Call all the children together and ask those who were not chosen to share how they felt. Then ask the chosen children how they felt. Let all the children know that there was no secret. Discuss what it means to be chosen by God and that all people are chosen if they will only believe in Jesus and obey His teachings.

On the activity sheets, have the children complete the names of people who obeyed God that you talked about in the Starting Activity. Remind them to thank God for all those people were able to do because they obeyed.

OBEDIENCE LEADS TO SERVICE

Lesson 40

UNIT 9: GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

BIBLE TRUTH

Being always faithful and obedient even in small things opens doors for us to be trusted more.

LESSON GOALS

To help children:

- Understand that God uses obedient people for the work of His Kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE

“Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.” (Proverbs 20:11)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

- Copy of Student Activity Sheet for each student

STARTING ACTIVITY

Everyone wants to look good in the sight of their friends. How many of you might do things to impress your friends that you would never do in front of your parents? Some people are totally different people outside the home. This also happens at church. Some children act like little angels at Sunday School, then when at home they become disobedient and naughty children.

BIBLE STORY
“Obedience Leads to Service”

Daniel 1:1-20

Daniel was an Israelite who was taken captive by the Babylonians. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted some of the Israelite slaves who were very handsome, strong, and smart to be trained for special service to the king. All the ones selected were given special privileges. They were even given food from the king’s table to eat, the best food in the whole country. But Daniel and three of his friends did not want to eat the king’s food, because they knew it had been sacrificed to idols.

Daniel and his friends loved and worshipped God with all their hearts and were obedient to Him. So even when they found themselves among unbelievers who offered them special food and privileges, they did not change in front of them. They made their beliefs well known among the people in charge of them, and let them know that they were not going to disgrace themselves in front of God just to look good in their sight. God blessed Daniel and his three friends with understanding of all kinds of literature and learning for their faithfulness and obedience. Daniel was even given an extra blessing to understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

God wants to use all kinds of people in His Kingdom, but He can only do that if they are obedient to Him. Daniel was used mightily by the Lord.

As young children, we must learn that once we make a decision for Christ then we should always behave like children of God. No matter where we are or with whom, we must let the people know that we are Christians. God blesses those who stand up for Him.

CONNECTION TO LIFE

Let the children make up a drama. Have one child act as a person who is good in front of his parents and naughty with his friends. Let another child act the same with parents and friends. All the children can take part in the drama or you can have two dramas, with half the class acting and the other half watching and then switch.

Discuss with the class the importance of always being yourself and being obedient children at home as well as at school and with your friends. Your parents and school teachers will be happy to know they can trust you in what you do and say.

Help each child choose a role model from the Bible who listened and obeyed God. They then need to fill out the information about that person on their activity sheet.

student

activity

sheets

Lesson 1

God Reveals Himself

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

[Deuteronomy 6:4]

First 3 Articles of Faith

1. The Triune God (Triune means three.)

We believe that there is only one God. God has always been and will always exist. He is the creator of all things. God is revealed to us in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity.

2. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God. He was born as a human being. His mother was Mary, who was a virgin when he was born. Jesus Christ is both fully man and fully God. Jesus Christ died for our sins. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He returned to heaven where He now helps us live as Christians.

3. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is everywhere in the world. He works especially in and through Christians and the Church. The Holy Spirit shows people they are sinners and leads them to become Christians. The Holy Spirit helps the Christian live to please God.



LESSON 2

God Speaks to Me Everywhere

“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.”

[Psalm 139:1]

Paste one of the items you collected from outside on this sheet.

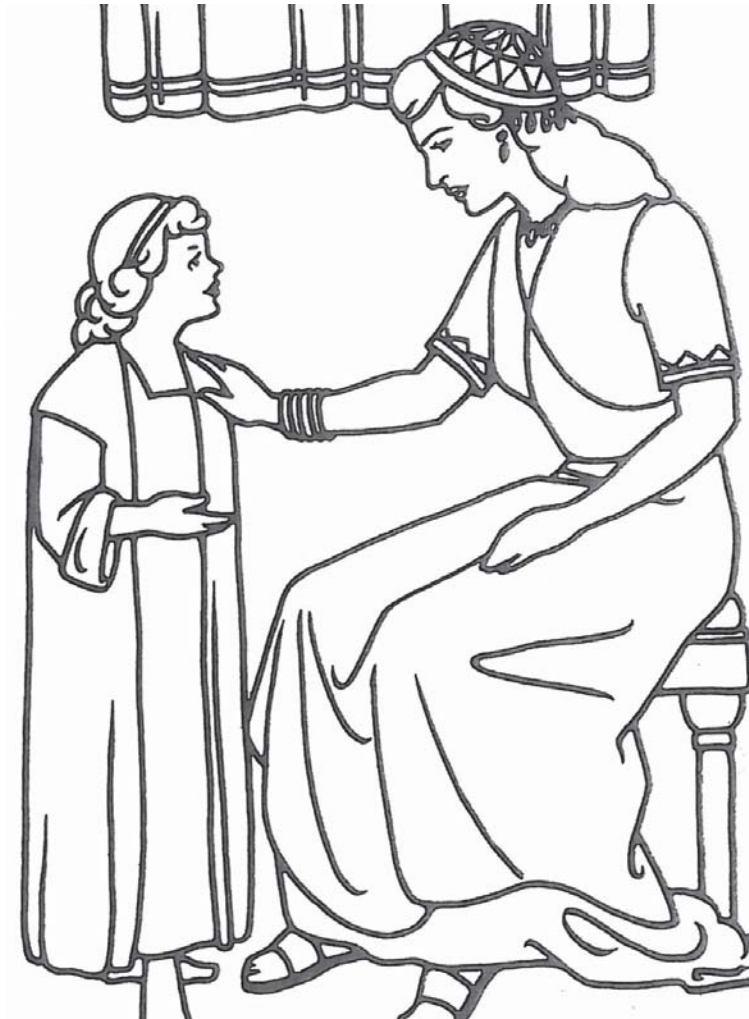
**Thank You, Jesus,
for opening my eyes!**

LESSON 3

God is Great and Powerful

“Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.” (2 Kings 5:15b)

Color the picture of the Hebrew slave girl and her mistress.



**God shows His power
through ordinary people.**

Lesson 4

God Watches Over Us

“And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’” [2 Kings 6:17a]

Color the picture of the Lords army.



LESSON 5

God is Patient and Forgiving

**“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found.” (Luke 15:24)**

Color the picture of the forgiving father.

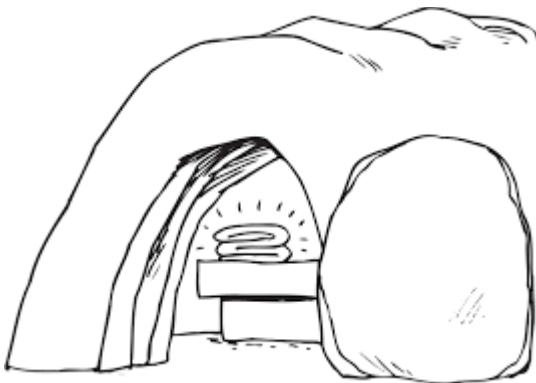
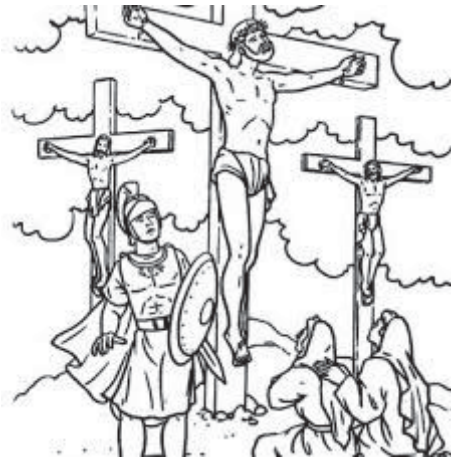


Lesson 6

Jesus Shows His Love

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” (Acts 2:36)

Color the pictures, then tell the story of Jesus to your friends.



LESSON 7

Meeting Jesus

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

(Luke 19:10)

Make a list (or draw pictures) describing what life is like before meeting Jesus and what life is like after Jesus comes into your heart.

BEFORE AND AFTER

Lesson 8

Jesus Makes Time for Children

“But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me.’ ” (Luke 18:16a)

Color the picture of Jesus and the children.



Lesson 9

Jesus Prays Before Making Decisions

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven .”

[Matthew 6:9-10]

Write the names of Jesus’ disciples underneath the picture of Jesus praying.



Lesson 10

Jesus Teaches His Disciples How to Pray

“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven .” [Matthew 6:10]

Decorate the scroll with the Lord’s Prayer on it.

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven
our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the
power, and the glory forever.**

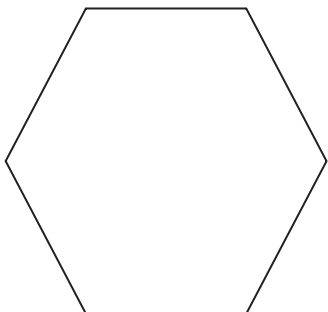
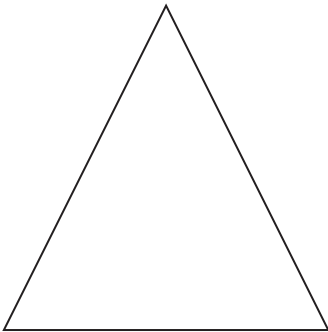
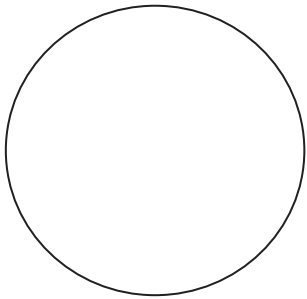
Amen

Lesson 11

Jesus Prays for Others

“Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors .” (Matthew 6:11-12)

Paste your prayer partner’s name on the matching shape and then write down their prayer requests.




Prayer Requests

Lesson 12

Jesus Prays When He is Sad & Troubled

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:13)

Decorate the frame of this picture.



“And lead us
not into
temptation,
but deliver
us from
the evil one.”
(Matthew 6:13)

Lesson 13

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

[Acts 1:8]

Color the picture of the Spirit Filled Disciple.



Lesson 14

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

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

Color the pictures and learn from your teacher how to share this lesson with your friends..



Disciples Praying



**Disciples Filled with
the Holy Spirit**



Crowd Gathering



Paul Preaching to the Crowd

Lesson 15

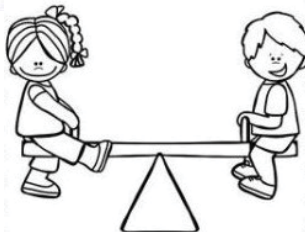
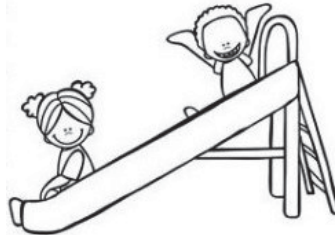
God Shows His Love for Every Nation

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

Color the pictures of kids being friendly.



Color the pictures of how you can make friends with new children.



Lesson 16

The First Missionaries Are Sent

“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2)

Color the picture of Paul and Barnabas being prayed for and then draw a picture of yourself below them.



Lesson 17

Our Gifts Make God Happy

“They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.” (Philippians 4:18)

Fill in the chart with information about your LINKS Missionary.

Our LINKS Missionaries

Missionary's Name
Home Country
Their Work
Country They Serve In
People They are Serving
Prayer Requests
How I Can Support Them

Lesson 18

God Speaks to Me Through My Bible

**“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching.”
(2 Timothy 3:16)**

Color the picture of the Bible and then
write the words of your favorite song about the Bible on the lines below.



Lesson 19

How the Bible Came to Us

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Luke 21:33)

Color these ways to share the Word of God!

Draw your own picture of how you can share the Word with a friend



Reading the Word to a Friend

Bible Quizzing



Listening to the Word being

Memorize Scripture

LESSON 20

Jeremiah Writes God's Words

“...this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel,...” (Jeremiah 36:1-2)

Learn the books of the Bible.

The Old Testament

<i>Genesis</i>	<i>II Chronicles</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
<i>Exodus</i>	<i>Ezra</i>	<i>Hosea</i>
<i>Leviticus</i>	<i>Nehemiah</i>	<i>Joel</i>
<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Esther</i>	<i>Amos</i>
<i>Deuteronomy</i>	<i>Job</i>	<i>Obadiah</i>
<i>Joshua</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Jonah</i>
<i>Judges</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Micah</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<i>Ecclesiastes</i>	<i>Nahum</i>
<i>I Samuel</i>	<i>Song of Songs</i>	<i>Habakkuk</i>
<i>II Samuel</i>	<i>Isaiah</i>	<i>Zephaniah</i>
<i>I Kings</i>	<i>Jeremiah</i>	<i>Haggai</i>
<i>II Kings</i>	<i>Lamentations</i>	<i>Zechariah</i>
<i>I Chronicles</i>	<i>Ezekiel</i>	<i>Malachi</i>



The New Testament


<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Ephesians</i>	<i>Hebrews</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Philippians</i>	<i>James</i>
<i>Luke</i>	<i>Colossians</i>	<i>I Peter</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>I Thessalonians</i>	<i>II Peter</i>
<i>Acts</i>	<i>II Thessalonians</i>	<i>I John</i>
<i>Romans</i>	<i>I Timothy</i>	<i>II John</i>
<i>I Corinthians</i>	<i>II Timothy</i>	<i>III John</i>
<i>II Corinthians</i>	<i>Titus</i>	<i>Jude</i>
<i>Galatians</i>	<i>Philemon</i>	<i>Revelation</i>

Lesson 21

God's Word Shows the Way

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)

Decorate the heart.



"I have hidden your
word in my heart that
I might not sin
against you."

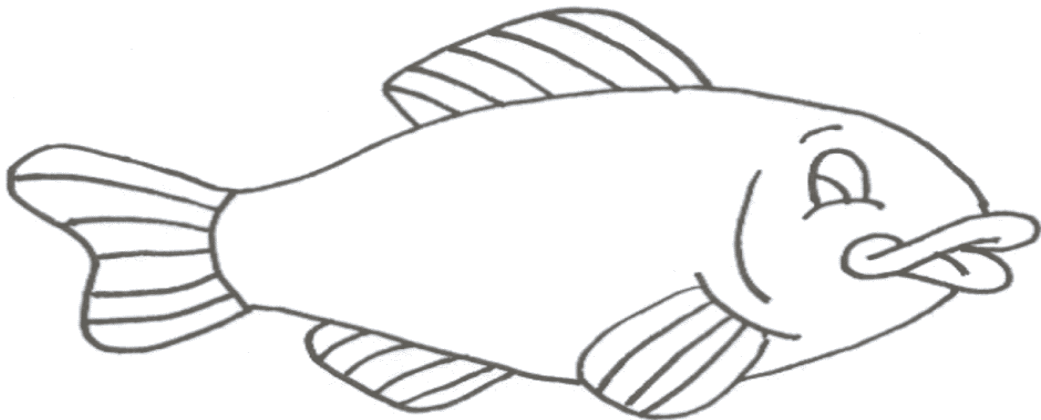
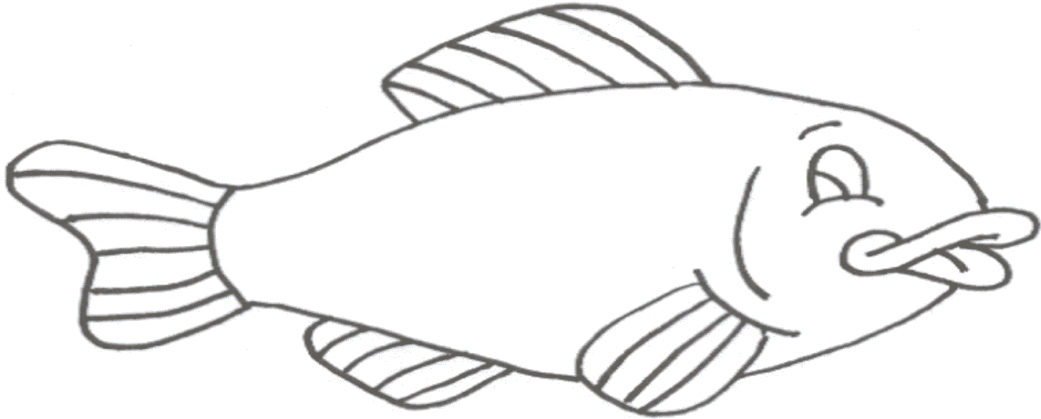
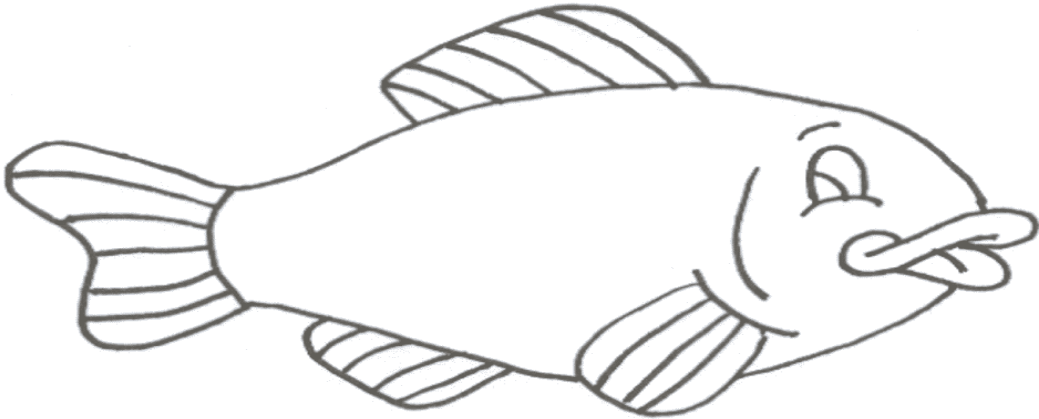
Psalm 119:11

Lesson 22

Speak the Truth in Love

“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in [those] who are truthful.” (Proverbs 12:22)

Write the truthful statements in the fish.



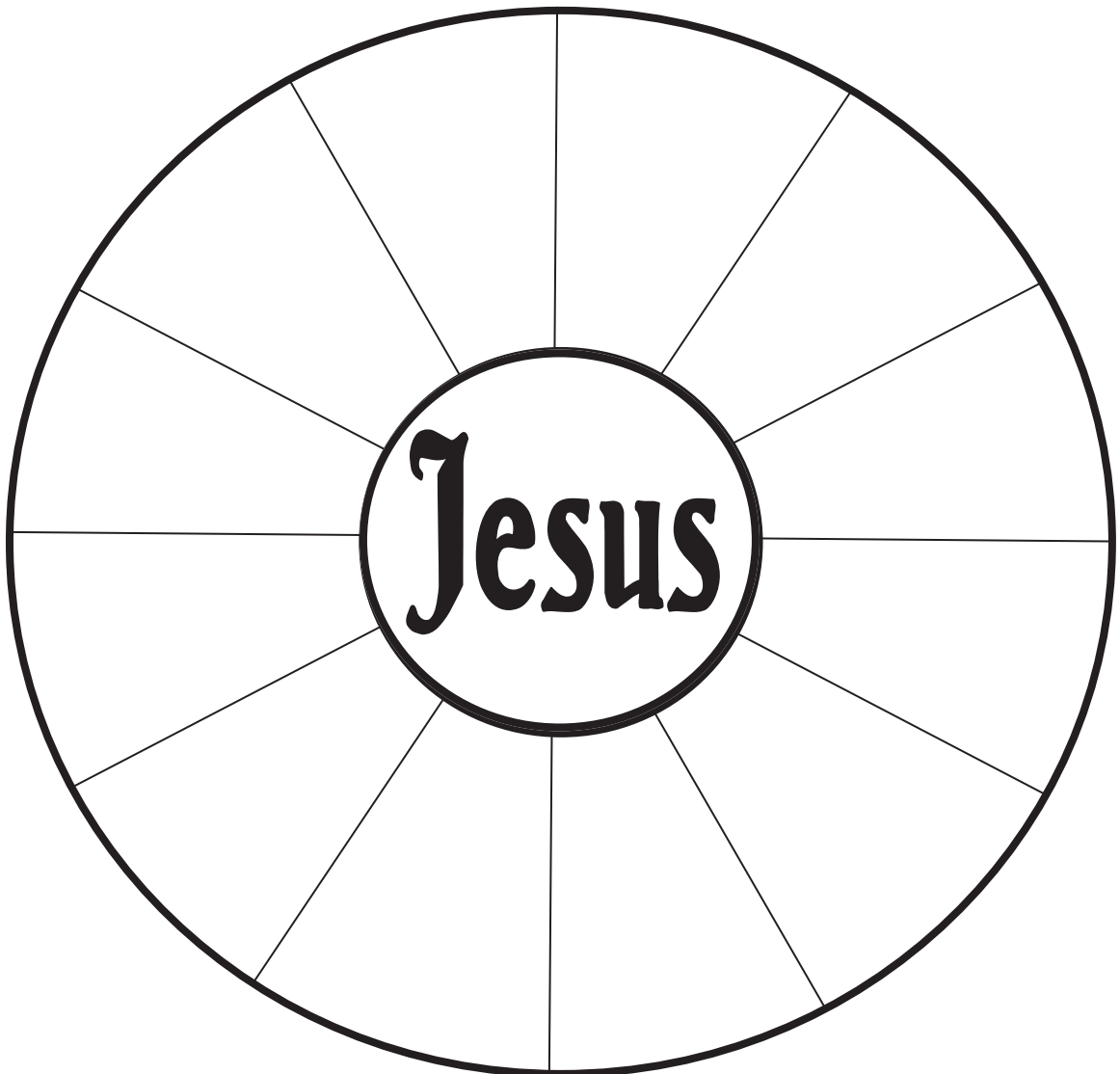
Lesson 23

Be Like Jesus

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.”

(Ephesians 5:1)

Write the names of your class members on each spoke in the diagram.



Lesson 24

Share the Good News of Salvation

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ because it is the power of God for the salvation of man.”

[Romans 1:16]

Color the pictures of ways we can share the Good News of salvation.



LESSON 25

Do Good to All People

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Draw (or cut out and paste) pictures of good things you want to do for others.

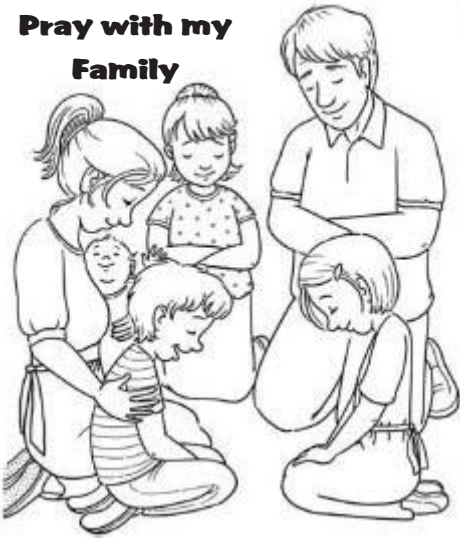
LESSON 26

Be Faithful and Grow

“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

Color the pictures of ways to be faithful and grow.

Pray with my Family



Read the Bible with my Family



Participate in worship at my church.



Learn about God in Sunday School

Lesson 27

Love God and Love Others

“If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

[Matthew 19:17c]

Color the picture and learn the Ten Commandments.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord.
4. Remember the Sabbath, keep it holy.
5. Honor your Father and your Mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet.

Lesson 28

Please God in Everything

“but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

Follow your teachers instructions.



Test



Good



Bad

LESSON 29

Adam and Eve Get Married

“Marriage should be honored by all.” (Hebrews 13:4a)

Color the picture.

Match the wife’s name to her husband and list a significant fact about each couple.

HUSBAND	WIFE	FACTS	MATCH TO HUSBAND
ABRAHAM			ELIZABETH
AQUILLA			MARY
JOSEPH			PRICILLA
MANOAH			SARAH
ZECHARIAH			HIS WIFE

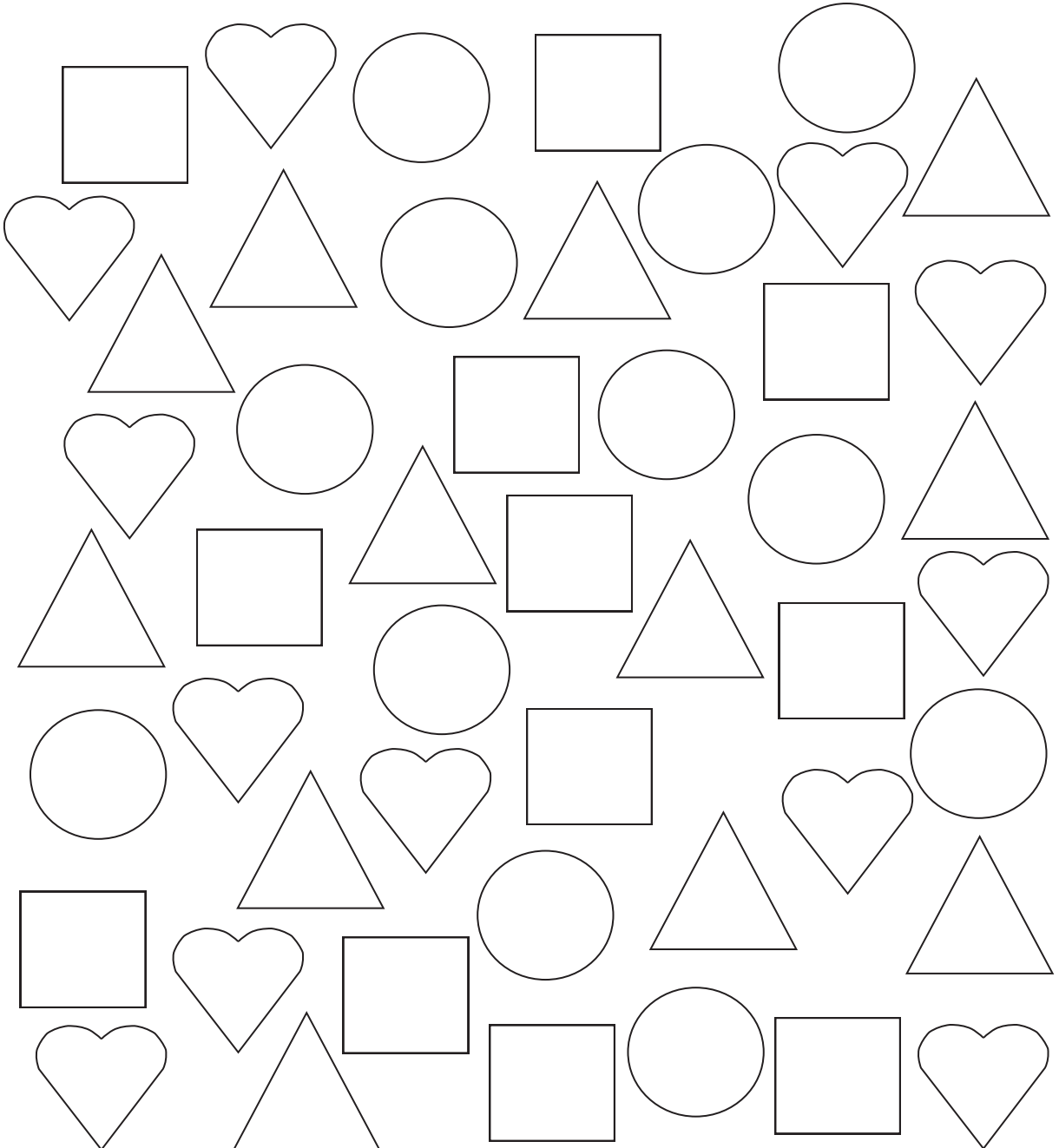


LESSON 30

Honor God—Do Not Rob Him

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.” (Malachi 3:10a)

Find similar objects (one kind at a time), count ten of them and color in God’s portion first before coloring the rest of the ten in a different color.

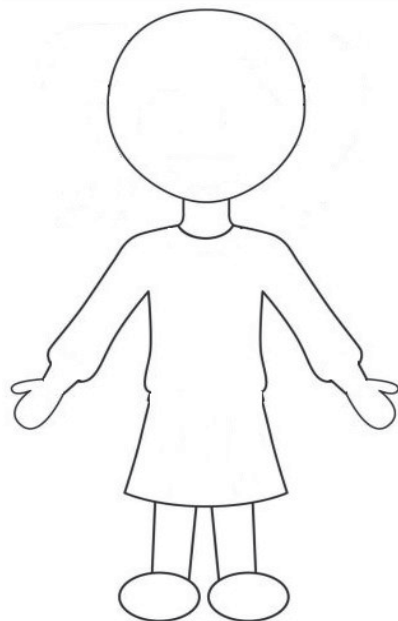
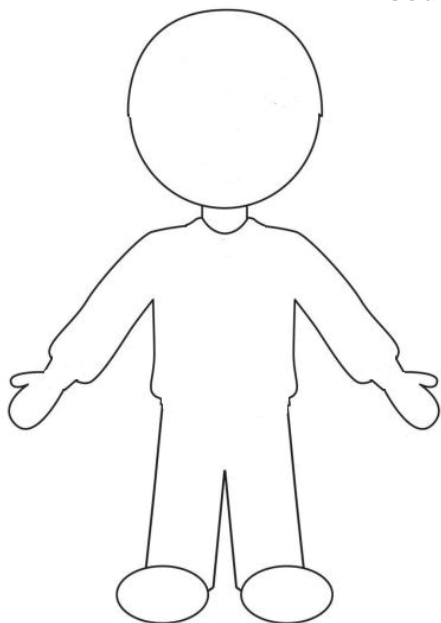


Lesson 31

i am Beautifully Made

“Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:20b)

Complete a picture of yourself and then color the children of the world remembering that
God made each of us Beautifully!



Lesson 32

Always Be Thankful

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

Psalms 100:4)

Fill in your Blessings for each day this week.

Day of the Week	Blessings	THANK YOU LORD
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

LESSON 33

Joyfully Say "Thanks"

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." [1 Thessalonians 5:18]

Fill in the chart to remember to Thank others for what they do for you.

Day of the Week	Thank You Lord For . . .	Because they . . .
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

Lesson 34

Show Your Thankfulness Thru Sharing

“I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.” (Psalm 104:33)

List things, starting with each letter, that you are thankful for

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

LESSON 35

Living a Thankful Life

“Go home to your own people (family) and tell them how much the Lord has done for you.” (Mark 5:19)

Draw things that you are Grateful for.

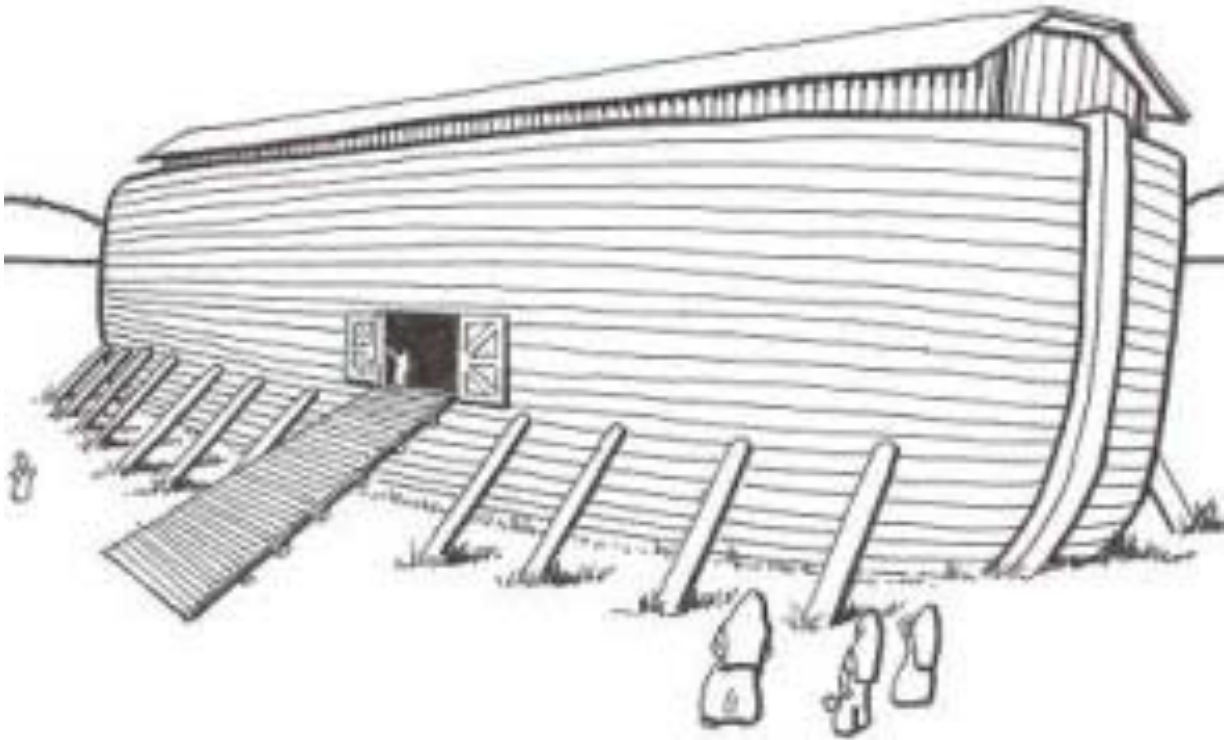
I Am Grateful For:

Lesson 36

God Disciplines with Love

“God disciplines us for our good.” (Hebrews 12:10)

Color Noah’s Ark and draw the animals that went with Noah.



Lesson 38

God Looks at the Heart

“People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7b)

Paste your picture puzzle below.

LESSON 39

God Calls Us to Obey His Plan

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit.” (John 15:16a)

Complete the names of people who obeyed God.

Remember to Thank God for all they were able to do because they obeyed.

A _ BRA _ H A _

_ OS _ P _

N _ _ H

Z _ CH _ _ IAH

_ AN _ EL

M _ R _

_ ST _ E _

M _ NO _ H

_ AU _

_ OS _ S

Lesson 40

Obedience Leads to Service

“Even small children are known by their actions, so is their conduct really pure and upright?” (Proverbs 20:11)

Pick a person from the Bible to be your Role Model and fill out the information below.

My Bible Role Model

Name:

What he/she did:

Where we read about them in the Bible:

What I will do to be like my model:



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