

Elementary 1

Year 2 Book 4



Who Is Jesus?

Teacher's Guide & Student Worksheets

This 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.



"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in
that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

(Romans 5:8)

Elementary 1 Year 2 Book 4

Who Is Jesus?

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All Scripture is quoted in NKJV.

Always pray for your students and pray for the wisdom to teach!

Welcome to the world of six to eight-year-olds!

This is a wonderful age range to be teaching, as students are beginning to mature and understand more about the world around them. However, they haven't all grown up yet and still need your gentle nurturing to guide them.

Although your students are beginning to read, they still 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 needs of all the students in the classroom. Visuals are always good reminders at any level because they help the students make connections to the story and retain information. Hands-on activities will help the students to internalize the lessons and make them more meaningful. For example, the students can be involved in making the scenes for the days of creation. This will help them remember what happened much more so than just a telling of the story. It is also vital to ask students to share what they have learned at the end of each lesson. 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 before you move on. Knowledge and learning need to be built upon what they have already grasped. Only then can the students build on their experiences and make the proper connections in future lessons. Furthermore, since they are learning to read, it is vital to ask students to read at least one verse from the Bible each week during class time. You can assist them if they are having difficulty with **vocabulary** words, but this is the time to help them practice turning to the right section of the Bible they are studying. This is a great habit to build up now.

This book is designed to be teacher-and-student friendly, and each lesson follows the same structure. As in all of the textbooks, there are sections before the start of the lesson that give relevant Bible background information. Take the time to review the **Before You Teach** and **Understanding Your Students** sections to familiarize yourself with the teachings since your students are more sophisticated and require more than just an overview of the Bible story. Occasionally, there will be some teaching ideas included. These are simply suggestions you may want to consider as you prepare your lesson. Of course, you can adapt them as needed for your class and students. The story section is a retelling of the events recorded in the Bible.

*“Him we preach,
warning
every man
and teaching
every man
in all wisdom,
that we may
present every
man perfect in
Christ Jesus.”*

—Colossians 1:28

Vocabulary

Before You Teach

Understanding
Your Students

You are encouraged to read it through, but remember to be ready to share the words of God, and not to literally read from the pages of this guide. Please also review the story by using the questions provided in the **Check for Understanding** section. This will give you a good idea of how much the students understand. You can ask each question directly or use other creative ways to have students share their answers.

Check for Understanding

A key indicator to a successful lesson is when the students take something home from the lesson. What have they walked away with and how can they apply what they have learned? The lesson is not complete until you have shared the discussion questions found in the **Spiritual Teaching and Life Application** section. You want your students to leave the class with the feeling that they want to draw even closer to God through specific actions they can take. Help them make goals and be sure to encourage them in their efforts.

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

The last thing you will need to consider for class time is which **activities** will be best for your group of students. Each lesson contains several from which to choose. Again, depending on the time and the abilities of your class, you may choose to do one or two to reinforce the teachings of the lesson.

Activity

Since your students are learning to read and write, this guide has included a **Homework Assignment** section. This serves to remind the students of God's word at home during the week. There is **no** separate student workbook, so you are encouraged to photocopy the homework sheets. The students can store their work in a binder or file folder. You can provide homework each week for them to insert in their folder or reproduce all twelve lessons at the beginning of each new quarter. Review the homework before they leave class so that the students are aware of what to complete and how to do it. You may need to brainstorm ideas for the life application questions so that the students have something to build on when they return home. All teachers need to consistently check homework to make this a useful tool and a good extension of the teachings. The students are also encouraged, via the homework assignment, to develop a daily Bible reading and prayer devotional time. Be sure the parents are aware of this expectation. A partnership between the teachers and parents will greatly facilitate the growing faith of the students.

Homework Assignment

Remember that your students are still growing. There are so many things they can do independently, but there are areas where they need extra support. Take time to get to know each of your students so that you can meet their needs. Most importantly, remember to allow time for yourself to grow closer to God as you help your students develop their relationship with Him!

You can't do MORE for your students until you have knelt down and PRAYED for each of them daily.

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.”

—Zechariah 4:6

YOUR TEACHING PROCEDURES

1

Hymnal Worship (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: To help the students 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 students in simple hymns or action rhymes.

Be Prepared

Be Organized

Be Flexible

2

In-Class Worship (15-20 minutes)

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

Procedure: Say a short prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. There are 3 steps in the In-Class Worship Procedure. They are:

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

Do not forget to explain the key vocabulary words and practice the memory verse, both of which are listed in each lesson.

3

Bible Learning Activity (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: To help 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 to help 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 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.

Teaching with Music

Do your students seem to enjoy music more than the lesson itself? Music can be an effective teaching technique within a lesson.

- Hymns that tell stories can enhance your lessons.
- Many students learn more easily if they can “feel” the material you are teaching. Choose hymns with motions and physical movement.
- Students who do not show emotion easily may find it easier to express themselves through hymns.

Keep these in mind when using music with your students:

- Learn the hymns before you teach them.
- Sing the new hymn to the students before you have them sing it.
- Sing the hymn in a variety of ways—assign parts, use rhythmic instruments, move around, and so on.

Teaching with Bible Dramatics

- Playacting can make Bible stories come alive for the students.
- Let the students volunteer for the roles they want.
- Encourage students to think about the mood, the setting, the characters, and their expressions and motives. They all contribute to making the story come alive.
- Encourage creativity. Acting out Bible stories can help students see the story and characters in a new way.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Elementary 1 (Ages 6-8)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
<p>Body</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still developing/growing, though the pace is slowing 2. Still get tired easily 3. No longer play alone; can adapt to group games or activities 	<p>Increase levels of difficulty in activities as the students become more able physically Do not stretch one activity for too long; find a balance between times of quietness and action Encourage student involvement with more cooperative\ group games; show respect to everyone</p>
<p>Mind</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have strong sense of imagination 2. Still think according to words on paper; cannot accept abstract ideas 3. Concept of space and time is still limited 4. Reading ability is gradually strengthening 5. Have excellent memory 6. Deductive thinking is still limited 	<p>Encourage the use of imagination, but help students to discern fact from fiction Use familiar similes and parallels to which students can relate, just as Jesus used the familiar to teach the unfamiliar Be careful when describing time and space Encourage the reading of books that promote spirituality Encourage the memorization of Bible verses Repeat content regarding abstract terms and truths</p>
<p>Mood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very sensitive; can have outbursts of emotion 2. At the adorable stage; like to please teachers and receive praise 3. Full of compassion and care for others 4. Still tend to fear and withdraw 	<p>Get excited or saddened easily Easy to discipline, but pay special attention to giving praise and encouragement Nurture students to help, serve, and treat others fairly Provide a sense of security</p>
<p>Social Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make friends easily 2. Like to please adults 3. Like to cooperate and do not like to compete 4. Have good social skills; desire acceptance from others 5. Still like to quarrel with friends; always change their best friends 	<p>Help them to establish friendships Establish a student-teacher relationship Promote cooperation by offering group projects/activities Be careful not to promote hypocrisy when teaching Place emphasis on teaching students to love one another; encourage a giving spirit instead of a selfish one</p>
<p>Spirituality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a simple faith; are interested in a life of faith; will initiate prayer 2. Curious about death and heaven 3. Like to attend RE classes 4. Are learning to differentiate between real biblical stories and fictional fairy tales or legends 5. Are learning the moral teachings of good and evil 6. All spiritual experiences come from imitating adults 	<p>Use a systematic way of teaching faith and the truth; encourage prayer Simply explain the truth of salvation Nurture their interest in Bible reading and church activities Emphasize that the Bible contains the words of God and is not a common book, but one inspired and written by God Emphasize the moral aspects of the Bible Set a good example; share more spiritual experiences with students</p>

MEMORY VERSES

E1 Year 2 Book 4

June, July, August

1. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
(2 Peter 3:18a)
2. "Jesus said to him, 'All things are possible to him who believes.'"
(Mark 9:23b)
3. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)
4. "Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite."
(Psalm 147:5)
5. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."
(Acts 3:19a)
6. "'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 19:19)
7. "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25b)
8. "Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)
9. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
(James 1:22)
10. "The humble in spirit will retain honor." (Proverbs 29:23b)
11. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28b)
12. "Let not mercy and truth forsake you." (Proverbs 3:3a)

LESSON 1

WHO IS JESUS?

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Name of Jesus

The name “Jesus” means “YHWH saves” and was revealed to Mary by an angel (Lk 1:31). The name itself was common in the Old Testament (cf. Joshua). But when Mary gave birth (after conceiving through the Holy Spirit) and named the child Jesus, “Jesus” became the name of the one true God. He had previously only been known as “I AM” or “YHWH,” a word so ancient and unspoken its actual pronunciation was forgotten.

Before immersing ourselves into what Jesus has done and is doing, we need to know who Jesus is. “Who is Jesus?” Simply put, Jesus is our God. What He has done in the past are only reflections of what He can do in us today (Jn 21:25). Every title He has and every action that Jesus does leads back to the meaning of His name, to the fact that Jesus is God and that He saves.

Titles of Jesus

In the New Testament, Jesus has many different titles. They include the Word, the Lamb of God, Faithful and True, and, famously, the seven “I am’s” as recorded in the Gospel of John. However, they are not just mere titles. The many names serve to show that He is God, He is love, and He is the Savior. His love, care, and offer of salvation for everyone are best demonstrated in everything He said and did while on earth—in other words, His miracles and teachings. Through these events, Jesus showed the vast roles He plays in our lives. He has not changed and continues to take on the roles of counselor, friend and Savior for all who come to Him today. The following are the titles that Jesus Himself has claimed, thereby erasing all doubt that He is the Lord God.

The Son of Man	Mt 8:20; 16:27; Mk 8:31, 38; 9:9; Lk 6:22; Jn 1:12:23, 34
The Son of God	Mt 11:27; Mk 14:61-62; Lk 8:28; 10:22; Jn 1:18; 3:35-36
The Messiah/Christ	Mt 23:9-10; Mk 8:29-30; Lk 24:25-27; Jn 4:25-26
Teacher/Master	Mt 26:18; Jn 13:13-14
Lord	Mk 5:19; Jn 13:13-14; 20:28
Savior	Lk 19:10; Jn 3:17

The Prophecies About Jesus

There are a number of passages in the Old Testament that tell about a specific person God would send to save the Israelites from their sins. This person was, of course, Jesus Christ. These passages include details about the birth of Jesus (Isa 11:1; Jer 33:15; Ezek 37:24), His name (Isa 7:14), His sufferings (Ps 22; Isa 53), His crucifixion (Ps 22), and His resurrection (Ps 16:9-11; Isa 53:10-11). In fact, the Old Testament pointed to the coming of the Messiah, the one who would carry out God’s plan of salvation.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 5:1-11, 17-35

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is God, the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah, and our Savior.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To realize that, unless we constantly strive to know who Jesus is, we cannot be close to Him.
2. To know that God is there to protect His children and to look after them, if they completely trust in Him.
3. To remember that Jesus is still working now and, when we worship in His name, He is with us.

MEMORY VERSE

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

(2 Peter 3:18a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we are about to begin a new quarter. In this quarter, we will be learning more about You and the wonderful things that You did while You were on earth. You came to save us from sin; because You died for us, we can be closer to You. You are our Savior. Please help us to understand Your words and teachings. Help us learn how to keep You in our lives every day. We praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

“Who is Jesus?” How would your students answer this question? They may say that He is the Savior, the only true God, or the long awaited Messiah. While this is all true, what kind of impact does this have on them? Your students are still at an age where having a deep understanding of the roles of Jesus is difficult, but their answers can be more than mere lip service. At this age, learning is primarily based on memorization. The more stories and testimonies they hear from you, the deeper their appreciation of who Jesus is will become. Reflect on how you understood Jesus when you were in elementary school, and on the simplicity of what Jesus does. He teaches, we learn; He heals, we pray to Him; He is God,

we come to church and worship Him.

The lessons throughout this quarter all focus on Jesus and His teachings. This is a great opportunity for the students to develop a personal relationship with Him. They need to experience for themselves that Jesus is more than a figure in the Bible. In turn, they will learn how all of these roles Jesus plays can help them rely on Him whenever they need help in any area of their lives. When they need a friend, a teacher, a helper, a comforter, or a Savior, they should be able to go to Jesus. Always encourage them to pray constantly and to read the Bible with their family at home. This way, their relationship with God will grow stronger with each day.

VOCABULARY

Savior: one who rescues and saves

Christ: the anointed one; the only one who can save us

conceive: to become pregnant

compassion: pity or sympathy; the desire to help someone who is having difficulties

disciple: follower, student

forgiveness: to pardon, to release someone from the bad things they did

REVIEW

Elementary 1 Year 2 Book 3: Blessed Are the Obedient

Lesson 1: Solomon Requests Wisdom

Lesson 2: Solomon Builds the Temple of God

Lesson 3: Solomon's Failure

Lesson 4: Josiah Repairs the Temple

Lesson 5: Queen Esther

Lesson 6: Mordecai and Haman

Lesson 7: The Jews Are Saved

Lesson 8: Ezra and Nehemiah

Lesson 9: Daniel and His Three Friends

Lesson 10: The Fiery Furnace

Lesson 11: The Writing on the Wall

Lesson 12: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Lesson 13: Review

Themes from this book: Choosing to listen to and obey God; following God's directions; being loyal to God; growing in God's wisdom

Key characters: Solomon; Josiah; Esther; Ezra; Nehemiah; Daniel

BIBLE STORY

Who can tell me the names of some of the people you learned about last quarter? We learned about kings, queens, and prophets [give students time to recall and prompt them if necessary, e.g., “Remember Queen Esther? Who was she and what did she do?"]. Today, we are going to fast forward hundreds of years from the time of these servants of God and learn about someone who was greater than any king or queen. This Person was more powerful than them and an even more faithful servant who did everything God wanted Him to do. We are going to learn about Jesus this quarter. Even though Jesus taught and performed miracles for only three years, He did many things for all the people around Him to show them that He was not just the Son of Man, but that He was also the Son of God.

Let's first play a short game to see how much we already know about Jesus. We are going to play heads down, thumbs up [ask students to put their heads down on their desks and close their eyes]. Thumbs up if you know: who Jesus is; how Jesus was born; that Jesus was a teacher; that Jesus was a Shepherd; that Jesus was a doctor; that Jesus was a leader. Thumbs up if you think: that Jesus stopped working after He resurrected; that Jesus is still working now.

Jesus is God, and He came to earth. Can you believe that? Two thousand years ago, Jesus was on earth. He was a baby once, too, but He was conceived in a very special way—by the Holy Spirit. This showed that He was God. Still, He grew up just like each one of you. He would get hungry like us and get tired like us, but He wasn't just like any of us. Not many people knew how great Jesus was; a lot of people thought that He was just an ordinary man and barely *anybody* knew that He was God. Only those closest to Him knew that He was the Son of Man and the Son of God. This was because Jesus had a special mission while He was on earth for all the people then and for us today. Turn to the classmate next to you and quickly discuss what Jesus came to earth to do. [Allow each pair to respond.] Jesus came to die for us so that we could be saved and believe in Him. There are two words I want you to remember today: Savior and Christ. Jesus is both of these things. As a Savior, He can rescue us from sin. Christ is a special name that means “anointed one,” meaning only Jesus can save us. There are a lot of things only Jesus can do because He alone is God. Only those who were really close to Him knew this. So this quarter, we are going to learn about what He taught while He was on earth so that we can grow closer to Him and know how He can always help us.

Jesus loved to be with all the people because He loved them. Sometimes, He would barely have time to eat or rest because so many people needed His help. Today, we will learn two stories of how Jesus helped two people see who He really was. One of them was someone who was very

close to Him, a disciple of His called Simon Peter; the other was a complete stranger who really needed help, and Jesus did more than help him.

[It may help students if when each time a different role/title of Jesus is mentioned, it is written on the board to help illustrate the vast number of roles Jesus plays in our lives and to help them follow the narrative. Italicized words in parentheses in the story below are the roles/titles that can be written on the board.]

When Jesus began preaching, He would preach to hundreds of people. There were so many people that He couldn't fit everyone into a classroom like ours, or even a chapel like ours. He would teach outside. One day, He walked by some boats where fishermen were washing their nets. One of these boats was owned by a man called Peter. To be able to teach all of the people (*Teacher*), He climbed into the boat and asked Peter to row a little bit away from the shore. Jesus taught them everything about God and about why He had come to this earth. When He had finished, He told Peter to throw his net into the water to catch some fish. Peter said, “Master, we have worked all night and caught nothing, but at Your word I will let down my net.” (*Master*.) Peter obeyed Him, and when he threw the net in, he caught so many fish that other people had to help him because the net was breaking. This was a miracle! Jesus had allowed such a great number of fish to be caught. Peter immediately knew that Jesus wasn't an ordinary man or teacher. He fell at His feet and cried, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (*Lord*.) [Have students take turns acting this out by falling on their knees and saying it.] Imagine how afraid and guilty Peter must have felt. He may have done bad things in the past, and he may have doubted that he would be able to catch any fish, but he knew without a doubt that Jesus was Lord. Jesus loved Peter and He said, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” Jesus is the only one who can forgive sins because He is God, so He wanted Peter to follow Him and know more about who He was. He wanted Peter to stop catching fish and instead bring other people to know who Jesus was—someone who could command creation, change lives, and save them.

Peter did follow Jesus, along with his brother Andrew and his friends, James and John; they followed Jesus for three years. As one of Jesus' disciples, Peter saw everything Jesus did and slowly learned of who Jesus is. One day, after following Him for a while, Jesus asked Peter, “Who do other people say that I, the Son of Man, am?” Peter answered that some people thought that He was like other prophets, the servants of God that we learned about in previous lessons. But Peter knew better.

So when Jesus asked Peter who he thought He was, Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living

God." Hallelujah! Children, if we can keep ourselves close to Jesus by praying, reading the Bible, and coming to church, we too can learn who Jesus is because He is our best teacher. We also have to follow what Jesus said to Peter and all the other disciples! We have to bring other people to know Jesus; we have to become fishers of men.

Not long after Jesus taught on Peter's boat, he went around to different places and taught and healed people. There were so many people who needed to be healed and who wanted to hear what Jesus said; people were beginning to see that He was not an ordinary man, that He was the Son of Man and Son of God. One time, Jesus was teaching in a house and nearby there was a man who couldn't walk. The man's friends really wanted him to see Jesus because they knew that Jesus would be able to heal him, but they couldn't get through the large crowd. So, they went onto the roof and lowered the man into the room so that Jesus could see the man. When Jesus saw this act, one full of love and faith, He said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven you." Do you think this healed the man so that he could walk again? This seems like a very strange thing for one man to say to another. If we say to someone, "Your sins are forgiven," does it mean anything? When Jesus said this, it meant that the man was set free from the bad things he had done. Jesus is God and this is why He could forgive sins. But a lot of people around Jesus weren't happy with this; they couldn't believe what Jesus said

because only God could forgive sins! How could this Jesus say something like this? They couldn't see that Jesus is God (*Son of Man; God*). They could only see what was in front of them and couldn't believe that Jesus is God. So, Jesus asked them, is it harder to say "Your sins are forgiven" or "Rise up and walk"? Have you ever seen anyone tell someone who couldn't walk to get up and walk, and that person could suddenly walk? Probably not. But Jesus did it. He had the power to heal people and, more importantly, to forgive their sins, because Jesus is God! So, He told the man to pick up the bed that he was sitting on and walk. The paralyzed man immediately stood up. Another miracle!

Why did Jesus first forgive this man's sins? Jesus forgave the sins of this stranger because He was full of love for him, just as Jesus loves us today. He wants us to stop doing things that displease God, because Jesus came to earth as our Savior and Christ. Do you still remember what these two words mean? [Wait for answers.] Jesus came and died for us, and He can do so much for us. He is our Teacher, our Healer. But most importantly, Jesus is our Savior and God. Now discuss with the classmate next to you how Jesus has already helped you in your life. [Allow each student to share.] Please share one role or title of Jesus and what it means to you [direct the students' attention towards the board to remind them of the different roles and titles of Jesus].

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False/Questions to Think About

1. Jesus healed many _____ (sick) people because He loved them.
2. Jesus was the Son of _____ (Man) and the Son of _____ (God).
3. Jesus didn't want Peter to follow Him because Peter had sinned. False; Jesus asked him to follow Him.
4. Jesus is Christ, which means the "anointed one." True.
5. Jesus has the power to forgive and save everyone because He is God. True.
6. What are some of the titles of Jesus? What do they mean? Son of Man: Jesus was born on earth; Son of God: Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Christ/Messiah: the anointed one; Savior: He came to save everyone; Teacher: He would teach His disciples how they could be saved.
7. What was Jesus' mission or purpose on earth? To save people and forgive their sins.
8. Why did Jesus heal everyone who came to Him? Because He loved them and wanted them to know that He is God/the Son of God.
9. Jesus helped many people, even people who were sinners. Is it okay to help sinners? Answers may vary; ask for reasons. An important point to bring up to make them think: are we sinners? Jesus helped sinners, so we need to follow what Jesus did and help as many people know about Jesus as possible.
10. Why did God have to come in the form of a man to save us? Answers may vary. Important points: He loves us; this was His plan; He wants us to be closer to Him and to know who Jesus is.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Unless we constantly strive to know who Jesus is, we cannot be close to Him.

Our book this quarter is titled “Who Is Jesus?” You may wonder, “Does it really take twelve lessons for us to learn who Jesus is?” Well, in fact, it takes far more than just twelve lessons for us to really get to know who Jesus is—it takes a lifetime! When Peter first met Jesus, he had just spent the entire night in the sea catching fish. How many did he and the other fisherman catch? [Let students answer.] He didn’t catch any! Remember, Peter was a professional fisherman. He couldn’t catch any fish that night. Imagine walking up to him and saying, “Throw your net into the water again and catch some fish.” Would Peter have listened to you? [Let students answer.] Probably not. However, he did when Jesus told him to do so. Why? He respected Jesus as a teacher and therefore humbled himself before Him. In the same way, we also need to humble ourselves if we want to know who Jesus is. We need to listen carefully to what Jesus says, and do it with a humble heart. What happened to Peter when he listened? He caught so many fish that his net started breaking! It was a miracle! Today, even though Jesus is no longer on earth, He is alive and watching over us. He reveals His teachings to us through the Bible. We need to study diligently and act upon His word, just like Peter did when he listened to Jesus and threw his net back in the sea.

When Peter first met Jesus, he called Him a “master.” But what did he call Jesus after he witnessed a miracle? [Let students answer.] He called Him “Lord.” He knew that Jesus was not just an ordinary man. However, to be able to say “Jesus is Lord” is merely the first step in our walk with Jesus. Like Peter, it took him constant discipleship before he confessed that Jesus is the Son of God. The Bible says, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (Jas 4:8). Unless we constantly strive to know who Jesus is, we cannot be close to Him. So, how can we get close to Jesus? When Jesus was on earth, He already predicted His own death. But before He was nailed on the cross, He said to His disciples, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (Jn 14:26). Jesus has promised to send us His Spirit to help us! Students, do you know what Jesus’ Spirit is? [Let students answer.] Jesus’ Spirit is the Holy Spirit! When people receive the Holy Spirit, they receive Jesus inside them. This is why we have to earnestly pray for the Holy Spirit. We cannot be close to Jesus and understand His word unless we constantly strive to know who He is.

Students, how earnestly are you praying for the Holy Spirit? Are you humble enough, diligent enough, and desperate enough for the Holy Spirit? Being “earnest” and “desperate” for something means to want something really, really bad. Now, think of something that you really want. [Let students think.] Remember that feeling and double it! That’s called “desire.” You want it so bad. And now, triple that feeling! This is what “earnest” and “desperate” feel like. You want something so bad that you will keep trying and trying to obtain it until you receive it. You will not give up and you will not get lazy. This is how we should be when praying for the Holy Spirit! Are you ready? Here is a short testimony to encourage us.

Rachel had just come home from Student Spiritual Convocation. Together with some other students, she had been praying for the Holy Spirit very hard. She was determined to receive God in her heart and follow Him wholeheartedly. However, she didn’t get the Holy Spirit during SSC. Still, the pastor had told her that the Spirit moved her. He encouraged her to keep praying and never give up. Rachel took the pastor’s words to heart and decided to pray as much as she could until she received the Holy Spirit. As soon as Rachel stepped into her room, she knelt down again to pray. The Holy Spirit was so close to dwelling within her, all she needed to do was pray earnestly and sincerely for it. She knew that the Holy Spirit would help her understand the word of God. In her desperation and longing, Rachel prayed for an hour that night and finally received the Holy Spirit. She was overwhelmed with joy!

Students, do you have this longing for God?

2. God is there to protect His children and to look after them, if they completely trust in Him.

Now, take a minute to think about how Jesus has helped you in your life. [Let each student share.] Indeed, Jesus can help us with everything! It's amazing! Today, Jesus gave us His Spirit so that He could always be with us. John 14:18 says, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." If we have the Holy Spirit, then Jesus is with us, so we have to pray earnestly and ask God to enter our hearts and help us when we do not know what to do. The more we understand how Jesus helps us every day, the closer we will draw to Him. Let me share a testimony with you from a member in the True Jesus Church.

When I was 14, I was good friends with a group of people in school. We did everything together—walk to school in the morning, go to classes, eat lunch, sit on the playground and talk, go to afterschool activities, etc. I loved being with them very much. However, I started to notice something was wrong. They began to use many "bad words" in our conversations that were violent and very disrespectful. One after another, all of my friends were using those words. They used those words so frequently that it was as if they created a whole new language. I knew right from the beginning that using those words was not right in God's eyes, so I didn't say any of them, even though I started to feel as if I spoke a different language than they did. However, as time went by, I began to feel some pressure.

One time, my friend said to me, "You seem so different from the rest of us." And then another friend of mine responded, "Yeah, she's a Christian." Thinking back, I should have been very proud of myself. But at that time, I actually felt very hurt after that conversation. I thought that my friends didn't like me because I was different—I was the only Christian among my friends! I was very tempted to try saying some of those "bad words" just so I could fit in better at school. I was afraid of losing my friend. However, that thought always disappeared as soon as I prayed to God every night. Every time I prayed, I felt guilt in my heart, and I knew it came from the temptation I had. I couldn't pray about anything else until I repented to God.

A few months went by; I went through a cycle of being tempted, repenting, and then back to being tempted again. At that point, I knew it was the work of the Holy Spirit constantly fighting for me against my temptation. He kept reminding me that what I was tempted to do would not please God. One day, I was at church and my prayers felt particularly strong. I prayed to God to give me strength so that I could follow the will of His Spirit. Miraculously, from that point on, I never felt tempted again. Every time I heard a bad word from my friends, I felt disgusted. Not only was I not tempted to say those words, I wanted to run away! Gradually, I found myself with a new group of friends. By the grace of God, His Spirit saved me from letting unholy words come out of my mouth!

Wow! Can you see how the Holy Spirit was a big helper in this testimony? What do you think would have happened to this church member if he didn't have the Holy Spirit? [Let students answer.] He would probably have given into his temptation and started using "bad words" to save his old friendships—friendships that weren't worth anything. There is nothing Jesus cannot do for us through His Spirit, and He is always with us. These are things we should never forget. "For with God nothing will be impossible" (Lk 1:37). Let's pray for His Spirit to dwell in us so that we can experience a closer relationship with Jesus!

3. Jesus may have been on this earth over two thousand years ago, but He is still working now and, when we worship in His name, He is with us.

Have you ever wondered, "What is Jesus doing right now? Has He gone somewhere to rest after sending us the Holy Spirit?" No. On the contrary, Jesus is working very hard right now! What is He doing? He is praying for us. He is watching us and praying for our every need. Why? So that we don't do bad things and sin, and so that we can one day see Him again in heaven. Because of His prayers, His Spirit that dwells inside of us can fight with us and for us against any temptations to sin.

Every time a sermon or a class begins, what does the pastor or teacher usually say? [Let students answer.] "In the name of Jesus Christ." "In the name of Jesus Christ" is how we begin any holy work. In other words, we are allowing the Holy Spirit to help us in our holy work so that we work according to God's will. Why is it so important for us to use Jesus' name, you might ask. From the Bible, we can find the answers. Let's turn to some Bible verses!

1. Philippians 2:10

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.

Because we are worshipping Him when we do holy work, we begin our services, RE classes, and any holy work in His name.

2. Acts 4:12

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Only by Jesus' name can we be saved. Jesus prays for us so that we don't sin. Why? Sins will keep us from going to heaven. Jesus loves us, died for us, and is praying for us. Everything He has done and is still doing is for one reason—for us to be saved. If we do not acknowledge Him, we have no part in God's salvation.

3. John 14:13

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Whatever we ask in Jesus' name, He will give us. We live a temporary life on earth during which we will meet many challenges. But if we remember that we can always ask in Jesus' name for God's help, we will receive answers that will never lead us astray.

4. Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

When we gather in His name, Jesus is with us. Even though we cannot see Him, Jesus is here with us in class right now!

Students, these are little things that happen in our worship every day, but we should remember that they are not little at all. They are God's mighty work in our everyday lives. Jesus may have been on this earth over two thousand years ago, but He is still working now, and when we worship in His name, He is with us. Can you feel His presence in your everyday lives?

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. men
5. disciples
6. "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"
7. True
8. 1) Forgave his sins; 2) Healed him and made him walk.
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1**What Do You Believe?****Objective:** To help the students affirm their belief in Jesus.**Instructions**

Read each sentence carefully. Put a check mark next to the ones that mean Jesus is our Savior. Put an "X" next to the ones that say otherwise. Do you believe the sentences next to which you put a check mark? You should, because Jesus came to help and save us.

Next, give each student a partner and one of the correct descriptions of Jesus. Tell the pairs to brainstorm how these descriptions of Jesus can occur in our life today and to perform a skit for the rest of the students in the class. They must guess which description of Jesus it is. (E.g., "Jesus is my Savior"; students preach to their friends so that their friends may know who can save them. "Jesus is my teacher"; students put what they learn in RE classes into practice.)

1. _____ Jesus is an action hero, like a super soldier.
2. _____ Jesus is just another character in the Bible. He is only a person from long, long ago.
3. _____ Jesus is my Savior and Messiah. He loves me.
4. _____ Jesus is only for sick people.
5. _____ Jesus is my friend. He is always there to help me.
6. _____ Jesus is my teacher. He teaches me to know more about Him.
7. _____ Jesus is a healer. He alone can truly help us.
8. _____ Jesus is not God. He is only the son of Mary.
9. _____ Jesus gives us hope that we can go to heaven.
10. _____ Jesus loves us but He cannot save us.

2

Who Jesus Is to Me...

Objective: To make posters to serve as reminders of who Jesus is and what He means to us.

Jesus should be at the center of our lives and more important than anything else.

Materials

- Poster or Bristol board
- Markers
- Scissors
- Construction paper (white and other colors)
- Decorative materials
- Glue

Instructions

1. In the center of the poster board, cut out or write "Jesus is..."
2. Brainstorm which titles or descriptions of Jesus you want to focus on. Come up with one for each student (the Savior, Christ, God, the light, my friend).
3. Cut out medium-sized circles and speech bubbles using white construction paper.
4. Ask students to draw their faces on the circles.
5. Write in each speech bubble, "Jesus is _____ in my life when..." Hand out one speech bubble per student.
6. Assign each student a description, and then ask the students to complete this description to show how Jesus completes this role/description in their lives and helps them to apply it to their lives.
7. Glue these faces and speech bubbles around the central "Jesus is..." and allow students to decorate the rest of the poster board using markers or construction paper. Make the poster board colorful, but remember that the speech bubbles and roles/titles should stand out the most.

3

Singing Hymns

Objective: To familiarize students with hymns about who Jesus is.

Suggested hymns: "He's Everything to Me," "Jesus Is All the World to Me" (1st verse only), or other appropriate children's hymns.

Instructions

1. Go through the lyrics slowly, depending on the students' reading levels.
2. Sing through it, emphasizing that we can remember who Jesus is by singing about Him every day.

4

Remembering the Roles of Jesus / Optional

Objective: To allow the students to remember what Jesus does for us through an interactive game.

Instructions

Assign each student a title of used for Jesus and sit in a circle. Play a name-memorization game where students call out different titles, instead of each other's names, while clapping in rhythm.

Titles

- Savior
- Christ
- Lord
- Son of God
- Son of Man
- Master
- Teacher

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 1—Who Is Jesus?

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is God, the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah, and our Savior.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what He means to us.
 2. To know the different roles Jesus held to those around Him.
 3. To learn how each of Jesus' roles can help us in our lives today.
 4. To realize that Jesus has to be the most important part of our lives.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(2 Peter 3:18a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : Which of these is NOT another title for Jesus?
 - a. Teacher
 - b. Son of Man
 - c. Fisherman
 - d. Master

2. ____ : Peter knew something about Jesus that not many people knew. What was it?
 - a. Jesus was the wisest teacher in the world.
 - b. Jesus was Christ and Son of the Living God.
 - c. Jesus was going to fight and become king.
 - d. Jesus had the power to heal people.

3. ____ : Why did Jesus heal people and become our Savior?
 - a. Because He has great power
 - b. Because people asked Him to
 - c. Because Jesus had nothing better to do
 - d. Because He loves mankind

Fill In the Blank

4. Jesus wanted Peter to help Him preach, so Jesus told Peter, "I will make you fishers of _____."
5. The people who chose to follow Jesus and learn from Him were called _____.

Puzzler

6. Rearrange these words to find out what Peter said to Jesus after a great miracle of catching fish!

(Lord, I, Depart, O, man, sinful, me, for, from, am, a)

" _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____!"

True or False

7. Jesus is God, who came to earth and died for our sins so that we may be saved. _____

Challenge

8. To show the people that He was God and had the power of God, Jesus did two things for the paralyzed man. What were they?
 - 1.
 - 2.

Story-telling Time

9. Tell two people about how Jesus showed that He is one of the following:
Teacher, Master, Son of Man, Savior, Christ, Healer, God

Have the people fill out the sentence below for you:

1st Listener

I was told the story about how Jesus is _____ and I (circle one):

...enjoyed the story.

...only understood part of it.

...didn't understand the story.

_____ (Listener's Signature)

2nd Listener

I was told the story about how Jesus is _____ and I (circle one):

...enjoyed the story.

...only understood part of it.

...didn't understand the story.

_____ (Listener's Signature)

LESSON 2

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee stretched as far as eight miles wide and thirteen miles long. The feeding of the 5,000 took place on the shores of the Sea of Galilee near Bethsaida (Mk 6:33-39). After the miraculous event, Jesus told His disciples to first travel to the western side of the sea. On land, it may have been as far as fifteen miles from Bethsaida to Gennesaret. Traveling by boat was a lot faster, but it still would have taken a number of hours, hence why the disciples were still in the boat in the middle of the night. They were also hampered by the raging storm.

The Fourth Watch

According to Roman calculations, the night was divided into four watches. The first watch occurred from 6:00 to 9:00 PM; the second from 9:00 to midnight; the third from midnight to 3:00 AM; and the fourth watch, mentioned in Matthew 14:25, was from 3:00 to 6:00 AM. In contrast, the Jews only had three watches during the night. The first watch took place from sunset to 10:00 PM, the second from 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM, and the last from 2:00 AM to sunrise (Judg 7:19; 1 Sam 11:11).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

"I'll believe it when you show me." This is not an uncommon phrase to hear. Unless there is great trust involved, it is hard to just "take someone's word for it." Doubt is a weakness everyone deals with. However, your students are at an age where they are still fairly innocent and will usually believe what others say. That is why it is not a good idea to abuse their trust in you at any time. They look to their teacher as the person who has all the right answers.

Because of their innocence at this age, now is a good time to develop their faith in God. They know that they can pray to God for anything and that He will keep all of His promises. Ask your students what they usually do when they become sick. Do they pray to God and ask Him to make them well? Remind them that God will grant them their requests if they believe with all their heart. In Matthew 17:20-21, Jesus said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." This is all that is required—faith as small as a mustard seed. God made the heavens and the earth. For Him, curing a cold would be easy to do. The question is, do your students truly believe it, even though they cannot see the final result? Encourage them to believe wholeheartedly and without doubt. God can do all things. All they need to do is trust Him with a simple but sincere faith.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 14:24-36;
Mark 6:33-52

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is almighty and has the power to perform miracles because He is God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize that Jesus is almighty and that He has the power to perform miracles because He is God.
2. To teach students that they should have faith in God without doubt.

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said to him, 'All things are possible to him who believes.'"

(Mark 9:23)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving us peace and rest this past week. Sometimes we encounter difficulties that are hard to overcome, but You always give us the strength we need to go on. You are the almighty God and everything is possible with You. We have come here today to worship You and learn Your precious words. Please teach us to have faith in You and to trust in You at all times. All glory to God. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

compassion: feeling love for others and wanting to help them; caring for someone

faith: being sure about and hoping for something that you cannot see or that has not happened yet (Heb 11:1)

doubt: being unsure about something so that you feel like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind (Jas 1:6)

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about Jesus. Although He was born through Mary, He was the Son of God. He came to earth to save us from our sins. He preached the word of God and helped many people. How did He help them? (He healed the sick and fed the hungry.) Even though He was God, He was also a friend to ordinary people like you and me. He had compassion on people, and everyone knew that they could turn to Him in times of need. Jesus was a loving God who also had other titles. Sometimes, He was called the Messiah, Christ, or Lord. What other titles did Jesus have? (Son of Man, Son of God, Teacher, Master, Savior.) All of these titles point to the same gospel message: Jesus is our Savior from heaven, and only He can give us eternal life.

The Lord Jesus not only gives us eternal life, He also helps us every day in our lives on earth. Today, we will learn about two miracles that Jesus performed that show that He has compassion on us and that we should have faith in Him and not doubt.

BIBLE STORY

[Preparation: Prepare a prop that represents the boat the disciples were on. You may want to use a soft object that the students can toss or roll to others without hurting them. You may also choose to make an origami paper boat. Have the students sit in a circle facing you, and then begin to tell the story.]

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

When Jesus preached, many people followed Him wherever He went. As He taught them the words of God, He also helped those in need by doing things such as curing the sick. There was always a large crowd that surrounded Him.

One day, Jesus had gone to a deserted place by Himself. This means that there was no one else around. But many people heard about where He had gone, so they followed Him by walking from the cities to where He was. Jesus had great compassion on them and taught them. When night was coming, His disciples said, "This place is deserted, and it's getting late. Send the people away so that they can go to the villages to buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

Boys and girls, how many of you have been out on a picnic or gone camping? How much food do you have to bring with you so that you can have enough to eat and not be hungry? [Let students respond.] When we have fellowship lunch on Sabbath and you stand in line to get food, how much food is usually there? (A lot!) Normally

we have ____ [number] church members during Sabbath service, so we have to prepare food for that many people. Now, when the Lord Jesus told the disciples to give the people something to eat while they were outdoors in a deserted place, it was not an easy task. Guess how many people were there? (5,000, not including women and children.) So, the disciples had their doubts.

The disciples answered, "Should we go buy bread for the people?"

"No, go see how many loaves you have," Jesus replied.

The disciples checked and answered, "There are only five loaves of bread and two fish."

But Jesus cared for the people and did not want them to go home hungry. So, He asked His disciples to bring the food to Him, and He told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to His disciples to pass out to all the people. Then, He divided the fish among the people. Amazingly, everyone was fed and there were even twelve baskets of food left over. This was a great miracle performed by Jesus.

The Disciples Leave First

Right after everyone was fed, Jesus asked His disciples to go ahead first to the next place they were visiting. At that time, the crowd had gathered at the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Therefore, the disciples had to travel by boat in

order to get to the other side. They obeyed Jesus and went first. Meanwhile, Jesus stayed to send people away and to say goodbye to them.

Afterwards, He went up to a mountain by Himself to pray. It was getting late and He was alone.

A Big Storm

By now, the disciples were already very far away from the shore. It was dark because it was the middle of the night. As the disciples reached the middle of the lake [walk to the middle of the circle as you tell this part], the wind got much stronger. The wind blew so hard that the waves splashed against the sides of the boat and rocked it back and forth. The disciples rowed as hard and as fast as they could, but it only got worse. They became scared.

[Take out the “boat” that you prepared before class. Instruct the students to share one thing they’re afraid of as they toss/roll the “boat” to one another. Remind the students to toss/roll to those who haven’t had a turn. After everyone has had a turn, ask the students to toss/roll it back to you.]

Jesus Walks on Water

Suddenly, as the boat rocked in the waves, the disciples saw someone walking towards them on the water! Now, they weren’t only scared, they were terrified.

“It’s a ghost!” they exclaimed in panic. But it wasn’t a ghost. It was Jesus. He had come to find them after praying.

“It is I. Do not be afraid,” Jesus replied. Then Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, said, “Lord, if it is really You, tell me to come to You on the water.”

Jesus answered, “Come.”

Then Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on

the water towards Jesus. All this time, his eyes were focused on his teacher and it was the only thing on his mind. But then the wind got stronger again and Peter became scared. He didn’t look at Jesus anymore and only noticed how hard the wind was blowing. As he lost his concentration, he began to sink.

“Lord, save me!” Peter cried out. Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught him before he sank into the water, saying to Peter, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” But Peter did not have an answer.

The Son of God

When Jesus and Peter finally climbed into the boat, the wind died down. The rest of the disciples had witnessed another miracle! Earlier in the day, they saw Jesus feed five thousand people and now they had just seen Him walk on water. They worshipped Jesus and said to Him, “You really are the Son of God.”

Boys and girls, why do you think they finally realized that Jesus is the Son of God? (Jesus walked on water and helped them when they were afraid.) Although the disciples were afraid during the storm, Jesus came to them. When Peter was afraid that he would sink, he cried out to the Lord to save him, and He did! [Now play the toss/roll game again and have each student share one reason why they believe that Jesus is really God.]

Not long after the wind stopped blowing, the boat reached the other side of the Sea of Galilee at Gennesaret. As Jesus and His disciples got out of the boat, some of the people of Gennesaret recognized Him. They spread the news that Jesus was in town and everyone in the area brought sick people to Jesus. They begged Jesus to let them just touch His clothes, and when they did, they were healed.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Questions to Think About

1. **Why did Peter ask Jesus to help him walk on water?** Because he was filled with fear and knew that only Jesus could help him walk on water.
2. **What happened to Peter when he began to doubt?** He began to sink.
3. **Why did Peter doubt even though he had seen many great miracles performed by Jesus?** He had very little faith.
4. **How can we keep our faith and believe without doubting Jesus?** Pray to God to increase our faith.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“Jesus said to him, ‘All things are possible to him who believes.’” (Mark 9:23)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Jesus is almighty and has the power to perform miracles because He is God.

Who are some of your favorite fictional superheroes? Why do you like them? What are some of their superpowers? [Let students share.]

The miracles in the Bible story we learned today are things that happened in real life a long time ago, when the Lord Jesus was on earth. The miracles of feeding 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish and of walking on water are not just superpowers from a fairy tale or cartoon. Maybe in a few years, people will forget your favorite superhero. But Jesus' stories have been told for thousands of years. He lives on forever through the lives of every generation. The Lord Jesus performed these miracles to prove to everyone that He is the true God so that they could believe in Him.

Today, our Lord Jesus is still here with us, proving to us that He is God. When He was still on earth, He had compassion on the people, so He healed them and gave them food to eat. He wanted to strengthen Peter's and the disciples' faith, so He walked on water. What about now? What is Jesus doing for us today? Even though He's no longer on earth, it doesn't mean that He cannot work miracles in our lives. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus tells us, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." This Bible verse is not telling us to test God by asking the mountain to move. Instead, it is teaching us that our faith can move God to work miracles in our lives. All we have to do is to believe that everything is possible with God. According to God's will, whatever we ask will be given to us. Let me share two testimonies with you. The first is a testimony about how God miraculously healed a sister in our church. The second testimony is about how one of our church members experienced Jesus in prayer.

1. In February 1983, I found that my hand was little swollen. At first, I thought that doing yard work caused this swelling; unfortunately, that was not the reason. I received treatment from different doctors who specialized in bone diseases, but the treatments were to no avail. One night after a treatment, I heard the voice of God in my sleep. He said, "Your hand will be healed." When I heard this message from God, I was greatly comforted and decided to stop seeking treatment from the doctors. However, the swelling did not subside; instead, it worsened. I continued to pray to the Lord for His mercy and also examined myself repeatedly for anything I may have done wrong. The swelling still did not subside.

In the meantime, someone told me that my old disease must have been recurring. After I heard this, I became very sad and began to worry about who would be able to care for my two children in the future. I called my sister, who comforted me by saying, "Don't worry, our lives are in the Lord's hands." She reminded me of the story of King Hezekiah. He asked God for a longer life, and God extended his life by 15 years. She also said that our children are valuable possessions given to us by our Lord, and that before we finish our duty of raising them, the Lord will have mercy on us.

I continued praying day and night. One time, when I felt especially sad in my heart, the Lord's voice came to me again and said, "Your hand will be healed." I was greatly comforted and decided to rely on God completely and to stop worrying about my hand anymore. I thought only of how to repay the Lord's love by working harder for Him while I was still alive. Sometimes, my hand swelled quite uncomfortably, and I would pray to the Lord. Miraculously, after I prayed, the swelling would slowly subside. In November of the same year, one of my classmates suggested that I wear a glove to prevent my hand from swelling. From that point onward, I always wore a glove.

Time passed, and I thanked my Lord that although my hand was still swollen, it did not affect my teaching career. In 1984, I began to envy the sisters who could work for the Lord in the church with two good hands, while I had to wear a glove and could not work freely. So, I asked my Lord to help me get rid of the glove and the pain of my swollen hand so that I could work for Him with both of my hands. I dared not ask the Lord to let my right hand recover to the same size as my left hand. I felt like the Canaanite woman who had asked for Jesus' mercy to let her have the crumbs that fell from the table, because I had already received so many blessings from my Lord.

On November 2, 1985, I attended the Nei-Li Church Spiritual Convocation. During the service, the pastor testified about many of the Lord's blessings. Before the prayer session began, I thought that since others could receive so much healing, I should be able to receive the same; after all, the Lord had told me twice that my hand would be healed. Therefore, I decided to pray fervently and repent. That night, the Lord's voice came again and said, "Your hand is healed." He also showed me a hand. After I heard the voice, I jumped up and prayed to the Lord with thankfulness. On November 3rd, I took off the glove and never wore it again, and the hand did not swell after that either. I am very thankful for my Lord's blessing and mercy.

2. Hallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I testify. This incident took place in Pacifica Church, California, during a prayer session at a National Youth Theological Seminar. Before the prayer, Pr. Derren Liang encouraged us to pray earnestly, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to be enriched with the word of God. Pr. Liang also encouraged us to change our old selves and to become humble and obedient children of God. A few minutes after the prayer began, a bright light suddenly shone into my eyes. At first, I thought the light was coming in through the window. I decided to ignore it, and lowered my head. The light continued to shine into my eyes persistently. I then lifted my head, and realized that this was no ordinary light. It was a glorious experience.

A few minutes later, a person in a white garment walked towards me. His face was somewhat unclear. He pointed to me and said, "I live in you." At that moment, I was overwhelmed with rivers of living water that welled up from the depths of my heart. I stretched out my arms to grab hold of His garment. I felt incredible joy at that moment. Then He said, "I must leave." I wanted to call to the sisters in front of me, to ask them to help me hold on to His garment. At this point, my head was almost touching the carpet, and I exclaimed, "No, no, please, God, no!" I said, "It was so difficult for me to grab hold of Your garment. It is impossible for me to let it go!" Once again, Jesus said, "I must leave." I continued to hold His garment, and said, "No, no, no!" A sister then approached me and said, "Hallelujah. Amen!" I then let go of His garment and He disappeared, and the vision ended.

This was truly a wonderful experience, one that I will keep with me for the rest of my life. I now know that He will take care of me, love me, and always live in me. Just as John 7:38 records, "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." May all glory be given unto the name of our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever. Hallelujah. Amen.

Students, Jesus is not just some superhero in a cartoon or fairy tale. He is our almighty God who loves us, and He wants us to believe in Him so that we can go to heaven. Miracles and wonders happen so that we can believe in Him more.

2. Have faith in God without doubt.

During the lesson, we all shared some of the things we're afraid of. What makes us afraid of these things? If God is with us, would we be afraid? When Peter first saw Jesus walking on the water, he was not afraid but believed that he could also walk on the water. So, when he believed, he was able to walk on the water. But what happened when he began to doubt? [Let students answer.] When he saw the wind and the waves, he became afraid and began to sink.

Students, what are some reasons why we doubt? [Let students share.] Sometimes, people promise us things and they don't always keep their promises, so we're not sure if we can trust them again. In other words, we doubt them. Other times, there are things that just don't make sense, so we doubt that they're true. But what about God? Is God someone who would change or break His promises? Certainly not. God is faithful; He keeps His promises to us. We can have faith in God without a doubt. Let's see what the Bible says! Turn to Deuteronomy 7:9 and read together: "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

What are some of God's promises to us? [Let students share.] God has promised us that He will give us the Holy Spirit. He has also promised us that if we believe Him and follow His commandments, we can go to heaven. God promises us that He will never leave us alone. The Bible records countless promises of God. We don't have to doubt and we don't have to be afraid when we know that God is faithful. Now, let's play a game! You will see five scenarios and five promises. For each scenario, choose an appropriate promise from God to encourage the student.

[Divide the board into two columns, one for scenarios and one for God's promises. Then, write the following four scenarios and four promises in random order.]

Scenarios

1. Sarah has been praying for the Holy Spirit. All of her classmates have already received the Holy Spirit.
2. Teddy's mom is very strict so he doesn't want to listen to her all the time.
3. Lucas has been afraid of sleeping by himself in his room because he recently saw a news report on a scary robbery.
4. Jessie's friend has invited her to a birthday party on the Sabbath, and she's wondering if God would care if she skipped service.

God's Promises

1. God promises to give each and every one of us the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16).
2. God promises to bless us with a long life if we keep the fifth commandment: "Honor your father and your mother" (Ex 20:12).
3. The Lord never sleeps, and He will guard us when we go out and when we come home (Ps 121).
4. God will bless us if we keep the Sabbath holy and keep from doing our own things, but come to service to worship Him (Isa 58:13-14).

Students, we know that God is faithful. But at the same time, God also knows that we are weak and have doubts sometimes. He doesn't expect us to be perfect right away nor will He punish us harshly for our doubts. This is why He puts us in situations from time to time where He gives us a chance to turn to Him. He will teach us to place our trust in Him through various lessons in life. Our responsibility is to respond to these situations wisely, using the word of God, and trust that God is faithful to keep His promises. God will never bring us down. We should have faith in Him without any doubts!

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. D
2. E
3. A
4. compassion
5. faith; doubt
6. 5,000; 5; 2
7. False; He fed everyone using five loaves of bread and two fish.
8. True
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITY

5,000-Piece Class Mosaic

Objective: To get a sense of “5,000,” the number of people fed by the five loaves and two fish.

The final product for this activity will be a poster-sized mosaic of Jesus walking on water, a scene from today's Bible lesson, using 5,000 pieces of different colored paper.

Materials

- Large poster or banner
- Paper cutter or scissors
- Glue stick, one per student
- Black marker
- Sandwich bags, one per color
- Construction paper
- Ruler, optional

Preparations

1. Prepare a large poster or banner with outlines from the scene from today's lesson drawn with black marker. (Note: A sample scene has been provided for you to copy, or you can choose to draw your own scene.)
2. Label each region with a color.
3. Measure approximately how many pieces per color you need to completely fill the corresponding spaces in the poster. One way to measure this is, after drawing the outline on the poster, take several sheets of construction paper of the corresponding colors and roughly fill the spaces.
4. After you have selected the right number of sheets for each color, cut them into roughly 5,000 pieces. (To fill a 36" x48" poster with a little white space between the pieces, you need about 5,000 pieces of 0.5" x0.5" size pieces. You may cut the pieces into rectangular shapes or random shapes. The easiest way to keep track is to cut along a grid.)
5. Prepare one envelope or sandwich bag for each color, and put one color in each bag.

Instructions

1. Show the students the poster with the plain outline. Explain to them that they will be “coloring in” the spaces with the correct colors by gluing tiny pieces of the corresponding colors onto the poster.
2. Put the poster in the center of a large table so that all of the students can sit around the same table.
3. Give each student an envelope or bag of pieces. Let each student estimate how many pieces are in each bag, and count together as a class how many pieces there are; the final count should be around 5,000.
4. Ask the students to imagine 5,000 people and how much food is needed to feed that many people.
5. Give each student a glue stick or bottle of glue and ask them to glue their pieces into the spaces that are labeled with their color. [If you have a different number of students versus number of colors, adjust accordingly by either giving each student more than one color or giving more than one student the same color.]
 - Some spaces may be only one color while other spaces are multi-colored.
 - Ask the students to distribute the colors evenly in the multi-colored areas.
6. When all of the spaces have been filled with the tiny pieces, allow the glue to dry and hang up the poster so that everyone can see the beautiful mosaic.



E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 2—Jesus Walks on Water

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is almighty and has the power to perform miracles because He is God.

Lesson Objective: To teach students that they should have faith in God without doubt.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Mark 9:23)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : What did Jesus do wherever He went?
 - a. Healed the sick
 - b. Performed miracles
 - c. Taught the word of God
 - d. All of the above

2. _____ : When the disciples were on a boat to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, _____.
 - a. They sailed over to the other side on smooth water and nothing happened
 - b. There was a storm and they were afraid
 - c. Jesus came to them walking on the water
 - d. None of the above
 - e. Both b and c

3. _____ : After Jesus came onto the boat, the winds stopped and everyone on the boat worshipped Him, saying He was _____.
 - a. The Son of God
 - b. The Christ or Messiah
 - c. The King of kings and Lord of lords
 - d. The Savior

Fill In the Blank

4. Jesus healed the sick because He had _____ on them.
5. Jesus lifted Peter from the water and said, "You of little _____, why did you _____?"
6. Jesus fed _____ people with _____ loaves of bread and _____ fish.

True or False

7. Once, when Jesus was healing the sick, it was getting late, so He sent them home hungry. _____
8. Peter started walking on the water, but after he saw the wind and the waves, he was afraid and started to sink.

Life Application

9. Work with a parent. Ask your mom or dad to share a testimony about a miracle. It can be something that happened in your family or something they heard or read about in Manna, Holy Spirit Monthly, or any other TJC publication. Share with your parent why this miracle helps your faith and how it shows that the Lord is compassionate. Write one paragraph (3-5 sentences) summarizing the miracle and your sharing.

LESSON 3

JESUS HEALS THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Gerasenes

Gerasenes was a Gentile region southeast of the Sea of Galilee. The Greek cities there did not belong to any country and were self-governing. They were known as the Decapolis, or the Ten Towns. In other ancient manuscripts, Gerasenes is spelled as Gadarenes and Gergesenes.

Although pigs were unclean to Jews and eating them was forbidden (Lev 11:7-8), the Gentiles had no objections to them. This is why they were feeding nearby when the demons entered the herd.

After Jesus healed a person, He usually commanded that person to keep quiet about the miracle. But in this instance, He asked the man who had been demon-possessed to witness for Him. This may have been because Gerasenes was a Gentile region, and this miracle was an effective method to introduce God's message to them while Jesus continued to preach to the Jews. In addition, the Gentiles were not expecting a Messiah and would not have tried to crown Him king, as the Jews would have.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

This lesson imparts two important messages. The first is the great power and love of God. He can cast out demons no matter how many there are or how strong they may be. In this situation, it was because of Jesus' love for the tortured man that He drove the evil spirits out. Nothing is more powerful than our God. The second is how the man felt compelled to testify for God. Even though he had originally wanted to follow Jesus, he knew that spreading the good news of God would be the best way to help with Jesus' work.

By now, your students will have likely developed a willingness to help out in church. They are always taught to repay God for the wonderful blessings they have received. This is because they believe in His power and saving grace. However, they may not recognize the many ways they can offer to God. In their minds, donating a lot of money or dedicating themselves to be ministers are the only ways to truly repay God. But not everyone can offer those things, and God does not expect that from them at their age. Remind them that every time they help anyone, such as when Jesus helped the demon-possessed man, they are showing God that they want to repay Him for His love. Make a list of things they can do so that they are aware. Also encourage them that, if nothing else, there is one basic thing they can all do for Jesus: tell others how much God has done for them, just like the man who had been cured did. When the students have these concrete ideas, they can feel joy in serving and obeying God.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 8:26-39;
cf. Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is full of love and compassion and He heals the demon-possessed.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To believe that Jesus is far more powerful than evil spirits.
2. To become aware of and appreciate what God has done for us, and to share His grace with others by testifying for Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

(Psalm 147:3)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, the world around us is constantly changing. Nothing seems to stay the same. But You never change. You are a loving and caring God who always looks after our needs. We need Your guidance every day. Help us, Lord, especially when we are weak in faith. Teach us to be strong in spirit. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- demon:** an evil spirit
possessed: controlled or dominated by an evil spirit
abyss: a deep, bottomless pit; in the Bible, it is a place where evil spirits and beasts dwell

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the power of Jesus. Jesus used only five loaves of bread and two fish to feed over five thousand people, not counting women and children, who had come to listen to His words and witness His healing power. There were even twelve baskets of food left over.

After this great miracle, Jesus sent His disciples on a boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They went first while Jesus went to pray. In the middle of the night, a great storm came and the disciples became very scared as the boat rocked back and forth, tossed around by the high waves. Suddenly, they saw Jesus walking on the water towards them. At first they thought it was a ghost and were terrified, but Jesus assured them, saying, "It is I; do not be afraid." Peter even asked Jesus to command him to walk on the water, but when the winds got stronger, he panicked and began to sink. Jesus stretched out His hand to grab Peter and they both reached the boat safely. From this miracle, we learned that we should always put our complete trust in Jesus at all times. We should never doubt the power of Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

A Demon-Possessed Man

Jesus traveled to many places as He spread the message of God. One time, He sailed to a place called Gerasenes [it may help to draw or prepare a map, marking the various places Jesus went to, including Gerasenes]. When Jesus and His disciples stepped off the boat, a man approached them. But this was not any ordinary man; he was a man possessed by demons! He wore no clothes and lived in places like graveyards. He was probably very dirty because he had not bathed for a long time. The people in the town had tried many times to chain him up, but the demons in the man always caused him to break free and run wild. Everyone who lived there must have been afraid of this man but no one could do anything to help him. How would you react if you saw this man (e.g., scared or disgusted)? Would you want to get close to him or try to stay away? We'll see how Jesus reacted to this man.

The Demons Recognize Jesus

When this demon-possessed man reached Jesus, he fell at His feet and shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, don't torture me!"

This man knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Actually, it was not the man speaking but the demons living inside of him. They were scared of Jesus and knew what His great power could do. They knew Jesus was going to drive them out of the man.

Jesus was not afraid of the man and did not try to get away from him. Instead, He looked at the man and asked,

"What is your name?"

The demons inside replied, "Legion." A legion was the largest unit in the Roman army, made up of three to six thousand soldiers. This meant that the man was possessed by many demons.

The Demons Beg Jesus

The demons knew that they were about to be driven out of the man and had no choice but to obey Jesus' orders. They begged Jesus to let them go into a herd of pigs that was feeding nearby. That way, they wouldn't have to go into the abyss, which was a deep, dark, and bottomless hole where evil spirits lived [draw a simple diagram of an abyss, illustrating its bottomless nature; then, ask the students if they would want to fall in—neither did the demons!]. If they went there, they would not be able to get out. After Jesus heard their request, He gave them permission to go into the pigs.

The Man Is Healed

When the demons came out of the man, they went into the herd of pigs. Immediately, the herd rushed down a steep cliff into a lake and drowned. The people who had been tending the pigs saw what had happened and were in shock. They ran off right away to report it to the people living in the nearby towns. When everyone heard about this strange event, they all came out to see for themselves. They were amazed and couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the man who had been demon-possessed and crazy sitting at Jesus' feet, wearing clothes, and acting like

a normal person. They didn't know what to make of this situation and became afraid. They had never seen anyone with such power. They were so speechless that they didn't even thank Jesus for curing the man. Instead, out of fear, the townsmen asked Jesus and His disciples to leave the place immediately.

Jesus Departs

Jesus had come to save people, not to make them afraid of Him, so He decided to get back into the boat and leave

with His disciples. The man who was healed wanted to go with Jesus because he was so grateful. He wanted to help Jesus in any way he could, but Jesus had other plans for him.

Jesus said to the man, "Return home and tell everyone what great things God has done for you." The man obeyed Jesus and did as he was told. He went everywhere and told of the wonderful grace and power of God, and all who heard his story were amazed.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False/Questions to Think About

1. The demons living inside the man were _____ (afraid) of Jesus when they saw Him.
2. They begged Jesus to let them go into a herd of _____ (pigs).
3. The demon-possessed man acted normally and wore clothes before he met Jesus. False; he ran around wildly and wore no clothing.
4. After the man was healed by Jesus, he told everyone about what great thing Jesus had done for him. True.
5. Jesus wanted to heal this man because he loved him. True.
6. When the people saw that the demon-possessed man had been healed, they were joyful and welcomed Jesus. False; they were afraid and asked Jesus to leave the area.
7. Why were the demons living inside the man afraid of Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God, who is more powerful than all.
8. How did the man help Jesus by telling his family and others about how he had been healed? He helped spread the word of the miracles that Jesus performed and told people of His greatness.
9. If you had been one of the people living in the nearby towns, how would you have reacted to seeing this great miracle? Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Gerasenes
2. B
3. True
4. Jesus is the Son of God, who is more powerful than all.
5. A drawing of pigs running into a lake.
6. A facial expression showing shock, surprise, or fear.
7. begged; follow; return; home; great
8. "Hallelujah! In the name of Jesus Christ!"
9. Fill in the chart

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Demons still exist today, but Jesus is far more powerful than them.

[Ask the students if they believe in ghosts and demons; their answers may vary and be influenced by the media to which they've been exposed.]

Although it seems like we hardly see anyone possessed by demons today, evil spirits are very real and they indeed exist. In fact, there are some places in the world, such as Africa, where people practice witchcraft and sorcery, and where the work of the devil abounds. Many preachers in our church have encountered demon-possessed people on multiple occasions.

Imagine if there were a demon-possessed person here with us right now. How would you feel? Would you be scared? [Let students answer.] Fortunately, evil spirits are just as afraid of Jesus now as they were in Jesus' time. Why are they afraid? Because they know very well that Jesus is far more powerful than they are. Today, our church workers continue to cast out demons in the powerful and holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let me share a short testimony with you!

One of our full-time preachers had many experiences with evil spirits before he came to believe. He would have nightmares where five evil spirits were attacking him, and for a period of time, he was afraid to even sleep. After he came to believe and received the Holy Spirit, the evil spirits still continued to attack him in his sleep, but now he was able to defeat them. Each time he said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ," the evil spirits would disappear. Indeed, just the name of Jesus itself is so mighty and powerful! After this preacher received God's grace, he did exactly what Jesus told the demon-possessed man to do: he went and declared to his family the great things God had done for him. Even his own father, who used to practice witchcraft with the abidance of an evil spirit, came to believe in God. With God's power, he got rid of the evil spirit in him. Because this preacher shared the gospel as Jesus commanded, many members of his family are now baptized members of our church.

Questions

1. **How was this preacher able to make the evil spirits go away?** By casting out the evil spirits in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **How did he repay God's love?** He brought his family members to know God.

If you are curious to know more, you can ask our pastors and deacons about their experiences. They are amazing testimonies that reaffirm the powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, if we do encounter an evil spirit or a demon-possessed person, we have absolutely nothing to be afraid of, because our Lord Jesus loves us and will protect us. All we need to do is call upon His name and the demons will go away. In fact, let's practice a few times how to declare the name of Jesus! Please read after me, "Hallelujah! In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!" [Practice a few times with your students.]

Besides casting out demons, calling upon Jesus' name can also give us peace and strength when we are afraid. One of Jesus' names in the Bible is the "Prince of Peace" (Isa 9:6). When Jesus was born, the angels said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Lk 2:14). He brought peace to earth! Today, Jesus can also bring peace to us—into our hearts, our homes, and everywhere we go. Therefore, when we encounter fear and unease, remember that we can always call upon Jesus' name. Not only can His name cast out demons, it can also bring us peace.

2. Share God's Grace with Others

Students, even though we most likely have not had any experience with evil spirits, it does not mean that we cannot share the great things God has done for us, as this full-time pastor did. It is important for us to realize just how many things we can be thankful for in our lives.

[To help them become aware of God's blessings, ask them to make a list of good things in their lives. Some examples might include recovering from a cold, finding something they have lost, or having their parents cook food for them.]

Just like our full-time pastor in the testimony who brought his family to know God, we can also bring more people to know Jesus when we share our blessings from God with them. When we share, we are showing our appreciation to Jesus—the source of all our blessings. Just like the demon-possessed man, he wanted to tell everybody what Jesus had done for him. He knew that this was one of the only ways he could repay Jesus' for him. Likewise, we can also repay Jesus' love today by thanking God and sharing when good things happen. Can you think of a list of people with whom you can share your blessings (parents, siblings, friends at school, etc.)? Boys and girls, we receive so many blessings from God every day that we shouldn't take for granted. Let's read this touching real-life case from which we can learn.

Every month, Jasmine and her friends from E1 class would come together and share testimonies. They received so many blessings from God that they wanted to share them with one another. This year, they were particularly excited about Spiritual Convocation. They couldn't wait to share their blessings once again with those they knew who hadn't yet gotten to know Jesus. They knew that preaching the good news was one way to repay God's grace. Many of them made a list of friends and family members they wanted to invite to church for SC.

One day, they were talking together about how excited they were about SC. They were making a count of how many people they were planning to bring to SC! As they were counting, they came up with an excellent idea: They could design an SC invitation for everyone to use! As a result, they met for a few days during the following week and started making the invitations. They included every detail of the SC on the invitations, and they planned to place them at the church reception for church members to take home and give to their friends and family members. Sure enough, the invitations were all gone soon after they placed them there and many other church members used them.

That year, many truth-seekers attended the SC. Some E1 students also shared their testimonies with the truth-seekers. Thank God, some of the truth-seekers have been baptized now and have received the precious Holy Spirit.

Students, let's start repaying Him today by sharing His grace with people around us!

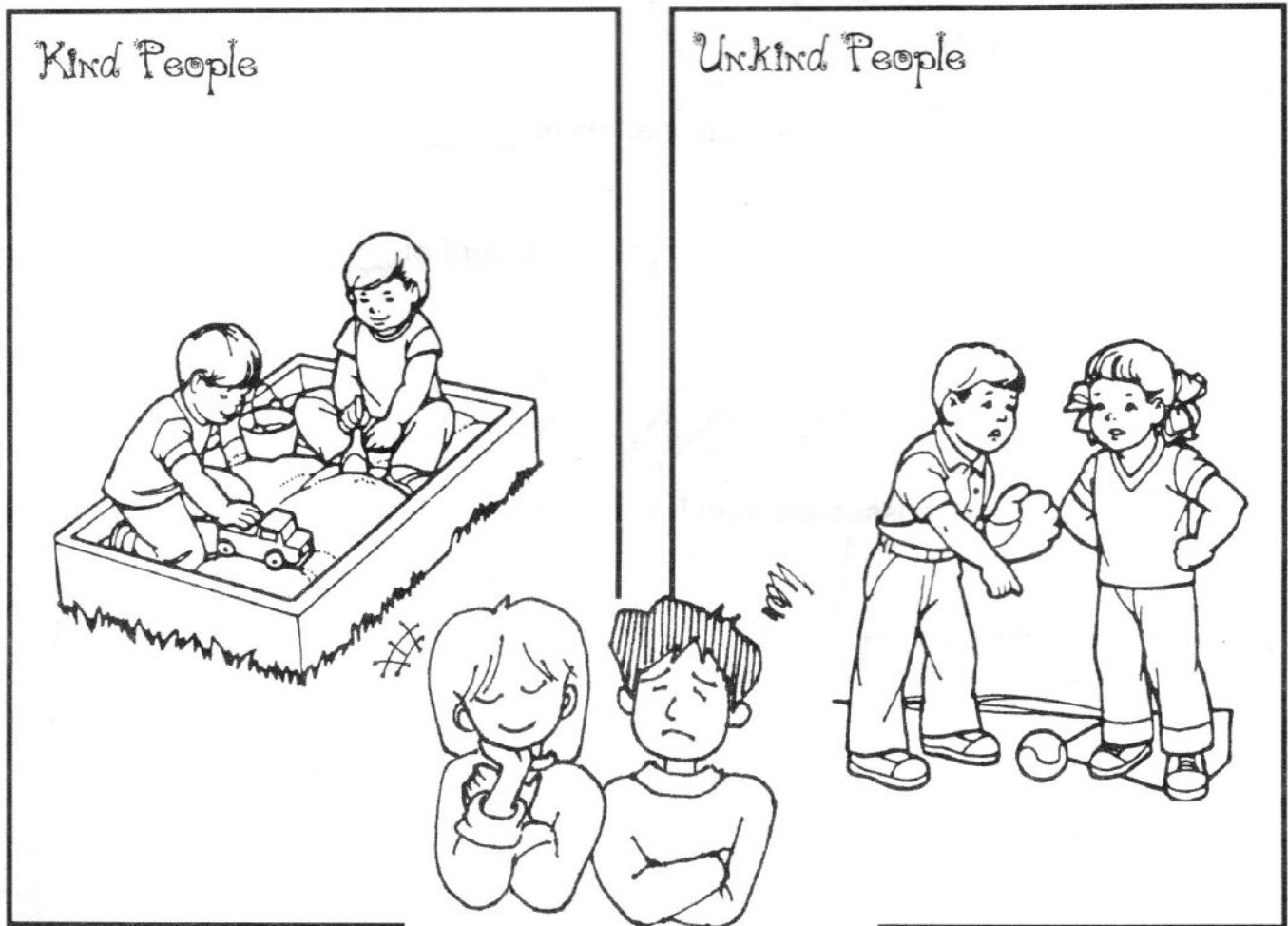
ACTIVITIES

1 Show Our Kindness / Part A

Objective: To encourage students to show kindness, just as Jesus showed kindness to the demon-possessed man.

Instructions

Make a list of kind people you know. Then, make a list of words that describe the kind people (forgiving, patient, loving, friendly). On the opposite side, make a list of words that describe unkind people (selfish, greedy, mean). Then think of a time when you saw someone who needed help or looked lonely—what could a kind person do in that situation? Write down what you can do to show kindness this week.



Things I can do this week to show my kindness:

2

Show Our Kindness / Part B

Objective: To encourage students to show kindness, just as Jesus showed kindness to the demon-possessed man.**Instructions**

Fill in the missing words to this poem by using the words in the box. Remember, the poem rhymes.

asked	way	week	you
-------	-----	------	-----

*In everything you do and say,
you should do it in a very kind _____.
"Please" and "thank you" are words to speak,
not just sometimes but throughout the _____.
Helping others without being _____ is
the best way to show a kind act.
So be kind in all you do and you will see
God working through _____.*



E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 3—Jesus Heals the Demon-Possessed Man

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is full of love and compassion and He heals the demon-possessed.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To believe that Jesus is far more powerful than evil spirits.
 2. To become aware of and appreciate what God has done for us, and to testify for Him.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 147:3)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. What was the name of the place where Jesus sailed to and met the demon-possessed man? _____
2. _____ : Where did the demon-possessed man live?
 - a. In a house in a town
 - b. In tombs
 - c. On the streets in the city
3. **True or False:** The man was demon-possessed for a long time before Jesus met him. _____
4. How do we know that the demons were weaker than Jesus? (Hint: Read Luke 8:28-32.)

5-6. Draw the animals that Jesus let the demons go into, and show what happened to them afterwards. How did the people react when they saw what had happened? Draw a picture of a face showing how one of the people might have reacted.



Fill In the Blank

follow, home, begged, return, great

7. After the man was healed, he _____ Jesus because he wanted to _____ Jesus. But Jesus told him to _____ back to his _____ and tell others what _____ things God had done for him.
8. If we are ever scared of a demon or anything else, what can we say to make our fear go away? Write it down 3 times, saying it aloud each time.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Life Application

9. Every day this week, write down one good thing that happened to you or one kind act you did for somebody, and tell someone about it (it could be your mom, dad, brother or sister, or friend at school). Remember to give thanks to God! Use the boxes below to keep track.

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Good Thing You Did				
Who You Shared With				

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Good Thing You Did			
Who You Shared With			

LESSON 4

THE PARALYZED MAN IS HEALED

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Feasts of the Jews

Every year, Jewish males were expected to make three pilgrimage feasts, all of which were at Jerusalem. The feasts were the Passover, the Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles (or festivals of booths).

Sheep Gate

The city of Jerusalem was surrounded by a huge wall with many gates. One gate was called the Sheep Gate (Neh 3:1) because it was at this gate that sheep were washed for the sacrifice in the temple. Next to this gate was the pool of Bethesda. Stairways at the corners of the pool descended into the water. Water for the pool likely came from underground drainage, probably supplied by natural springs. Archeologists have excavated a site near the Sheep Gate of the old temple that does indeed contain five covered colonnades and two pools that verify the accuracy of what John had written here.

The Paralyzed Man and the Power of Jesus

This paralyzed man had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. We don't know the cause of his suffering. We just know that he suffered for a very long time and probably experienced frustrations and failures that were far beyond his own control.

Spiritual Teaching

The deeper question Jesus asks is, "Do you really want to be changed?" When God asks a question, it is never in vain. It is not idle chitchat. Jesus is challenging us to see if we really want to get out of our comfortable lifestyle. This is a true picture of all of us. He is asking, "Do you prefer your pain to change? Are you comfortable in your complacency?" The teaching is that we must recognize our own utter helplessness apart from God. Too often, we want to be made well but we resist the change that is necessary to find healing and wholeness. Miracles happen when we surrender our will and submit to God's power. Therefore, the question that Jesus asked is a question that we all must answer: "Do you really want to be made well?" To take up our mat and walk takes courage and risk. It requires us to see beyond the challenges and obstacles before us. The only one who can give us meaning, understanding, truth, and healing is Jesus.

BIBLE TEXT

John 5:1-9

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is all-powerful.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To seek Jesus' power to overcome the most difficult situations.
2. To know that Jesus will always be there to help.
3. To always give thanks to God for all that He has done for us.

MEMORY VERSE

"Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite."

(Psalm 147:5)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for protecting us through another week. Today, we will be hearing about how You healed a man when it seemed impossible. Lord, we know that You can solve all our problems. Please help us overcome our difficulties and strengthen our faith in You. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Jesus is a miracle worker. His miracles include healing the blind and the paralyzed and even resurrecting the dead. Your students know many of these great stories. However, do they understand the significance of these miracles when they encounter difficulties?

Whenever your students encounter a huge problem, they may think that Jesus cannot help them. People often react this way during times of great hardship. They think nobody understands them and, therefore, no one can ever really help them. Remind your students that if Jesus can make the dead come alive again, He can certainly solve their problems. The opposite extreme is also true.

Sometimes your students may face what they consider to be a minor issue, such as an upcoming math test. They may not even bother to pray to God and ask Him for help because they think it is too trivial. They may think that God does not listen to small requests. Remind your students that He is always there for them, no matter what the situation may be. No task is too large or small for the almighty God. As long as they believe and have a heart of prayer, God will help them find a solution. When they develop such an understanding, they will be able to rely on God at all times and give Him glory in all things.

VOCABULARY

infirmity: physical or mental weakness

paralyzed: unable to move

invalid: a sick person, most likely someone who is lame

frustration: a feeling of being upset or annoyed

desperation: a feeling of despair

despair: a complete loss or absence of hope

bed-mat: mats people slept on in biblical times; they were rolled up when no one was sleeping on them

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how a demon-possessed man was healed by Jesus. There were many evil spirits living inside this man. What was his name? (Legion.) When the demons recognized Jesus, they begged Him to let them live by sending them into a herd of what? (Pigs.) Did Jesus grant them permission? (Yes.) But once they entered into the herd, the pigs ran down a steep cliff into a lake and drowned. The people who lived in the nearby towns came to see what had happened. When they saw the man, was he completely healed or still demon-possessed? (He was healed; he acted normally and was wearing clothing.) They were so afraid that they asked Jesus to leave right away. The man wanted to go with Jesus to help Him but Jesus had other plans for him. What were they? (To go home and tell others what the Lord had done for him.) We learned that Jesus is all-powerful. We can also follow the example of the man and testify for God about His saving grace.

BIBLE STORY

The Pool of Bethesda

During the time of Jesus, there weren't many doctors. Even when there were, they did not know as much as doctors today. That is why it was hard for someone who was sick to get well. However, there was a place that many went to for help—the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. Everyone believed that this was a special pool because the first person to dip themselves in the water at a certain time would be cured. Therefore, many sick people came and lay on their mats near the pool, waiting for the right time to go in. It would be difficult to get into the pool if you were crippled and couldn't walk, like a lot of the people there.

A Very Sick Man

Among the sick were the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. They all came to the pool because they had no one else to turn to. In particular, there was a man who had suffered for thirty-eight years. For all those years, he was unable to walk. Every day, he lay on his mat hoping for a chance to go into the pool. It is hard to imagine not being able to walk for such a long time.

Boys and girls, as this man lies paralyzed beside the pool, what do you think is going through his mind after all these years? He probably feels completely helpless. The waters that can heal him are close by, but he can't reach them. He can't move. He is cut off from the source of healing and totally paralyzed. Do we know what he is feeling? We can imagine anxiety, frustration, desperation, even despair—all those painful, negative feelings that are stirred up when we feel helpless and alone. [Perhaps include an activity that demonstrates the difficulty of having an infirmity. For example, ask the students to try moving around the classroom without moving their legs at all, or to try picking up some materials without using their hands, to appreciate the suffering of the invalid.]

Jesus Heals the Man

One day, Jesus went into the city of Jerusalem and visited this very pool. He knew that many people came here, hoping to be cured. He saw them lying down, desperate to be well again. When Jesus saw the invalid among the big crowd and found out about the poor man's condition, He had compassion on him. Jesus wanted to help him, and so He walked over to the man's bed-mat.

Jesus asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

Students, what do you think Jesus was doing here? Was He just chatting with the man? For thirty-eight years, this man had been living by the pity of others; if he were healed, he would lose all of this. If he were healed, he would have to venture out into the unknown and be responsible for himself. He would have to find work and live among different people.

Yet, he replied, "I don't have anyone who can help me get into the water. Every time I want to get in, someone

else goes down ahead of me."

So, Jesus said, "Rise, pick up your mat and walk."

We see that Jesus quickly cut right to the heart of the matter: "Stand up, take your mat and walk." The man was healed, but he was not healed by the water. That illustrated the awesome power of God's healing and the compassionate heart of our Lord Jesus. The man didn't heal himself; he obeyed what Jesus had told him to do. He could have just lay there thinking, "Nothing has changed. I'm still crippled." Instead, he had faith in Jesus, got up, and began to walk.

Class, do you know what it means to have faith in God? It means that we trust in God and believe that He will always be there for us when we need Him, even when we don't realize it!

God had made him well! He could not believe what had happened. After thirty-eight years of lying down, he was suddenly able to walk again. Something that he thought would be impossible was now a reality! He felt free and happy. He did not have to wait for anyone to help him to the pool anymore because Jesus had healed him.

Conclusion

Jesus commands us to do many things that are impossible to do on our own, but He heals us and empowers us to do them. What are some of the things He tells us to do? Love God, love one another, love our neighbors, love our enemies—the list is endless. As children of God, we must not be afraid and respond with faith, just as this crippled man did.

There are many testimonies in our church of God's awesome healing powers and love for us. There was an elderly sister who was very sick and had to go to the hospital. She had cancer. She was very worried because her husband's faith in God wasn't very strong yet. So, the church fasted and prayed together for a few weeks. Very soon she was made completely well and now continues to worship and praise God—she serves God at all times to ensure that God did not heal her in vain.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False/Short Answer

1. The man had suffered for _____ (thirty-eight) years. He could not _____ (walk).
2. He and many others waited near the _____ (pool) of Bethesda, hoping to be cured.
3. When Jesus saw the man, He wanted to _____ (help) him because He had compassion on him.
4. Many others had tried to help the man get into the pool but he was unable to get well. False; no one helped him get into the pool.
5. Everything is possible with God. True.
6. Why did Jesus choose to heal the paralyzed man? He had compassion on him because he knew that he had been sick for a long time due to his condition.
7. a. Even after thirty-eight years, the man was not discouraged. When Jesus asked him whether he wanted to get well, what was his answer? "I don't have anyone who can help me get into the water. Every time I want to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."
b. Would you have given up in his situation? Answers may vary.
8. How did the paralyzed man show his faith? He didn't hesitate when Jesus commanded him to get up, take his mat, and walk.
9. Can you think of other Bible stories where people faced impossible situations but God provided a miraculous way out? Some examples could include Abraham saving Lot, the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, and Joshua entering the land of Canaan.
10. Jesus can overcome all difficulties. Do you have faith in Him? How would you show your steadfast trust? Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite." (Psalm 147:5)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. False; Jesus came to the man.
5. True
6. made well
7. no man; another; before
8. walk
9. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. We must seek Jesus' power to help us overcome the most difficult situations.

Today, we learned about the paralyzed man who faced a very difficult situation—he could not get into the water to receive healing! To him, it was simply impossible. He had been this way for thirty-eight years! He had tried for many years, but he was never able to get into the water. No one was willing to help him. Students, have you been in any situations where you felt as if there were no one you could ask for help? (For example, when no one wants to talk to you at school; when you don't know how to do a really easy homework assignment and are embarrassed to ask your friends for help; or when you feel sad because you have lost something you really like.) How did you feel? [Let students answer.] Fortunately, the Bible tells us that we don't have to feel this way! It says in Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." God has the power to help us overcome any difficult situations! When people feel lonely and helpless, they don't know what to do. But as God's children, we have Jesus with us. There's always help from above. All we have to do is to get down on our knees, tell God that we're willing to accept His ways for us, and ask Him to reach out His merciful hands to help us.

When Jesus saw the paralyzed man, He asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" Today, Jesus also asks us the same question when we want His help. Do we want His help? Are we ready for the change after He helps us—the change to become a living testimony for Him? We should never take Jesus' help for granted. Imagine that you ask your dad for help, and he helps you. But as soon as he does so, you immediately begin doing things that make him angry. How would your dad feel? And then the next time you ask your dad for help again, he replies, "Do you really want my help?" What do you think he means? [Let students answer.] He means, "Are you ready to be a good child? Will you start doing things that will make me mad all over again? If you want my help, can you promise me that you will behave?" Students, Jesus loves us and He is willing to reach out His powerful hands to help us overcome any difficult situations. We just need to obey Him first, and then ask. God will never leave us lonely and helpless. Let's read this testimony.

Jasmine is originally from Taiwan. When she was 18, she traveled to the United States to attend college. At that time, she didn't speak much English and was having difficulty adapting to her new life in a foreign country. Even though she put great effort into studying and had an English tutor, she was still falling behind in her studies. She didn't have any friends at school since she was too shy to speak to other people. Many times, she couldn't find partners for her school projects and ended up experiencing many troubles. In her first year at college, she felt very lonely and lost. Not only was it difficult to find friends, it was also difficult to find any confidence in herself to finish her degree.

A few years later, Jasmine shared a testimony at church. She said, "I am very thankful for my first year in college." Everyone who knew her was surprised that she said that. She continued, "That year, I had no friends from school and I felt a lot of academic pressure. But because of that, I found my most faithful friend—one who truly loves and cares about me. Jesus! Every day, I came home very tired from school, and I didn't want to touch any work on my table. I would kneel down and start praying to Jesus. I prayed that He would give me strength to finish my degree. When no one was there to encourage me, Jesus was always there. He listened to my every prayer and helped me in everything I asked. I felt loved and well taken care of, even though I constantly faced many new challenges. The Bible gave me strength and comfort on a daily basis so that I could keep going with my studies. Four years have passed and I finally graduated from school. It was indeed a very difficult process, but I thank God every day for His company and friendship. My college experience has drawn me so much closer to Him and now I cannot imagine what would have happened if I hadn't turned to Jesus at that time. Would I have quit school? Would I have left and gone back to my own country? Looking back, I know that God has a wonderful plan for me. He allowed me a chance to experience His wonderful presence in my life. May all the glory be unto His name!"

Reflection Questions

1. What did Jasmine do when she felt lonely and lost? (She turned to Jesus.)
2. After she turned to Jesus, what did she find? (She found strength and comfort through praying and studying the Bible. She found company and true friendship in Jesus.)

3. Why was Jasmine thankful for her experience in college? (She saw that God had a wonderful plan for her. God gave her a chance to turn to Jesus and experience His grace during a difficult time.)

2. To know that Jesus will always be there to help.

John 15:7 tells us, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” Jesus is always here listening to our prayers. We can ask Him for help at any time, and He will be there. When Jesus saw the paralyzed man, He had compassion on him. Jesus didn’t just walk by, or turn away and pretend that He had never seen the paralyzed man. Rather, Jesus healed this man. He didn’t reserve His power to help. Today, when we face situations with which nobody can help, where is Jesus? He is not far, He is close—He’s right here! He is not walking away, nor is He turning His head away. He is right here, waiting for us to answer Him. Let me share a story with you!

Many, many years ago, Janice’s husband passed away from liver cancer. At that time, she was living in China. She had five children, among whom the youngest was only a 6-month-old baby. Without a breadwinner in her family, Janice was unsure of how to raise her children all by herself. With her income, she could barely feed her whole family, not to mention she had to pay rent, buy clothes for her children, and send them to school. During that time, she cried every night. She missed her husband very much. She was very worried for her children and their future. Janice thought, “What should I do? Even if I work 24 hours a day with a few other part-time jobs, I still won’t be able to make enough money to raise my children. Who’s going to take care of them? Winter is coming... How can I keep them warm? If they don’t go to school, how are they going to be able to find a job in the future?” The more Janice thought about the future, the more distressed she became. She had no relatives other than her 70-year-old mother who was visually impaired. She felt alone and helpless.

A few days passed and Janice hadn’t slept for even one night. She had tried knocking on her neighbors’ doors to borrow money, but no one was willing to help her. One day, Janice found out that her mother’s eyes had been healed. Janice was shocked, so she asked her mother, “Your eyes had been the same way for years. Who healed you? Where did you get the money to see doctors from?” Janice’s mother explained to her that she had been going to a church called the True Jesus Church. She had been truth-seeking for a few months, and God healed her during one of her prayers. She also mentioned that she wanted to get baptized. She said, “Janice, would you like to come to this church with me? Your situation now is very difficult, but I think God can help you just like He helped me!” Janice thought for a moment and she agreed to go to the church with her mom.

That Saturday, Janice shared her situation in tears with a few other church members. In turn, they shared many healing testimonies with Janice and taught her to pray. That day, Janice prayed for her first time and she was touched. She said, “Finally, someone cares for me. Finally, there’s someone I can turn to!” From that day on, Janice prayed every day whenever she could. No matter how tired she was after working for hours after hours, she would still kneel down to pray.

A few months later, Janice made the decision to get baptized along with her mother and all her children. In her testimony, she said, “I believe in Jesus—He helped me, He helped me! After my husband passed away, I was torn and heart-broken. But Jesus came and had compassion on my children and me. He brought my family to this church at the right time, and He listened to all my prayers. Everything just started falling into place ever since I started praying to Him. My oldest daughter found a job, and she is able to help make money now. A church sister offered to babysit my children when my second youngest daughter is at school. When she comes home from school, she takes good care of her little brothers and sisters and feeds them. I have been offered a better job. Jesus has blessed me with so much already! He helped me, and I will follow Him and make Him the head of my household. May all the glory be unto Jesus’ name!”

3. To always give thanks to God for all that He has done for us.

Today, we are already in Christ and have received many blessings from God. Every day, God watches over us, guides our every step, and protects us from danger. When we need help, He answers our prayers and reaches out to us. God does all these things for us unconditionally. In turn, what we can do for Him? [Let students answer.] There are many ways we

can repay God's love for us. But the most important is to give thanks to God on a daily basis. We shouldn't thank God only for the obvious, or for things that surprise us and make us happy. Rather, we should recognize God's blessings in our everyday lives and give thanks to Him for everything. The Bible says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom 8:28). God makes everything work around us, allowing us to live such beautiful and sufficient lives today. Everything He has done for us is a blessing. Now, I have a challenge for you. In one minute, each of us will make a list of things for which we are thankful. How many can you come up with? [Give students a minute to write and ask them to share their lists afterwards.]

Today, we learned that Jesus performed yet another miracle—He healed a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years! Today, we need to have faith that Jesus can help us overcome any difficult situation, even when it seems impossible. We already have Jesus with us—when we need help, He is beside us. But do we have the same faith as the paralyzed man to be able to listen closely to what Jesus says to us? When Jesus told him to pick up his mat and walk, he did it without second-guessing. If we have faith like this paralyzed man's, there is nothing Jesus cannot do for us!

ACTIVITIES

1

God Is Powerful and Loving

Objectives: 1. To help the students identify a time in their lives when they had to seek God's help.
2. To remind students that Jesus is always there, ready to help them.

Materials

- Blank paper
- Colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Markers

Instructions

God's power and love are shown all around you every day of your life. His power and love can be seen in His protection, in the church, and in our family and friends. Draw a picture to illustrate a time when you experienced God's power and love. Give your drawing a title. Now share your drawing with your classmates so that they may know how God helped you.

2

Action Hymns

Objective: To remind students of the infinite understanding and absolute power of God.

Instructions

Provide a list of about ten hymns. Choose some with the theme of God's wonderful grace and healing powers and some with other themes. Have the students work in groups of two to three to find which hymns concern God's wonderful grace and healing powers.

Have them share which hymns they found to have the theme of God's wonderful grace and healing powers. Then, have each group pick one hymn and make up actions that they can teach the rest of the class.

3

Thank You, Jesus!

Objective: To always give thanks to God for all that He has done for us.

Instructions

Look at the pictures in the puzzle below.

Write down the names of the items to fill in the crossword puzzle.

Remember to thank God for all the wonderful things He has done for us.



E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 4—The Paralyzed Man Is Healed

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is all-powerful.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To seek Jesus' power to overcome the most difficult situations.
 2. To know that Jesus will always be there to help.
 3. To always give thanks to God for all that He has done for us.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 147:5)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

- ____ : Where did Jesus go to visit the pool?
 - Jerusalem
 - Bethlehem
 - Israel
- ____ : What was the name of the pool that the sick people waited by?
 - Siloam
 - Bethesda
 - Beersheba
- ____ : How long had the man whom Jesus healed been afflicted by the infirmity?
 - 42 years
 - 38 years
 - 15 years

True or False

- The man called out and asked Jesus to heal Him. _____
- Sick people were healed at this pool because an angel went down at a certain time and stirred up the water. _____

Fill In the Blank

(before, no man, made well, walk, another)

- When Jesus saw the man lying there, He said to him, "Do you want to be _____ _____?"
- The sick man answered and said, "Sir, I have _____ _____ to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, _____ steps down _____ me."
- Jesus said to the man, "Rise, take up your bed and _____."

Life Application

- Remember that you must pray and ask God to help you when you face difficult situations. If you are at school, you can say a silent prayer because God will still listen to you. Do not forget to thank God for helping you through your rough situation. Write down one time this week when you prayed to God and He helped you through a rough situation.

LESSON 5

ZACCHAEUS IS SORRY

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Roman Taxes

Roman taxation was an issue that caused great resentment among the Jews. They were required to pay taxes to Roman officials on the basis of their property and income. There were also other indirect taxes such as import and export duties, road tolls, and the Roman equivalent of a sales tax. Roman taxes also had to be paid in Roman currency. The Jews believed that using Roman currency was a violation of the Second Commandment because the money bore the stamp of the emperor's head. As much as they were openly opposed to this, they were still forced to pay. As a result, tax collectors were not popular people. That was why Zacchaeus was a despised man. Born a Jew, he chose to work for Rome, and, for that, he was considered a traitor to his own kind. On top of that, it was well known that tax collectors supplemented their own income by cheating the Jews, taking more than was due.

Repayment

When Zacchaeus repented, he offered to repay four times what he owed. This was almost the extreme repayment required under the law in cases of theft (cf. Ex 22:1; 2 Sam 12:6; Prov 6:31).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Zacchaeus was probably a very crooked tax collector. The crowd had great disdain for him. But after he met Jesus, he made a determination to change. He demonstrated true repentance through his outward actions. He agreed to pay back four times what he owed and to give money to the poor. God forgives all who admit their wrongs and ask for forgiveness.

Being sorry and expressing it takes a lot of maturity. It is not as simple as saying sorry as a reflex reaction, such as apologizing when you accidentally bump into someone. Your students may not have reached such a level of maturity, but they should still be encouraged to show repentance for wrongs they have committed. It can begin in the classroom. Throughout a lesson, students make many mistakes, both verbal and behavioral. Model the right behavior and commend those who admit their wrongs and want to do something about it. Your students need to be assured that God is always ready to forgive. They also need to learn how to express their repentance to God. It is not enough to admit it in their hearts. They need to show changed behavior. Encourage them to follow through with actions that demonstrate the sincerity of their repentance. Then, they can appreciate it when others ask them for forgiveness.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 19:1-10

BIBLE TRUTH

God forgives those who truly repent.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To know that Jesus knows each of us by name.
2. To learn how to show true repentance for mistakes that we have committed.
3. To remember that Jesus has come to seek and to save what was lost.

MEMORY VERSE

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."

(Acts 3:19a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, You are a wonderful teacher and friend. In every part of our lives, You lead us with Your unfailing hands. We know that we are weak and sometimes we make mistakes. Please help us truly repent to You, for You are merciful, kind, and forgiving. Let us give You all the praise and glory. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

repent: to feel sorry and regretful; to apologize

salvation: deliverance from sin

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Jesus healed a man who had been unable to walk for thirty-eight years. This man had waited at the pool of Bethesda, hoping to be cured. But no one ever helped him get into the water. One day, Jesus came to Jerusalem and saw this man. He had compassion on him. When Jesus asked the man whether he wanted to get well, he answered, "Yes." Then Jesus told him to get up, pick up his mat and go home. The man was healed completely by Jesus even though he had been unable to walk before. God's power and love are great and limitless. Nothing is impossible with Him. We learned to trust in God's power to overcome all difficulties.

BIBLE STORY

[Optional preparation: Bring in printouts and/or books about different kinds of trees, especially sycamore trees. During the lesson, you can talk about all the different kinds of trees there are, what we use trees for, and the different things trees provide: nuts, fruits, paper, maple syrup, lumber, housing for animals, etc.]

Jesus Visits Jericho

During Jesus' time on earth, He went to many different places, preaching the gospel. One time, He went to the city of Jericho. This was the same city that God had helped Joshua defeat a long time ago. When the people heard that Jesus was coming to town, they were very excited. They had heard so much about Him and His miracles. Everyone wanted to see for themselves what Jesus was really like.

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

There was a man called Zacchaeus who lived in Jericho. He was a chief tax collector. Do you know what a tax collector is? It is a person who collects an amount of money or payment for the support of a government. Zacchaeus was disliked by many because he worked for the Roman government and always collected more money than he should have. He took the extra money and kept it for himself. Therefore, he became a very rich man by cheating the people. Nobody liked him at all. Would you be friends with someone like Zacchaeus?

Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

When Zacchaeus learned that Jesus was coming to town, he also wanted to see Him. He didn't think Jesus would like him either, but he had heard so much about Jesus that he just had to see Him. However, there was a small

problem. When he arrived at the place where Jesus would be passing by, there was already a huge crowd. Zacchaeus was not a very tall man. He couldn't see past the crowd and no one would let him through to the front. There was no way he could see Jesus from where he was standing. So, Zacchaeus thought of a plan. He saw a sycamore tree nearby. It was thirty to forty feet high with many branches—that's like looking down from the third floor of a building. That's very high! This was also a very sturdy tree. Zacchaeus knew that if he climbed it, Jesus would pass by right underneath. So, Zacchaeus climbed the tree and sat on a branch, waiting. Now no one could stop him from seeing Jesus! Would you be brave enough to climb a tree that high?

Jesus Calls to Zacchaeus

Not long after, Jesus came walking down the road. Zacchaeus was very excited. He had a great view even though he didn't think Jesus could see him sitting way up there. Just then, as Jesus came closer to the tree, He stopped. In fact, He stopped right beneath the tree where Zacchaeus was sitting. Jesus looked up and spoke to him.

"Zacchaeus," said Jesus. "Come down. I am going to stay at your house tonight."

Zacchaeus was shocked when he heard what Jesus said. He didn't even think Jesus would notice him. But he quickly climbed down the tree to meet Jesus. His heart was full of joy. Jesus was willing to stay at his house. This was his first real friend!

Others Complain

When the other people in the crowd saw what was happening, they were shocked too. They didn't understand why Jesus wanted to visit Zacchaeus' house.

Some of the people complained, "Jesus is going to the house of a sinner!"

Jesus knew, of course, that Zacchaeus was a sinner, but he loved Zacchaeus and wanted to give him a chance to change.

Zacchaeus Repents

When Zacchaeus heard the people talking about his wrong deeds, he was very sorry. He realized how wrong he had been.

He said to Jesus, "I am very sorry for all the bad things I have done. I am going to give half of everything I own to

the poor. And if I have taken money that doesn't belong to me in the past, I will give back four times the amount." [You may have to explain what "four times" means using a sample amount.]

Zacchaeus wanted to show everyone how sorry he was. He asked Jesus to forgive him. Jesus was glad to hear his words.

Jesus smiled and said, "Zacchaeus, I came into the world to help people like you. Today, salvation has come to your house."

Zacchaeus was very happy because Jesus loved him, even though Zacchaeus had been a longtime sinner.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. Why was Zacchaeus up in a tree? Why did Jesus call out to Zacchaeus?** Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but was too short to see past the crowd, so he climbed a tree. Jesus knew Zacchaeus had done wrong things and wanted to give him a chance to repent. He also wanted to be his friend.
- 2. As a tax collector, what did Zacchaeus do wrong?** He cheated the people by collecting extra tax money and keeping it for himself.
- 3. Why did the people think Jesus was crazy for going to Zacchaeus' house?** Zacchaeus was a sinner, a dishonest tax collector with whom no one wanted to be friends.
- 4. How did Zacchaeus truly repent?** He said he would give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back four times the amount of money that he had wrongfully taken.
- 5. Describe how Zacchaeus must have felt when Jesus said He was coming to his house.** He must have felt shocked and surprised that Jesus noticed him and wanted to go to his house.
- 6. How would you feel if Jesus came to your house?** Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19a)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. money
2. tree
3. repent
4. False; they complained that he was a sinner.
5. False; He wanted to give sinners the chance to repent.
6. True
7. B
8. C
9. B

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Jesus knows us by name, just like He knew Zacchaeus. He wants to tell us the good news of His home in heaven.

Jesus called Zacchaeus on the tree by his name. How did Jesus know his name? More surprisingly, why did Jesus want to stay with Zacchaeus, whom everyone disliked? These are very good questions! If we can answer these questions, we are another step closer to knowing who Jesus really is. So, let me answer these questions one by one.

Firstly, how did Jesus know Zacchaeus by his name? In fact, Jesus knows all of us by our names. This shows that Jesus knows every single one of us very well. Moreover, He cares about all of us equally. He loves me, just as He loves you. What He has prepared—a home in heaven, is available for all of us, as long as we believe and obey Him.

Secondly, why did Jesus want to stay with Zacchaeus? Well, we have to first understand the reason why Jesus came. His sole purpose was to tell us of God's greatest gift: salvation. The Bible tells us that God doesn't want any of us to perish, but to come to repentance so that we can be saved (1 Tim 2:4). This is why He sent His son Jesus to us. Salvation is for everyone, and Jesus knows us all. He will speak to all of us the good news of His home in heaven. In everyone's mind, Zacchaeus was a bad person, and they probably didn't think that Zacchaeus deserved to have Jesus stay with him. But in Jesus' mind, we are all the same. He gives salvation to all those who are willing to repent. In Zacchaeus' case, yes, he displeased God when he took people's money, but Jesus came to this world to find sinners and tell them the good news of salvation. He told people to believe in Him—to believe that He is the Son of God and that He will open a pathway to His home in heaven for every single one of us. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, He knew that Zacchaeus needed Him—His love, His care, and His good news! Before Jesus, no one loved and cared for Zacchaeus, but Jesus did and He told Zacchaeus that God would forgive and save him if he repented. It was this immense love and forgiveness that touched Zacchaeus and allowed him to show true repentance for the mistakes he had made. And Jesus is the same way towards every sinner today.

2. To learn how to show true repentance for mistakes that we have committed.

Everyone makes mistakes and sins against God. From this lesson, we learned that we must show true repentance for the mistakes that we've made and that we should know that God will give everyone a chance to repent. If we don't repent, God may punish us. Adam and Eve were a perfect example. They sinned, and God gave them a chance to repent, but they did not. Instead, they blamed each other and, in the end, were punished. Therefore, it is important to reflect on our mistakes every day and repent. In addition, we must learn how to show that we have truly repented and that we will not do it again. For example, if we lie to our parents, not only should we ask God for repentance, we must also be determined not to lie again. Saying "sorry" aloud or just saying it in our hearts is not enough. There are also some mistakes and sins that we may not know we have committed. It is important to repent and ask God for forgiveness for those sins we do not know we have committed and to ask God to reveal those mistakes to us so that we can determine not to make them again. Again, we know that it's important to repent, but it's just as important to determine to make a change in our lives and not make the same mistake again. We should not be stuck in a cycle where we continue to sin and ask for repentance, over and over again. [Encourage the students to do Part 2 of the homework so that they can reflect on their daily lives.]

Actions speak louder than words. When we do something wrong intentionally or accidentally, many of us know to say sorry. But saying sorry is not enough. We must take actions to show that we are truly sorry. For example, if we bump into someone and cause that person to spill their drink, "sorry" may come out of our mouths as a reflex. Then, after saying sorry, we may just walk away. In this example, we should show that we are sorry by stopping and helping this person to clean up the floor or by giving the person a napkin to dry his clothing. Actions are stronger than words. God wants to see our repentant actions when we do something wrong against Him. It could be a mistake or it could be intentional, but we must always repent and show true repentance. [Ask the students to think about some of the things they've done wrong and whether or not they did more than just repent or say sorry.]

When Linda returned to school after Spring Break, her English teacher asked everyone to write a short commentary on the book they had been assigned to read during the break. However, Linda forgot to read the book, and she didn't know what to write for her assignment. It was not possible for her to read the entire book in one day and write the commentary. Therefore, Linda secretly took her friend Emma's work and

and copied a few points she had written in her commentary. Linda went home that day and wrote her commentary based on what she copied from Emma's work.

A few days later, Linda and Emma's English teacher called them both to see her after school. The teacher asked Linda if she copied Emma's work, and Linda denied it. Likewise, the teacher asked Emma the same question and Emma said that she was innocent. The teacher knew that one of them was lying, but she didn't know which. She said to Linda and Emma, "I don't want to punish the wrong person. I will give you another day to think about this. If you copied the other person's work, come back tomorrow and tell me. If none of you come back tomorrow, I will have to punish you both."

That day, Linda went home feeling extremely guilty. If she hadn't tried to hide the fact that she hadn't read the book or if she had admitted the truth to her teacher, her friend Emma wouldn't be going through all this. She knew that Emma must be very anxious. She knew that it was all her fault, and she felt very sorry. Therefore, Linda picked up the phone and called Emma. She said sorry to Emma very apologetically and asked for her forgiveness.

The next day, Linda and Emma both went to see their English teacher. At first, the English teacher was confused. Linda told her the truth and said, "I am really sorry that I lied. But I promise you that I will never do this again! I felt so bad that I didn't do my own homework and I created so much trouble for you and Emma. From now on, I will be honest with everyone." Emma, having accepted Linda's apology, also said to her teacher, "Please don't punish Linda. She already feels very sorry, and I trust that she will never do this again."

The teacher was very touched that Linda was able to humble herself and ask for forgiveness. Moreover, she learned a very important lesson and promised not to make the same mistake again. At the end, the teacher trusted Linda's words and didn't punish her. She gave Linda another week to read the book so that she could write her own commentary.

3. The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

Luke 19:10 tells us, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." This is the perfect and only reason Jesus came to us. Two thousand years ago, Jesus came to this world and performed many miracles. He healed the sick, cast out demons, became friends with sinners, and preached about God and His heavenly kingdom. He did all these so that everyone could turn back to God.

No one in this world is perfect; we have all sinned against God and fell short of His glory (Rom 3:23). In other words, sin has separated us from our heavenly Father; sin has taken away our pathway to heaven! We are all lost because we can't go back to where we belong. But students, Jesus came to us. As we discussed earlier, He created a way for us to reach God's presence—He made salvation available for us! And He is constantly seeking out those who are lost and telling them about His saving grace. When Jesus was still on earth, He once said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Mk 2:17). In this verse, the "sick" refers to those who are spiritually unwell. When we are spiritually unwell, that means we are far away from God and our spirituality is weak. The physician represents Jesus. He said that the people that need Him are the ones who are weak in Spirit—those who haven't fixed their eyes on salvation and are lost! Today, Jesus is still the same way. He is seeking out for all those who are lost, and those who may have sinned but are willing to repent, just as He sought out for Zacchaeus. Let me share a testimony with you from a once "lost" member who is now a firm believer of Christ.

Before believing in Christ, I worshipped the traditional Chinese religion. My late mother used to worship the Chinese "gods." I followed her as well, praying to those gods and participating in the rituals.

It began in 1972. I was a player in a table tennis team led by Elder Elijah Yeh from our church, who also happened to be my manager. We travelled to East Malaysia frequently and I often overheard Elder Yeh asking the locals if there were any True Jesus Church (TJC) churches nearby. This left an impression on me.

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On one occasion, we had to travel to Hong Kong for a table tennis match via the South China Sea. We encountered a thunderstorm during the journey, and I started to become extremely anxious. I thought that we would surely perish at sea, especially when the waves hit the ship violently. We had to close the windows to prevent water from flooding our cabins. During this time, I noticed our team leader, Elder Elijah, kneeling down and praying in tongues. After that, I saw someone walking over to take control of the ship's helm. Miraculously, the storm calmed down and the ship continued with the journey. I vividly remember that the person was one of the passengers on board. Out of curiosity, we asked him what happened. The man replied, "He was an inexperienced captain and had we not avoided the waves, the ship would have capsized." I wondered to myself. If our team leader had not prayed at that time, would we all have perished?

In 2009, I found out that my son and his family attended church services. Out of curiosity, I asked them which church they were attending. It was the True Jesus Church! This jolted my memory and made me recall that incident nearly forty years ago. My son then asked me to come attend a family evangelistic luncheon held by Adam Road Church in Singapore. Thereafter, I started to join my family for every Sabbath service. My first observation was that many people knelt down and prayed in tongues. This did not surprise me, as I had seen my manager praying in this manner before.

I continued to attend services at TJC for a few months. After listening to more sermons, I felt that the sermons had "opened my eyes" to things in which I formerly did not believe. Also, as age started to catch up with me, I started to think more about life after death. I firmly believe that God has His merciful salvation plan for me and that He has been waiting patiently for me to accept Him, just as is recorded in Scripture, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (Jn 15:16).

Reflection Questions

- 1. Why do we say that this member was "lost"?** Because he worshipped traditional Chinese religions and did not believe in God. He was separated from God.
- 2. How did Jesus seek for this member and find him?** He arranged for him to meet Elder Elijah Yeh from our church a long time ago and to witness a miracle. Many years later, he was brought to church by his family and finally found the truth in True Jesus Church.

Students, Jesus has already come to seek us, and it is now our chance to help Him seek more lost sheep to bring back to His fold. Do you remember how Jesus found you? [If your students attended True Jesus Church since birth because of their families, ask them to think about the time when they first experienced Jesus themselves. It could be a time when they received a blessing from God, witnessed a miracle, or were touched by His words.] What changes have you made for Him since that moment you were found? Zacchaeus repented and determined to make a change for God. Many members began to preach the gospel and share their testimonies after they believed in Christ. What about us? What can we do for Jesus, our close friend and Savior?

ACTIVITIES

1**Bible Story Diorama****Objective:** To recall the events of the Bible story.**Materials**

- Scrap material (e.g., tissue paper, paper towel rolls, tongue depressors, yarn)
- Construction paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue
- Tape

Instructions

Cut up the story below into strips of paper. Put them into a hat. Divide the class into groups. Have each group draw a strip. Each group is responsible for creating that scene using the available materials so that the finished product is three-dimensional. This is known as a diorama. When the dioramas have been completed, have students tell the story by asking each group to present their part of the story in chronological order.

The Story of Zacchaeus

1. My name is Zacchaeus. I lived in Jericho. I was a chief tax collector. I was very rich but I earned much of my money dishonestly.
2. One day, Jesus came to my city. I wanted to see Him but the crowd was too large. Then I saw a big tree, and I decided to climb it.
3. Jesus walked by to get a better look and stopped under the tree. He told me to come down because He wanted to stay at my house. I was very happy.
4. Other people complained that Jesus was going to my house, the house of a sinner. I was very sorry. I said I would pay back the money I owed. Jesus forgave me.

2

We Are Sorry

Objective: To help students identify which steps to take to show repentance.

Instructions

As a class, brainstorm what should be done when we have done something wrong. After the discussion, write down the three important steps to take.

1. Tell the person you hurt that you are sorry.
2. Show that person you are sorry with actions.
3. Pray to God and repent in the prayer.

Now present them with specific scenarios. For example, one day you see some money on the kitchen table that you know belongs to your mom. You have been wanting to buy your favorite comic book that has just come out. You only need one more dollar. Your mom will not notice the difference if several coins go missing from the table. So you go and buy the comic book by grabbing four quarters off the table. At first, it feels great to finally hold the comic book in your hands, but as you read it, you begin to think about what you have just done. Just because it was only a few coins didn't make it okay to just take it without telling anyone. It is the same as stealing. You feel awful. You don't even want to read the comic book anymore. It feels like you stole the comic book. That night you just can't sleep. The next morning, you feel terrible. What are you going to do?

You may wish to come up with your own example and have the class brainstorm what they would do to show their true repentance. Help them identify what to do by following the three steps listed above.

3

Where Is Zacchaeus?

Objectives: 1. To teach students that Jesus showed the people that He loved them.
2. To teach students to be kind to one another.

Materials

- Activity patterns (1 set per student)
- Glue
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons

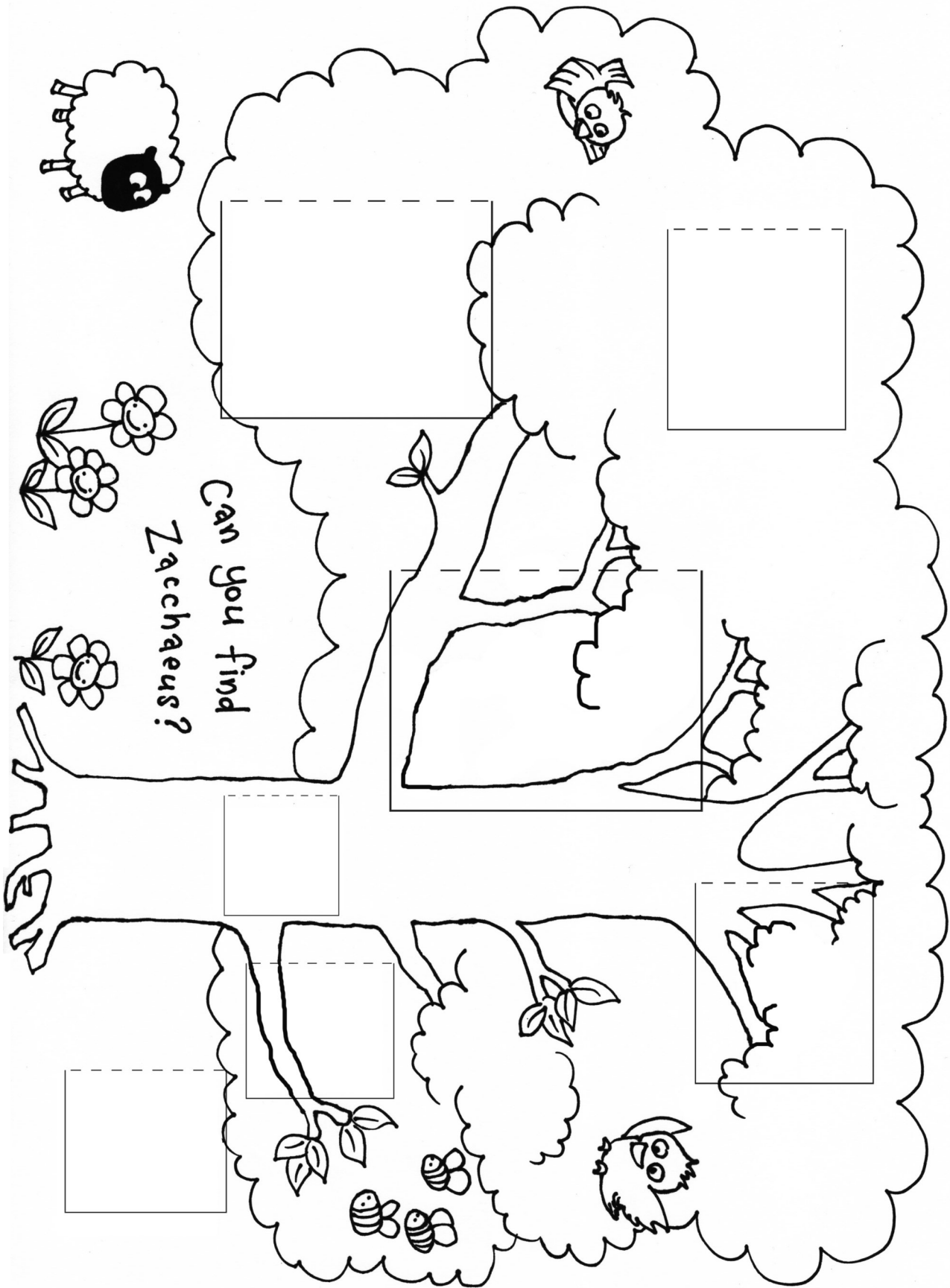
Preparations

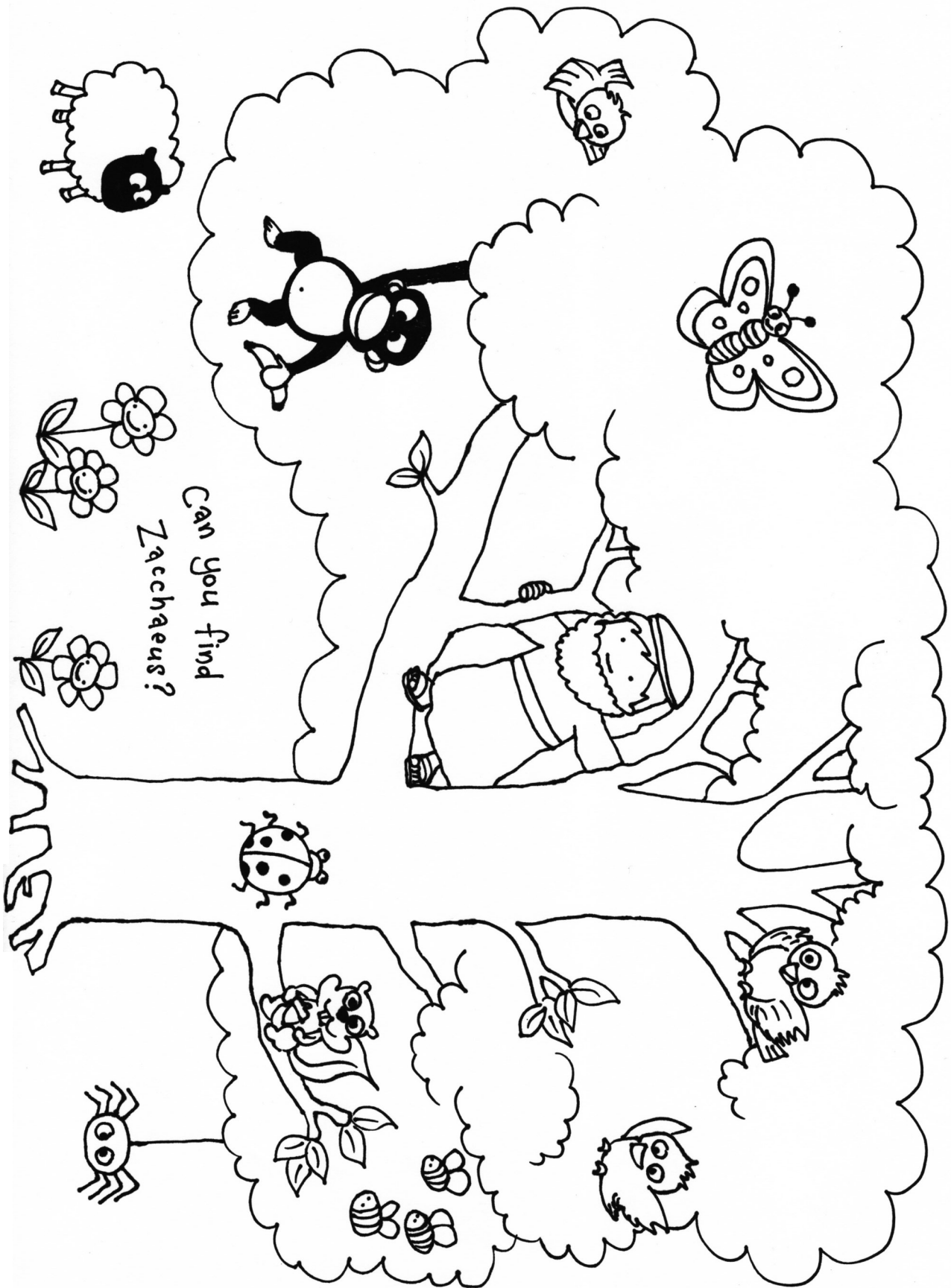
Before class, print out the patterns in landscape mode and cut out the windows with a razor. Only cut the solid lines, leaving the dotted lines intact so that you can "open" the windows. If you want, you can fold back the windows for the students beforehand and crease the folds to make them straight. Each student will need one of each page.

Instructions

1. Have students color in both of the pictures.
2. Put glue on the back of the top page, making sure not to put any glue where the windows are.
3. Glue the top page onto the bottom page, making sure that the windows line up with the pictures first.
4. The students can have fun lifting the flaps and searching for Zacchaeus in the tree.

Tell students that this can serve as a reminder to them that Jesus loves all kinds of people and wants to save everyone. Furthermore, the story of Zacchaeus can remind them to treat others well and repent if they've done something wrong.





E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 5—Zacchaeus Is Sorry

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God forgives those who truly repent.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To learn how to show true repentance for mistakes that have been made.
2. To know that God will give us a chance to repent.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 3:19a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

1. Zacchaeus was called a sinner by others because he collected more _____ than he should have.
2. Zacchaeus was very short, so he climbed a _____ because he wanted to see Jesus.
3. Jesus wanted Zacchaeus to _____.

True or False

4. The people were happy to hear that Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house. _____
5. Jesus refused to have anything to do with sinners. _____
6. Jesus came to the world to save people like Zacchaeus. _____

Mutiple Choice

7. _____ : What kind of tree did Zacchaeus climb?
 - a. Maple tree
 - b. Sycamore tree
 - c. Redwood tree
 - d. Chestnut tree

8. _____ : Jesus was coming to the city of _____.
 - a. Bethlehem
 - b. Jerusalem
 - c. Jericho
 - d. Nineveh

9. _____ : Zacchaeus agreed to pay back _____ times the amount he wrongfully took.
 - a. 2
 - b. 4
 - c. 6
 - d. 8

Homework: Part 2

Instructions: During the week, use this log to write down the mistakes you have made and describe how you showed you were sorry.

	Mistakes I Made	How I Showed I Was Sorry
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

LESSON 6

FOUR GOOD FRIENDS

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Houses in Biblical Times

A typical house during biblical times was built of stone. It had a flat roof made of materials that included mud, straw, and tiles (Lk 5:19) and that roof could be reached by an outside stairway. People often walked on their rooftops for fresh air or slept on their rooftops on hot nights to enjoy the cool breeze. Sometimes, they even spread their laundry or fruit and grain on the roof to dry. In this story, the four friends likely brought the paralyzed man to the roof using the stairway. Then they had to take apart the mud, straw, and tile mixture to create a hole big enough to lower the man down.

The Power to Forgive

When the Jewish leaders heard Jesus' claim that He was able to forgive a man's sins, they were shocked. They knew that only God had the power to forgive sins. To them, Jesus was a blasphemer. According to the law, the punishment for blaspheming the name of God was death (Lev 24:15-16). However, they did not understand that Jesus' claim was true. Jesus has the authority to forgive sins because He is God.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

The four friends in this story could have easily given up. When they saw the huge crowd, they could have left the man there and hoped that he would eventually be able to see Jesus. But they did not do that. They took action themselves, and Jesus was moved by their great faith, determination, and love.

Your students may give up very easily on simple tasks. When the task becomes too troublesome, they will abandon the work and let someone else finish the job. When it's time to pray, they may give up when they are too tired. This is a good time to discuss the importance of determination, responsibility, and being a true friend. The four friends were determined to help no matter how difficult it would be. They were very courageous people. They completed what they started. Jesus wants your students to be responsible Christians and good friends, too. Discuss some ways they can help their friends. Giving them an example from your life would make the experience more real for them. It may also benefit them to do some role-playing. Let them step into the shoes of a person who needs help. How do they feel when others do not offer them any assistance? How do they feel when others do offer them help? No matter how small the aid may be, remind them that God keeps track of every one of them. Let your students feel the intrinsic rewards of being a good friend.

BIBLE TEXT

Mark 2:1-12

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is kind and has the power to forgive sins.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage and pray for others in church.
2. To be determined and not give up when helping others.
3. To understand that Jesus looks at our faith.

MEMORY VERSE

"Honor your father and mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

(Matthew 19:19)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we know that You are a kind and loving God. Thank You for being there for us. We need friends to help and support us in the same way that You constantly guide us. Also, we must learn how to be good friends to others. Lord, please help us in our determination to show kindness and love to our friends so that we can give all glory to Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

paralyzed: unable to move and control your muscles

paralytic: someone who is paralyzed

determination: the decision not to give up; to decision to keep trying

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector, and people did not like him. Why? (He cheated people out of their money and kept the extra for himself.) When he heard that Jesus was coming to town, he wanted to see Him. However, Zacchaeus was short, and there was a huge crowd around Jesus. He had to climb a tree in order to be able to catch a glimpse. When Jesus came to the tree where Zacchaeus was, He told Zacchaeus to come down because He would be staying at his house. Zacchaeus was overjoyed that Jesus wanted to be his friend. However, the people complained that Jesus was visiting the house of a sinner. When Zacchaeus heard this, he felt sorry for all that he had done wrong. He told Jesus that he would change and give back the money to the people. Jesus forgave him and was very happy that he had repented.

We learned that we also need to repent when we make mistakes. God is always ready to forgive us if we are sincere. We can also learn from Zacchaeus' determination to see Jesus. We must also be determined to get rid of whatever is blocking us from seeing Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Dear students, think about somebody that you really love and care about. [Give them some time to think.] Who is it? [Have them go around and share.] Now, imagine that this person is very, very sick and can't even move. How would you feel?

Today, we are going to learn about a paralytic and how much his four friends cared about him. They were determined to bring him before Jesus to be healed. They encountered many difficulties, but did not give up.

[Have students turn their Bibles to **Mark 2:1-12**. Either read it through with them while explaining, or have the class read the reference verses together throughout the story-telling. Emphasize the quoted parts of the reference verses.]

"Carried by four" (Mark 2:3)

One time, Jesus was preaching in an area called Capernaum. Many people came to see Him and hear His teachings. He was speaking inside a house, and so many people came that the house was completely filled. There wasn't even room near the door.

There were four friends who had heard about Jesus' arrival in town. They had also heard stories of how He healed sick people. They were very eager to meet Him because they had a very sick friend. He was paralyzed and had to lie down all day on a mat. The four men knew that if they brought their friend to Jesus, He would be able to help. So they each held a corner of the mat and carried

their friend to the house where Jesus was staying.

When they arrived at the house, they realized that there was no way they could get into the house. A huge crowd was before them. However, they were not about to give up that easily. The four men came up with a plan.

"They uncovered the roof" (Mark 2:4)

They managed to reach the top of the house with their friend. Then, they began to take apart the tiles and other materials that were used to make the roof. They kept taking apart the roof until they made a hole big enough to fit their friend who was lying on the mat. The four men began to lower their friend down into the house! They carefully let him down until he reached the floor where Jesus could see him.

"Jesus saw their faith" (Mark 2:5)

When Jesus saw the man and how much faith his friends had, He was deeply moved. They went through so much trouble just to bring the man to Him. He knew they had faith that He could heal the paralytic. Jesus also knew that the paralyzed man needed more than just to be healed. He needed to be forgiven of his sins, of all the wrong things he had done in the past. Jesus was very willing to help him.

"Son, your sins are forgiven you" (Mark 2:5)

Jesus said to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." Now, among the crowd were some Jewish leaders and

scribes. When they heard what Jesus said, they began to wonder to themselves, "Why does this Man speak like this? Does He think that He is God? Only God can forgive sins." Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking, but what they didn't know was that Jesus was God.

"Why do you wonder about these things in your hearts?" Jesus asked. No one dared to say anything. Jesus continued to speak, saying, "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?'" To prove to the people that He had power on earth to forgive sins, Jesus said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your mat, and go to your house."

Everyone looked with anticipation at the man lying on the mat. Immediately, the man got up, took up his mat and went on his way home.

"All were amazed and glorified God" (Mark 2:12)

Everyone who saw this miracle was amazed. They praised and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" The man and his four friends went home happily, praising God. Now, unlike before, the man could walk with them. The four friends were glad they brought the man to see Jesus. The man glorified God because Jesus had healed him and forgiven him of his sins.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **How many friends carried the paralytic?** Four.
2. **Why couldn't the four friends go through the front door to see Jesus?** There was a crowd that filled the whole house.
3. **What did the four friends do to the roof in order to get the paralytic in the house?** Uncovered it, took it apart, and broke through it.
4. **What was the first thing Jesus said to the paralytic? (Hint: What did Jesus forgive him of?)** "Son, your sins are forgiven you."
5. **What were the Jewish leaders and scribes thinking in their hearts when Jesus said this?** They thought Jesus was blaspheming because only God could forgive sins. However, Jesus is God. Therefore, He has the power to forgive sins.
6. **In the end, what happened to the paralytic?** He was healed!
7. **What did all the people do after they saw the paralytic walk?** They were amazed and glorified God.
8. **Why did Jesus think it was more important to say the man's sins were forgiven?** So that others could know that Jesus had the power to forgive sins on earth.
9. **How can you be a good friend to others around you?** Have you ever done acts of kindness that you want to share with everyone as an example? Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Honor your father and mother," and, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 19:19)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. sins
2. False; they believed that only God had the power, but they did not know that Jesus was God.
3. True
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

We should be determined when helping others.

As we learned from the story today, the paralytic needed the determination, love, and faith of the four good friends in order to be brought before Jesus and healed. There are often spiritual paralytics who are in need of our love and the love of other brothers and sisters. These may be people who have a hard time coming to church, concentrating when they are praying, or keeping up a good relationship with God. In fact, many times, we are also spiritual paralytics ourselves, in need of other people's help.

Let's take some time to think about this: How might you be a spiritual paralytic? [Give your students some time to think and answer.] Think about some people you know who might be spiritually paralyzed. How can we help them? [Students can think to themselves or share with the class.] Here are some teachings we can keep in mind. [Write the following three points on the board.]

1. Encourage and pray for the people in church.

One way to help "carry" others is to encourage them with kind words. Kind words can cheer up people who may be spiritually low, sad, or filled with worries (Prov 12:25). Can you come up with a list of encouragements you can say to your friends and family in need? [Give your students some time to think and write them down. Ask them to think about encouraging Bible verses.]

- *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

As Jeremiah 29:11 says, God has a beautiful plan for us. No matter what we are going through right now, we can have faith that God will take us through any difficulties and bring us to a better place.

- *"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up like wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."*

Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that the Lord gives us new strength every day. Let tomorrow have its own worries, God will take care of them all.

- *"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."*

Deuteronomy 31:6 encourages us to be strong and of good courage. Nothing can harm us when God is by our side, guiding and protecting us. He will never leave us or lead us down the wrong path!

Another way to "carry" others is to pray for them. It took four loving friends to carry the paralytic. In the same way, when several people pray for someone in need, it will be very powerful. Let me share a testimony with you.

Many years ago, a disastrous earthquake struck Taiwan. Many homes, commercial buildings, and public facilities were destroyed overnight in the affected areas, and many lives had been taken away. It was an extremely chaotic time for those affected by the earthquake; some searched all over for their lost family members, while others rushed to different hospitals and shelters. On the news, all we saw were people crying over wounded bodies, crushed homes, and desperate souls. It was heartbreaking to watch. That night, I remember receiving a phone call from a church council member. He was calling every church member to ask for our prayers for our church in the affected areas in Taiwan, as well as for other victims in this tragic event. He also said that our church chapel would be open for members to pray that whole week.

The next day, I decided to drop by church after work. When I first saw the chapel, my eyes began to tear up. It was a weekday with no service, but so many members came to church to pray! I can't remember how many hours I prayed for, but I prayed for a long time. When I left, I saw that many brothers and sisters who were there when I first arrived were still there, praying. I will never forget that moment. I could feel the power

coming out of the chapel.

On the following Saturday, an announcement was made about our church in Taiwan for which we had been praying. They said that our church in Taiwan had been able to reach every member, and thank God, they were all safe and sound. Even though many of them suffered material loss, God protected them all from being hurt. After the announcement was made, many members said out loud, "Hallelujah, praise the Lord!" A sister sitting behind me whispered softly, "God listened to our prayers." Suddenly, I realized that praying for others is not merely an action of care and sympathy. God actually listened to our prayers and protected His church and His children. Thank God that not only did I witness God's protection during that time, I also learned a very important lesson about the power of effective prayer. May all the glory be unto Jesus' name. Amen.

2. Don't give up.

The four friends had to face a large crowd, go up to the roof, break through the roof, and lower their friend down. These are all big difficulties they had to face. When we are seeking God or trying to encourage and pray for others, we may also face difficulties. However, just as the four friends did not give up, we must not give up. If we do not give up, Jesus will see our determination and faith and answer our prayers. Let me share another testimony with you.

James had been happily married for eleven years. During these years, even though James' wife was not a True Jesus Church member, he went to church every Saturday. He tried to bring his wife to church a few times, but she had no interest in our church. She attended a Catholic school when she was younger and had not gone to church in a very long time.

All these years, James never ceased praying for his wife. He prayed that God, in His timing, would bring his wife back to His fold. James had no idea when his wife would start going to church with him, but he had great faith that God would answer his prayers one day. For eleven years, James prayed for his wife every day. He was determined to bring his wife to church.

One day, he was having dinner with his wife and her relatives. They started talking about God. After that conversation, James' wife, as well as her relatives, began to show interest in True Jesus Church. James had Bible studies with them often to introduce our doctrines and basic beliefs to them. In 2013, James' wife and her relatives got baptized. Thank God, one by one, four souls were added to God's fold that year. Not only did God give James wisdom and strength to preach, He also answered James' prayers after eleven years.

3. Jesus looks at our faith.

When the four friends saw the huge crowd before them, they did not turn back. Instead, they went to the roof, tore through all the tiles and mud to uncover it, and lowered their friend down to see Jesus. They were willing to do all this without hesitation because of their faith in Jesus. They knew that He could heal their friend and that He was the only one on earth with the power to do it. Their actions revealed their faith. However, Jesus saw their great faith not only by looking at their outward actions, but also by looking into their hearts. The four friends did all these actions because, in their hearts, they had great faith in Jesus. In the same way, if we put our faith into our actions, Jesus will recognize that, just as he recognized the four friends' great faith.

As we encourage and pray for other brothers and sisters, as well as pursue God ourselves, we will encounter many difficulties. However, we must not give up! Jesus will see our faith and determination, and He will reward us.

ACTIVITY

Four Good Friends

Objective: To help the students recall the events of the story.

Instructions: Look at the pictures. Number them in the order that they happened in the story. Check with a partner to make sure you have the correct sequence.

"Your sins are forgiven."

"I can walk now!"

"Let's try to get him up on the roof."

"This is too crowded. We can't get in."

"Lower him down to see Jesus."

"Get up and walk!"

The illustrations show a man with a speck in his eye, a man with a log in his eye, a man being lowered from a roof, a man being lowered from a boat, and a man being helped up by Jesus.

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 6—Four Good Friends

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is kind and has the power to forgive sins.

Lesson Objective: To be determined when helping others.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Matthew 19:19)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

1. Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, your _____ are forgiven you."

True or False

2. The Jewish leaders and scribes believed that Jesus had the power to forgive sins. _____
3. Jesus has the power to forgive sins because He is God. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : Why couldn't the four friends carry the paralytic through the door?
a. The door was not big enough.
b. The door was locked.
c. There was a large crowd.
5. _____ : How did the four friends get their friend into the house where Jesus was?
a. They paid money to get into the house.
b. They uncovered and broke through the roof, and lowered their friend in.
c. They discovered a back door and carried their friend in.
6. _____ : After the paralytic was healed and went out in the presence of all the people, everyone _____.
a. Was angry and wanted to hurt Jesus, saying "Blasphemy!"
b. Was sad and felt it was unfair, saying "How come you didn't heal other sick people?"
c. Was amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"
7. _____ : According to the Bible, Jesus healed and forgave the paralytic when He saw _____.
a. How well the friends dug through the roof.
b. The faith of the friends.
c. How well the friends carried the paralytic on the mat.
8. _____ : We should have determination when we seek God and help others. What is determination?
a. To keep trying no matter what happens.
b. To be amazed and glorify God.
c. Not being able to move or control your muscles.

Life Application

9. Think of one person you can help, encourage, or pray for. Write down this person's name and what you specifically want to do for this person.

Name of this person: _____

What you will do for this person: _____

Did you do it? _____

LESSON 7

MARY AND MARTHA SEEK HELP

BEFORE YOU TEACH

From Perea to Judea

At one point, Jesus was preaching in the region of Perea on the east side of the Jordan River. He traveled to Perea to escape the Jews in Jerusalem, who were plotting to kill Him (Jn 10:39-40). It was in Perea that Jesus learned of Lazarus' sickness.

Lazarus, Martha, and Mary lived in the town of Bethany. Bethany was two miles from Jerusalem, in the region of Judea. The proximity of Bethany to Jerusalem—and to the Jews who wished to kill Jesus—made traveling to Bethany very dangerous for Jesus. Despite this, Jesus' love for Lazarus, Martha, and Mary compelled Him to go to Bethany and resurrect Lazarus.

Instead of leaving for Bethany immediately after receiving news about Lazarus, Jesus remained in Perea for two days because He knew that He would resurrect Lazarus (Jn 11:4, 14). In the meantime, Martha, Mary, and the people in Bethany waited anxiously. According to Jewish belief, after a person died, his soul remained near his body for three days, giving hope that it would return to the body. By resurrecting Lazarus four days after he died, Jesus demonstrated God's glory and power over life and death.

Burial Customs

During Jesus' time, tombs were caves of limestone rock carved in hillsides. The entrances to these tombs were large enough for a person to walk through. At times, more than one body would be buried in a tomb. A large rock would be placed at the entrance to seal the tomb.

Raising the Dead

In addition to Lazarus, Jesus also resurrected other people: Jairus' daughter (Matt 9:18-26; Mk 5:41-42; Lk 8:52-56) and a widow's son (Lk 7:11-15). Lazarus' resurrection was important because through it, Jesus demonstrated to His disciples and the world that He had power over death. Through this miracle, many believed that Jesus was the Son of God and placed their faith in Him. Jesus also delivered an important teaching: Whoever believes in Him receives eternal life that physical death can never take away.

BIBLE TEXT

John 11:1-45

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus can resurrect our physical body. More importantly, He gives us eternal life.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that Jesus loves and cares for us, even in difficult circumstances.
2. To recognize that Jesus has power over life and death.

MEMORY VERSE

"He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

(John 11:25b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for the opportunity to learn Your words and to worship You at Your church. Help us to listen attentively to learn Your teachings. We know that You care for and love us deeply, Lord. You created us. You heal our sicknesses. You also give us eternal life. You are the almighty God. Help us to trust and believe in You completely. May all glory be unto Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Though they are young, your students will still face many different trials. Like Martha and Mary, they may experience a close friend, parent, or beloved pet suffer from an illness or die. They may be too young to cope with the emotional pain and may question God's motive and love.

Such moments are opportunities to discuss death. On the simplest level, we can point out to our students the cycle of birth and death. We can see it all around us, in nature and in men. Point out how the flowers first bloom,

then die, and how autumn and winter follow spring and summer. Discuss the aging process by observing the differing physiology between the old and the young. Explain that although seeing loved ones suffer illness or die may be painful and difficult, God allows these things to happen so that we can learn from them and draw closer to Him. By doing this, we can glorify and honor God. We can remind our students to seek comfort from the Bible and through prayer at such times.

VOCABULARY

mourn: to grieve, feel sad for

tomb: a place where dead people are placed or buried

resurrect: to raise from the dead, bring to life again

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about four friends who demonstrated great faith in Jesus by bringing their paralyzed friend to see Him, even if it meant that they had to uncover a roof and lower their friend through it to do so. How did they show their faith? (They didn't turn back when they saw the huge crowd and instead went through all the effort to lower their paralyzed friend through the roof to see Jesus.) What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man after seeing his friends' great faith? ("Son, your sins are forgiven you.") Then, to show His power on earth, He healed the man so that he could walk again. We learned that we should also be good friends to others like those four friends were to the paralyzed man, and that only Jesus (and therefore, God) has the power to forgive sins.

Today's lesson is about how Martha and Mary turned to Jesus for help when their brother Lazarus became ill.

BIBLE STORY

Lazarus Is Sick

In a town called Bethany, there lived two sisters and a brother. They were Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They loved and took good care of one another. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus had a special friend who came to visit them. Does anyone know who their good friend was? Yes, it was the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus loved this family very much.

One day, Lazarus became very sick and did not get better. His sisters became very worried. How could they help their brother?

Mary and Martha Send for Jesus

Martha and Mary loved Lazarus very much. They were worried because Lazarus was so sick. They thought that if Jesus were there, He could perform a miracle and heal Lazarus. Jesus had performed many wonderful miracles. He healed the sick, made the blind see, made the lame walk, and made the deaf hear. Jesus had the power to heal

Lazarus. Martha said to Mary, "We can send messengers to tell Jesus that Lazarus is sick. He will come to heal him."

Jesus Goes to Bethany

The messengers traveled as fast as they could. They went to a place called Perea, which wasn't too far from Bethany. They found Jesus teaching people the word of God. The messengers told Jesus that Lazarus was sick and that He needed to go to Bethany to heal him. When Jesus heard the news, He did not go immediately. Instead, He told His disciples that Lazarus would not die, and that this happened so that God would be glorified.

Lazarus Dies

Back in Bethany, Martha and Mary were waiting anxiously for Jesus to arrive. They prayed every day, hoping that Jesus would arrive that day. But, Lazarus was so sick that he died.

What happens to a person when they die? The person stops breathing. His heart also stops beating.

Does anyone here have a family member or a pet that died? How did you feel? Yes, when we lose someone or something we love, we feel a lot of pain and sadness. Lazarus' death also made Martha and Mary very sad. They missed him very much. Jesus did not come to Bethany to heal him. Jesus did not come and save Lazarus.

When Martha and Mary's friends heard about Lazarus' death, they came to their house and mourned with them. They also helped Mary and Martha wrap Lazarus' body in cloth, bury him in a big cave, and cover the mouth of the cave with a huge stone.

Jesus Arrives in Bethany

Jesus finally arrived in Bethany, but Lazarus had been dead for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she ran to Jesus and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Let's turn to John 11:25 and read this aloud together: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'"

Jesus said that He was the resurrection and the life. Jesus has the power to raise people from the dead, and He gives life to all things.

When Mary heard that Jesus had arrived, she came before Him, fell at His feet, and began crying. "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw the sadness of Martha and Mary, as well as the grief of the Jews who were mourning with them, Jesus also cried with them.

Jesus then asked, "Where is Lazarus buried?"

"Come and see," said the people. "We'll take you there."

Jesus Raises Lazarus

When Jesus, Martha, Mary, and the Jews arrived at Lazarus' tomb, Jesus told them, "Take away the stone."

"But Jesus, Lazarus has been dead four days now; there will be a very bad smell," Martha said.

Jesus looked at her and said, "If you believe, you will see the power of God."

Upon hearing this, the people immediately rolled the stone away. Then Jesus stood in front of the cave and cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

Mary, Martha, and all the people who were with them looked with very wide eyes toward the opening of the cave. Would Lazarus really live again? Did Jesus have the power to make a dead man live again? Was it possible? If you had been standing with Mary and Martha by the cave, would you have believed that Jesus had the power to raise Lazarus from the dead? Raise your hand if you would have believed.

They all waited anxiously to see what would happen. Suddenly, a man still wrapped in linen cloth walked out from the cave. Lazarus was alive! Lazarus had been raised from the dead! Praise be to God! Jesus is the resurrection and the life! [Have students repeat this phrase with you.]

Mary and Martha were so happy that their brother had been given back to them. Lazarus was really alive again. Mary and Martha thought that Jesus had arrived too late to save their brother, but now they realized that Jesus purposely came late because He wanted to show the power of God to glorify His name. Many of the people who did not believe in Jesus before believed now that He was God and that He was the resurrection and the life. Hallelujah!

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

True or False

1. **Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived in Jerusalem.** False; they lived in Bethany.
2. **Lazarus had been dead for 6 days when Jesus arrived.** False; he had been dead for 4 days.
3. **Mary and Martha wanted Jesus to come quickly because they believed that He had the power to heal Lazarus.** True.
4. **After witnessing Lazarus' resurrection, the Jews believed in Jesus.** True.
5. **Jesus delayed in coming to Bethany because He did not like Lazarus.** False; He delayed in coming to glorify God.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. He Is the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus was on earth, He loved and cared for the people who were sick and suffering. He performed many wonderful miracles. Can you name some of the miracles that Jesus performed? [Let students think and share. Some miracles have been listed below.]

He allowed the deaf to hear.
 He caused the blind to see.
 He healed the leprous.
 He made the lame walk.

Today, we learned that the Lord Jesus had the power to raise people from the dead. No one can resurrect the dead except Jesus. That's because Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Only He can raise people from the dead and give them life.

Not only is Jesus powerful, He is also merciful and kind. We can pray to Jesus when we have problems or are sick. He is able and willing to help us because He loves us. Not only will Jesus heal our sickness, He will also give us eternal life so that we can be with Him in heaven. He can do wonders in our lives, just as He did in the family of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus!

[Using the provided template, cut out the tree and leaves to use as templates. You may want to enlarge the tree or shrink the leaves accordingly. Then, trace the tree and the leaves onto colored construction paper, ensuring that each student has leaf. Have the students complete the following sentence on the leaves: "I can trust in God because He is..." Then, glue the leaves to the tree and pin the tree onto a bulletin board.]

2. Jesus Cares

[Ask the students to share something about which they have been praying. Then, ask the students whether God has answered their prayers.]

If God has not answered your prayers, do you still believe that He loves and cares for you? Does God still love you when He does not give you what you ask for? Does God love you even when He allows bad things to happen to you? [Allow students to share their thoughts.]

[Prepare a woven throw or picture. Have the students look at the back of the throw or picture, which exposes only the messy threads. Ask the students to guess what is on the front. When they finish guessing, show them the actual picture so they can see if they guessed correctly.]

Oftentimes, we do not understand God's plan, just like when we could not see the picture clearly when we looked at the back of the throw. Mary and Martha prayed and hoped that the Lord Jesus would come on time to save Lazarus so that he would not die. They waited and waited, but Jesus arrived in Bethany four days after Lazarus had died. They did not understand why Jesus was late or why He had allowed Lazarus to die. They did not understand the big picture.

Similarly, we may not always understand why God has not answered our prayers. Sometimes, it is difficult to believe that Jesus loves us when we are forced to endure hardships and difficulties every day. We do not know why God has not rescued us, and everything seems messy and confusing, like the threads at the back of the throw.

We need to have faith that God loves us and that He knows what is best for us. Mary and Martha eventually understood this. When Jesus finally arrived, He displayed His power over not only sickness, but also death. Due to this great miracle, many more people came to believe in Him and glorify God.

In the same way, God wants us to learn to wait patiently for His time. He wants us to trust Him and believe that He will answer our prayers and give us what is the very best. Let's hear a testimony of a mother's faith!

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we testify.

"It's cancer." These words have struck fear in countless families. Now, it was our family's turn to battle with cancer in a loved one. Our mother had been experiencing discomfort in her intestinal area for a while. She underwent a colon examination in Scotland and was told there were no problems. Still, she felt something was not right. So when she and our father had their annual stay in Hong Kong in January 2012, we persuaded her to seek another doctor's opinion.

A gastroenterology specialist arranged an endoscopy to investigate her entire intestinal tract. Our mother originally opted to test only the upper intestine but was persuaded to undergo a complete examination. A three-centimeter mass was found in her colon. Luckily, our mother had agreed to the full examination, the specialist said, otherwise they would have missed the tumor.

The next step was to determine if the tumor was malignant or benign. One week later, the results came in. Our parents encouraged us to pray silently and to accept the results, no matter what they were. The specialist reported that the tumor was malignant and they would have to check if there were more cancerous cells. On the taxi ride home, no one spoke as we tried to come to terms with what the future might hold for her and our whole family. We called our brother, anxiously waiting back in Scotland. Saying aloud that it was cancer finally made it real to us, and we all broke down in tears. Our father went into his room and closed the door. Yet our mother just went into the kitchen and started preparing dinner as usual. When we checked on our father, we found him sitting on the bed, sobbing silently. That was only the second time we had ever seen him cry. Our mother put her arms around him, telling him, and us, to be strong, for there was still hope.

By the quiet power of her faith, our mother was the comforter instead of the one who needed comfort. She was the one facing cancer, and yet she was the one with the most hope and serenity. We always knew our mother's faith in God was strong and steadfast, but now seeing it in action was touching, remarkable, and inspiring. She set a wonderful example for us as a parent and as a Christian. Her faith in God was so steadfast that she did not cry once over her illness. If she could be so positive, how could we be anything less? She stated that nobody wanted this illness, but it now fell to us to face it with faith. Where was her faith if she murmured against God, asking, "Why me?" If she were to doubt now, in what had she believed all these years? She wanted us to accept that whatever the future held for her, it must be according to God's will. Was she scared? She said she couldn't and shouldn't be afraid if she trusted God and had her family behind her.

STRENGTH THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT AND WORD

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Ps 46:1)

As the news of my mother's illness spread, we received much encouragement from the prayers, concern, and good wishes of our brethren around the world. A preacher suggested we hold family services to strengthen us. We would sing a hymn, read and share a chapter from Psalms, and then pray. When we reached the famous Psalm 23, the beautiful words were particularly poignant and relevant to us:

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." (Ps 23:4)

Our mother was experiencing this walk herself and, by extension, our whole family was too. Yet God's words told us to keep walking without fear, for our loving, almighty Lord was with us every step of the way. Through God's word and our long prayers, it seemed that we were actually doing something constructive to deal with our ordeal.

It was also comforting to know that many people were walking along with us. In our parents' home church in Elgin, the members prayed for our mother and some members even fasted. Each day, our parents would join Elgin Church's morning service by reading the same chapter from the Bible and praying for the same duration. The brethren and our family may have been separated by distance and time, but they were together in spirit and united in the same cause.

Our mother had to undergo further tests and scans to see if there were more tumors in her body. Each time she underwent a procedure, she would ask God for courage and the will to endure. Each time, we dreaded the results. We wavered between thinking the worst and trying to remain optimistic. Throughout all this, our mother was her usual calm self, maintaining her habit of morning Bible reading and prayer.

Thank God, we were told that the cancer had not spread to other parts of her body. The tumor in her colon, however, had to be removed and the surrounding tissue had to be checked. We were told that, as with all surgeries, there were risks with recovery and infection.

We knew that there were long public hospital waiting lists and that if we opted for private care, the potential costs could be astronomical. There was much to consider and organize. Where should we start? As we faced each new hurdle, we could only keep praying and hoping for God's mercy and guidance.

GOD'S GUIDANCE AND GRACE

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Prov 3:5-6)

At every stage, we found that our loving Lord did not fail us. Surely, it must have been God's arrangement that the old primary school teacher on our parents' home island, Ap Chau, had a son who was a doctor in Hong Kong. After talking to him in the morning, he arranged for our mother to see the doctor in a well-known hospital.

The following week, the doctors examined our mother. She was then approved for surgery and placed on the waiting list. Furthermore, they said that only a keyhole surgery was needed, which was much less dangerous. We had heard that local patients in our mother's situation could wait up to two years for surgery. Yet, we were told to expect a surgery date within the next four to six weeks!

Everything proceeded well, beyond our expectations. In our weakness, slight doubts started to arise when we did not receive a confirmed operation date. Once again, though, when we started to become anxious, our mother remained quietly patient and faithful that God would arrange.

God's grace is indeed great and more than we deserve. It turned out that our mother went into the hospital on the day that one of us began a two-week Easter break from school. We could make the long daily trips between home and the hospital with our father, keep him company, and help our mother before and after the surgery. God's wonderful arrangement enabled us to do this without the added stress of balancing work and our sick mother.

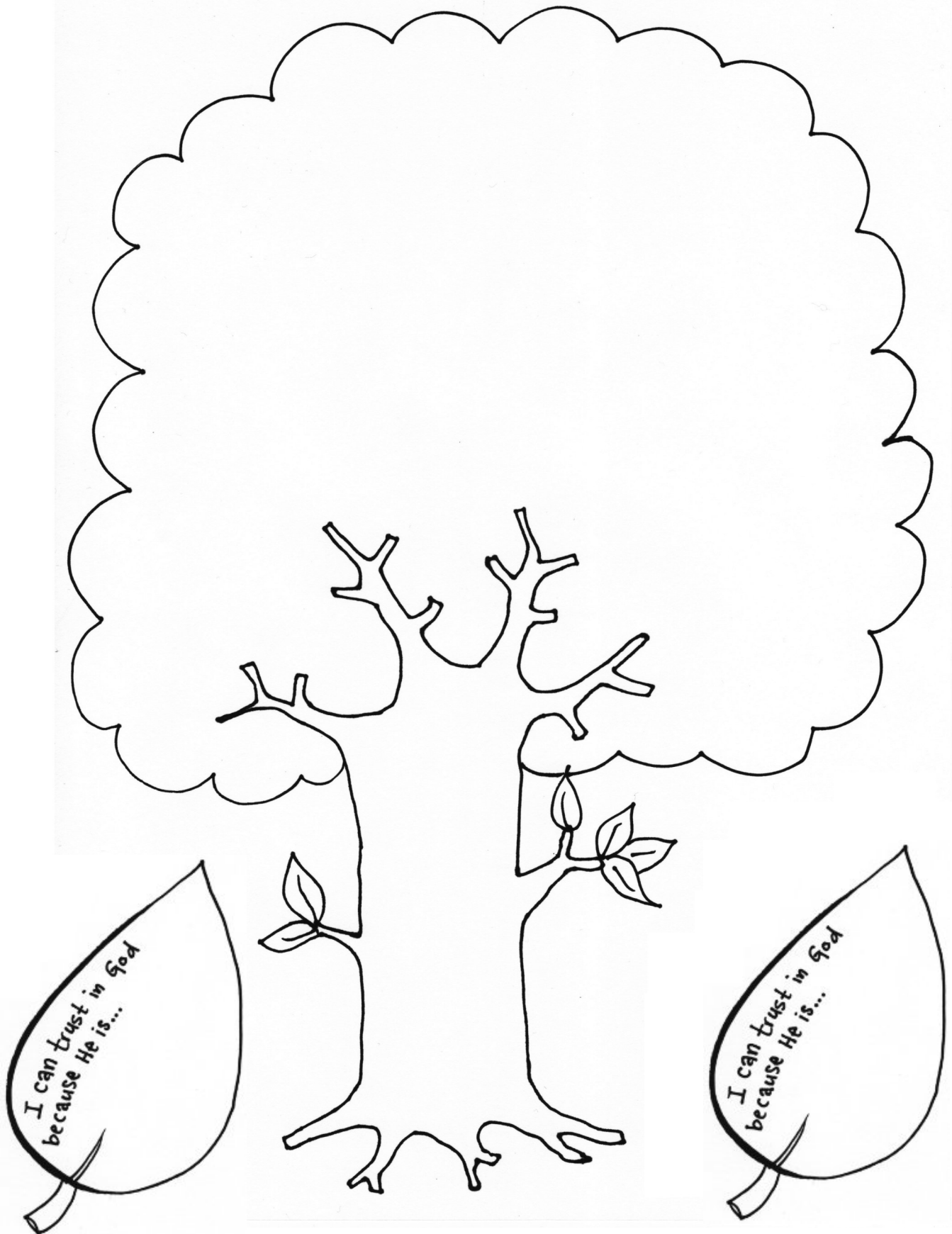
Thank God, after a successful operation and a week's recovery, our mother was discharged. We decided to have lunch in the hospital canteen before taking a taxi home. Whenever we got up to leave, she would tell us to wait a little longer. Later, she told us that she had a feeling she should not leave. Then, on our way out, she suddenly collapsed and fainted in the hospital lobby. Thankfully, we were supporting her at the time, so she did not fall and hurt herself. Our mother had to check back into the hospital, but, by God's arrangement, she had collapsed in the same hospital, so her records were on file for the doctors to follow. If she had fainted in the taxi, we would not have been able to get her help straightaway. If she had collapsed at home, she would have been admitted into a different district hospital, which would not have her medical history.

Our mother had to stay overnight in the general ward. Although it was sad to see her undergo more discomfort, it was yet another part of God's amazing arrangement. After various tests, the doctors said our mother's collapse was due to her medication. As a result, her medication was adjusted. Our mother had been worried about her medication levels, and now, through God's blessing, her worries had been resolved.

The final hurdle was whether our mother needed chemotherapy. We were told that the tumor had been caught early. It was only on the surface of the colon wall but not beneath, so no chemotherapy was required. She was now clear of cancer, although she would need regular check-ups in the future. We praised and thanked God.

After years of training her faith, our mother had succeeded. When tested, she prevailed and was not found wanting. We thank God for the blessing He gave our mother and for her example of faith in times of difficulties. Our family experienced God's power and grace, and learned to entrust. We also thank everyone who sustained us through their prayers and words of encouragement. May all glory be given to our almighty Lord Jesus, who holds not only life and death in His hands, but also mercy and grace.

Students, today, we are learning about Jesus—the Resurrection and the Life! He has power over everything we see and cannot see; even life and death are in His almighty hands. There is nothing we need to worry about in this world. He said in John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” HE HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD! In life, we all experience trials and tribulations. But, as long as we place our trust in Him and rely on His power, He will make everything beautiful in His timing for us (Eccl 3:11). We need to have faith like the mother in this testimony, and to remain in peace during times of adversity, knowing that there is nothing Jesus cannot do for us.



ACTIVITY

The Gift of Life

Objective: To remind students of God's gift of life.

Materials

- Shells (alternatives: beads, buttons, or stars)
- Terra-cotta plant pot or plastic plant container, one per student
- Colored paint
- Paintbrushes
- Glue
- Potting soil
- Plant seeds or cuttings
- Varnish
- Water

Instructions

1. Begin decorating the pots by painting them. This may require two coats of paint.
2. After the paint is dry, use strong glue to attach the shells or other decorations.
3. When the glue has set, apply a layer of varnish to the shells to secure them.
4. Have students put potting soil into the pots and plant the seeds or cuttings.
5. Water the plants regularly and place them on a sunny windowsill or by a window.

Note: You may choose to spread this activity out over several weeks to allow for drying.

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. True
5. False; we should not lose faith and instead continue praying.
6. True
7. True
8. Answers may vary.
9. He is an almighty, kind, and compassionate God.

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 7—Mary and Martha Seek Help

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus can resurrect our physical body. More importantly, He gives us eternal life.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To understand that Jesus loves and cares for us, even in difficult circumstances.
2. To recognize that Jesus has power over life and death.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(John 11:25b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : In a town called Bethany, there lived _____.
 - a. Miriam, Martha, and Lazarus
 - b. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
 - c. Mary, Martha, and Moses

2. _____ : Jesus delayed going to Bethany because _____.
 - a. He did not care about Lazarus.
 - b. He got lost on the way.
 - c. He wanted to glorify God by raising Lazarus from the dead.

3. _____ : Lazarus had already been dead for _____ days when Jesus arrived.
 - a. 6
 - b. 3
 - c. 4

True or False

4. Jesus had the power to raise Lazarus from the dead. _____
5. When God has not yet answered our prayers, we should just give up. _____
6. Jesus glorified God by showing that He had power over life and death. _____
7. Those who witnessed Lazarus's resurrection glorified God and believed in Jesus. _____

Short Answer

8. Write about a time when God answered your prayers.

9. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What does this tell you about Him?

LESSON 8

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Jerusalem to Jericho

It was approximately seventeen miles from Jerusalem to Jericho. Even though it was not a great distance, the journey was notoriously dangerous for travelers. The road between these two cities had a descent that started about 2,500 feet above sea level and ended about 800 feet below sea level. In addition, the road ran through rocky and desert country, which made it easy for bandits to hide from unsuspecting and defenseless travelers.

Priests, Levites, and Samaritans

While the man lay injured on the side of the road, there were three people who happened to pass by. The first was a priest, someone who worked for God at the temple. When he saw the man, he tried to avoid him. According to Old Testament law, a priest who touched a dead body made himself ceremonially impure (Lev 21:1-4). The second person to pass by was a religious Levite. He also worked at the temple (1 Chr 23:27-32) and, like the priest, decided not to get involved. They were more interested in protecting themselves. The third person to walk by was a Samaritan. It was well known that the Jews and Samaritans were hostile to one another. The Jews viewed the Samaritans as half-breeds because they were a mixed race produced when Jews from the northern kingdom intermarried with foreigners after Israel's exile. In fact, the Jews despised them so much that they would not travel through Samaria, even if it meant going out of their way. But Jesus used this person to demonstrate that true love does not discriminate.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 10:25-37

BIBLE TRUTH

A good Samaritan helped a person whom others had ignored.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To be willing to help others, regardless of any differences.
2. To be willing to take risks.
3. To be willing to set aside a busy schedule.
4. To be willing to make sacrifices.
5. To know that Jesus teaches us who our neighbors really are, and what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let brotherly love continue."

(Hebrews 13:1)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for guiding us safely through another week. You have chosen us to be your special people, but we know that You want everyone to be saved. Let us learn from today's lesson and be good neighbors to the people around us so that they may see Your wonderful grace and glory. This is one way we can serve and repay You. Please give us the wisdom and strength to do what is right. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

To love your neighbor as yourself is much easier said than done. Granted, it's not hard to be a good neighbor to someone who is known and well-liked. But what about when it comes to an acquaintance or even a stranger? Like in the priest's situation, it is easy to justify a lack of love. "I couldn't have helped because I was a priest and was not allowed to touch him." But Jesus taught two very important principles: (1) a neighbor is anyone of any race, gender, or social background; and (2) love means acting to meet a need.

Your students may easily brush off helping others for a number of reasons. Maybe they don't speak the same language, or the person is a stranger; perhaps they hang

out with different friends, or it might be because they have a special condition (e.g., a physical or mental handicap). Whatever the case may be, your students may come up with excuses to justify why they are not good neighbors to these people. Remind them that Jesus set the best example for them when He ate with sinners and helped the needy. Love knows no bounds. Encourage them to try their best to help others, no matter how different they may be. There should be no excuses when it comes to showing love to others, and the best way to show it is to do something about it! It may not be as grand as what the Samaritan did but Jesus remembers every little good deed.

VOCABULARY

parable: a story containing a moral teaching

priest: someone who performs religious ceremonies and counsels the people

Levite: a person who belonged to the tribe of Levi, which was responsible for looking after the affairs of the temple

Samaritans: a mixed race descending from the northern Jews who intermarried with foreigners; seen as foreigners, not Jewish

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Jesus resurrected Lazarus to glorify God. Jesus loved Lazarus very much, but when his sisters Mary and Martha told Jesus that he was sick, Jesus did not immediately travel to Bethany to help him. Instead, what did He do? (He stayed in Perea for another two days and then went to Bethany on the third day.) When Jesus arrived in Bethany, how many days had Lazarus been dead already? (4 days.) Did Jesus stay in Perea longer because He didn't like Lazarus? (No, He stayed because He was going to resurrect Lazarus to glorify God.) How did resurrecting Lazarus glorify God? (It showed that Jesus had power over life and death.) We learned that Jesus loves us and can help us in even the most difficult circumstances and that He has power over life and death; He is the resurrection and the life and can give us eternal life.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Teaches About Love

One day, Jesus was teaching a large crowd of people. He explained that it was important to love God with all their heart and to love their neighbor as themselves.

After Jesus said this, someone stood up and asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus decided to answer him by telling an interesting story. Listen carefully.

A Man Is Robbed

Once, there was a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was on a long and lonely mountain

road—the only road connecting these two cities. During his journey, robbers came out of nowhere and attacked him. They took all his money and clothes and even beat him up. They left him on the road and ran away. The man was in a lot of pain but there was no one there to help him.

A Priest and a Levite Pass By

The man lay on the road, badly hurt from the severe beating. He was in so much pain that he could not get up and go for help. He did not know what to do. But not long after, someone came down the road—it was a priest. The

priest took a look at the injured man, but did not stop to help. He continued to walk down the road as if nothing had happened.

Boys and girls, put yourselves in the position of the priest. What would you do if you were the priest? Why?

Soon, another person came along the road. This time, it was a Levite who passed by. He saw the man lying there, but kept on walking.

Can you imagine the kind of pain and suffering the man was going through? If he was still aware of what was going on, he must have felt very sad that these two holy people did not help him. If even they did not want to help, then who would?

A Samaritan Shows Love

Later on, another person came close to where the man was. This time, it was a Samaritan.

When the Samaritan saw the man, he felt sorry for him. Even though Jews and Samaritans did not like each other, this Samaritan didn't act like they were enemies. He immediately got off his donkey and went to the man's side. He knelt down beside the injured man and gently washed the cuts and bruises. He also took out oil from his bag and poured it on the man's wounds to help him feel better. Afterwards, he bandaged the wounds.

"You can't stay here by yourself," said the Samaritan. "I will let you ride my donkey so that we can get you to an inn where you can rest. I will walk beside you."

The Samaritan carefully lifted the man onto his donkey and they set off. When they arrived at the inn, the

Samaritan told the innkeeper to give them a room so that the man could rest. All night long, the Samaritan stayed by the injured man's side in case he needed help.

The Next Morning

When it was morning, the Samaritan went to speak to the innkeeper.

"Here is some money," he said. "Please take care of the man while I am away. When I come back, I will pay you for whatever more you spend."

The innkeeper took the money and looked after the man for the Samaritan.

The Good Neighbor

When Jesus finished telling the story, He asked, "Who was the good neighbor to the injured man?"

The same man who asked the question in the beginning answered, "It was the person who was kind to the hurt man."

Then Jesus said, "Go and be a good neighbor, too." Jesus wants everyone to be kind and helpful, just like the Samaritan.

In this parable, Jesus tells us to help those who are in need, regardless of their background. We must not base our decision to help someone on who they are. Instead, we need to be like the Samaritan who helped the man, even though their people were enemies. Jesus wants us to be good neighbors, just like the Samaritan, so let us remember to pray to God to help us become one.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill in the Blank/Questions to Think About

1. A _____ (priest) and a _____ (Levite) walked by but did not help the injured man.
2. The _____ (Samaritan) was the only one who stopped to help.
3. He poured _____ (oil) on the wounds and brought the man to an inn.
4. Jewish people and Samaritans were very good friends. False; they did not like one another.
5. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. True.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

In this parable, Jesus specified the three people that passed by the injured man. Do you remember who those three people were? [Let students answer.] A priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan, respectively. Let's talk about this for a moment. What can we learn from these three people who all came from different backgrounds?

Firstly, a priest was someone who knew the law of God very well. According to the Old Testament law, a priest who touched a dead body made himself ceremonially impure (Lev 21:1-4). When the priest saw the injured man, he didn't know how hurt he was. What if he was already dead? What if he died while the priest brought him to a safe place? All these things went through the priest's mind as he walked by, and at the end, he didn't stop to help the man.

Next, the Levite. A Levite was someone who worked in the temple of God and served the Lord. He may have felt the same way the priest did because he, too, did not wish to make himself unclean by touching a dead person. He decided to continue with his journey and ignore the injured man.

The third and last person who passed by was a Samaritan. During that time, the Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other. In fact, the Jews despised the Samaritans because they were a mixed race of Jews and other foreigners. When the Samaritan passed by the injured man, a Jew, the first thing that came to his mind was probably that this man didn't want anything to do with him—a Samaritan! Yet, he stopped to help this injured man.

Each of these three people had a reason not to help the injured man. But this is not what Jesus wants us to focus on in this parable. Rather, He wants us to learn from the Samaritan to be a neighbor—someone who always sees a reason to love. Let's look into this parable again to see how this Samaritan loved his neighbor.

1. Be willing to help others, regardless of any differences.

As we mentioned earlier, the Jews looked down on the Samaritans and wanted nothing to do with them (Jn 4:9). During the Assyrian captivity, many nations were brought together with the Jews in Samaria. During this time, the Jews intermarried with the foreigners and worshipped their own gods (2 Kgs 17:24-41). And their descendents, being half-Jews, became what we now know as the Samaritans in the Bible. They were despised by the Jews, who had always worshipped God throughout their generations. When the Samaritan saw the injured man, he certainly knew that all the Jews disliked him, including this man lying on the ground. But he didn't think much about that. Before he even thought about the background of this man, he was already filled with compassion. He was willing to help this man regardless of their differences. Being a Samaritan did not make him cold-hearted, nor did the wounded man being a Jew make it more difficult for the Samaritan to show compassion. All this Samaritan saw was an injured man who needed his help.

2. Be willing to take risks.

Did you realize that the Samaritan took a really big risk by stopping to help this injured man? Think about it. Many robbers were hiding along the way between Jerusalem and Jericho, ready to attack harmless travelers like the injured man in this parable. What if the robbers were still nearby? What if other thieves came by this road? They would certainly target the Samaritan—an unsuspecting person trying to help a defenseless, dying man! Yet, the Samaritan was willing to take the risk. He put his own safety, and his own life, at risk for this injured man. Again, this Samaritan saw that this man needed his help, and he couldn't see anything else that mattered more.

3. Be willing to set aside a busy schedule.

Students, why do you think that the Samaritan was traveling along the same road as the injured man? What was he doing at that time? [Let students think and share.] Just like the priest and the Levite, this Samaritan was also on a journey. The Bible didn't tell us why he was on a journey; maybe he was on a business trip or visiting a friend in another town. Regardless of the reason, he had to change his plan because he decided to help the injured man. He was willing to set aside his plans to help this man because he saw a greater need in this wounded man than in his own busy schedule.

4. Be willing to make sacrifices.

In this parable, we can see that this Samaritan was able to put aside all the reasons he had not to help this injured man and show compassion on him. Not only did he sacrifice his time and energy for this man, he also used some of his own provisions to help him. Do you remember what he did? [Let students answer.] He bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him (Lk 10:34). Moreover, the Samaritan even offered an open-ended agreement to provide for his needs. On top of giving money to the innkeeper to take care of the wounded man, the Samaritan told the innkeeper that he would come back and pay for anything extra that he had to spend on the wounded man. He was willing to sacrifice not just time and energy, but also two days' wages and more.

Do we still remember the priest and the Levite? They could not help the wounded man due to their religious duties. But, if they truly had compassion on others, the least they could have done was to inform other people and get help for this man. However, they decided to simply walk on by and ignore the man. On the other hand, a Samaritan, whose people the Jews treated poorly, had compassion on this wounded man. The fact that this Samaritan could put aside all the differences that divided the Jews and his people, and take action to show kindness to a Jew, was more pleasing to God than the priest and the Levite.

5. Jesus teaches us who our neighbors really are, and what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors. But who are our neighbors? Are they our friends and family? Are they the people who live in the same neighborhood as us? Or, are they more than just people we know? [Let students answer.] In this lesson, Jesus teaches us who our neighbors really are. Our neighbor is anyone in need that we have the ability to help! Did the Samaritan know the wounded man? No, he didn't, but he helped him because the man was in need; the Samaritan helped him because he had the ability to do so! Jesus wants us to love our neighbors, just as we love ourselves. He wants us to love them by being kind and helpful. The Bible says, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 Jn 3:18). The truth is, our Lord Jesus Christ loves us, and we can reflect His love by helping others. Indeed, we can truly help those in need. Jesus used this parable to demonstrate that true love does not discriminate. In love, a person's background is irrelevant; the risks we take, the plans we break, and the sacrifices we make do not matter when we have the ability to help. Lastly, let me share a scenario with you.

Kevin was a businessman many years ago. Unfortunately, after a long period of struggle, his business was finally expelled from the market by his competitors. He became bankrupt and unemployed. After his business closed, Kevin immediately started looking for a new job. However, since the job market had become more and more demanding of higher education, Kevin had a hard time finding a job that would pay him enough to sustain his family. For many months, he worked at a local coffee shop part-time for a living as he was actively looking for other jobs. One day, he came home and found out that his wife had left him. He never found out why she left or where she went, but he figured that she left out of fear that he could no longer take good care of her. Kevin had a really hard time after his wife left. He became depressed and was fired from the coffee shop due to several mistakes he made at work. He lost his home and everything he had. One year after his business had closed down, Kevin became a homeless person who made a living by selling bottles of water on the streets.

One day, a lady whose husband just opened a local computer business approached Kevin. Kevin remembered this lady. She had bought water from him many times; in fact, she did this every time she drove by him! She said to Kevin, "My husband just opened a new business and we are looking for some new employees. Would you like to come to our business one of these days for an interview?" In great surprise, Kevin got all the information he needed for the interview from this lady.

A few years have passed and Kevin has been working for this lady at her husband's computer business. Looking back, Kevin really thanks her for bringing him on board. At that time, the lady didn't know him at all. All she knew was that he was a homeless person who couldn't find a better job. But his background didn't matter to her. What's more, this lady also found a few other homeless people to work at her husband's business. Kevin knew that she had taken the time to find all these people because she really wanted to help those in desperate need. Moreover, she took a risk to hire people she didn't know. What if Kevin was lying about his whole story? What if all these homeless people weren't reliable? But all these factors didn't seem to matter to this lady as much as being able to help people in need. She drove around the city every day and

saw all these people whom she had the ability to help. She had compassion on them and treated them all as her neighbors. Thank God, her husband's business was very successful and they had a great team of employees. It was indeed a blessing from God!

Students, God loves us and it is our responsibility as His children to demonstrate this same love to people around us. His love is unconditional, as ours should be. The Samaritan put aside all the reasons not to help and focused on the wounded man in need. Similarly, we focus on other people's needs the same way. "Go and be a good neighbor, too." Are you ready to do as Jesus said?

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Jerusalem; Jericho
2. He performs religious ceremonies.
3. He works in the temple and serves God.
4. Possible answers could be: kind, compassionate, generous, caring
5. The Samaritans were a people that came from the intermarrying of the Jewish people and foreigners.
6. The Samaritan
7. False; he stayed with the man overnight.
8. B
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1**Bible Story Role-play**

Optional Activity

If extra time is available, let the students role-play the story. This is a good Bible story to act out. It has many elements that appeal to the students. Remember to bring in some props to make it more realistic (e.g., a coat for the man to wear, coins, bandages, etc). Let the shy students take on the role of the priest or Levite since it requires little or no speaking. Also ensure that they don't get carried away when "beating up" the robbed man.

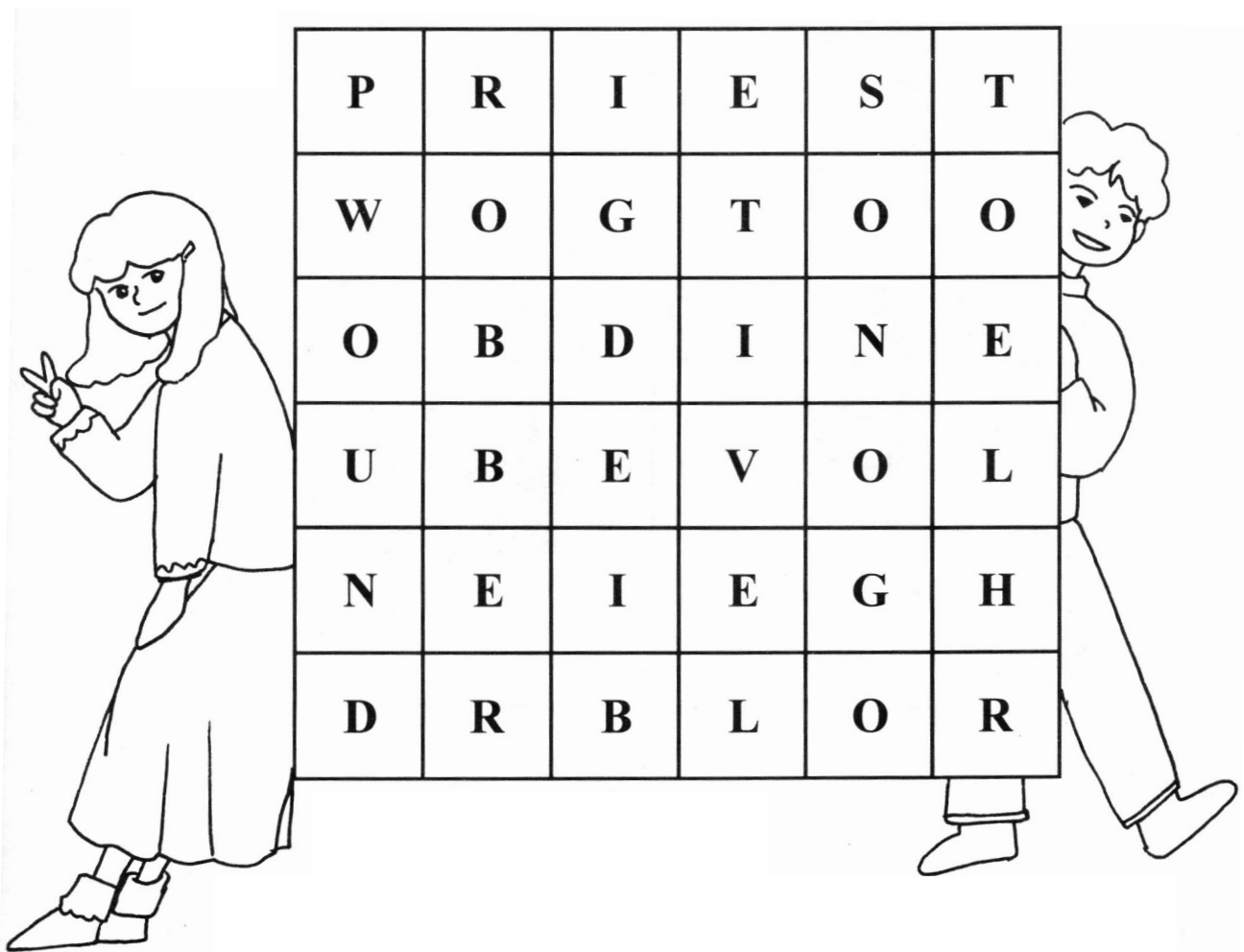
2

Good Samaritan Word Search

Objective: To help students recall the events of the story and the lesson aim.

Instructions: Find the following words in the word search puzzle below. They can be vertical, horizontal, or backwards. Then use the remaining letters to spell out what Jesus taught us to be.

priest, Levite, love, robber, wound



Jesus taught us to be a

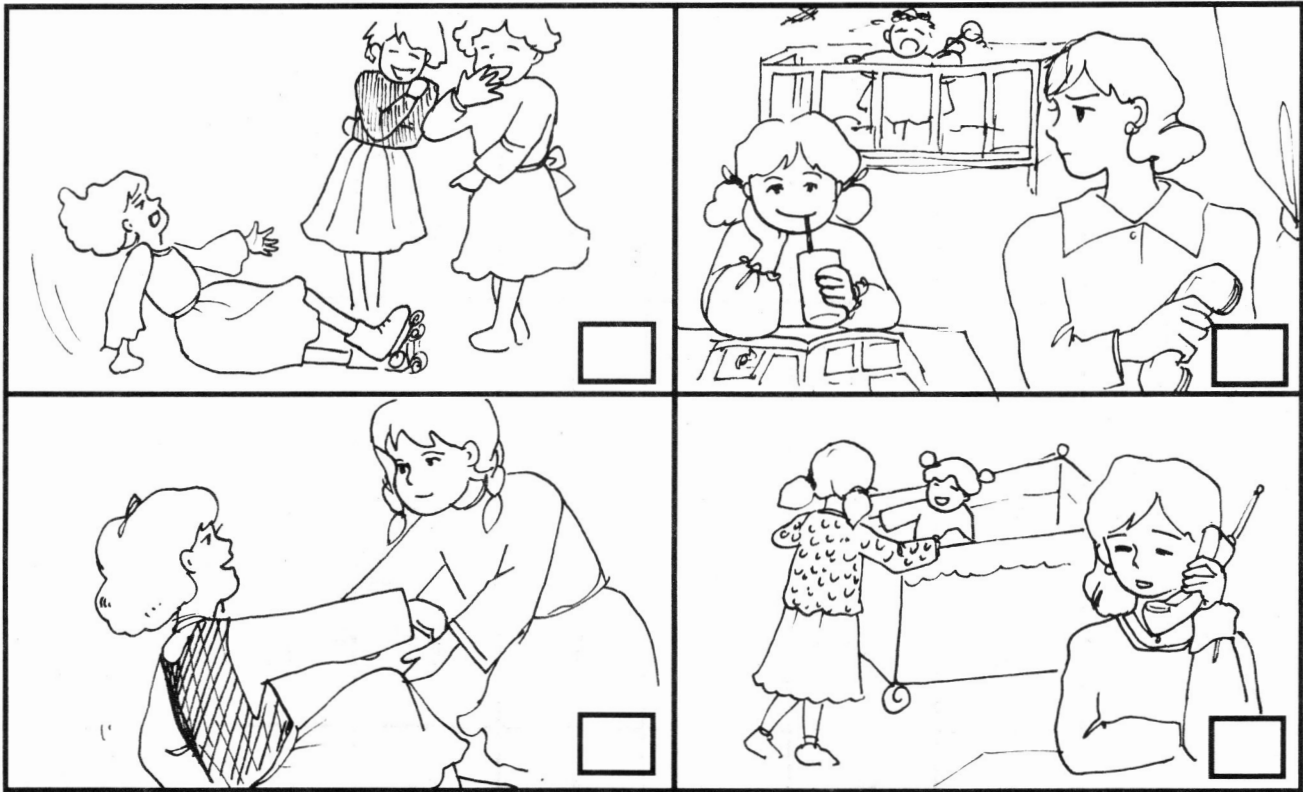
3

Be a Good Neighbor

Objective: To encourage the students to be a good neighbor.

Instructions

Look at the pictures. Compare those who are being good neighbors to those who are not. Put a check mark next to the people who are being helpful and good neighbors. Describe how the other people could change their behavior. Now write down the name of someone you want to help this week. Then write (or draw) how you plan to help.



How can the people who aren't good neighbors change their behavior?

Who I want to help this week:

How I plan on helping this person:

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 8—Who Is My Neighbor?

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: A good Samaritan helped a person whom others had ignored.**Lesson Objective:** To respect and help others regardless of race, gender, culture, or background.**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Hebrews 13:1)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. **Fill In the Blank:** The injured man in the story was traveling from _____ to _____.

Short Answer

2. What role does a priest have in serving God?

3. What role does a Levite have in serving God?

4. List out two good characteristics of the Samaritan: _____, _____.

5. Why did the Jews despise the people from Samaria?

6. Who was the good neighbor to the injured man? _____

7. **True or False:** After the Samaritan took the injured man to the inn, he left immediately and didn't care for the man.

Multiple Choice

8. _____ : Jesus' instruction to the people was _____.

- a. You don't need to be a good neighbor.
- b. Go and be a good neighbor too.
- c. Be a good neighbor only if it benefits you.

Life Application

9. How can you train yourself to always consider the good of others above your own?

LESSON 9

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Parables

Jesus taught using many parables. A parable is a short story that uses familiar scenes, objects, and relationships to explain spiritual truths.

Parables reveal the truth to people who desire to seek and understand it, and they conceal the truth from those who are too lazy or too stubborn. The lazy and stubborn are those who refuse to seek the truth and those who do not come back and inquire.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Your students make choices every day. Some are trivial, such as deciding to watch television, to read a book, to play with their friends, or to help around the house. These decisions are easy and don't require much effort.

However, your students may encounter more difficult choices, such as making the choice to be kind to a bully, to tell the truth even if it means getting in trouble, to befriend someone unpopular, to give the first pick to their siblings, or to help someone at the expense of their time.

Remind your students that God wants them to make wise choices. They need His help to act wisely by practicing His teachings daily.

If they do not obey and rely on God, they are like the foolish man whose house fell with a great crash. But if they listen and practice God's teachings, they are like the wise man whose house stood firm on the rock.

Let your students know that you understand how difficult it is to follow God's teachings. Encourage your students to pray to God for wisdom and strength to make the right decisions. God will listen to their prayers. Lastly, remind your students that Jesus is their rock.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 7:24-29

BIBLE TRUTH

A strong faith is built on a solid foundation of doing God's word.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To know that we must build our life on the right foundation—Jesus Christ.
2. To remember to set our minds on following Christ and be careful not to be deceived.
3. To recognize that a wise builder obeys God and listens to his parents.

MEMORY VERSE

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

(James 1:22)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for bringing us safely again before You. We are happy to be with our friends and to learn Your words together. Lord, we know that listening to Your words is important. But today, we will learn that in addition to listening, we must practice Your words daily through our actions. You are pleased when Your children obey You. Give us the wisdom and the courage to make good choices and to do what pleases You. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for everything. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

parable: a story containing a teaching or lesson

wise: knowledgeable and showing good judgment

foolish: the opposite of wise; not having good judgment and making bad choices

REVIEW

Last week, we learned a story about how Jesus taught the people to be good neighbors. In the story, a Jewish man was traveling when he was attacked by robbers. The robbers left him badly wounded and near death.

As the man was lying on the ground dying, who first walked near him? That's correct, a priest, but did he stop to help the man? No. Instead, he walked to the other side of the road.

Who walked by next? That's correct, a Levite, but did he stop to help the man? No. He walked to the other side of the road as well.

Who walked by and helped this man? Correct, it was a Samaritan. He cleaned and bandaged the injured man. He then placed the man on his donkey and took him to an inn to allow him to recover.

Jesus wants us to be good neighbors, which means to help anyone who needs our help.

BIBLE STORY

[Optional Preparation: Following the instructions, make two houses: one built on sand and one built on rock.]

Materials

- 2 paper cups for houses
- 1 medium-sized rock
- Sand
- Glue
- Pitcher of water
- 2 medium to large casserole dishes

Instructions

Make a house from the small paper cup. Draw windows and a door. You may decorate the house. Place the rock in one of the dishes. Using glue, secure the house to the rock. Place the sand in the other dish and secure the house to the sand. (If sand cannot be obtained, substitute with loose items such as styrofoam peanuts.)

Ask the students, "If you were to build a house, where would you build it? Would you build it in the forest, on top of a mountain, or on a glacier?" [Show pictures of a forest, mountain, and a glacier.]

But is it wise to build a house in those places? Today's lesson will be about two men who each built a house. We will learn where they built their houses and whether they were wise or foolish.

Jesus Tells a Story

One day, Jesus was teaching a group of people the importance of obeying God. To help them understand, Jesus used a parable. [Explain to the students what a parable is.]

The Wise Man

In the parable, there were two men. Each man wanted to build a house. The wise man thought carefully about where he wanted to build his house. He wanted a place where his house would be secure and not move.

What kind of thing is very hard and will not crumble when it is shaken? Yes, a rock. [Show the students a rock.] Can you describe a rock? [Rocks are hard, solid, will hold a lot of weight, and do not wash away.]

The wise man decided to build his house on the hard rock. He thought to himself, "If I build my house on hard ground, then I will be safe. When the heavy rain comes, it will not wash my house away. I know that would be the best place to build it."

The man labored day and night. He made sure everything was done correctly, and finally, his house was finished. Even though it had been hard work, he was very happy because it was a strong and secure house.

The Foolish Man

The other man was a foolish man. He made poor choices because he failed to think about the consequences of his actions. When he decided to build his house, he did not build his house on firm and secure ground; rather, he built his house on the soft and shifting sand.

Sand is wonderful material to play with. It is soft, so you can bury your feet or your body in it. When mixed with water, you can mold it into different shapes, like when you go to the beach and build sand castles or sand sculptures. [Have sand in a container and allow the students to feel it.] Can you describe the sand? [Grainy, washes away, not strong, changes shape, etc.]

The foolish man built his house on the sand and when he finished his house, it looked as beautiful as the wise man's house that had been built on the rocks.

A Storm Arrives

Though the wise man's and the foolish man's houses both looked beautiful, appearances are not what make a good house. A good house is a house that can remain standing after an earthquake or a flood. Which house do you think remained standing? Let's find out.

One day, dark, gray clouds drifted into the town. Suddenly, lightning flashed across the sky. The thunder roared, the wind blew hard, and rain flooded the town. The rain became heavier and heavier, until there was a great flood.

As the rain poured down, how do you suppose the man in the house upon the rock felt? Show me with your body and face how he must have felt.

Let's read Matthew 7:25: "And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." [Gently pour the pitcher of water into the dish containing the house attached to the rock.]

How did the foolish man whose house was built upon the sand feel when he saw the storm? Show me with your body and face how the man must have felt when he saw the water rising. Yes, he was terribly worried and anxious.

Have you ever tried building sand castles at the beach? If you build your castle close to the water's edge, what happens to your sand castle when the waves come in? Yes, it is swept away. And that is exactly what happened to the foolish man's house. Sand is too soft and not strong enough to build houses on.

Let's read Matthew 7:27: "And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." [Gently pour the pitcher of water into the dish with sand.]

The Meaning of the Parable

When Jesus finished telling the parable to His listeners, He explained to them what this story meant.

Let's turn to Matthew 7:24: "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."

The Lord Jesus tells us that when we hear what God says in the Bible and do it, then we are like the wise man who built his house on the rock. When we obey God's words, even if trouble comes like a storm, our Lord Jesus, who is the rock, will keep us safe. The Lord Jesus will support and protect us so that nothing can harm us.

Let's read Matthew 7:26: "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."

The Lord goes on to say that if we hear God's words and do not follow or obey them, then we are like the foolish man who built his house on sand. A foolish man does things his own way and refuses to obey God. So what happens when bad things happen to a foolish man? Just like how the house collapsed, a foolish man will meet with a lot of troubles and suffer great harm.

Jesus told this parable because He hopes that we can all be like the wise man and not the foolish man. He wants us to hear His words and then do them. If we do this, God will bless us and He will keep us safe.

Which type of man do you want to be?

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. The man who built his house on the rock was _____ (wise).
2. The man who built his house on the sand was _____ (foolish).
3. When the great storm came, both houses fell down. False; only the house built on sand fell.
4. A wise person is someone who listens to God's words and then does them. True.
5. God wants everyone to be like the wise man. True.
6. God wants us to make our own decisions and do what seems right to us. False; He wants us to listen to and do His words.
7. Building our house upon the rock means that we put God's words into action. True.
8. If we do what the Lord Jesus says, He will bless us and keep us safe, even though we may face problems or troubles. True.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

We have learned that the wise man that built his house on the rock refers to someone who hears God's words and then does them. The foolish man who built his house on the sand refers to someone who hears God's words and does not put them into practice. From this parable, we also see two kinds of results. What happened to their houses? [Let students answer.] The wise man's house did not fall, while the foolish man's house fell. Similarly, when we listen to and do God's words, God's teachings will protect us, such that when problems come, we will overcome them and not fall. However, if we don't listen to or obey His words, we will be overwhelmed by our problems. We will not be able to stand, and we will fall with a great crash.

So, how does this parable apply to us today? How can we become a wise builder? The best way to find out is to look into the Bible. Are you ready?

1. We must build our life on the right foundation—Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 28:15-19 tells us that God has already prepared a foundation for us upon which to build our lives—Jesus Christ, the cornerstone. What does it mean to build our lives upon Jesus? It means to trust in God and obey His word every day. God is just and righteous; only by His standards should we build our "house" so that it won't be carried away when flood and wind come. In other words, when our life is built upon Jesus Christ, and upon following His every word, we need not to worry about any trials or tribulations that may come our way. God has promised to guide us through every step of our way as long as we obey Him. Nothing can affect our faith and take away God's promises from us.

Because the foundation is what holds everything up, it is also what holds everything together. No matter the quality of our materials; no matter how carefully we join the frame together; no matter how skilled our craftsmen may be, if the foundation isn't solid and stable, our "house" will lack integrity. Over time, cracks will develop in the walls. The windows will stick. The roof will leak. And, sooner or later, the storms of life will bring it crashing down, and everything we've worked so hard to build will be destroyed. That is to say, the most important thing for us in life as Christians is to build our faith upon our Lord Jesus Christ. Only if we do so can we live a solid Christian life. Let me share a scenario with you.

Carlos goes to church every Saturday. He loves everything about going to church—RE classes, fellowships, SSC's. etc. However, the problem is that he only likes to go to church because he loves his friends there, and he wants to spend time playing with them. Every time Carlos' family travels to another town and has to attend Sabbath at a different church, Carlos always asks to stay at the hotel by himself. His always reasons that he doesn't know anyone at that church, so there is no fun in going to a different church. However, even when Carlos is at church, he never listens to his RE teachers during class. His mind is always thinking about what he wants to play with his friends after class. When there is a fellowship, Carlos is always the first to sign up but the least involved in preparation. When it comes time for SSC, Carlos only registers after making sure that all his friends have already signed up. Because of this, Carlos has little understanding of God and His word.

Reflection Questions

1. **Is Carlos' faith built upon our Lord Jesus?** No, he has little understanding of the truth.
2. **If it is not, what do you think his faith is built upon?** His faith is built upon his friends at church. Even though he goes to church every Sabbath, it doesn't mean that he has a solid faith in God. Rather, he only goes to church because of his friends.
3. **What do you think will happen to Carlos' faith if his family moves and he has to attend Sabbath at another church?** Since he will no longer go to the same church as his friends, Carlos will most likely lose interest in going to church and eventually lose his faith in God.

In this scenario, we learned that Carlos built his faith on his friends—the wrong foundation. While it is very important for us to have spiritual friends, our faith is a two-way relationship; it is between you and God, not you, your friends, and God. We are responsible for our own faith and we cannot let other factors, like how many friends we have in church, affect us because only a solid foundation in Jesus Christ can guarantee us safety through every life storm that will come our way.

2. We should set our minds on following Christ and be careful not to be deceived.

In this parable, how did the wise man differ from the foolish man? [Let students answer.] The only difference was in the foundation they chose to build on. But that made all the difference in the world. Even the most terrible, frightful storm could not destroy the house that the wise man had built. On the contrary, the house that the foolish man had built did not sustain through the flood. How does this result correspond to some people today? Let's look at a passage in the Bible.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. [...] And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

(Matthew 7:21-23)

Why is it that not everyone who calls unto the Lord will be recognized by Him? The reason lies in the foundation of our faith. Many people call themselves Christians but do not obey the words of God. Their faith is not built upon our Lord Jesus Christ. In this case, they are the foolish builders. Jesus doesn't recognize them as His children and wants them to depart from Him. This is certainly not what we want. We want to be those of Christ who will pass through the "storms" in this life. When we build our lives upon Christ, obey His commands, and fellowship with Him through the Spirit, there is literally nothing that can separate us from Him. We need to be careful not to be deceived. We cannot claim to follow Christ while following our own inclinations in our hearts. We want to be wise builders and set our lives only on the truth that endures forever (1 Pet 1:25; Isa 40:8; Ps 119:89). Let me share a testimony with you.

A few years ago, Ivan went off to college in another state and started going to the church near his school. After a few weeks, Ivan found out through the church schedule that he had been assigned a few duties in the following month, including leading Bible studies, leading hymns, playing piano, and cleaning. At that time, Ivan was still in the process of moving into the school dormitory, getting used to living in a new place, starting college, and making new friends. He felt a lot of pressure because of the holy work assigned to him on top of his busy schedule. He thought to himself, "I always hear people say that they miss their time in college and wish that they had studied hard and played harder. They say that this is the time people start planning for their future and meet their best friends in life. I really want to give my best to academics during my time in college and spend more time with friends. If I go to church every Saturday and do all the duties they give me, I will lose a lot of time for school and friends. Maybe I shouldn't go to church here. It's only for four years and when I go back home, I will start going to church again. I can read the Bible by myself every day to make up for my absence."

That night, Ivan was reading the Bible, and he came across the parable of the wise and the foolish builders. He was reminded to build his faith upon our Lord Jesus Christ. He knew that by not keeping the Sabbath, he would become a foolish builder who built his faith upon worldly desires. So, he prayed to God to give him strength to continue keeping the Sabbath and serving Him in this church.

Looking back, Ivan was very thankful that he made the right decision to be a wise builder. During his time in college, Ivan encountered many difficult challenges, but he found peace and hope through the word of God, which he studied on every Sabbath and in the Bible studies he attended. He knew that if he had stopped going to church in the first place, he would have eventually lost his faith. Thank God, Ivan did not follow the path of the foolish man and build his faith on the wrong foundation. Even though he didn't have all the time he wanted for school and friends, Ivan felt a great gain in his faith during his time in college, and he did not regret having made such a decision.

Students, the storms of life may rage and we may become frightened and fearful. We may even come close to despair and hopelessness. But no matter what happens, our faith cannot be destroyed. We cannot lose Christ or be lost by Him because our foundation is Jesus Christ Himself. Today, upon which foundation have we built our faith? Is this foundation strong enough to sustain us through every life storm?

3. A wise builder obeys God and listens to his parents.

Not only does God want us to listen to His word, He wants us to listen to our parents, too. God gave us parents to take care of us, love us, and protect us from harm. The Bible also tells us, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord" (Col 3:20). If we hear our parents but do not obey what they say, we are like the foolish man. If we hear our parents and do what they say, we are like the wise man. Let me share a scenario with you.

Jason and Joe are brothers. One day, their mother said to them, "We are going to be hosting Bible study this Friday. Many church members will come to our house. Please tidy up and clean your rooms, and keep the house clean. Also, when church members come over, be polite and see if they need help with anything. We will be studying the parable of the wise and the foolish builders. Make sure you read the passage before this Friday!"

That week, Jason tidied up his room and offered to clean the house. However, Joe was too lazy to clean. Instead of helping his mother to clean, Joe asked her to help him clean his room at the last minute. On Friday, many members arrived at their house early. Jason greeted all of them and helped his mother serve snacks and drinks on the table. He also offered to hang their jackets and coats. On the other hand, Joe was in his room playing video games. Even though he remembered what his mother had told him, he just wasn't interested in greeting people. After dinner, Joe went back to his room and closed his door, hoping that his mother would forget to ask him to come out for Bible study. However, just before Bible study began, his mother asked him to come out of his room. She asked Joe, "Did you read the Bible passage we're studying tonight?" Joe seemed annoyed and answered, "No, I didn't bother." Disappointed, she grabbed Joe's arm and said, "When you go out there, don't forget to greet people." Joe rolled his eyes and walked out.

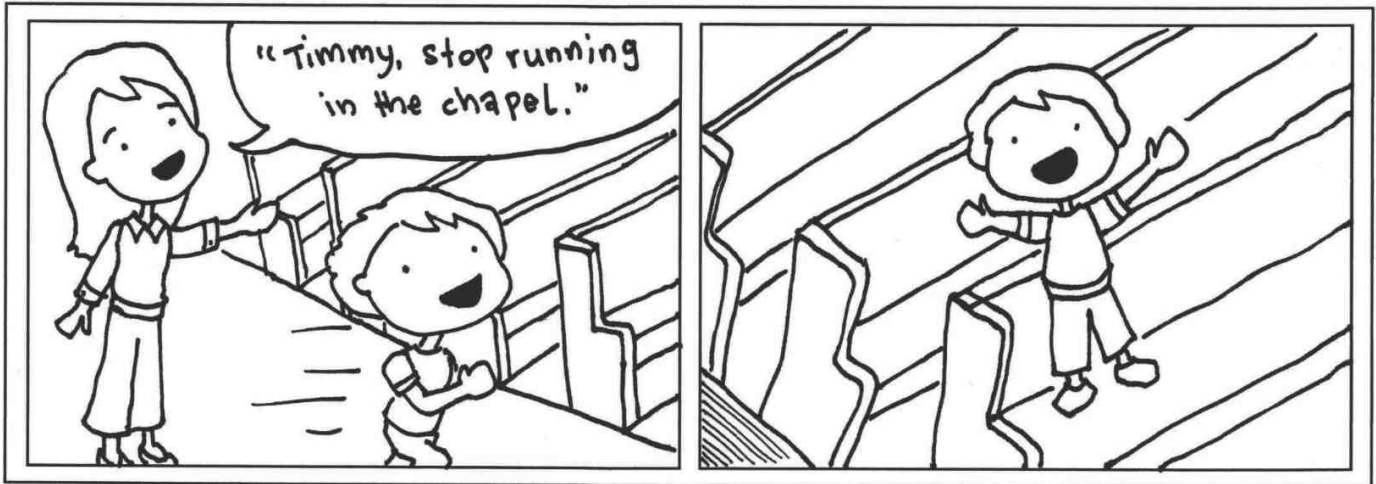
During the Bible study, Jason was very involved and tried to answer a few questions. Joe, however, appeared very bored and uninterested. Some church members even asked Joe's mom if he was not feeling well. This embarrassed Joe's mother.

Reflection Questions

- 1. Between Jason and Joe, who is the wise builder?** Jason is the wise builder. He listened to his mother and did everything that she had asked him to do.
- 2. Who is the foolish builder? Why?** Joe is the foolish builder because he didn't do anything that his mother had asked him to do. Not only did he purposely ignore everything his mother said, he also had a bad attitude and embarrassed his mom.
- 3. What can you learn from this story?** It pleases God to obey our parents.

In the following comic strips, we will find examples of people who behaved foolishly and wisely. If you think that the person was foolish, draw little dots that look like sand in the answer box. If you think that the person was wise, draw rocks in the answer space.

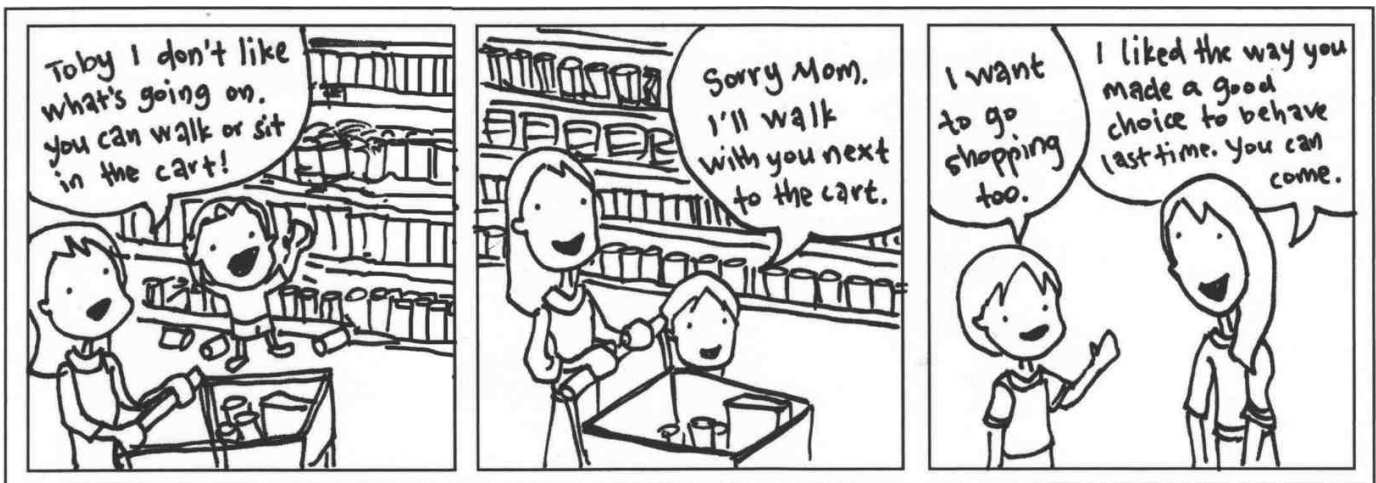
[Have students share their answers; from the examples, have students think of the consequences that result from obeying or disobeying their parents and God.]



Answer:



Answer:



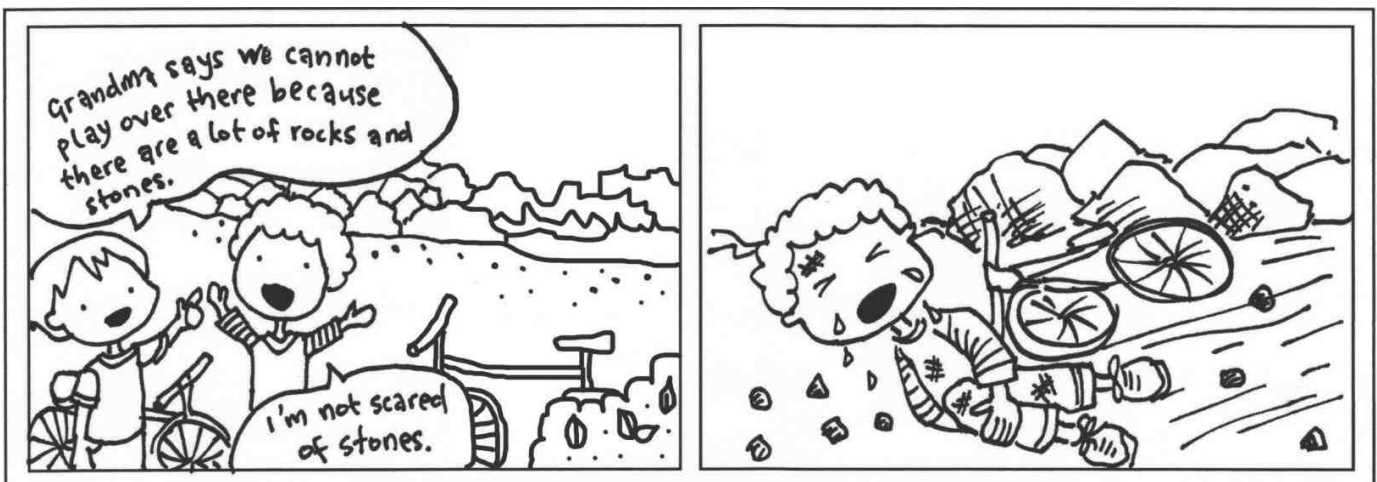
Answer:



Answer:



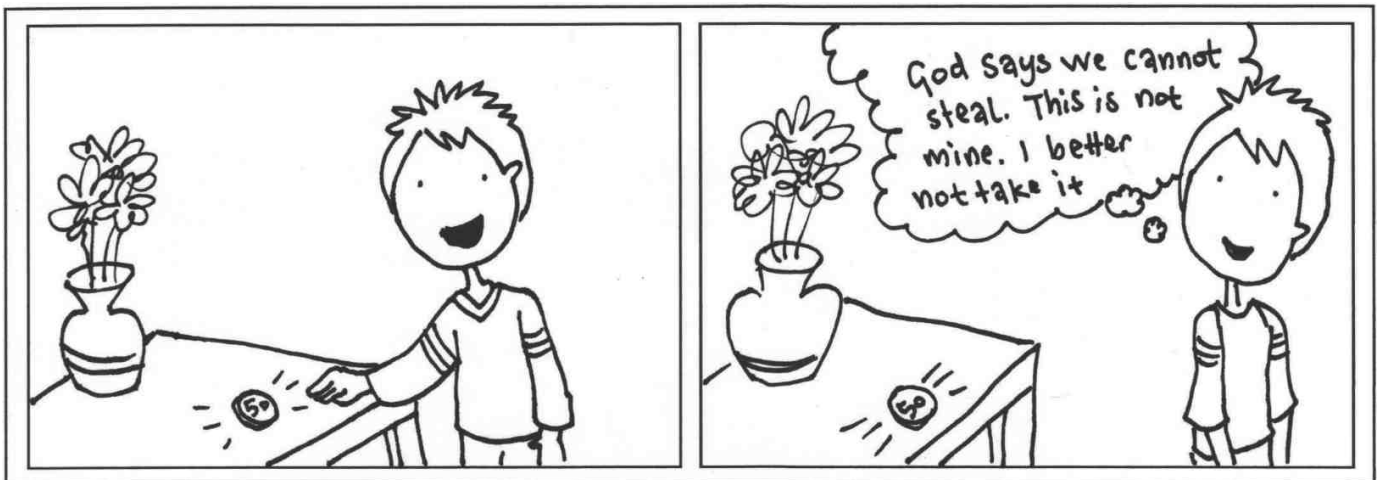
Answer:



Answer:



Answer:



Answer:

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B; False
2. E; False
3. A; True
4. D; True
5. O; True
6. E; False
7. R; True
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1**Be a Doer of the Word****Objective:** To remind students to be doers of the word.**Materials**

- Rocks, one per student
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Permanent markers

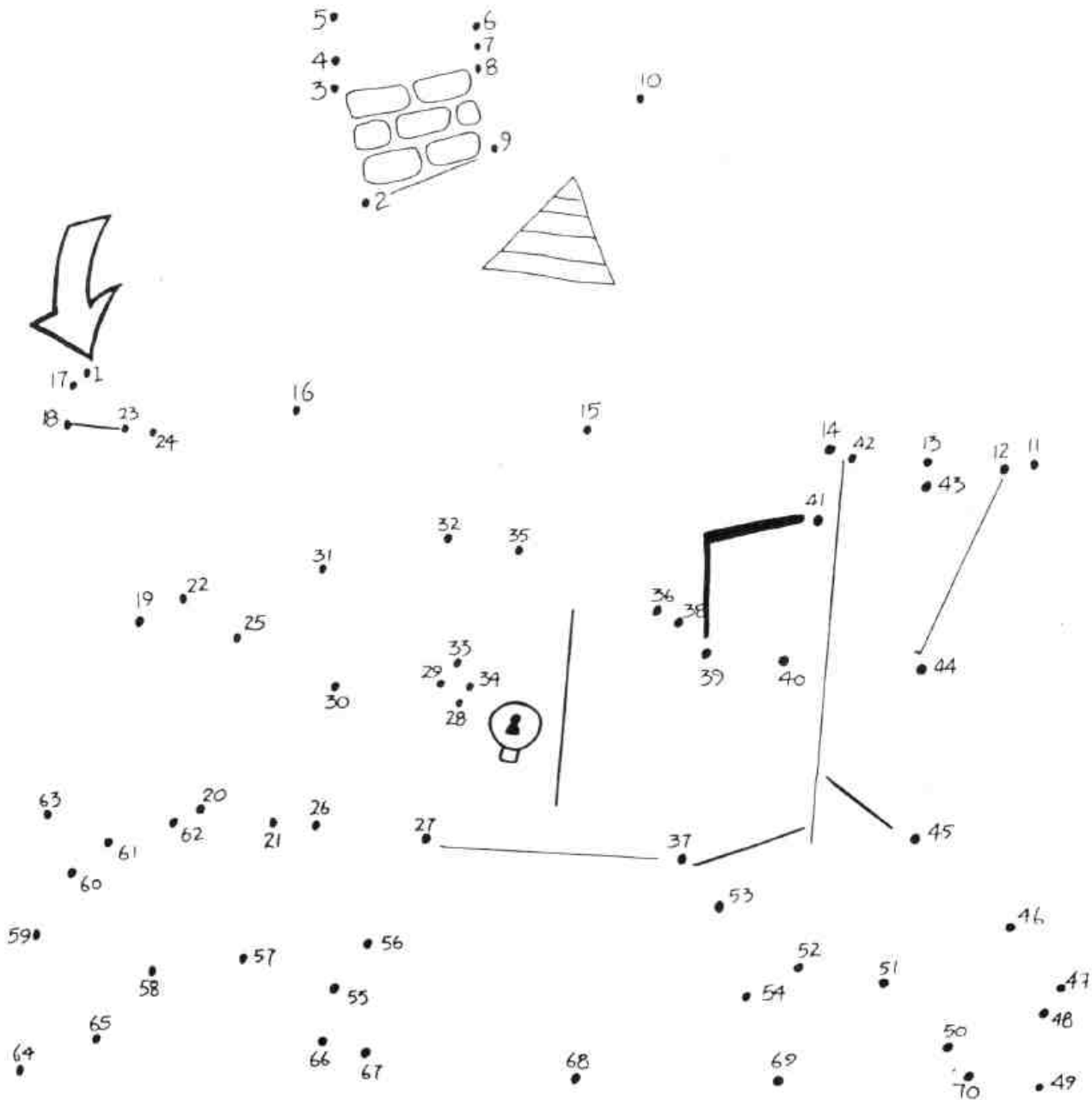
Instructions

1. Have each student take a rock.
2. Write the theme of the lesson “Be a Doer of the Word” on the board. Have each student write this theme on their rock.
3. Each student may decorate the rock. While the students are decorating their rock, repeat the memory verse with them.
4. After the rocks have been decorated and allowed to dry, repeat the memory verse with the students together.

2 Connect the Dots: the Wise and Foolish Builders / *Optional*

Instructions

Jesus told a story about a wise man and a foolish man. Connect the dots in each picture and find out whether the builder was wise or foolish. Write it down below each picture.



Was this man foolish or wise? _____



Was this man foolish or wise? _____

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 9—The Wise and Foolish Builders

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: A strong faith is built on a solid foundation of doing God's word.

Lesson Objective: To emphasize the importance of putting God's word into action.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(James 1:22)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Circle the letter of the correct answer. Then write the circled letter on the lines below.

	True	False
1. The man who built his house the sand was wise.	C	B
2. When the great storm came, both houses fell down.	F	E
3. The great storm represents the problems and troubles that we face in life.	A	S
4. The foolish man is one who hears God's words but does not do them.	D	A
5. Jesus is the true Rock, if He is the foundation of our faith, we will be secure and safe.	O	P
6. God won't mind if we don't do what He says.	T	E
7. If we don't do God's words, we can easily fall when problems come.	R	G

_____!
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8. Name or draw one thing that you find difficult obeying.

9. Write a short prayer to ask God to help you.

LESSON 10

THE HONORED GUEST

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Pharisees

The Pharisees were a highly respected sect in the community and they had great influence in the synagogues. They kept the written law, as well as many oral traditions.

Despite this, they had completely lost sight of their goal as religious leaders. They sought for distinction and praise by outward demonstrations of piety and observance of external rites.

Even though the Lord openly rebuked and challenged their proud attitudes, love of money, ambition, jealousy, and hypocrisy, their stubbornness prevented them from seeing the truth. Instead, they made the Lord their enemy and used every opportunity to trick and trap Him.

Seat of Honor

In Jesus' time, it was the Jewish custom to arrange dinner seating by setting couches in a U-shape, with a low table in front of them. Guests reclined on the left elbow and they would be seated according to their status, with the place of honor being the seat at the center of the U.

The farther away the seat was from the seat of honor, the lower the person's status. If arrivals had placed themselves in places of honor and then someone more distinguished arrived, they would be asked to move to lower seats.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Jesus taught a very important principle in this story. He warned people from seeking honor. People with such attitudes do not please God. Rather, He wants everyone to be humble.

Your students are at an age when they are easily influenced. They may be swayed by their friends. Perhaps they want the newest toys because everyone has them. They may even only wear a certain brand of clothing because wearing that brand means that they are cool.

Their desire to be seen as important is like the proud man who sought after honor and prestige. Remind your students that God wants them to be humble. Instead of trying to please people and having the "best" of everything, encourage your students to focus on developing the virtues that God desires.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 14:1, 7-14

BIBLE TRUTH

God opposes the proud but exalts the humble.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To reinforce the students' understanding of the qualities of those who are proud and those who are humble.
2. To instruct the students on the consequences of pride.

MEMORY VERSE

"The humble in spirit will retain honor."

(Proverbs 29:23b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We are gathered here today to worship You and learn about Your teachings. Today, we will learn about the humble and the proud. We know You want us to be humble, Lord. Remove the pride that is within our hearts. Open our hearts to listen to Your words. Only by being humble can we please You and be blessed by You. May all the glory be unto Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

host: the person who invites the guests

proud: arrogant, full of oneself; to think highly of oneself

humble: meek, lowly; opposite of proud

honored: worthy, respected, special

exalted: to be raised in honor and praise

Pharisee: religious leaders during Jesus' time—although they followed the law carefully, Jesus often rebuked them because they loved money, praise, power and status; they saw Jesus as their enemy

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about two people who wanted to build houses for themselves. One person was very wise and one was foolish. Where did the wise person build his house? Yes, he built it upon the rock. Why was it wise to build on the rock? The rock provides the house a solid and secure foundation, so it will not be easily moved when storms and floods come.

And the foolish man, where did he build his house? (He built it on the sand.) Right, and why was it foolish to build on the sand? Sand is an unsteady foundation. A house built on sand is not secure and will fall.

Jesus told this story to teach us to be like the wise man and to build our faith on the Lord Jesus. God is a secure foundation, like the rock on which the man built his house.

Through the Bible, Jesus tells us that if we listen and do His teachings, we will be like the wise man. If we are like the foolish man and do not listen and follow Jesus' teachings, our faith will be weak and fall, just like a house built on shifting sand.

Today, we are going to learn about a parable that Jesus told about two guests who were invited to attend a wedding feast.

BIBLE STORY

One day, Jesus was invited to dinner at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees. [Explain the meaning of a Pharisee.]

As the other guests arrived, they began to choose their seats. Jesus noticed that the guests chose the best seats at the table. The best seats were the seats closest to the host where everybody could see them.

Jesus decided to tell a parable to the guests.

The Best Seat

Once, there was an important man who gave a wedding feast. He invited many people. When the guests arrived, they fought for the seats near the host at the head of the table. These guests wanted everyone to see their importance.

Two Different Guests

The first guest arrived at the feast. He thought to himself, "I am more important and respected than the other guests. I deserve to sit in the best seat."

So he took the seat of honor next to the host at the center of the table and sat there. All the guests could see him sitting next to the host, which made him feel very important.

The second guest arrived at the feast. He thought to

himself, "There are so many important people here at this dinner. I'll take a seat at the end of the table and allow the more important guests to sit at the center of the table."

This seat was at the far end of the table so that none of the guests could see him, but he did not mind. He left the best seat for people more important than himself.

The Host Speaks

After the guests sat in their seats, the host came to greet them. The first guest became very excited. He thought to himself, "I am in the best seat at the table. Everyone will see that I am sitting next to the host. They'll be impressed that I am such an important person." So, he sat in his seat tall and proud.

Instead of stopping at the first guest's seat, the host walked to the end of the table to the second guest sitting in the lowest seat. The host said to this man, "Friend, go up higher [to the head of the table with me]." The host continued to say, "Do not sit here at the end of the table. I would like you to sit with me."

How do you think the second guest felt when he was asked to sit with the host? Yes, he was so happy that the host thought so highly of him. The guest got up from his seat and walked with the host to the seat of honor. As

they walked, the rest of the guests looked at this lowly guest with respect and honor. When they got to the seat of honor, they found it occupied.

The Proud Man Is Humbled

The host was puzzled as to why someone had sat in the seat of honor. The host said to the first guest, "I'm happy that you are able to come to the feast, but I will have to ask you to move," the host asked politely. "I want this man to have this seat." [Can you all quickly draw how the man must have looked? Which color would you use to color his face?]

Indeed, the man's face turned as red as a tomato! He was so ashamed and embarrassed. He had no choice but to get up and walk to the only seat left in the house, the one furthest away from the host at the very end of the table. With his head hung low, he walked to the lowliest

seat with everyone watching him.

At the head of the table, the second guest was enjoying the company of the host and feeling very honored. With everyone properly seated, the feast began.

God Exalts the Humble

Jesus used this parable to teach a very important lesson. Let's read Luke 14:11: "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

We must not be proud. We should not try to think we are more special, better, or important than others. We should not try to "show off" like the proud guest. If we do, God will humble us.

Instead, we should be humble. We should follow the example of the second guest who was humble and not seek praise and honor from others. If we do this, God will exalt, bless, and reward us.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blanks=/Questions to Think About

1. The man who invited everyone to the feast was the _____ (host).
2. The proud man took the _____ (best) seat.
3. The _____ (humble) man took the lowliest seat.
4. Jesus taught the guests not to be proud because the proud will not be blessed by God. True.
5. God only blesses the humble. True.
6. The host asked the proud man to sit in the best seat. False.
7. Why did the proud man choose the best seat? He felt that he was an important person. He wanted people to notice and praise him.
8. Why did the humble man choose the worst seat? He felt that there would be more important guests coming later who deserved to sit in the best seats. He did not like drawing attention to himself.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"The humble in spirit will retain honor." (Proverbs 29:23b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Be Humble

Instructions

1. Prepare flash cards with the following statements written on them:

- I'm better than all of you at chess.
- Thank You, God, for helping me win the competition.
- I've won many trophies and medals already.
- Thanks, Dad, for getting me ready for the competition.

- No one can beat me!
- I've won some games and I've lost some, too.
- That's not fair. I should have won.
- The other player is pretty smart.
- The other player must have cheated.
- I just need to try my best.

2. Attach the flash cards onto the board with double-sided tape.
3. Draw two large stick figures on the board. Name one "Humble Henry" and the other "Proud Penelope."

Setting the Scene

It is the day of the school chess tournament. Both Humble Henry and Proud Penelope have entered into the competition. Here are flash cards with the things that Humble Henry and Proud Penelope said or thought. Let's read the flash cards together.

1. Have the students take turns to pick a flash card and read it aloud. Let the students decide as a class if Humble Henry or Proud Penelope is more likely to say or think what is written on the flash card. If they think it is Humble Henry, have the student stick the flash card next to Humble Henry. If they think it is Proud Penelope, have the student stick the flash card next to Proud Penelope.
2. At the end, review the students' answers. Working with the students, identify the characteristics of someone who is humble and someone who is proud.
3. Teach the students that a humble person will understand and do the following:
 - Everything is given by God.
 - See others' good points.
 - Do not think too highly of themselves.
 - Do not insist on their way.
 - Be thankful.

Scenarios

Read the following scenarios with your students. Then, discuss the reflection questions with them, and have them share their answers.

Michelle got an "A" on her oral exam. When she received the result, she was very happy and immediately said a prayer to thank God. As she was going home that day, excited to share this good news with her parents, she saw her friend Amy sitting on the bench with tears in her eyes. Michelle sat next to Amy and asked her what had happened. Amy told her that she had failed her oral exam and that the teacher had asked her to retake the exam next week. Amy was afraid to fail this exam again because she already tried her best on the first exam. She knew that her parents would be very disappointed if she failed this exam twice. After looking at Amy's report, Michelle said to Amy, "You were actually really close to passing the exam! See, the teacher said that you used your vocabulary well. You just need to have more confidence in yourself! If you want, I can help you practice for your retake. What do you think?" After talking to Michelle, Amy felt much better about retaking her exam next week. She asked Michelle, "How did you do on your exam?" Michelle answered, "Thank God, I didn't do too badly!"

Reflection Questions

1. **Is Michelle a humble person? How do you know?** Yes. Even though she received an excellent grade on her exam, she didn't boast about it. Instead, she prayed and thanked God. When she found out that Amy didn't pass her exam, not only did she compliment on the good comments Amy received from the teacher, she also offered to practice with her for her retake.
2. **How did Michelle's last answer show that she was a humble person?** Michelle could have told Amy that she got an "A" on her exam, but she didn't, because she was humble about it. Instead, she gave the glory to God and simply said that she didn't do too badly.

Margaret is a very good swimmer and has won many swimming competitions before. Last weekend, she won again and got a gold medal for her school in a statewide competition. She couldn't wait to tell all her friends about it. On Monday, she brought the gold medal to school and showed it to all her friends. She loved it every time a friend complimented her on her achievement. One of her friends said to her, "Did you know that Tina was actually in the competition with you too? But she lost in the very first round. If she sees your gold medal, she might not be very happy. Maybe you should put it away." But Margaret said to her, "Of course I know. Tina didn't even get into the semi-final. She wasn't that good. It was a very fair competition and she probably knew beforehand that she wasn't good enough to win, so there's nothing for her to be unhappy about. I don't have to hide my achievement because of her."

Reflection Questions

1. **Is Margaret a humble person?** How do you know? Margaret is not a humble person. On the contrary, she is very arrogant. She likes to show off and loves hearing compliments. She enjoys being in the spotlight.
2. **How did Margaret's last answer show that she was a proud person?** Not only did Margaret publicly say that Tina was not a good swimmer, she also didn't care about Tina's feelings. If she were more humble, she would not have insisted on her own way and would have put away her gold medal to avoid embarrassing Tina.

2. The Consequences of Pride

[Have each student think of something that they are particularly good at or proud of. The teacher may give the following examples.]

- Their possessions: allowance, new toy, or game
- Their appearance: a new dress, a new pair of sneakers
- Their achievements, talents, or gifts: playing an instrument, drawing, running faster than others, getting good grades on tests and homework

God has given and blessed us with all these to enjoy because He loves us. But it is wrong to use God's blessings as a reason to boast and look down on others. This is an example of pride, which displeases God. Instead, God wants us to humble ourselves and give all the glory to Him. The Bible clearly tells us that it is better to be humble (Prov 16:18). It is by His grace that we have received many blessings from God. All that we have does not belong to us, but to God. And because our blessings are gifts from God, we should not boast about our possessions, our achievements, or ourselves. If we are arrogant and always enjoy taking all the glory for ourselves, God will not be pleased. Just like in the parable, humble He will exalt the humble but bring the proud low. This is the consequence of pride that God will use to humble anyone who is proud and arrogant. Let me share a story with you.

Tony has been a part of the school's baseball team ever since he came to this school. This year, he is old enough to become team captain. He recently thought to himself, "I've had the best performance out of all the players ever since I joined. Every year, I score the most for the team and our coach always praises me. I am sure he will pick me as the team captain this year." One day, Tony and his friends were talking. One of them asked, "Who do you think our coach will pick to be the captain of our baseball team this year?" Immediately, Tony said, "Of course he will pick me! Don't you remember how he said that I was the best player in the team last year?" They discussed among themselves and they all agreed that their coach would pick Tony as their captain. Tony felt very proud and became arrogant.

A few days later, after their baseball practice, the coach announced to the team that Raymond would be their captain this year. Surprised, everyone asked the coach why he picked Raymond. The coach answered, "Every year, I pick someone who is humble and eager to learn to become the team's captain, someone who constantly wants to become a better baseball player. If a person thinks that he is already good enough, he will never strive to improve. Even though Raymond is not the best player in our team, I always see him practicing by himself. I think he will be a good motivator for our team!"

Tony felt ashamed of his arrogance. He was so sure that he would become the captain because of his outstanding performance, but his coach picked someone else who was more humble. His pride finally brought

him nothing but embarrassment.

Reflection Questions

- 1. How was Tony proud about himself?** He thought that he was the best player on his team and assumed that he would be picked as the team's captain.
- 2. Why did Tony feel ashamed when he found out that his coach had picked Raymond as the captain instead?** He felt ashamed because he had told everyone that he was certainly going to be the captain. He realized that he was being too arrogant.

Pride grows in our hearts. If we don't remove it, it will hurt those around us, as well as ourselves. God will not bless us if we have pride. James 4:6 tells us that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. God's grace is sufficient for us, for as long as we are humble, God will continue to bless us and guide us in our lives. But those who are the opposite will bear the consequences of pride. Moreover, God promised, "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way" (Ps 25:9). If we want to draw closer God, it is very important for us to humble ourselves, because pride is a big obstacle that will keep us from following God and His ways. Students, how about your heart? Is your heart humbled so that God can teach you His ways? Is your heart humble enough to receive God's grace?

ACTIVITY

Be Humble

Objective: To enable students to realize that a humble person is sweet in God's eyes.

Materials

- Store-bought cookies (if time allows, make some homemade cookies)
- Icing tubes (various colors)
- Sprinkles
- Small candies

Instructions

Ask the students to list the characteristics of a humble person. Some examples are: thankful, glorifies God, and listens to God. Have the students write these characteristics on a cookie using an icing tube. [Students may need some assistance with this.]

Have the students decorate the cookie using the sprinkles and small candies. After the students are done decorating, they may eat the cookie.

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. False; he asked the humble man to sit in the best seat.
5. True
6. False; the proud man took the seat of honor.
7. Has qualities that are opposite of a humble person; arrogant; thinks highly of himself
8. A humble person:
 - Recognizes that everything is given by God.
 - Sees others' good points.
 - Does not think too highly of him/herself.
 - Does not insist on his/her own way.
 - Is thankful.
 - Does not like to "show off."
9. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 10—The Honored Guest

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God opposes the proud but exalts the humble.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To reinforce the students' understanding of the qualities of those who are proud and those who are humble.
 2. To instruct the students on the consequences of pride.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Proverbs 29:23b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : The proud man chose the best seat because ____.
 - a. He felt that he was an important person. He wanted to show off and have people praise him.
 - b. The host was his best friend.
 - c. He wanted to be close to all the good food.

2. ____ : Jesus told this parable to remind us ____.
 - a. Not to choose the best seat
 - b. That the humble will be shamed and the proud will be honored
 - c. That the proud will be shamed and the humble will be honored

3. ____ : A humble person ____.
 - a. Will choose the worst seat
 - b. Does not like going to wedding feasts
 - c. Will give glory to God, look at others' good points, and not show off

True or False

4. The host asked the proud man to sit in the best seat. _____
5. Jesus taught the guests not to be proud because the proud will not be blessed by God. _____
6. The proud man took the lowest seat. _____

Short Answer

7. How does a proud person behave?

8. How does a humble person behave?

9. Is there something that makes you proud and that you need God to help you remove from your heart?

LESSON 11

THE TWO SONS

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Temple School

The temple school was a kind of seminary. It was very famous throughout Judea. During the time period that Jesus lived, the great rabbis in Judea would assemble at the temple to discuss matters of faith and to teach.

When Jesus was a child, His parents brought him to the temple every year for Passover. There, Jesus was a student asking important questions about the Jewish faith.

As an adult, Jesus taught the mysteries of the heavenly kingdom at the temple.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

In this parable, the Israelites were represented by the son who said he would obey his father, but did not follow through on his promise. Many times the Israelites agreed to follow God's will, but they always ended up disobeying Him.

Your students may behave similarly at their age, but their disobedience is usually not intentional. Your students may not appreciate the promises they make to God, or they may forget to keep their promises. However, they should be reminded to obey God's commandments.

Use concrete examples from home or the class showing how someone benefited from obeying God. This will help the students understand what it means to obey God. For example, you can have the students write down what they have promised to God and their parents. In addition, you can discuss the difficulties they might encounter while trying to obey God. Talk with the students and let them know what God will do for them. Remind your students that God is pleased when they obey Him.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 21:28-31a

BIBLE TRUTH

God is pleased with those who do His will.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To strive to be "doers," not "hearers," of God's words.
2. To understand that keeping the commandments of God with obedience is essential to salvation.

MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

(Luke 11:28b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for bringing us to church on this blessed Sabbath day. Lord Jesus, You want us to obey Your words, but we often do not. In the same way, we disobey our parents even though we say that we will do what they ask. You said in the Bible that You will bless those who hear Your words and do them. Help us to be obedient children. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

vineyard: a plantation of grapevines

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about a parable that Jesus told during a dinner at a Pharisee's house. The parable was about two different types of guests.

These two guests were invited to the same feast. The first guest was very proud and wanted everyone to see him with the host. So, he sat himself at the middle of the table in the seat of honor. The second guest was humble and wanted to avoid being the center of attention. So, he chose the lowliest seat at the end of the table.

When the host appeared, what did he do? That's right. He asked the proud guest sitting at the seat of honor to move to the lowliest seat at the end of the table. The host then asked the humble guest to join him in the middle at the seat of honor.

What important lesson did Jesus want us to learn from this parable? Jesus told this parable to emphasize the importance of being humble. If we are humble, God will bless and reward us in ways we do not expect.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Teaches in the Temple

In Jerusalem, Jesus taught at the temple many times. He taught the people about God and His word. Many people came to listen because they wanted to understand God.

Among the crowd were others who did not believe in His words. They liked to ask Jesus difficult and tricky questions, hoping that Jesus would fall into the trap and say something they could use to arrest Him. They wanted Him to stop teaching because they did not believe He was the Messiah.

Jesus knew of their intentions, so He did not answer their questions. He focused on teaching the people about God. One of the parables Jesus taught the people was about a father and his two sons.

Two Sons, Two Responses

There was a father who had two sons. This father owned a very large vineyard. It was so large that he had to hire workers to take care of the vineyard. When there was too much work for the workers, he would have his sons help.

One day, he realized that the workers needed help. So he went up to his first son and said to him, "Son, I need you to go out to the vineyard today and pick some grapes." But the son replied, "No, I don't want to go and help. It's too hot."

The father was disappointed that his son did not want to help. However, he still had another son, so he went up to that son and said, "Son, I need you to go out to the vineyard today and pick some grapes."

The second son promised, "Okay, I'll go."

The father felt happy when he heard his second son's reply. At least one of his sons was willing to help him.

The Sons Change Their Minds

Later on, the father went out to the vineyard. He noticed

that everyone was hard at work. He looked around for his second son. After searching for a long time, he could not find him.

Instead, who do you think he saw working in the vineyard? Yes, he saw the first son who had originally said no to working in the vineyard. The father was surprised and wasn't sure what had happened.

He went up to his son and asked him, "I thought you did not want to come out. Why are you here now?"

The son replied, "I felt bad after I refused. You needed help and I am your son, so I should help. I can put what I want to do aside for now. You are my father, so I decided to come out after all."

The father smiled. He was really pleased to hear that his first son had changed his mind and decided to listen. But he also felt sad and disappointed at his younger son.

Even though the second son had told his father that he would come out to help, he ended up deciding not to come out and pick the grapes.

Who Was Obedient?

After Jesus finished telling the story, he turned to the people in the temple and asked them, "Which son obeyed his father?"

They answered, "The first son."

The crowd understood the parable. Neither son did what they said they would do, but the first son obeyed his father because he eventually did what his father had asked him to do.

In this parable, the father represents God and we are His sons. God asked us to listen to His word and keep His commandments. We obey God not by making promises but by doing His commandments and following His teachings.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

True or False/Questions to Think About

1. **Only one of the man's sons changed his mind at the end.** False; both sons changed their minds.
2. **The second son did not keep his promise to help his father.** True.
3. **The father understood that his second son was busy, so he did not mind that his son did not come to help in the vineyard.** False; he was disappointed that his son did not obey him.
4. **Jesus told this story because He wanted everyone to obey God.** True.
5. **It is good enough to just promise to obey God without doing what God commanded us to do.** False; we must obey God through our actions.
6. **What should we do when we find out that we have disobeyed God?** Answers may vary.
7. **How does God feel when we say that we will obey Him but we don't follow through?** Answers may vary.
8. **How did the father feel about the son who obeyed him?** He felt pleased.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. We must strive to be "doers," not "hearers," of God's words.

Have your parents ever asked you to do something that you did not want to do, such as share your favorite toy, tidy your room, or turn off the TV? [Have students share what they were asked to do.] Did you first tell your parents, "No," but then later found yourself doing what your parents asked? Or did you tell your parents, "Yes," without following through? [Let them continue to share.]

We can probably relate to how the first son in the parable must have felt. His father asked him to do something and he did not want to do it. He said to his father, "I will not." But he regretted what he said and ended up going to the vineyard to work (Mt 21:29). There are many things that are difficult to do or that we do not want to do. We can always talk to God or our parents and ask them for help or ask them to explain the difficult parts. But sometimes, we just do not want to obey our parents. This does not make God happy. Like the first son, we must do our best to obey our parents and our Lord Jesus.

People always say, "Actions speak louder than words." Let's also look at what the Bible says. Can someone read James 1:23-25 for me? [Pick a student to read.] "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." Every time we learn something from the Bible, we need to examine ourselves and see where in our lives we can use this knowledge that we have just learned. However, some people may walk away from a lesson and immediately forget what they have just learned. These are the "hearers" of the God's word, because they have heard what they should do but do not do it. Here, the Bible tells us that only those who are "not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work" will be blessed. So, yes, while we need to be a "hearer" of God's word, the most important role for us is to be a "doer" of God's word. Jesus spoke parables not just for people to listen to or for us to read. He wanted us to understand the meaning of His word and do as He instructed. Let me share two scenarios with you.

Last Sabbath, Grace learned from her RE class that the church is a place for worship and therefore everyone must keep it holy and clean at all times. That day, Grace cleaned up the classroom with her friends after RE class, putting into actions what they had learned. However, after only one week, Grace seemed to have forgotten what she had learned. Today, when she was in the chapel during morning service, Grace sat with her friends and they made noises throughout the service. A few times, some members turned around and told them to be quiet. After lunch, Grace left her paper plate on the table and went to play with her friends, shouting and laughing very loud. This disturbed many members. Moreover, she forgot to clean up after class this time. As soon as RE class was over, she left the classroom for refreshments served at the fellowship hall.

Reflection Questions

- 1. Was Grace a “doer” of God’s word?** She was not. She was only a “hearer,” who heard the message and remembered it for a short period, but then forgot it later. Even though she had learned about keeping the church holy and clean at all times, she didn’t put what she learned into practice.
- 2. If Grace were a “doer” of God’s word, what would she have done differently?** Firstly, she would have listened attentively to the sermon speaker instead of making noises during service in the chapel. Secondly, she would have thrown away the plate that belonged to her after lunch. Thirdly, she would have kept her voice at an acceptable level, even when playing with her friends. Lastly, she would have helped clean up after class.

Ricky used to be a very rebellious child. Every time his parents asked him to do something, he would purposely not do it or pretend that he didn’t hear them. It became a habit for him to ignore his parents. However, Ricky had changed ever since he read Ephesians 6:1, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” He realized that God was not pleased with his attitude towards his parents. He felt remorseful and guilty that he had not been obeying his parents. In his prayers, Ricky repented and was determined to make a change for Christ. He strived to become an obedient child. At the beginning, Ricky was not used to listening to his parents. However, Ricky constantly reminded himself of God’s word and stood by his promise to God. Now, Ricky obeys his parents in everything that they tell him and want him to do.

Reflection Questions

- 1. Was Ricky a “doer” of God’s words?** He was. After reading the Bible verse in Ephesians 6:1, he repented and made a promise to God that he would obey his parents. Ricky used to be a very rebellious child, but now he is the complete opposite. He made a change for Christ and became an obedient child.
- 2. If Ricky were not a “doer” of God’s word, what would he have done differently?** Even after reading the verse in Ephesians 6:1, Ricky still would not have changed his attitude towards his parents. He would have remained a very rebellious child because he refused to do what the Lord asked of him.

2. Keeping the commandments of God with obedience is essential to salvation.

To say, “Yes, I will tidy up my room,” or “Yes, I will do my homework,” is not enough. You must also put your words into action. If you do not, you will be like the second son. He said, “Yes,” to his father, but he did not go and help. God wants us to obey through our actions. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He obeyed the heavenly Father completely. Jesus was “obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil 2:8). When God sees us doing what He asks, He is very pleased with us. If we are obedient to Him and keep His commandments, God will be very willing and eager to listen to our prayers. He will help and bless His obedient children.

John 14:15 says, “If you love Me, keep my commandments.” Consider the word “love.” God wants us to love Him the way He loves us. And how does He love us? Firstly, He loves us unconditionally. There is nothing He cannot do for us. Because of our sins, He died for us on the cross so that the fountain of salvation could be opened for us. Moreover, He loves us faithfully. His love is steadfast and everlasting. This is the kind of love we need to strive to have for God, and it all begins with keeping His commandments with obedience. And what does it mean to be obedient? It means to willingly submit to what the Lord asks of us. Only when we do so can we enter the kingdom of heaven.

Let’s read a short passage from the Bible. Luke 10:25-28 reads, “And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?’ So he answered and said, ‘“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.”’ And He said to him, ‘You have answered rightly;

do this and you will live.'" From this passage, we can see that keeping the commandments of God is essential to salvation. If you read the Ten Commandments carefully, they consist of two parts: the first to fourth commandments teach us to love the Lord our God, and the fifth through tenth teach us to love our neighbors. Now, let me ask you a question: Do you love God? [Give students some time to think.] If your answer is "Yes," then you will obey Him. And if you obey Him, you will love your neighbors. Jesus said, "Do this and you will live." Keeping His commandments with obedience is what we must do to enter the kingdom of heaven.

3. Which son are we? Are we going to work in the vineyard for God?

Students, in today's parable, we learned about two sons whose words and actions differed greatly. Which son represents you in this life? Are you the second son who heard his father's words, but ended up not helping him? Or are you the "doer," the first son who went to help and pleased his father through his actions?

Are you going to work in the vineyard for God?

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. C
3. False; both sons changed their minds.
4. True
5. False; he was disappointed that his son did not obey him.
6. True
7. False; we need to obey God through our actions.
8. God feels very sad.
9. Answers may vary.
10. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

ACTIVITY

Blessed Are Those Who Obey

Objective: To give the students a chance to practice obeying.

Materials

- Slips of paper
- Container
- Sticker badges

Preparation

1. Write the following simple instructions (or your own ideas) on separate slips of paper:

- Erase the whiteboard.
- Shake hands with each of your classmates.
- Sing your favorite song alone.
- Say something kind about each classmate.
- Share four things for which you are thankful.
- Act out something that you will do for a family member during the week.

2. Write "I can obey" on the stickers.

Instructions

1. Put the slips of paper in a container. Have the students take turns choosing one from the container and obeying the instructions written on it.
2. Afterwards, invite the students, one at a time, to tell whether they found the instructions easy or difficult to obey.
3. At the end, give each student an "I Can Obey" badge. Encourage the students to keep their badges so they will be reminded to obey their parents and God.

SUGGESTED HYMN

Quickly I Obey (G major)

When my mother calls me,
Quickly I'll obey.
I want to do just what is best
Each and ev'ry day.

When my father calls me,
Quickly I'll obey.
I want to do just what is best
Each and ev'ry day.

Heav'nly Father loves me,
Blesses me each day.
I want to do just what is best
Each and ev'ry day.

Words: Thelma J. Harrison, 1906–1991
Music: Russian folk tune

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 11—The Two Sons

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God is pleased with those who do His will.**Lesson Objective:** To help students recognize the importance of following and obeying the commandments of God.**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Luke 11:28b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : The story of the two sons teaches us that _____.
 - a. We can disobey our parents if we are asked to do something we do not want to do.
 - b. We should obey our parents and God even when it is difficult or when we may not feel like it.
 - c. God does not mind when we disobey Him.

2. ____ : When the father asked the first son to help in the vineyard, the son said, _____.
 - a. "Yes," but didn't help.
 - b. "No," and didn't help.
 - c. "No," but he changed his mind and helped his father.

True or False

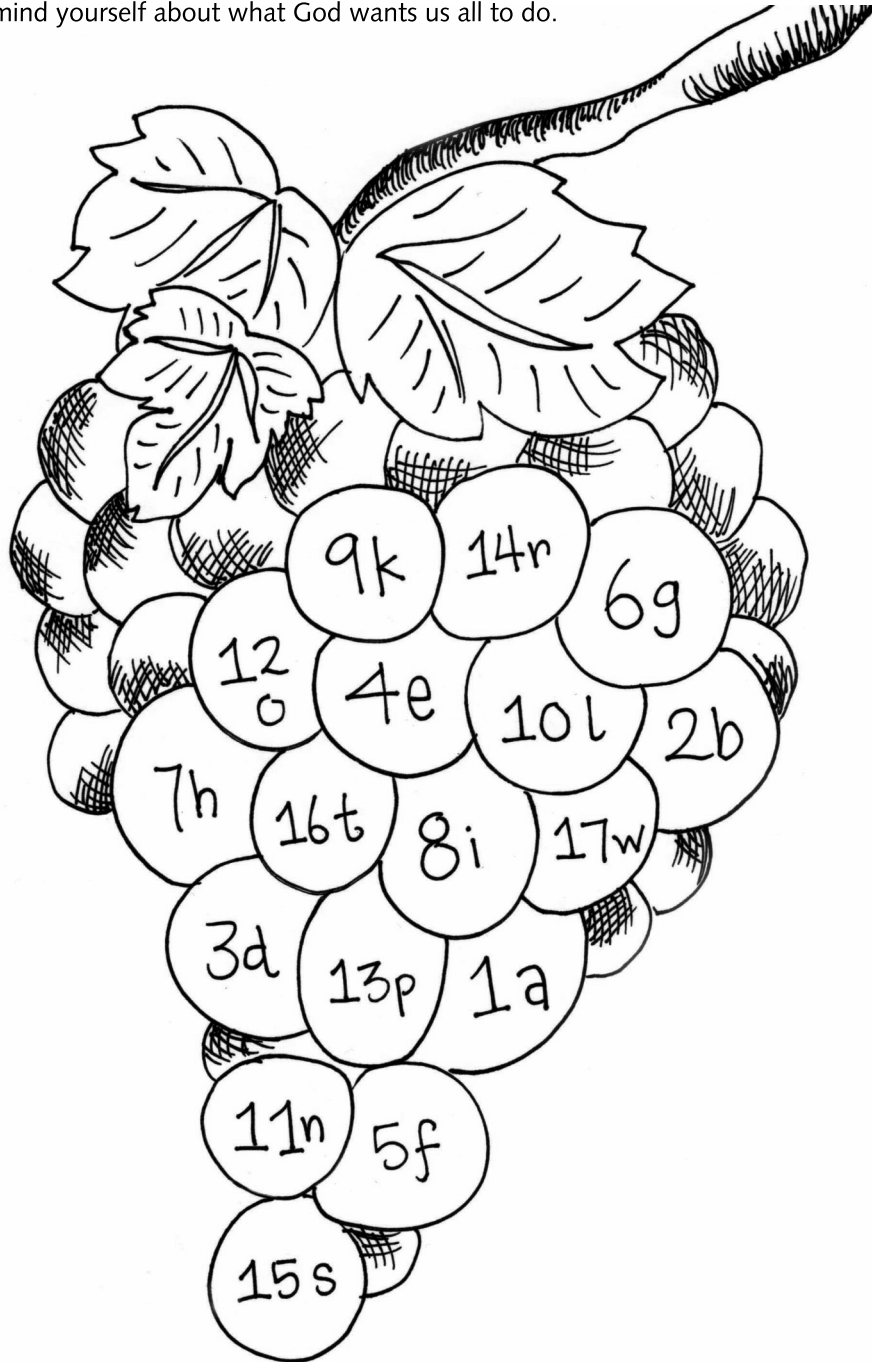
3. Only one of the man's sons changed his mind at the end. _____
4. The second son did not keep his promise to help his father. _____
5. The father understood his second son was busy, so he did not mind that he did not help in the vineyard. _____
6. If we find that we have disobeyed, we can change our minds and obey. _____
7. It is enough just to promise that we will obey God; we do not need to actually do it. _____

Short Answer

8. How does God feel when we tell Him that we will obey Him but do not follow through?

9. Name one thing that you find difficult to obey. In your prayers, ask God to help you be obedient.

10. Use the grapes to match the numbers with the letters and then fill in the blanks. Then, after you are done, read the verse aloud to remind yourself about what God wants us all to do.



"

2 10 4 15 15 4 3 1 14 4 16 7 12 15 4 17 7 12

7 4 1 14 16 7 4 17 12 14 3 12 5 6 12 3

1 11 3 9 4 4 13 8 16

!"

LESSON 12

THE LOST SHEEP AND THE LOST COIN

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Sheep and Coins

Jesus is the Shepherd and His followers are His sheep. Like the shepherd in the parable, He cares for each individual and wants to save everyone. The shepherd and sheep theme runs throughout the Scripture (Ps 23; Isa 40:11; Ezek 34:11-16).

At the time, each coin was worth about a day's wage, and Palestinian women would receive ten silver coins as a wedding gift. Therefore, the money also held sentimental value. Losing even one coin could cause a lot of grief.

Houses in the Middle East usually did not have windows and the floors were not hard, but earthen. Both of these factors would make searching for a lost coin rather difficult.

God's Limitless Love

The Pharisees and the scribes were well known for their cautious observance of the law and for staying "clean." They were very careful to keep away from "sinners."

In many instances, they even went out of their way to avoid the very people Jesus was associating with. They were annoyed by Jesus' actions because He touched lepers and the demon-possessed and talked with every class of people.

Jesus' behavior demonstrated His limitless love for those in need, which was in stark contrast to the ways of the Pharisees.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 15:1-10

BIBLE TRUTH

God loves and wants everyone to be saved.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To understand that everyone is important to God.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let not mercy and truth forsake you."

(Proverbs 3:3a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, You are so wonderful. Thank You for always taking care of us. You love each and every one of us. In today's lesson, we will learn even more about how important we are to You. We come here to praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

It may have seemed foolish for the shepherd to leave his ninety-nine sheep and go after one lost animal. However, the shepherd knew that the ninety-nine were safe and it was the lost sheep that needed his attention. It may have seemed insignificant, but his love for each sheep in his flock was very deep.

Jesus is that shepherd to us, except He loves everyone more than the shepherd loved his sheep or the woman treasured her coins. His love knows no bounds. He visited the sinners because they were the very people He had come to earth to save. Perhaps they might have thought that they were insignificant or unworthy, but Jesus loved them all regardless of the situation. Sometimes, your

students may see themselves as only a very small part of this large universe. They may think that God is busy tending to other matters and that He really has no time for them. Remind them that God loves each and every one of them. There is not a moment when God does not see what they are doing. He is always with them in Spirit.

Just like in these two parables, Jesus wants everyone to know that they are important to Him. While God wants to save sinners, He also cares for your students. They may be baptized but they still need Him very much in their lives. Encourage them to continue to build their personal and special relationship with God by praying often and learning more about Him from Bible stories.

VOCABULARY

Pharisees: a privileged group of religious Jews who were well known for their careful observance of the law

REVIEW

Last week, we learned a parable about two sons, a story that Jesus told while He was teaching in the temple.

A man owned a vineyard and wanted his sons to help him pick the grapes. His first son refused to help. His second son promised to go out and help. When the man went out later in the day, he realized that his second son was not there as he had promised to be. Instead, his first son who had initially refused to help was hard at work picking the grapes.

The man was very happy that his first son had changed his mind and came out to help. But he was sad that his second son had also changed his mind and decided not to keep his promise.

Jesus told this parable to teach the people that it is better to obey than to promise to obey and not do it. Jesus wants us to obey God all the time.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Speaks to Sinners

One day, Jesus was speaking to a crowd. Among the people were tax collectors and sinners. There were also Pharisees and scribes.

The Pharisees did not understand why Jesus would even want to be near the sinners. Jesus knew what they were thinking and decided to tell two parables to make them realize why He came to earth.

The Lost Sheep

The first parable was about a shepherd who owned a hundred sheep. He loved them very much and did his best to take care of them. Every day, he counted them to make sure that each one was there. He did not want to lose any of them.

One day, he was counting his sheep. To keep track, he said to himself, "Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine..." Then, he stopped. He looked around but he could

not see the one hundredth sheep anywhere.

He had never lost one of his sheep before and was at a loss about what to do. As he sat down to consider what had happened, he thought to himself, "I have only lost one sheep. I still have ninety-nine left. Maybe I should stay here and make sure that these ninety-nine are okay." But the man loved all of his sheep. Even though it was just one lost sheep, he was unable to rest until he found it. He got up and frantically looked everywhere for the lost sheep. It was difficult because the sheep could have gone anywhere and it may have also wandered very far.

The shepherd grew tired after having searched high and low for the lost sheep, but he did not give up. He would not stop until he found the missing one. Then suddenly, he heard a rustling sound nearby. He listened carefully and walked slowly towards the sound. Looking around, he saw his sheep. He was very happy to see that it was okay. Gently, he picked up the tired and frightened

sheep and carried it home.

When he got home, he put the lost sheep back with the rest of them. He was relieved that he had found it. He was so happy that he went to his friends and said, "Come and celebrate with me today. I have found the sheep that was lost!" So everyone gathered together and celebrated with the shepherd.

The Lost Coin

After this parable, Jesus continued with another similar story. This one was about a woman who had ten coins. These coins were very special to her because they were a wedding gift from her husband, and she treasured the coins very much. She kept them in a very safe place.

One day, the woman discovered that one of her coins was missing, and she had no idea where it had been misplaced. "Oh, no!" the woman thought, "Where could it be?" She quickly looked around her house but after searching very carefully, she still could not find it. She was upset but she did not give up. She was determined to find the coin.

She thought that maybe the house was too dark, so she lit her oil lamp to have more light in the room. She also took out her broom. She swept the floor and looked in

every corner of the house. There was not one inch of the house that she did not sweep. Then she felt the broom brush against something. She bent down and picked up the object. It was her lost coin!

Holding it tightly, she went to the table and put the coin back with the rest of them. The woman was very happy that she had found her lost coin. She did not care that finding it was hard work and that it took a long time to find it. She was so happy that she went to knock on her neighbors' and friends' doors to tell them about it. She also invited them to come to her house and celebrate with her.

Jesus Explains the Parables

When Jesus finished telling these parables, He explained the parables to the people. He told these stories to teach an important lesson.

He wanted everyone to know that every person is important to God. God loves every one of us. Like the shepherd and the woman, Jesus does not just care about the ones who have been saved. Even if it is only one sheep or coin that is lost, God will still not give up and be content with the ninety-nine sheep or the nine coins. He will go out to find and save the one who is lost.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False/Questions to Think About

1. The shepherd had a total of _____ (100) sheep before he lost one.
2. After the woman lost one of her coins, she only had _____ (9) left.
3. The shepherd gave up looking for the lost sheep after a while. False; he didn't stop searching until he found it.
4. The woman wanted everyone to celebrate with her after she found the coin. True.
5. Jesus only loves those people who love Him. False; He loves everyone, even those who are lost.
6. Why did the shepherd look everywhere for the one lost sheep when he still had ninety-nine? All of his sheep were equally important to him, and he couldn't sleep until he had found his one lost sheep.
7. Why did the woman care so much about the one lost coin? The coin was part of the wedding gift from her husband, and she treasured it very much.
8. Have you ever lost something that is important to you? How did you feel when that happened? Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Let not mercy and truth forsake you." (Proverbs 3:3a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

[Before class begins, write each word of the following sentence on a different piece of paper: "IT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT TO FIND SOMEONE WHO IS LOST." Fold the pieces and hide them around the classroom. Prepare one example piece of paper to show the students.]

Activity

Before we go deeper into the spiritual teaching of these two parables, let's play a quick warm-up game. In this classroom, I have hidden eleven pieces of paper, folded like this [show your example], that you are going to find as a class. When you have found all of the pieces, gather at a table and put together a sentence using the words you have found. We will take five minutes for this activity. Does anyone have any questions? [Answer any questions your students may have] If not, the time starts... now!

After the activity...

[Ask students to read the completed sentence together as a class.] "IT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT TO FIND SOMEONE WHO IS LOST." This is indeed very true. As easy as you think this activity was, each of you had to put in time and effort to find all the pieces. Not one of you was able to know where the pieces were without taking the time to search for them. In the two parables we learned about today, both the shepherd, who lost one of his sheep, and the woman, who lost one of her coins, put in time and effort to find what they had lost. But, neither of them regretted spending all that time and effort. When they finally found what they had been looking for, they both rejoiced, showing that they knew that their time and effort were well spent. Now, with this in mind, let's look further into the spiritual teaching of our lesson today.

1. We must work hard to rescue those who are spiritually lost.

In these parables, both the lost sheep and the lost coin represent a person who is spiritually lost. A person who is spiritually lost belongs to Christ but has temporarily left God's sheepfold. Like the lost sheep, they are tired and frightened. They may encounter many difficulties in this world, such as bullies, the loss of a friend or a family member, or a family financial crisis. They feel lost because they don't know to whom they can or should turn. These sheep are not near their Master. In addition, like the lost coin, these people may be hiding in a corner, somewhere dark and without hope. They cannot find a way out by their own strength. They need their Master!

Today, there are many people who are spiritually lost. Jesus wants them all to go back to His sheepfold. He cares about them so much. Let me ask you a question: If you lose something that you really care about, what would you do? [Let students think and share.] You would frantically search for it. You would spend as much time and effort as you need to search for it until you find it. Now, let's apply this idea to another scenario. When a father loses his son, whom he loves dearly, what do you think he would do? Let me share a story with you.

Once, a ten-year-old boy went with his father and some other people to look around a deserted mine. When they were exploring the mine, the boy became separated from the group, even though he had been very careful. Lost and without food or water, the young boy didn't know what to do. The others discovered that he was gone and began to look for him right when they found out. They didn't have any time to waste. As time went on, more and more people came to search for the boy. At first, it was a small group, but then it turned into hundreds. On top of that, thousands of people not at the mine knelt down to fast and pray for his safe return. After five days, they still had not found the boy. However, an expert familiar with the mine heard about the rescue operation and volunteered to help find the boy. He was so familiar with the mine that it didn't take long for him to find the boy in a place that no one else knew was even there. Upon finding the boy, he was at a loss for words to describe how happy he was. Those at the mine, and those who had been praying and fasting, wept with relief and gladness when they heard that the boy had been found alive and safe.

When you lose something you really care about, you will do everything it takes to find it. When this 10-year-old boy was lost, his father and others looked everywhere for him. It became a mission for them, one that didn't end until they had found him. Likewise, we need to search for people who are spiritually lost in the same way. Even though we may not know these people, we know that Jesus cares about them so much and so should we. Like the shepherd in the first

parable, we need to work hard to rescue these people who are still lost and haven't returned to Jesus, their Master and Savior.

2. We need to be determined to find those who are spiritually lost.

When Jesus left this world, He gave His disciples a great commission. Let's turn to Matthew 28:19-20. [Ask students to read aloud with you.] "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Students, these words were given to all of us to follow! Jesus wants us to introduce Him to everyone who is spiritually lost, including those around us. He wants us to bring them to church so that they can find their Master and believe in Him, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit. And this is not an easy task. After Jesus left, His disciples did exactly what He asked of them—to preach the good news of His saving grace. Even though many people believed because of them and received the Holy Spirit, their journey was not that easy. For example, both Peter and Paul were imprisoned because of what they preached to people. Nonetheless, we must not give up. Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." He is with us everywhere we go to tell of His stories.

With that in mind, now we just need to be determined to find those who are spiritually lost! In the two parables we learned about today, both the shepherd and the woman had to keep searching for a very long time. When did they stop searching? [Let students answer.] They stopped only when they finally found what they had been looking for. Students, unless everyone in this world has already come to believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, our mission is not over. No matter how many people you have already brought to Christ, your mission continues. Many church members are still working hard to preach and bring people to church in their old age. Finding those who are spiritually lost is a lifelong mission, and therefore, it is very important for us to have determination. Let me share a testimony with you:

Ashley has been married for almost 15 years. She has two children who are both baptized and who both attend church with her. However, her husband has not yet become a follower of God. Even though he has never stopped Ashley and their kids from going to church, Ashley is determined to bring her husband to Christ's fold. All these years, whenever there is an evangelical service, gospel tea, or fellowship, Ashley will bring her husband to church. Whenever there is a visiting minister, Ashley will invite him to her house so that her husband can sit with the minister and talk.

One day, Ashley's husband said to her, "If you want me to be baptized, I will do it for you. I know that will make you happy and take a load off your back." But Ashley responded, "No. I don't want you to get baptized because of me. This is not true belief. It's OK; we will give it more time. I will continue to pray for you. I know that one day you will experience God yourself." Ashley never gave up. She prayed for her husband every day. Every time her husband had a question about God, Ashley would study the Bible very hard, get help from other church members, pray about it, and answer her husband in the best way she knew how: using words from the Bible and with God's help.

Time passed by and Ashley's husband began to feel more and more convinced about God's existence. One day, he decided to go to church with Ashley. That day, a church member shared a testimony during afternoon service. Ashley's husband was astonished by the testimony and decided that he would keep coming to church. He also learned how to pray so that he could ask God Himself to let him experience His grace.

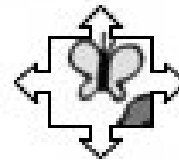
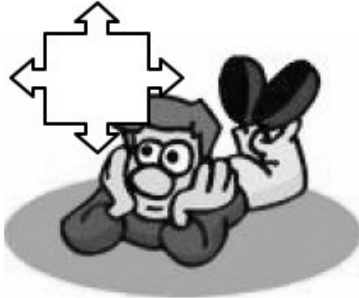
After a year of coming to church as a truth-seeker, Ashley's husband finally came to believe in Christ. He said to Ashley, "Thank you for everything you have done for me all these years. I am sorry that I never truly understood what you believed in—a God that is so wonderful and amazing. I have considered this very seriously and I want to be baptized. I believe in Jesus and I cannot wait to go to church with you and the kids every Saturday!" Thank God, after 15 years, Ashley could finally see her husband get baptized and go to church with her whole family every week. If Ashley didn't have the determination, this would have remained a dream for her for many years.

3. Our heavenly Father loves all of His children.

Losing something is like losing the final piece of a jigsaw puzzle. The puzzle does not look complete until the last piece is put in place. Each one of us is a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that is God's plan of salvation, and even though we are only one small piece among the hundreds of thousands of pieces, we need to remember that we are all equally important and precious to the Lord.

Missing Pieces in a Picture

Can you tell what the boy was looking at without the missing piece?



Would the autumn leaf picture look complete without the missing piece?



In the eyes of our heavenly Father, we are all equally precious. He loves His children and we are all important to Him. It doesn't matter how we look, what our background is like, or how well we do in school. God loves us all and cares about us equally. The Bible clearly tells us that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34). He doesn't show favoritism. In fact, every one of us is His favorite. Let me share some stories with you.

1. Vivian is not the skinniest girl, but she looks pretty and healthy. However, she keeps thinking that she is "fat" because she always sees celebrities on TV who are very skinny. It is rare for her to see a famous person who is not skinny. In fact, her favorite actress is also very skinny. Every time Vivian goes to stores with her mother, she sees supermodels on the front covers of magazines, and they are all very skinny. Gradually, Vivian begins to feel embarrassed by her body shape. She thinks that her friends don't like her as much as they like their other friends who are skinnier than she is. She thinks to herself, "If I lose some weight and become as skinny as them, my friends will be more willing and happy to play with me." Vivian is determined to lose weight. She starts dieting, eating just one meal a day. She also exercises for an hour every day. Her mom begins to notice that Vivian is not looking as healthy as before.

2. Jack is not the most academically advanced student. Compared to his older siblings, he doesn't do as well in school. He doesn't enjoy reading and studying is his absolute least favorite thing to do. However, Jack does work very hard and try his best in everything he does in school. Unfortunately, Jack has very low self-esteem and always thinks that he is not good enough or important because of his poor academic results. He thinks that his parents associate him with failure and that his other siblings are more successful than he is. Because of all these negative thoughts, Jack begins to experiment with drugs.

Students, do you think that Jack and Vivian really weren't loved? For Vivian, do you think that it mattered to her friends how she looked? If you have a "friend" that doesn't like to play with you because of how you look, would you still consider him or her a true friend? [Let students answer.] No, true friendship is not built upon what we like about someone's appearance. Likewise, our relationship with God is genuine. He loves us not because of the way we look. 1 Samuel 16:7 tells us, "For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." God does not judge us by our outer appearance, but rather searches our hearts. He loves us as long as our heart is willing to obey Him. There is nothing about our outward appearance that matters to Him. In Jack's case, is it truly possible that his parents don't love him because he doesn't do as well as his siblings in school? No, parents love their children unconditionally. Sometimes, they might get angry, as we all do at some point, but that is only because they love us and care about us. Likewise, God is our heavenly Father. He loves us because we are His children! The Bible says, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God" (1 Jn 3:1). Little did Jack and Vivian know that God loves them and that He values them far more than they could imagine. Boys and girls, do you know that God loves you? Do you know that when you pray and call upon Him, He hears you as a Father who hears His little child say, "Daddy, Daddy," sweetly, and He will at once turn around and love you?

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Pharisees, scribes
2. sheep, coin
3. True
4. True
5. False; it was very hard to look for the lost things.
6. He could not rest until all the sheep were safe. He loved all his sheep equally
7. He was very happy and put the sheep back with the other ninety-nine, and gathered people around him to celebrate.
8. She lit an oil lamp and swept every corner of her house.
9. Answers may vary.

 ACTIVITIES

1

What a Relief!**Objective:** To help the students recall the parables.**Instructions**

The shepherd and the woman were both relieved when they found what they had lost. Read the paragraph carefully. Complete the sentences by drawing the missing item in each blank.



1. Hi! I am the shepherd. I lost my _____. Even though I had ninety-nine sheep left, I

wanted to _____ for that lost _____. I left my other _____ to go and find

it. When I found it, I was filled with relief and felt very _____.

2. Hi! I am the woman who lost the _____. I _____ everywhere in my house. I lit my

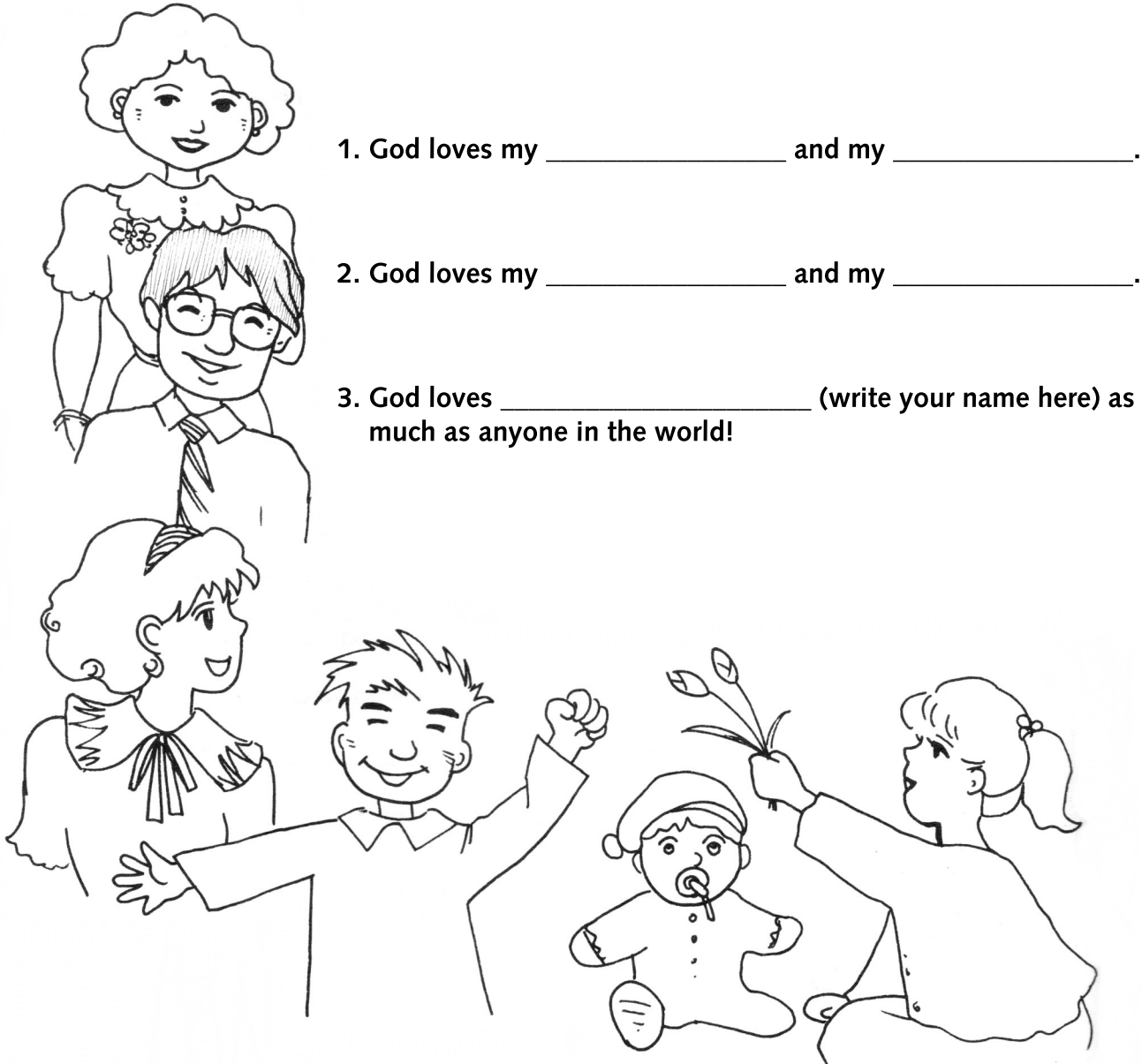
_____ to look for it. When I found the coin, I was filled with relief and felt very

_____.

2

God Loves Everyone**Objective:** To remind the students that God loves everyone.**Instructions**

Fill in the missing words by completing the sentences. You may want to fill in the blanks with any of the following words: mother, father, sister, brother, friends, dog, etc.



1. God loves my _____ and my _____.

2. God loves my _____ and my _____.

3. God loves _____ (write your name here) as much as anyone in the world!

3

God Loves...*Optional Activity***Instructions**

God loves all the students in your class. Have the students work together to create a poster that will remind them of His love. Prepare a large poster with "God Loves..." written in the center. Then, have the students write or decorate their names on the poster to show that God loves them all very much!

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 12—The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God loves and wants everyone to be saved.

Lesson Objective: To understand that everyone is important to God.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Proverbs 3:3a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

1. When Jesus was preaching, the _____ and _____ often wanted to find fault with Jesus.
2. The two parables that Jesus told were about the lost _____ and the lost _____.

True or False

3. Jesus wanted to talk to the sinners because He saw that they were needy and lost. _____
4. During Jesus' time, tax collectors were considered to be sinners. _____
5. Looking for the lost sheep and the lost coin were easy tasks. _____

Short Answer

6. What made the shepherd want to leave the ninety-nine sheep to search for the lost one?

7. What was the shepherd's reaction when he found the lost sheep?

8. What did the woman do to look for her lost coin?

Life Application

9. Think of an example of how the Lord has shown love and compassion to you. How does this let you know that you are important in the eyes of God?

LESSON 13

REVIEW

This lesson is meant for review purposes. There are many ways to conduct a review. Here are some ideas for you.

1. It can be in a standard test format. Elementary 1 students should be able to answer the following types of questions without much difficulty: true or false, fill in the blank, and short answer. Depending on your class needs, feel free to create your own test by selecting questions found in the **Check for Understanding** section of each lesson. Alternatively, you can look through some of the **homework assignments** for ideas. Be sure to think about **life application questions** in addition to the knowledge-based ones. Never forget to ask the students to remember the **memory verses** that they have learned.
2. The review can be done as a game. Playing games is a fun way to share information. It can be a simple game like Jeopardy or a race to the finish line (moving spaces as students take turns to say the correct answer). Students can also create their own questions and quiz each other. The possibilities are endless!
3. You can think of this class as a brand new lesson. You can select certain characters to study and compare, or themes to look at to review the whole quarter. Look at the memory verses and see how they can be a springboard into a review. These require a little bit of work on your part, but it can be a rewarding way to tie up the past twelve weeks.

Finally, remember to soak in the words of God. After reviewing God's wonderful teachings, have a small snack fellowship. Sing hymns, or go outside and enjoy His creations. You can do a play that sums up the learning that has taken place. And don't forget that you work with a wonderful group of teachers. Brainstorm with your fellow RE workers for fantastic ideas to end your quarter. May God remember all your labor for Him.

For those teachers who have great ideas as to how to review all twelve lessons, we welcome you to email USGA with all the details. We can upload your ideas to the RE link and let other teachers share your creativity.

REVIEW ANSWER KEY

Memory Verses-Fill In the Blank

1. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18a)
2. "All things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)
3. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)
4. "Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite." (Psalm 147:5)
5. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19a)
6. "'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 19:19)
7. "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25b)
8. "Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)
9. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)
10. "The humble in spirit will retain honor." (Proverbs 29:23b)
11. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28b)
12. "Let not mercy and truth forsake you." (Proverbs 3:3a)

Multiple Choice

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. b
5. c
6. b
7. a
8. c
9. a
10. c
11. c
12. c
13. b
14. a
15. c
16. b
17. c
18. a
19. c

Short Answer

1. Students' answers may vary.
Important points: He loves us and He doesn't want us to go to hell; this was His plan; He wants us to be closer to Him and to know who Jesus is; He wants us to enjoy eternal salvation with Him in heaven.)

Memory Verses-Fill In the Blank

(humble, repent, love, honor, keep, doers, heals, live, mercy, grow, power, believes)

1. "But _____ in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18a)
2. "All things are possible to him who _____." (Mark 9:2b)
3. "He _____ the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)
4. "Great is our Lord, and mighty in _____; His understanding is infinite." (Psalm 147:5)
5. "_____ therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19a)
6. "' _____ your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 19:19)
7. "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall _____." (John 11:25b)
8. "Let brotherly _____ continue." (Hebrews 13:1)
9. "But be _____ of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)
10. "The _____ in spirit will retain honor." (Proverbs 29:23b)
11. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and _____ it!" (Luke 11:28b)
12. "Let not _____ and truth forsake you." (Proverbs 3:3)

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : What is the meaning of the name of Jesus Christ?
 - a. "The anointed one"
 - b. "The loving one"
 - c. "The beautiful one"

2. _____ : Peter knew something about Jesus that not many people knew. What was it?
 - a. Jesus was the wisest teacher in the world.
 - b. Jesus was Christ and Son of the Living God.
 - c. Jesus had the power to heal people.

3. _____ : What did Jesus do wherever He went?
 - a. Healed the sick and performed miracles
 - b. Taught the words of God
 - c. All of the above

4. _____ : **How long had the man whom Jesus healed been afflicted by the infirmity?**
- 42 years
 - 38 years
 - 15 years
5. _____ : **Why was Zacchaeus up in a tree? Why did Jesus call out to Zacchaeus?**
- Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus because he knew he had done wrong, but was too short to see, so he climbed a tree.
 - Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus; Jesus wanted to be his friend and save him.
 - All of the above
6. _____ : **Zacchaeus agreed to pay back _____ times the amount he wrongfully took.**
- 2
 - 4
 - 6
7. _____ : **What did the four friends do to the roof in order to get the paralytic in the house?**
- They uncovered it, took it apart, and broke through it.
 - They asked some more friends to come help them.
 - They uncovered it and shouted to all the people in the house for help.
8. _____ : **Why did Jesus think that it was more important to say that the man's sins were forgiven?**
- Jesus wanted others to know that He was amazing.
 - Jesus wanted others to know that He was not an ordinary man.
 - Jesus wanted others to know that He had the power to forgive sins on earth.
9. _____ : **We should have determination when we seek God and help others. What does it mean to have determination?**
- To not give up and to keep trying no matter what happens.
 - To be amazed and to glorify God.
 - To be unable to move or control your muscles.
10. _____ : **Lazarus had already been dead for _____ days when Jesus arrived.**
- 6
 - 3
 - 4
11. _____ : **Jesus delayed going to Bethany because _____.**
- He did not care about Lazarus.
 - He got lost on the way.
 - He wanted to glorify God by raising Lazarus from the dead.

12. _____ : The _____ took the injured man to the inn and cared for him.
- Levite
 - Priest
 - Samaritan
13. _____ : The man who built his house on the rock was _____.
- Foolish
 - Wise
 - Happy
14. _____ : The proud man chose the best seat because _____.
- He felt that he was an important person. He wanted to show off and have people praise him.
 - The host was his best friend.
 - He wanted to be close to all the good food.
15. _____ : Jesus told the parable of the two guests to remind us _____.
- Not to choose the best seat.
 - That the humble will be shamed and the proud will be honored.
 - That the proud will be shamed and the humble will be honored.
16. _____ : The story of the two sons teaches us that _____.
- We can disobey our parents if we are asked to do something that we do not want to do.
 - We should obey our parents and God, even when it is difficult or when we may not feel like obeying.
 - God does not mind when we disobey Him.
17. _____ : When the father asked the first son to help in the vineyard, the son said, _____.
- "Yes," but didn't help.
 - "No," and didn't help.
 - "No," but he later changed his mind and helped his father.
18. _____ : Why did the shepherd look everywhere for that one lost sheep when he still had ninety-nine?
- All of his sheep were equally important to him, so he had to find that one lost sheep.
 - All of his sheep needed that one sheep to go home.
 - All of his sheep couldn't eat until that one sheep was safe at home.
19. _____ : Why did the woman care so much about the lost coin?
- She needed the coin to buy more food for the family.
 - She needed the coin to show her husband that she still had it.
 - The coin was part of the wedding gift from her husband and she treasured it very much.

Short Answer

1. Why did God have to come in the form of a man to save us?

Life Application *Practicing What We Learned*

1. Think of one person you can help, encourage, or pray for. Write down this person's name and what you specifically want to do for this person:

Name of this person: _____

What you will do for this person: _____

2. Write about a time when God answered your prayers. _____

Activity**“What Do You Believe?”**

Instructions: Give each student a partner and one of the descriptions of Jesus. Tell the pairs to brainstorm how these descriptions of Jesus can occur in our life today. Afterward, each pair will perform a skit for the rest of the students in the class, who are to guess which description of Jesus they are acting out. E.g., “Jesus is my Savior”; students preach to their friends so that their friends may know who can save them. “Jesus is my teacher”; students put what they learn in their RE classes into practice.

1. Jesus is my Savior and Messiah. He loves me.
2. Jesus is my friend. He is always there to help me.
3. Jesus is my teacher. He teaches me to know more about Him.
4. Jesus is a healer. He alone can truly help us.
5. Jesus gives us hope that we can go to heaven.

Life Application**Understanding God’s Teachings—God’s Faithfulness**

God is not a person who would change or break His promises. Certainly not! God is faithful; He keeps His promises to us. We can have faith in God without a doubt.

What are some of God’s promises to us? [Allow students to share.] God has promised us that He will give us the Holy Spirit. He has also promised us that if we believe in Him and follow His commandments, we can go to heaven. Furthermore, God has promised us that He will never leave us alone. There are countless promises of God in the Bible (see if you can name some more). We don’t have to doubt and we don’t have to be afraid because we know that God is faithful.

Divide the whiteboard into two columns, one for scenarios and one for God’s promises. Then write the following five scenarios and five promises in random order. Ask the students to match the promises to the scenarios.

Scenarios

1. Sarah has been praying for the Holy Spirit. All of her classmates have already received the Holy Spirit.
2. Teddy’s mom is very strict so he doesn’t want to listen to her all the time.
3. Lucas has been afraid of sleeping by himself in his room because he recently saw a news report on a scary robbery.
4. Jessie’s friend has invited her to a birthday party on the Sabbath, and she’s wondering if God would care if she skipped service.
5. Kevin feels really bad about hitting another classmate on purpose.

God’s Promises

1. God promises to give each and every one of us the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16).
2. God promises to bless us with long life if we keep the 5th commandment, which is “Honor your father and your mother” (Ex 20:12).
3. The Lord never sleeps and He will guard us when we go out and when we come home (Ps 121).
4. God will bless us if we keep the Sabbath holy and don’t do our own things but come to service to worship Him (Is 58:13-14).
5. God promises to forgive us when we confess our sins to Him and truly repent (1 Jn 1:9).

"Repent therefore and be converted,
that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19a)

Y2 Bk 4



Who Is Jesus?

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