

# Kindergarten

Teacher's Guide & Student Workbook



## Jesus Loves Me



"Consider the ravens, for

they neither sow nor

reap...how much more value

are you than the birds?"

(Luke 12:24)

Year 1 Book 4



This Kindergarten Teacher's Guide is dedicated to those who serve God in the children's ministry. May God continue to grant you wisdom and strength to impact the future generations.

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## Teacher's Inspiration



### *Discipline is Proper For Every Child*

#### **Disciple proves our love for our children**

The landscape of our society is littered with the lives of undisciplined children and young people who have grown in years but not in maturity or wisdom.

The word of God says if we don't discipline our children, we don't love them--we hate them. Parents must learn that discipline is not something they do **TO** their child but something they do **FOR** their child. They must get to the point where they love their child too much to allow him to practice destructive patterns of behavior.

**"Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction."**

**(Proverbs 19:18 NKJV)**





# Jesus Loves Me

**W**elcome to the world of four-and five-year-olds. This year will be an exciting one as your young students are exposed to their first formal teachings from the Bible. Your students will come to you with a variety of backgrounds, both culturally and linguistically, along with how much experience they have had with church and the words of God.

Your students will learn in a variety of ways including visually, kinesthetically, and aurally. This means that it will be very important to use pictures and hands on experiences as you tell the story in order to meet the individual needs of all the students in the classroom. Visuals are good reminders as you review prior lessons and connect them to future ones. Hands on activities will help the students to internalize the lessons and make them more meaningful. It is also vital to ask students to share what they have learned. By letting your students retell the information they have heard, you will be able to see what they really understood, and what might need to be revisited in the future.

Take the time to be involved and get to know your individual students. Try to keep them excited, involved, and focused. As you plan the lesson, it is important to remember to let them have the opportunity to move around or change activities every five to ten minutes since their attention span is only about four to five minutes long. They can come up to the board and point to an answer, give you a thumbs up or thumbs down, whisper their answer to their neighbor, or stand up to answer a question. This can help keep them on task and involved throughout the hour.

This book is designed to be teacher friendly and each lesson follows the same structure. It is very important to read and review the lesson you will be teaching at least one week ahead of time in order for you to prepare the materials you will need. Vocabulary development will be a key step to each lesson at this young age and it would be very beneficial to prepare visuals to go with each new vocabulary word. They can be posted up for the students to review each week. Also, if there are many characters to the story, you might consider preparing visuals for each one so that it is easier for the students to follow along. The last thing you will need to consider is which activities will be best for your group of students. Each lesson contains several for you to choose from. Some of your students will be able to draw on their own, but most will need a lot of help. They will likely work well on activities they can trace, color, cut, or glue.

Remember that all students develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. So be patient, persevere, and have fun as you teach. In the end it will be a wonderful experience for everyone.

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All Scriptures are quoted from NKJV

**W**elcome to this exciting opportunity to reach four- and five-year-olds with the wonderful news of God's love. This quarter's lessons focus on the birth of Jesus and His early ministry.



In **unit one**, they will learn about the miraculous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. From the stories, they will learn that Jesus had earthly parents and grew up as any boy would. However, they will also see that He is the Son of God. The children can praise Him and share this good news with others.

In **unit two**, they will see how Jesus prepared for His early ministry. They will hear about how Jesus grew up and how He grew in favor with both men and God. They will also get to know some of the men Jesus chose to be His disciples. The children should be encouraged to imitate Jesus as they grow physically and spiritually.

**Unit three** allows the children to see the amazing power of Jesus as He performs miracles. They will also learn important teachings of God as Jesus preached to the multitude. In their own lives, the children should be reminded of Jesus' love and blessings. He is always caring and watching over them.

As you teach this unit, let the theme of each lesson shine through. Make the stories come alive so the children can fully understand and appreciate their teachings. They depend on us, the teacher, to interpret the stories for them. Invite them to learn about God, to share God's love with others, and to grow ever stronger in their faith. We hope you will enjoy growing with the Kindergarten Class as you teach them more about the Word of God. Enjoy this new quarter and experience the good news with all the wonder and awe of four-and five-year-olds!

## Your Teaching Procedures

1

### Hymnal Worship (10-15 minutes)

**Purpose:** To help the children praise God through hymnal worship.

**Procedure:** Always start a session in the name of our Lord Jesus. The teacher or assistants will then lead the children in simple hymns, or action rhymes.

2

### In-Class Worship (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** To let the children hear a Bible story and respond to its teachings.

**Procedure:** Say a short prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. The Bible story may be told to the class as a whole by one teacher, or the class may be broken up into smaller groups with a teacher for each group. There are 3 steps in the In-Class Worship Procedure. They are:

- 1) Bible Story
- 2) Check for Understanding
- 3) Life Application Story

Do not forget to explain the key vocabulary words which are listed in each lesson.

3

### Bible Learning Activity (10-15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Helping your students become familiar with the Word of God is part of a teacher's mission, but an equally important part of the job is helping the students put the Word of God to work in their own lives. The activities have been planned to encourage your students to act upon what they have learned.

**Procedure:** Let the students work on the Student Activities. (If the activities require group involvement or cutting and pasting, be sure to have assistant teachers.) We have come up with a variety of activities as well as optional ones. Please see what suits your students' needs. End the activity with a concluding prayer.

# Meet your Life Application Families

Praise and thank God that each lesson contains a Life Application Story to enhance the objective of the Bible story. We sincerely wish that you go through these family backgrounds before sharing them with the class. Enjoy sharing these stories with your loving kindergartners!

1

The Hayes Family

**The Hayes family is comprised of Pastor Hayes, his wife, and their daughters Cathy and Rachel. Cathy is six and Rachel is four. Being typical sisters, Cathy and Rachel get into arguments sometimes and those are the times they remember to rely on God to work out their problems.**

2

The Lewis Family

**Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have two children named Julie and Tommy. Julie is eight and Tommy is six. Mr. Lewis is often away from home due to his job, so most of the time it is just Mrs. Lewis and the two children at home, at church, etc.**

3

The Lopez Family

**The Lopez family came to believe through a great miracle. Ricky, the oldest son, was dying from a chronic disease, but Jesus healed him. Through this, the whole family was brought to Jesus. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Lopez and Ricky, there is the youngest son named Juan. Ricky is nine and Juan is six.**

4

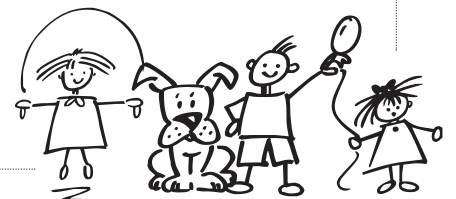
The Lim Family

**The Lim family is a relatively large family, comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Lim and their four children. Nicole, who is seventeen, is the oldest. Lisa, who is thirteen, is in junior high. Benjamin is nine years old and in the fourth grade. Susie is the youngest, at five years old. The Lim family converted from Buddhism some time ago. Nicole and Lisa might remember their former lives, but Benjamin and Susie pretty much grew up in the church.**

5

The Marsh Family

**The Marsh family are long-time believers in Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have two children who were baptized as babies. Michelle is seven and John is five. Both children have grown up in the church and have at least a fundamental knowledge of the truth.**





# Understanding Your Students

Kindergarten Stage (4-5 year olds)

## Characteristics

## Pedagogic Application

### Body

1. Fast development, non-stop activity
2. Big muscles begin to develop (need to stretch hands and feet)
3. Small muscles are developing
4. Vocal cords are developed

Provide activities that involve physical movements  
 Vary activities so the students do not need to sit for too long at one time  
 Include more coloring and crafts involving cutting and pasting  
 Begin to teach songs that are a little longer and add some hymnal related activities

### Mind

5. Attention span is very limited
6. Limited vocabulary
7. Active imagination, cannot discern between fiction or real-life stories
8. Limited understanding toward time & space
9. Cannot understand abstract explanations
10. Like to listen to stories
11. Can repeat biblical terms but unable to understand the meaning
12. Like to ask questions, strong sense of curiosity

Limit story-telling time between 5 and 8 minutes  
 Use simple words with pictures during lessons  
 Hold the Bible when telling Bible stories, relate that the word of God is real and is different from folk tales, legends, or fairy tales  
 When describing time & space, use words such as "today," "tomorrow," "a long time ago," "a place far away," etc.  
 Do not use abstract ways of speaking  
 Tell more edifying stories using pictures and actions  
 Do not assume that the children understand the terms that they use  
 Check for understanding by asking, "What does \_\_\_\_ mean?"  
 Give simple answers to questions asked

### Mood

13. Mood swings tends to occur: students might get angry suddenly; however, they often forget after a few minutes
14. The adult's mood will set the tone; rules must be posted and explained
15. Children are afraid of scary stories

Let the students try to resolve their own problems  
 If there are situations of anger, teach methods of resolving problems  
 Do not emphasize the horror sections of a story, & do not teach children by trying to scare them  
 Teachers need to be gentle but firm

### Social Skills

16. Begin to search for likable friends
17. Often quarrel and fight during play time
18. Strong sense of self, often use "I" or "me" in speech

Encourage the children to play with everyone, not just a few friends  
 Teachers need to be calm & fair when dealing with student problems  
 Remind students to share, and to show love toward others; teachers must be fair

### Spirituality

19. Understand Jesus' love through the love from adults
20. Faith towards God is expressed through faith in adults
21. Can learn to know God through worship
22. Have a certain level of understanding towards good & evil

Teachers need to show love when dealing with students  
 Arrange a suitable level of worship; teach appropriate behavior during worship hours in the chapel  
 Teachers need to teach the truth on repentance and how to ask God for forgiveness of sins

## Memory Verses For This Quarter



June, July, August

(NKJV)

1. "God sent forth His son." (Gal 4:4)
2. "I bring you good tidings of great joy." (Lk 2:10a)
3. "For mine eyes have seen Your salvation." (Lk 2:30)
4. "God is our protection and strength." (Ps 46:1)
5. "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature." (Lk 2:52)
6. "This is My beloved Son." (Mt 3:17)
7. "From now on you will catch men." (Lk 5:10)
8. "Fear God and keep His commandments." (Ecc 12:13)
9. "For He cares for you." (1 Pet 5:7)
10. "Believe also in Me." (Jn 14:1)
11. "See, you have been made well." (Jn 5:14)
12. "You shall love the Lord your God." (Deut 6:5)



# Conveying Jesus Christ to Our Students

The following is a list of Bible truths kindergarteners are able to understand:

1. Praying is like talking to God. We can pray to Jesus anytime and anywhere.
2. Coming to church every Sabbath is to worship God. God loves us when we worship Him.
3. We can learn more about God when we come to church.
4. The Bible is a very special book. It is full of God's word. We love to hear God's word and obey what God tells us.
5. Jesus loves us when we share, obey and give what we have to Him and to others.
6. Jesus is God and He is the creator of all things—our planet and all the people.
7. Because of our wrong-doings (sin), Jesus died for us on the cross. But He promises us that He will come back again. He will take us back to heaven to be with Him.





# The Birth of Jesus Christ

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- angel pattern
- lightweight poster board
- ribbons (various colors)
- ruler
- glue
- scissors
- markers
- stapler



### Scriptures

Mt 1:18-25; Lk 1:26-33

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God sent His Son to earth so that He could save all sinners

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To acknowledge that God made us and has special plans for each of us

### Memory Verse

"God sent forth His Son." (Gal 4:4)



## Bible Knowledge

### Joseph and Mary

Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of King David. They lived in a village of Galilee called Nazareth.

Joseph was a carpenter by trade. When he learned of Mary's pregnancy, he wanted to dissolve the marriage arrangement quietly (Mt 1:18-19). Later on, when he was assured of God's plan through a dream, he married Mary as planned. His actions demonstrated his character and righteousness.

Mary was related to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist (Lk 1:36). The Bible shows Mary to be a person of great faith. When the angel appeared before her and told her how God arranged for His Son to be born, she replied, "Let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

Although both Joseph and Mary were aware of Jesus' divinity, they were still ordinary parents and anxious for their child. When Jesus was "lost" on the way home from Jerusalem, both of them were worried and searched frantically for Him until

they found Him at the temple.

### The Birth of Jesus

The emperor Augustus issued a decree for a census to be taken throughout the Roman world. It became customary to count the people every fourteen years for the purpose of taxation. The decree required that Joseph and Mary journey from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea.

Bethlehem was the famed city of David. It lies 9 km south of Jerusalem. Its former name was Ephrath (Gen 35:19), and it was known as Bethlehem Judah, to distinguish it from the other city of the same name.

Joseph and Mary traveled at a time when Mary was about to deliver. Because of the great crowds in Bethlehem, they stayed in a stable in order to give birth to Jesus.

The prophesy of Jesus' birth is recorded in Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2. "Emmanuel" means "God is with us." God chose the name "Jesus," meaning "the Lord saves."



## Understanding Your Students

Children at this age have many questions but often lack the sophistication to really understand the answers. Giving birth is a particularly difficult topic to explain to such young minds. Most of them may already know that they came from their mommy's tummy. But that could be the extent of their knowledge. In fact, it is not necessary to go into the "birds and the bees" at this point. The miracle of Jesus' birth is the fact that it was a part of God's great plan to save all sinners. Rather than going into a long discussion of how people are born versus how Jesus was born, emphasize that Jesus' birth was special. Even though Mary was His mother, He was also God's Son.

To talk about how special His birth was, you

could begin the class by showing a birth announcement card. Usually, there is a place to write the newborn's name, how much he weighs and how happy and proud the parents are. People give out these cards because everyone wants to share the news of their baby's birth. In the same way, people had been awaiting Jesus' birth for a long time. You can share how Jesus' birth had already been foretold centuries ago (Isa 7:14; Mic 5:2). People had been waiting for a long time for the Lord to appear because they wanted to have a Savior. When He was finally born, angels announced His birth. Some people were so excited they traveled to see Him at the stable. They even brought gifts for Jesus. They knew He was not just an ordinary baby. He was going to save everyone when He grew up because He was God's precious Son.



## Vocabulary

### Angel

a messenger of God

### Stable

a place where farm animals eat and sleep

### Manger

a big box where the food for the farm animals are kept

### Inn

a place where travelers stay to rest and sleep, like a motel or hotel today



## Before You Teach

Today, people make a big deal about newborns. Before the baby is born, the mother-to-be has a baby shower. She receives every imaginable gift possible to prepare her for the exciting moment as well as the days ahead. Immediately after the baby is born, birth announcements go out, telling others of the great news. Everyone wants to know how much the baby weighs and who he looks more like. In some cultures, families will celebrate the one month birthday of the baby. They have parties and invite others to share in their joy. People do these things because having a baby is miraculous and wonderful. They also have great hopes for the future of their child and every day is another day that brings new wonders.

When Jesus Christ came into the world, an angel announced His birth. The angel wanted the whole world to know that this was no ordinary

baby. He was to be our Savior, the long-awaited Messiah. This was to be a celebrated event of a lifetime! Some shepherds and wise men came to see Jesus Christ, and even brought gifts for Him. But compared to the things we do today, Jesus' birth was quite uneventful. Surely the birth of God's Son should have caused more than a stir. Yet, very few people paid attention even though God had destined Him for great things in the future. He came into the world to save, heal and forgive. Yet no one really acknowledged or understood the real purpose of Jesus' birth. Some only wanted a quick fix to their physical ailments, while others just wanted to be full. Most of the attention Jesus Christ did end up getting was negative. Even though no one welcomed Jesus into the world with parties and great expectations, He faithfully carried out God's plan. He was the Savior; but He came as a servant, humble and unassuming. He was the King, yet He led a plain and simple life. He was God's Son; still He was nailed to the cross. And He left the world with an impact that is still felt today.



## Bible Story

### **An Angel Appears to Mary**

A long time ago, there was a young woman named Mary. She lived in a town called Nazareth in Galilee. She was going to marry a man named Joseph. She was happy and excited.

One day, an angel came to talk to Mary. His name was Gabriel. The angel said, "Mary, you have been chosen to be a very special lady. God is with you."

Mary didn't know what the angel was talking about. She couldn't understand why an angel was talking to her. She was a little bit afraid. She wondered why the angel had come.

The angel could tell that Mary was afraid. He said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. He has something special planned for you."

Mary was still afraid. Then the angel said, "Mary, God has great plans for you. You are going to have a very special baby. You will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus. This baby will be God's Son. He will grow up to be very important."

Mary didn't understand these words. She asked the angel, "How can this be? I am not even married yet."

The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you. God's power will also come down on you. That's how the baby will be God's Son."

Even though Mary didn't really understand everything, she had faith in God.

"I am God's servant. Let everything happen like you say it will," Mary said. After that, the angel went away. But Mary kept thinking about everything that the angel had told her.

### **An Angel Appears to Joseph**

Now, Joseph didn't know that God had put His Son into Mary through the Holy Spirit. So when Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a baby, he was upset. He didn't want to marry her anymore. He was trying to think of a nice way to tell Mary that he didn't want her to be his new wife.

But one night while Joseph was asleep, an angel came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph! Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby that will be born is sent from God. Mary will have a

son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be a very special baby, and He will grow up to help all the people."

Do you know what Joseph did when he woke up? When Joseph woke up, he did just what the angel told him to do. He obeyed God and he went to Mary and took her home to be his wife. He believed what the angel told him was true. He knew that Mary's baby would be a very special baby. Joseph also remembered that His name would be Jesus.

### **Jesus Christ is Born**

Not long after Joseph and Mary got married, the king wanted to know how many people lived in his land. So Mary and Joseph had to leave Nazareth and go to another town called Bethlehem to be counted by the king's men. But it was almost time for Mary's baby to be born. Joseph and Mary knew that the baby would not be born in Nazareth because they had to leave for Bethlehem right away. So they got all their things ready and began their journey to Bethlehem. Since Mary's tummy was very large and heavy, it was hard for her to walk. It would be a long walk to Bethlehem. So she rode a donkey instead. Finally, after traveling for a few days, they arrived in Bethlehem. Mary could feel that the baby needed to come out soon. Joseph had to find a place for them to stay. They went to an inn to see if they could stay there for the night, but the man said there was no more room. So many people had come to Bethlehem to be counted that the whole town was full of people. What would Joseph and Mary do? Poor Mary and Joseph! After asking around, the only place they could find to stay was in a stable with the animals. But they were happy just to have a place to rest.

While they were resting in the stable, something special happened. The time came for Mary to have the baby. She gave birth to a baby boy. Joseph and Mary were so glad. Even though they had Him in a stable, they did not mind. They did not mind that all the animals were there with them. They didn't mind that there was no real bed to lay the baby down in. They wrapped Him in a warm cloth and laid Him in the manger. The manger was where the animals ate their food from. They made sure the manger was soft enough for the baby by putting a lot of hay in it first.

Mary and Joseph spent a long time looking at the baby. They were happy He was healthy and strong. They remembered what the angel had told them. The angel said that He was born by the Holy Spirit. He was a special baby because He was God's own Son. They also remembered to name the baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph were glad they listened to the angel and obeyed God's plan.

Today, we are usually born in hospitals, with doctors and nurses around us, taking care of us. Our

families give us new clothes to wear and we have comfortable cribs to sleep in. But Jesus Christ was not born in a hospital. He was born in a stable, with animals all around Him. He didn't have a nice and comfortable crib. He slept in a manger, the place where animals get their food. But Jesus Christ did not mind. Joseph and Mary did not mind. They were just happy that Jesus was born because He was going to help the people in the world one day. He is God's Son.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Who was Joseph going to marry?** (Mary.)
2. **Who came to see Mary before she was married?** (An angel.)
3. **What did the angel tell Mary?** (The angel told her not to be afraid. She was going to have a special baby, God's Son.)
4. **After Joseph found out about the baby, did he still want Mary to be his wife?** (No, he did not.)
5. **What did the angel tell Joseph in his dream?** (The angel told him not to be afraid. The baby was going to be a special baby. It was a part of God's plan.)
6. **What did Joseph do after he woke up?**

(He obeyed God and took Mary home to be his wife.)

7. **Where did Joseph and Mary travel to?** (They went to Bethlehem because the king of the land wanted everyone to be counted.)
8. **Why did Joseph and Mary have to stay in a stable after they got to Bethlehem?** (There was no room in the inn.)
9. **What happened while they stayed in the stable?** (Mary had the baby.)
10. **What did Joseph and Mary name the baby?** (They named Him Jesus, just as the angel had told them to.)
11. **What was so special about this baby?** (Jesus is the Son of God.)



### Life Application Story

#### **Special Fingers**

Julie stared at the piano. "You're almost at the end," Julie thought to herself. She lifted her hands and played the scales one more time. When she was done, she slammed down the cover and ran to the family room to turn on the television.

"Julie," said Mrs. Lewis as she walked past the room. "What are you doing?"

"I am watching TV. My favorite show is on."

"Are you done practicing your piano?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"Yes," replied Julie. "Didn't you hear me shut the piano cover?"

"Yes, but you didn't shut it, you slammed it."

"Mom, I really want to watch this. Can we talk about piano later?"

"No, I need you to turn off the television set now."

Julie picked up the remote and turned off the TV. Then she slouched back on the couch.

"Julie, we need to talk about your piano practices. Lately, you have been doing sloppy jobs. You

have been rushing and not really paying attention to what you are playing.”

“Mom, I am tired of practicing so much. Can’t I take a break sometimes?”

“I understand that practicing piano is hard work. If you need a break, you can ask me. I won’t make you sit at the piano all day long,” replied Mrs. Lewis.

“Okay, Mom. I need a break now.”

“Julie, that is not what I mean. What I mean is that you need to practice your best and then when it is time to take a break, you can rest.”

“Why do I have to play piano anyway? You don’t play it,” said Julie.

“That’s true. I don’t play the piano. But that doesn’t mean you can’t learn. Besides, the biggest reason why you should learn is to praise God with your playing,” explained Mrs. Lewis.

“Do you mean one day I can play in the chapel and play the hymns?” asked Julie.

“Exactly,” said Mrs. Lewis.

“But Mom, I am never going to be that good,” whined Julie.

“That’s why you need to practice. Everything takes hard work. It is kind of like the story of Jesus when He was born.”

“What does this have to do with the birth of Jesus?” asked Julie.

“Well, do you remember where Jesus was born?”

“He was born in Bethlehem, in a stable with all the animals,” said Julie.

“You have a good memory,” said Mrs. Lewis. “But Jesus is the Son of God. Do you think a king’s son today would be born in a country farm where all the animals are?”

“No, more like in a big castle with lots of nice things in it,” answered Julie.

“That’s right. But Jesus wasn’t born in a nice place, even though He is the Son of God. But He didn’t mind because He knew He came to earth for one reason, and that was to save the people.”

“What does this story have to do with my piano practices?” asked Julie, a little bit confused.

“Well, what I am trying to say is that Jesus’ life was hard too. He didn’t come into the world with a lot of money or power. Most of the people didn’t even know who He was. But because He knew He had an important job to do, He spent His life

doing that, learning and teaching.”

“Are you saying that I have an important job?”

“Yes. Even though it is hard for you to see practicing piano as an important job, you could play for God when you grow up. That’s important, right?” asked Mrs. Lewis.

“Yes, I guess,” replied Julie. “But I will have to practice forever.”

“Jesus had to work hard every day too. Remember He went to learn in the temple? He prayed to God every day. Those aren’t easy things to do but He did them because He wanted to be good at His job later on,” explained Mrs. Lewis.

“So practicing now will make me better later on?”

“You bet. Even little kids like you can have an important job in God’s kingdom,” said Mrs. Lewis.

“I am going to go back to practice now, Mom,” said Julie.

“I am glad you have the heart to do it,” said Mrs. Lewis. “But I just baked some cookies. How about we take that break now and practice some more later?”

“Deal,” smiled Julie as they walked to the kitchen together.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What did Julie think about playing the piano?** (She was tired of it and wanted to stop.)
2. **Did Julie’s mom say playing the piano was easy?** (No. She said that playing the piano is hard work and needs practicing every day.)
3. **Why did God send His Son to earth?** (Jesus came to save all sinners. He was doing God’s important work.)
4. **How can playing the piano help in God’s kingdom too?** (One day, Julie can also play hymns in the chapel and help everyone sing praises to God.)
5. **What else can we do now to help in God’s kingdom later on?** (Allow students to answer but throw out some suggestions: e.g. learning a different language is hard but can help spread the gospel; doing well in school can help us learn things that can help the church later on, i.e. writing articles, Internet ministry; we all have to do well in our little jobs now in order to help out when we grow up.)





## Activity 1

### Baby Jesus

Look at baby Jesus' family. Write down the names of the family members. Color in the picture.



## Activity 2

### Action Rhymes

Let's retell the story of the birth of Jesus in rhymes.

As she was alone in her room one day,  
 (FORM ROOF WITH HANDS OVER HEAD)  
 Mary bowed her head to pray.  
 (ASSUME POSITION OF PRAYER)  
 Suddenly an angel stood beside her,  
 (STAND UP STRAIGHT AND TALL)  
 Saying that Jesus was coming to earth,  
 (POINT UP WITH FINGER)  
 And that God would send His Son.  
 (MAKE A CRADLE WITH ARMS)  
 Then Mary began to pray,  
 (SMILE AND FOLD HANDS TOGETHER TO PRAY)  
 Oh, how glad she was that day.  
 (CLAP HANDS IN TIME TO THE FINAL WORDS)

Jesus was born one day, one day.  
 He laid among the hay, the hay.  
 (MAKE A CRADLE WITH ARMS)  
 He was special to God, to God,  
 Because He is His Son, His Son.  
 (POINT BOTH INDEX FINGERS TO SKY)  
 He calls me His child, His child.  
 He has plans for me, for me.  
 (POINT FINGERS TO SELF)  
 I want to do His will, His will.  
 And smile He will, He will.  
 (SMILE AND PUT INDEX FINGERS AT CORNERS OF MOUTH)



## Activity 3

### God Has Important Jobs For Us

Look at each picture. How is each person doing an

important job for God?

1. He is picking up the pen from the ground. When we keep God's house, the church, clean, we are doing an important job.
2. She is learning in class. When we study hard, we can learn more about God and His words. Then when we grow up, we can do other jobs like tell others about God.
3. They are playing together. God likes to see us play nicely together, with our friends and our siblings too. That is an important job because God sees we are trying to please him.
4. She loves her family. That is an important job because we are following His commandment.



## Optional Activity

### Angel Bookmark

#### Materials:

1. angel pattern
2. lightweight poster board
3. markers
4. ribbons (various colors)
5. ruler
6. glue
7. scissors
8. stapler

#### Directions:

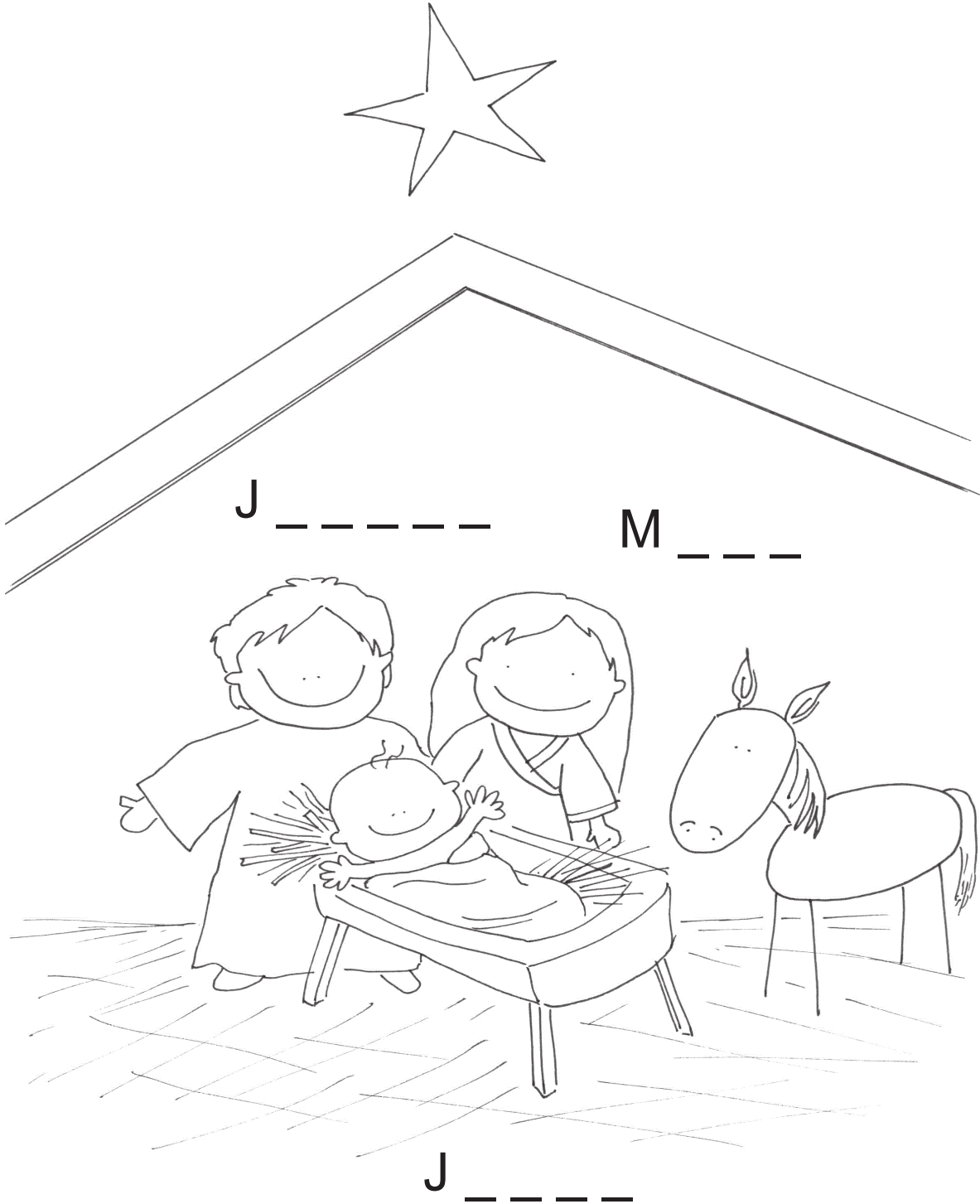
1. Trace the angel pattern onto the poster board and cut one out for each student (you may wish to pre-cut these at home).
2. Cut ribbon streamers into 6-inch (15 cm) lengths, four for each student.
3. Also cut out a waistband out of the ribbon into 3-inch (7.5 cm) lengths, one for each student.
4. Guide the students to staple the ribbon streamers to the waist of the angel (see diagram).
5. Then glue the ribbon waistband over the staples to hide the raw edges. Also glue the ends of the waistband to the back of the angel.
6. Allow students to draw the angel's facial features and hair with the markers.
7. Spark the students' interest as they complete the activity that in next week's lesson, they will learn about an angel who told others about the good news of the birth of Jesus. How can they tell others about the good news?



Activity 1:1

# Baby Jesus

Look at baby Jesus' family. Write the names of each of the family members. Color in the picture.



Activity 1:3

## God Has Important Jobs For Us

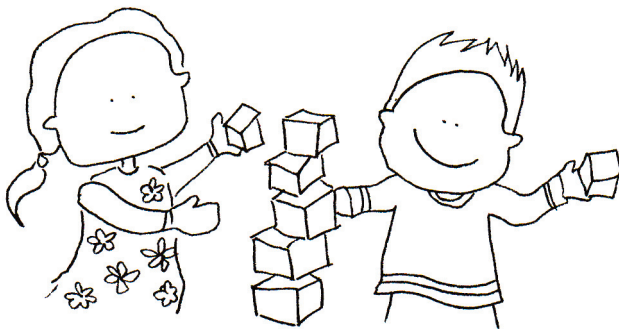
Look at the pictures. How is each person doing an important job for God?



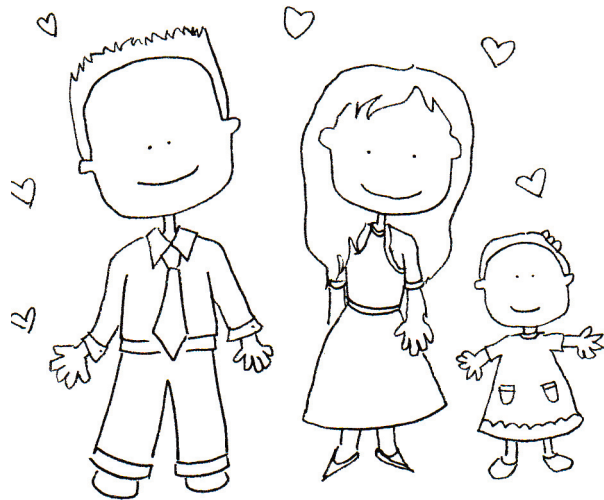
1. He is picking up the pen.



2. She is learning in class.



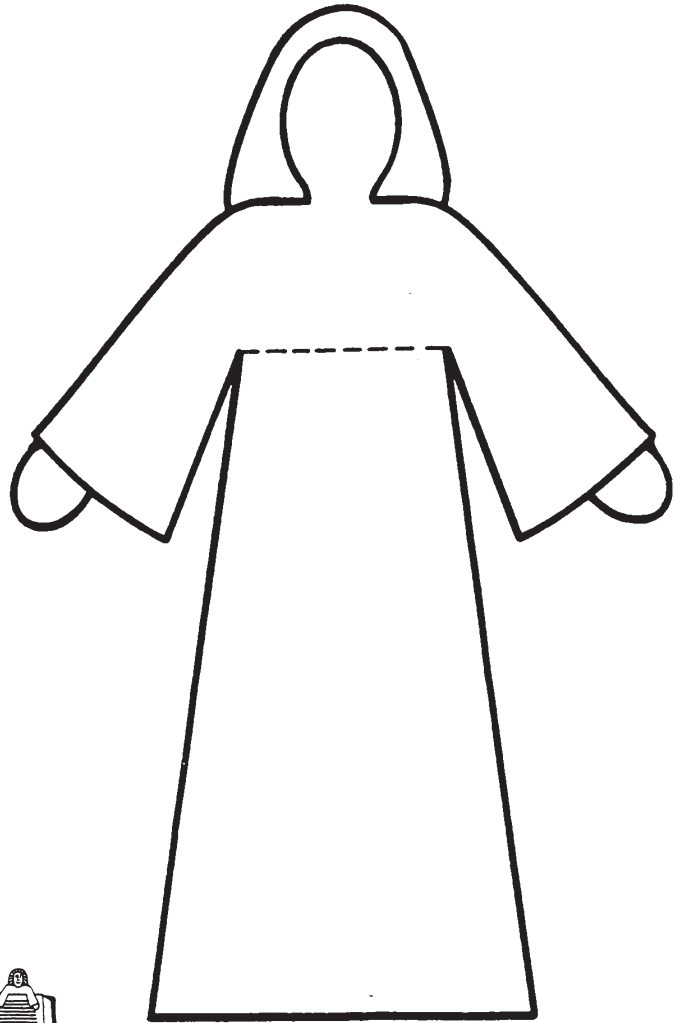
3. They are playing together.



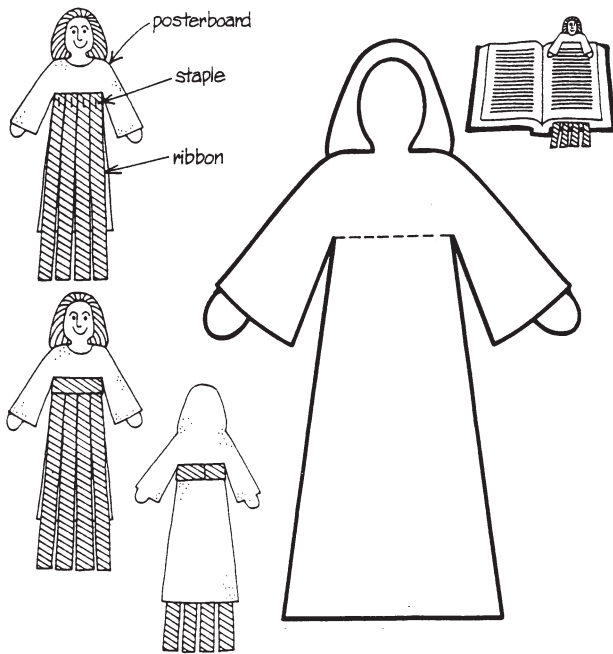
4. She loves her family.

Optional Activity

Angel Pattern



Angel Pattern



# The Shepherds Hear the Good News

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- gold or metallic chenille wires (six per student); other colors can be used if gold ones are not available
- scissors
- cable tie-offs



### Scriptures

Lk 2:8-18

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

The Lord Jesus came to be our Savior

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To share the joy and excitement of knowing Jesus by telling someone about the birth story

### Memory Verse

"I bring you good tidings of great joy."  
(Lk 2:10a)



## Bible Knowledge

### Shepherds

God sent angels to fill the heavens with their hymns of joy to announce the arrival of the Savior of mankind. They praised the heavenly Father for His goodness as they announced the good news to the shepherds.

Interestingly, shepherds were not highly regarded by the religious elite in biblical times. Shepherds had to lead the sheep to pasture and waters, protect them from wild animals, and guard them at night. Because of the demands of looking after the sheep twenty-four hours a day, they could not follow many of the requirements of the ceremonial rites and regulations. But we know from Jesus' birth in the stable that God's plan is different from man's plan. He intended to make the good news known to the lowliest first, just as Jesus came to the world to serve and not be served.

### Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Jesus Christ spoke of Himself as "the good shepherd" who knew His sheep and was willing to lay

down His life for them (Jn 10:7-8). Jesus also commanded Peter to feed His sheep (Jn 21). Other New Testament writers also used the reference to sheep to illustrate the relationship between Jesus and His followers.

### The Wise Men

The shepherds were not the only ones who went to see Jesus. The book of Matthew records that wise men from the East (probably Mesopotamia) also went to worship Jesus (though not on the same night, as Jesus may have been a bit older already). These wise men were educated gentiles, likely astrologers. After seeing the star in the sky, they went to see King Herod. Herod commanded them to go to Bethlehem to find this "King of the Jews" and return with the news so that he too could go and worship Him (Mt 2:8). Of course, Herod was only interested in finding out where Jesus was so that he could eliminate any threat to his throne. Once the wise men found Jesus, they bowed down and presented gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh (Mt 2:11). Later, God warned the men not to return to Herod and they went home by a different route.



## Understanding Your Students

Children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten are still at a stage in their lives where everything is about them: their toys, their friends, their time. So sharing the good news with others is not something that they will do naturally when they can't see how the birth of Jesus relates to them. Therefore, we need to help them be aware that God cares so much for each of us that He planned long ago for Jesus to be born. Because of Jesus, we now have hope to be in heaven. That is a happy and exciting thing, something they would want to tell others about. They can do this simply by telling their parents or other family members what they learned in class each week. By retelling

these stories, they are not only deepening their understanding of God's words, but also developing a good habit of sharing.

Another wonderful way to show their excitement and joy in the Lord is to sing praises to Him. For young children, this is an easy way for them to feel the love, happiness and blessedness of knowing Jesus Christ. Because they are still young, be sure to include hand gestures or rhythmic clapping so they can enjoy and remember the songs even more.

Finally, they can be encouraged to share their joy in Christ by loving others. In more concrete terms, they should, for example, listen to their parents, help them out when they can, be good friends to people around them and learn to put others first. It is helpful to focus and work on a behavior or skill each quarter to allow the students to really know what loving others means.



## Vocabulary

### **Shepherd**

a shepherd is someone who looks after sheep

### **Praise**

to praise means to say good things about someone or something; for example, if someone asked

you to help pick up the crayons, and you picked them up nicely, he may say "Good job!" to praise you; also, we can praise God by singing

### **Savior**

a savior is someone who saves people; this is why Jesus is our Savior- He was born to save all of us



## Before You Teach

After the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they left the stable and told all who would listen about the angel's announcement and of the Savior who had been born. "Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds" (Lk 2:17-18). These verses tell us two things the shepherds did right after learning about the birth of Lord Jesus. First, they told everyone they met about the great news. Second, they told the news with great excitement and joy because people who heard their words were in awe. What made the shepherds so enthusiastic and willing to glorify and praise God? This night was probably the most incredible night of their lives. An angel appeared and the glory of God shone all around them. After listening to the angel, a host of angels sang hymns to praise God. After this experience, the shepherds

could think of nothing to do other than share the wonderful news with others

The shepherds set excellent examples for us today. We too have heard the great news of Jesus. Are we just as excited about telling others about the Savior? In fact, the shepherds only learned about the birth at that time. We know that Jesus has died on the cross and shed His blood for us, even though He was sinless and blameless. So we have even more reason to shout out and give praises to His Holy Name.

How can we be motivated to spread the good news? Every day we wake up, we need to think about the blessings we have received as a result of our belief in Him. We have been saved, our sins have been forgiven and we have this wonderful friend and Father we can trust at all times. Our lives have been transformed and we can only be thankful for all that we have. Coming to know our Lord is the most incredible and exciting time in our lives. Just like the shepherds, our job is to go out to the world and tell others about this great news.



## Bible Story

### **The Birth of Jesus**

*In the last lesson, we learned about the birth of Jesus. Do you remember what His parents' names were? They were Joseph and Mary. Just before Joseph and Mary had the baby, they were traveling to Bethlehem. But when they got there, there was no room for them to stay in the inn. The only place they could find to rest was in a stable. Do you remember what a stable is? It is a place where the farm animals eat and sleep. Even though they had to stay with the animals, they did not mind. Soon, Mary had the baby and they named Him Jesus. Now Jesus did not have a fancy or nice bed to sleep in. He had to sleep in a manger. But the whole family was thankful because they were taking part in God's important plan. Today, we are going to learn about some people who came to visit baby Jesus after He was born.*

### **An Angel Appears to the Shepherds**

*Do you know what a shepherd is? A shepherd is someone who looks after sheep. What does a sheep sound like? (Baa...Baa.) But did you know that sheep are not so easy to look after? Sometimes they wander off from the group or get lost. Then the shepherd has to find them and bring them back to the group. This is why shepherds need to watch the sheep all the time.*

*That is what the shepherds in our story were doing. These shepherds were in the same country where Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus were staying. They were watching the sheep and making sure the sheep were safe and had enough to eat and drink. It was at night. Everything was quiet and still. The stars were twinkling in the sky. But the shepherds were in for a surprise. They were about to hear some good news!*

*As the shepherds were watching the sheep, suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them! And there was a very bright light shining all around them. How would you feel if you were one of these shepherds? What would you think? Would you be scared? These shepherds were very scared. They had probably never seen an angel before, and they were probably thinking, "What is going on?"*

*The angel could tell that the shepherds were scared. Then the angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid because I have come to bring you good news; this good news is for everyone." What could this good news be?*

*The angel told them, "Today in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. You will find Him wrapped in cloth. Here is how you will know that He is the one. He will be wrapped with cloth and lying in a manger." Do you know what the angel said to the shepherds? The angel was telling them that Jesus was a special baby. One day, He would save everyone. The angel also told the shepherds how they could find this special baby. Where could they find Him? That's right. They would have to look for a baby lying in a manger.*

### **More Angels Appear**

*The shepherds were still trying to understand everything the angel had said when all of a sudden the sky was filled with more angels! This must have been an amazing thing to see. The angels were singing a song to praise God. They sang, "Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, goodwill toward men." In this song, the angels were singing about how great God is. They also wanted peace for everyone on earth.*

*After the angels praised God, the angels vanished. Do you remember how the shepherds felt when they saw the first angel? They were scared. But now, the shepherds were not afraid anymore. They said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's go see all the things the angel has told us."*

### **The Shepherds Spread the Good News**

*The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. That means they didn't take their time or walk very slowly. After they had heard this exciting news, they couldn't wait to find the Savior. They walked as fast as they could. Soon, they found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Do you know where they found baby Jesus? Baby Jesus was just where the angel had said they would find Him. Jesus was in a stable, lying in a manger, wrapped in a warm cloth.*

*After the shepherds found baby Jesus, they were very happy and excited. When they left the stable, they ran and told everyone around them what had happened. They told others about the*



singing angels in the sky and about the good news the angel had told them. They also told others about finding the baby in the manger. All the people who heard the story from the shepherds were amazed and surprised.

After a while, it was time for the shepherds to go home. It had been a long but happy night for them. Even on their way home, the shepherds kept praising God for all the wonderful things they had heard and seen. It truly was good news!

### **We Can Share the Good News Too**

Do you know why people call the story of Jesus

the “Good News”? They call it the “Good News” because it is the most wonderful and happy news they have heard. When something exciting happens to us, like when we get a new toy or do well in school, we want to share our news with others because we are so happy. The shepherds in the story were so excited that they had to tell others about the news of Jesus’ birth right away. We can do the same thing today. We can be just like the shepherds. We should be excited that we know about Jesus. We can tell other people about what we have heard today too. It makes God happy to know that we want to tell others about Him.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What is a shepherd?** (A shepherd is someone who looks after sheep.)
2. **Who did the angel come and see?** (The angel came to see the shepherds.)
3. **How did the shepherds feel when they saw the angel and the bright light?** (They were scared.)
4. **What good news did the angel bring to the shepherds?** (The angel said that Jesus, the Savior had been born; the shepherds could find Him in a manger in Bethlehem.)
5. **What happened after the angel told the shepherds the good news?** (More angels

appeared in the sky and sang songs of praise to God.)

6. **What did the shepherds do after the angels disappeared and went back to heaven?** (They weren’t scared anymore and went as fast as they could to find Jesus.)
7. **What did the shepherds do after they found Jesus in the manger?** (They went and told everyone what they had heard and seen.)
8. **How can we be like the shepherds, who were excited about knowing Jesus?**  
(Allow students to answer. We can share the good news too and tell others about the stories of Jesus we already know.)



### Life Application Story

#### **Thanking God Every Day**

Michelle was coming home from her friend Mary’s house one day. It was a cold winter afternoon in December. As Mrs. Marsh drove the car home, Michelle saw lots of stores with bright lights all around the windows. Michelle also saw tall fir trees in the windows. The trees were decorated

with bright, shiny balls, and lights and candy canes. When Michelle was in Mary’s house, she also saw a tree like that. It was called a Christmas tree. There were many presents under the tree.

Even though all the lights made everything look pretty, Michelle felt a little bit sad looking at all these beautiful things. She was sad because she wished her family could have a tree with presents under it.

As Mrs. Marsh pulled to a stop at a red light, Michelle asked, “Mom, how come we don’t have a

tree with lights and balls in our house? If we had a tree, we could put presents under it, too, like Mary's family does. It would make our room look pretty and we would have a great time opening the presents."

Mrs. Marsh began to drive again as the light turned green. She said, "Mary has a tree like that because she believes in Christmas."

"I learned about Christmas already," Michelle said. "At school, we made wreaths and candy canes. We also sang a lot of Christmas songs. Last year, Santa Claus came to visit us too."

"Well, many people do many different things at Christmas because it has become such a big holiday. There is definitely a lot of presents and Santa Claus is very famous. But the reason why people celebrate Christmas is that they think Jesus was born on December 25th," Mrs. Marsh explained. "But actually, the Bible never says when Jesus was born."

"So we don't know when Jesus was born?" Michelle asked.

"Right. In fact, we believe that Jesus could not have been born on December 25th," Mrs. Marsh said.

"Why not?" asked Michelle .

"Do you remember the Bible story about how the angel appeared to the shepherds while they were watching the sheep to tell them the good news about Jesus?" asked Mrs. Marsh.

"Yes, I know that story. The shepherds found baby Jesus in the stable with all the animals. I think it was in a city called Bethlehem," answered Michelle.

"That is exactly right. Well, December 25th is winter time near Bethlehem. In the middle of winter near Bethlehem, shepherds do not take their sheep out to eat grass because it is too cold. Because the Bible tells us that the shepherds brought their sheep out to eat and drink, we know that Jesus could not have been born on December 25th," explained Mrs. Marsh.

"Oh," said Michelle out loud.

"Since we know that Jesus was not born on December 25th, Christmas cannot be Jesus' birthday," continued Mrs. Marsh.

"Well, we can always celebrate Christmas on a different day, on a day that is not so cold. How about the spring time? We could still have presents and a tree," suggested Michelle .

"I don't think people would think that it is the

same as the Christmas they know now. Besides, we can't just pick any day we want to be Jesus' birthday."

"I guess you are right," said Michelle, still a bit sad. Mrs. Marsh could see that Michelle was still unhappy about not having a tree and presents.

"But it doesn't really matter that we don't know exactly when Jesus was born. God tells us to give thanks every day for His son, Jesus Christ. That is the most important thing for us to remember. In fact, at Christmas, many people only think about the presents and Santa Claus and don't really think that much about Jesus. Do you think that is what we should do?" asked Mrs. Marsh.

"No. God wouldn't want us to just think about presents," replied Michelle

"That's right. So even though we don't really know the real day of Jesus' birth, we can still give thanks to God every day for giving us His Son to save us," said Mrs. Marsh. "That would be the best present we could give to God. So, Michelle, what do you think you can do today to show your thanks to Jesus for coming to this earth for you—even though it may not be His birthday?"

"When I get home, I think I am going to draw a picture of Jesus' birth to show my thanks to Jesus for coming to live on this earth for me- even though Christmas may not be His birthday!" Michelle said.

"That's a great idea. We must always remember to give thanks to God for sending Jesus to be our Savior, no matter what day it is," said Mrs. Marsh.

#### Questions to Think About:

1. **What did Michelle wish her family had in the house?** (She wanted a Christmas tree with presents under it.)
2. **Why don't we celebrate Christmas?** (Because Christmas day is not Jesus' birthday)
3. **How can we remember Jesus even though we don't really know when He was born?** (Allow students to answer; we can give thanks to God every day for sending us Jesus and being our Savior; we don't need to wait for any special holiday to do that; God will be happy if we give thanks every day for Him.)



## Activity 1

### The Shepherds Worship Baby Jesus

Review the story by reading the rebuses. To help the students “read,” you may wish to designate different children to be one of each of the pictures so that when it is their turn, they can say that word out loud. Alternately, you can enlarge the pictures and have them ready in front of you. When it comes to that particular picture, you can raise it up in front of the class and every one can say the word together.



## Activity 2

### The Angels Bring Good News

The angels announced the birth of Jesus because He is the Savior. Six angels are hidden in this picture. Find them and color them in.



## Activity 3

### Shining Stars

#### Materials:

1. gold or metallic chenille wires (if none are available, other colors can be used); six per student
2. cable tie-offs
3. scissors

#### Directions:

1. In this activity, the students will be making stars. Although this story does not talk about stars specifically (the verses in Matthew do refer to the wise men who followed the star so you may wish to share that briefly), the stars can remind the students of how the angels appeared in the sky to tell the shepherds of the good news of Jesus’ birth. They can also be like shining stars and shine for God, telling others about Jesus and His love.
2. Provide each student with six chenille wires. Have them stack the wires together in a straight pile.
3. Show the children how to tie off the wires in the middle. Secure the wires so that they are snug. Cut the loose end of the cable tie.

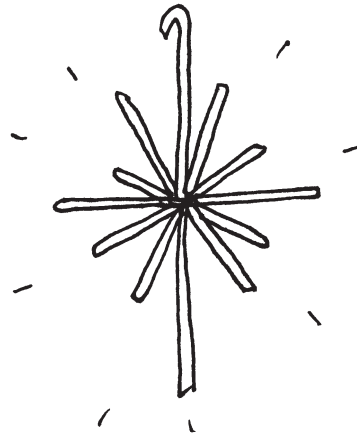
4. Allow the students to now spread out the wires so that they look like the points of a star. They may use scissors to cut some wires a little bit shorter than others to create a “sparkling” and defined star.
5. Make sure they leave one wire that is especially long so that they can hang the star by bending the tip of it.
6. As they students engage in this activity, review the story.

\*Talk about how the shepherds were happy and excited when they saw Jesus. In fact, they were so happy that they went and told everyone about what they had heard and seen.

\*The stars can remind the students about how the angels appeared in the heavens and told the shepherds about the good news.

\*When they see the stars, they can be reminded too, to share the good news of Jesus by telling another about what they learned.

\*How else can they be like a shining star and show others what Jesus is like? (i.e. being kind to others, singing songs about God, saying grace before meals)



Activity 2:1

## The Shepherds Worship Jesus

Review the story by reading the rebuses together.



baby Jesus



shepherds





manger



Mary



sheep

When  was born, an angel told some  about His birth. While the



shepherds



were watching their sheep, an angel appeared in the sky.

“Don’t be afraid. I bring you good news.



 is born in Bethlehem.” Then

other angels filled the sky and sang praises to God. Suddenly they were gone. The

excited



shepherds said, “Let’s go see



.



The shepherds found



 in a



 must have told the



shepherds that the baby’s name was Jesus. After the



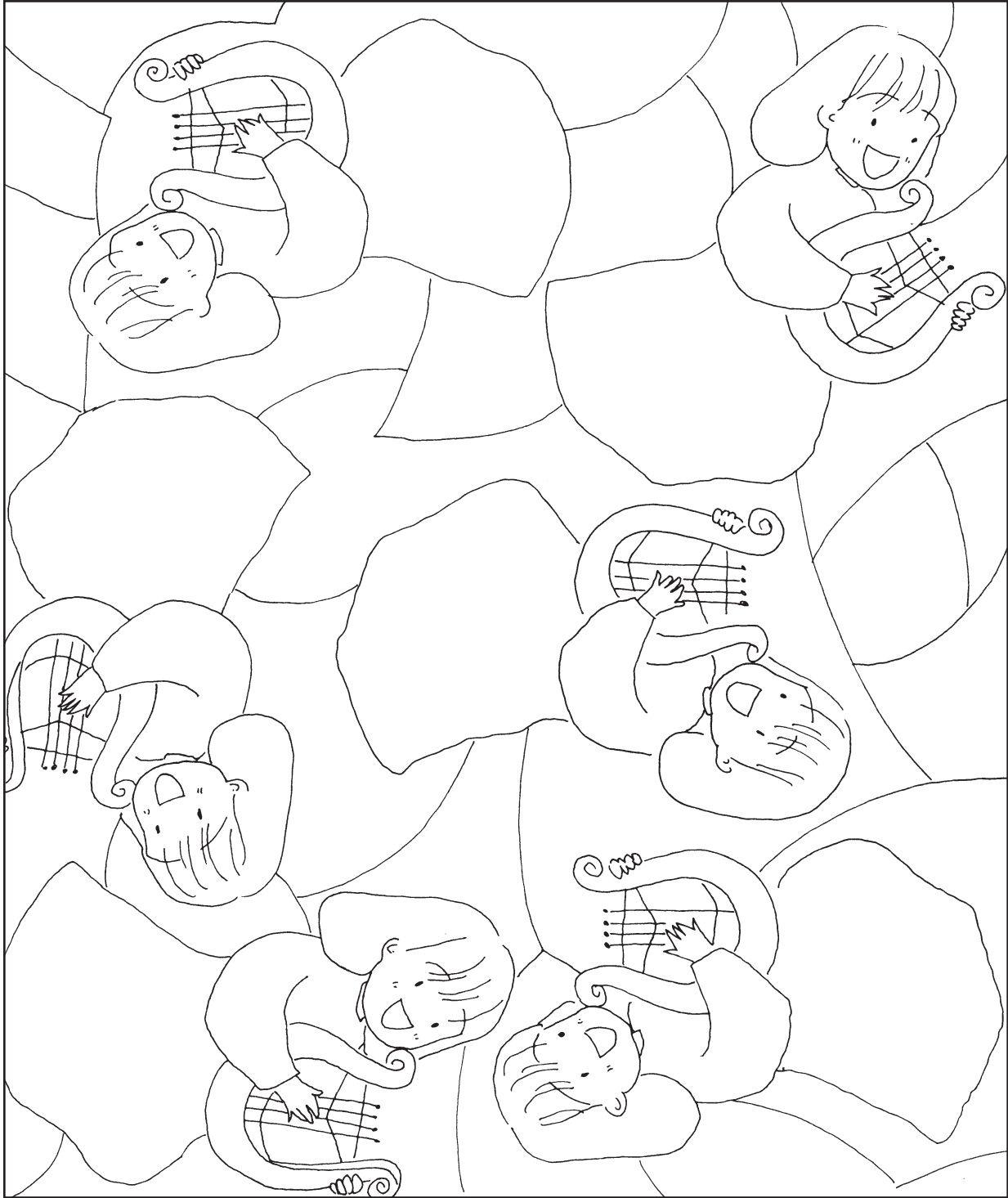
 saw the baby, they went

out and told others all they had seen and heard.

Activity 2:2

### The Angels Bring Good News

The angels announced the birth of Jesus because He is the Savior.  
Six angels are hidden in this picture. Find them and color them in.



# Simeon and Anna See Baby Jesus

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

Lk 2:21-39

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants everyone to rejoice and praise Jesus Christ

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To show our happiness and joy of knowing Jesus Christ through prayer, Bible reading and hymn singing

### Memory Verse

"For my eyes have seen Your salvation."  
(Lk 2:30)



## Bible Knowledge

### Circumcision and the Law

The word "circumcision" is derived from a Latin word and means literally "to cut around." The biblical reference is an operation whereby the foreskin, a covering of skin on the head of the penis, is removed by surgery. As directed by Scripture, Mary and Joseph had Jesus circumcised on the eighth day. They named Him "Jesus" as the angel had instructed. Today, most babies born in the western world undergo this simple operation in infancy for hygienic considerations.

Circumcision was first mentioned in Genesis 17. The divine covenant is a series of promises, first personal (Abram becomes a new man), then national (the predicted rise of the monarch nationhood), and lastly spiritual (the pledged relationship of God with Abraham and his descendants).

According to the law of Moses (Lev 12), a woman who had given birth to a male child was considered unclean for seven days. She had to remain isolated for thirty-three additional days. After forty days a sacrifice was to be offered. However, if the

family was poor, a pair of doves or young pigeons could be substituted. Thus, on the fortieth day after Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple so that all the requirements of God's laws would be kept.

### Simeon and Anna

Simeon was a man in Jerusalem who was righteous and devout. He was one who longed for the coming of the Messiah. He had received a direct revelation that he would not die before seeing the Messiah with his own eyes. When the presentation of Jesus was about to take place, Simeon was guided by the Spirit to the temple. On seeing Jesus, he uttered a hymn of praise and went on to speak to the astonished Mary on the role of Christ within Israel.

Anna was an aged widow, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher (Lk 2:36-38). Like Simeon, who also belonged to the remnant which waited for the coming of the Messiah, she had prophetic sight. She was devout and served day and night in the temple. On hearing Simeon's words at the presentation of Jesus, she commended the baby as the long-awaited Messiah, and praised God for the fulfillment of His promise.





## Understanding Your Students

Even as a baby, Jesus Christ was already recognized as having an important role in the kingdom of God. Both Simeon and Anna saw that He would be the Savior to all mankind, and not just the chosen people of Israel. Even though this job carried with it tremendous stress, Jesus Christ took this job head on from a young age by learning in the temple and prepared Himself daily to do the work of God.

Although our students are still young, they can learn from the example of Jesus. There are many things they can do to prepare themselves for the work of God even when they are just four or five years old. Many parents send their children off to piano class, for example, around this age. If you

know your students are taking such classes, encourage them often. Ask them why they think they are going to these classes. Is it so that they can make their parents happy or is it so they can glorify God one day when they can play hymns in the church? Another example is Chinese school. Many children start attending these classes around this age range. They can be encouraged that learning another language can help them spread the gospel to others who may not understand English.

Even at a young age, the students can learn that their lives can be purposeful for God's holy work. They can see their piano or Chinese classes as less of a chore and more of a way they can fulfill God's will. They can look forward to their weekly lessons with excitement because they will know that they are preparing themselves to work for God's kingdom.



## Vocabulary

### **Dove**

a type of bird that is all white

### **Pigeon**

a type of bird that has a plump body and a small head

### **Bless**

to bless means to ask God to give good things to another person. This is like when Simeon blessed Joseph and his family. He said nice things would

happen to them later on.

### **Fast**

fast can mean the opposite of slow; another meaning is to not eat anything

### **Offering**

a gift for God; we put money in the offering box at church because it is a gift that we give to God to remember the good things He has given to us. During Jesus' time, some people offered animals instead

### **Savior**

a person who saves another; Jesus is our Savior



## Before You Teach

*"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." (Lk 2:29-32)*

These words were spoken by Simeon after he saw baby Jesus in the temple. How special that moment must have been for Simeon. He had waited many, many years for the coming of the Messiah and now he had seen Him with his own eyes. The promise he had been awaiting was finally fulfilled. But there is something interesting in his words; he

*wasn't just happy for himself that he was able to see Jesus. He was excited for all the people in the world. As he spoke, he acknowledged that the Lord Jesus would be a Savior for all mankind, including the gentiles. This shows the great understanding Simeon had about God's plan of salvation. It was not just reserved for the chosen nation of Israel. Unlike many of the early believers, he was completely comfortable that God had intended to reach out to everyone. Simeon understood that God was not just a God for an exclusive people. And the fact that he was genuinely happy for everyone demonstrates the tremendous heart he has. It shows his open-mindedness and his willingness to share the gospel. This is not always an easy thing to do. Sometimes, within our own church, we find cliques or small groups. We tend to want to stay with only*

the people we know very well or feel comfortable with. But Simeon's words here have taught us to step out of our comfort zone and spread the good news to everyone. We need to be excited about God's plan and spend time delivering this great joy



## Bible Story

### **Mary and Joseph Prepare to Go to the Temple**

Last week, we talked about angels who visited some shepherds to tell them some good news. Do you remember what this good news was? The angels told the shepherds about a very special baby. This special baby was Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem. Do you remember where the shepherds found baby Jesus? They found baby Jesus in a manger. Did you know that when the shepherds visited baby Jesus, He was not even eight days old? That is a very tiny and small baby.

During that time, when a baby was eight days old, the parents would name the baby. After forty days, they would also bring the baby to the temple.

When baby Jesus was eight days old, Mary and Joseph named Him "Jesus." Why did Mary and Joseph choose the name "Jesus?" Do you remember how the angel came to visit Mary and told her that she would have a baby? The angel also told her the baby shall be called Jesus. The angel also visited Joseph and told him to name the baby Jesus. So Mary and Joseph listened to the angel and named the baby "Jesus."

About forty days after Jesus was born, it was time to take Jesus to the temple. Even though Jesus was still very small, Mary and Joseph were going to present Him to the Lord. That means they wanted to show God their baby and give thanks to God for such a wonderful family they had. But before they could bring Jesus to the temple, they needed to bring a special offering to the temple. This special offering could be a pair of doves or two young pigeons. Mary and Joseph were busy getting ready for the trip. They wanted to make sure they had everything they needed. Soon, they were ready to go.

### **Baby Jesus At The Temple**

After traveling for a while, Mary and Joseph

to others around us. Instead of just being happy that we have been chosen and saved, we should also be concerned about the salvation of the people around us. Let us learn from the example of Simeon and spread the good news.

arrived at the temple. There was a very old man named Simeon who met them at the temple. How did Simeon know that Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were coming to the temple? God used the Holy Spirit to show him. Because Simeon was very righteous and loved God very much, God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he saw God's Son. This means that Simeon was a man who loved God and did everything according to God's way. God wanted Simeon to be able to see God's Son before he died so the Holy Spirit moved Simeon to go to the temple to meet baby Jesus.

### **Simeon is Glad to See Baby Jesus**

When Simeon saw Jesus' family, Simeon hurried over to Mary and Joseph and took baby Jesus in his arms. He knew right away that this baby was God's Son. Then Simeon prayed and blessed God, "Dear God, you have kept your promise. Now I can die in peace. I have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all the people. I have seen your salvation that will bring light to the people." Do you know what Simeon was saying? He was thanking God for keeping His promise to let him see Jesus. He was also thankful that God had given the world His Son so that Jesus could save everyone.

Can you imagine what Mary and Joseph were thinking when Simeon took Jesus from them? Mary and Joseph were very surprised. They had never met this man before. But they could tell he really wanted to hold the baby. They also wondered how Simeon knew so much about Jesus and what He would do in this world. Do you know how Simeon knew so much about Jesus? God had shown it to Simeon.

Then Simeon blessed Jesus' family and told Mary, "This baby will grow up to be very important. He will be good for many of the people in Israel, but He will also make some of them fall." Mary and Joseph did not know what this meant since Jesus was such a small baby. How could He help people and also make people fall? Actually, Simeon was saying that some people would believe in Jesus as

the Savior after He grew up and some wouldn't believe in Him at all.

### **Anna Is Glad to See Baby Jesus Too**

Just then a woman hurried over to see the baby. She was an elderly woman named Anna. She had lived with her husband for seven years after they got married, but then her husband died. She did not get married again. Now, she was eighty-four years old. Every day for all these years, she would stay in the temple and worship God. She never left the temple but worshiped day and night, fasting and praying. So she was very excited to see baby Jesus. Anna also knew that this baby was Jesus, the Savior of all people. When she saw Him, she thanked God for sending Jesus.

During this whole time, Mary and Joseph stood

there, not knowing what to say. They had never met this woman before. How did she know so much about Jesus? Anna also shared this wonderful news to those who were waiting for the Savior.

Then, Simeon handed baby Jesus back to Mary. He and Anna were both very happy because they had seen the Savior.

Even though Mary and Joseph did not understand everything that Simeon or Anna told them about baby Jesus, they still wanted to thank God for giving them Jesus. They had come to the temple to pray and give their offering. So after they had done everything that they needed to do, it was time to go home. But Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were not going back to the stable. In next week's lesson, we will find out where Jesus and His family will stay and where Jesus grows up.



### Check For Understanding

1. **Where were Mary and Joseph taking baby Jesus?** (They were bringing Him to the temple to present Him to the Lord.)
2. **What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus?** (He took the baby and held Him.)
3. **How did Simeon know that baby Jesus would be at the temple?** (The Holy Spirit told him to find Jesus there.)
4. **What did Simeon say after he saw Jesus?** (He said that he was happy and peaceful. He said many people will believe in Jesus as

the Savior and some will not.)

5. **Who else came over to see Jesus at the temple?** (Anna. She was an old believer. She fasted and prayed in the temple all the time.)
6. **What did Anna do or say after seeing Jesus?** (She gave thanks to God and told others about Jesus.)
7. **Both Simeon and Anna were very happy to see Jesus at the temple. They were happy to be able to finally see Him. Today, we cannot see Jesus as they did but we do know Him. How can we show we are happy, just like Simeon and Anna?** (Allow students to answer.)



### Life Application Story

#### **Happy To Be With God**

Juan was having a great dream about race cars when all of a sudden, he heard his name being called.

"Juan, Juan. It is time to get up. Today is the Sabbath and we are going to church soon," said the voice.

This didn't seem like part of the dream. He

opened his eyes and realized that his mom was standing over him.

"Juan, it is getting late. You need to get up and eat your breakfast now," said Mrs. Lopez.

Juan rubbed his eyes.

"Okay," replied Juan as he shuffled out of bed and headed to the bathroom to wash up.

Ten minutes later, Juan came into the kitchen and sat down. He picked up his fork and began to eat the breakfast his mom had made for him.

"Mom, why do we have to go to church every Saturday?"

"Juan, you know the answer to that question," said Mrs. Lopez.

"Yes, I know it is because it's the Sabbath and God wants us to worship Him. But sometimes I wish I could sleep in like other kids do," said Juan as he made a big yawn.

"I know that it is nice to sleep in but you already had a good night's rest. You know Juan, going to church should not be something that we feel like we 'have to' do but it should be something that we're happy to do, just like how Mr. Chu is so happy to go to church every time," explained Mrs. Lopez.

"Oh, do you mean that man who can't drive and lives by himself?" asked Juan.

"Yes, that's him. By the way, we are going to pick him up today on our way to church. By picking him up, we are doing God's work. This is also a way to show God our love for Him."

"Mom, I like Mr. Chu. He is always smiling at church," commented Juan as he picked up his milk cup.

"I think he is smiling all the time because he is happy to see all the brothers and sisters at church and he is happy to be with God," explained Mrs. Lopez.

"He must really be happy because he is ALWAYS smiling," said Juan again.

"You know, he reminds me of the story of Simeon and Anna. They were in the temple when baby Jesus was brought there by his parents. They were very excited and happy to see Him too. They praised and thanked God for giving the people a Savior," said Mrs. Lopez.

"I guess that is a bit like Mr. Chu. He is so happy about going to church that he just smiles all the time," offered Juan.

"And we should learn to be more like Mr. Chu. We should feel like we can't wait to go to church



### Activity 1

#### **Simeon and Anna Are Happy to See Jesus**

Look at the picture. Simeon and Anna are happy to see Jesus. How can you tell? Finish what each of them said about Jesus. Then color in the picture.

"I have seen Jesus with my \_\_\_\_\_ (eyes)."

"Thank \_\_\_\_\_ (God) for sending us Jesus."

every Saturday. It is just like spending time with our best friend. When you think about your best friend, Tommy, you can't wait to play with him, right?" asked Mrs. Lopez.

"Wow, I never really thought about God that way, being my friend," said Juan.

"Jesus is definitely our friend. We don't just go to church because we have to. We go because we are happy Jesus is a part of our lives. I hope you feel happier about going to church now," said Mrs. Lopez.

"Yes," Juan responded with a big smile.

"You know dear, with that big smile of yours, not only will everyone know that you are happy to go to church but Jesus will definitely be able to tell how glad you are to be in His house," praised Mrs. Lopez. "Do you know what else you can do to let the rest of the family know how happy you are to go to church?"

"I know," Juan answered as he jumped down from his seat. "I am going to make sure Ricky and Dad are up and ready to go to church too!"

#### **Questions to Think About**

1. **What did Juan wish he could do on Saturdays instead of going to church?** (He wanted to stay home and sleep in.)
2. **Why do we go to church on Saturdays?** (Allow students to answer; because it is the Sabbath; God made it a special day for us to rest so that we can go to church to worship/praise Him.)
3. **What did Juan say about Mr. Chu?** (He said that Mr. Chu was always smiling.)
4. **Why did Mrs. Lopez think Mr. Chu was always smiling at church?** (She thought he was happy to be with God, like Simeon and Anna.)
5. **How can we show we are happy to be with Jesus, at church and at home?** (Allow students to answer.)



### Activity 2

#### **We Are Happy To Be With Jesus**

Simeon and Anna were happy to see Jesus. They smiled a lot and praised God to show they were happy. Look at the pictures. What can we do show that we are happy to be with Jesus?

1. We can \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) hymns to God.

2. We can \_\_\_\_\_ (pray) to God.
3. We can \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) in class.
4. We can \_\_\_\_\_ (read) the Bible.



### Activity 3

#### **Thank You Hymn**

*This is a wonderful lesson to sing hymns of thanks and praise to God. One particularly good one is Hymn 393 in the Hymns of Praise hymn book. When the children are singing, take time out to talk about the words and what people thank God for in their lives.*

*Some thank the Lord for friends and home,  
for mercies sure and sweet;  
But I would praise Him for His grace,  
in prayer I would repeat.  
Refrain*

*Some thank Him for the flowers that grow,  
some for the stars that shine;  
My heart is filled with joy and praise,  
because I know He's mine.  
Refrain*

*I trust in Him from day to day,  
I prove His saving grace;  
I'll sing this song of praise to Him,  
until I see His face.  
Refrain*

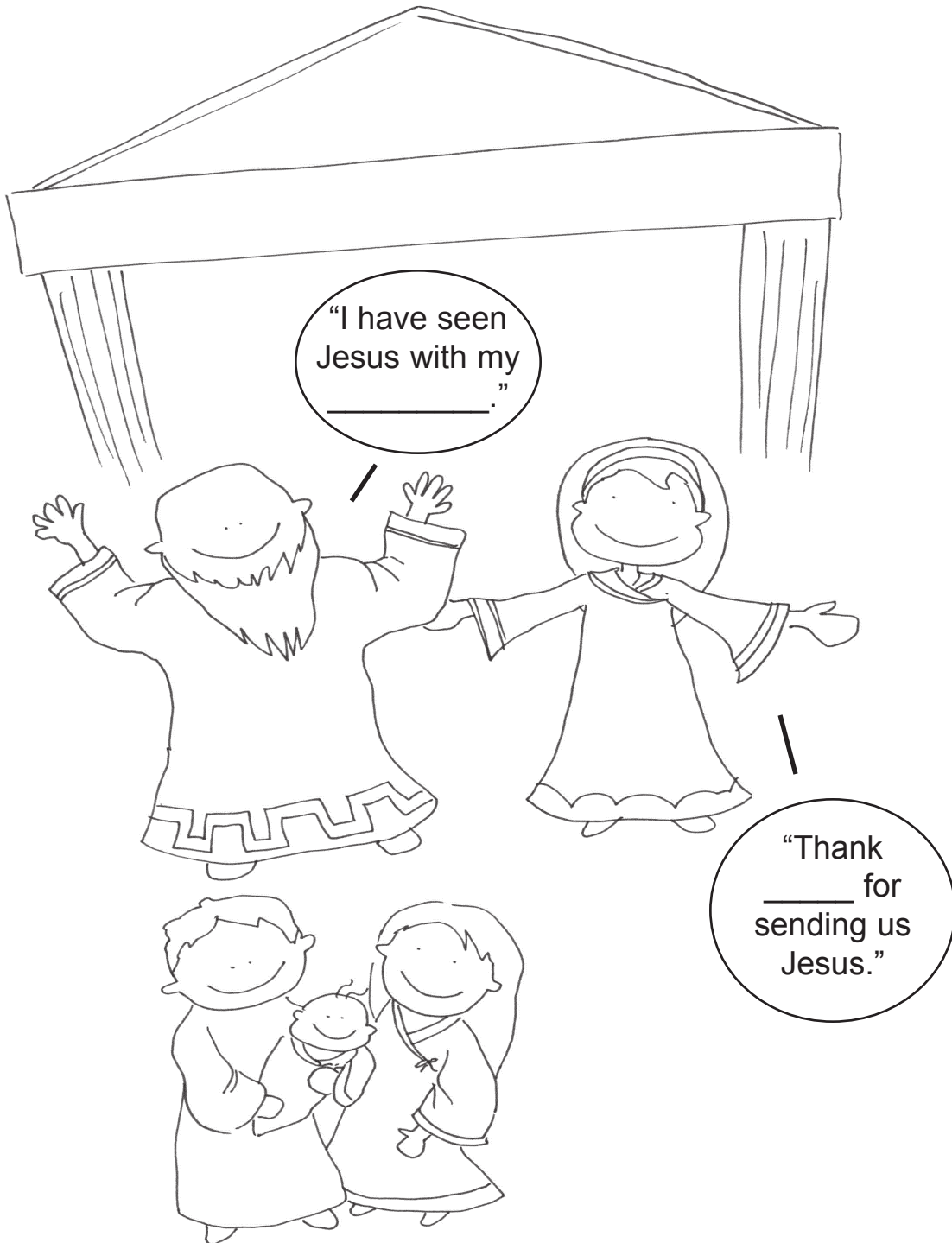
*Refrain:  
Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul;  
Thank you Lord, for making me whole;  
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me  
Thy great salvation so rich and free.*



Activity 3:1

### Simeon and Anna Are Happy To See Jesus

Look at the picture. Simeon and Anna are happy to see Jesus. How can you tell? Finish what each of them said about Jesus. Then color in the picture.





Activity 3:2

### We Are Happy To Be With Jesus

Simeon and Anna were happy to see Jesus. They smiled and praised God to show they were happy. Look at the pictures below. What can we do to show we are happy to be with Jesus?



1. We can \_\_\_\_\_ hymns to God.



2. We can \_\_\_\_\_ to God.



3. We can \_\_\_\_\_ in class.



4. We can \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

# Joseph and Mary Escape to Egypt



## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- basket pattern
- brown construction paper
- scissors
- glue



### Scriptures

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God protects His believers from harm

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To remember to pray to God when we need His protection and guidance; to identify ways God has protected us

### Memory Verse

"God is our protection and strength."  
(Ps 46:1)



## Bible Knowledge

### Jesus' Family Flees to Egypt

As soon as baby Jesus was born, He became a major threat to Herod. Herod was the governor of Galilee, thus effectively making him the king of the Jews at that time. Herod wanted to kill Jesus, because he didn't want Jesus to take his kingship in the future. In fact, Herod was known for the fierce protection of his throne. He even killed his own family members when he thought they posed a threat to him.

Warned of this treachery in a dream, Joseph took his family to Egypt until Herod's death. This was the second dream or vision Joseph received from God. Joseph's first dream revealed that Mary's child would be the Messiah (Mt 1:20-21). His second dream told him how to protect the child's life. Although Joseph was not Jesus' natural father, he was Jesus' legal father and was given this important responsibility to guard Jesus' safety. Joseph remained obedient and faithful; he listened to God's warning right away and took his family to Egypt until God gave further instructions to him.

God asked Joseph to take his family to Egypt, because there were colonies of Jews in several major Egyptian cities. God knew that they would be safe there. Back in Israel, Herod gave orders to kill all the boys under two years old in Bethlehem. Herod's hands were stained with blood, yet the baby Jesus remained unharmed. God's plan was not hindered after all.

### Nazareth

Herod the Great died in 4 B.C. of an incurable disease. After Herod's death, God told Joseph to settle his family in Nazareth, which was located in the hilly area of southern Galilee. The town itself was rather small but this is where Jesus grew up. The town of Nazareth did not have a good reputation. This is evident when Nathanael commented, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). This could likely be due to its small size, lack of culture and possible moral laxity. In fact, the residents of this town did not look highly upon its own inhabitants. When Jesus began His ministry, He was rejected by the townspeople.



## Understanding Your Students

Children at this age may know that God watches over them. However, not all of them will understand what it really means to have God's protection in his or her every day life. You can first give some examples of how God keeps you safe, and ask them to share their own experiences. Although it is good to share testimonies of God's protection, the experiences don't have to be earth-shattering. They can be simple things like how we get to work or school safely each day.

For children to better understand God's all-encompassing protection, you may also talk about how God is like a shepherd watching over His sheep without letting them get hurt or harmed in the wild. We are the beloved sheep under His protection. Ask the children to brainstorm with you how a shepherd

protects His sheep. You can write down their ideas on the board. Ask the children if they think it's an easy or hard job to be a good shepherd. Have them show thumbs up or down to vote. Write down their votes on the board, and continue to ask both groups to explain why they think it is easy or hard to be a good shepherd. At the end of the discussion, be sure to address that it is NOT easy to be a good shepherd. Sometimes sheep wander away and never come back. Sometimes furious animals attack the fold, and several sheep may get killed. Shepherds also have to stay up late to watch their sheep out in the fields. It is hard work to be a good shepherd. However, like a good shepherd, our God is our protection and strength. No matter how hard or how much work there is, God is always by our side. By relying on His guidance and protection, we are safe and unharmed.



## Vocabulary

### **Jealous**

feeling unhappy because others seem better than you or have better things than you

### **Egypt**

a country that is close to Israel

### **Nazareth**

the small town in Galilee where Jesus grew up



## Before You Teach

Joseph and Mary faced great danger when Herod commanded all the boys under the age of two to be killed. Their God-given Son, the Messiah, was going to be captured and killed. If we were Joseph and Mary, what kind of emotional turmoil might we experience? Surprisingly, they reacted to the situation calmly and peacefully, knowing that God was their refuge and strength. They knew they did not have to fear anything. They believed that God must have a way for them to save the baby. Joseph was a God-fearing man who maintained a close relationship with God. As soon as he received the dream from God, he knew what to do to protect his family. More importantly, he knew that they would be all right in the end, because God was guiding their path and watching over them.

Take a moment and reflect upon Psalm 23.

Think about God's tender care and His thorough protection in our own life. As we count His blessings one by one, we will be able to help our children understand God's attentive protection and His uncompromised love for us:

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23)*



## Bible Story

### **Herod Wants to Kill Jesus**

In the last lesson, we learned that Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the temple. Two people were very happy to see Him at the temple because they knew Jesus would grow up one day and be the King of the Jews. That means He would lead the people and save them. Their names were Simeon and Anna. We are happy today too because we know that Jesus saves all those who believe in Him. He is our King because He leads us. But not everyone was happy that Jesus was born. In today's story, we are going to learn about a very jealous king, named Herod. When he heard that baby Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea, he was very unhappy and angry. Herod didn't want Jesus to be king in the future. He wanted to be king himself for as long as he lived. So Herod gave a very mean order to kill all the boys under two years old in Bethlehem. Herod thought to himself, "Jesus will never be king because He will be killed. I will be the king forever."

Wow, boys and girls, would you be scared if bad people were after you, wanting to find you and kill you? (Pause for a minute and look around the room to see the students' reactions and facial expressions.) How mean King Herod was to give such an order! At that time, Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, were living in a house in Bethlehem, thinking that it was a good place for Jesus to grow up in. Little did they know that they would be in great danger if they continued to stay in Bethlehem.

### **Joseph Has A Dream**

One day when Joseph was sleeping, he had a dream. In his dream, an angel came and stood beside him. The angel brought Joseph a message from God. He said, "Get up, Joseph! It's not safe here for you anymore. The bad king, Herod, wants to hurt Jesus and kill Him. You must take Jesus and His mother to escape to Egypt and stay there until I tell you to what to do next."

### **The Family Leaves For Egypt**

When Joseph woke up, he jumped up and woke Mary. He told her what the angel had said to him. Do you remember the first time an angel appeared to Joseph? The angel told him about the birth of

Jesus. Did Joseph listen to the angel and take Mary as his wife? Yes. And Jesus really was born, just like the angel had said He would. So when the angel told him to leave right away, he did just that. Joseph knew he should trust the angel and do what he says. In the night, Mary and Joseph started gathering their things into a big bundle. They placed the bundle on their donkey's back. In the dark of the night, they began their trip to Egypt.

How do you think Jesus' family traveled? Do you think they were loud and noisy or soft and quiet? They had to be very quiet, so no one would notice them. The last thing they wanted to happen was to have the mean king find out where they were going. Even though they were afraid that they might be caught and that Jesus might be hurt, they probably felt peace in their hearts. Do you know why? Mary and Joseph knew that God was watching over them, guiding them, and protecting them.

So, after many miles of traveling, they finally arrived in Egypt. They knew they would be safe for now, so they stayed there. Actually, they stayed there until king Herod died.

### **Joseph Has Another Dream**

Then one night while Joseph was still in Egypt, Joseph had another dream. Again, he saw an angel with a message from God. The angel said, "Get up, Joseph. It is safe now to take Jesus and Mary back to the land of Israel."

What do you think Joseph did this time? Of course, he obeyed and did what the angel told him to do. He woke Jesus and Mary up, and together they traveled back to the land of Israel. But the land of Israel was big. Where would they stay? Should they go back to Bethlehem? As they were traveling, though, Joseph had still another dream. This is the third dream Joseph had about where he should go. This time God told Joseph that since Herod's son was in charge now, Joseph should not take his family back to Bethlehem. Herod's son was just as bad as Herod was. Instead, God told Joseph to go to the town of Nazareth. And so Joseph and his family went to Nazareth and stayed there. It was in Nazareth that Jesus grew up safely.

### **God Protects Joseph, Mary and Jesus**

Boys and girls, Joseph must have had a very

close relationship with God. Whenever he and his family were in danger, God would tell him in a dream what to do. And Joseph didn't just think these were regular dreams. Instead, he took every message from God seriously and obeyed His words. He was able to keep his family safe because of God's guidance and protection. Even though it was hard to travel to so many different places, and to places where they had not been to before, Joseph was not afraid because he trusted in God. But what if Joseph didn't trust God? What if he had not left Bethlehem? King Herod might have found Jesus and killed Him. We learned from this story that Joseph really relied on God's protection and did what God wanted him to do.

How about you? We know that God watches over us all the time, but how does He protect us in our every day life? Does anyone want to share? (Pause for students to answer.) Let me give you a hint. God gave Jesus two loving parents to take care of Him. Who does God give you in your family to take care of you and keep you safe? (Ask the students how their families take care of them. How do the adults in their families show their love to them?) We thank God for giving us Lord Jesus and so many blessings in our life. Don't forget that God is our protection and strength, just like the memo-ry verse says. There is nothing for us to be afraid of anymore, because we can rely on God for all His wonderful help!



### Check For Understanding

1. **What did the angel tell Joseph to do in the first dream?** (The angel asked Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and leave for Egypt right away.)
2. **Why did Jesus' family have to leave and travel to Egypt?** (Because king Herod wanted to kill Jesus.)
3. **Why did Herod want to kill Jesus?** (He wanted to kill Jesus because he did not want Jesus to become the king when He grew up.)
4. **After Herod died, what did the angel tell Joseph in the second dream?** (The angel said it was safe for the family to go back to Israel.)
5. **Along the way to Israel, why did the angel**

- tell Joseph not to go back to Bethlehem?** (Because Herod's son was in power, and it was still not safe for Jesus to live there.)
6. **Where did Joseph take his family to eventually? Where did Jesus grow up?** (In a small town called Nazareth.)
7. **How many dreams did Joseph have altogether which told him where to go?** (Three.)
8. **How do we know that God was protecting Joseph and his family during this whole time?** (God sent an angel to give Joseph the messages so he would know where to go. Even though they had to travel a lot, God kept them safe.)
9. **"God is our protection and strength" (Ps 46:1). Can you turn to your neighbor now and tell him or her how God protects you every day?** (Students' answers may vary.)



### Life Application Story

#### The Flying Experience

It was spring break! Mr. and Mrs. Lopez had promised their children, Ricky and Juan, to take

them to visit their cousins, uncles and aunts, and grandparents in New Mexico. The boys just couldn't wait to go. Ricky, being the big brother, was in charge of helping his little brother Juan pack the suitcases. A few days before the trip, Mr. Lopez even sat down with his family to talk about their travel plans, where they would be going, new places they



would see, and their visits at their grandparents' house. Ricky and Juan simply couldn't wait to board the plane and be there the next minute!

Finally, after much planning and preparation, the Lopez family was ready for their trip to New Mexico. They prayed together to ask for God's protection throughout the trip before leaving to the airport. They checked and made sure all the doors were locked, and nothing was left behind. With so much excitement, they left for the airport.

Ricky and Juan had been on airplanes before when they were little, but they didn't remember much. They were excited, especially Juan—he watched airplanes take off while waiting at the gate to board their flight, and just couldn't believe how high they were in the sky within minutes. Soon it was the Lopez's turn to get on. The family got to their seats and sat down. Within a few minutes, the plane took off and they were on their way to New Mexico. While they were flying, the boys played games, listened to music, and ate some snacks their mom had prepared for them. Eventually they fell asleep during the last part of their flight. As the boys slept soundly, the flight captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, we will be landing shortly. Please return to your seats and have your safety belt securely fastened. Just so you know, we may be experiencing some turbulence due to a storm that just came in to New Mexico."

Mr. and Mrs. Lopez had to wake up Ricky and Juan to buckle their seat belts. And sure enough, not long after they woke up, they began to feel the plane moving up and down as if the whole plane was trembling. Juan started to get worried. He asked his dad what was going on. Mr. Lopez comforted him, and explained to him that the weather was not good outside. He assured Juan that they would be all right. He told Juan to pray in silence and ask God to help them.

Then, all of a sudden, they felt an unexpected shift of the plane, as if they were struck by something. Now, both boys looked afraid and held on to their parents' hands tightly.

"Are we going to be okay, Dad?" Ricky asked in a small voice.

"Don't worry, Ricky. God is watching over us. We will be fine," Mr. Lopez replied.

As the plane shook even harder, Juan began to cry. Mrs. Lopez held him tightly in her arms, and

told him to keep praying for God's protection. The whole family sat quietly together and prayed hard. Mr. and Mrs. Lopez didn't know what was going to happen next, but they remained calm.

Then Mrs. Lopez began to sing, "My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do." She repeated this three times until Juan stopped crying and the whole family joined in singing this song.

"You know what?" Mr. Lopez said. "This little song reminds me of the Bible verse, 'God is our protection and strength,' from Psalm 46:1."

What an encouragement that was to the Lopez family! Mrs. Lopez said, "You're right, Honey! God is our protection and strength. Let's not worry, but keep praying for His protection and hope that this plane will land safely."

Gradually, the plane shook less, and did not move up and down anymore. After a short while, the captain made another announcement, "Ladies and gentlemen, please stay seated and keep your safety belts fastened. We are getting ready to land the plane right now." Everyone was so happy to hear the announcement. Some people even clapped their hands to celebrate the landing! Within minutes, the plane landed safely on the ground. The Lopez family prayed once more and thanked God for His mercy and protection. They knew that God was looking after them so that they were able to arrive in New Mexico unharmed!

### Questions to Think About

1. **Where was the Lopez family going?** (They were going to New Mexico to visit their family.)
2. **What happened to the plane before the plane was about to land?** (The plane was shaking violently due to the bad weather.)
3. **What did Mr. and Mrs. Lopez tell the boys to do when they were afraid?** (They told Ricky and Juan not to worry, but keep praying for God's protection and guidance.)
4. **What happened eventually? What did the Lopez family do when they knew they were safe?** (The plane stabilized, and they were able to land safely. The Lopez family prayed and thanked God for His love and protection.)
5. **What was the Bible verse that Mr. Lopez remembered on the plane?** (It was Psalm 46:1—God is our protection and strength.)
6. **How would you feel and what would you do if**



you were Ricky or Juan sitting on that shaking airplane? (Students' responses may vary.)

7. **How many of you have been on a plane before? (Allow students to raise hands for a quick survey.) What can we do before the plane takes off**



### Activity 1

#### **Joseph's Dreams**

How many dreams did Joseph have altogether? (3)  
Write the number next to the dream he had first (Egypt), second (Israel) and third (Nazareth).



### Activity 2

#### **Who Is Staying Safe With Their Family?**

Look at each picture. How does your mom or dad keep you safe? In each set of pictures, circle the picture that shows how mom or dad is protecting us. Talk about why the other picture is dangerous and something we should never do.

1. We should never stand on a chair and try to take things off tall shelves. We could get hurt. We can always ask mom or dad to help us get something we need. Who is staying safe with their family?
2. We should never play with the vacuum cleaner or try to plug things into the socket by ourselves. We could get hurt or electrocuted. We should always save this kind of work for mom or dad. Who is staying safe with their family?
3. We should never cross the street by ourselves. We could get hit by a car. We should always hold hands with a grown up. Who is staying safe with their family?



### Activity 3

#### **Action Rhyme**

Share this action rhyme with the students to help them thank God for protecting Jesus and His family as well as their own family.

**and after it lands safely? How else does God protect us in our daily lives? (We can always pray to ask God for His guidance and to thank Him for protecting the plane; allow students to answer.)**

**God kept me safe when I was small,**

(Hold hands near floor.)

**So I could grow to be this tall.**

(Hold hands at top of head.)

**From small to tall,**

(Stoop, then reach high.)

**I'm growing up like Jesus.**

(Raise arms; stretch hands high.)

Activity 4:1

### Joseph's Dreams

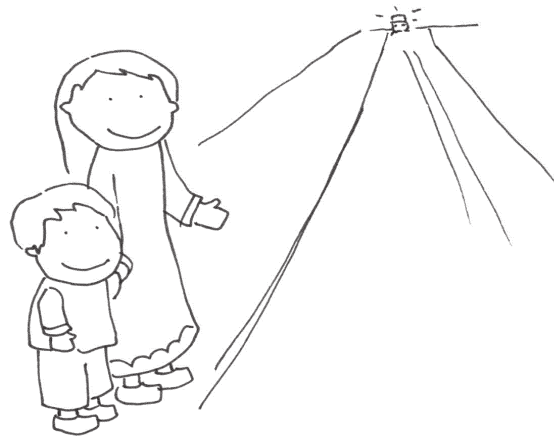
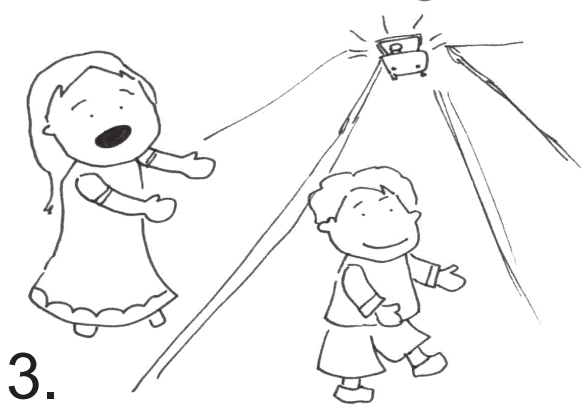
How many dreams did Joseph have altogether? Write the number next to the dream he had first, second and third.



Activity 4:2

### Who Is Staying Safe With Their Family?

Look at each picture. How does your mom or dad keep you safe? In each set of pictures, circle the picture that shows how mom or dad is protecting us. Talk about why the other picture is dangerous and something we should never do.



# Jesus At The Temple

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- 🕯️ prepare a variety of ready-to-eat healthy foods (vegetables; fruit or whole wheat snacks)
- 🕯️ plates
- 🕯️ forks, spoons and napkins



### Scriptures

Lk 2:40-52

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus obeyed both God and His earthly parents

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify the things believers can do at church to worship God and learn His words

### Memory Verse

"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature."  
(Lk 2:52)



## Bible Knowledge

### Jesus Christ's Childhood

Many of us have a natural curiosity to learn more about Jesus' childhood. The Gospel of Luke is the only source of information we have about His early years. Although His conception was virginal, Jesus was born on earth as a baby, and grew up as any human being would. So He understands what it is like to be a child. And He didn't have an easy life. His father was a carpenter so He wasn't born into a rich family. He also had to move several times as a young child because Herod wanted Him killed. He lived in a foreign country for a while, and then in Galilee, in a town called Nazareth. In the minds of most Jews, Nazareth wasn't the best place to live. The Jews looked down upon Nazarenes as poor and not "pure" Jews. So even though Jesus is the Savior, His early life on earth was not necessarily a happy one.

Jesus had younger brothers and sisters. The names of His sisters are not known, but His brothers were: James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. Not everyone understood who He was and knew that

He was the Son of God because He had come into the world just as any other baby would have.

When Jesus turned twelve years old, He formally joined the religious community, and at that point was considered a man, responsible for keeping the Law. Keeping the Law included celebrating Passover at Jerusalem (see Ex 23:14-17). In fact, every Jewish man was expected to come to Jerusalem at least three times a year. During this particular trip, the boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem to learn more about God's words, which caused Mary and Joseph to anxiously seek for their missing son. When Mary found Him in the temple listening to teachers and asking them questions, she told Jesus how worried she was. Even though Jesus knew that His goal was to learn and do His heavenly Father's will, He obeyed His parents and went home with them.



## Understanding Your Students

For this Bible story, it is important to let the children know that even though they are young, they can still build a strong relationship with God by coming to Religious Education classes to learn more about God's words, singing hymns to praise Him, listening to Bible stories, and obeying their parents. This is just what Jesus did, for He was eager to learn everything there was to know about His heavenly Father. It is also important to point out that He was submissive to His earthly parents. As the key verse for this lesson (Luke 2:52) indicates, the boy Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Jesus is an excellent example for them to follow.

Students at this age love to hear about Jesus'

childhood stories. They might be amazed to realize that the almighty Lord Jesus was once a child, too, just like them. Talk about the kind of family Jesus grew up in. Being the oldest in a carpenter's family, Jesus had to help out His earthly parents a lot. Ask students if they do the same in their own home. Have them give examples of how they can be good helpers. It is important for the students to know that Jesus was not some kind of superhuman or superhero, even though He was born by the Holy Spirit. By relating these childhood stories, it helps them to understand that Jesus went through many of the same things they are also going through. That is why Jesus can really know how they feel. That is why they are always encouraged to talk to Jesus through prayer because there is nothing He can't help them with.



## Vocabulary

### Carpenter

someone who makes things out of wood (like chairs and tables) to earn a living

### Wisdom, Wise

knowing right from wrong

### Passover

a special holiday to remember how God saved His people from the Egyptians during the Exodus

### Honor

to show respect for someone



## Before You Teach

This lesson is a good time to reflect upon how the boy Jesus was able to grow strong in faith and be filled with wisdom, and how He also became a person who was well loved by God and the people around Him. As RE teachers, our biggest challenge is helping the students grow up in the Lord and remain faithful to Him, even as they head off for college. Although it was not easy, the boy Jesus was able to strive to do what was right in the eyes of God. Encourage your students to be more like Jesus. He is a good example of a person who went through daily struggles and conquered them. Today, the temptations may be different (e.g. excessive computer games, on-line chat rooms), but the way to overcome them is the same. Remind the students that every little thing counts, and it's up to them to make good choices every day! As you advise the students to make smart choices, you

might think about your past and the decisions that you made growing up. Was God a part of your decision-making process? What kind of priorities did you have? Did you seek to please God and men as a young child? Take this opportunity to share your own testimony for the Lord.

Another important part of this lesson is Jesus' obedience to His earthly parents. We can imagine how worried and frustrated they felt when Jesus was nowhere to be found. Later, when Mary found Him sitting among the teachers in the temple, talking to them peacefully, He was not showing any signs of anxiety over "losing" His parents. But, Jesus knew that His earthly parents would not understand why He stayed behind to talk to the teachers and the importance of studying God's words. So Jesus listened to Mary, and obeyed her, returning home without arguing further. Talk to the students about what it means to obey their parents. Give some examples of how one can truly be obedient to his or her parents.





## Bible Story

### **Jesus Grows Up**

When Jesus was born, He was just a tiny baby. He had little toes and fingers and a very small body. But He didn't stay little. He grew like you and me. He became taller, older, and smarter each day! Soon, he was not a baby anymore, but a boy who loved to help out in His family. He started to help His father Joseph. Joseph was a carpenter. That means he made things out of wood, like shelves and chairs. So Jesus would help his father with his wood-working. He also must have helped His mother to take care of some house chores. Every day He grew. Soon He turned ten years old, then eleven, then twelve! He grew strong and healthy, and was filled with wisdom. Children, what does it mean for someone to be filled with wisdom? When someone is filled with wisdom, this person understands many things in the Bible and knows how to make good decisions to be a good Christian. Children, how many of you think that you're also being filled with wisdom? (Raise your hand high, so I can see.) Can you think of some good decisions that you have already made to be a good Christian? For example, you decided to follow your parents to come to church today to learn more about God's words. You chose not to complain about coming to church. This is a wise decision you have made to be a good Christian. Are there any other examples you can think of? (Let students share.) The boy Jesus was just like you; He not only grew taller and older, but also wiser and stronger in faith.

### **Jesus Goes to Jerusalem with His Parents**

Every year, Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, took their family to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. They made this trip every year to show God that they loved Him very much and wanted to worship Him. When Jesus turned twelve, Mary and Joseph took their family again. But this time, the Jerusalem trip became even more special. That is because when a Jewish boy turns twelve years old, people will not call him a boy anymore, but a man. Even though he is not that old (share the name of a child within the local church who is around twelve years old so that the students have an idea of what that means), he is old enough to understand what is right to do and

what he should not do. A twelve year old Jewish boy has to begin to act grown up and be responsible. Therefore, when the Feast of the Passover came, Mary and Joseph took Jesus with them to go to Jerusalem to worship God.

Back in the old days, many people didn't live close to Jerusalem. And when it was time to go to the temple, the family had to walk on foot for hundreds of miles to get to Jerusalem to worship God. Do you know how far Jesus and His parents walked from Nazareth, where He lived, to Jerusalem and back? Does anyone want to take a guess? (Call on 3 to 4 students to share their estimates, and write the number on the board.) It takes about twelve days to walk 240 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem and back. That was how far Jesus walked with His parents to go worship God! Can you imagine yourself walking for that long? (Give an example between two places that students are familiar with that are approximately 240 miles in distance to show them how far it really is. You can also use a Bible map to point out the distance between Nazareth to Jerusalem.)

### **Mary and Joseph Cannot Find Jesus**

Finally, after about twelve days of walking, Jesus and His parents arrived safely at the temple in Jerusalem. The festival was a special time when everyone went to worship God together. So many families and friends were also there to celebrate. When Jesus and His family got there, they had a wonderful time worshiping God and seeing their friends. When Passover ended, everyone started to head home again. Because so many people had come to Jerusalem, there was a big crowd traveling down the road. And because there were so many people, Mary and Joseph couldn't keep an eye on Jesus. After walking for a long time, they found out Jesus was not with them. At first, Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was walking with their friends. Soon, they found out that He wasn't. They looked up and down the road but they couldn't find Jesus anywhere. So they hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Him there. Children, let's say that you went to the supermarket to buy some food with your parents, and when it is time to go home, they could not find you. How do you think your parents might feel when they don't see you anywhere? (Let students share their thoughts.) They would probably



feel very nervous and worried about you, and this was how Mary and Joseph felt. As soon as they found out that Jesus was missing, they hurried back to the city of Jerusalem looking everywhere for Him.

### **Mary and Joseph Find Jesus in the Temple**

Jerusalem was a big city! Mary and Joseph looked and looked for a long time, but couldn't find Jesus in those places they looked. Can you guess where they finally found Jesus? They found Him in the temple. When Mary and Joseph arrived at the temple, they found Jesus sitting among the temple teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Jesus was also answering questions Himself. The teachers were very surprised that He knew so much about God.

When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, they were happy and upset at the same time. They felt happy because they knew that Jesus was safe. However, they also felt angry and upset, because Jesus didn't pay attention to the time. When it was time to go home and leave with His family, Jesus still stayed in the temple. He didn't even know His parents had left.

Mary walked up to Jesus and said, "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I are worried about you. We have looked for you everywhere."

Jesus answered, "I need to stay here and talk with the teachers to learn more about God. Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Children, what do you think Jesus was talking about? Wasn't His father the carpenter Joseph? Who is the "Father" Jesus was talking about here? (Ask a few students to share their thoughts.) Yes, He was not talking about His earthly father, Joseph, but His heavenly Father, the almighty God. He stayed behind in the temple wanting to learn about God as much as possible, so that He would be prepared to do what God wanted Him to do when He grew up. So even at a young age, Jesus knew that studying God's word and doing what was right was very important.

Mary didn't understand what Jesus was talking about, but she kept all these things in her heart. Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with His family. He obeyed His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, and followed the commandment to honor His parents. Children, how can you honor your father and mother today? (Have students give examples.) We can obey them, tell them the truth, be good helpers, and listen to what they have to say. Jesus did all these things, and the Bible says that He "increased in stature and wisdom, and in favor of God and men." That means that He grew smarter every day. And every day He loved God more and loved the people around Him more too. When we do the right things, and make smart choices every day, both God and men will be very proud and happy with us.



### **Check For Understanding**

1. **Where did Jesus and His family go when He was twelve years old?** (They went to Jerusalem to worship at the temple.)
2. **When it was time to go home, what happened to Jesus?** (His parents could not find Him. He had stayed behind in the temple.)
3. **What was Jesus doing at the temple when His parents found Him?** (He was studying with the teachers, asking and answering questions.)
4. **How did Jesus obey His earthly parents and God when He went home with them?**

(He listened to Mary and Joseph and went home with them because He knew they were worried about Him. He obeyed God by honoring His parents and following their instructions. He also knew it was important to study the words of God.)

5. **What can we do to show that we are listening to our parents?** (Allow students to answer.)
6. **What can we do to show that we are listening to God?** (Allow students to answer.)
7. **The Bible says that Jesus grew in stature and wisdom. What does that mean and how can we be like Jesus as we grow up?**

(Allow students to answer; some possible answers: we need to grow strong both physically and spiritually; we need to keep our bodies healthy by eating the right

foods and exercising; we need to read the Bible, come to church and pray to grow strong spiritually. These things will make God and our parents proud and happy.)



## Life Application Story

### The Little Helper

The Lim family was getting ready for a big dinner. All their relatives were coming to their house today. It was Grandma's birthday. She was going to be eighty-one.

That afternoon, everyone was getting ready for the big dinner. Nicole washed the vegetables and Mrs. Lim chopped them up. Lisa was in the backyard. She was busy washing Togo, their dog. Benjamin was in the living room. He was putting away books and dusting the tables. Everyone was doing something- everyone except for little five-year-old Susie.

Susie sat on a stool in the kitchen. She swung her feet as she watched her mother and her sister Nicole. She wanted to help, too.

"Nicole, do you need help washing the vegetables?" Susie asked.

"No, Susie, you're too little to help. You won't be able to reach the sink," Nicole said. "Don't worry, just go and play," she added.

"Oh, okay," Susie said. Then she turned to her mom and asked, "Mommy, do you need help cutting the vegetables? I promise that I will be very careful."

"No, dear. You are too young to use a knife. You just might cut yourself with it," Mrs. Lim said. "Why don't you go and color your books?"

Susie frowned, and slowly walked out to the living room to look for her brother Benjamin instead. She saw Benjamin putting away books and magazines.

"Ben, do you think I can help you put away the books?" Susie asked.

"No, Susie. These books are too heavy for you," Benjamin said. "Why don't you go outside and play?"

"Ben, the books are not that heavy. See, I can

pick up my own toy box that is full of stuff. Look at me- I am strong! Can I pleaseeeeee help?" Susie begged.

"Don't be silly, Susie. I'm almost done. Just go outside and play. I'll come find you in a minute," Ben insisted.

Susie hung her head and went to the backyard. She found her sister, Lisa, washing their dog, Togo. Susie laughed when she saw Lisa. Lisa was all wet. She even had some bubbles on her face! Togo kept splashing around the big tub.

Susie walked up to her and asked, "Lisa, do you need some help washing Togo?"

"Are you kidding, Susie? You're too little to hold Togo down. You're going to get all wet," Lisa said.

"You are all wet, too. Why can't I get wet with you?" Susie said.

"Susie, don't be like that. I'll finish washing Togo in a few minutes, then we can play, okay? Now, just go and do something and wait for me."

Susie sadly walked to the front porch and sat down. It seemed like she was too little to do anything around the house, but she just wanted to help. She wanted to grow up, fast!

Just then, her father walked up to Susie. He had just finished mowing the lawn.

"Why the sad face, Susie?" Mr. Lim asked.

"I can't seem to do anything, Daddy. Everyone says I'm too little," said Susie.

"Oh, Susie, you can do a lot of things. Listen, even though you're little, you can still please God in many ways."

"How?" Susie asked.

"Well, for starters, you can smile. God loves happy children. You can also help us by praying. You can ask God to help us do good jobs, so we can get ready for Grandma's birthday dinner soon," Mr. Lim said.

Mr. Lim continued, "You know Susie, even though you are still young, you are growing every day. One day you will be big enough to do all the

things your brother and sisters are doing. But it makes me happy and proud that you want to help. That means your mind is growing."

"Like when I learn new things?" asked Susie.

"Yes, like when you learn new things. How about I teach you something now? Do you want to help me sweep up the grass?" asked Mr. Lim.

"Yes!" replied Susie with a big smile.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What occasion was the Lim family busy getting ready for that evening?** (Grandma's 81-year-old birthday dinner.)
2. **What was everyone doing to get ready?** (Nicole was washing the vegetables; Mrs. Lim was cutting the vegetables; Benjamin was dusting tables, and putting away books; Lisa was washing their dog, Togo; and Mr. Lim was mowing the lawn.)
3. **How did little Susie feel when everyone told**

**her that she was too young to help?** (Susie felt very sad. She wanted to be helpful, but no one would let her do anything because she was the youngest in the family.)

4. **What would you do if you were Susie? Do you help out in your own home? What do you usually do to help out in your family?** (Let students answer.)
5. **What did Mr. Lim say to Susie to make her smile again?** (Mr. Lim told Susie that even though she was young, she could still do many things to help. For example, she could pray to God for everyone to do a good job getting ready for the dinner.)
6. **How do we know we are growing everyday, physically and spiritually?** (Allow students to answer; some possible answers: we are growing taller, eating more food, learning more about the words of God, thinking about others etc)



### Activity 1

#### Jesus At The Temple

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus at the temple by going through the maze.



### Activity 2

#### I Can Go To Church

What can we do at church? Finish each sentence.

1. I can go to church with my \_\_\_\_\_. (family)
2. I can go to church and \_\_\_\_\_. (pray)
3. I can go to church and see other \_\_\_\_\_. (brothers and sisters)
4. I can go to church and learn God's \_\_\_\_\_. (words)

During this activity sheet, be sure to talk about how all these things help us grow spiritually, closer to God. When we go to church and learn God's words, we are like Jesus at the temple.



### Activity 3

#### I Can Grow!

##### Materials:

1. prepare a variety of ready-to-eat healthy foods (vegetables; fruit or whole wheat snacks)
2. plates
3. forks, spoons and napkins

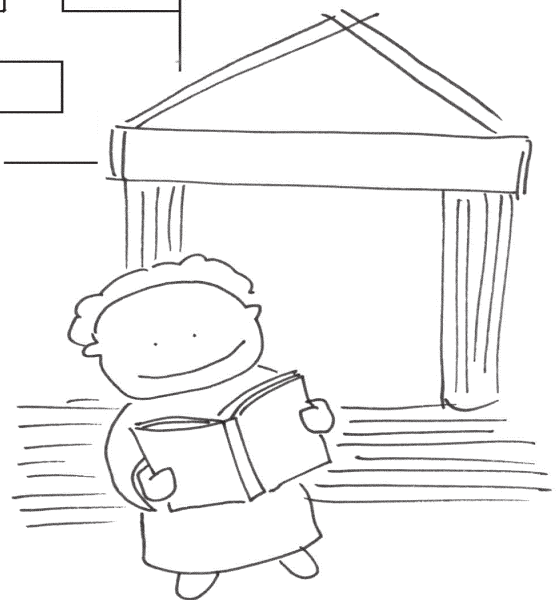
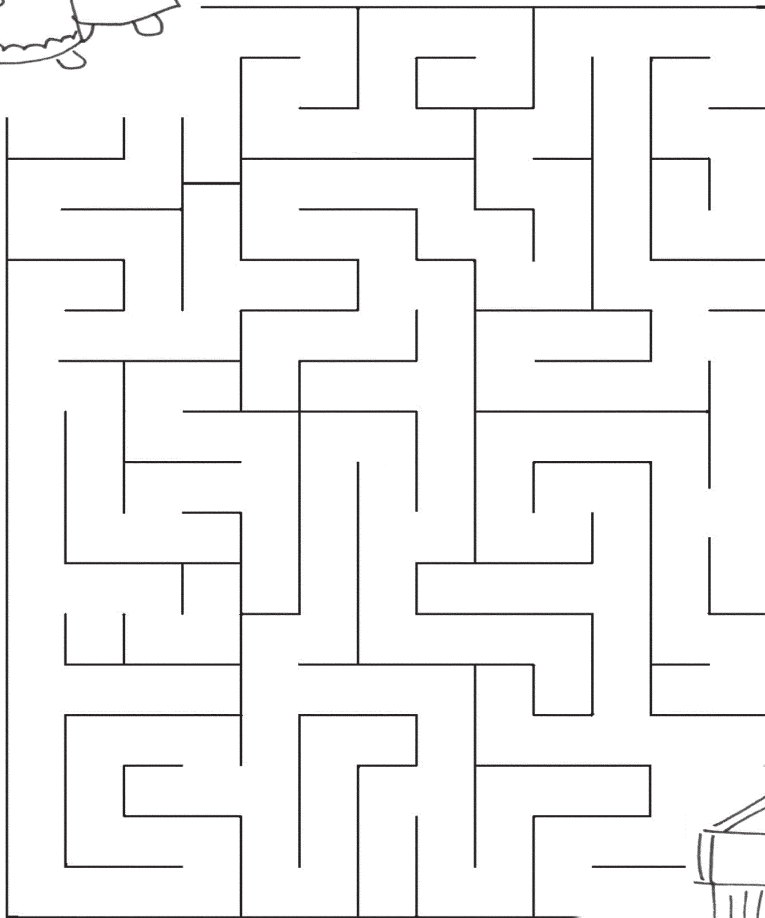
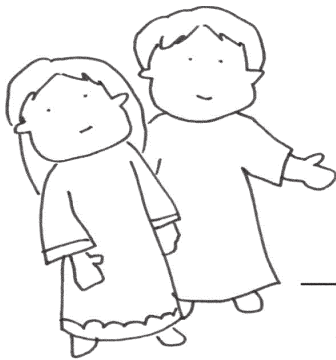
##### Directions:

1. Give each student a plate, napkin and fork or spoon.
2. Before you hold up each snack, talk about how we can keep our bodies healthy (exercise, good diet, being happy).
3. As you hold up each snack, talk about how it is a good and healthy choice (as opposed to chips, soft drinks or candy).
4. Ask each student why it is important to keep our bodies healthy physically and spiritually (review how we can keep our bodies healthy spiritually too if time permits).
5. Pass out some of the light snacks for the students to enjoy!

Activity 5:1

# Jesus At The Temple

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus at the temple by going through the maze.

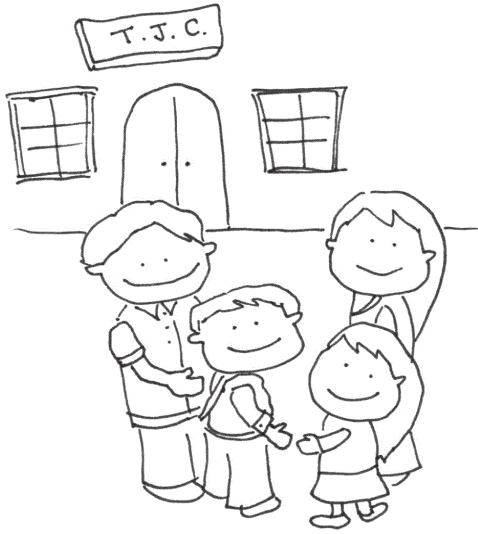


Activity 5:2

### I Can Go to Church

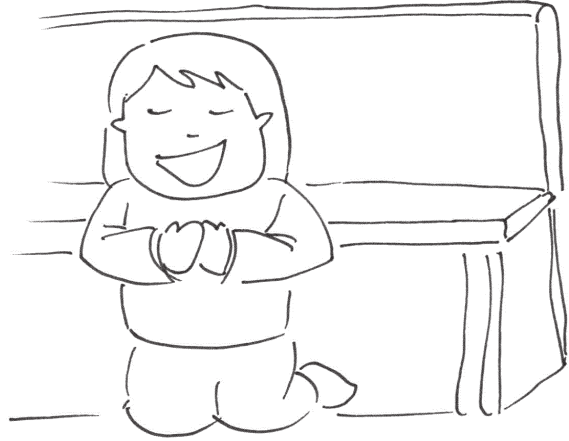
Look at each picture. What can we do at church?  
Finish the sentence. The words to choose from are:

**brothers and sisters, pray, words, family**



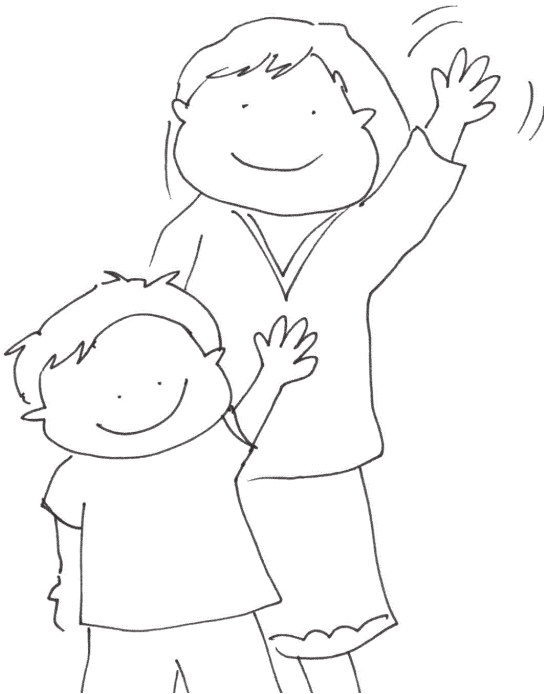
1. I can go to church with my

\_\_\_\_\_.



2. I can go to church and

\_\_\_\_\_.



3. I can go to church and see

\_\_\_\_\_.



4. I can go to church and learn  
God's \_\_\_\_\_.

# Jesus is Baptized

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- old pennies, water and vinegar
- white Origami paper (or white paper cut into squares)
- beads or sequins (2 per student)
- needle and thread
- glue



### Scriptures

Mt 3:13-17, Jn 1:32-34

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To know that we must be baptized in order to become God's children; to identify the behaviors we should exhibit once we are God's children

### Memory Verse

"This is My beloved Son." (Mt 3:17)



## Bible Knowledge

### Water Baptism

It is important to explain to students that Jesus was sinless, and He did not need to be baptized to wash away His sins. But today's Bible story tells us that He traveled many miles, from Galilee to the Jordan River, to be baptized by John the Baptist. John recognized that he was neither worthy nor qualified to baptize Jesus, but Jesus convinced him that it was only right for him to do so to fulfill God's will. Jesus got baptized to set an example for us, as well as to demonstrate that He was the Son of God. His baptism served "to fulfill all righteousness," which means to accomplish God's mission. Jesus also saw His baptism as advancing God's work.

The word "baptizo" (immersion) first appeared in the Mosaic laws of purification (Ex 30:17-21; Lev 11:25), where it meant a mere washing or purification. But we know that baptism is a thorough change in one's inner being, manifested in repentance. Young students may not understand that Jesus went through baptism for the fulfillment of

all righteousness (Mt 3:15). It was the intention of God to have Jesus baptized before His earthly ministry. Jesus was the perfect man, so He did not need baptism, but He accepted baptism in obedient service to the Father, and God showed His approval.

One of the five major doctrines of the True Jesus Church is water baptism. Notice the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of the dove, showing that Jesus was empowered by God's Spirit. Titus 3:5 tells us that, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

### John the Baptist

Born (in 7 BC) to an elderly couple- Zechariah a priest and his wife Elizabeth- John the Baptist grew to manhood in the wilderness of Judea (Lk 1:80), where he received his prophetic call (Lk 3:2).

In the New Testament, John is presented chiefly as the forerunner of Christ. His imprisonment was the signal for the start of Jesus' ministry (Mk 1:14); and his baptismal activity provided a starting point for the apostolic preaching (Acts 10:37; 13:24). Jesus saw John as the promised Elijah. Jesus also regarded him as the last prophet (Lk 16:16).





## Understanding Your Students

The purpose of this lesson is to help young children understand baptism better. Why did Jesus get baptized? Why should we do it today and why does God want us to be baptized? These are the questions that should be addressed during the lesson.

Many of the students probably do not remember their own baptism, as they were likely baptized when they were still babies. So a lot of this information may not seem all that relevant to them. But luckily, children at this age are full of curiosity and would love to learn more about details. This will be a good opportunity to introduce how John, step by step, baptized Lord Jesus. If there is a video available from other members who have recorded their family's baptisms

(babies as well as grown ups), work in some time during the lesson to show the footage. It is a good way for the students to really see what is going on. It is also a helpful tool to explain step by step how baptism is performed in the True Jesus Church and why it is so significant.

Also, you might want to take some time to explain to the children that Jesus did not need to be baptized since He was a sinless man. He did not need to wash away His sins through receiving baptism. However, He insisted on doing so to set an example for us. This may help the students to see how important water baptism is. But do explain that everyone else on earth needs to be baptized because we are all full of sin. Only water baptism in the correct mode can wash and cleanse us from our sin and give us a place in heaven.



## Vocabulary

### **Baptize**

to be completely covered in water for the forgiveness of sins

### **Preacher**

someone who tells others about God

### **Honor**

a special privilege

### **Sin**

the wrong things we do



## Before You Teach

The Lord Jesus was definitely someone who had the foresight to see the significance of Him being baptized by John. He understood that even though He was sinless, He needed to set the example for others. Look at how many different baptism methods are out there in the Christian world today. It can be confusing for our students to understand that there is only one way to receive the true baptism for one's sins to be forgiven. It is possible that in the future, they may have opportunities at school to talk with their Christian friends about how they got baptized. When such a time comes, will their young minds be clear enough to explain to others why they should get baptized the way we do in the True Jesus Church? Therefore, it is important for them to see how Lord Jesus received His baptism to set an example for us.

It is recorded in the Book of Matthew that as Jesus came up from the water, the heavens were opened to Him. The spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him, and God said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God clearly showed His approval and declared that Jesus was his beloved Son.

The same applies to us today—in order to belong to Christ, we need to repent and have our sins washed away through water baptism. As teachers, we need to be fully convinced of the effectiveness of the water baptism that is performed in the True Jesus Church so that we can talk to the children about what an effective baptism is and its significant meanings. Then when the time comes, they will not waver but will rather be able to stand up for their beliefs. They need to know that they are not being narrow-minded by insisting on the baptism our church performs, but rather, they are proclaiming the truth as recorded in the Bible.



## Bible Story

### Dirty and Clean

Before going into the lesson, pass out a dirty and tarnished penny to each student for them to look at. Then bring out a shiny penny and have them compare the differences. Ask the students why they think their tarnished penny lost its shine and became so dirty over time (let them share their thoughts). Once they are done sharing, have the students drop their pennies into a glass filled with water and clear vinegar (1:2 ratio) and stir for 20 to 30 seconds. Take the pennies out of the glass and dry them with a paper towel. Now, the students should be able to see how clean their pennies are. Talk about how shiny these dirty pennies have become. Tell the students that these shiny pennies represent how God wants our lives to be. How are we ever going to be clean in spirit and truly belong to God? In our Bible story today, Jesus is baptized to show us the way.

### Jesus Grows Up

Dear children, do you remember the last time we talked about Jesus? He was just a small baby. But Jesus grew and grew. It wasn't long before He was twelve years old. Where did He go when He was twelve? That's right, He went to the temple. He surprised the teachers there with all the things He knew about the Bible. Then He continued to grow and the Bible says that God's spirit was with Him all the time.

After Jesus grew up, He was ready to work for God. First, Jesus wanted to show everyone that He belonged to God. He knew that He had to be baptized. That means His whole body had to go into living water completely. Today, we are baptized because we want all of our sins to be washed away and we can become a new person in Christ. But Jesus Christ did not have any sin. So why did He need to be baptized? He did it because He wanted to give us a good example to follow. So even though He was a sinless man, he walked to the Jordan River to look for a special person to give Him the water baptism.

### John the Baptist

There was a man named John the Baptist, who

was like a preacher. Actually, he was Jesus' cousin. He went around telling people about God. He reminded people to ask for forgiveness for the things that they had done wrong. John the Baptist wanted to help people change their lives through water baptism, so that each of them could truly become a brand new person inside.

John didn't have a big house or a comfortable bed to sleep in at night. Actually, he lived outdoors in the countryside. He also chose to live on simple food, like honey and large insects called locusts (which are like grasshoppers). John wore simple clothes, made from animal skin and rough camel hair. He felt that God was all he needed, and nothing else was more important than this. As he traveled around from village to village to preach, he told people what God wanted them to know.

"You need to change," said John to some people. "God wants you to repent and change."

Some people didn't listen to him. But many other people listened to what John said.

"What should we do?" they asked him.

"Stop doing bad things," said John, "Show God that you are sorry. I will baptize everyone who wants God to forgive his or her sins. Then you will be ready to meet the Savior."

This sounded great to many people. They let John baptize them in the Jordan River.

As more and more people came to get baptized by John, they wondered if he was the Savior that they had been waiting for. When John heard them, he said to the crowd, "I am baptizing you now, but very soon someone greater than me will come. He is so great that if He asked me to carry His shoes it would be an amazing honor for me to do so." Therefore, John continued to spread the good news and baptize people.

### Jesus Asks John To Baptize Him

Then one day Jesus came to the Jordan River and asked John the Baptist to baptize him.

When John saw who it was, he said humbly, "I shouldn't baptize you, my Lord. You should baptize me!"

John did not think he was good enough to baptize Jesus. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God, the Savior who everyone was waiting for.

Then Jesus replied, "Let it be this way for now, because it is good for us to fulfill all righteous-

ness." These are hard words that Jesus said to John. But really what Jesus was saying is that it is important that John baptizes Him in the water. Jesus wanted to follow God's will and set an example to show people that it is important to get baptized to truly belong to God.

John knew that Jesus wanted him to do it, so he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Jesus came out of the water after John baptized Him. God was pleased with Jesus. As He came out of the water, an exciting thing happened. God spoke from heaven!

God said, "This is my Son. I love Him. And I am very pleased with Him."

At this time, God sent His Holy Spirit down. It came like a white dove and landed on Jesus.

John the Baptist was very excited to know that Jesus really was God's Son. This is the Savior he had been telling everyone about! John kept on telling many people about Jesus. He talked about Jesus' baptism and that God was pleased with Jesus. He told everyone, "I know, and I want all of you to know, that Jesus is the Son of God."

### **The Importance of Water Baptism**

We can learn many things about water bap-



### Check For Understanding

- 1. Where did Jesus get baptized by John the Baptist?** (He was baptized in the Jordan River.)
- 2. What was John doing before He met Jesus?** (He was preaching everywhere. He reminded people to ask for forgiveness for the things that they had done wrong through receiving water baptism.)
- 3. What did John eat and wear and where did he stay?** (He ate honey and locusts; he wore camel hair and had a leather belt; he stayed in the wilderness.)
- 4. How did John feel when Jesus asked him to baptize Him?** (John felt very humble. He knew that he was not worthy.)

tism from Jesus' example. We know from the story that Jesus came up from the water. That means His whole body had to be completely in the water during the baptism in order for Him to come up from the water again. That is why when the True Jesus Church baptizes a person, the person's body has to go into the water and be completely covered by the water. We are following the example of Jesus. And when we are completely down in the water we are getting rid of all the bad things that we have done. Our sins and mistakes are buried in the water. And as we come up from the water, we are a brand new person who truly belongs to God.

Water baptism is very important, because Jesus made sure that this was the first thing He did before He started His service for God. This is also the last thing He reminded us to do before He went up to heaven. Students, let's be determined to be God's wonderful children. Once we receive water baptism, we belong to God. Our whole body is cleansed and we are a new person. So we have to always remember to ask for God's help every day to make us strong and able to walk away from all the bad things that are going on around us.

- 5. Why did Jesus want to get baptized since He did not have any sins?** (He wanted to do His Father's will and to set an example for us.)
- 6. What did God say and do after Jesus got baptized?** (God was very happy, and said, "This is my Son. I love Him. And I am very pleased with Him." God also sent down His Holy Spirit to be with Jesus.)
- 7. How are we different after receiving water baptism?** (Our sins are forgiven. We become a brand new person who truly belongs to God.)
- 8. What does Jesus want everyone to do so that they can become a new person who belongs to God?** (He wants us to repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit and trust Him.)



## Life Application Story

### The Baptism

It is a beautiful, sunny Monday morning. John and Michelle Marsh are walking to school with their mom. Being the big sister, Michelle always likes to hold 5-year-old John's hand on the street to make sure that he is safe. Mrs. Marsh is glad to see how helpful Michelle is and usually, she stays back a bit as they walk to let Michelle guide her brother. Michelle and John also love to talk to each other. Yesterday, Michelle and John were at church all day attending the Spiritual Convocation. It just happened that John's best friend, Austin, was getting baptized with his family yesterday. So Mr. and Mrs. Marsh decided to take their children to the water baptism site for John to be a part of this special occasion for his friend.

As Michelle and John walked to school, they started to talk about what they saw at the baptism site yesterday. John was amazed to see how a baptism was performed.

He asked Michelle, "Do you remember what it was like when you got baptized? Did the pastor walk into the water like he did yesterday?"

Michelle smiled and said, "I don't remember, John. We both got baptized when we were babies. Maybe Mom can tell us later. But it was really interesting to see how Austin got baptized."

She continued, "I remember my RE teacher told us about how Jesus got baptized by John the Baptist. I think it was in the Jordan River. So, I know that Pastor Chen was following Jesus' example when he went into the river to baptize people."

John asked, "Do you think Austin was afraid of the water? It looked so cold, and his whole body was covered in the water. I was scared that he wasn't going to get up."

"But he did within seconds, John! And remember Austin's big smile after he got up from the water? My RE teacher said that through water baptism, our sins are washed away. So we can truly be God's children and make good choices every day," Michelle added.

"Then maybe we should get baptized every time we have a spiritual convocation," John said

excitedly.

"Um, I don't think we are supposed to," said Michelle, unsure of herself.

Mrs. Marsh had been listening to their conversation from behind as they walked.

"You know what, John, your sister is right. We only need to get baptized once in our lifetime. Once is enough for everyone. That's why it's important to do right things every day and not make Jesus sad," said Mrs. Marsh.

"But what if I forget and do something wrong?" asked John in a worried tone.

"Well, we can ask Jesus to forgive us. We need to tell Him that we are sorry for what we did and try our best not to do it again next time," answered Michelle. John nodded his head to show that he understood.

"Oh, one more thing. We can also help each other by reminding each other to be good all the time," added Michelle.

"That's right," said Mrs. Marsh. "That way, we can all be God's wonderful children. And you know what? We can go home after school and watch the baptism video. Then you will both know how you got baptized."

"That's a good idea," said Michelle as they turned to the school entrance. "Let's walk faster now. We don't want to be late for school today."

Mrs. Marsh smiled and kissed them both goodbye as they headed to class.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What were Michelle and John talking about when they walked to school together?** (They talked about water baptism, and how it was done.)
2. **Do you remember what it was like when you got baptized? If not, have you ever seen others being baptized? How did you feel?** (Encourage children to share. Answers may vary.)
3. **How did Austin feel when he got up from the water?** (Austin was very happy and had a big smile on his face.)
4. **How are we different after being baptized?** (Our sins are washed away, and we become children of God.)
5. **How should our behavior change after we get baptized?** (We should make good choices and do the right things every day.)





## Activity 1

### John Baptizes Jesus Christ

Look at the picture. Answer the following questions and color the picture.

1. Which one is John the Baptist?
2. Which one is Jesus?
3. What happened after Jesus came up from the water?
4. Can you draw a picture of a dove coming from the sky?



## Activity 2

### Following God

John the Baptist taught people to follow God and change their bad ways. In the pictures below, which ones are following God and which ones are disobeying God? Put an "X" over the bad examples. Then talk about what they can do differently next time.

1. Two children are playing ball and break a window. They think it is funny and run away (X). They should be more careful where they play ball. If it happens again, they should apologize and ask what they can do to help.
2. A girl cuts in the line at the bus stop even though there is a really long line (X). She should wait her turn at the stop like everyone else. She can pray to God to ask for more patience.
3. There is only one Bible left in the room so the two children share the book.
4. The two friends share the big chicken drumstick with each other at dinner time.



## Activity 3

### White Doves

#### Materials:

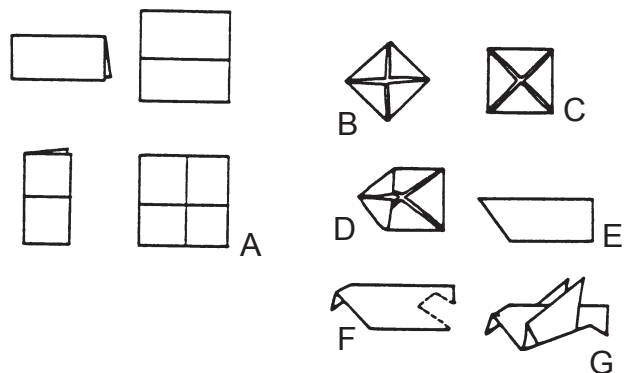
1. white origami paper (or white paper cut into squares)
2. sequins or beads for eyes (2 per student)
3. glue
4. thread and needle

#### Directions:

1. Provide each student with a piece of origami

paper.

2. Guide the students to fold the dove. Diagrams are included below.
3. Fold the square in half, and then open it.
4. Fold the square in half again the other way. When you open it, you should have four equal squares (A).
5. Fold each corner toward the center (B).
6. Without unfolding the square, turn the paper in such a way that shape made by the flaps looks like an "x" shape (C).
7. Fold the top left and bottom left corners so they meet in the middle (you will need to pull out the corners a bit, D).
8. Fold the top section down so the flaps are all on the inside (E).
9. Fold the left tip down to form a beak (F).
10. Cut out a section as shown (F).
11. Fold a wing up. Turn the bird over and fold up the other wing (G).
12. Glue a sequin on each side for eyes.
13. Use the needle to poke a hole in the dove's back and push a thread through it. Knot thread.
14. Hang the dove in the classroom or on a bedroom ceiling to remind the students about this story.
15. As the students are engaged in this activity, talk about the importance of being baptized and the receiving of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down upon Him like a dove. The Holy Spirit came to prepare Jesus for the work He was to do. The dove was a symbol of the gentleness and the purity of the Holy Spirit. When we receive the Holy Spirit, it is our guarantee that we will go to heaven.





*Activity 6:1*

## John Baptizes Jesus Christ

Look at the picture. Answer the following questions:

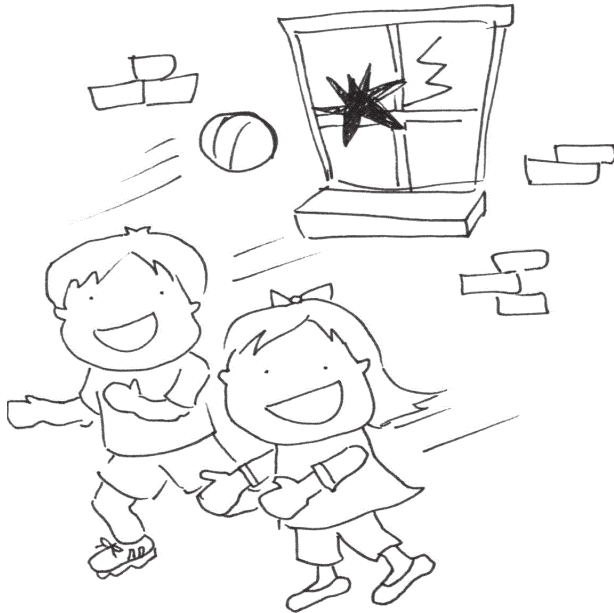
1. Which one is John the Baptist?
2. Which one is Jesus?
3. What happened after Jesus came up from the water?
4. Can you draw a picture of a dove coming from the sky?



Activity 6:2

## Following God

John the Baptist taught people to follow God and change their bad ways. In the pictures below, which ones are following God and which ones are disobeying God? Put an "X" over the bad examples. Then talk about what they can do differently next time.



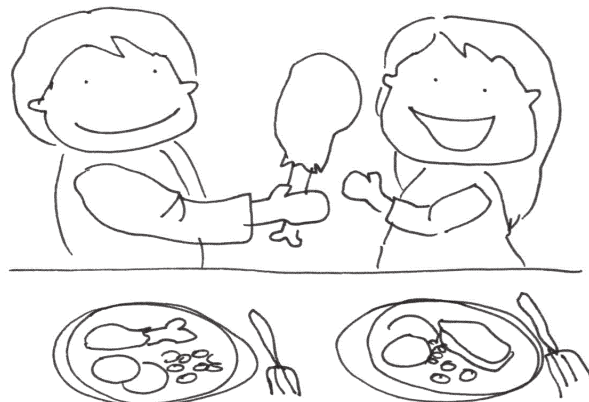
1. Two children are playing ball and break a window. They think it is funny and run away.



2. A girl cuts in the line at the bus stop even though there is a really long line.



3. There is only one Bible left in the room so the two children share the book.



4. The two friends share the big chicken drumstick with each other at dinner time.

# Jesus Calls His Disciples

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- colored construction paper
- footprint pattern
- glue
- scissors
- markers
- fish pattern
- paper clips
- black crayon
- sponges
- tempera paint
- paper plates



### Scriptures

Lk 5:1-11

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Peter, Andrew, John and James gave up their jobs as fishermen and became disciples of Jesus

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To be good followers of Jesus by identifying ways they can imitate Jesus

### Memory Verse

"From now on you will catch men."  
(Lk 5:10)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is a large body of water thirteen miles long and eight miles wide, surrounded by hills. The lake is noted for its sudden and violent storms. At least nine populated cities stood on its shores. Capernaum and Bethsaida, centers of the fishing industry, were two of these cities.

Fishermen on the Sea of Galilee used nets, often bell shaped with lead weights around the edges, to make their catch. A net was thrown flat on the water, and the lead weights caused it to sink and cover the fish. The fisherman then pulled up on a cord, drawing the net around the fish. Nets had to be kept in good condition, so they were washed to remove weeds and mended if there was the need.

Here on the Sea of Galilee was where Jesus Christ called His first four disciples to follow Him. Simon Peter and his brother Andrew were chosen first, and then Jesus called James and John. Peter, Andrew, James and John were commercial fishermen. They owned their own boats, and fished to

earn a living.

When Peter witnessed the miracle that Jesus performed, he recognized that following Jesus was the most important thing he could do. Peter and three others responded wholeheartedly to Jesus' calling, for "they forsook, and followed Him" (Lk 5:11). The fishermen all left their commitments to follow Jesus as He preached, taught, and healed.

### The First Disciples

Jesus Christ chose twelve disciples in all. The word "disciple" comes from a Latin root. Its basic meaning is "learner" or "pupil." In Matthew 10:2, the disciples are referred to as apostles, delegating greater responsibility and authority. The English word "apostle" comes from the Greek term "apostolos" which means messenger, or ambassador. It refers to someone who is sent on behalf of another, in this case, on behalf of Jesus Christ. According to Matthew 10:2-4, the twelve disciples were: Simon Peter, Andrew, James (son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot. The names are recorded in pairs, probably because they were sent out that way.



## Understanding Your Students

This week's lesson is about how Lord Jesus called some fishermen to follow Him. Your students will probably understand how Peter, Andrew, James, and John physically left their fishing nets to follow Jesus, but they will need your help to realize that following Jesus means more than just following a leader in a game. It means doing what He wants us to do according to His will.

Children at this age tend to admire others who are stronger, smarter, more beautiful etc., and want to do the same things that these people are doing. It is important to gear the children to think about the kind

of people they should imitate. You should also talk about why Peter, Andrew, James, and Peter chose to follow Jesus, but not anyone else. How can we be like the disciples who truly followed Jesus?

Throughout the lesson, explain what the word "follow" means. Use other words such as "obey" or "copy" to illustrate its meanings. When the students copy or imitate your actions during hymns or rhymes, remind them that they are following your actions and doing what you want them to do. You can also ask students why it would be a good idea to follow Jesus, and what they can do to follow Him. What kinds of things would Jesus want us to copy Him in? (e.g. the way He treated His earthly parents, the way He prayed to God, the way He cared for others who were sick or had no friends etc.)



## Vocabulary

### Frustrated

to be mad and upset at the same time

### Greet

to say hello to someone

### Miracle

something amazing God does that no one else

can do; like when someone who is about to die gets well or when someone who can't walk can walk again

### Sinful

to be full of sin; sin is anything that we have done wrong; if we have sinned in the past, we should ask God to forgive us

### Disciples

they were Jesus' students who chose to follow Him and to listen to His teachings



## Before You Teach

While preparing for this lesson, it is a good time to reflect upon the question, "What does it really mean to follow Jesus?" Looking into the dictionary, to "follow" means to pursue after, to seek, to accept as authority, and to imitate. Jesus wants us to pursue after Him; to seek Him with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind; to accept Him as the authority in our life and submit to His plan; and to imitate Him—that is, to be more like Him and follow His footsteps. Have we become true followers of God ourselves?

What was it like when Peter, Andrew, James, and John first heard Jesus' calling? They didn't respond to Him the first time, but as Jesus carried out great miracles, healing the sick, helping the poor, telling people about salvation with God's wisdom, they realized that He was truly the Son of God. Thus, they made that determination to leave

everything behind to follow Lord Jesus without any reservations.

Do we respond to Jesus' calling the same way they did? Do we have doubts? How has our faith been strengthened over time so that we are able to follow Christ daily? What does it mean in today's life to follow Him? These are all good questions that help us examine our own journey of faith. We need to see the relevance of our own faith in our lives before we can strengthen others.

For this lesson, teachers could also share with the students testimonies of how other brothers and sisters follow Jesus wholeheartedly in their life. Describe the things they do so that the students can see faith in action. For example, the RE teachers follow Christ by serving God with their time and effort each week as they teach the students. Others sacrifice their time by visiting members who are sick or need encouragement. All of these are good examples for the students to imitate and appreciate as they grow older.



## Bible Story

### Jesus Begins to Preach

Last time, we talked about how Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, and God was very happy about this. He even spoke from heaven and said, "This is my Son. I love Him. And I am very pleased with Him." After Jesus was baptized, He was ready to do the work that God had sent Him to earth to do. What did God send Jesus Christ to do? He sent Jesus to earth to tell others about God and how they can know God. So Jesus started traveling from one place to another to tell people about God. That was His job.

### Jesus Comes to the Lake

Boys and girls, have you ever gone fishing with your parents or other family friends? Do you remember how many fish you caught last time? (Allow time for them to respond.) Well, let me show you something that you can use when you go fishing out on a lake. (Take out an origami sailboat that is pre-made.) Our Bible story today tells us about how Jesus used a boat and helped some fishermen catch a lot of fish.

One day Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. It was huge and beautiful. Many fishermen would try to catch fish there. Jesus walked past many boats and saw men working very hard. Some had caught a lot of fish and were emptying their nets, so that they could get ready to go back out to the waters to catch more fish. Others were taking the fish that they had caught to the markets to sell them. Jesus walked by many boats, and He finally stopped next to one that had two fishermen in it. They were Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. Peter and Andrew looked very tired and frustrated, because they had been trying to catch fish all night long but they did not catch a single one.

Peter and Andrew were very surprised when they saw Jesus standing right next to their boat. Jesus greeted them and stepped in their boat. He said, "Please row the boat away from shore a bit." So Peter rowed it away from the shore. Do you know what Jesus did after that? (Allow students to answer.) Jesus taught the people who had gathered around to listen to His teachings from the boat. When He was on the boat, there was more room for people to stand around on the shore and listen. Jesus talked about God and how much God loved them. He also told

them how to be saved.

### Jesus Tells Peter to Throw Out His Net

When He finished teaching, He turned to Peter and said, "Row out to the deep water and let your net down." Jesus asked Peter to do this because He was trying to help him catch some fish.

But Peter said, "We were fishing all last night. We didn't catch anything. But if you want me to try again, I will let down the net. I'll obey you."

So Peter listened to Jesus and rowed the boat out even more, into the deeper waters. Then Peter and his brother Andrew let down the net and waited for a little while. Then they tried to pull it up. But it was really, really heavy. They had caught so many fish that the net was starting to break. Peter and Andrew were surprised to see so many fish in the net! What would they do now? They could not pull up the net by themselves. They looked around and saw some of their fishermen friends in their boats.

"Please help us pull the net up!" they quickly asked their friends. Two of their friends, James and John came over in their boat and tried to give them a hand. Soon, with everyone's help, they eventually filled both boats with so many fish that they began to sink.

### Jesus Calls His First Disciples

Because of this great miracle, Peter knew just how special Jesus was. He had fished all night but he did not catch any fish. Now, with Jesus' help, he caught more than his boat could fit. He knelt down in front of Jesus and cried, "Lord, you shouldn't be near me; I am a sinful man!"

But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid." Then Jesus told all four of the fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, to follow Him. He said, "Come, and follow me. From now on, you will catch men." Do you know what that means? Jesus wanted them to help Him find people instead of fish. He wanted them to help teach the people about God.

Do you know what the four fishermen decided to do? Peter, Andrew, James and John all obeyed Jesus. They pulled their boats up to shore. Then they left the boats, the nets, and all the fish that they had caught. From now on, they would follow Jesus and do just what He said. So they left everything behind and followed Him.



## **We Are All Disciples of Jesus Christ**

Boys and girls, can you imagine if Jesus asked you to come follow Him? What would your answer be? Would you say yes or no? (Give students time to respond.) Maybe when Jesus asked you, you were playing with a friend. You might say, "Just a minute, Jesus, we are not done playing yet. Ask me later again, okay?" Or maybe you thought about it, then decided that there was no way that you could leave your parents and toys to follow Jesus.

It is a hard decision to make, isn't it? Well, Peter, Andrew, James and John said yes right away, because they knew that it was very important for them to help Jesus teach others about God. They were called disciples because they were Jesus' followers. Jesus also taught them about God.

Unlike these disciples, Jesus will probably not

ask us to leave our home like the four fishermen did. However, we can still be like Peter, Andrew, James, and John and follow Jesus in our every day life. How we can still follow Jesus without going away from our families? (Encourage students to share.) Yes, we can pray, sing hymns, and be a good little child of God every day by listening and obeying our parents. Most importantly, we can tell our friends about God's wonderful blessings. Following Jesus means that we choose His way instead of our way of doing things. Learning to follow Jesus is an important part of growing up. We follow Jesus by learning about Him, doing the things He wants us to do, and telling others about Him. We can be a true follower of Jesus today! We can be His disciples too.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What kind of work did Peter and Andrew do?** (They were fishermen.)
2. **Why did Jesus want to use Peter's boat?** (So the people could see and hear Him; to teach the people.)
3. **Did Peter and Andrew catch any fish when they fished the night before?** (No.)
4. **When Jesus came, what did He do to help Peter and Andrew catch many fish?** (He just asked them to put down their net.)
5. **What do you think it means when Jesus said that He wanted Peter, Andrew, John and James to find people instead of fish?**

6. **What did the fishermen do when Jesus told them to follow Him?** (They left all their things and followed Jesus.)
7. **What did Jesus and the men do after they left everything behind?** (They went to tell people about God's love.)
8. **These fishermen became Jesus' disciples. What are disciples and how can we be Jesus' disciples today?** (Disciples are followers of Jesus Christ; allow students to answer.)



### Life Application Story

#### **When I Grow Up**

One Sabbath afternoon at church, the kindergartners were having class. Mrs. Laurie was going to tell a story about Jesus. But before that, Mrs. Laurie asked the class a question.

She asked, "Who do you want to be like when you grow up?"

John raised his hand.

John said, "I want to be like my dad. He is strong and tall."

Susie raised her hand, also.

Susie said, "I want to be like my sister Anna. She's nice and helps me a lot and she's also smart."

Then Rachel raised her hand.

Rachel said, "I want to be like my preschool teacher Ms. Maribel. She knows a lot of things and she's funny."

Tommy was the last one to raise his hand.

Mrs. Laurie asked, "Who do you want to be like, Tommy?"

Tommy said, "I want to be like Superman." Everyone in the class laughed when they heard his answer.

"He's so strong, and he can do anything! He can see through things, and he can fly!" Tommy said.

"Yes, that is true but Superman is just a superhero from a book. He is not real. Even though a lot of the things we read from books or see in movies seem real, they are just make-believe. No one can fly or see through things, although they certainly can come in handy," explained Mrs. Laurie.

Susie raised her hand.

"Yes, Susie," asked Mrs. Laurie.

"So does that mean it is bad to be like Superman?"

"Well, some of the things he does are good things, like when he helps people who are in danger. In fact, all of the people whom we just thought of are really good examples. They are good examples because they all do good or nice things that make us want to copy them. But there's somebody we should all be like. Does anyone know who this someone is?"

John said shyly, "Is it Jesus?"

"Very good John! Yes, we should all be like Jesus and follow Him."

Tommy asked, "But is Jesus stronger than Superman?"

Mrs. Laurie said, "Remember that Superman isn't real; he is just made up by people. Jesus is

God. He can do anything."

Then Rachel asked, "Does Jesus know even more than my teacher?"

Mrs. Laurie smiled and answered, "Jesus knows everything. He even knows what we are thinking and how we feel."

Susie asked, "Is Jesus nicer than my sister Anna?"

Mrs. Laurie said, "Jesus is the nicest person there is. Jesus loves us and takes care of us. And He wants us to follow His example because He is always kind and loving. Do you want to follow Him?"

Everybody agreed that they should be like Jesus and follow Him. Then, they said this hymn together:

"Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus,  
Anywhere, everywhere, I will follow Him.  
Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus.  
Anywhere He leads me I will follow on."

### Questions to Think About

1. **Who do you want to be like when you grow up?** (Allow students to answer.)
2. **Why does Jesus want us to follow Him?** (Because we can become children of God and we can find peace and joy in life.)
3. **What does it mean for us to follow Jesus?** (Allow students to answer; some possibilities are: we need to be baptized, we need to go to church, we need to pray, we need to go to class.)
4. **How should our behaviors change once we decide to follow Jesus?** (Answers may vary; students should be encouraged to imitate Jesus; e.g. helping others, obeying their parents, praying to God.)



### Activity 1

#### Jesus and His Disciples

Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order.

1. Jesus on the boat;
2. Nets are cast down;
3. Catch a lot of fish;
4. Drop things to follow Jesus.



### Activity 2

#### I Will Follow Jesus

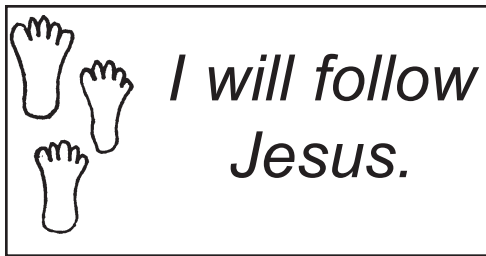
Materials:

1. colored construction paper (1 per student)
2. footprint pattern
3. scissors
4. glue

5. markers

Directions:

1. Photocopy the footprint pattern for each student (each will need all three).
2. Allow each student to choose one colored construction paper.
3. Have them cut out the footprints.
4. Then place the footprints on the construction paper so as to create a walking pattern (see diagram). Be sure to leave enough room to write, "I will follow Jesus."
5. Glue the footprints on the paper and use a marker to write down the words.
6. During the activity, talk about how they can follow Jesus, just as the fishermen did.



Activity 3

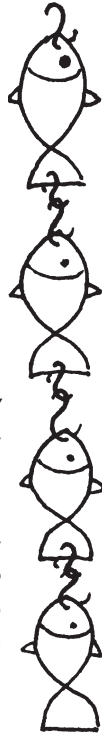
**Hanging Fish**

Materials:

1. fish pattern
2. scissors
3. markers
4. paper clips

Directions:

1. Give each student a fish pattern page. Have the students color the fish.
2. Have the students cut out the fish. They can glue the entire page onto construction paper first (before they cut the fish out) to make the fish more sturdy.
3. Help the students string the fish together by putting a paper clip through the "nose" and "tail" of each fish. Do this in turn for all the fish so that there is a string of fish.



Optional Activities

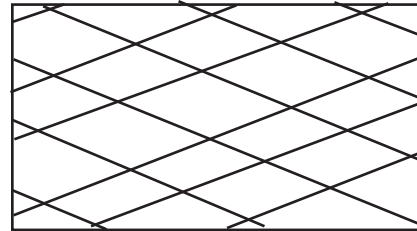
**Fish in the Net**

Materials:

1. thick black crayons
2. blue construction paper
3. sponges (cut into fish shapes)
4. tempera paint in various colors
5. paper plates

Directions:

1. Give each student a piece of blue construction paper.
2. Give each student a black crayon and have them produce a netting pattern on their paper (see diagram).



3. Pour some paint onto the paper plates. Have each child dip the fish-shaped sponge onto the paint and blot the sponge onto the construction paper. This will produce a fish pattern over the netting.
4. Let the students continue to dip and blot until they have many fish that have been "caught in the net."
5. As the students are engaged in this activity, review how the fishermen caught fish for a living. Then after they met Jesus, Jesus told them to follow Him and help Him catch people instead. How can we help to "catch people"?

**Follow the Leader**

Allow each student to take a turn at being the leader. They can choose an action and the rest of the class must follow that action. Help the students brainstorm some ideas first (e.g. clapping their hands, hopping on one foot, tiptoeing around the room).

Activity 7:1

### Jesus and His Disciples

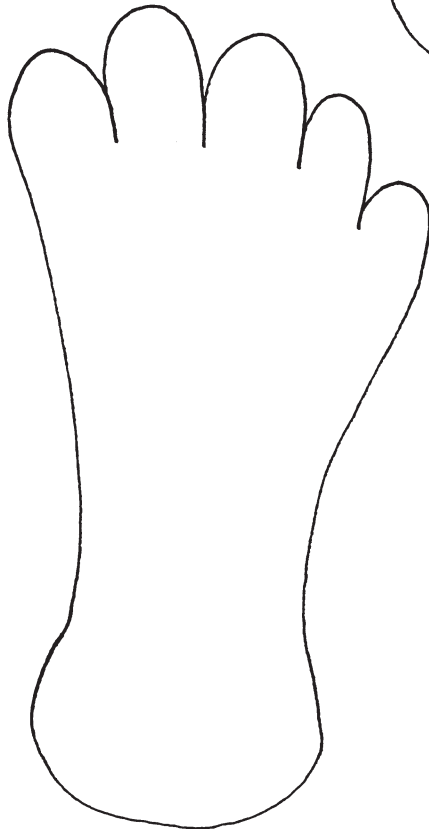
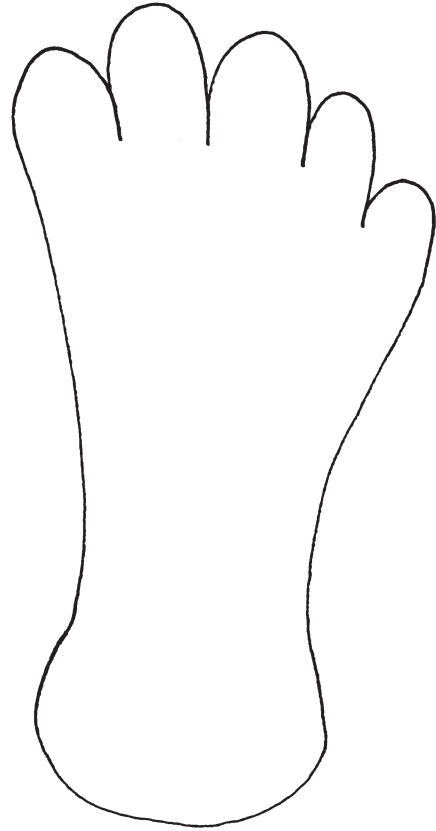
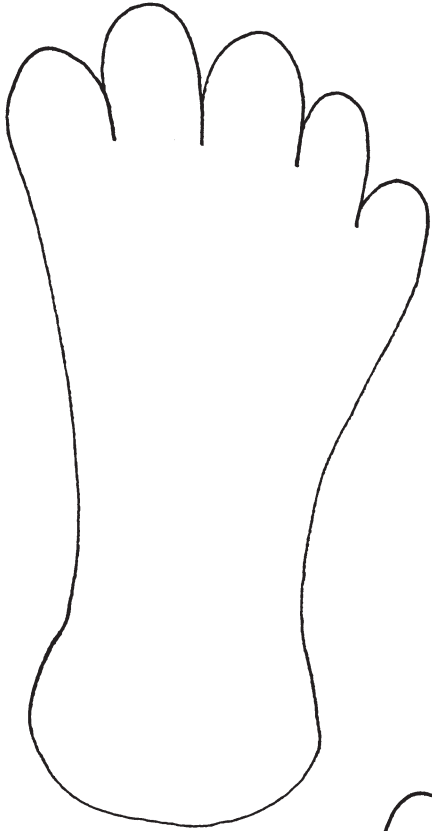
Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order by filling in the numbers.



Activity 7:2

# I Will Follow Jesus

Footprint pattern

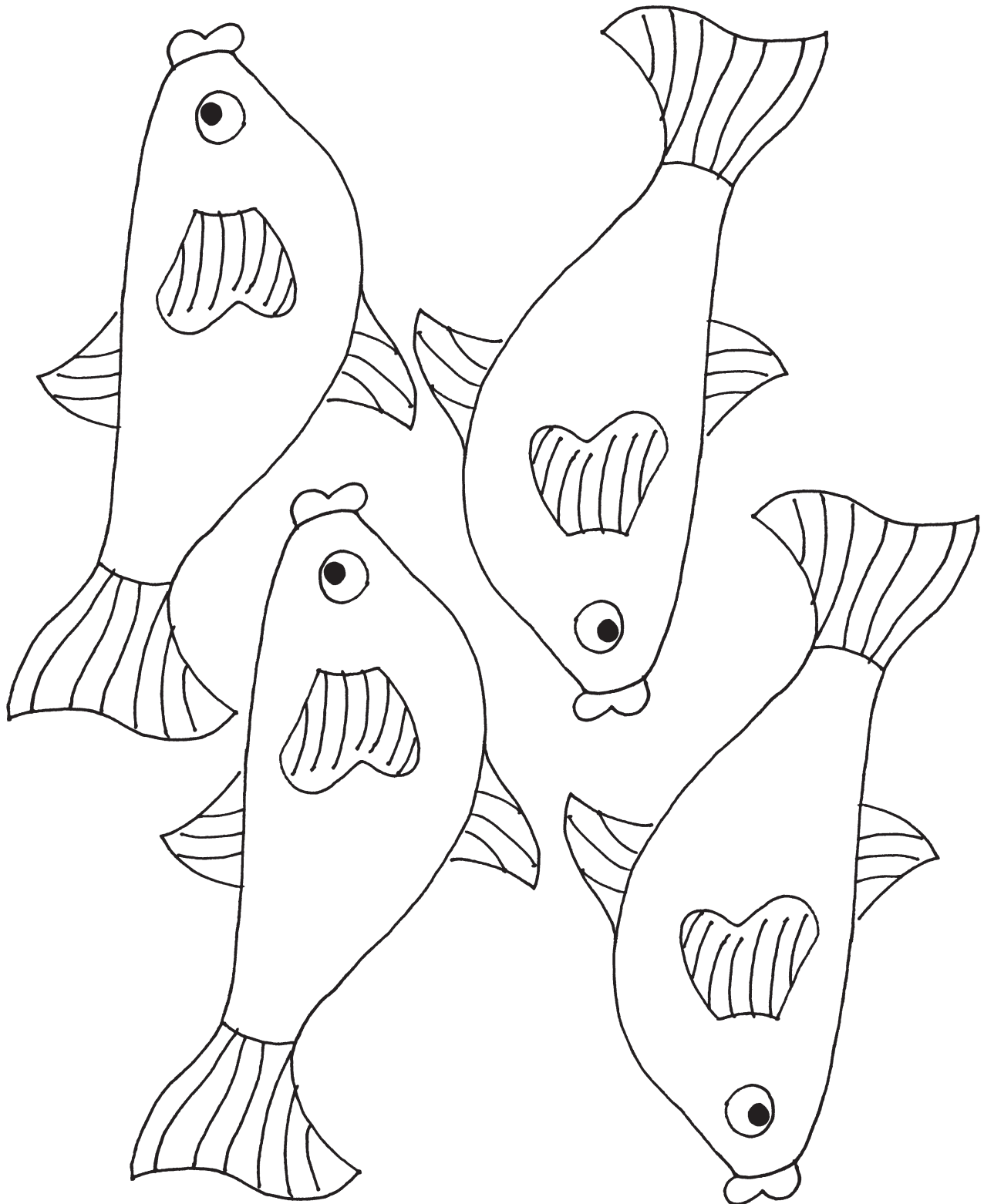




Activity 7:3

## Hanging Fish

*Fish pattern*



# Jesus Sees Nathanael

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- newspaper
- tape
- scissors
- brown and green paint
- paint brushes



### Scriptures

Jn 1: 43-49

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus always knows where we are, what we are doing, what we are thinking, and cares for us

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify the different times and ways God sees what we are doing

### Memory Verse

"Fear God and keep His commandments."  
(Ecc 12:13)



## Bible Knowledge

### Philip

Philip was called to follow Jesus the day after Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John were called. He was instrumental in bringing his friend Nathanael to Christ (Jn 1:43-36). His home town was Bethsaida (Jn 1:44). This was the Bethsaida of Galilee (Jn 12:21), the hometown of Andrew and Simon Peter, and is thought to have been a fishing village on the west shore of the lake. In the lists of the apostles (in Mt 10:3, Mk 3:14; Lk 6:14) he is placed fifth in order, with Bartholomew sixth (who is speculated to be Nathanael).

It is very possible that Philip had received the testimony from Andrew and Simon Peter concerning Jesus' wonderful deeds. His eagerness to introduce Jesus to others is admirable. Philip's invitation for Nathanael to "Come and see," is an illustration of personal evangelism. Of the four Gospels, Philip appears most often in the Gospel of John. He is known as a link to the Greek-speaking Jewish community. Philip introduces many members of this community to Jesus. Philip of Bethsaida is not to be

confused with Philip the evangelist (Acts 21:8, 9), who taught and baptized the eunuch of Ethiopia. He also had four daughters who prophesied (Acts 8).

### Nathanael

The name Nathanael means "gift of God," and it occurs only in John 1:45-51 and 21:2. He seems to be one of the twelve disciples and he has also been identified as Bartholomew. Bartholomew is next to Philip in the lists of the Twelve (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:14).

Nathanael is a wise and cautious man who truly feared God and tried to live according to His word after knowing Christ. Jesus revealed His omniscience to him. He was aware of Nathanael when he sat under a fig tree in prayer and meditation. Jesus praised Nathanael for his pure and simple faith, for believing that He was the Son of God and the King of Israel. Jesus promised that he would see greater things, such as heaven opening, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man (Jn 1: 51). Nathanael later confessed along with Philip that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah.



## Understanding Your Students

God is omnipresent. We should explain to the students that God is not just in church. He is everywhere—on the street, in the park, at school, at home, and in all other places. That means we can talk to Him wherever we are, and whenever we need His help. Our parents may not be with us all the time, but God is always with us. He knows everything about us and wants to help us at any time.

Assure your students that they do not need to be afraid of God. He is happy when we make the right

choices, and listen to our parents and teachers. When we do make a mistake, we can sincerely ask God to forgive the wrong things we have done. Since God knows every little thought we have in our hearts, there are no secrets before Him. God knows everything, even things we think others cannot see or hear. Even if we are alone in our room or whisper something quietly to another person, God knows all that. Talk about why it is good that God knows all about us, and how we should behave since God knows all about our thinking. Point out that He will do what is best for us because He understands what we need.



## Vocabulary

### **Messiah**

Messiah means Savior, someone who saves people; Jesus is the Messiah

### **Truth**

what is real and correct

### **Disciples**

the followers or students of Jesus; they learn from Jesus

### **Pure**

clean; when there is nothing dirty



## Before You Teach

Philip was from Bethsaida, the same city as his friend Andrew. They were both disciples of John the Baptist who preached of the Savior who was to come. Once Philip received the calling from Jesus, he was ready to accept Christ as the Master in his heart. When Jesus found him, Philip knew that this must be the long-awaited Messiah whom he had been praying for. He also realized how blessed and privileged he was to become Jesus' disciple.

Feeling happy and excited, Philip couldn't wait to find his friend Nathanael to share in his joy. Philip and Nathanael were of one mind and heart in wanting to serve God. In fact, before Philip came to him, Nathanael was praying in the hidden cover of the branches of a fig tree, seeking God's wisdom and guidance.

Philip knew his friend of great faith would rejoice when he heard, "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." But Nathanael didn't seem to be excited at all. On the contrary, he was skeptical toward the whole thing and felt that Philip had accepted Jesus too quickly

without confirming all the facts. Nevertheless, after Nathanael's personal encounter with Jesus, his simple faith and honest personality allowed him to discover that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

We can compare this story to that of Naaman, a great commander of the army who desperately sought ways to heal his leprosy (2 King 5:1-27). But when he was given a cure, he rejected God's help. The prophet Elisha told him the way to be cured was to simply wash himself in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman was angry and skeptical at first. He didn't believe it could be so easy and he wasn't sure he wanted to accept God. Fortunately, Naaman was convinced to at least give it a try. He did not regret the result. The leprous general who visited Elisha was cured, and converted to the Lord in the end.

Today, how do we keep our faith pure and simple so that we can also receive the great blessings Nathanael and Naaman did? It is important to emphasize to the children that there are no secrets before God. He knows everything about us. We just need to remember to rely on Him, and believe that He has the power and solutions to our problems. A pure and simple faith is very precious in the eyes of God.



## Bible Story

### **Jesus Knows Everything About Us**

Dear children, did you know that there are some things only God knows, such as what people are thinking inside of their brains? (Ask students to turn to their neighbor without talking, and give them 10 seconds to just look at each other. After 10 seconds, ask them to raise their hand if they know what their neighbor was thinking about in the past 10 seconds.) Share and point out that we can see how our friends are on the outside, but it is hard to even guess what they are thinking about inside. However, our almighty God has that special power. He knows how each of us feels on the inside. He knows if we feel happy, sad, angry, or glad. He knows every little thought we have and what we need in our everyday life. He knew us even before we were born! In today's story we are going to learn about a person who was amazed by how much Jesus knew.

From our last story, do you remember who became Jesus' first four disciples? They were Peter, Andrew, John and James. Raise your hand if you remember what they were doing when Jesus walked to their boat. (Allow time for student response.) Jesus knew that Peter and his brother Andrew tried to fish all night without even catching one tiny fish. Jesus helped them catch a lot of fish, and asked them to come follow Him.

Jesus wanted everyone to hear about God. He wanted some helpers to work with Him and help Him spread the good news and teach the people. That is why He chose Peter, Andrew, John and James to follow Him. And the fishermen decided to follow Jesus and help Him. But Jesus still needed more helpers. Let's find out who Jesus is going to call to be His followers.

### **Jesus Goes to Galilee**

Jesus went to a place called Galilee. It wasn't long before He found Philip. Philip had already heard who Jesus was. He was ready in his heart to have Jesus be his Master and Teacher. So when Jesus found him, He asked him to be one of His special disciples and helpers.

Jesus said, "Follow Me."

Philip was so happy! He couldn't believe that Jesus wanted him to be a disciple! Do you know what he did right away? Philip ran to tell his good friend Nathanael. He couldn't wait to share this exciting news, and he wanted Nathanael to meet Jesus too. After looking for a while, he finally found his friend sitting under a fig tree, praying.

### **Philip Preaches to Nathanael**

As soon as Philip saw Nathanael, he shouted, "Nathanael! We found Him! He is the one Moses wrote about in the Law. He is the Messiah. Jesus is from Nazareth. He is God!"

Nathanael laughed and said, "Nazareth? Can anything holy and good come from a place like Nazareth?" Nathanael could not believe his friend Philip's words. Even though Nathanael believed in God, he wasn't sure that Jesus was really the Savior.

But Philip was so excited, he tugged at his friend's arm, and said "Come and see for yourself, my friend!"

Nathanael got up and went with Philip. But he was sure that it was a mistake. The man Philip told him about couldn't possibly be God. He felt that Philip was not being careful at all.

"Nothing good has ever come from Nazareth. The Messiah God promised must come from an important place, like Jerusalem. How could Philip accept someone as the Messiah just like that?" Nathanael thought to himself.

Boys and girls, what do you think will happen next in the story? Do you think that Nathanael is going to change his mind about Jesus? What do you think Jesus will tell Nathanael when He sees him? (Encourage students to share and predict.)

### **Nathanael Meets Jesus**

As Philip and Nathanael walked toward Jesus, Jesus looked Nathanael straight in the eye.

Jesus said to him, "You are a man from Israel who always tells the truth."

Nathanael stared at Jesus. How did this man know what he was like? Nathanael had never seen this man. Yet the man knew all about Him. Nathanael asked surprisingly, "How do you know about me?"

Jesus answered with a loving and gentle voice, "I saw you sitting under the fig tree even before Philip talked to you."

Right away Nathanael's heart jumped. He thought to himself, "Only someone with the power of God could have known this. Jesus knew that I was praying in secret and beneath the branches of the fig tree. Jesus must be the Son of God who can do the things God can do!"

Then Nathanael immediately cried out, "Teacher, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel."

Jesus was very touched by Nathanael's pure and simple faith. He said to Nathanael, "You have accepted me just because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree. Your pure and simple faith will allow you to see even greater things in the

future."

From that day on, Nathanael became a faithful follower of Jesus just like his friend, Philip.

Today's story teaches us that God is the Creator of all the people. He knows everything about us and He knows exactly what we are thinking. For example, you may have tried to do something in secret, and maybe your parents don't know about it, but God knows. There is really no secret between you and God! And because of this, all of us should watch what we say and what we do all the time, so that God can be very proud of us, and be our help whenever we need Him.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What did Jesus ask Philip to become?** (He asked Philip to become His disciple.)
2. **Why did Philip run to find his friend Nathanael?** (Philip discovered that Jesus was the Messiah that they had been waiting for. He felt very honored that Jesus asked him to be one of His helpers. He also wanted to share the wonderful news with his friend so that he could know who the Messiah is.)
3. **What did Philip say to his friend Nathanael?** (He said, "I just talked to Jesus; He is the one Moses wrote about in the Law. He is the Son of God.")

4. **What did Nathanael say when Philip asked him to go see Jesus?** ("Has anything good ever come from Nazareth?")
5. **What was Nathanael so surprised about when Jesus started talking to him?** (Jesus knew all about him even though they had never met before.)
6. **What did Jesus know about Nathanael before they met?** (Jesus knew that Nathanael had been sitting under a fig tree; He knew where Nathanael was from and what he was like.)
7. **Jesus knows everything about us, even what we are thinking. We cannot hide things from Him. How should we behave since God knows everything?** (Students' answers may vary.)



### Life Application Story

#### Julie's Big Secret

Julie and her cousin Michelle, who was visiting for the afternoon, were playing by a small creek near the house. They were looking for special rocks. Both of them were barefoot. Soon, Michelle heard a loud, "Whoopee!"

"Michelle! Michelle! Come here!" Julie said

excitedly.

Michelle ran quickly to Julie. Julie showed her a very beautiful rock. It was an almost see-through rock and had red and green spots on it.

Michelle said, "What a beautiful rock, Julie! Are you going to bring it home to keep?"

"Of course, Michelle, I'm going to let my other friends at school see this beautiful rock, too," Julie added. "But I wonder where I should hide it at home. I don't want my brother Tommy to touch it at all."



Michelle thought for a moment and then her eyes lit up. She said excitedly to Julie, "I know! You can keep it in the Secret Treasure Box!"

"Great idea!" Julie said.

They ran back to Julie's house. When they got into Julie's room, they both lowered their voices and said, "Shh... Let's keep it a secret."

Julie took out the Secret Treasure Box and the key that opened it. They were ready to put this special rock in the Treasure Box when, all of a sudden, they heard a noise. It was coming from the closet! Julie and Michelle looked at each other. Then Julie got up, walked slowly over and opened her closet door. It was Tommy, her little brother!

"What are you doing in my closet?" Julie questioned.

"I wanted to see what you two were doing," Tommy said.

"Well, we're doing something secret. We don't want you to see so you better leave my room now," Julie demanded.

Tommy said, "I already saw your rock, and I saw your Secret Treasure Box, too. I peeked through this little gap. So it's not a secret anymore."

Julie was mad. How could her brother hide in her room and look at her stuff? She ran down the stairs to her mom, Mrs. Lewis.

"Mom! Tommy was hiding in my closet! He saw my Secret Treasure Box! He shouldn't have touched my things and peeked at my secrets," Julie screamed.

Mrs. Lewis used her calm and firm voice and said, "I agree with you, Julie, that Tommy shouldn't have hidden himself in your closet in the first place."

Mrs. Lewis turned to the stairs and called Tommy to come down. He was afraid he would get into trouble and had stayed upstairs.

"Tommy, I need you to come down, please. There is something you need to say to your sister," Mrs. Lewis said.

Tommy came down quietly. He shuffled his feet as he walked into the family room.

"I am sorry, Julie. I won't do it again," said Tommy.

"Thank you for apologizing, Tommy," said Mrs. Lewis. Then she turned to Julie. "Don't get too mad, Julie. Remember God tells us that it is

not good to stay mad for a long time. And besides, there are really no such things as secrets, you know?"

"What do you mean, Mom?" Julie asked.

Mrs. Lewis continued, "Well, no matter what, we can't keep everything totally secret. There is someone who knows everything about us. He knows everything we do. He knows how we feel. He even knows what we think."

"Who is this someone?" Julie asked curiously.

"This someone is God," Mrs. Lewis said. "And if God knows everything, that means He knows you are mad at Tommy right now. I don't think God would be happy that you're mad at your brother. I think you need to forgive your brother for being in your room so that God can be proud of you again."

Julie nodded her head. "Okay, Mom." She turned to Tommy and said, "I am sorry I got so mad at you just now. But I don't want to stay mad at you. I want God to see that I am a good big sister."

Tommy was glad that he didn't get into trouble and promised that he would ask for permission next time he wanted to see his sister's things.

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Julie upset?** (She found her brother hiding in her room and looking at her secrets.)
2. **How did Mrs. Lewis handle the situation?** (She was very calm and firm. She asked Julie and Tommy to say sorry to each other, and reminded Julie that there is someone who knows everything about us—that someone is God.)
3. **How did Julie change her attitude after talking to her mother?** (She decided to say sorry to her brother, and realized that she needed to be a better sister since God was watching her all the time.)
4. **Do you have something that is special that you don't want to share with others?** (Allow students to share.)
5. **Should we keep secrets from our parents? Why?** (We should never keep secrets from our parents. They want to help us grow and learn right from wrong. We need to share our thoughts and feelings with them. Even if we think they will get mad, we need to be honest. That is what God taught us to do.)
6. **Can we keep secrets from God?** (Allow students to answer.)



### Activity 1

#### Jesus Sees Nathanael Under the Fig Tree

Where did Jesus see Nathanael? Draw the fig tree.  
Color in the picture.



### Activity 2

#### Jesus Sees Us...

There are no secrets between us and God. Jesus sees everything. Fill in the blanks for each picture.

1. Jesus sees us when we are \_\_\_\_\_. (playing.)
2. Jesus sees us when we are \_\_\_\_\_. (sleeping)
3. Jesus sees us when we are \_\_\_\_\_. (eating.)
4. Jesus sees us when we are at \_\_\_\_\_. (school)



### Activity 3

#### Fig Trees

##### Materials:

1. newspaper
2. tape
3. green and brown paint
4. paint brushes
5. scissors

##### Directions:

1. In this activity, the students will be making "fig trees."
2. Provide each student with two pieces of newspaper.
3. Help the students roll up the paper and tape the ends together to secure the roll.
4. Show the students how to cut strips along one end of the tube. Make about six cuts, each about six inches long.
5. Now gently pull out the layers of the cut paper to form the leafy part of the tree.
6. Let the students paint their trees brown and green.
7. Talk about how Jesus saw Nathanael under the tree even before Philip brought him to meet Jesus. Only God knows everything about us.



Activity 8:1

## Jesus Sees Nathanael Under the Fig Tree

Where did Jesus see Nathanael? Draw in your own fig tree. Color in the picture.





# Jesus Cares For Us

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



### Scriptures

Mt 6:25-34; Lk 12:22-31

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus loves and cares for each one of us; He will provide according to our needs

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways Jesus takes care of our daily needs

### Memory Verse

"For He cares for you." (1 Pet 5:7)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Sermon on the Mount

Today's lesson is based on a passage from the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' longest recorded sermon, found in Matthew 5-7. He began with the famous Beatitudes, which described the traits Jesus was looking for in His followers. Then He continued to talk about the function of the disciples ("the salt and light of the world"). Jesus also included His interpretation of the law in this sermon ("murder and adultery begin in the heart" and "loving your enemies"). Jesus concludes with a long discourse on the attitude of His followers ("do not worry" and "ask, seek and knock"). The central theme of the sermon is, "You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt 5:48). As Jesus further explained, perfection does not mean sinless; it indicates completeness, wholeness, and maturity—being all God wants us to be.

Throughout the message, Jesus talked about what the marks of Christ's citizens are. He also mentioned the standards of the kingdom, which is

to love God and our neighbor. Most importantly, Jesus urged us to set correct priorities and stop worrying, understanding God's promise of daily provision. When we trust God, we will be free to give ourselves to serve Him with singleness of purpose. Then we will be able to place the concerns of His kingdom first, rather than being anxious about lesser things.

Even though Jesus had directed much of this sermon toward His disciples, many in the crowd who heard these words were amazed. They saw a man who spoke with authority and knowledge (see Mt 7:21-23). They had heard rabbis and other teachers in the past who had passed on traditions from generation to generation. But Jesus here talks directly about God's kingdom and how His followers could give glory to Him.

In today's lesson, Jesus commands us not to worry about our daily living, or about what we are going to eat or drink. Rather, we should set the priority on seeking the kingdom of God, for everything else shall be given to us. Jesus emphasized the importance of making God the Lord and King of our life.





## Understanding Your Students

Children at this age become restless and inattentive if they are asked to sit quietly for more than 5 to 10 minutes. To help them see how God takes care of the flowers, the trees, the birds, and all other living things in a more interactive way, you can invite them to go on an "Imaginary Garden Walk" with you.

Ask your students to stand up carefully and get ready to walk around the garden with you. Say, "Let's pretend we're going for a walk in a beautiful garden to see some amazing things God has made." Stop occasionally and point to an imaginary woodpecker pecking at the tree trunk, looking for worms to eat; a busy little bee flying here and there trying to gather nectar from the flowers; or a cute squirrel jumping from one oak tree to another, picking up acorns to eat. Encourage the children to use large muscle actions such as hopping, skipping, jumping, etc. as they "tour" the garden.

Once the walk is over, ask the students to sit

down. You can talk about the different things that they saw in the imaginary garden, and what the animals were doing. Ask them questions, such as, "Did they have food to eat, or a home to go back to?" Point out that God takes care of everything in His creation.

Also take some time to talk about what "worry" means, and what kind of worries are on the little ones' minds. Even young children may already worry about things in their daily life: family members being sick, parents not getting along, or being bullied at school. It is important to understand what your students are worried about, and acknowledge their feelings, because they are very real to them. Most importantly, encourage them with today's story to let them understand God's unfailing care. During the concluding prayer, you may also ask each student to share one thing that they are concerned about. Then pray together about these things, and trust that the Lord will take care of every need. After the prayer, recite the memory verse aloud with the students: "For He cares for you" (1 Pet 5:7).



## Vocabulary

### **Amazing**

something that is great; we have a hard time believing it

### **Worried**

to feel unhappy or sad because there are things bothering us



## Before You Teach

Although we all know and understand that Jesus loves us, and how He provides for us, how many of us are able to live our life completely worry-free? How we can truly live without worries? The Bible tells us that only faith can free us from the anxiety of not having enough, or that things may go wrong in our life. We should be assured that God promises to supply, and His promises never fail.

When things are not going the way we want

them to, it is all right to be concerned, but we should not worry. The difference is that worry immobilizes us. We may spend a great deal of time thinking about the problem but nothing gets done. Even worse is that worriers are consumed by fear and find it difficult to trust God. However, genuine concern moves us to action. Planning for tomorrow is time well spent; worrying about tomorrow is time wasted. God likes us to plan ahead, but we also need to trust God's guidance after the planning takes place. When planning is done right, it helps lessen our worries. We should always remind ourselves to not allow worries about tomorrow affect our relationship with God today.



## Bible Story

### **Jesus Knows All Our Needs**

In the last lesson, we learned about two more

people who came to believe Jesus and followed Him. Do you remember their names? They were Philip and Nathanael. When they heard the things Jesus said to them, they knew He was the Son of God and so they decided they wanted to be His fol-

lowers.

At that time, Jesus and His followers, or disciples, would travel to many places and talk about God. Today's lesson is about one of those times when Jesus stopped somewhere to teach His followers about the kingdom of God.

Today we are going to begin our lesson with a question: can any of you share with the class a time when you were scared that no one would be there to take care of you? Maybe you got lost in a shopping mall and couldn't find your parents, or maybe one of your parents got sick and was late picking you up at school. (Give students time to respond and tell their own stories.) You know what? You're not the only ones to get scared; in fact, everyone feels the same way at times. Today's lesson is about how God knows what we're scared of and tells us that He will take care of everyone and everything.

### **Jesus Teaches on a Mountain**

One day, it happened that Jesus was teaching on a mountain. Jesus was teaching his friends, and a very big crowd of people also wanted to hear what Jesus was saying. Why do you think so many people wanted to listen to Jesus? That's right. He did amazing things like heal the sick and make the blind see. He also said many amazing things that made people think about God. Because all these people wanted to be close to Jesus, it was very crowded. The people pushed and shoved. They were all trying to hear what Jesus was saying. Do you know what Jesus was going to talk about?

We don't know exactly what Jesus was thinking at the time, but He was probably looking at the faces of His disciples and all the people around Him. He could see from their faces whether they were happy or sad, full or hungry, healthy or sick. Maybe as He was looking at everyone, He saw that so many people were not that happy. Instead, they looked a little bit worried. They looked the same way you did when you were scared that no one was going to take care of you. Some people had little lines on their foreheads and around their mouths because they wrinkled their faces in worry all the time. Others looked scared in their eyes. (Teacher may want to demonstrate the various facial expressions.) Maybe because Jesus saw that many people around Him were worried and scared, He decided to say something that would make the people feel better and safer.

### **Jesus Tells Us Not to Worry**

So Jesus began to speak and everyone became really quiet, the way you are now. He began to talk about what makes people worry. What do you think people were worried about back then? (Take responses. Help prompt the students when necessary.) Sure, they worried about the same things we worry about now- what to eat, what to wear, or losing what belonged to them.

Jesus knew exactly what they were all worried about, so He said in a calm voice, "Do not worry or be upset about anything. Do not worry about what you are going to eat when you are hungry. And do not worry about what clothes you will wear. There are many things that are more important than food and clothes."

By saying these things, Jesus sure did catch everyone's attention! Everyone was probably thinking, "What is more important than food and clothes? If we don't worry about food and clothes, what will we wear and how will we eat?" Everyone was curious about what Jesus would say next and whether what Jesus said was true.

### **Jesus Says He Will Take Care of Us**

Jesus knew that the people around Him were waiting for Him to keep talking. He also knew that He would have to show what He said was true.

As Jesus was speaking, there were birds flying through the blue sky and birds hopping on the grassy hills. They were pecking at the grass and eating. Some of the birds were bringing food home for their baby birds. Jesus may have pointed to them.

"Look at these birds," He said to the crowd. "They can't grow food for themselves. Yet God feeds them and takes care of them."

And the people looked to where Jesus was pointing and saw how true it was. The birds didn't worry about food and didn't even need to plant, but God fed them and their babies!

Then Jesus said, "Aren't you more important to God than the birds in the sky? Of course you are! Don't worry or be upset about anything. God loves you. He will take care of you!" When Jesus said that, everyone sat down and thought. They began to understand- yes, since God takes care of the birds and makes sure they have enough to eat, God will surely take care of them, whom He loves more than the birds!

## Jesus Always Takes Care of Us

Perhaps Jesus looked around some more and saw the beautiful wild flowers growing in the tall grass. What color do you think some of the flowers were? (Take students' responses and help feed their imagination.) Sure, there may have been gold flowers, dark purple flowers, light pink flowers, and sky blue flowers. Have any of you ever looked closely at a flower before? What do you see? They're beautiful, aren't they? Some have little designs on them. And some of their shapes are so pretty, it looks like they're wearing wonderful dresses or robes!

This time when Jesus spoke, He started to talk about the flowers.

"Think about the flowers," He said. "They don't sew clothes for themselves, do they? No! But look around. The richest king never had clothes as beautiful as these flowers."

Jesus' friends listened very carefully as Jesus continued, "If God gives these little flowers such beautiful clothes, don't you think He will make sure you have clothes, too? Flowers do not last very long. Sometimes, they only bloom for a night or a few

days, but God still gives them such beautiful clothes! You are even more important to God than flowers, so don't you think He will give you the clothes you need too?"

Then Jesus told the people, "Don't worry about things like food and clothes. Don't keep asking, 'What are we going to eat? What are we going to wear?' God knows you need these things. Just ask Him! He will take care of you. He loves you!"

## Look For God Instead

By the time Jesus finished speaking, the people felt better and less worried. They understood that they didn't need to worry about food or clothes. But now if they didn't need to spend so much time worrying, what would they do instead? That day, Jesus told the people what was most important in life: to look for God and get close to God instead of worrying. He said, "If you look for God and put Him first, He will make sure you have enough clothes to wear and enough food to eat. So put God first in your life, and He will take care of everything!"



## Check For Understanding

1. **What do animals need to live?** (Water, food.)
2. **What do plants need to live?** (Rain, sun, soil.)
3. **What do children need to live?** (Food, clothes, homes, families. Help the students understand that God is the One who supplies all these needs, either directly or through families and caretakers.)
4. **Can we make rain so the plants can grow?** (No, only God can make it rain, and only God can provide the water so we can water the plants.)
5. **How does God feed zoo animals?** (He provides zoo keepers to take care of all the animals.)
6. **How does God give children clothes to**

**wear?** (He gives them families who make sure the children have all they need.)

7. **In our Bible story today, Jesus tells about God's care for everything He made. God has given us trees, flowers, and birds. He makes wild flowers grow and takes care of birds. He loves us and wants us to enjoy His world. But He wants us to help take care of ourselves and take care of His world, too! How can we take care of our bodies?**

(Some possible answers: eat the food our parents give us; go to bed early; go to the doctor for check-ups and do what he says; brush our teeth; wash our hands before eating.) **How can we take care of His world?** (Some possible answers: don't waste water or food; take care of the things in the wild and nature; reuse and recycle whenever we can; don't take more than we need of anything.)



## Life Application Story

### Togo, the Dog

Susie and her brother Ben excitedly ran outside with their new golden retriever puppy, Togo. It was the first nice day out in a long time, and they had been looking forward to playing catch with him. Togo looked pretty excited too. His whiskers were perked up, his soft golden fur swayed in the wind, his big ears flopped back, and his big loveable dark eyes showed he couldn't wait for the games to begin.

Susie and Ben first started with catch. Susie and Ben threw a bright blue ball to each other and Togo tried catch it. When he did, he would bark, wag his tail and bring it to either Susie or Ben. Other times, Togo would end up chasing Susie and Ben all around the yard, which they loved. The two of them would dart between the trees to get away from Togo, but somehow Togo would always find them! The three were very happy together.

After thirty minutes of running, Ben was thirsty. "Susie, do you want some water?"

"Yes. Let's go inside," Susie said, panting hard.

After Susie finished her water, she poured some water into a bowl for Togo. Susie thought that Togo would want something to drink too.

"Togo!" Susie called. She whistled and put the bowl of water by the door. But where was Togo?

Susie called again, "Togo! Togo! Come on, boy!"

Susie began to get worried. She ran out and looked behind the bushes. Togo was not there. Susie looked behind the fence. Togo was not there. Susie went to the front porch and looked under the bench. Togo wasn't there either. Susie felt her stomach turning as she thought about Togo being lost.

"Ben! Ben!" Susie cried, "I can't find Togo!"

Ben came outside. Ben said, "Come on, we'll look for him together. He has to be somewhere."

They looked all around the yard. Then they looked all around the house. They even walked all the way down the street. By then, Susie and Ben were very worried about their new golden retriever puppy. He was new to the house and the neighborhood. What if he got lost and couldn't find his way back? Even though Susie and Ben tried to tell

themselves that Togo would be fine, they kept thinking about all the bad things that could have happened to Togo.

Susie and Ben walked around the house and neighborhood for over an hour, and it was getting dark. Soon it would be time for dinner. Susie and Ben headed back, wondering what they would tell their parents.

When they got home, Susie said to her mother in a tearful voice, "Mommy, we can't find Togo. We just went in for some water when we were playing ball, and when we came back out, he was gone!"

"We looked everywhere," Ben added. "I just don't know where he could have gone! And now we don't know what's happened to him."

Mrs. Lim hugged both of them and said, "Don't worry. We'll look for him some more. In the meantime, though, remember that God watches over everything, and He will make sure that Togo is all right."

"I know, Mom, but I would feel so much better if Togo were here with me now," Susie insisted.

"Yes, honey, and we will look for him. But before we do that, why don't we pray for Togo? Even though we don't know where Togo is, God does. Let's ask God to keep him safe the way he keeps you and Ben safe everyday."

"But I don't know how to pray like that," Susie sulked. Mrs. Lim turned to Ben.

"Mom, I'll pray for Togo," Ben said.

"Thank you. And why don't we have a prayer in understanding so that Susie knows how to pray to God to take care of things that worry us?"

Ben thought for a moment while Mrs. Lim and Susie closed their eyes.

"Dear Heavenly Father," Ben began. "We know that you know all things. We know that you know where Togo is at this very moment. Lord, we ask that you take care of Togo the way you take care of us and also help us not worry about him because all things are in your hands. Please help us to find him. In your name we pray, Amen."

Mrs. Lim smiled. "Do you feel better now Susie?"

"It was a good prayer. But, Mom, I just want to find Togo. If God does bring Togo back, I'll thank Him 200 times for keeping Togo safe and will really know that God takes care of things."

Just then, Susie heard a light scratching noise on the back door. She ran to open it, and in scam-



pered Togo who licked Susie's face right away.

Once Susie felt Togo's soft golden fur, she laughed and said, "Thank God!" Ben put his hand on Susie's shoulder and said, "Well, Susie, you only have 199 'Thank God's' left!"

Susie laughed along with Ben. "I know," she said. "But now I know that God does take care of things for us!"

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why were Susie and Ben worried?** (They couldn't find Togo.)
2. **What did Mrs. Lim tell the children when she found out what had happened?** (She told them not to worry and asked Ben to pray to God to keep Togo safe.)



### Activity 1

#### Jesus Tells Us Not to Worry

Jesus taught the people not to worry. First He talked to the big crowd. Then He talked about the birds. Then He talked about the pretty flowers. Jesus says He cares for us more than the birds and the flowers. He tells us not to worry. Color in the pictures.



### Activity 2

#### How Does Jesus Care For Us?

Look at each picture. How does Jesus care for us? Write down the answers.

1. Jesus cares for us by giving us the \_\_\_\_\_. (sun and rain)
2. Jesus cares for us by giving us a \_\_\_\_\_. (family)
3. Jesus cares for us by giving us \_\_\_\_\_. (food)
4. Jesus cares for us by giving us \_\_\_\_\_. (clothes)

3. **What happened after they prayed?** (Togo came back on his own.)
4. **What did Susie learn from this?** (Susie learned to trust God and know that He will protect everything around us.)
5. **Tell about a time when you were worried. Share what you did so you would worry less.** (Allow students to share.)
6. **What can you do the next time you worry about something?** (Pray to God; talk to your parents or a grown-up.) **What can you do if someone else is worried?** (Pray for them; allow students to share.)
7. **How does God take care of all the things we need?** (Allow students to answer.)

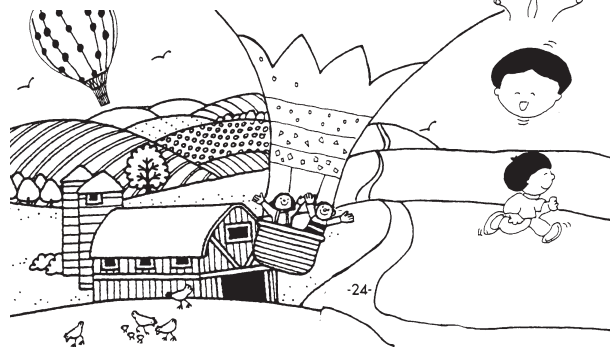


### Activity 3

#### God Takes Care of Everything

Repeat this rhyme with motions so the students can remember the various ways God cares for everything in this world.

Here is our world, our great big world.  
And here are the mountains high.  
Here is a tree, a tall, tall tree,  
And here is a bird that can fly.  
There is the sun, the big, bright sun,  
That shines on the world all day.  
Here are the children, running along,  
God takes care of them as they play.





Activity 9:1

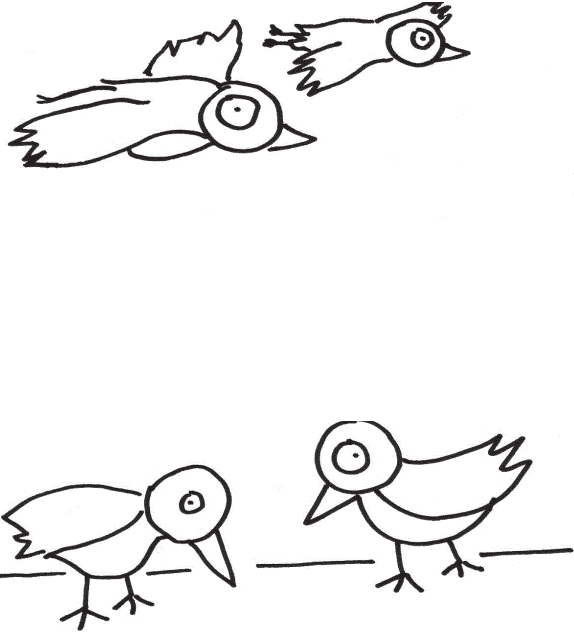
## Jesus Tells Us Not to Worry

Read about how Jesus taught the people not to worry. Color in the pictures.

1. First Jesus talked to the big crowd.

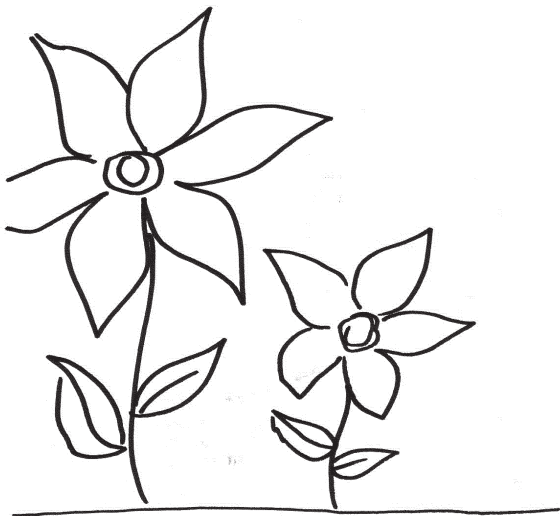


2. Then He talked about the birds.



4. Jesus says He cares for us more than the birds and the flowers. He tells us not to worry.

3. Then He talked about the pretty flowers.



Activity 9.2

### How Does Jesus Care For Us?

Look at each picture. How does Jesus care for us?  
Write down the answers.

1.



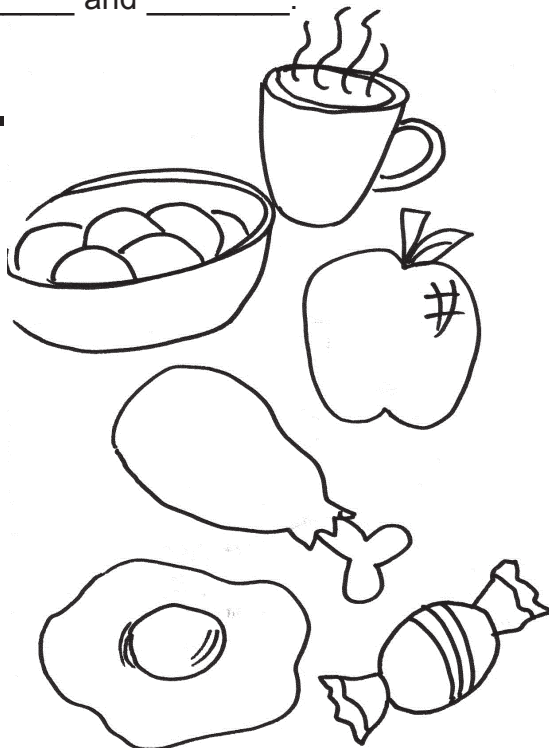
Jesus cares for us by giving us the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2.



Jesus cares for us by giving us a \_\_\_\_\_.

3.



Jesus cares for us by giving us \_\_\_\_\_.

4.



Jesus cares for us by giving us \_\_\_\_\_.

# Jesus Calms the Storm

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- 🕒 newspaper or regular white paper



### Scriptures

Mk 4:35-41

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus is stronger than the violent storms, and even the winds and sea obey Him

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To know that Jesus has control over everything, and we can always count on Him to keep us safe

### Memory Verse

"Believe also in Me." (Jn 14:1)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is an unusual body of water. It is relatively small (13 miles long and 7 miles wide), but it is 150 feet deep, and the shoreline is 680 feet below sea level. Sudden storms can appear with little warning over the surrounding mountains, which can rise 3000 to 4000 feet above sea level, stirring the water into violent 20-foot waves. This is because the warm tropical air from the lake's surface rises and meets the colder air from the surrounding hills. Although the lake itself seemed small and not at all hard to cross, the turbulence from the resulting waves would have made the journey very difficult. Some of the disciples were experienced fishermen and would have known about this phenomenon. So it is not that they had foolishly set out in a storm. They had been caught without warning, and their danger was great.

### Jesus' Authority Over Nature

The boat that the disciples were in would have

been a fishing boat because many of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. This boat was large enough to hold Jesus and His twelve disciples and was powered both by oars and sails. During a storm, however, the sails were taken down to keep them from ripping and to make the boat easier to control.

As experienced sailors, some of Jesus' disciples had probably been caught in similar storms while they were out fishing. However, they were still terrified by the ferocity of this particular storm. Although the disciples had witnessed many miracles performed by Jesus, they still didn't have the faith that Jesus could control nature. They eventually woke Jesus up, with a plea for help. It is interesting that they found Jesus asleep. This shows that while He is the Son of God, Jesus was also full of humanity. Like any other person, Jesus needed rest and was asleep on the boat while the storm raged on.

With a word Jesus silenced the wind and calmed the waves, thereby demonstrating His divine power and authority. After witnessing such power, the disciples asked each other, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" In essence, they were all acknowledging the power and mightiness of Jesus Christ.



## Understanding Your Students

Feeling afraid, insecure, unsafe, and unprotected are all valid emotions that children at this age experience in their day-to-day lives. It is important to take time to acknowledge their feelings and talk about what it is like to be afraid, and what causes fear in life. (You could share examples such as being in the dark, running into big dogs, parents who are fighting, being lost, hearing loud thunderstorms, and so on.) The aim of this lesson is to teach the children that the God we worship is the one who has power over everything- even nature obeys His orders. As long as we are willing to come to God, we can always count on Him to help us overcome our fear and have peace in our hearts.

To help the students better understand the truth that Jesus has the power to overcome nature, talk to them about weather. Ask them if they have seen the ocean and waves and how powerful they are. Ask the following question: What happens when there is a storm (or snow, tornado, hurricane, wind, hail, lightning, thunder, etc.)? Is there any way we can stop a storm? If we just asked it to stop, would it listen to us? Probably not. But the storm will listen to God's instructions. If God asked it to stop, it would stop right away, just like in today's lesson. However, even if we were stuck in a storm, we could still ask God for help. What could we do if we were in a big storm? We could pray to God for courage and ask Him to make the storm go away. Encourage the children to take steps of faith to trust Jesus in all circumstances because He is all-powerful and cares for His children.



## Vocabulary

### **Disciples**

the followers of Jesus; they learn from Jesus

### **Peaceful**

when you feel peaceful, you feel happy and at rest

### **Calm**

when everything is quiet; there is no storm



## Before You Teach

The disciples panicked because the storm threatened to destroy them all. It was a genuine fear because their lives were at stake. Although natural disasters can occur today, those aren't the storms that cause us distress from day to day. "Storms" can come in other forms. Think about the storms in our own life- the situations that cause us great anxiety. It might be our job security. It might be our children, who are entering their teens. It could even be our marriage. Whatever the difficulty, there are two options. We can worry and assume that Jesus no longer cares for us, as the disciples did on that boat, or we can resist fear and put our trust in God.

When we truly understand who God is, we will realize that He controls both the storms of nature

and the storms of the troubled heart. Jesus' power that calmed this storm can also help us deal with the problems we face. Jesus is willing to help if only we ask Him. The disciples lived with Jesus, witnessed many great miracles He performed, and yet they underestimated Him. They did not see that His power applied to their very own situation. After Jesus stopped the storm, He turned to the disciples and asked them why they had such little faith in Him. Are we the same as the disciples who did not have the confidence that Jesus has the solution to all the hardships that we face? The next time we feel great anxiety over something and want to go into panic-mode, we should first confess our need to God and then trust Him to care for us.



## Bible Story

### **The Rain Storm**

Boys and girls, before we begin our Bible story today, let's pretend that we are sitting in a boat together. Are you ready to come sit in my boat and help me make a rainstorm? (Have students sit down in their chairs, and softly pat their legs to make the sound of light rain.) Say to the students, "Wow, I think I hear light rain coming down from the sky. Now I think it's going to start raining harder." (Ask students to pat their legs harder.) Continue to say, "And now I hear some thunder coming. Let's clap our hands to make thunder sounds. Look at the sky (point to the ceiling), the rain has slowed down a bit. (Ask students to pat their legs again gently.) Finally, the rainstorm has stopped. (Ask everyone to rest their hands in their laps! No more clapping or patting.) Is everyone still aboard the ship? I hope that the rainstorm and the thunder didn't scare you, and that you are all still safe and sound! Today we are going to pretend to ride in this boat while I tell you the story about a strong storm that came while Jesus was in a boat with His disciples."

### **Jesus and His Disciples Get into a Boat**

In the previous lessons, we learned that Jesus had chosen some disciples to help Him. Do you remember what the disciples did? They followed Jesus and learned from Him so that they could help Him with God's work. (The teacher can share that there were twelve disciples in total even though the lessons did not go through all the names.) One day, Jesus and His disciples stopped by a lake to teach many people. When Jesus finished teaching, He said to His disciples, "Let's go to the other side of the lake." So the disciples got into a boat and began to take Jesus across the lake.

Since Jesus spent so much time and energy telling people about God, He was very tired, and needed to rest. Soon He fell soundly asleep as the disciples rowed the boat to cross the lake. (Encourage children to make rowing motions with their hands as if they were the disciples taking Jesus across the lake.)

As Jesus slept, suddenly the sky became dark and the breeze became a strong wind (turn the class-

room light off as you tell this part of the story for effect). The wind got stronger and stronger (play CD or tape that has the sound of blowing wind or the sea). Soon, the waves in the lake also became higher and higher. The boat began to rock back and forth (ask children to rock their body from side to side). Then the big waves began to splash over the sides of the boat. What would happen to your clothes and body if the waves came splashing over the sides of the boat? That's right. Your clothes would get all wet. But the waves didn't just get the disciples wet. Soon water started to fill the boat, and the waves kept splashing and splashing. Soon the boat was so full of water that it began to sink lower. The disciples were really afraid now. Why were they so scared? (Allow time for students to respond.) That's right! Their boat was sinking in the middle of the strong wind and rain. They were very afraid, because they thought they might all die in the storm.

### **Jesus Sleeps Peacefully on the Boat**

While everyone was frightened, can you guess what Jesus was doing? (Wait for children to respond.) He was still sleeping peacefully on the boat. Even though the waves were crashing down and the wind was blowing, Jesus did not seem to notice. He didn't look like He was even ready to get up. Some of the disciples must have thought to themselves, "How can Jesus still sleep? We are all going to die because of the storm." Finally, one of the disciples woke Jesus up. They cried to Him, "Wake up! Wake up! Don't you care if the boat sinks? We might all die!"

### **Jesus Calms the Storm**

Jesus woke up, and saw that the disciples were really afraid. They were wet and they looked very scared. Children, what do you think Jesus did next? (Allow time for students to think and respond.)

He turned to the sea and said to the storm, "Peace, be still!" And do you know what happened after Jesus spoke to the wind and the water? As soon as Jesus said those words, the wind stopped blowing and rain stopped coming down. The wind and the rain obeyed His order. The disciples saw the waves become quieter and quieter. The water stopped crashing against the side of the boat. Soon, the water in the lake was smooth again (turn



off CD or tape of sound effects and allow a few seconds of silence). The stormy lake had now returned to the normal and calm waters.

Jesus looked at the disciples and said quietly, "Why were you so afraid? Didn't you know that I would keep you safe?"

The disciples were amazed by Jesus' power. Even the wind and waves listened to Him! That's because Jesus is God Himself!

Jesus showed His disciples that He truly cared



### Check For Understanding

1. **Why were Jesus' disciples afraid?** (There was a big storm on the lake, and their boat was about to sink. The disciples were afraid that they were all going to die.)
2. **What was Jesus doing when the big storm came?** (Jesus was soundly asleep.)
3. **What did Jesus do after His disciples woke Him up?** (He spoke to the wind and the rain, and told the storm to stop.)
4. **Why does Jesus have the power to stop**

for them. Do you know that He also cares for you and me and will help us when we are afraid? Let us remember that Jesus will be with anyone who trusts Him and asks for His help. He is all-powerful and full of love, and He wants to be with us when we are scared. (You may want to brainstorm situations that might be frightening for the students.) Today's lesson teaches us that Jesus is our protector who keeps us safe.

**the storm?** (He is God Himself and He is almighty.)

5. **What things are you afraid of?** (Students may share that they are afraid of storms, big dogs, strangers, older children, etc.)
6. **What did you do when you were scared at those times?** (Students' answers may vary.)
7. **After listening to this story, what are you going to do the next time you get scared?** (Ask Jesus to help us overcome our fear, and trust that He has the power to do so.)



### Life Application Story

#### **The Storm**

It was a cold and gray winter day. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Michelle, and John were sitting by the fireplace after dinner. Every night after dinner, the Marshes would pick a story from the Bible and take turns reading the story. Tonight was Michelle's turn to pick. She looked and looked and finally decided to pick the story about how Jesus calmed a storm.

Everybody read a part of it. When they got to the part when the big storm attacked the boat, John said that it must have been scary to have been on that boat.

Mrs. Marsh smiled at John and said, "That's right, John. The disciples were really scared, but guess what? Jesus was with them, and He kept all of

them safe by asking the storm to stop. Jesus is amazing, isn't He?"

After finishing the story, they all sang the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and prayed together.

When they were done with Bible story time, Mr. Marsh said to John and Michelle, "Go brush your teeth and get ready for bed now."

"So early?" John said.

"You've got school tomorrow," Mrs. Marsh said.

"Oh, okay," John said.

Both John and Michelle climbed the stairs. John went into his room and changed into his pajamas. Then he brushed his teeth. Mrs. Marsh came upstairs to tuck John in.

"Good night," Mrs. Marsh said, and kissed him on the nose. As she left, she turned off the lights and shut the door gently.

It was very quiet in John's room. It was also very

dark. He could hear the wind blowing. He could also see an old tree swaying outside his window. The wind seemed to get stronger and stronger. All of a sudden, John heard pitter-patter, pitter-patter. It was raining! He huddled deeper into his blankets. The wind began to howl. John was starting to get scared. Then there was a loud rumble. Thunder rolled. "Oh, no!" John said to himself. He got up and ran to his parents' room.

"Mommy, Daddy, it's raining," John said quietly as he peeked through their half-open door.

"We heard it. It is a little loud. We weren't expecting it to rain so hard tonight. Do you want to stay here for a while?" Mr. Marsh asked.

"Yes," John said, as he climbed in between Mr. and Mrs. Marsh.

Someone was already there! It was Michelle.

"I was scared, too!" Michelle said.

"You don't need to be scared," Mrs. Marsh said.

"Do you remember the story we read tonight?"

"Yes, it was about how Jesus calmed the storm," Michelle said.

"Just like the storm we're having now," Mrs. Marsh said. "Jesus' disciples were scared, but not for long. Jesus helped them."

"Jesus will help us, too," John said. John snuggled deeper into the blankets.

Mrs. Marsh looked at her two children with a warm smile, and patted them as they lay in the big bed.

Then Mr. Marsh said to Michelle and John, "Hey, kids, let's get up and pray together. Remember how Jesus asked the disciples why they had so little faith in Him? Let's ask Jesus to give everyone courage, so we are not afraid anymore."

John asked, "Daddy, should I ask Jesus to help me sleep better?"

"Sure, you can ask Jesus to give you a peaceful heart," Mr. Marsh replied.

"I'll pray for the same thing too, Dad," said Michelle.

Mr. and Mrs. Marsh prayed with Michelle and John, and they sincerely asked Jesus to give them brave and peaceful hearts. After the prayer, John opened his eyes and said, "Mommy, I think I feel much better now."

"Me too," Mrs. Marsh said.

"Are you two ready to go back to your own room to sleep now? Remember, there is nothing to

be afraid of. Jesus will keep us safe anytime and anywhere," Mr. Marsh added.

"Okay, Dad. I'll take John to his room now. Good night," Michelle said as she held John's hand.

"Good night, Mom and Dad," said John as he leapt off the bed.

After fifteen minutes or so, Mrs. Marsh went into Michelle's and John's rooms to check on them. They were sound asleep and showed no fear. Mrs. Marsh thanked God in her heart for giving the children the faith and courage to overcome their fear.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What Bible story did the Marsh family read together after dinner?** (They read the story about how Jesus calmed the storm.)
2. **What else did they do after reading the bible story?** (They sang a hymn and prayed together.)
3. **What happened that made Michelle and John so scared that they ran to their parents' room?** (They were scared of the strong wind blowing, heavy rain falling, and loud thunder outside.)
4. **What did Mr. Marsh and Mrs. Marsh encourage them to do in their room?** (They asked Michelle and John to pray together for Jesus to give them courage.)
5. **How did Michelle and John feel after the prayer?** (They felt much more peaceful inside their hearts, and were able to sleep in their own rooms knowing that Jesus would keep them safe.)
6. **Are there things that make you scared? What are they? How can God help you?** (Allow students to answer.)



## Activity 1

### Jesus Calms the Storm Booklet

Have students cut out the page along the solid lines. Then fold the book along the dotted lines. Read the book with the students to review the story of how Jesus calmed the storm. Have the students color in the book.

1. Jesus and the disciples get into the boat.
2. Jesus falls asleep on the boat.
3. There is a storm and the disciples wake Jesus up.
4. Jesus speaks and the wind and rain stop.



## Activity 2

### Jesus Can Help Us When We Are Afraid

Look at the pictures. How is each person afraid? How can Jesus help us? In the last box, draw something you are afraid of and then ask God to help you.

1. Your mother is sick.
2. You are lost.
3. There is a huge storm.
4. Students draw their own fear.



## Activity 3

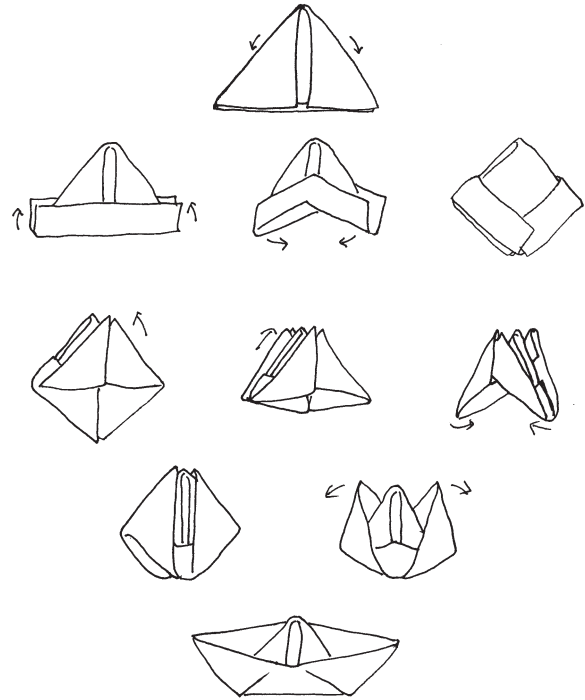
### Sail Boats

#### Materials:

1. newspaper (blank paper will work too)

#### Directions:

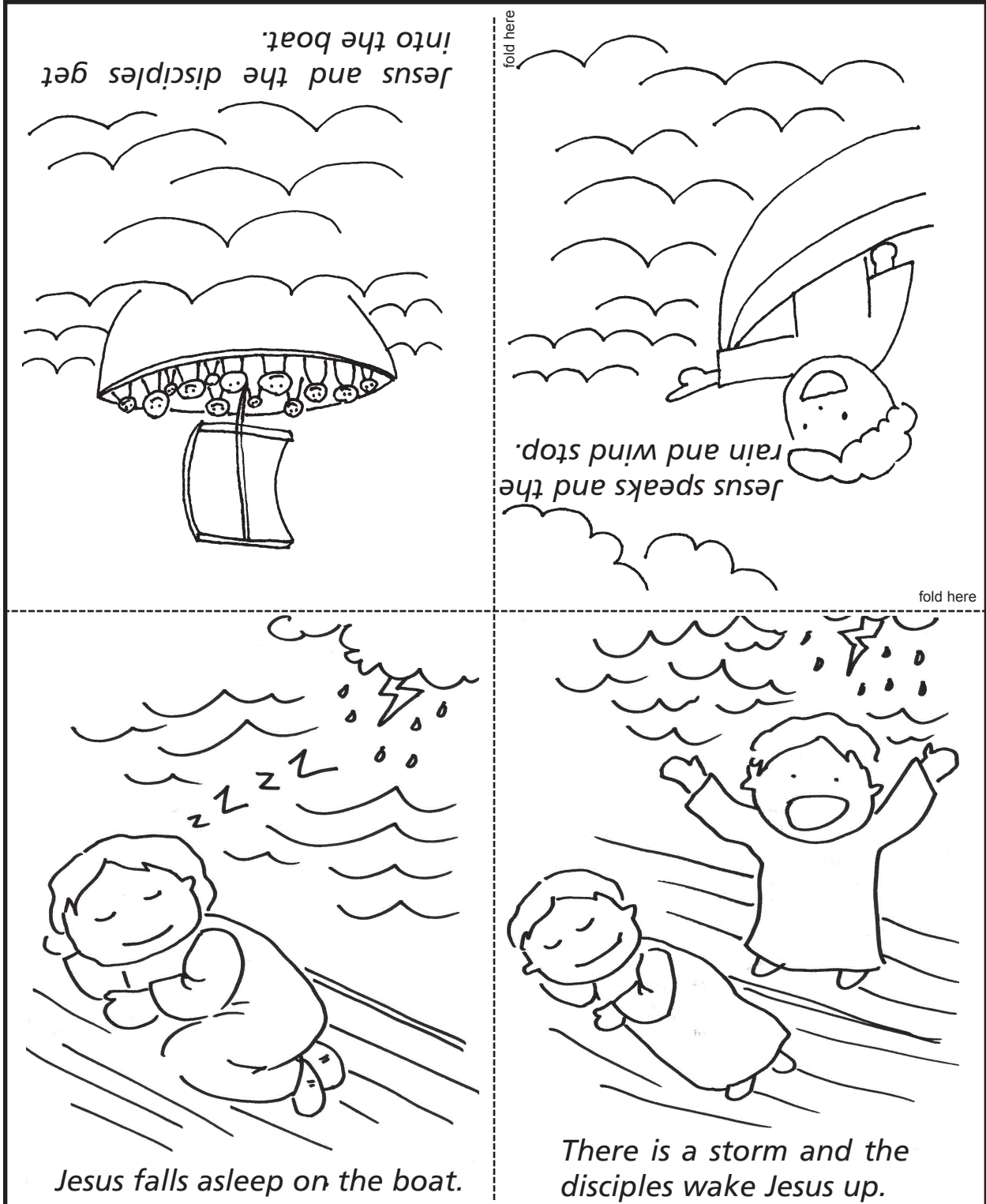
1. Leave the newspaper folded in half (unopened position).
2. Fold the corners down to the opening.
3. Fold both edges up.
4. Bring the ends together and flatten it sidewise.
5. Turn one corner up and then the other.
6. Again bring the ends together.
7. Flatten it sidewise. Then gently pull the ends open.
8. As the students create this boat, review the story of how Jesus calmed the storm as He and the disciples were in the boat.



Activity 10:1

### Jesus Calms the Storm Booklet

Have students cut out the page along the solid lines. Then fold the book along the dotted lines. Read the book with the students to review the story of how Jesus calmed the storm. Have the students color in the book.



Activity 10:2

### Jesus Can Help Us When We Are Afraid

Look at the pictures. How is each person afraid? How can Jesus help us? In the last box, draw something you are afraid of and then ask God to help you.



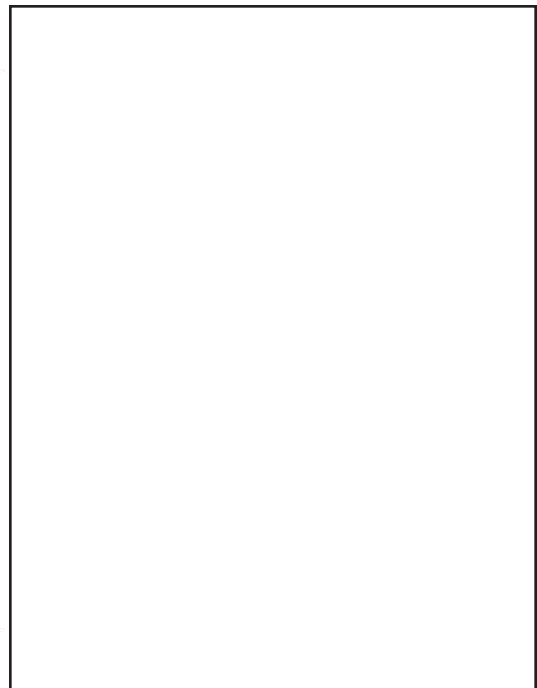
1. Your mother is sick.



2. You are lost.



3. There is a huge storm.



4. What are you scared of?



# Jesus Heals a Crippled Man

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- crayons and markers
- index cards
- construction paper
- scissors
- yarn
- hole punch
- blankets, bandages, first aid kit (optional)



### Scriptures

Jn 5:1-15

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus can heal anyone because He is full of power and compassion

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To thank God for His blessings; to know we can pray to Him when we are sick

### Memory Verse

"See, you have been made well."  
(Jn 5:14)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Pool Bethesda

The pool described in this story was called Bethesda in Aramaic, meaning, "House of Mercy." Some manuscripts have the name Bethzatha, or "House of the Olive." Five porches, or porticos, had been built adjacent to the pool. These provided a shelter for the large number of sick people who waited to benefit from the supposed healing qualities of the pool's waters.

### Jesus' Healing Miracles

This crippled man had been lame for thirty-eight years. His problem had become a way of life. No one had ever helped him. He had no hope of ever being healed and he had lost any desire to help himself. However, Jesus showed great compassion to him, and helped him walk. This was a great miracle indeed. Jesus performed many of these kinds of miracles- healing the blind, helping the mute. And it is because of these miracles that many came to believe and follow Christ. Similarly, this man was delighted to be physically healed, but Jesus was more concerned about helping him spir-

itually. He wanted the man to turn from his sins and seek God's forgiveness to be spiritually healed. Jesus urged the man to show his gratitude by turning from sin and following the Lord. When Jesus talked about sin and the forgiveness of sins, it was often hard for the multitude to understand. Many fell away as a result of His teachings. But while Jesus is concerned about our physical well-being, He wants to make sure we are first and foremost saved. That was His purpose on earth.

### The Jewish Leaders

The healing of the crippled man took place on the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders who saw the man after he was made well were more concerned about the man carrying his mattress on the Sabbath, than the miracle itself. The Law of Moses taught that on the Sabbath, no man or animal could work. Over the years, the leaders had put together many different rules to define what work meant. According to them, carrying furniture was forbidden. So when they caught this man carrying his own mattress, they were not surprised he could walk, but that he had the audacity to do work on the Sabbath. Clearly, Jesus had not broken the Law; He had only broken the rules the Jewish leaders had amassed.



## Understanding Your Students

Children at this age take at face value God's healing power. They believe because they have been told that His love can make people well. Just as in today's story, it is easy for them to understand God and His power because the crippled man was healed.

However, when they encounter a personal situation, such as a grandparent who is very sick or a relative who has just passed away, they may have more questions. Then, it may be hard for that child to understand why God isn't helping those around them.

Although it is still difficult for them to truly understand the complex way God works, we need to

acknowledge their feelings. Tell your students that God has His timing in all things, and we just need to trust in Him. We also need to have patience as we wait for God to answer our prayers. The crippled man in today's story, for example, waited for thirty-eight years to be healed. This is also a good opportunity to share some personal testimonies to make the situations real to the students.

As we explain, we also need to share that we cannot always comprehend God's plan for our lives. Sometimes, things happen and they are not what we wanted to happen. But God knows what is best for us and will always help us. Even though we can't always see why things happen the way they do, in the end, it is for the glory of God.



## Vocabulary

### **Heal**

to make someone well, so that person isn't sick anymore

### **Crippled**

a person who cannot move his arms or legs

### **Sabbath Day**

the seventh day of the week, which is on Saturday; it is a day of rest when we come to church and worship God

### **Blessings**

all the good things we receive from God



## Before You Teach

This crippled man had been sick for a long time- thirty-eight years to be exact. How lonely and sad he must have been. He couldn't move, and no one looked after him. He probably did not have any friends and he would have been a social outcast. Everyone who walked by probably thought he was dirty and pathetic. And after thirty-eight years, his situation looked hopeless. That is, until Jesus appeared.

The Lord's grace and love were sincere and real. Jesus reached out to him, and made him walk. This teaches us that no matter how trapped we might feel in any situation, God can minister to our deepest needs. We should not let a problem or hardship cause us to lose hope. God may have special work for us to do in spite of our condition.

Jesus' attitude was in great contrast to that of

the Jewish leaders. It was a great miracle for this man to be healed. However, the Jewish leaders were more concerned about their petty rules. For them, the laws had become stumbling blocks. It didn't seem to matter to them that a man who had been sick for most of his life had been made well. They were more interested in making themselves look pious and uphold the law.

Today, it is also easy to get caught up in our man-made structures and rules. We are so engrossed in getting things done the "right way," that sometimes we forget the people involved. In this miracle, Jesus not only helped a man, He also taught one of God's most important commandments: to love others as we would love ourselves. If everything is done out of love, then there will be no arguments or issues. Let us remember this golden rule as we strive to imitate our Lord Jesus.



## Bible Story

Before the class begins, set up the following items on the table for each child: 5 colored crayons or colored markers, and a blank 3" x 5" index card. Write in large letters on the board "GET WELL SOON." As the children arrive and sit down in their seats, have them create their own "GET WELL SOON" postcard by drawing simple pictures or designs they want. Say to them, "Boys and girls, you are going to take about 5 minutes to make a simple 'Get Well' postcard. We are making it for someone who has been sick for thirty-eight years. Wow, that's a long time, isn't it? If you were to write something to make this sick person feel better, what would you put on the postcard? Use the 5 colored crayons or markers that are on your table to decorate your card. (Give the students no more than 5-7 minutes to complete the task. For those who are not done, they can finish it after the Bible story time.) What did you draw or write to comfort this sick person?" (Let them share what they wrote on the postcard.) Today's bible story is about how Jesus showed His love and healed a crippled man who had been sick for thirty-eight years.

### Jesus at the Pool of Bethesda

In the last few lessons, we learned about how Jesus picked people to help Him. He needed help to tell everyone about God. He also performed a great miracle by calming the storm when His disciples got scared. Jesus did not stop doing God's work.

One day, Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and He walked by a pool called Bethesda. This was not a pool for people to swim in, but a pool that had healing power. That means people thought that if someone who was very sick got into the waters, that person could get better. According to the people back then, an angel would come down into the pool at a certain time and stir up the water (make a stirring motion with two hands and ask the children to do the same); then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was going to get their illness completely healed. That means that no matter how sick they were, they would be all better as long as they got into the water first. Boys and girls, if you were someone who was sick, would you want to be the first one to jump in the water to be healed? Of course! I would want to be the first one to get in too. So you can

imagine that there would have been so many sick people waiting around the pool. Some of them were unable to see, some were unable to walk, and some were unable to move. They were all waiting there for the water to be stirred, so they could jump in right on time!

### The Man Who Couldn't Walk

Now there was a lonely and crippled man who lay in a corner of the pool. Being crippled means he couldn't walk. He was waiting for his turn to jump in. But this man was very sick at that time, and he couldn't move or walk by himself at all. He had been sick for a long, long time- thirty-eight years! He didn't know anyone, and other people didn't care about him. So all he could do was lie there. Since no one helped him to the water, he could not get to the pool before anyone else every time the water was stirred. All he could do was lie there and watch other people get into the pool before he could. Even though it had been many years, the man still hoped that one day, someone might help him get closer to the water.

### Jesus Heals the Crippled Man

But after so many years, the man didn't really think anyone would help him. How would it be possible for him to ever get in the pool? But that day, Jesus passed by that very pool. He saw what everyone was doing. He looked around and saw this crippled man, lying there with no one helping him. He walked up and began talking to this man.

Jesus knew the man was sick for many years, so He asked, "Do you want to get well?"

Of course the man wanted to be well! But he said, "There's no one to help me into the pool. When I try to get in, someone rushes in ahead of me."

Then Jesus said something amazing. He said, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

If you were that man, what would you do? Would you get up right away or would you just sit there, thinking Jesus was just kidding? Well, the man couldn't believe what he had heard but obeyed Jesus and got up.

Right away the crippled man felt very different. In fact, he jumped up. He couldn't believe it! He could walk! He rolled up the mat that he had been lying on all these years and started walking around. He was well and he didn't even have to get into the

water. Jesus healed him with just His words. Oh, what a big miracle Jesus had performed, to make this sick and crippled man get up and walk. The man was so happy that he was finally well. He was so excited that he carried his mat around telling everyone what just happened to him.

### **Do Not Sin Anymore**

When Jesus helped this man, it was on the Sabbath day. Sabbath is when we come to church on Saturdays. Back then, no one was supposed to do any work on that day. They could only go and worship God at the temple. But this man was walking around carrying his mat. Some people stopped him. They asked him, "Why are you carrying your mat on the Sabbath day? Don't you know you are not supposed to carry that?"

The man answered, "I was sick and someone healed me. He told me to pick up my mat and walk."

"Who is this person who made you well," asked the people.

But the man did not know it was Jesus because by then, Jesus had already gone.

Later, the man saw Jesus at the temple. Jesus said, "Now that you're well, don't sin anymore, or something worse might happen to you." That

means Jesus wanted him to do things that made God happy from now on. Then the man knew that it was Jesus who healed him. He went and told everyone how much Jesus cared for him, and that Jesus had made him well!

Boys and girls, this crippled man who was healed by Jesus must have felt very thankful to be able to walk again. What a special blessing this was! Can you think of any blessings that Jesus has given to you or your family that you are very thankful for? (Share your own blessing, and encourage the children to talk about the different blessings that they have received from God.) Thank you for sharing! Now, do you remember the last thing that Jesus said to this man? Jesus asked him to "Sin no more!" Why is it important for all of us to NOT sin anymore after getting so many blessings from Jesus? (Wait for students to respond.) We don't want to make Jesus sad, because He cares so much about us. It is just like Mommy and Daddy who are very nice to you and take good care of you. Would you want to do bad things to make them sad? No, of course not! It's the same with our Lord Jesus. Let's remember to count all the blessings we have from God and make smart choices to be a good follower of God every day!



### Check For Understanding

1. **How long had this crippled man been sick?** (He had been sick for thirty-eight years.)
2. **What did he want before he met Jesus?** (He wanted to be the next person to get into the pool, so his sickness would be healed.)
3. **What did Jesus do when He saw this crippled man?** (Jesus walked up to him and asked if he wanted to get well. Jesus healed the man and had him pick up his

mat and walk.)

4. **Why did some people stop the man when he carried his mat?** (It was the Sabbath day, and people were not supposed to do any work on that day.)
5. **What was the last thing Jesus told the man not to do?** (Jesus reminded the man not to sin anymore.)
6. **Have you ever been sick, and prayed to God to make you better? What happened?** (Students' responses may vary.)
7. **If you were crippled like this man, and Jesus made you walk again, what would you do?** (Students' responses may vary.)





## Life Application Story

### **Jesus, the Best Doctor**

Tommy came home from school one day and felt really sick. His head hurt. He felt hot and cold at the same time. All he wanted to do was to go to sleep. Tommy saw his mother in the kitchen.

"Hi, honey," Mrs. Lewis said. "How was school today?"

"School was fine, Mom," Tommy said, "but I feel really sick."

Mrs. Lewis walked up to Tommy and felt his forehead. It felt hot.

"Tommy, you have a fever. When did you start to feel like this today?"

"My head has been hurting since recess today, Mom," said Tommy, "I started to feel really sick after lunch at school."

"Go to your room now and get changed. I will come to take your temperature in a minute," Mrs. Lewis said.

After talking to his mom, Tommy went to his room to change into soft and warm clothes. Mrs. Lewis came into his room with a warm cup of water and a thermometer. She checked his temperature. It was close to 101 degrees.

"Not too good," thought Mrs. Lewis. But she didn't say anything more, and just tucked Tommy into bed. She pulled Tommy's blankets up right around his ears and gave him a warm smile.

Mrs. Lewis said, "Tommy, I'm going to make you some hot soup and bring you up some medicine to help with the fever. Right now, you can pray in your heart to Jesus and ask Him to make you feel better."

"Will Jesus make me feel better, Mom?" Tommy asked.

"He sure will," Mrs. Lewis said. "Jesus is the best doctor there is."

When Mrs. Lewis left, Tommy prayed in his heart and really asked Jesus to help him feel less miserable. He didn't want to be sick. After a short while, Mrs. Lewis came in to Tommy's room with a delicious bowl of chicken noodle soup as well as some medicine. Tommy was so glad that his mom was home to take care of him.

After he drank some of the soup, Mrs. Lewis asked, "Did you pray, Tommy?"

"Yes, Mom. I really asked Jesus to help me feel

better soon. I feel terrible right now," Tommy replied.

Mrs. Lewis continued, "Remember when your sister Julie got the stomach flu last time, we all prayed for her, and she felt much better the next day. Jesus listens to our prayers. Do you want me to pray with you one more time before you go to sleep?"

"Sure, Mom! But I want to finish your noodle soup first," said Tommy.

Mrs. Lewis thanked God that at least Tommy still wanted to eat. She watched him finish the soup, and they knelt down together to pray. After the prayer, Tommy was already feeling better. Mrs. Lewis told Tommy to get some rest. She was sure that Jesus had already listened to their prayers.

The next morning, Tommy woke up bright and early. The sun shone through his window. Mrs. Lewis came in to see how he was feeling.

"Tommy, you got up so early! Are you feeling better today?" Mrs. Lewis asked.

Tommy said, "I sure am, Mommy. We prayed to Jesus yesterday, and He really made me better."

"Jesus cares a lot for you, Tommy," Mrs. Lewis said. She touched his forehead again, and this time his body temperature felt normal.

"Jesus really is the best doctor," Tommy said.

"That's right, Tommy! You should really thank God for making you well so soon," Mrs. Lewis replied.

"I'm going to share this with my friends at school today. They all knew that I felt really sick before I came home yesterday," Tommy added.

"Praise God, Tommy! I am glad that you are counting the blessings that God has given you. Now, make sure you get changed and have breakfast so you won't be late for school," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Okay, Mom! I'll be right there in the kitchen!" Tommy was so happy to feel healthy again. As he changed into his school clothes, he suddenly hummed the tune "Jesus Loves Me," a song that he had learned at church last week. He was ready to tell his friends at school how Jesus took good care of him!

### **Questions to Think About:**

1. **What happened to Tommy after he came home from school?** (Tommy felt sick.)



2. **What did Mrs. Lewis ask Tommy to do before he went to bed?** (Mrs. Lewis asked Tommy to pray and ask Jesus to make him feel better. She also prayed with him together.)
3. **What happened the next morning?** (Tommy felt much better and he didn't have a fever anymore.)
4. **What did Tommy tell Mrs. Lewis he was going to do at school that day?** (Tommy wanted to



### Activity 1

#### The Man at the Pool

Look at the pictures of the man at the pool. Talk about what happened in each picture and fill in the blanks.

1. The man at the \_\_\_\_\_ (pool) is lying there.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Jesus) talks to the man.
3. Jesus tells the man to get up and \_\_\_\_\_ (walk.)
4. The man is at the \_\_\_\_\_ (temple) telling others what happened to him.



### Activity 2

#### Jesus Can Heal Us

Look at each picture. How is each person feeling? How can Jesus help them? How can they thank God?

1. Grandma is feeling very sick.
2. Your good friend is feeling sick.
3. A neighbor falls off his bike and is hurt.
4. Your sister is in the hospital.



### Activity 3

#### Thank You Hearts and Hands

##### Materials:

1. colored construction paper
2. markers and crayons
3. yarn
4. scissors
5. hole punch

##### Directions:

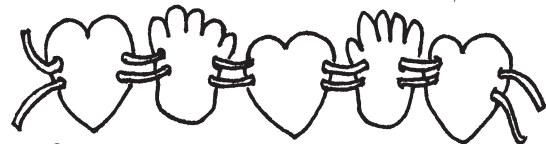
1. Provide each student with one piece of colored construction paper.
2. Have your students place their hand on the

tell all his friends about Jesus' wonderful healing.)

5. **If you were Tommy, would you tell your friends about the blessings that you have gotten from Jesus?** (Students' responses may vary.)
6. **What are some of the blessings you have received from Jesus?** (Allow students to answer.)

paper and trace out two hand shapes.

3. Cut out the hands.
4. Draw two heart shapes of comparable size and cut those out (you may wish to use other colors for this shape).
5. Now each student should have two hearts and two hands. They can decorate the shapes with colors, designs or words (help them write things like, "God can help us," or "God loves us.")
6. Once the designs are finished, hole punch each shape on both sides with two holes each.
7. Help the students string the shapes alternately with the yarn. Knot the yarn at the ends to help the shapes stay secure.
8. Encourage the students to hang their thank you hearts and hands so they can remember how much God loves them. They can also be reminded to thank God with their hearts and their hands (ie. through prayer).



### Optional Activity

#### Role-Play

##### Materials:

1. blankets, bandages, ice packs, first-aid kits

##### Directions:

1. The children can pretend to be nurses, doctors, paramedics, and sick people.
2. Use plenty of props such as blankets, bandages, ice packs, etc. Chairs can be lined up to make a pretend ambulance.
3. The children can help people, like Jesus did. They should tell their patients that God loves them and cares for them.

### The Man at the Pool

Look at the pictures of the man at the pool.  
Talk about what happened in each picture and fill in the blanks.

#### WORD BANK

temple  
pool  
Jesus  
walk



1. The man at the \_\_\_\_\_  
is lying there.



2. \_\_\_\_\_ talks to the man.



3. Jesus tells the man to get up  
and \_\_\_\_\_.



4. The man is at the \_\_\_\_\_  
telling others what happened to  
him.

Activity 11:2

### Jesus Can Heal Us

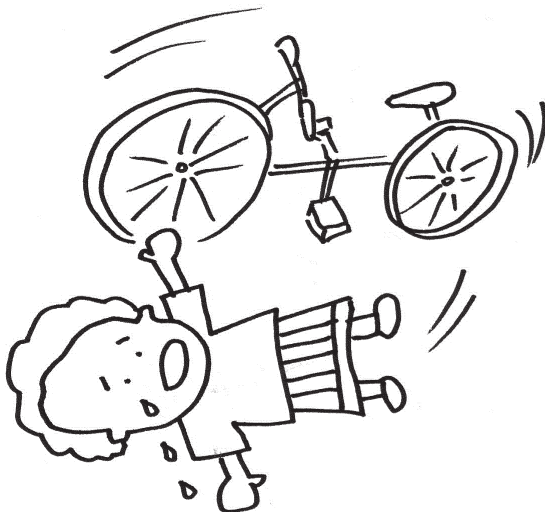
Look at each picture. How is each person feeling? How can Jesus help them? How can they thank God after they are well?



1. Grandma is feeling very sick.



2. Your good friend is sick.



3. A neighbor falls off his bike .  
and is hurt.



4. Your sister is in the hospital.

# Jesus Talks to a Rich Young Man

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- construction paper
- clear sealing tape
- markers and crayons
- safety pins
- scissors



### Scriptures

Mt 19:16-22; Mk 10:17-25

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to love Him with all our heart and mind

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways we can share our things to show God we love Him

### Memory Verse

"You shall love the Lord your God."  
(Deut 6:5)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Rich Young Man

When Jesus was about to leave Perea ("the coasts of Judea by the farther side of Jordan," Mk 10:1), a young man came running up to Him, eager to learn how to obtain eternal life. The young man was a ruler (Lk 18:18) with considerable wealth (Mt 19:22) and he was of high moral character (Mt 10:20). He said he had never broken any of the laws Jesus mentioned (Mk 10:19), and perhaps he had even kept the Pharisees' strictly detailed version of them. But Jesus lovingly broke through the young man's pride with a challenge that truly tested his motivation: "Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor." This challenge exposed the barrier that could keep this young man out of the kingdom: his love of money.

Jesus told this young man that his riches could not buy treasure in heaven. In fact, Jesus knew as long as the young man had his riches, they would be his god. He told the young man to dispose of anything that would hinder him, and then to "take up the cross, and follow Me" (Mk 10:2). But the

promising young man turned away from Jesus and "went away grieved" (Mt 10:22). Money represented his pride in accomplishment and self-effort. Ironically, his attitude made him unable to keep the first commandment, to let nothing be more important than God (Ex 20:3). The man came to Jesus wondering what he could do; he left seeing what he was unable to do.

### The Commandments

When the rich young man asked Jesus what he could do to be saved, Jesus mentioned six commandments in Matthew 19:18. He tells the man, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Interestingly, the commandments Jesus chose to talk about all had to do with how one treated others. Although the young man thought he had kept these laws, his answer was obviously flawed. If he had truly loved others, he would not have a problem sharing his riches with those who were in need. Ultimately, he also could not truly love God (or keep the first four commandments) since money was more important to him.



## Understanding Your Students

Kindergartners, as a group, are very loving people. They like their families, friends, and teachers. They are intrigued by the physical world; they are curious, open, and receptive. Help your children understand that God has given us much to enjoy, and that He wants us to love His gifts. But, more than all these things, He wants us to love Him with all our heart!

Talk to your students about how we can love God with "all our heart." Love is easy for the students to say but hard to really understand. Share some examples first. Try asking them concrete questions like, "Do you love your parents?" and then, "How do you love your parents?" By talking about the different ways, the students can begin to put together the word

"love" with their actions. Do the same thing by talking about how they can love God with their actions. Ask them, "How can people know that you love God?" They might answer simply, "Because we pray" or "We come to church." These are acceptable answers since their minds are still growing.

After a brief discussion, give the students a piece of pre-cut-out heart-shaped construction paper. Ask them to draw or write down three things that they can do to love God with all their heart. Encourage the students to share what they drew or wrote down with the class. Take this opportunity to emphasize that God watches our heart, and He treasures every little effort we make to love Him even more every day. Post these hearts up in the class (or bring them home) to help encourage the students each time they come to worship Him.



## Vocabulary

### **Eternal**

forever, something that never ends



## Before You Teach

This lesson asks us a very important question: What barriers are keeping us from turning our life completely to Christ? To this rich young man, his great wealth was his biggest obstacle to loving God with all his heart. Do we ever feel the same way as he did? What does our money mean to us? Although Jesus wanted this man to sell everything and give his money to the poor, this does not mean that all believers should sell all their possessions. Most of Jesus' followers did not sell everything, although they did use their possessions to serve others. Instead, from the conversations between this rich young man and Jesus, we learn that we must not let anything we have or want keep us from following Jesus. We must remove all barriers in order to fully serve God. If Jesus asked, could we give up our house and move into a smaller one, trade in our car and take the bus, reduce our level of income, or

our status? Our reaction may show our attitude toward money.

To this young man, Jesus' words pierced his heart. The Bible records that he walked away with a sad face. It was tough for him to hear the truth. But in fact, Jesus was showing genuine love for this man. True love is able to give tough to hear advice; it doesn't hover around the truth. Christ loved us enough to die for us, and He also loves us enough to be honest with us. If His love were superficial, He would give us only His approval; but because His love is complete, He gives us life-changing challenges to help us become better and stronger Christians. The next time we come upon a challenge, we should have the courage to face it head-on. Do we have some personal issues we need to confront first? Do we need more strength from God? He loves us so much that no matter what we are facing, He will guide us, so long as we are faithful.





## Bible Story

Before the lesson, give the students a pre-cut out heart-shaped construction paper. Ask them to draw or write down three things that they can do to love God with all their heart. Encourage the students to share with the class what they are drawing or writing down. Then put them aside and begin the lesson. Tell them that they will use the hearts later on in the story.

### **Jesus Talks to a Rich Young Man**

We learned from the past lessons that Jesus went to many places to tell others about God. After a while, many people had heard about Jesus and His teachings.

One day, Jesus was going out on the road, and all of the sudden, there was a young man who ran up to Jesus, wanting to talk to Him. This man was very rich- he had lots and lots of money and owned many things. He had a beautiful house, good food to eat, and nice clothes to wear. Today, if we had all those things we would probably be very happy. Imagine if you could buy any toy, any time you wanted to, wouldn't that make you very happy? Well, this man could buy whatever he wanted so that should have made him feel very happy. But he felt that he was missing something because he still felt unhappy, even though he could have everything. That is why he came to Jesus. He came to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, how can I be sure that I have eternal life? Please tell me what to do!" This young man wanted something that was even better than anything he had in this world—he wanted to be able to go to heaven one day. He knew heaven was something you could not buy with money. So he asked Jesus how he could go to heaven.

Jesus said to him, "God's Word tells you what to do. You know the Ten Commandments. It says, 'Do not kill people; do not hurt people; do not tell lies; do not steal things; and love your father and mother.' You should follow all of them." What was Jesus telling the young man? He was telling him that in order to go to heaven, he needed to follow God's commandments. Do you remember what some of those commandments are? (Take a few moments to review them briefly.)

When this young man heard Jesus, he said, "Ever

since I was a little boy I have always followed these rules."

### **Jesus Tells the Man to Share His Money**

Then Jesus looked at the man lovingly, and said something else. But He said something that the man was surprised to hear. Jesus said, "There is one rule you have not followed—that is you must love God more than anything else in this world. Here is what you need to do to go to heaven: Sell whatever you have and give your money to the poor who need it to buy food, and then come follow me." What was Jesus telling the rich young man? Jesus told him to share his money with the poor. That way, he could really show God how much he loved him.

But when the rich man heard Jesus' words, he couldn't believe it. He had a lot of money. How could he give it all away? Imagine if you had a lot of toys and Jesus asked you to give them away to other children who didn't have any toys. Would you share your toys with them? (Allow students to share without passing judgment.) Well, this young man knew it would be very hard for him to share all his money. So he shook his head sadly and walked away. He walked away because he wanted to have eternal life and be Jesus' follower, but he did not want to give away his money and everything that he had. He loved his money too much; He loved money more than he loved God.

### **Jesus Wants Us to Love Him Completely**

Jesus was sad, too. Children, why do you think Jesus felt sad when the young man walked away? (Encourage children to share.) Jesus was sad because He knew that people cannot have eternal life unless they love God more than anything else. This rich man could not love God more than anything because he loved his money most.

Boys and girls, now that we know what makes Jesus sad, let's think about another question- what makes Jesus happy? (Allow a variety of responses.) The Bible tells us that Jesus is happy when we love Him more than anything else. There are many things we love to do, like play, eat, and swim. What are some others things we really like to do? (Allow students to answer.) We might like to watch television or play video games. Those are fun things to do. But most of all, Jesus wants us to love Him. We have learned from the story that this young man couldn't

love God with all his heart because of the money he had and the many things that he owned. Jesus doesn't want us to be like that. He wants us to love Him more than anything. It doesn't mean we can't do fun things we like. It means He wants us to show Him with our actions every day that we care about Him a lot. How can we show God we love Him with all our hearts? (Brainstorm answers with students or bring out the heart-shape activity prior to the lesson.)

Let's remember what God wants us to do. Today's memory verse teaches us to love God with all

our hearts. Earlier we made this heart and we wrote down things that show God we love Him. Let the heart be a good reminder for everyone to do the best they can to love God with all their heart. Everyone should already have three things that they drew or wrote down in the beginning of the class to put their love for God in action everyday. (Allow time for those who haven't finished to write down three things at the end of the class.) Next time, we can share one thing we did to show God that we love Him with all our heart.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What did the young man ask Jesus?** (He asked Jesus what he should do to get eternal life.)
2. **What is eternal life?** (Eternal life is life together with God in heaven forever.)
3. **What did Jesus tell the young man to do in order to receive eternal life?** (He needed to sell his things, give his money to the

poor, and come follow Jesus.)

4. **The Bible says the young man walked away sad after Jesus told him to share his things. Why?** (He loved his money more than anything and could not give it up.)
5. **What is it that Jesus wants us to do every day?** (He wants us to love Him with all our heart every day.)
6. **How can we love Jesus with all our heart every day?** (Allow students to answer.)



### Life Application Story

#### The Blue Ball

The Hayes family and the Sharp family were having a picnic on a beautiful Sunday morning. The children from both families went to the same school. Cathy Hayes and Melissa Sharp had become great friends in their first grade classroom, and their younger sister and brother, Rachel and David, played well together, too. The two families loved to do things together on the weekend. The Hayes have also been inviting the Sharps to go to church with them so they would get to know God better.

On this day, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Hayes were barbecuing some meat for lunch. Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Sharp were walking by the lake talking about their children. Rachel and David were playing frisbee with Togo, the Hayeses' dog.

Cathy was playing with Melissa by the lake. They were looking at the birds swimming by. As they looked, Melissa spotted a blue ball by the table. She quickly ran over and picked it up.

"Hey, Cathy, let's play catch," said Melissa.

Cathy looked up at her friend. She couldn't believe her eyes. Melissa had grabbed her favorite ball. Cathy had just gotten that blue ball as a present from her parents. This blue ball was small enough to hold in one hand, and could bounce very high. Cathy liked the ball a lot. She even wrote her name on it just in case it got lost. If someone found it, he might return it to her.

"That's my ball and you didn't ask me if you could play with it," snapped Cathy as she ran to grab the ball back from Melissa.

"I'm sorry, Cathy. I didn't know it was yours," apologized Melissa.

"I don't want to get it dirty, Melissa. It's brand new. I don't even let my sister touch it," explained

Cathy.

"That's okay," said Melissa. "We can play with something else."

Cathy felt bad that she wasn't sharing.

"Well, I guess we could play with it for a while. We just have to be very careful," said Cathy.

Soon, the two girls were playing "Pepper" with the blue ball, a game that requires players to throw the ball very quickly back and forth to each other. It was Cathy's turn to throw the ball this time. Up it went! The ball flew high in the sky toward Melissa, but she missed it. The blue ball started bouncing towards the lake!

"Oh, no!" Cathy cried as she ran towards the ball, but it was too late. Cathy saw the ball rolling down to the lake. She had lost her favorite ball.

Cathy was angry and she walked over to Melissa and said, "Why didn't you catch the ball, Melissa? You saw it coming. Why did you miss it?"

Melissa said, "I couldn't. You threw it too fast, Cathy. I am sorry the ball went down to the lake."

Cathy was mad that Melissa didn't catch the ball. Her voice got louder and she yelled, "If you had caught the ball, it wouldn't have fallen into the water! It's all your fault! We shouldn't have played with it in the first place. I shouldn't have shared it."

Melissa was sad when she heard Cathy say that. She ran back to the bench and sat down. Cathy's dad overheard their conversation. He came and patted Melissa on her back and told her that it would be okay. Mr. Hayes then walked up to Cathy and sat down beside her.

"Dad, I lost my blue ball," Cathy said. "It fell into the lake. It's Melissa's fault that this happened."

Mr. Hayes said, "It seems like you care about the ball a lot."

"It was my favorite ball," Cathy replied with tears in her eyes.

"But you are pretty mad at Melissa. Jesus would be sad that you did that. He wants us to share our things and love one another too. It seems like you care more about the ball than about what Jesus wants."

"That's not true. I do care about what Jesus wants. I just want my blue ball back," Cathy said.

Dad continued, "Don't you think Melissa is sad, too? It was an accident. I am sure Melissa didn't miss catching the ball on purpose. What you said to her was not nice."

"I can say sorry to her," Cathy said with a low voice.

"That's a good start," Mr. Hayes said, "Besides, it is only a ball! We can always get you another one. But you need to show us that you can share your things and be someone who shows God's love to others!"

Cathy was still a bit sad. But she knew her dad was right. Jesus wouldn't want her to keep everything to herself. And He definitely wouldn't want her to be mad. Her friend was more important than the ball. She walked over to where Melissa was sitting.

"Sorry, Melissa," said Cathy.

"That's okay. Maybe we can play something else instead," suggested Melissa.

"Okay," smiled Cathy as they ran off together.

#### Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Cathy mad at Melissa?** (Melissa didn't catch the ball in time and it fell in the lake.)
2. **Would you be mad if you were Cathy? Why or why not?** (Allow students to answer.)
3. **If you were Melissa, how would you feel if you missed the ball?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **What did Cathy's dad, Mr. Hayes, talk to Cathy about?** (Mr. Hayes asked Cathy to say sorry to Melissa and really show God's love to others.)
5. **What do you think Jesus wanted Cathy to do?** (He wanted her to show love to others because that is what He commanded us to do.)
6. **What happened to both Cathy and Melissa at the end?** (Cathy apologized to Melissa, and they played together again.)
7. **Is there something that is hard for you to share? What is it?** (Allow students to share.)
8. **What does God want us to do with our things?** (He wants us to share.)
9. **How does sharing make God happy?** (It shows that we love God because we are willing to share.)



## Activity 1

### **Follow Jesus**

Look at the picture of the rich man. The man is thinking about two things: his money and following Jesus. Which one does Jesus want him to choose? (following Jesus) Put an "X" over the other thing. (money) Color in the picture.



## Activity 2

### **What Can We Share?**

Jesus wanted the rich young man to share his things because he had so much. What are the things you can share? Help the students brainstorm some things on the board. Then distribute the page entitled "I Can Share" and have each student draw the things they can share. When we share, we make Jesus happy.



## Activity 3

### **I Can Share Badge**

#### Materials:

1. construction paper
2. clear sealing tape
3. markers and crayons
4. safety pins
5. scissors

#### Directions:

1. Give each student a piece of construction paper.
2. Draw and cut out a circle from the construction paper that is no more than 3 inches in diameter.
3. Have the students write the words, "I Can Share" on the circle.
4. Allow time for students to decorate the circle.
5. To "laminiate" the badge, put clear sealing tape around the circle.
6. Pin a safety pin through the paper and help to pin the badge on the students. Encourage the students to share with others the ways they can share as they wear their badge.

Activity 12:1

### Follow Jesus

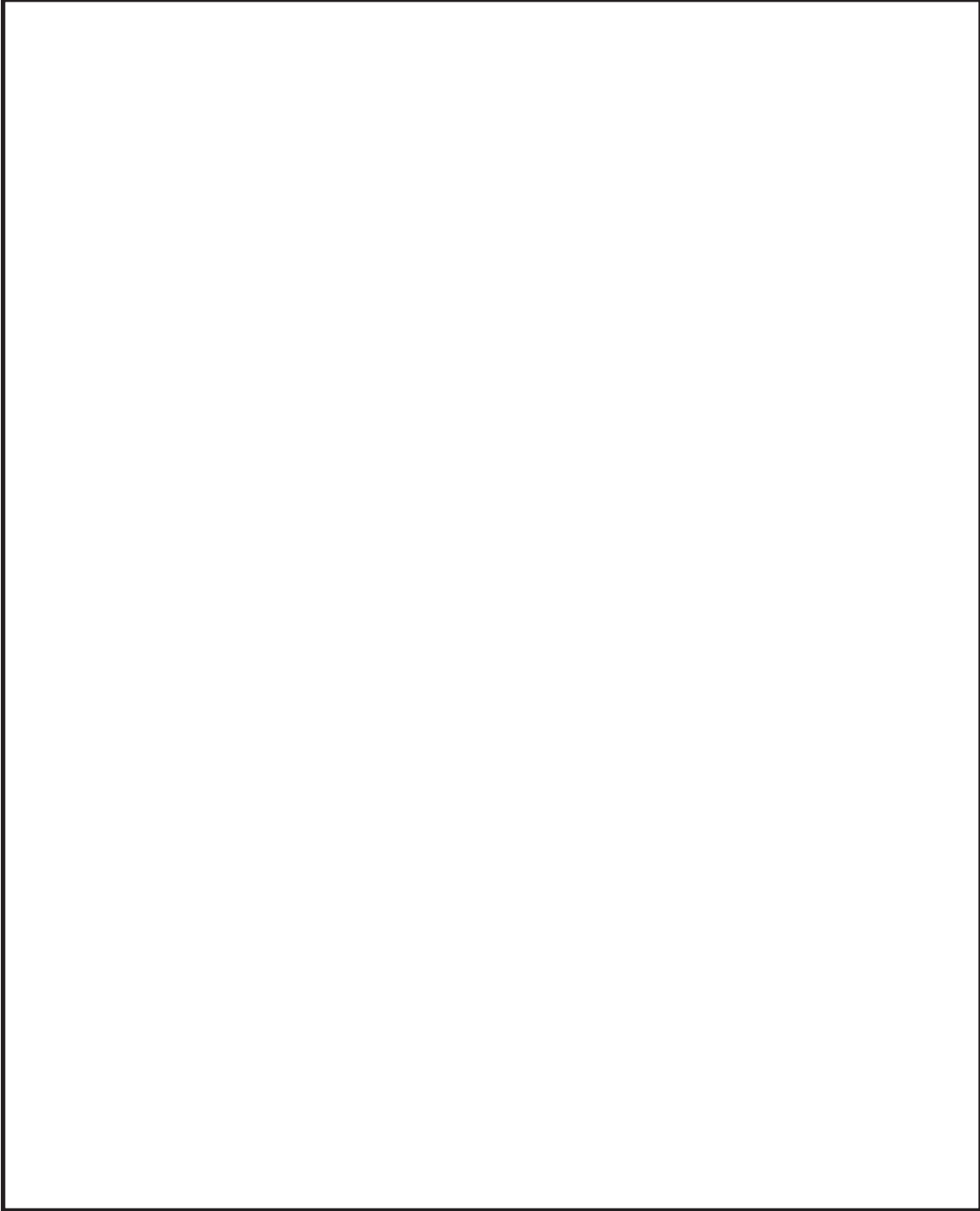
Look at the picture of the rich man. The man is thinking about two things: his money and following Jesus. Which one does Jesus want him to choose? Put an "X" over the other thing. Color in the picture.





Activity 12:2

# I Can Share



**Who Am I?**

1. I was born in a manger in Bethlehem. (Jesus Christ.)
2. We are Jesus' earthly parents. (Joseph and Mary.)
3. We are two elderly believers. We waited in the temple and saw baby Jesus. (Simeon and Anna.)
4. I wanted to have baby Jesus killed because I didn't want Him to grow up and become a king. (King Herod.)
5. I was fishing with my brother Andrew all night but we didn't catch any fish. (Peter.)
6. I baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. (John.)
7. Jesus saw me under a fig tree even before I met Him. (Nathanael.)
8. We were all scared when the storm hit the boat we were on. We woke Jesus up so He could save us. (The disciples.)
9. I could not walk for thirty-eight years but Jesus helped me at the pool. (The man who was crippled.)
10. I was very sad when Jesus asked me to share my money with others who needed it. (The rich young man.)

**Short Answers**

1. Who came and told Mary and Joseph that they would have a special baby? (An angel.)
2. Who followed the star and went to the manger to worship baby Jesus? (The shepherds.)
3. When Mary and Joseph thought they had lost Jesus on the way home from Jerusalem, where did they find Him? (They found Him in the temple. He was asking and answering questions about God and His kingdom.)
4. What amazing thing happened after Jesus

was baptized by John the Baptist? (God sent His spirit down in the form of a dove and God said that He was pleased with Jesus, God's Son.)

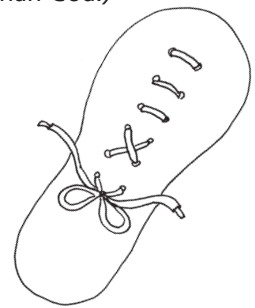
5. What happened after Jesus told Peter and Andrew to throw their nets into the water? (They caught a lot of fish, so much that the boat was sinking.)
6. What did Jesus ask the fishermen to do after catching so much fish? (He told them to follow Him and become fishers of men.)
7. What did Jesus tell us not to worry about? (He told us not to worry about what we are going to eat or wear because He will take care of all those things for us.)
8. How did Jesus stop the storm when He was on the boat with the disciples? (He just spoke and told the wind and rain to stop.)
9. How come Jesus can do so many miracles, like heal the crippled man? (He is God and He is powerful.)
10. Why was the rich man sad when Jesus asked him to share his money? (He was very rich and did not want to give his money away. He loved his money more than God.)

**Follow Jesus****Materials:**

1. posterboard
2. scissors
3. hole punch
4. markers and crayons
5. long shoelaces

**Directions:**

1. Give each student a piece of posterboard.
2. Place an athletic shoe onto the board and trace the outline of the shoe. Cut out the pattern.
3. Help the students punch out 12 holes along the middle of the "shoe" (6 on each side).
4. Help students string the shoelace in the holes.
5. Have students decorate the shoe. Encourage the students to be a good follower of Christ, with the shoe as a reminder.





## Serving God with gladness!

“Praising God and having favor with  
all the people. And the Lord added  
to the church daily those who were  
being saved.”

(Acts 2:47)