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Kindergarten

Leader/Teacher Guide

A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Kindergarten Children
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

www.gracelink.net

Year B, Fourth Quarter

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A Publication of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department

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12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to *Kindergarten Leader/Teacher Guide*, Circulation P.O. 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353.

Periodicals postage paid at P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653. Single copy, US\$21.90 plus postage. One year, United States:

US\$58.40; Canada and foreign: US\$65.20. Prices subject to change without notice.

Printed in U.S.A.

A Letter to Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Starting the first quarter of 2016, the GraceLink curriculum is receiving an update. Here's what you can expect:

- The lesson will be reviewed in Sabbath School that the children have studied at home during the week. We've looked at study patterns and recognize that this method continues to work well around the world.
- An opportunity will be provided for children to recite the memory verse that they have been encouraged to learn during the week.
- The Sharing the Lesson section of the lesson will be used for children to express their experiences in telling others what they are learning about God's love.
- A new section, Previewing the Next Lesson, will be used to build excitement for the following week's lesson.
- Lessons will be arranged in biblical chronological order.
- There will be a new design and layout for the student and teacher guide and new graphics for the student guide that will also be repurposed for other Sabbath School resources.
- There will be several new lessons that will provide a wider range of the biblical narrative.

Change is sometimes difficult. Rest assured, the new graphics will still be child-friendly and age-appropriate; there will still be a message for each lesson; there will still be creative activities, which will apply to all learning styles; and there will still be an active and interactive approach to conducting Sabbath School. See! Change, with some things still being the same. Please check the teachers guide very closely for further explanation of the new features and effective instruction and management strategies.

We pray that that the updates will provide support as our young ones continue to grow in Jesus and in His grace.

Contact us through our website at www.gracelink.net.

**With Affection,
The Editors**

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Special thanks to . . .

Special thanks to **Bailey Gillespie** and **Stuart Tyner** of the John Hancock Center for Youth Ministry at La Sierra University for initial work in planning the GraceLink curriculum, and to **Patricia A. Habada** for coordinating the GraceLink project and seeing it to completion.

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*Lesson dates correspond with the GraceLink curriculum’s recommended method of presenting the lesson first in Sabbath School and encouraging families to continue their study of the material during the week ahead. (See www.gracelink.net for a thorough discussion.) If your church is not presenting the material first in Sabbath School, but rather reviewing it on Sabbath after it has been introduced at home, you will need to adjust *Our Little Friend* distribution by one week.

Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development. The basic needs of children are:

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance

- Approval and recognition
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

The Kindergarten Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church we advocate kindergarten for children ages 3-5. However, the development of children varies from child to child. Therefore, a knowledge of each child in your Sabbath School is important. Generally, the description below is true of children ages 3-5.

Physical

- Start developing large muscle coordination
- Lack a sure sense of balance
- Are extremely active
- Tire easily, but revive soon after resting
- Lack fine muscle coordination
- Are curious and like to explore their environment
- Learn by exploring

Mental

- Are capable of limited listening and understanding without the help of a visual cue, such as seeing the object being discussed
- Have quick memory
- Memorize things they don't understand

Emotional

- Cry easily
- Are capable of verbalizing emotional responses
- Learn to delay gratification of needs without losing equilibrium
- Learn ways to express negative emotions

Social/Relational

- Are self-centered—the world revolves around them

- Play alone in the presence of their friends, rather than playing with their friends
- Like to make friends and be with friends

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs mentioned earlier, kindergarten children need:

- Freedom—to choose and to explore within limits
- Power—to have some autonomy in learning situations
- Limits—safe boundaries that are set by parents and teachers
- Fun—learning through play, enjoying success
- Discipline and training—to provide safety and structure in their lives

Spiritual Needs

Kindergarten children need to know:

- God loves them and cares for them
- How to show respect for God
- God made them, knows them, and values them
- The difference between right and wrong
- How to choose the right with God's help

General Rules

A child's attention span, in minutes, is their age plus one. Thus, an average 3-year-old has a potential attention span of four minutes, provided they are interested in what is happening.

Kindergarten children:

- Enjoy repetition—provided they don't tire
- Are beginning to reason from simple cause to effect
- Make some generalizations—often incorrectly
- Learn best by active participation
- Have a short attention span—3 to 6 minutes

*Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work, ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

About Materials

As you follow the natural learning sequence outlined in each lesson, you may want to adapt activities for use in your particular situation, and this may require a change in the need for materials. Look ahead at the Program Outline for each week's program so you can be prepared with the materials suggested.

Supplies Frequently Used in Kindergarten

Paper

- butcher paper (roll)
- construction paper (various colors)
- drawing paper
- finger-painting paper
- poster board
- writing paper

Art supplies

- aluminum foil
- cotton balls or polyester fiberfill
- craft sticks
- crayons, markers, colored pencils
- finger paints and watercolors
- glue or glue sticks
- hole punch
- magnetic tape (stick-on)
- pencils
- plastic wrap
- play dough or modeling clay
- scissors (blunt-nosed)
- stamp pads (various colors)

- stapler and staples
- string
- tape (cellophane, masking, etc.)
- thread, several colors
- toilet paper or paper towel rolls (empty)
- yarn, several colors

Other

- adhesive bandages
- bags, paper and plastic, all sizes
- balloons
- beanbag
- blindfold for each child
- blocks, boxes, or Legos
- boxes, large cardboard (appliance size)
- audio player
- chenille sticks or pipe cleaners
- costumes, Bible-times, for adults and children
- crown for each child
- cups, paper and plastic

- dolls (baby dolls)
- fabric pieces
- flashlight
- gifts (inexpensive)
- magnets, small
- paper clips (steel)
- paper towels/baby wipes
- plastic or newspaper to cover tables
- recorded nature sounds
- rubber bands
- sandwich bags, plastic sealable
- seeds (rice, beans, etc.)
- shoe boxes
- smocks/old shirts to cover children's clothes
- stickers, large variety
- towels, small
- toy musical instruments
- toy stuffed animals

Additional Supplies Needed This Quarter

In addition to those materials frequently used in kindergarten, specific items may be used only once during the quarter. A list of such items is included here for your convenience. Keep in mind that this list DOES NOT include everything needed to teach a given lesson.

Lesson 1

- Sharing Children pattern (see p. 150)
- toy for each child to hold
- pots, pans, bowls, spoons, etc.
- empty food boxes
- plates, silverware, napkins
- duster, rags, broom, mop
- items children can share
- food to share

Lesson 2

- large towels
- jigsaw pattern (see p. 151)
- Helper Certificate (see p. 152)

Lesson 3

- items (or pictures) from different countries and cultures
- bright light
- sheet hanging from ceiling
- adult storyteller dressed as Peter

Lesson 4

- "jail" (see activity)
- praying pictures (see p. 153)
- short lengths of chain

Lesson 5

- roll of gauze
- play doctor's kit
- items used by people who serve
- fabric, needle, and thread
- guest speaker (optional)
- letter to parents (see activity)

Lesson 6

- broom or stick
- transparent page protectors
- vegetable oil
- Braille alphabet pattern (see p. 154)
- Braille Jesus pattern (see p. 154)

Lesson 7

- various types of purple cloth
- red and blue food coloring
- map of Paul's journeys
- suitcase
- items to take on a trip
- bag (see activity)
- Bible-times felts (optional)
- guest speaker
- Welcome Friends door hanger pattern (see p. 155)
- heavy light-purple paper

Lesson 8

- chain
- two adult male actors
- rock
- cookie
- jump rope
- information about a missionary or missionary guest
- Memory Verse Chain pattern (see p. 155)

Lesson 9

- things good for sick people
- items not good for sick people
- pot or large pan
- small plastic boats
- vinegar
- baking soda
- shakers (optional)
- box boats from Readiness Activity
- A or sheet or masking tape
- umbrellas
- spray bottles for rain
- Boat pattern (see p. 156)
- wood for fire
- male voice of Paul
- walnut shell halves (optional)

Lesson 10

- Angel pattern (see p. 159)
- large white T-shirts (optional)

Lesson 11




- inexpensive gift for each child
- baby lotion
- music box
- straw
- Wise Men's gifts
- two wrapped gift boxes
- items or pictures of God's gifts
- picture of Jesus, a baby, or the word "Jesus"
- Angel Star pattern (see p. 160)

Lesson 12

- crepe paper, various colors
- mirror
- Bookmark pattern (see p. 161)

Lesson 13

- suitcase or bag
- items for packing suitcase
- Second Coming picture (see p. 162)

| Lesson | Bible Story | References | Memory Verse | Message | Materials |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|-------------|
|  COMMUNITY: We treat each other with love. | | | | | |
| Lesson 1 Oct. 3* | The early Christians share. | Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; AA 70-76 | Acts 4:32, NIV | God's children share what they have. | See p. 11. |
| Lesson 2 Oct. 10 | Deacons care for the needy. | Acts 6:1-7; AA 87-96 | Romans 12:13, ICB | God's people work together to help others. | See p. 21. |
| Lesson 3 Oct. 17 | God sends Peter a vision. | Acts 10; AA 132-142 | Acts 10:34, NIV | Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect. | See p. 31. |
| Lesson 4 Oct. 24 | Peter is put in prison. | Acts 12:1-19; AA 143-154 | Acts 12:5, ICB | In God's Family we pray for one another. | See p. 41. |
|  SERVICE: We serve by giving to others. | | | | | |
| Lesson 5 Oct. 31 | Dorcas | Acts 9:36-43; AA 131, 132 | Proverbs 14:21, ICB | Being kind to others makes us happy too. | See p. 51. |
| Lesson 6 Nov. 7 | Saul's sight is restored. | Acts 9:1-22; AA 112-125 | Acts 9:17, NIV | God leads us to serve others. | See p. 61. |
| Lesson 7 Nov. 14 | Saul becomes Paul, meets Lydia. | Acts 16:6-15; AA 211, 212, 218 | Acts 16:15, NIV | We serve God when we take care of others. | See p. 71. |
| Lesson 8 Nov. 21 | Paul and Silas in prison | Acts 16:16-34; AA 211-220 | 2 Corinthians 8:21, NIV | We share Jesus by doing what is right. | See p. 81. |
| Lesson 9 Nov. 28 | Paul and the shipwreck | Acts 27:13-28:10; AA 442-446 | 1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV | We serve others when we encourage them. | See p. 91. |
|  GRACE: God's grace is His gift to us. | | | | | |
| Lesson 10 Dec. 5 | An angel visits Mary. | Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-14; DA 43-48 | Hebrews 1:14, ICB | God sends angels to help us. | See p. 101. |
| Lesson 11 Dec. 12 | Wise Men and shepherds visit Baby Jesus. | Luke 2:15-20; Matthew 2:1, 10, 11; DA 48, 59-67 | Luke 2:11, NIV | Jesus is the best gift from God. | See p. 111. |
| Lesson 12 Dec. 19 | Baby Jesus is dedicated to God. | Luke 2:21-38; DA 50-58 | Psalms 127:3, ICB | God shares His gift with everyone. | See p. 121. |
| Lesson 13 Dec. 26 | Second Coming | Matthew 24:27, 30, 31, 42; John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rev. 1:7; GC 640-645 | Revelation 1:7, NIV | Jesus is coming soon! | See p. 131. |

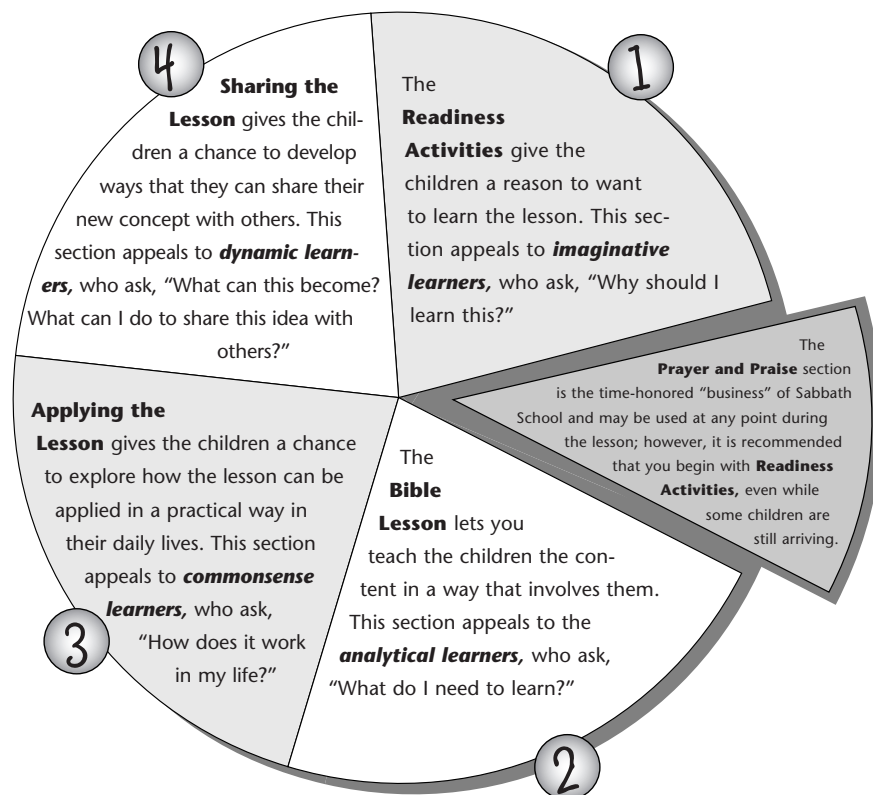
*Lesson dates correspond with the Gracelink curriculum's recommended method of presenting the lesson first in Sabbath School and encouraging families to continue their study of the material during the week ahead. (See www.gracelink.net for a thorough discussion.) If your church is not presenting the material first in Sabbath School, but rather reviewing it on Sabbath after it has been introduced at home, you will need to adjust *Our Little Friend* distribution by one week.

To the Leaders/Teachers

These guides were developed to:

- A. Introduce the lesson on Sabbath.** The child then reviews and applies the principles studied with the help of their parents and Bible study guides during the week. In this way, the lessons learned in Sabbath School become a vital part of the child's growing faith experience. Memory verses, which are also learned in Sabbath School, are reviewed and reinforced during the following week, connected in the child's mind with the interesting learning activities they have already experienced.

- B. Focus the entire Sabbath School time on one message.** These messages each relate to one of the four dynamics of a growing faith experience: grace (God loves me), worship (I love God), community (we love each other), and service (God loves you, too).



C. Reach each child in the way they learn best. By following the natural learning sequence on which these outlines were based, you will also connect students with “the message” for the week in a way that will capture each one’s attention and imagination.

D. Give students active learning experiences so they can more readily internalize the truths being presented. These experiences are followed by *debriefing* sessions in which you ask questions that lead the children to reflect on what they experienced, interpret the experience, and apply that information to their lives.

E. Involve the adult Sabbath School staff in new and flexible ways.

- A very small Sabbath School can be managed by one adult.
- A larger Sabbath School can be managed by one leader/teacher with other adult volunteers to facilitate the small group interaction. This gives small group facilitators a maximum involvement with the students and their dynamic learning, while requiring a minimum of preparation on the facilitator’s part.
- A creative alternative is to enlist leaders/teachers with different personal learning styles to lead different segments of the program.

(For more detailed information about the natural learning cycle, the learning styles, and other dynamics of teaching and learning, contact your Adventist Book Center or your Sabbath School or children’s ministries director.)

To use this guide . . .

Try to follow the natural learning cycle outlined, but adapt it as necessary to make the program work in your particular situation.

Look ahead at the Program Outline for each week’s program so you can be prepared with the simple materials suggested.

LESSON



New Friends

COMMUNITY

We treat each other with love.

References

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 70-76.

Memory Verse

"They shared everything they had" (Acts 4:32, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God asks us to share what we have with others who need help.

Feel a desire and excitement to share with others.

Respond by willingly sharing with others in need.

The Message



God's children share what they have.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The apostles are spreading the good news about Jesus in Jerusalem. Many new believers have come from far away and have stayed to learn more about Jesus. Many of them are running out of food and money. The Christians in Jerusalem share what they have with the new believers. No one has needs, because everyone is taken care of. One family shares their food with new believers who have come a long way to learn about Jesus.

This is a lesson about community.

Sharing is a concept to which all children can relate. They share with their siblings, their parents, neighborhood children, and others. In a Christian community people happily share what they have with others.

Teacher Enrichment

"This liberality on the part of the believers was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit. The converts to the gospel were 'of one heart and of one soul.' One com-

ONE

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Sharing Crayons</i> B. <i>Sharing Gifts</i> C. <i>Musical Toys</i> | Sharing Children pattern (see p. 140), paper, crayons stickers or other inexpensive gifts toys, audio player and recorded music or piano |
| * Prayer and Praise * | up to 10 | See page 16. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | pots, pans, bowls, spoons, baking dishes; empty food boxes; plates, silverware, napkins; duster; rags; broom; mop |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Easy and Hard</i> | various items (see activity), bag, <i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> songbook |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Food Share</i> | food to share, sealable plastic bags |

mon interest controlled them—the success of the mission entrusted to them; and covetousness had no place in their lives. Their love for their brethren and the cause they had espoused, was greater than their love of money and possessions” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 70, 71).

“None should be content to feed on the bread of life without sharing it with those around them” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 606).

“In a special sense, Christ has laid upon His church the duty of caring for the needy among its own members” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 201).

Are you willing to share everything?

Room Decorations

Create the atmosphere of Palestine during the first century A.D.—dry, barren, and dusty. Use rocks, sand, or dirt to add to the landscape. Recreate a simple home by using either cardboard boxes or a wood frame, painted stone color. Set up the house either as a house front or as an open front with two side walls and a back wall. Include a bedroll in the corner, a cardboard box stove (with a circle cut out and with sticks inside, or with just a circle drawn on top), a simple bench or chair, and a table.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Sharing Crayons

You Need:

- Sharing Children pattern (see p. 140)
- paper
- crayons

In advance, prepare a copy of the Sharing Children pattern (see page 140) for each child, and have several crayons of each color. Seat the children at different tables in groups. Give each group crayons of only one color. Ask the children to follow your directions exactly: color the picture, using different colors (color the shirt blue, the grass green, the shoes brown, etc.), and they may start with any color. The only way for the children to complete the picture as you instructed is to share colors. If you have a small group of children, give each child one color.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think about having only one color of crayon at your table? Were there enough crayons for everyone? How did you like sharing? How did you feel when someone shared with you? God loves it when we happily share with others. Our Bible story is about people who shared everything they had with others. They shared because they loved Jesus. Today's message is:**



God's children share what they have.

Say that with me.

B. Sharing Gifts

You Need:

- stickers or other inexpensive gifts

Give two items each to only half of the children. Ask them what they are going to do with both items. Some of the children will probably share; others may not. Allow time; then give gifts to the children with whom nothing was shared.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think about getting two things when others did not get any? How did it feel not to get anything? What did you think when someone shared with**

you? How did it feel to share with someone who did not get something? Is it important to share? Why? God loves it when we happily share with others. Our Bible story is about people who shared everything they owned with others. They were happy that they shared. Today's message is:



God's children share what they have.

Say that with me.

C. Musical Toys

Give a toy to each child. Say: **We're going to play a sharing game. Let's all sit in a circle and hold a toy. When the music is playing, pass the toy to the person next to you. Do it carefully. Keep passing the toys until the music stops. When the music stops, hold on to the toy you have, and say to the person who passed it to you, "Thank you for sharing."**

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How did you feel when you were being given toys?** (It was fun; happy.) **Did you want to keep any toy?** (varied answers) **We are God's children and God's children share with others. God loves it when we happily share with others. Our Bible story is about people who shared all they owned with others. They were happy that they shared, because they loved Jesus. Today's message is:**



God's children share what they have.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- toy for each child to hold
- audio player and recorded music or piano

*

NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 16.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- pots, pans, bowls, spoons, baking dishes, etc.
- empty food boxes
- plates, silverware, napkins
- duster
- rags
- broom
- mop

As you tell the story, be prepared to stop for an activity in which the children will pretend to prepare a meal and clean house. Have the items in place. (Try to have an item for each child or help the children imagine that they have them.) Form two groups. Have one group sit near the cleaning supplies. Have the other sit near the cooking utensils.

To begin, say: **Let's pretend that we lived during Bible times. We have heard the apostles preach and know that they are telling many people about Jesus. And we can help them in a special**

way. Let's listen to find out what we can do.

Read or tell the story.

"Do a good job now, little Deborah," Mama said with a smile. "We're going to have company for supper again tonight."

Deborah looked up. "Who is coming?" she asked.

"I don't know yet," Mama answered with a twinkle in her eye.

Mama pulled little Deborah onto her lap and kissed her rosy cheek. "I will explain it to you," Mama said.

"You know that the apostles are preaching the good news about Jesus all over our city. Hundreds of people are learning about Jesus every day," Mama began.

Deborah nodded.

"Well," Mama went on, "many of the new believers are from far away. They came to Jerusalem for the great feast. They heard the apostles and learned about Jesus, and now they want to stay here for a while and learn even more about Him. Some new believers from far

away have no more money. So we are helping them. We will share God's love with them by sharing our supper."

Deborah slid off Mama's lap. "I'd better hurry and finish sweeping," she said.

Mama mixed a batch of bread. She kneaded and pounded the dough and shaped it into loaves. She put the loaves in the oven. The wonderful smell of baking bread soon filled the house.

[Stop here and ask, "How can we help?" Have the children pretend to clean house and make bread. Allow a few minutes; then have the children sit down. Continue the story.]

There was a knock at the door. Mama's friend scurried in. "I have extra lentils," she announced as she put a heavy sack on the table. "I thought you might be able to use them," she smiled.

"That's a lot of lentils, Mama," little Deborah said.

"You're right," Mama agreed. She picked up the big sack and weighed it in her hands. "God is providing extra food. This will make lots of soup. God must be bringing lots of people to supper tonight," she said.

[Stop here and allow time for the cooking group to "make soup" while the other group cleans some more; then continue.]

"How is my beautiful family?" Papa's booming voice filled the house. He scooped little Deborah up and gave her a gigantic hug. He put an arm around Mama and hugged her, too. "That soup sure smells good!" Papa exclaimed, peering into the big pot. "You make the best soup in all of Jerusalem!"

"We're sharing our supper!"

Deborah exclaimed. She twirled across the floor. "We're sharing God's love with the new believers."

"I know," Papa said. He squatted down and held little Deborah's face between his hands. "I will get cleaned up, and then you and Mama and I will go to the place where the apostles are teaching. We will find hungry believers and bring them home and feed them. I'm glad to see you have everything ready."

"And while we eat we will talk about Jesus," Deborah said. "That's my favorite part!"

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think that people who shared during the time of the apostles thought about sharing? How do you think the people who got the food felt?**

Why did the people share? (They loved God; so no one would be hungry or cold.) **What do you think they shared?** (food, houses, clothes, sandals)

They shared everything they had. Do you think it was easy or hard for them to share? (easy) **Why?** (They loved Jesus so much that they wanted to take care of the new believers.) **Do you want to share too? What do you want to share? Let's say our message together:**



God's children share what they have.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-35. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What kinds of things were the apostles doing?** (miracles)

What did the believers do with all they had? (They sold some things and gave the money to people who needed help; they gave things to others.) **How many of their things did they share?** (everything) **Where did they meet every day?** (in the Temple courts) **What did they do every day?** (They ate together in their homes; praised God; prayed; told others about Jesus.)

Do you want to share what you have with others who need help? How can you do that? Remember . . .



God's children share what they have.

Memory Verse

Turn to Acts 4:32 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"They shared everything they had."** Then use the motions to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

- They** Point to others.
- shared** Hands outstretched toward others.
- everything they had.** Arms outstretched.
- Acts 4:32** Palms together, then open.



PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study, and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Teach Us to Share" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 242)

"Share With You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 277)

"Sharing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 278)

"Sharing Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 279)

"We Are Sharing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 280)

Mission

Say: **God has children around the world. Let us listen closely to a story about one of God's children.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **God loves seeing us happily share our money with others who are in need. Giving money is one way we share with others.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me: Thank You, Jesus, for helping us to happily share what You have given us. Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson**Easy and Hard****You Need:**

- various items (see activity)
- bag
- Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

In a bag, place things that the children can share with others (food, toys, clothes, shoes, etc.). Let each child choose one item. Allow responses as you ask:

What do you have that you can share?

Have the children practice sharing with others while they sing "Sharing Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 279).

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Do we share only what we have a lot of? Do we share even when we have only a little? Why? Is it hard or easy to share? What is hard for you to share? Why? God will help you share when it is hard. Let's say our message together again:**



God's children share what they have.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Food Share****You Need:**

- food to share
- sealable plastic bags

Plan some simple food for the children to prepare and take home in a sealable plastic bag. Examples of simple food: crackers with cheese, celery sticks

with peanut butter (or other favorite spread) and raisins on top, or whatever is available in your area/country. Tell the children they will make one treat for themselves and one for someone else. They are to take both treats home, decide on someone to share with, and eat together at a time that is appropriate.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think about making some food for someone else? With whom will you share it? When? How do you think they will like the treat? Do you like making food to share? I am glad you are willing to share with others. Let's say our message together one last time:**



God's children share what they have.

Closing

Say a short prayer thanking Jesus that we can share what we have with others.

STUDENT LESSON

New Friends

References

Acts 2:42-47;
4:32-35; *The Acts of the Apostles*,
pp. 70-76

Memory Verse

"They shared everything they had" (Acts 4:32, NIV).

The Message

God's children share what they have.

Do you like to have company come to dinner? A long time ago some people were just learning about Jesus. Let's imagine how one little girl and her family shared with them.

"Do a good job now, little Deborah," Mama said with a smile. "Company is coming to supper again tonight."

Deborah looked up. "Who is coming?" she asked.

"I don't know yet," Mama answered with a twinkle in her eye.

Mama sat and pulled little Deborah onto her lap and kissed her rosy cheek. "I will explain it to you," Mama said.

"The apostles are preaching the good news about Jesus all over our city. They are preaching with great power. Hundreds of people are learning about Jesus every day," Mama began.

Deborah nodded. She knew the apostles were telling everyone about Jesus.

"Well," Mama went on, "many of the new believers are from far away. They came to Jerusalem for the great feast. They heard the apostles and learned about Jesus, and now they want to stay for a while and learn even more about Him. Some are running out of money. So we are helping them. We will share God's love with them by sharing our supper."

Deborah slid off Mama's lap. "I'd better hurry and finish sweeping," she said.

Mama mixed a batch of bread. She kneaded the dough and shaped it into loaves. She put the loaves in the oven. The wonderful smell of baking bread

soon filled the house.

There was a knock on the door. Mama's friend scurried in. "I have extra lentils," she said, putting a heavy sack on the table. "I thought you might be able to use them," she said with a laugh as she left.

"That's a lot of lentils, Mama," little Deborah said.

"You're right," Mama agreed. She picked up the big sack and weighed it in her hands. "God is providing extra food. This will make lots of soup. God must be bringing lots of people to supper tonight," she said.

"How is my beautiful family?" Papa's booming voice filled the house. He scooped little Deborah up and

gave her a gigantic hug. He put an arm around Mama and hugged her, too. "That soup sure smells good!" Papa exclaimed, peering into the big pot.

"We're sharing our supper!" Deborah exclaimed. She twirled across the floor. "We're sharing God's love with the new believers."

"I know," Papa said. "I will get cleaned up, and then we will go to the apostles. We will find hungry believers and bring them home and feed them."

"And while we eat we will talk about Jesus," Deborah said. "That's my favorite part!"



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and use the following to review the memory verse:

They Point to others.

shared Hands outstretched toward others.

everything Arms outstretched.

they had.

Acts 4:32. Palms together, then open.

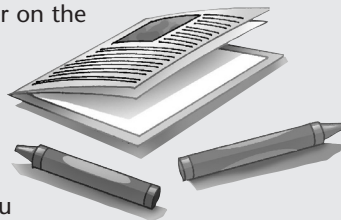
Sunday

Encourage your child to share the food they made in Sabbath School with someone. Or help your child make some simple food and share it with someone. Talk about how people in Jerusalem shared everything they had with those in need.

Monday

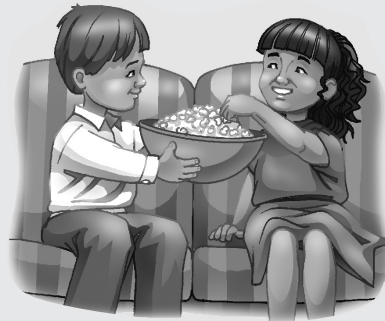
Help your child make a “good news” book. Cut a rectangle from newspaper, fold it in half, and glue white paper on the inside. Write “Jesus Loves You.” Draw a picture to illustrate that. Share the “good news” book with someone.

At supper, pretend you are sharing your home and food with new believers.



Tuesday

Share a special food with your child. Ask: How do you feel when people don't share with you? How do you feel when people do share? Why does Jesus want us to share?



Wednesday

Invite someone new at your church to Sabbath dinner. Or let your child invite a friend to share food and toys.

Sing a sharing song together before prayer.

Thursday

Read Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-35 together. Ask: What would it be like to be far away from home and have no food or place to stay? What can we share with someone in need?

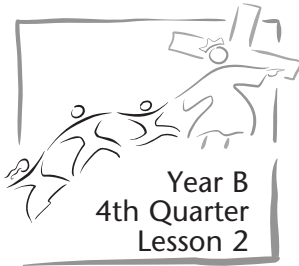
Share the crayons as you color a picture with your child.

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Include things you can share: food, blankets, clothing, etc.

Name and count the people with whom your family has shared good things this week. Pray for those people.

LESSON



Seven Special Helpers

COMMUNITY We treat each other with love.

References

Acts 6:1-7; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 87-96.

Memory Verse

“Share with God’s people who need help” (Romans 12:13, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that it takes many people working together to help those in need.

Feel a desire to be involved in helping others.

Respond by working together with others to help people in need.

The Message



God’s people work together to help others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Greek believers complain that their widows are not being as well cared for as the Hebrew widows. There are so many new people joining the church and so much work to do that the disciples become too busy. They decide to choose deacons to care for people who are in need. They choose seven good men to look after those who are poor, sick, or elderly.

This is a lesson about community.

People in a Christian community help

each other. Even the youngest child can do something to help others. This is an opportunity to talk with the children about being helpers at home and in their neighborhood. They can have a part in showing love to others too.

Teacher Enrichment

“The organization of the church at Jerusalem was to serve as a model for the organization of churches in every other place where messengers of truth should win converts to the gospel. Those to whom was given the responsibility

TWO

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Balloon Pass</i> B. <i>Jigsaw Pictures</i> | large towels, balloons jigsaw pattern (see p. 141), paper, scissors, crayons |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 23. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | none |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | A. <i>Scenarios</i> B. <i>Offering Help</i> | none deacon (optional) |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Official Helper Certificate</i> | Official Helper Certificate pattern (see p.142), paper, crayons |

of the general oversight of the church were not to lord it over God's heritage, but, as wise shepherds, were to 'feed the flock of God, . . . being ensamples to the flock' (1 Peter 5:2, 3); and the deacons were to be 'men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.' These men were to take their position unitedly on the side of right and to maintain it with firmness and decision. Thus they would have a uniting influence upon the entire flock" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 91).

"Our work in this world is to live for others' good, to bless others, to be hospitable; and frequently it may be only at some inconvenience that we can enter-

tain those who really need our care and the benefit of our society and our homes. Some avoid these necessary burdens. But someone must bear them; and because the brethren in general are not lovers of hospitality, and do not share equally in these Christian duties, a few who have willing hearts, and who cheerfully make the cases of those who need help their own, are burdened" (*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 645; *Christian Service*, p. 191).

How are you an influence for unity in your church?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Balloon Pass

You Need:

- large towels
- balloons

Have a large towel and an inflated balloon for each group of 10-12 children. Have the children form two lines, standing shoulder to shoulder, each line facing the other. The first pair in the line stretches out a towel between them with a balloon balanced on it. They pass the towel to the next pair without letting the balloon fall off. That pair passes it to the next and so on down the line. If the balloon falls off, they need to start from the beginning again.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Can you do this without a partner to hold the other end of the towel? (no) What can we learn about helping others from this activity? Sometimes there is too much work for one person to do. They need help. Our Bible story today is about some special people who worked to help others. How can we work together to help people in need? Let's think about that as we say today's message:**



God's people work together to help others.

Say that with me.

B. Jigsaw Pictures

You Need:

- jigsaw pattern (see p. 141)
- paper
- scissors
- crayons

In advance, prepare several copies of the jigsaw pattern (see page 141). Cut all but one of the copies into quarters. Put the uncut picture on the floor or a table. As each child comes into Sabbath School, give them a quarter piece of a picture, and direct them to the crayons. Ask them to color their pictures. Children who come early may have time to color more than one. When all the pictures are colored, ask the children to match their pieces to make a picture like the uncut copy.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Haven't you made some lovely pictures?**

Did anyone do a whole picture by themselves? (no) What lovely things for God we can do when we work together! Our Bible story is about some special people who worked together to help others. What do you think about working together to help people in need? Today's message is:



God's people work together to help others.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Plenty of Room in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 248)

"Our Church Is a Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 257)

"Something Nice" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 261)

"Care for One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 262)

"Let Us Do Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 263)

Mission

Say: **People around the world who love Jesus work together to help others. Listen to see who the helper is in this story.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **One way we can work together to help others is by giving our money to help people in need.**

Prayer

Have the children name people they know who are in need. (sick, hungry, homeless, etc.) Write these names where all can see. Pray for these people by name. Then pray for each child by name that Jesus will be with them as they help others. (Large group should form smaller prayer groups.)

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson**Experiencing the Story**

Involve the children in the story by giving them the opportunity to discuss each part as indicated.

Read or tell the story.

"What is all that noise?" Peter asked.

Matthew sighed. "Some of the new believers are arguing again," he answered.

"What are they arguing about?" Peter asked.

"Well," Matthew explained, "some of the believers—the ones who speak the Greek language—are complaining that the widows in their group aren't getting as much food to eat as the Hebrew widows." Matthew sighed again. "It's so sad to hear them argue," he said.

[Allow responses as you ask: **How do you feel when you hear people argue? What does your mom, dad, grandparent, sister, brother, say when you argue? Let's see what Peter thinks of arguing.**]

Peter said to Matthew, "Arguing is wrong! Our Lord does not want His children arguing like this. It certainly doesn't show His love to the unbelievers! Let's call the people together and see what we can do about this problem."

[Allow responses as you ask: **What do you do when you argue? How do you fix it? Now let's see how the apostles solved their problem.**]

So the apostles brought all the believers in Jesus together. "We apostles do not want to have to stop our work of preaching and teaching the Word of God in order to serve food," they began. "We have an idea. Pick seven good men.

Men who are wise. Men who are filled with the Holy Spirit. We will put them in charge of the food. They will see that everyone gets the food they need."

The believers looked at each other and smiled. It was a good idea. It was a good way to be sure that everyone was treated fairly and that everyone would have enough food.

[Say: **Today we will pick seven people just as the believers did.**

Whom shall we pick? Pick seven children in the class. Then explain that after the seven were chosen, the apostles stood in a circle around the seven. Have the remaining children form a circle around the seven.

Say: **The apostles put their hands on the seven. Let's put our hands on our seven people. Then the apostles prayed that God would bless the seven men and help them take care of the widows and give out the food.** Ask the children to return to their seats/places.]

These new helpers were called deacons. The deacons took care of the widows. This way the apostles were able to tell more people about Jesus. We can help take care of others too. When we bring our offerings or take some food or clothing to Community Services, we are helping to care for others just as the seven deacons did.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How do you think the widows felt about the seven deacons? What do you think about choosing people to help those who are sick or elderly and feed those who are hungry? How do you think the new deacons felt when**

they were chosen? Why do you think the apostles put their hands on them and prayed for them? Do you have to wait to be chosen to help others? What can you do to help widows and elderly people in our church? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:

 God's people work together to help others.

Note: Take this opportunity to talk about junior deacons if you have some in your church. Or talk about the significance of the "laying on of hands" in a ceremony to set aside deacons and elders today.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 6:1-7. Point to the verses and say: **This is where today's story**

is found in the Bible. Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who was arguing? Why were they arguing? How did the apostles decide to get fair treatment for all the widows? How many people were chosen to be deacons? What were they to do? What do you think about helping others? Should deacons be the only ones to help others? Who else can help? How can you help? Remember . . .**

 God's people work together to help others.

Memory Verse

Turn to Romans 12:13 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud.

"Share with God's people who need help." Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

Share

Pretend to distribute something.



with God's people

Point to others.



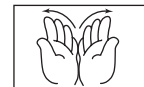
who need help.

Put hands together with sad look on face.



Romans 12:13

Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson

A. Scenarios

Say: **Peter and the other apostles needed helpers. There was too much work to do by themselves. Does our church still need helpers today? Listen to these little stories, and tell me how that person could help.**

1. **John sees a ball of wrinkled-up paper in the hallway by his Sabbath School room. What can John do to help?** (Pick up the paper and throw it away.)
2. **A deacon is looking for someone to hold the children’s offering basket for church. What can Peggy do to help?** (Offer to hold the basket.)
3. **A grandma in Sasha’s church is so sick that she can’t come to church anymore. What can Sasha do to help her?** (Visit her; make her a card and send it; call her on the phone and sing to her; etc.)
4. **Justin’s church is asking for people to help with yard work on Sunday. What can Justin do to help?** (Rake leaves; pull weeds.)
5. **Manuel’s family stayed for potluck after church. Now people are helping to clean up. What can Manuel do to help?** (Throw away trash; help put chairs away; etc.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do you think about helping at church? Can you work together to help people in the church? Remember to look for ways you can help at church or wherever you are. Let’s say our message again:**



God’s people work together to help others.

B. Offering Help

You Need:

- deacon (optional)

Plan ahead to have the children help the deacons collect the offering or distribute bulletins this week. Invite a deacon to come in and explain what deacons do, how they do it, and help organize the children for the help they will give before or during the church service.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you feel about helping people at church? How can you work together to help people in church today? Remember to look for ways you can help people all week wherever you are. Let’s say our message together again:**



God’s people work together to help others.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Official Helper Certificate

You Need:

- Official Helper Certificate pattern (see p. 142)
- paper
- crayons

certificate.

In advance, prepare a copy of the Official Helper Certificate for each child (see page 142). Write in your church's name. Help the children write their name on the blank line, and have them color the border on the

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know what this paper is for? It says you are an official helper of the** (name your church). **It's for you to take home and share with someone as you do something to help them.**

Be sure to keep your eyes open and find a way to help someone at church today or sometime during the week. Just as the deacons in our story were able to help others in need, so can we. How do you think the people we help will feel? How will you feel? Let's say our message together one last time:



God's people work together to help others.

Closing

Say: **Because you are working together to help others, we want to have a special prayer for you, too.**

Have the teachers stand around the children and place their hands on them during the prayer. If you have a large class, form smaller groups. Say: **Thank You, Jesus, for** (name all the children). **Please bless them as they work together to help others. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Seven Special Helpers

References

Acts 6:1-7;
*The Acts of the
 Apostles*, pp.
 87-96

Memory Verse

“Share with
 God’s people
 who need help”
 (Romans 12:13,
 ICB).

The Message

God’s people
 work
 together to
 help others.

Do you like working with your mom or dad while you make a cake or wash the car? It’s more fun to share the work. A long time ago some people were chosen to help the apostles in a special way.

“What is all that noise?” Peter asked. Matthew sighed. “Some of the new believers are arguing again,” he answered.

“What are they arguing about?” Peter asked.

“Well,” Matthew explained, “some of the believers who are not from our area—the ones who speak the Greek

language—are complaining that the widows in their group aren’t getting as much food to eat as the Hebrew widows.” Matthew sighed again. “It’s so sad to hear them argue.”

“Well, arguing is wrong!” Peter said firmly. “Let’s call the people together and see what we can do about this.”

So that is what they did. When the believers were gathered together, the apostles stood up and spoke. “We apostles do not want to have to stop our work of preaching and teaching the Word of God in order to serve food. We have an idea,” they said. “Pick seven good men. Men who are wise. Men who are filled with the Holy Spirit. We will put them in charge of giving food to the widows.”

The believers smiled at each other. It was a good idea. It was a good solution.

So the believers set about choosing

the seven men. And they chose carefully. They chose men who were wise and full of the Holy Spirit. They chose men who were honest and truthful. Then the believers brought the seven new helpers, Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, to the apostles.



The apostles were pleased. They gathered around the seven men and laid their hands on them and prayed. This meant that the seven were being set aside to do a special work for God. The apostles prayed that God would bless the men and help them take care of the widows.

So the apostles were able to continue their own special work of praying and preaching and teaching. More and more people heard the Word of God. More and more became believers in Jesus. All kinds of people believed. Shopkeepers and farmers. Weavers and sandal makers. Even some of the priests from the Temple.

All the believers were important in the family of God. And the poor widows who needed food were loved and cared for. We can be God’s helpers too. What can we do to help hungry people?

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story and review the memory verse:

Share Pretend to distribute something.

with God's people . . Point to others.

who need help Put hands together with sad look on face.

Romans 12:13 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share their Official Helper Certificate made in Sabbath School with a church member as they do something to care for that person (send an encouraging note, help with yard work, deliver food [accompanied by a parent], sing a song, etc.).

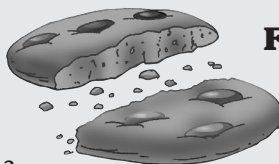
Monday

How many deacons did the apostles select to help them? (seven) Help your child list seven ways to help others.

Work with your child to do a chore. Discuss how much easier it is to do it together. Talk to them about the apostles and the deacons.

Tuesday

Ask your child: If there is only one cookie and two people want it, would there be an argument? How could you solve that problem?



What do you argue about? (Where to sit in the car, who gets to play with a toy, etc.) Help your child solve the problem.

Before prayer, sing a caring song.

Wednesday

Read together Acts 6:1-7. Ask: What do you think about helping others? How do you think the widows felt about the seven men?

Have your child feed you some food; then you feed them. Ask: How does it feel to help someone? To be helped?



Thursday

Help your child make something for someone who is sick.

Have your child pretend that they are a health-care worker and that you are hurt. They can use strips of cloth for bandages. Talk about how the seven deacons took care of sick people too.

Pray for someone in your church who is sick.

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Have seven toys represent the seven deacons. Have your child point to them one by one as you read the deacons' names.

LESSON



Two Men and a Strange Message

COMMUNITY

We treat each other with love.

References

Acts 10; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 132-142.

Memory Verse

"God does not show favoritism" (Acts 10:34, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God accepts everyone and wants children to welcome new people as friends.

Feel happy that God made everyone unique.

Respond by being friends with children in our church family and those from other cultures.

The Message

Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God sends to Cornelius an angel who tells him to send for the apostle Peter. Cornelius does so, but before the men reach Peter, God sends a vision to Peter. Peter is puzzled. When the men sent by Cornelius arrive, Peter realizes what the dream means, and he goes with them. Cornelius and his family and friends hear the message and are visited by the Holy Spirit. They praise God. Peter baptizes them, then stays with them for a few days

to continue teaching them about Jesus.

This is a lesson about community.

God loves and accepts all people, no matter how they look, where they come from, or which language they speak. God sent Peter to teach some people from another culture about His love. We can share God's love with others too.

Teacher Enrichment

"Christ tears away the wall of parti-

THREE

| Program Outline | | | |
|--|----------|---|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Cultural Awareness</i> B. <i>God's Children</i> | items (or pictures) from different countries and cultures chair, bright light, black paper, scissors, marker |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 33. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | sheet hanging from ceiling, toy stuffed animals, adult storyteller dressed as Peter |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Sabbath School Members</i> | none |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Animal Masks</i> | paper plates, string/yarn, construction paper, glue, crayons, craft materials |

tion, the dividing prejudice of nationality, and teaches a love for all the human family. He lifts men from the narrow circle which their selfishness prescribes; He abolishes all territorial lines and artificial distinctions of society. He makes no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 823).

"Cornelius implicitly obeyed the instruction, and the same angel went to Peter, and gave him his instructions. This chapter [Acts 10] has much precious counsel in it for us, and we should study it with humble attention. . . . Both Cornelius and Peter were instructed what they were to do, and

they obeyed the angel's word. Cornelius gathered his household together to hear the message of light from Peter. If he had said, I will not be taught of any man, the angel of God would have left him to himself; but this was not his attitude (*Review and Herald*, Oct. 10, 1893)" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 6, p. 1060).

How is God using you to teach children to love others without prejudice?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1. Add to the house a sheet hanging from the ceiling and filled with toy stuffed or plastic animals.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Cultural Awareness

You Need:

- items (or pictures) from different countries and cultures

Create a learning center about different cultures. Place items on a table for the children to see. Explain the different items to them. If you do not have access to many objects, collect pictures. Or invite someone from a different country or culture to come and share information.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What did you learn about** (name a few of the cultures represented)? **What would it be like to be a member of** (name of culture)? **Do you think people who wear clothes that are different from yours feel bad when they are sick? Do you think they are happy when they get a gift? Do you think children of other cultures love their families? All God's children are loved by God. Our Bible story is about a dream Peter had that helped him understand that God loves everyone the same, regardless of their looks or the language they speak. Those who love God will treat others the way God treats them. Today's message is:**



Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

Say that with me.

B. God's Children

You Need:

- chair
- bright light
- black paper
- scissors
- marker

In advance, tape black paper to the wall. Place a chair in front of the paper. Have a child sit in the chair, and shine a light on the side of the child's head, creating a profile outline on the black paper. Trace the profile; then cut along the line, creating a silhouette of the child. Place the silhouette on a bulletin board with the words "God's Kids." Repeat the activity for each child. You might also write the child's name and birth date near each silhouette. (This activity works best if you use it during another activity, inviting one child at a time from the other activity.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you like getting your picture made this way? Can you tell which picture is you? Do we all look the same? We are all different, but we are all God's children, and He loves us all. Our Bible story is about a time when Peter learned that God loves everyone the same, regardless of their looks or the language they speak. Today's message is:**



Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Fellowship**

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "Jesus Loves Even Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 101)
- "Jesus Loves the Children" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 106)
- "Buddies" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 256)
- "Our Church Is a Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 257)
- "Let Us Do Good to All Men" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 265)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*. Discuss the culture of the children in the story.

Offering

Say: **One way we can show love to people from other cultures is to give our money to help them teach others about Jesus too.**

Prayer

Let each child choose a picture or felt of a house, child, or object from another culture. Briefly talk about what country it represents. Then have the children pray for the children in the culture they chose. You may have to ask them to repeat after you. Say: **God bless the children in** (name of country) **or God bless the** (name of people group) **children. End with: Thank You, Jesus, for hearing our prayer. Amen.**

You Need:

- felts or pictures or objects from another culture

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- sheet hanging from ceiling
- toy stuffed animals
- adult storyteller dressed as Peter

Have a sheet hanging from the ceiling with toy stuffed or plastic animals in it. Have the children make a face of an animal whenever you talk about animals (elephant: put arm up to face like trunk; dog: pant with tongue out, hands up on chest begging; rabbit: put hands on top of head like ears; pig: squish nose up with finger to make snout; bird: flap arms; rhino: stick hand out from forehead for tusk; etc.).

Have an adult male dressed as Peter in Bible-times costume tell the story.

Read or tell the story.

Children, I have the most exciting story to tell you today. Oh, by the way, my name is Peter, and I had a vision about animals. Do you like animals? Animals such as pigs and donkeys and snakes? Every time I talk about animals, I want you to silently pretend you are an animal for a minute.

One day I was visiting some friends in Joppa, a city by the sea. I went up on the roof of the house to pray. I was getting very hungry, and lunch was almost ready. I decided to pray until it was time to eat. But something wonderful happened! Right in the middle of my prayer I had a vision!

Do you know what a vision is? Visions are a bit like dreams. But visions give a message from God to a person.

In this vision I saw a big sheet coming down from heaven. It was full of all kinds of **animals and birds**. [Point to the room decorations.] Then I heard a voice say, "Kill the **animals** and eat them, Peter." I said, "I can't do that, Lord! I've never eaten unclean food!" I heard the voice again. "Do not call unclean what God has made clean."

I saw this vision of the **animals** two more times! I was very confused. Then the Holy Spirit interrupted my thinking and told me I was to go downstairs because three men were looking for me. I was to take a trip with them and not to worry about it.

The next day I took six of my friends with me, and we walked with the messengers to Cornelius's house. Cornelius lived about 30 miles away. That was a long walk. On the way I found out that Cornelius prayed to learn more about God. An angel had come and told him where to find me, and to send some people to get me.

I am a Jew. And when I lived, a long time ago, Jews would not go into the house of a person who was not a Jew. Well, I soon learned what the vision meant. God wanted me to go into Cornelius's house even though he was not Jewish. I learned that God loves all people. And He wants His children to learn to love all people too.

When I went into Cornelius's house, I found it full of people—his friends and all of his family. He was so glad to see me and to learn about Jesus. After I told them about Jesus, Cornelius and his family decided to follow Jesus and be baptized.

I learned something very important at that time. I learned that God loves everybody, no matter what language they speak or what color their skin is or where in the world they live. And God wants you and me to love them too.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How do you think Peter felt when he saw the vision about animals? What did Peter see in the vision? What was God telling Peter? Did Peter listen**

to God? Did Cornelius listen to God?

Both Peter and Cornelius listened to God, and they learned to love each other even though they came from different countries. Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 10. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What two men were visited by an angel? (Cornelius and Peter)

What did Peter see in his vision? (He saw a sheet being let down to earth with all kinds of animals in it.)

What did God tell Peter to do? (Kill and eat the animals.) **What did this mean?** (Peter should love all kinds of people, even those of different nationalities and cultures.)

What did Peter do at Cornelius's house? (He preached about Jesus and baptized Cornelius, his relatives, and his friends.)

What does God want you to do? (Respect and accept others, including people from other cultures.) **Remember . . .**



Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

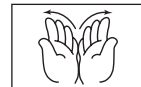
Memory Verse

Turn to Acts 10:34 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"God does not show favoritism."** Then teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

- God** Point upward.
- does not** Shake head "no" and wag finger.
- show favoritism.** Touch finger to chin.
- Acts 10:34** Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson**Sabbath School Members**

Ask the children the following questions, and have the children raise their hands if they can answer yes to any of your questions. Say: **Who:**

1. Plays a musical instrument?
2. Likes spinach (or other green vegetable)?
3. Was born in January?
4. Sleeps with a favorite toy stuffed animal?
5. Lives in an apartment?
6. Likes to play in the dirt?
7. Has a pet?
8. Likes purple?
9. Has an older brother?
10. Can count to 20?

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Did everybody say yes to all these**

questions? Do we all like the same things? Can we all do the same things? Are we all alike? (No.)

God knows we are all different, and He loves us just as we are. He asks us to love one another as He loves us.

Others may dress differently, speak a different language, look different from us, or eat different foods than we do. But God loves them! And He wants us to understand and love them too.

We are all different, but we can still love and accept one another. Whom does God love? So whom should we love? Let's say our message together again:



Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Animal Masks****You Need:**

- paper plates
- string/yarn
- construction paper
- glue
- crayons
- craft materials (buttons, sequins, etc.)

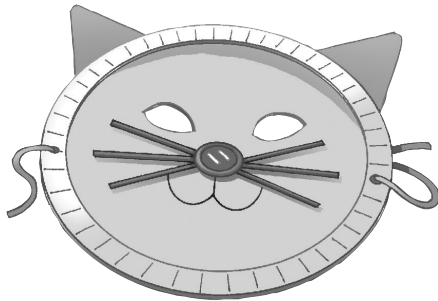
Have the children make animal masks.

Depending on the abilities of the children, you may want to prepare the masks ahead of time and let the children color/decorate them.

Make the masks from paper plates. Cut eyes out, and punch holes on the edges to fasten string or yarn.

Cut out ears ahead of

time for children to glue onto the plate. Examples of animals: horse, dog, cat. (See illustration.)

**Debriefing**

Say: **You can take your animal mask home with you to help you remember the vision God gave to Peter. It had animals in it, but it really wasn't about animals. Who can tell me what it was about?** (God made all people; God loves all the people He made; He treats everyone equally.)

Yes, God made all His children different and special, and He loves them. God doesn't love some people more than others because of how they look or talk or dress.

God loves all the people He made, and He wants us to love them as He does. Tell the Bible story and that special message from God to someone this week as you share the animal mask you made.

Let's say our message together one last time:



Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

Closing

Ask God to help us love one another and to show that love to everyone.

STUDENT LESSON

Two Men and a Strange Message

References

Acts 10; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 132-142

Memory Verse

“God does not show favoritism” (Acts 10:34, NIV).

The Message

Those who love God will treat others with understanding and respect.

Who preaches in your church each Sabbath? Peter was used to preaching about Jesus to only the Jews. However, God had other plans for him.

One afternoon a good man, Cornelius, knelt in prayer in his room. Although he was not Jewish, he believed in God and prayed often. Suddenly an angel stood in front of him. Cornelius was frightened. “What do you want?” he whispered.

“God has heard your prayers,” the angel said kindly. “And God wants you to send some men to Joppa to find a man named Simon Peter. Ask him to come and visit you.” Then the angel disappeared.

Cornelius immediately obeyed.

The next day, as Cornelius’s servants neared Joppa, Peter climbed to the flat rooftop of the house where he was staying. Peter was hungry. He decided to pray until it was time to eat. While Peter was praying, he had a vision. He saw a big sheet coming down from heaven, filled with all kinds of animals and birds. A voice said, “Kill the animals and eat them, Peter.”

“I can’t do that, Lord!” Peter exclaimed. “I have never eaten unclean food.”

Peter heard the voice again. “God has made these things clean. Don’t call them unclean.”

Peter saw the same vision two more

times, and he was puzzled. Then the Holy Spirit interrupted his thoughts. “Three men are downstairs looking for you. Go with them. I have sent them to you.”

Peter went right downstairs and met Cornelius’s three messengers. “I am the man you want,” he said.

So the next day Peter, some friends, and the messengers journeyed to Cornelius’s house. As he walked, Peter thought about his vision. He finally understood what it meant.

When they arrived, they found a house

full of people. Peter said to Cornelius, “God has shown me that He loves all people. And He has sent me to tell you the good news about Jesus.”

Peter then taught the people everything he knew about Jesus. And they believed. As Peter was talking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all the people, and they began to praise God loudly. Cornelius, his family, and his friends were soon baptized.

Peter had learned something very important: God loves everybody, no matter what language they speak or what color their skin is or where they live. And that is what God wants us to know and do too.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and re-view the memory verse:

God Point upward.

does not Shake head no and wag finger.

show favoritism. . . . Touch middle finger to chin.

Acts 10:34 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Read selected parts of Acts 10 with your child. Ask: What would you think if you saw a sheet with animals in it? Who was happy at the end of the story? Why? Whom does God love? Whom can we love?

Before prayer, sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

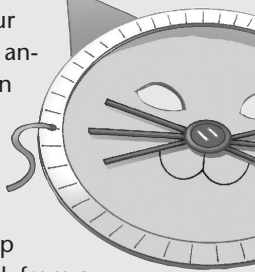
Monday

Make a collage (lots of old magazine pictures glued together on a piece of paper) of faces of people from around the world. Or look at pictures from a book. Talk to your child about God's love for all people, no matter what they look like or where they live.

Tuesday

Together, plan and make a special supper with a food theme from another country (Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Indian, etc.).

Wednesday

Encourage your child to share the animal mask made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Peter and Cornelius. (Or help them make a mask from a paper plate [ideas: horse, cat, dog, etc.]


Thursday

Take a 15-minute walk, and explain that it took Peter all day to walk 33 miles from Joppa to Cornelius's house. Talk about the difference between one mile and 33 miles. (Relate the distance to something they know.) Ask: Would you like to walk that far?

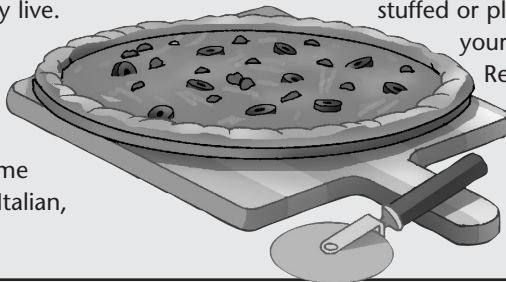
Friday

As a family, act out the Bible story. Gather toy stuffed or plastic animals and a sheet. Have your child tell about the animals.

Remember to have Peter and

Cornelius greet each other with open arms as an act of friendship and acceptance.

Ask Jesus to help you and your family love others.



LESSON



In and Out of Prison

COMMUNITY

We treat each other with love.

References

Acts 12:1-19; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 143-154.

Memory Verse

“The church kept on praying to God for him” (Acts 12:5, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God hears our prayers for those who are in trouble.

Feel sympathy for those who are in trouble.

Respond by praying for those who are in trouble and by believing that God will answer their prayer.

The Message



In God’s family we pray for one another.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Peter is put in prison for teaching about Jesus. His friends pray for him. God hears their prayers and sends an angel to lead him out of prison in a wonderful way. When he goes to see his friends, they are surprised and very happy. They pray again—to thank God for bringing Peter back to them.

This is a lesson about community.

Peter’s friends cared about him. They prayed together for his safety. When we pray for others, we are caring about them. People in God’s family pray for one another.

Teacher Enrichment

“The members of the church had time for deep searching of heart and earnest

FOUR

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Thrown Into Prison</i> B. <i>Praying</i> | beanbag or wadded paper, "jail," recorded music or musical instrument praying pictures (see p. 143), paper, crayons |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 43. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | chains, flashlight, Bible-times costumes (optional) |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Answered Prayer</i> | none |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Praying Hands</i> | paper, pencils, scissors, crayons, stickers or craft materials |

prayer. They prayed without ceasing for Peter, for they felt that he could not be spared from the cause. They realized that they had reached a place where, without the special help of God, the church of Christ would be destroyed. . . .

"The day of Peter's execution was at last appointed, but still the prayers of the believers ascended to heaven; and while all their energies and sympathies were called out in fervent appeals for help, angels of God were watching over the imprisoned apostle" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 145).

Are you praying with deep searching of heart and earnest prayer as these Christians did for Peter?

Room Decorations

Add jail bars to the house, or make a separate jail out of a table. Tape strips of masking tape from the top of the table to the floor about two inches apart, and add an angel. Or place a window shape on a wall with cardboard bars over the window and a bedroll on the floor. An old jug and chains would complete the scene.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Thrown Into Prison

You Need:

- beanbag or wadded paper
- recorded music or a musical instrument
- “jail”

Prepare a “jail” area in one corner of the room. (If you added a jail for decorations, use it now.) Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Explain that you are going to play a game called “thrown into prison.” Give the beanbag or wadded paper to the first child, and ask them to pass it to the child next to them as soon as the music begins. When the music stops, have two “soldiers” (adult helpers) escort the child holding the beanbag and put them in the prison. Continue until all the children are in prison. If you have a small group, you may want to repeat the game again.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What was it like to be put in prison? Why are people usually put in prison? What wrong things have they done? What had you done wrong?** (nothing) **Does it sometimes happen that people who love Jesus are put in prison without having done anything wrong? If they are put in prison, does that mean that God is not taking care of them anymore?** (no) **In our story today someone who had done nothing wrong was put in prison. But many people were praying for him, and God heard their prayers. Today’s message is:**



In God’s family we pray for one another.

Say that with me.

B. Praying

In advance, prepare a copy of the Praying Pictures for each child. (See page 143.) Ask the children to color the pictures of people or things they can pray about.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What pictures did you**

You Need:

- Praying Pictures (see p. 143)
- paper
- crayons

color? Have you ever prayed about any of these? Our Bible story is about many people praying for someone who was in prison. And God heard their prayers. God likes it when we pray for others. Today's message is:



In God's family we pray for one another.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Talk to God" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 16)

"Thank God for Angels Bright" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 50)

"Something Nice" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 261)

"Care for One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 262)

Mission

Say: **There are people all around the world for whom we can pray. Let's listen to a story about someone we can add to the list of people we pray for.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Praying is one way to show that we care about others. Another way is to give our money to help other people in God's family.**

Prayer

List names of some people in your church who have asked for or need your prayers. If you have pictures, show them to the children.

Have the children say the names of people they will pray for. If they need help, have them repeat after you, **"Jesus, please be with (name)."** When all who want to have prayed, thank God for hearing your prayers.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- short lengths of chain
- flashlight
- Bible-times costumes (optional)

Before starting the story, let the children have turns. Wrap the chains around their wrists so they can see how heavy they are. Allow responses as you ask: **How do the chains feel? How would you feel if you had to wear these all the time, even when you eat and sleep? Our story today is about Peter and a time he was thrown in**

prison and fastened with chains to keep him from moving around. We are going to act out the Bible story.

Choose a few children to be soldiers standing guard over the jail, others to pray for Peter's rescue, Peter, an angel, and Rhoda (who comes to the door at the house). Position the prayers in or by the "house." Place Peter in one corner (the table with masking tape bars—see Room Decorations). Have the angel stand near the jail. Tell the children to listen closely to the story and to do the actions as you tell it.

Read or tell the story.

King Herod was a bad king. He wanted to make the Jewish leaders happy, and killing people who believed in Jesus did that. So King Herod decided he would put Peter in jail so the Jewish leaders would like him. King Herod shouted to the guards, "Find that preacher Peter and put him in jail!" [Make sure the soldiers put Peter in jail.]

In jail Peter was chained to two soldiers. [Have two soldiers join Peter in jail, one on either side of him.] Guards were everywhere around the jail. They did not want Peter to get out!

Soon Peter's friends heard that Peter was in jail. They all got together at one house and decided to pray. They prayed all night long. [Have the friends kneel

down and act as if they are praying.] They prayed and prayed and prayed.

Back at the prison a bright light suddenly appeared in Peter's cell. [Shine a flashlight on the angel.] It was an angel!

Peter was sleeping. The angel touched Peter to wake him up. [Have the angel pretend to wake Peter.] The angel said, "Get up, Peter." The chains dropped off. Peter thought he must be dreaming. "Put on your shoes," the angel said, "and come with me." The angel led Peter past all the soldiers. [Have them walk out of "jail" and go toward the house.] And a big iron gate opened for them all by itself. After that the angel disappeared.

Peter walked to the house where he thought his friends would be. He knocked on the door. [Have Peter go to the house and pretend to knock.]

Rhoda, the servant girl, came to the door. [Have "Rhoda" answer the door, but not open it. Peter calls to her, "I'm Peter."] When she heard Peter's voice, she was so happy that she ran to tell the others, and forgot to let him in. "Peter is outside!" she told the people who were in the house praying. They did not believe her.

Peter kept knocking. Finally, some of the people went to the door and saw Peter for themselves. They grabbed him and took him inside. There Peter told them all that God had done for him.

Now their prayers changed! They praised God and thanked Him for sending the angel and for bringing Peter back to them. God was with Peter all the time. And He is with you all the time, too.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think it was like for Peter while he was in prison? How do you think his friends who were praying felt?**

How did Peter get out of jail? What do you think his friends were praying for? Do you think they expected God to answer? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



In God's family we pray for one another.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 12:1-19. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's**

story is found in the Bible. Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Who put Peter in jail? (King Herod)
Who was praying for Peter? (people in the church)

Whom did God send to get Peter out of jail? (an angel) **What happened to Peter's chains?** (They fell off.)

Where did Peter go? (to a house where people were praying for him) **What do you think about praying for our church friends? Remember . . .**



In God's family we pray for one another.

Memory Verse

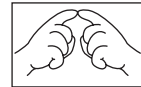
Turn to Acts 12:5 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"The church kept on praying to God for him."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

The church

Fingertips together as if a pointed church roof.



kept on praying

Fold hands as if in prayer.



to God

Point upward.



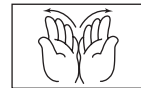
for him.

Point to others.



Acts 12:5

Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson

Answered Prayer

Allow responses as you ask: **Do you think God's people should pray for one another as Peter's friends prayed for him? In some places in the world God's people cannot go to church. In some places they have no church. Should we pray for them?** Invite the children to say a short prayer. Let each child pray if they wish.

Ask: **Who can share about a time when you prayed for someone and your prayer was answered? What happened?** Be ready to tell a story from your experience also.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do families do for each other? What do mommies do for chil-**

dren? What do daddies do for children? What do daddies and mommies do to help each other? What do children do for parents?

God loves us, and we belong to His family. Christians in other countries are part of God's family too. What do we do in God's family?

People in God's family pray for each other! And God hears our prayers. Let's pray again for God's people in other parts of the world. (Offer a brief prayer.) **Let's say our message together again:**



In God's family we pray
for one another.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Praying Hands****You Need:**

- paper
- pencils
- scissors
- crayons
- stickers
or craft
materials

Help each child trace their hands on a piece of paper with their thumbs right next to each other. Then help them cut out these hands, but don't cut the thumbs apart. Then write "I'm Praying for You" on

their hands.

The children may color and decorate their praying hands. Show the children how they can fold their hands together (as if praying) at the thumbs.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you say: **Think of someone you would like to share your praying hands with this week. Tell them about Peter and how many people were praying for him while he was in jail.**

Whoever you choose, remember to pray for them every day this week. Will God listen to your prayers? God loves to hear your prayers for others. Remember:



In God's family we pray
for one another.

Closing

Ask God to help the children remember to pray for someone every day this week.

STUDENT LESSON

In and Out of Prison

References

Acts 12:1-19;
*The Acts of the
 Apostles*, pp. 143-
 154

Memory Verse

"The church kept
 on praying to
 God for him"
 (Acts 12:5, ICB).

The Message

In God's family
 we pray for
 one another.

Have you ever known someone who was in trouble? How could you help them? Peter's friends prayed and prayed and prayed for him, and something amazing happened.

Wicked King Herod rubbed his hands together and made plans. He would do away with the people who believed in Jesus! He would take care of that preacher Peter next. "Guards!" King Herod shouted. "Guards!"

Peter went quietly with the soldiers who came to arrest him. When they arrived at the prison, Peter was chained to two soldiers—one on each side of him.

The chains pinched Peter's arms. But Peter didn't complain. He sat down on the cold stone floor and leaned against the wall. He closed his eyes and went to sleep.

The news about Peter's arrest spread quickly through the city. Many of the believers hurried to John Mark's mother's house. They often went there to pray together, so it seemed like the right place to pray for Peter. The believers prayed and prayed. They prayed late into the night.

Back in the prison a bright light suddenly shone in Peter's cell. An angel tapped Peter on the shoulder. "Quick! Get up!" the angel said, and the chains fell off of Peter's wrists.

"Put on your sandals. Put on your coat and follow me."

Peter did as he was told. He felt as if

he were dreaming.

Peter and the angel passed between two groups of soldiers and came to the iron gate that led to the street. The gate opened by itself, and Peter and the angel walked out of the prison together! Then the angel disappeared.

Peter closed his eyes and opened them again. He really was on the street! "It's true!" he whispered to himself. "The Lord sent an angel to help me!"

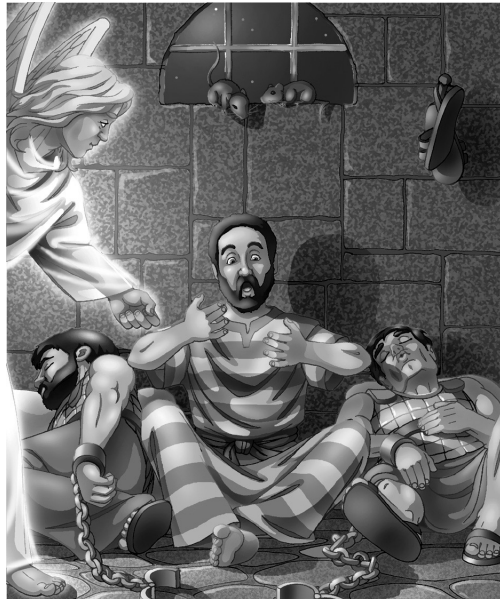
Peter hurried to John Mark's mother's house and knocked at the door. Rhoda, a servant girl, came. She heard his voice, and ran right back into the house. "Peter is at the door!" she shouted.

Peter's friends looked at Rhoda. "That's crazy!" they said. "It's not possible."

"It's true! It's true!" Rhoda insisted.

Peter began knocking again.

When the people finally opened the door, they were astonished! Someone grabbed Peter and quickly pulled him into the house. They listened eagerly as Peter told how the Lord had sent an angel to lead him out of prison. The believers laughed and cried with joy. And then they prayed some more. They praised the Lord for hearing and answering their prayers.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and re-view the memory verse:

- The church** Fingertips together as if a pointed church roof.
kept on praying . . . Fold hands as if in prayer.
to God Point upward.
for him Point to others.
Acts 12:5 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the praying hands made in Sabbath School with someone and to pray for that person every day. (Or trace around your child's hands with their thumbs together, cut them out [do not cut thumbs apart], and write "I'm Praying for You" on them.)

Monday

Ask your child: Whom (or what) are you praying about today? How many times have you prayed about them (or it) today? Have them count on their fingers.

Help your child trace their hands on a piece of paper. Put it in a place where they will see it often to remind them that they have praying hands.

Tuesday

Read and discuss together Acts 12:1-19. Ask: Why do you think God sent an angel to Peter?

Help your child begin to make a prayer chain. Cut two-inch strips of paper.

Write on them names of people or situations to pray for. Each day this week, add a paper link to the chain.



Wednesday

Let your child pretend to be Peter, knocking on the door of the home where friends are praying for him. Call out his or her name, but do not open the door right away. When you open the door, ask: What do you think Peter thought when the servant girl did not let him in?

Thursday

Count the links on the prayer chain started on Tuesday. Pray for the names on the chain again. Look for answers to the prayers.

Share with your child about a time when you prayed earnestly for someone.

Friday

Help your child act out the lesson story for family worship. Let your child dress up. Use a chair or roped off area for the jail. Shine a flashlight when the angel appears.

Sing a prayer song; then thank God for hearing your prayers.



LESSON



Helping Hands

SERVICE

We serve by giving to others.

References

Acts 9:36-43; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 131, 132.

Memory Verse

"Being kind to the needy brings happiness" (Proverbs 14:21, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that being kind brings happiness.

Feel happy that they can be a blessing to others.

Respond by bringing happiness to others by their kind actions and words.

The Message



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Dorcas uses her hands to make clothing for the poor. She comforts the sad, ministers to the poor, and brings happiness to many. She is loved by many in Joppa. When she dies, the believers at Joppa send for Peter. They show him the garments Dorcas made for them, and tell of her kindness and love. Peter, with God's power, brings Dorcas back to life.

This is a lesson about service.

Although we cannot bring life to those who have died, we can serve others. We can bring happiness to those around us by simple acts of kindness and love. Thus our lives can be a blessing to others.

Teacher Enrichment

"Children are to be instructed in the special truths for this time, and in prac-

FIVE

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Caring for the Sick</i> B. <i>People Who Serve Others</i> | roll of gauze, small adhesive bandages, play doctor's kit box, items representing people who serve |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 53. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | adult-size Bible-times costume, fabric, needle and thread |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | A. <i>Bringing Happiness</i> B. <i>Community Services Project</i> | none one guest speaker (optional), letter to parents (see activity) |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Filled With Happiness</i> | clear plastic cups, markers or crayons, paper |

tical missionary work. They are to enlist in the army of workers to help the sick and the suffering. Children can take part in the medical missionary work and by their jots and tittles can help to carry it forward. Their investments may be small, but every little [action] helps, and by their efforts many souls will be won to the truth" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 176, 177).

"She [Dorcas] was a worthy disciple of Jesus" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 131).

"Disciple. Gr. *Mathētria*, 'a female disciple.' . . . By some, Dorcas is re-garded as a deaconess in the church at Joppa. . . . Dorcas may have had special

care of the widows of the church" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 242).

"Dorcas had been of great service to the church, and God saw fit to bring her back from the land of the enemy, that her skill and energy might still be a blessing to others, and also that by this manifestation of His power the cause of Christ might be strengthened" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 132).

Whom will you touch for Jesus? How are you exemplifying the word "Christian"?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Caring for the Sick

You Need:

- roll of gauze
- small adhesive bandages
- play doctor’s kit

Let the children pretend to be helping one another by bandaging one another and using “tools” from the doctor’s kit. Tell them to take turns being the helper and the sick person.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you like about helping the sick? How does it feel to have someone help you? Who usually helps you when you are sick? Does everyone have someone to help them when they are sick?** (no) **What else can we do to help sick people?** (take them food, blankets, flowers, toys, books, Bible, medicine; clean for them; sing them a song; pray with/for them; etc.)

Our Bible story today is about a woman who helped sick people and the poor and widows. She made a lot of people happy. Today’s message is:



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

Say that with me.

B. People Who Serve Others

You Need:

- box
- items representing people who serve

In advance, put in a box items that represent those who serve others, such as a Bible (pastor), chalk (teacher), bandage or stethoscope (nurse/doctor), hammer (builder), toy cow or plastic vegetable (farmer), spool of thread (tailor), etc. Say: **I have a box here with things that remind us of people who serve God. Come one at a time, and take something out, hold it up, and tell us who might use it.**

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How do people who do these jobs serve God?** (They help others.) **You can help others and bring them happiness too. Our Bible story today is about a woman who helped peo-**

ple in her town whenever she could. She cared for the sick, and she sewed clothes for the poor and the widows. She made a lot of people happy. Today's message is:



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Happy All the Time" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 198)

"I Have the Joy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 216)

"Something Nice" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 261)

"Care for One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 262)

"Let Us Do Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 263)

Mission

Say: **There are people all around us who need help. When we care for others, we are bringing them happiness and doing what Jesus wants us to do. Let's listen to a story about someone who cared.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Helping the sick and poor is one way we bring happiness to others and ourselves. Another way is to give our money so others can learn about Jesus. Learning about Jesus will bring them the greatest happiness.**

Prayer

Say: **Dear Jesus, we want to bring happiness to others by being like You. Help us to see how we can help others and share Your love. Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- adult-size Bible-times costume
- fabric
- needle and thread

Wear the Bible-times costume, and pretend you are sewing the fabric as you read or tell the story.

Read or tell the story.

Hello, boys and girls. My name is Tabitha. That's my Aramaic name. But some people call me Dorcas. That's my name in Greek.

You can call me by either name.

Since I've learned about Jesus and become a Christian, I really want to help people as He did. I guess people know I will help however I can. So I seem to be busy all the time.

When someone is sick, I find out about it, and what do you think I do? *[Allow responses.]* Yes, I go to see them. I sometimes take some food *[pretend to be giving a dish to someone]* or maybe a warm blanket *[hug self as if cold]*. If I see that their house needs cleaning, I will do that, too *[pretend to sweep]*. I always try to pray with the sick person *[fold hands and close eyes]* and smile *[smile]* and maybe sing them a happy song about Jesus.

And poor people need my help. The widows especially. They have no husbands to help them. I love sewing new clothes for them. I love seeing the look of surprise and happiness on their faces when I give them a new robe or head covering. In fact, that's what I'm making right now, see? *[Hold up material.]* It's a new robe for one of the widows. Oh, she'll be so happy when she sees it. I can't wait!

I especially love children. The ones who are sick or don't have parents are the ones I take more time with. I save my biggest smiles for them *[smile big]!* I give them a hug *[hug one of the children]* or listen to them tell me about their troubles. Sometimes I play a little game

with them *[pretend to run]* or teach them a song or tell them a story about Jesus.

Every day I see all around me so many people who need help. I know now why Jesus was so busy helping people. When you really look, you can always see someone who needs Jesus' love and care. I like bringing happiness to others. And I feel a lot of happiness by doing these things.

I have to tell you about something wonderful that happened to me. It didn't start out wonderful. I was very sick! I was so sick that I died, I've been told. I don't remember. But my friends were very sad.

Our friend Peter just happened to be in a nearby town. Someone went for him, and he came quickly. My friends were crying. They showed him the clothes I had made for them. They told him about the times I had helped them. That was very nice of them, wasn't it? I think I would have been embarrassed if I had heard them!

I am told that Peter prayed for me. I just remember suddenly seeing Peter beside me. I was so surprised to see him that I sat up! He took me by the hand and helped me stand. We walked into the next room, where many people had gathered. Everyone looked shocked; then they shouted for joy! I still really didn't realize what had happened!

But word spread around my town of Joppa, and many people believed in Jesus. It was worth dying to see so many learn to love Jesus.

I'm very happy that God worked through Peter to bring me back to life. I still have a lot of work to do! Many people still need my help. It makes me so happy to bring joy and happiness to others. God has given me more time to serve Him, and with His help I will.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What did Tabitha/Dorcas do for others? Can you do that? How would you feel if you were sick or poor and someone was especially kind to you?** (happy, joyful, thankful)

Why were the people sad when Tabitha died? How would you feel if someone who had been especially kind to you died? (sad)

Would you like to bring happiness to others too? How can you do that? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 9:36-43. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's**

story is found in the Bible. Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What were the two names of the woman in the story?** (Tabitha and Dorcas) **What did she like to do?** (help the poor and sick, make clothes for others) **What happened to her?** (She got sick and died.)

Who used Peter to heal her? (God) **What did Peter do?** (He prayed.) **What happened after Tabitha/Dorcas came back to life?** (Many people believed in Jesus.) **How can you make others happy? Remember . . .**



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

Memory Verse

Turn to Proverbs 14:21 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"Being kind to the needy brings happiness."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

Being kind

One hand gently strokes the other.



to the needy

Hand outstretched as if begging.



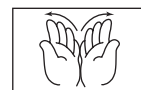
brings happiness.

Smile wide.



Proverbs 14:21

Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson

A. Bringing Happiness

Ask the children to put a thumbs-up (for good) or a thumbs-down (for bad) if they think the person in each of the following scenarios is bringing happiness to others.

1. **Alexandra notices that one of her classmates has not been in school for three days and wonders why. Alexandra decides to call her classmate that evening.**
2. **Rajesh is on his way to the store with some money in his pocket to buy candy. He sees a man in ragged clothes. Rajesh decides to give him his candy money.**
3. **William would rather play with his toys than go with his mom to take some food to a sick neighbor.**
4. **Latisha has outgrown her coat. She takes a trip with her mom to a homeless shelter to donate it to a child who doesn't have one.**
5. **Meredith has lots of toys. She doesn't even play with most of them. When her daddy asks if she wants to put some of them in a box to be sent to poor children in another country, she says no.**
6. **Derek's Grandma is lonely. She doesn't live near Derek's family. Derek makes a card to send to her.**

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Have you ever done something for someone that made them really happy? What happened?**

In our Bible story today Dorcas helped people in her town whenever she could. She cared for the sick, sewed clothes for the poor, and took food to the widows. She made a lot of people very happy. How can you make others happy? Today's message is:



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

Say that with me.

B. Community Services Project**You Need:**

- guest speaker (optional)
- letter to parents

In advance, decide with the pastor or community services director on a simple service project, such as a canned food collection. Ask them to come and explain what it is and how your class can help. Write a letter to the parents to explain the project and how they can help their child contribute.

Say: **In our church we have a community services program. This helps people who need food or clothing. Many years ago it was called the Dorcas Society, named after Dorcas in the Bible.** (Person's name) **is here to talk to us about what they do.**

(If Community Services is not active in your church, plan to support an ADRA project. Look at ADRA's Web page for information: www.adra.org.)

Debriefing

Say: **Thank you for coming and sharing with us about the Community Services program of our church.**

Allow responses as you ask: **Do you want to help people in our community with this project? Let's talk about how we can help.** Ask the guest speaker relevant questions. Tell the children specifically how they can help (bring canned food, donate good used clothing, bring a

special offering, etc.). Say: **Let's say our message together again:**



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Filled With Happiness

You Need:

- clear plastic cups
- markers or crayons
- paper

Say: **I am going to draw a face on my cup.** Draw eyes, nose, mouth, ears, hair, etc. **Do you think this looks like me? Let's pretend that it is me.**

But you can see right through me! I look empty! What do you think I want to be filled with? (happiness) **That's right, I want to be filled with happiness.**

What will give me real happiness like the happiness that Dorcas felt? (helping others, sharing, etc.)

How can you have real happiness too? What does our memory verse say? How can you show kindness?

(Write their responses so all may see.)

Have children draw a picture on their own cups to look like them. Then let them fill their cups with "happiness" by drawing a picture that shows them

being kind to someone, folding the picture, and putting it in their cup.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you say: **What does your cup remind you of? What is it filled with?**

Just as Dorcas shared her happiness about Jesus with others and brought them happiness by being kind, so can you. After church today, share some kindness with someone. Show them your cup. Tell them about Dorcas and how happy it makes you to give happiness to others.

And this week, look for ways to bring happiness to others by being kind. Let's say our message again:



Being kind to others makes us happy too.

Closing

Remind the children of the community service project. In a short prayer, thank Jesus for bringing happiness to them, and ask Jesus to help them give happiness to others by showing kindness.

STUDENT LESSON

Helping Hands

References

Acts 9:36-43;
*The Acts of the
 Apostles*, pp. 131,
 132

Memory Verse

“Being kind
 to the needy
 brings happi-
 ness” (Proverbs
 14:21, ICB).

The Message

Being kind to
 others makes
 us happy too.

Have you ever done something really nice for someone? How did you make them feel? How did you feel? Dorcas did many kind deeds for others, and God cared for her in an amazing way.

Hello, young friend. My name is Tabitha. That’s my Aramaic name. But some people call me Dorcas, my Greek name.

Since I learned about Jesus and became a Christian, I really want to help people like He did.

When someone is sick, I go to see them. I usually take some food and maybe a warm blanket. If their house needs cleaning, I will do that, too. I always pray with them and sometimes sing them a happy song about Jesus.

Poor people need my help too. The widows especially. They are the ones without husbands to help them. I love sewing new clothes for them.

I especially love children. The ones who are sick or don’t have parents are the ones I take more time with. I give them a hug and listen to them talk about their troubles. Sometimes I teach them a song or tell them a story about Jesus.

I know now why Jesus was so busy helping people. When you really look, you will always find someone who needs help. I like bringing happiness to others. By doing so, I get a lot of happiness too.

Some time ago something wonderful happened to me. But it didn’t start

out wonderful. I was very sick! I was so sick that I died, I’ve been told. And my friends were very sad.

Our friend Peter just happened to be in a nearby town. Someone sent for him, and he came quickly. My friends were

crying. They showed him the clothes I had made for them. They told him how I had helped them. That was very nice, but I think I would have been embarrassed if I had heard them!

I am told that Peter prayed for me. I don’t remember. I just remember suddenly seeing Peter standing beside me. I was so surprised that I sat up! He took me by the hand and led me into the next

room, where many people were crying. Everyone looked up in shock. Then they shouted for joy! I really didn’t realize what had happened! But God had used Peter to perform a miracle that brought me back to life. Word about the miracle spread quickly, and many people believed in Jesus because of it.

I’m so happy that God used Peter to bring me back to life. I still have a lot of work to do! I want to continue to bring joy and happiness to others. I’m thankful that God has given me more time to serve Him.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story and re-view the memory verse:

Being kind One hand gently strokes the other.

to the needy Hands outstretched as if begging.

brings happiness. . . Smile wide.

Proverbs 14:21 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the “Filled With Happiness” cup they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Dorcas. (Or have them draw a picture of their face on a clear plastic cup and put a picture of a kind deed inside.) Because they are filled with happiness, they can share happiness with others.



Monday

Read together Acts 9:36-43. Ask: Why did Dorcas do nice things for others? Who brought her back to life?

If your child brought home a letter about a community service project, start planning your participation.

Tuesday

With your child, plan and do something today to bring happiness to others.

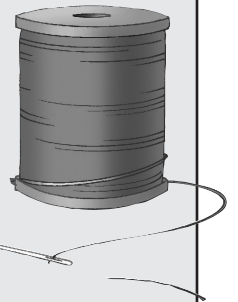
Jump up and down once for every time your child can think of a way to make someone in your home happy today. Then do it together.

Sing a happy song before prayer.

Wednesday

Help your child locate familiar objects and tell how they can be used to help others (hammer, bandage, blanket, thread, etc.).

Sing songs about helping before you pray together.



Thursday

Pretend you are sick, and have your child care for you with a bandage, blanket, etc. Then reverse roles.

Sing a caring song; then ask God to help you find ways to care for others.

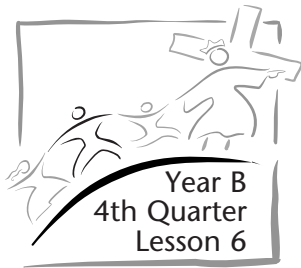
Friday

Act out the story with your family. Who will be Dorcas? Who will be Peter?

Before prayer sing songs about caring for others.

Collect things for your child’s Sabbath School’s community service project to take to church tomorrow.

LESSON



A Blind Man Learns to Lead

SERVICE

We serve by giving to others.

References

Acts 9:1-22; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 112-125.

Memory Verse

"The Lord . . . has sent me so that you may see again" (Acts 9:17, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God can lead them to help others.

Feel that God will be with them when they help others.

Respond by being willing to risk their comfort to help others.

The Message



God leads us to serve others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Saul, who has been persecuting Christians, is blinded by the glory of God as he travels on the way to Damascus. God asks Ananias to go to Saul and pray for him so that he will see again. Ananias is afraid of Saul, but he obeys. Saul's sight is restored, and he becomes a servant for God.

This is a lesson about service.

God can lead us to others who need help. We must be willing to be led to places or people that we may not feel comfortable with. We can serve God

by helping others. He leads us to.

Teacher Enrichment

"In the wonderful conversion of Paul we see the miraculous power of God. . . . Jesus, whose name of all others he most hated and despised, revealed Himself to Paul for the purpose of arresting his mad yet honest career, that He might make this most unpromising instrument a chosen vessel to bear the gospel to the Gentiles. . . . The light of heavenly illumination had taken away Paul's eyesight; but Jesus, the Great Healer of the blind, does not restore it. He answers the question of Paul in these

SIX

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Obstacle Course</i> B. <i>Leading a Balloon</i> | chairs (optional), masking tape (optional), cardboard boxes (optional), blindfolds masking tape, balloons, broom or stick |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 63. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | bright light/flashlight, adult male in Bible-times costume |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Scenarios</i> | none |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | A. <i>Transparent Leading</i> B. <i>Braille Jesus</i> | transparent plastic page protectors, scissors, newspaper, plain white paper, flashlight(s), cotton balls, vegetable oil Braille alphabet pattern, and Braille Jesus pattern (see p. 144), heavy paper, liquid glue |

words: 'Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.' Jesus could not only have healed Paul of his blindness, but He could have forgiven his sins and told him his duty by marking out his future course. From Christ all power and mercies were to flow; but He did not give Paul an experience, in his conversion to truth, independent of His church recently organized upon the earth" (*Conflict and Courage*, p. 339).

How can you, like Saul, allow Jesus to lead in your life?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1. Use masking tape to make a path on the floor. Trace around the children's feet, and put their footprints on the floor. At the end of the path, put a banner that reads "God leads us to serve others." Or trace hands and feet, and put the children's names on these hands and feet, and put them on the wall around a large picture of Jesus. Link them to Jesus by putting a piece of yarn from the hands/feet to Jesus. Over the picture, write "God sends us to serve others."

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they are preparing to bring or have brought something for the community service project (if applicable). Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Obstacle Course

You Need:

- chairs (optional)
- masking tape (optional)
- cardboard boxes (optional)
- blindfolds

Create a little obstacle course in your room. You can make a simple course by putting chairs or just taping out a “path” on the floor with masking tape. If desired, you can make it more complex by creating tunnels, using cardboard boxes. Divide the children into pairs, and have one blindfolded and the other leading. Then reverse the roles. If a child is uncomfortable with being blindfolded, just ask them to close their eyes.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How did you feel when you couldn’t see? What was it like to be leading your friend? Was it easy to make sure that the “blind” person went in the right place? The Bible story today is about a man who became blind while traveling. His friends had to lead him the rest of the way. We will see how God led some people to serve other people. Our message is:**



God leads us to serve others.

Say that with me.

B. Leading a Balloon

You Need:

- masking tape
- balloons
- broom or stick

In advance, inflate a balloon and mark off a straight line on the floor with masking tape. Say: **You are going to take care of this balloon. Push the balloon along the marked line by using the broom (or stick). You may not touch the balloon with any part of your body. Try to do it quickly, but make sure you don’t get too far from the line.**

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to keep the balloon on the line? You did a very good job guiding your balloon as you**

pushed it along the line. You remind me of our Bible story today. It is about a man who became blind while traveling. His friends had to lead him the rest of the way. We will see how God led some people to serve others. Our message is:



God leads us to serve others.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "I Give Myself to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 192)
- "I Want to Be Like Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 194)
- "We Are Little Children" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 197)
- "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 309)
- "Kind Lips" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 310)

Mission

Say: **Jesus has a special way that each of us can help others. Today we are going to hear about _____ and the special way Jesus led them to help others.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **The money we give to Jesus in our offerings makes it possible for others to help people like _____ in our mission story.**

Prayer

Ask: **Can you hold up your hands and wave them, wiggle your fingers and move them around? Who gave you your hands? What can you do with your hands? We can use our hands to help others. Let's pray and ask Jesus to bless our hands and help us to use them to help others.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- bright light/flashlight
- adult male in Bible-times costume

Invite a man to wear the Bible-times costume and tell the story.

Have an adult out of sight say the words of Jesus to Saul.

Read or tell the story.

Hello, boys and girls. My name is Saul. I want to tell you about something wonderful that happened to me. It didn't begin that way. And I have to say that I am not proud of my behavior. You see, I am a Jew, and I didn't like Christians. I had heard that there were Christians in Damascus, and I wanted to capture all of them and put them in jail. I wasn't a very good person.

As I was traveling with some other men down the road to Damascus, suddenly a very bright light blinded me. *[Shine a bright light/flashlight.]* I couldn't see. I fell to my knees. I didn't know what was happening.

Suddenly I heard a voice say:

Hidden Voice: "Saul, Saul, why are you hurting Me?"

I asked, "Who are You, Lord? What do You want me to do?"

Hidden Voice: "I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt. Get up and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what to do."

I couldn't see, so I needed help finding my way to the city. The men traveling with me led me there. *[Encourage the children to lead Saul to a chair.]* Thank you for helping me. I wondered how long it would take before someone told me what I must do. For three days I remained blind. I did not eat or drink.

Finally I heard a knock at the door. A man named Ananias came in and told me that Jesus had talked to him that morning and had told him to come and find me. Ananias didn't want to talk to me. He knew that I wanted to hurt Christians, and he was a Christian. But Jesus had told him that I had a very special work to do for Him. So Ananias put his hands on me, and my eyes could see!

Through Ananias, God healed me of my blindness and filled me with the Holy Spirit so I could do what He wanted me to do. Jesus had changed my heart while I had been blind those three days. I had time to think about who He was. I knew that I wanted to obey Jesus and tell others about Him. I was baptized immediately.

Then I spent some time with Jesus' disciples and learned from them. Soon I began to preach about Jesus in the churches. People were so surprised to see me, the one who had hated Jesus and His followers, telling others about Jesus. I was happy that Jesus was leading me to serve others. God led me to serve others and help them become Christians too. And He wants to lead you to serve others too.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What would you have done if you had seen the bright light on the road to Damascus and had become blind?**

What did Ananias think when God led him to go to Saul, the person who hated Christians? Would you have gone to find Saul?

How do you think Saul felt when he heard Ananias say that God had a special work for him? How did he feel when he could see again? Let's say our message together:



God leads us to serve others.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 9:1-22. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's**

story is found in the Bible. Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Where was Saul going? (Damascus)

Why was he going there? (to arrest Christians)

What blinded him? (a bright light, Jesus) **What did Jesus tell him to do?** (go to the city and wait)

How many days was Saul blind? (three) **What special job did Jesus have for Saul to do?** (He was to tell others about Jesus.)

Invite the children to make a commitment to be led by Jesus to serve others.

What can you do to serve others?

Who will help you? Remember . . .



God leads us to serve others.

Memory Verse

Turn to Acts 9:17 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.**

Read the verse aloud. **"The Lord . . . has sent me so that you may see again."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

The Lord . . . Point up.



has sent me Point to self.



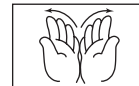
so that you Point to someone else.



may see again. Point to eyes.



Acts 9:17 Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson**Scenarios**

Say: **God can lead us to serve others who need help. I'm going to ask you a question after I read each little story. You tell me what you think.**

1. **Your grandpa is in a nursing home. He is lonely. Would God lead you there to visit?** (yes)
2. **Your neighborhood park has a lot of trash on the ground. Your family is going to go there to help pick it up. Would God lead you there?** (yes)
3. **It's Friday afternoon, and you are playing with your friend who doesn't go to church. Suddenly you have the idea to invite her. Would God lead you to do that?** (yes)
4. **Your sister is sick with a cold, and you want to take her some of your books to look at in bed. Would God lead you to do that?** (yes)
5. **Your family has taken a picnic lunch to a park. You have a great picnic with delicious food. As you are helping to pack up the leftover food, you notice a homeless man sitting**

on a bench. Would God lead you to give him your food? (yes)

6. **Your elderly neighbor has just come home from the hospital. She has trouble standing and walking. Your mom suggests you take some cookies to her. Would God lead you to take her cookies?** (yes)
7. **You notice that your grandma's yard has a lot of leaves in it. Would God lead you to rake them up for her?** (yes)
8. **Your church is having a Vacation Bible School. You think about inviting your playmates from across the street. Would God lead you to invite them?** (yes)

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Have you ever felt that God led you to someone who needed help? When we follow God's leading, He can lead us to serve others. He can help us find people who need help. Watch for God to lead you to help others. What's our message?**



God leads us to serve others.

4

Sharing the Lesson**A. Transparent Leading**

In advance, cut the transparent plastic page protectors into a square for each child. Put a few drops of vegetable oil on a cotton ball for each child. Have each

child press the cotton ball in one spot on their piece of plain white paper and on their piece of newspaper. Then show them how your flashlight (or have them use their own) doesn't shine through

You Need:

- transparent plastic page protectors
- scissors
- newspaper
- plain white paper
- flashlight(s)
- cotton balls
- vegetable oil

the oil spot on the plain white paper. It is *opaque*. Then show them how it *does* shine through the oil spot on the newspaper. This spot is *translucent*. The light shines through, but it is not clear. Then show them how the light shines clearly through the plastic page protector. It is *transparent*.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think the light Saul saw was like? When we follow God's light and leading, He can help us find people who need help. His light is like His words in the Bible. His leading is like the transparent plastic. His leading us to serve others is clear. He can lead us to where we are needed.**

Take your piece of transparent plastic home to share with someone as you tell them about God's leading Ananias to help Saul, and God's leading Saul to change his heart and serve others.

Just as God led Saul and Ananias, He can lead you to serve others too. Let's say our message together:



God leads us to serve others.

B. Braille Jesus

In advance, copy the Braille Jesus pattern (see page 144) on heavy paper for each child. Show the children the Braille alphabet (see page 144), and explain that children who can't see use Braille to read.

The dots are raised bumps that they can feel with their fingers. They can read by feeling the raised dots and spelling the words.

Then give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to put a little blob of glue over the dots on the paper to make raised dots to spell "Jesus." They can blow on the glue to make it dry faster.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Who can figure out by looking at the Braille alphabet page what word they just spelled? (Jesus)**

When the glue dries, you will be able to touch the raised dots. Take your paper home and share it with someone as you tell them about Saul's becoming blind, and how God led him to serve other people.

Just as God led Saul and Ananias, He can lead you to serve others too. Let's say our message again:



God leads us to serve others.

You Need:

- Braille alphabet pattern (see p. 144)
- Braille Jesus pattern (see p. 144)
- heavy paper
- liquid glue

Closing

Remind the students of your class community service project. Give letters to parents of children who were not present last week. Say: **God can use each of us to help others this week. Let's ask God to lead us to others we can serve.** Close with a brief prayer.

STUDENT LESSON

A Blind Man Learns to Lead

References

Acts 9:1-22;
The Acts of the
Apostles, pp. 112-
125

Memory Verse

"The Lord . . .
has sent me so
that you may
see again" (Acts
9:17, NIV).

The Message

God leads
us to serve
others.

Have you ever had to go a different way because the road was blocked? If so, you had to take a detour. God once led Saul on a "detour."

Saul strode down the dusty road toward Damascus. The scorching desert sun made him sweat. But he was hot inside, too. Saul was full of burning hate. His men hurried to keep up. Saul hated Christians. He planned to capture as many of the Damascus Christians as he could find.

Suddenly a dazzling light flashed around Saul. Saul and his men fell to the ground. He couldn't see! The light had blinded him. Then he heard a voice.

"Saul! Saul! Why are you hurting Me?"

"Who are You, Lord?" Saul whispered.

"I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt," Jesus answered. "Get up now, and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."

Saul's men had heard a voice, but they hadn't understood the words. They wondered what had happened. Saul stood up. He looked around, but he couldn't see a thing! He was blind! His men finally took his hand and led him to the city.

Ananias, a man of God and one of the Christians, lived in Damascus. "Ananias!" the Lord said to him in a vision.

"Here I am, Lord," Ananias answered. "Go to Straight Street," the Lord said, "and find Judas's house. Ask for a man named Saul. He is there now,

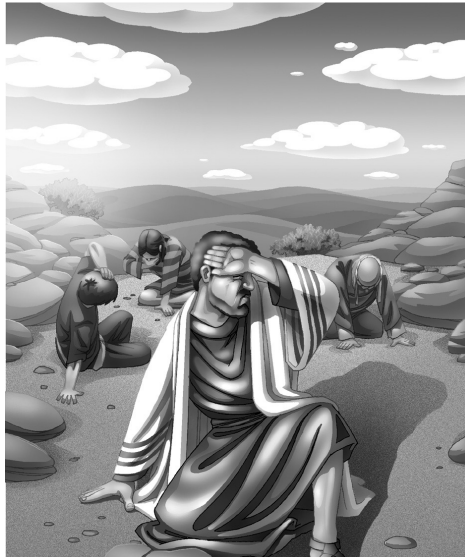
praying. I have told Saul that a man named Ananias will come to him. Lay hands on him, and pray for him. Then he will be able to see again."

Ananias was afraid. "But, Lord!" he protested, "many people have told me about this man Saul and the terrible things he does to Christians."

"Go!" the Lord insisted. "I have chosen Saul for an important work. I have chosen him to be My messenger."

Ananias obeyed. He walked to Straight Street and found Saul. "Brother Saul," Ananias said, "the Lord Jesus sent me. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." As Ananias put his hands on Saul, Saul *could* see again!

Saul was completely changed. Once he had hated Christians, and now he was one! And Saul was so glad that Jesus had changed his heart. He would spend the rest of his life telling others about Jesus.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and re-view the memory verse:

- The Lord** Point up.
- has sent me** Point to self.
- so that you** Point to someone else.
- may see again.** Point to eyes.
- Acts 9:17** Palms together, then open.

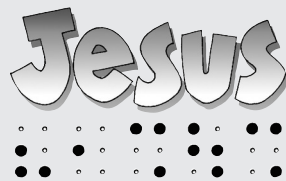
Sunday

Read together Acts 9:1-22. Ask: What would you have done if you had been with Saul on the road to Damascus?

Have your child pretend they are blind and try to find an object you drop on the floor. Ask: How do you think Saul felt? What did he do?

Monday

Encourage your child to share their piece of transparent plastic or their Braille Jesus pattern with someone this week and tell them about God’s leading Ananias to help Saul.



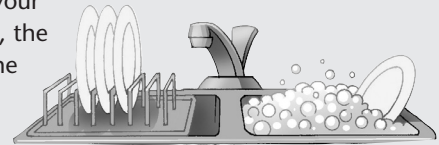
Tuesday

Show your child a clear container filled with water. Say: This container is just like Saul. Every day he hurt people who loved Jesus. (Add a little food coloring to the water.) Each day he did more bad things. (Add

more coloring.) When Jesus spoke to him, Saul saw that he needed to change. Jesus made that change in Saul’s life and helped him help others. (Add bleach to take away the food coloring.)

Wednesday

Tell your child about a time God led you to help someone. “Lead” your child to where they can serve someone else (your neighbor’s yard, the telephone, or the kitchen, where they can help you).



Help your child count how many serving hands and feet you have in your family.

Thursday

Have your child put mittens on (not gloves) and pick up some raisins. Ask: Was that easy or hard? What if your fingers didn’t work very well? Saul’s eyes didn’t work, but God had a plan for him. What was it?

Share your conversion story with your child. When did you first know that God was leading you?

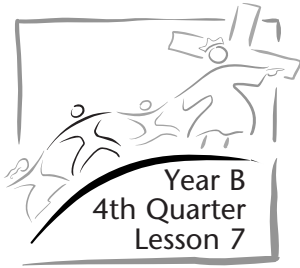
Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Use a flashlight for the bright light.

Sing a commitment song together before prayer.

Collect things for your Sabbath School’s community service project to take tomorrow.

LESSON



Come to My House

SERVICE

We serve by giving to others.

References

Acts 16:6-15; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 211, 212, 218.

Memory Verse

"Come and stay at my house" (Acts 16:15, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that when they accept Jesus' love, they will want to show His love to others.

Feel a desire to make new friends.

Respond by inviting people to their home.

The Message



We serve God when we take care of others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Saul is now called Paul. He goes from place to place sharing the word of God with others. Paul, Silas, Timothy, and others travel to Philippi to share the gospel. Lydia, a wealthy woman who sells purple cloth, listens to Paul tell about Jesus and becomes a Christian. She invites the men to stay at her home while they are preaching in her town. Lydia

serves God by caring for Paul's needs and the needs of others.

This is a lesson about service.

Lydia served God as she helped God's chosen servant Paul and his helpers. We serve God when we help His servants today—the pastor, church school teacher, Christian leader, or other members in our church. We serve

SEVEN

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>The Color Purple</i> B. <i>Planning a Trip</i> | various types of purple cloth, clear cups, water, red and blue food coloring, red and blue crayons, paper map of Paul's journeys; suitcase; items to take on a trip: clothes, toothbrush, map, etc.; bag |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 73. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | Bible-times felts (optional), purple cloth |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | A. <i>Taking Care</i> B. <i>Blessing Others</i> | guest speaker <i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> songbook |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Welcome Friends</i> | Welcome Friends door hanger pattern (see p. 145), heavy light-purple paper, scissors, craft materials |

God when we take care of others.

Teacher Enrichment

"God's Spirit can only enlighten the understanding of those who are willing to be enlightened. We read that God opened the ears of Lydia, so that she attended to the message spoken by Paul. To declare the whole counsel of God and all that was essential for Lydia to receive—this was the part Paul was to act in her conversion; and then the God of all grace exercised His power, leading

the soul in the right way. God and the human agent cooperated, and the work was wholly successful" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 6, p. 1062).

How does God use you in the teaching and conversion of children? Will you make this a priority in your time with Jesus this week?

Room Decorations

See Lessons 1 and 5. Add some purple cloth somewhere in the room.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they are preparing to bring or have brought something for the community service project (if applicable). Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. The Color Purple

You Need:

- various types of purple cloth
- clear cups of water
- red and blue food coloring
- red and blue crayons
- paper

Have children feel the different textures of purple cloth. With your supervision allow the children to experiment with making the color purple by dropping and mixing red and blue food coloring into the clear cups of water. They can also make the color purple by coloring red on top of blue on white paper.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How many of you like the color purple? How many of you knew how to make the color purple? Did you know that in the time of Jesus and Paul purple was a very important color? It was the color worn by kings and queens and people who ruled the land. Today we are going to hear a story about a woman who made and sold purple cloth. We will learn how she took care of others. Our message is:**



We serve God when we take care of others.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- map of Paul’s journeys
- suitcase
- items to take on a trip: clothes, toothbrush, map, etc.
- bag (see activity)

B. Planning a Trip

Say: **We are planning a trip today from Troas to Philippi in Macedonia. What is the first thing we need to do?** (Get a map to figure out how to get there.) **What would happen if we did not know where we were going?** (Use the map to show children Troas and Philippi in Macedonia.) **What do you think is the fastest way to get there?** (With no car or plane, the fastest way would be by boat.) **What do you need to pack to take on the trip?** (As the children respond, pull things they mention out of a bag; then pull out items they don’t mention. Have them pack and hold the suitcase.)

Debriefing

Say: **The trip from Troas to Philippi in Macedonia is about 125 miles, or 200 kilometers. That is like going from our church to** (name a place children are familiar with). **That is a long way. How would you like to go on a long trip like that? How would you like riding in a boat for many days? Where do you like to stay at the end of a trip?**

Today we are going to hear another story about Paul. He traveled a long way and met a woman named Lydia. We will learn how Lydia helped others. Our message is:



We serve God when we take care of others.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Fellowship**

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"I Want to Be Like Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 194)

"Giving" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 285)

"Blessings" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 302)

"I Will Use My Hands for Him" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 303)

"Kind Lips" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 310)

Mission

Say: **We are now going to hear a story about people from another part of the world. Listen to see who takes care of others.**

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **The money we give today helps to take care of others who need to hear about Jesus.**

Prayer

Have the children repeat after you: **Dear Jesus,** (pause) **help us to look** (pause) **for people** (pause) **who need help** (pause). **Please help us** (pause) **to take care** (pause) **of them** (pause). **Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- Bible-times felts (optional)
- purple cloth

If available, use felts to tell the story. Have the children say "She sells purple cloth" each time you say "Lydia."

Read or tell the story.

I want to tell you a story about Paul. Paul used to be called Saul. Do you remember him from last week? Do you remember how Jesus changed his heart from hating Jesus to loving Him? Paul loved Jesus so much that he traveled many miles telling people about Him.

Today we will hear about how Paul met a woman named **Lydia** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."]. **Lydia** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] had a business. She sold purple cloth, like this cloth I am holding. This is the color of cloth that kings and queens used to wear.

One night Paul had a dream from God that he should go to Macedonia. That is where **Lydia** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] lived! Paul and his friends Silas, Timothy, and Luke traveled by boat. They were on the boat for five days. When they got to Philippi, they took a walk beside a river. This was the first time **Lydia** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] met Paul.

Lydia [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] was meeting with some women friends by the river to worship and pray. Paul saw her and her women friends. Some preachers would not have paid any attention to a group of women. Many people in those days thought women were not important at all. But Paul knew better. He knew that Jesus loved **Lydia** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] and her women friends just as much as He loves men.

Paul visited with **Lydia** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] and her friends. He told them about Jesus and His love for everyone. The women were happy to learn about Jesus, God's Son, who had died for everyone's sins. Everyone in **Lydia's** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] family was baptized.

Lydia [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] invited Paul and his friends to stay at her house while they were visiting and teaching in her town. The men were grateful to have a place to stay. Lots of people came to know about Jesus while Paul was there. **Lydia** [Children say: "She sells purple cloth."] served God by helping to take care of Paul and his friends. She was happy to help them as they told others about Jesus.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How did Lydia learn about Jesus? How do you think Lydia and the other women felt when they heard Paul tell about Jesus?**

Where did Paul and his friends stay in Philippi? (at Lydia's house)
What do you think about Lydia?
Why did she invite the men to stay at her house? Do we have to be rich to invite people to stay at our house? (No, we do not need a big house to help people.)

Why did Paul and his friends go to Philippi? (God told them to.)
Whom did Lydia take care of?
Whom did Paul help? Whom can you help? Let's say our message together:



We serve God when we take care of others.

Bible Study

You Need:

- Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 16:6-15. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's**

story is found in the Bible. Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
Where did Lydia live? (in Philippi)
What kind of cloth did she sell? (purple)
Who told Lydia about Jesus? (Paul)
What did Lydia do when she learned about Jesus? (She was baptized.)
How did Lydia serve God? (She invited Paul and his friends to stay at her home.)

Do you ever have people stay at your house? Do you have people come for a meal? What else can your family do to help others? Remember . . .



We serve God when we take care of others.

Memory Verse

Turn to Acts 16:15 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"Come and stay at my house."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

- Bible

Come and stay

Move hand toward chest.



at my

Point to self.



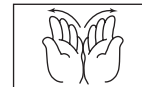
house.

Put fingertips together to make a "house roof."



Acts 16:15

Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson

A. Taking Care

You Need:

- guest speaker

Invite someone from your church to talk about what they do and to ask the children to do something to help them (music person: ask the children to sing; deacons: children tidy up the pew before leaving; community service: bring something to share with needy families, etc.).

Say: **Lydia helped Paul by giving him a place to stay. We have lots of people who do things to help in our church. Today** (insert name and job) **has come to tell us about his/her work in our church.**

Debriefing

Say: **Thank you, (name), for coming to our Sabbath School.** Ask questions relevant to the job described. **What can we do to help (name)? Let's say our message together:**



We serve God when we take care of others.

B. Blessing Others

You Need:

- Little Voices Praise Him songbook

Say: **Let's sing together a song about serving others.** Sing "Blessings" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 302).

Allow responses as you ask: **How can we take care of others as Lydia did?** (Talk with people who are new and don't have any friends. Invite new people over to play or to share a meal.)

Do you know of anyone who does not have a friend or is new in our church family? How can you take care of them? (Be their friend, share with them.)

Have the children look around the room. **Is there anyone new here today?** (If there is, have the children welcome them and say they are glad the visitor is there. If not, talk about welcoming visitors or new members in the future.)

Debriefing

Say: **Being friendly, inviting new people to your house, and playing with people who do not have someone to play with are ways we can help take care of others. God wants us to serve others in these ways. Let's say our message together:**



We serve God when we take care of others.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Welcome Friends

You Need:

- Welcome Friends door hanger pattern (see p. 145)
- heavy light-purple paper
- scissors
- craft materials

In advance, make a copy of the Welcome Friends door hanger (see page 145) on heavy light-purple paper for each child. Distribute craft materials, and have the children decorate and cut out their door hanger. Tell them they can hang them on their front door or bedroom door when someone comes to visit.

home for a Sabbath visit. Then you can show them the door hanger you made, and that will help them to feel welcome.

Your door hanger can also remind you to be friendly and take care of others.

Can you think of whom you would like to invite to visit you? Whisper it in your teacher's ear. What are you going to do this week?

(Make plans with parents to invite someone to their house.) **Let's say our message together one last time:**

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you like inviting people to your house? Talk to your parents about inviting someone to your**



We serve God when we take care of others.

Closing

Remind the children of your continuing community service project and the part they are playing (what to bring in, etc.). Send the letter to parents home with those children who were not present the past two weeks. Pray: **Dear Jesus, help us to serve You by taking care of others. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Come to My House

References

Acts 16:6-15;
*The Acts of the
 Apostles*, pp. 211,
 212, 218

Memory Verse

“Come and stay
 at my house”
 (Acts 16:15,
 NIV).

The Message

We serve God
 when we take
 care of
 others.

Do you like to visit other people’s homes? Do you like to have people come to your house? When Lydia found out about Jesus, she invited some new friends to stay with her. It may have happened like this:

Paul’s eyes popped open. “Hey, you sleepyheads!” he called to his friends Silas, Timothy, and Luke. “Get up! We are going to Macedonia!”

Silas and Timothy and Luke rubbed their sleepy eyes. “Where did you say we are going?” Timothy asked.

“God gave me a vision last night,” Paul explained energetically. “I saw a man who begged me to come to Macedonia and teach the good news about Jesus in his country.”

Paul and his friends boarded a big sailboat. It was a long way to Macedonia, but God sent strong winds to push the boat along quickly. After five days the boat docked in Macedonia. Paul and his friends walked to a big, busy, important city named Philippi. On Sabbath they hiked along the river. They had heard that some people met beside the river every Sabbath to pray and worship together.

As they walked along they saw a group of women. Many people in those days thought women were not important at all. But Paul knew better. He knew that Jesus loves everyone: men and women.

The men sat down to visit with the women. And the women were thrilled

to hear what Paul and his friends had to tell them. The women already believed in and worshiped the God of heaven. And now they learned about God’s Son, Jesus.

The women understood and believed the wonderful message they

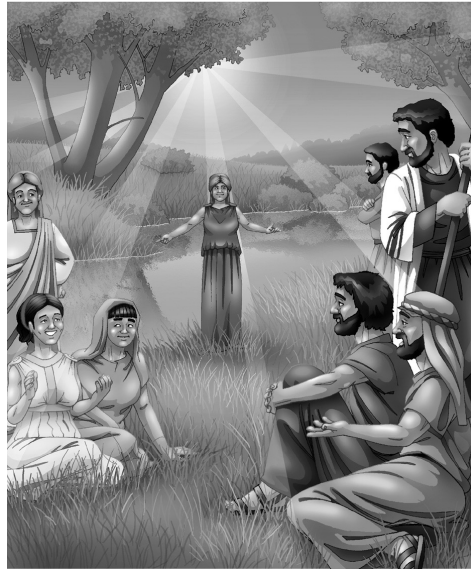
heard. “I want to be baptized,” Lydia exclaimed. “And then I want to go home and tell everyone this good news!” So she and her family were baptized.

Lydia was a rich businesswoman. She sold very expensive purple cloth, the kind that kings and queens used in those days. “Would you like to come and stay in my home while you

are teaching in Philippi?” Lydia asked Paul and his friends.

Lydia knew that Paul and Timothy and Silas and Luke were serving God by coming to her country and telling her people about Jesus. Lydia wanted to serve God by helping to take care of Paul and his friends while they were there.

Paul and Silas and Timothy and Luke preached in Philippi for many days. Many people believed the good news about Jesus and were baptized because of the work of the four missionaries and the care Lydia gave them.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and review the memory verse:

Come and stay. Move hand toward chest.

at my. Point to self.

house. Put fingertips together to make a "house roof."

Acts 16:15 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Help your child invite a friend home to play, or invite someone to dinner. Let your child hang their Welcome Friends door hanger on your front door before their guests arrive.

Ask: What do others do to take care of you? What can you do to take care of others?

Monday

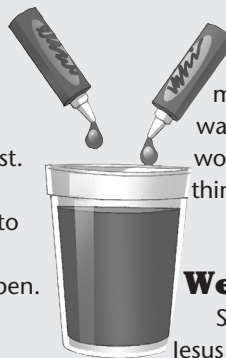
Read together Acts 16:6-15. Ask: How did Lydia help Paul and his friends? How did Paul help Lydia? Do you need a big house to have people visit you?

Consider taking your child to your Community Services center to help this week. Collect things for your Sabbath School's community service project to take on Sabbath.

Tuesday

Find and count all the purple things in your home or neighborhood.

Have your child make the color purple by either col-



oring a red crayon over a blue crayon or mixing red and blue food coloring in some water. Talk about how kings and queens wore purple clothing. If possible, wear something purple today.

Wednesday

Sing the following to the tune of "With Jesus in the Family": "When friends come to see us, happy, happy home." Use friends' names.

Look at a Bible map and show your child where Paul traveled.

Pretend you are Paul traveling, and take a walk around your house or neighborhood.

Thursday

Talk about how to treat a guest. Have your child practice by greeting a family member at the door. Offer them a drink. (Teach your child whatever is appropriate in your culture.)

Friday

Set the table for supper tonight using purple napkins or tablecloth. Serve at least one purple food or drink.

Sing a sharing song together.

Help your child use props to tell the story (box for a boat, purple for Lydia's clothes, etc.) during family worship.



LESSON



Prison Praises

SERVICE

We serve by giving to others.

References

Acts 16:16-34; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 211-220.

Memory Verse

"Do what is right" (2 Corinthians 8:21, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God will help us do the right things.

Feel thankful that we can serve God in all we do.

Respond by sharing Jesus with others by treating them honestly and fairly.

The Message



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Paul and Silas have been beaten and put in prison because they are teaching about Jesus. They joyfully sing praises to God instead of complaining. God sends an earthquake that opens the door of the prison, but Paul and Silas do not run away. The prison guard is impressed with their honesty and fairness and joy, and asks what he must do to be saved. Paul teaches him and his family about

Jesus. They are baptized. The guard feeds Paul and Silas and takes care of their wounds.

This is a lesson about service.

When we live honorably and joyfully, we are sharing Jesus with others. We can share Jesus with others just by how we live. People notice how we act and are thus impressed to know more about us and why we do what is right at all costs.

EIGHT

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Build a Tower</i> B. <i>Three-legged Walk</i> C. <i>Baptistry Tour</i> | building blocks or cardboard boxes yarn or strips of cloth, chain none |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 83. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | large box(es), two adult Bible-times costumes, two adult male actors, <i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> songbook |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | A. <i>What Could You Do?</i> B. <i>Missionaries Today</i> | rock, cookie, toy stuffed cat, adhesive bandage, jump rope, bag, <i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> songbook information about a missionary or invite a guest missionary |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Memory Verse Chain</i> | Memory Verse Chain pattern (see p. 145), paper, scissors, tape or stapler |

Teacher Enrichment

"It was this joy that filled the hearts of Paul and Silas when they prayed and sang praises to God at midnight in the Philippian dungeon. Christ was beside them there, and the light of His presence irradiated the gloom with the glory of the courts above. From Rome, Paul wrote, unmindful of his fetters as he saw the spread of the gospel, 'I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.' Philipians 1:18" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 35).

"The apostles did not regard as in vain their labors in Philippi. They had met

much opposition and persecution; but the intervention of Providence in their behalf, and the conversion of the jailer and his household, more than atoned for the disgrace and suffering they had endured. The news of their unjust imprisonment and miraculous deliverance became known through all that region, and this brought the work of the apostles to the notice of a large number who otherwise would not have been reached" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 218).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 4.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they are preparing to bring or have brought something for the community service project (if applicable). Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Build a Tower

You Need:

- building blocks or cardboard boxes

Have the children build a tower of building blocks or cardboard boxes. Ask: **What happens when we shake the tower?** Let the children shake it until it falls over.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What happened? Sometimes deep underground the earth moves. This causes the earth to shake, and buildings may fall over just like our tower did. We call this an earthquake. In today’s story Paul and Silas were in an earthquake. The earthquake opened the prison doors. They could have escaped but they did what was right. Our message is:**



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

Say that with me.

B. Three-legged Walk

You Need:

- yarn or strips of cloth
- chain

Have the children sit on the floor in pairs. Use the yarn or strips of cloth to tie the ankles of each pair together. Ask them to stand and walk around the room. After each pair has tried, remove the yarn or cloth strips, and have the children sit in a circle.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How easy was it to walk around when you were tied together? What would you do if you were chained together all day? This is what happened to Paul and Silas. They were put in prison and chained together. Let children feel the weight of real chains. But Paul and Silas didn’t get angry. They did what was right. Our message is:**



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

Say that with me.

C. Baptistry Tour

The children probably have seen a baptism but did not fully understand what was happening. Arrange to look at the baptistry. Explain that being baptized tells everyone else that we have asked Jesus to make us clean on the inside. And when people decide to follow Jesus, they want everyone to know about it.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Have you ever seen a baptism? What happens? Why are people baptized?** (The person wants to follow Jesus, wants everyone to know they love Jesus, etc.) **Paul and Silas baptized many people. Today we will learn about a very special baptism and how Paul and Silas did what was right. Our message is:**



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "Prayer to Grow Strong" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 196)
- "I Have the Joy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 216)
- "Jesus Helps Me Choose" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 304)
- "Oh, Where" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 311)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 313)

Mission

Say: **Today our story is about _____ and how they shared Jesus by doing what was right.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **When we give our offerings, we help other people learn how to love God and live honestly and joyfully as Paul and Silas did.**

Prayer

Sing a prayer song. Sing together the first verse of "Prayer to Grow Strong" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 196).

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- large box(es) (see activity)
- two adult Bible-times costumes
- two adult male actors
- Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

Have a large box (a washing machine box or a packing case) available. Let two or three of the children get inside, and shake it to give the feeling of being in an earthquake. If you have a large group, you will need more than one box.

Have two men dressed as Paul and Silas read or tell the story.

Paul: Good morning. My name is Paul, and this is my friend Silas. One day we were on our way to pray when a servant girl ran after us shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They are telling you how you can be saved!" She was right, but everyone knew she had an evil spirit inside her. After this happened for several days, I said to that spirit, "In Jesus' name, leave her!" The evil spirit left her, and she immediately became silent.

Silas: Her masters were very angry. They grabbed hold of us and took us to the rulers. A crowd soon gathered, and everyone became very angry with us. They beat us with sticks and then put us in jail, where we were chained together.

Paul: The jail was cold, damp, and dark, but we were happy because we knew Jesus was with us, so we sang some songs to praise Him. We were happy to be in jail for Jesus, even if we were in chains. Sing a praise song with us now.

(Sing "Praise Him, Praise Him" [*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 221].)

Silas: We kept singing way into the night. The other prisoners listened to our songs about Jesus. They had not heard Jesus songs before. The man in charge of the jail couldn't believe what we were doing. People don't usually sing praise songs in jail!

Paul: During the night the ground began to shake. It shook so hard that the prison walls shook and the door to our cell opened. All our chains fell off too. The earthquake woke up the jailer. He was sure we all had escaped. He thought he was going to get in trouble because his prisoners had escaped. He almost killed himself, but we shouted to him and told him not to worry—we were all there.

Silas: The jailer couldn't believe that we were so honest that we hadn't run away. He took us to his home and washed all our cuts and bruises. He asked us to tell him about our friend Jesus. Before the night was over, he and all his family wanted Jesus to be their Saviour too. We were glad to baptize them. Then we all sang praises to God together.

Paul: I really like to sing. And I like to hear you sing too. Let's sing the first verse of "Praise Him, Praise Him" again.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What happened to Paul and Silas? What do you think Paul and Silas felt like while in jail?** (uncomfortable, nervous, happy to be doing something for Jesus, at peace) **What would you have thought if you had heard Paul and Silas singing? Why didn't Paul and Silas run away during the earthquake? How did Paul and Silas share Jesus with the jailer and other prisoners? Do you want to do the right things for Jesus too? Remember our message:**



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

Bible Study**You Need:**

-
- Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 16:16-34. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Why were Paul and Silas put in jail? What did they do in jail that was so unusual? What did Paul and Silas do when their chains fell off?** (stayed there, told the jailer about Jesus)

What did the jailer do for Paul and Silas? What did Paul and Silas do for the jailer and his family? Remember . . .



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

Memory Verse

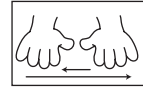
Turn to 2 Corinthians 8:21 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"Do what is right."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

-
- Bible

Do

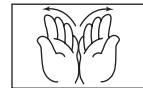
With palms down, move hands from side to side.

**what is right.**

Lift up right hand.

**2 Corinthians 8:21**

Palms together, then open.

**3****Applying the Lesson****A. What Could You Do?****You Need:**

-
- rock
-
-
- cookie
-
-
- toy stuffed cat
-
-
- adhesive bandage
-
-
- jump rope
-
-
- bag
-
-
- Little Voices Praise Him*
- songbook

In advance, gather the following objects or pictures of these objects, and place them in a bag: rock, cookie, toy stuffed cat, adhesive bandage, and jump rope. Ask for volunteers each to take one object out of your bag. Then you read the scenario about it. Allow response time.

- 1. David is throwing rocks at his fence. One goes too far and**

breaks the neighbor's window. What could David do that would be sharing Jesus with his neighbor? (Tell his parents; say he's sorry to his neighbor; offer to help pay for a new window; stop throwing rocks.)

- 2. Jackson asks his mom if he and his friends can have a cookie. His mom says no, because she made them for the new neighbors. What could Jackson do that would be sharing Jesus with his friends and mom and new neighbors?** (Obey; say OK; find something to play with; offer to take the cookies to the new neighbors.)

3. **It is Paige’s job to feed her cat, Pepper, and give her fresh water every day. Her friend Amber wants her to come out to play. Paige wants to play with Amber. She doesn’t want to feed Pepper first. What could Paige do that would be sharing Jesus with her mom? with Amber?**
(Obey and feed Pepper first.)
4. **Miguel hurt his knee yesterday, and he can’t run and play tag with his friends. What could Miguel do that would be sharing Jesus with them?** (Smile anyway; sing; sit near his friends and encourage them while they play.)
5. **Kirstin is playing jump rope with her friends when she misses the rope and falls. Her friends say she’s out. She thinks it’s not fair, because her untied shoelace tripped her up. What could Kirstin do to share Jesus with them?**
(Wait for her next turn; accept that she’s out; say that’s OK; smile.)

Say: **Let’s sing together “Jesus Helps Me Choose”** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 304).

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Is it always easy to do the right thing?** (no) **Who can help you choose to do the right thing?** (Jesus)

Remember Paul and Silas in jail. They didn’t complain; they sang songs of praise to Jesus. They didn’t run away when their chains fell off during the earthquake. Because they did the right things, they shared Jesus with others.

You can share Jesus with others too when you make the right

choices. People notice how you act and what you say. They see you when you do what is right. That is one way you can share Jesus with others. Let’s say our message again:



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

B. Missionaries Today (optional)

You Need:

- information about a missionary or have a missionary guest

Talk about a missionary family from your area, or invite a former missionary to tell about life as a missionary.

Debriefing

Say: **Thank you, (name), for coming to Sabbath School. What can we do to help (name)?** Discuss ideas (send money or old Sabbath School papers; pray; ask parents if they could sponsor a child who needs extra help; send an e-mail from your Sabbath School to a missionary family; etc.).

You don’t have to wait until you are grown up and can travel to faraway places to tell people about Jesus. Think of other ways that we can tell others about Jesus.

Remember: Paul and Silas shared Jesus with others just by the way they acted. They were cheerful and thankful and honest.

People notice how you act and what you say. That is one way you can share Jesus with anyone you meet. Let’s say our message together again:



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Memory Verse Chain

You Need:

- Memory Verse Chain pattern (see p. 145)
- paper
- scissors
- tape or stapler

In advance, make a copy of the Memory Verse Chain pattern (see page 145) for each child, and cut the strips apart. Tell the children they are going to make a memory verse chain. The chain will remind them of the chains that Paul and Silas wore in jail. Help them tape or staple the memory verse strips together in the correct order (the strips are numbered) to form a paper chain.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What did you make? What does it remind you of?** (chains Paul and Silas wore in jail)

How did Paul and Silas act in jail? (happy, thankful, honest, etc.)

How can we act so that other people will see that we love Jesus? (the same, do the right things)

Take your chain home and share it with someone as you tell them about Paul and Silas in jail. Remember that you share Jesus with others by the way you act. Let's say our message one last time:



We share Jesus by doing what is right.

Closing

Remind the children of your continuing community service project and the part they are playing (what to bring, etc.), and that next week is the last week you will be collecting items. Say: **Dear Jesus, help us to remember this week to share You with others by doing what is right. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Prison Praises

References

Acts 16:16-34;
*The Acts of the
 Apostles*, pp. 211-
 220

Memory Verse

"Do what is
 right"
 (2 Corinthians
 8:21, NIV).

The Message

We share
 Jesus by doing
 what is right.

Paul and Silas were in jail. They could easily have grumbled and complained, but they loved Jesus and did some things very differently. Let's see how they shared Jesus.

"These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!"

Paul and Silas spun around. A girl with an evil spirit followed them. Her masters made money by listening to this evil spirit and then telling people what was going to happen to them.

For days the girl followed and shouted the same message after Paul and Silas.

Even though what the girl was saying was right, it was not good for people to think that Christians had anything to do with evil spirits. So Paul finally turned to the girl and ordered the evil spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!"

The evil spirit left the girl immediately, and she became quiet.

The servant girl's masters became very, very angry. They dragged Paul and Silas to the city rulers. "These men are Jews, and they are making trouble!" they shouted. "They are teaching things that are unlawful for us to practice!"

An angry crowd gathered and heard them. They began to beat Paul and Silas with big sticks. So the rulers threw Paul and Silas into jail.

Even though they were in pain, that night

Paul and Silas began to pray and sing praises to God. The other prisoners and the jailer couldn't believe what they were hearing!

About midnight the ground suddenly shook so hard that all the doors of the jail fell open and all the chains fell off the prisoners. The jailer was sure all the prisoners

had escaped. He shook with fear. He believed he would be punished because the prisoners were gone.

But just then Paul shouted, "We are all here!"

"Bring me a light!" the jailer called to a servant. He ran to look for himself. Not one prisoner had run away!

The jailer took Paul and Silas to his own home. There he fed them and lis-

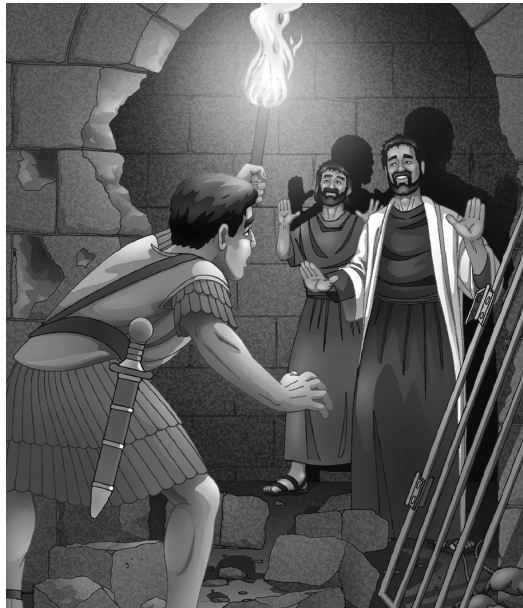
tened as they told him about Jesus. "Men," he said, "what must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas smiled. "Just believe!" they said. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

"I believe," the jailer said as he tenderly washed Paul's and Silas's wounds.

Before the night was over, Paul and Silas baptized the jailer and all his family.

Paul and Silas did the right things. They praised God when bad things happened to them. And they showed the jailer about Jesus' love. You can share about Jesus by doing what is right too.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story and re-view the memory verse:

Do what is With palms down, move hands from side to side.

right. Lift up right hand.

2 Corinthians 8:21 . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the memory verse chain made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Paul and Silas in prison. Or make a paper chain by joining strips of paper with a memory verse word written on each.

Monday

Read together Acts 16:16-34. Ask: What did the jailer do for Paul and Silas? What did they do for the jailer?

Tell your child about your baptism. What did it mean to you? Let them “baptize” a doll, or duck their head under the water at bath time.

Tuesday

Have your child sit on the floor as you bind their legs together with yarn or a scarf. Ask: Can you stand up? What was it like for Paul and Silas?

Sing praise songs together before prayer. Thank Jesus for keeping your family safe.



Wednesday

Let your child build a tower with building blocks or empty boxes, then pretend to feel (make) an earthquake and knock it down. Ask: How do you think Paul and Silas felt during the earthquake? Who watched over them? Why didn't they run away? Thank Jesus for watching over your child.



Collect community service project items to take to Sabbath School.

Thursday

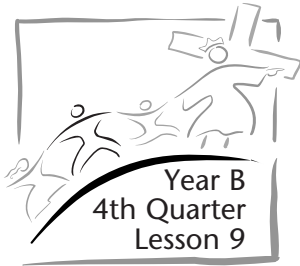
Look in your medicine cupboard together. Talk about what is good for cuts and bruises. Let your child put an adhesive bandage on you. Thank Jesus for His healing power.

Friday

For worship, help your child act out the lesson story. Get a big box or laundry basket for the jail, and have your child sit in it. Shake it as if an earthquake is happening.

Sing praise songs and pray together as Paul and Silas did.

LESSON



Shipwrecked

SERVICE

We serve by giving to others.

References

Acts 27:13-28:10; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 442-446.

Memory Verse

"Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God wants us to think positive and encouraging thoughts.

Feel compassion for people in trouble.

Respond by encouraging others in difficult situations.

The Message



We serve others when we encourage them.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Paul and others are in a terrible storm aboard ship. God sends an angel to comfort and encourage Paul. Paul shares the angel's news that none on the ship will lose their lives. Paul encourages others to eat some food, and again tells them they won't die. The ship runs aground, but all reach shore safely. On Malta the islanders show kindness by building a fire to warm them. Publius, the chief of Malta, invites the people to his home. He takes care of them for

three days. Paul heals Publius's father and others who are sick.

This a lesson about service.

God used Paul to encourage and bless others in times of trouble. We too can encourage and bring blessings to others in distress and ill health. We can serve God by our encouraging words and actions.

Teacher Enrichment

"The soldiers saw that while endeavoring to reach land it would be impos-

NINE

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Cardboard Boat</i> B. <i>Healthy Choices</i> C. <i>Stormy Water</i> | cardboard boxes, craft materials things good for sick people: soup, blankets, healthy food, vitamins, bandages, water, etc.; items not good for sick people: sweets, etc. basin or large pan, small plastic boats, vinegar, baking soda, shakers (optional) |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 93. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | box boats from Readiness Activity A or sheet or masking tape, umbrellas, spray bottles for rain, blankets or towels, wood for fire, male voice of Paul |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Encouraging Words</i> | chalkboard or white board (optional), chalk or marker (optional), building blocks (optional) |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Encouragement Boats</i> | walnut shell halves (optional), or Folding Boat directions (see p. 146), or paper (optional), markers |

sible for them to keep their prisoners in charge. Every man would have all he could do to save himself. Yet if any of the prisoners were missing, the lives of those who were responsible for them would be forfeited. Hence the soldiers desired to put all the prisoners to death. The Roman law sanctioned this cruel policy, and the plan would have been executed at once, but . . . Julius the centurion knew that Paul had been instru-

mental in saving the lives of all on board, and, moreover, convinced that the Lord was with him, he feared to do him harm. . . . When the roll was called, not one was missing" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 440-445).

How do you encourage and support others?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 6.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they brought anything for the community service project. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Cardboard Boat

You Need:

- cardboard boxes
- craft materials

You will need one box for every three to four children to sit in. Tell the children the boxes are their boats. Have them decorate/color them with whatever craft materials you have available. You can use these for Experiencing the Story.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What are boats used for? Have you ever been on a boat? Do you like riding on boats? Why? What would it be like if you were on a boat in the middle of a storm?** (frightening, exciting, worried whether the boat was OK) **Our Bible story today is about people on a ship in a bad storm and how someone encouraged them. Today’s message is:**



We serve others when we encourage them.

Say that with me.

B. Healthy Choices

You Need:

- things good for sick people (soup, blankets, healthy food, vitamins, bandages, water, etc.)
- items not good for sick people (sweets, etc.)

Display items (or use pictures). Have the children separate those good for sick people from those bad for sick people. Let all participate.

Debriefing

Hold up some items one at a time. Allow responses as you ask: **Why is this good (or bad) for you? Which of these would you give to someone who is sick? How can you help someone who is sick? Our Bible story today is about someone who encouraged people on a boat not to be afraid, and about how he encouraged sick people by helping them get well. Today’s message is:**



We serve others when we encourage them.

Say that with me.

C. Stormy Water

You Need:

- basin or large pan
- small plastic boats
- vinegar
- baking soda
- shakers (optional)

Fill the pot or large pan with vinegar. Have the children float their boats. Give them shakers of baking soda, and tell them to sprinkle it on the “water” like rain. The soda will react with the vinegar to create a simulated storm.

Debriefing

Ask: **Have you ever ridden in a boat? How did you like it? What would it be like if you were on a boat in a storm? If you were scared, what would you do?** (pray, hold on tight, look for mom or dad) **Our Bible story today is about people in a terrible storm, and how**

someone encouraged them. Today’s message is:



We serve others when we encourage them.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- “I Want to Be Like Jesus” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 194)
- “I Will Use My Hands for Him” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 303)
- “Jesus Loves the Little Children” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 309)
- “Kind Lips” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 310)
- “You’ve Got to Tell” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 315)

Mission

Use a story from *Children’s Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Our offerings encourage others to know about Jesus.**

Prayer

Ask the children to name someone they know who is sick. Write the name of a sick person on an adhesive bandage, and give it to a child. Have the children stick the bandages on a poster board/prayer board as a reminder to pray for others. Ask Jesus to be with those who are sick.

You Need:

- adhesive bandages
- marker
- poster board

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- box boats from Readiness Activity A or sheet or masking tape
- umbrellas
- spray bottles for rain
- blankets or towels
- wood for fire
- male voice of Paul

Tell the children they are going to pretend they are taking a boat trip with Paul. In a large group, have some children be the storm; in a small group, let a teacher be the storm. Have children get inside the box boats they made (Readiness Activity A), or sit on the sheet, or sit on the floor in an area that you have outlined with masking tape to represent the boat.

Read or tell the story.

Paul was traveling on a big boat with more than 200 other passengers when a bad storm began. The ship rocked back and forth, back and forth. *[Have a child or teacher shake the boat or sheet.]* It began to rain, harder and harder. *[Have children in the boat put up an umbrella, and have a teacher spray water on the umbrella.]* All the people in the boat were afraid; they thought the boat would break apart and they would surely drown! *[Have children act afraid.]* For 14 days the storm raged. The people in the boat did not eat during all that time.

[(Voice of Paul shouting above the storm:)] "Please! You have been without food all these days; you must eat! You need strength! Do not be afraid. An angel told me last night that God will save all who are in the boat, but we will crash on an island. I trust God. He has promised to save all of us."

The boat got closer and closer to land. Suddenly it hit some land, and the big waves smashed against it and broke the boat to pieces. *[Have the children get out of the boats; tear the box boats to pieces. Have*

each child hang on to a piece as if they were floating.] The water was very cold. Everyone held on to a piece of the boat and floated to land. When they reached shore, they were cold and wet. People who lived on the island came to help them. They built a fire so people from the boat could get dry and warm. *[Have the children gather around a pile of sticks, and wrap blankets/towels around them. Have them shiver as if they are cold and wet.]* They gave them food and dry clothes.

As Paul was gathering sticks of wood for the fire, a poisonous snake called a viper bit him on his arm. Paul quickly shook his arm and the snake fell into the fire. The people were sure Paul would die, but he didn't. God was watching over him.

The leader of those people was Publius. A kind man, he took Paul to his home and cared for him for three days. Paul learned that Publius's father was very sick. He went to the sick man and prayed for him. *[Have one child be the sick person; have the other children gather around and put hands on him/her. Pray that the person will get better. Have the "sick" child stand after the prayer.]* Publius's father was healed—he got well. Many people heard that Paul had helped Publius's father, and they came to Paul too. Paul was happy to tell them about Jesus and about God's healing power. He prayed for all the sick people, and God made them well.

Paul encouraged many people during that time. He encouraged the people on the boat. And he encouraged and helped the people on the island. God wants us to encourage and pray for others too.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Who was on the boat? How do you**

think they felt when the storm lasted so long? What did an angel tell Paul? What did Paul say to encourage the people? Whose message was it?

Why did Paul ask God to heal Publius's father? Did Paul's prayers for healing Publius's father and others give them encouragement? (yes) Do you think the other people wanted to know more about God because of the encouragement Paul gave to them? Remember our message? Let's say it together:



We serve others when we encourage them.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Acts 27:13-28:10. Point to the text and say: **This is where**

today's story is found in the Bible.

Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Why were the people on the boat afraid?** (The storm was bad; they thought the boat would sink.) **What did Paul say the angel told him?** (Everyone would be safe; they would crash on an island.) **What did Paul do when he was on the island?** (He prayed for sick people, and God healed them.) **Who was kind to Paul and the others? Who invited Paul to stay at his home?** (Publius)

Paul encouraged the people. God wants us to encourage people too. Remember . . .



We serve others when we encourage them.

Memory Verse

Turn to 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"Encourage one another and build each other up."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

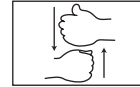
Encourage one another

Point to others one at a time.



and build each other up.

Pound fists as if using a hammer.

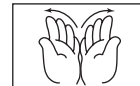


Raise hands upward.



1 Thessalonians 5:11

Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson

Encouraging Words

Allow responses as you ask:

You Need:

- chalkboard or white board (optional)
- chalk or marker (optional)
- building blocks (optional)

What does the word “encouraging” mean? Do encouraging words make you feel good or bad?

Can you think of encouraging words that you’ve heard people say or that you have said? Tell me some, and we will build a tower. Just like our memory verse says that encouraging words build people up, we’re going to build up a tower.

Either write the words on a chalkboard or white board, and draw a block or brick for each word to make a tower, or when a child tells you an encouraging word(s), have them add a block to the building block tower (good job; well done; keep trying; you’ve almost got it; don’t worry, I’ll help you; that looks great; don’t be afraid; Jesus will take care of you, etc.).

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How do encouraging words sound to you? Do you like it when people say encouraging words to you? Why?**

We can serve God and others when we encourage them or do something to help them. Everyone likes to be encouraged, especially those who are in trouble or sick.

Encouragement brings happiness and peace to others. It can give others strength and comfort. Being encouraging shows others that you care about them and that God loves them too. Let’s say our message together again:



We serve others when we encourage them.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Encouragement Boats

You Need:

- walnut shell halves (optional)
- directions for folding boat (see p. 146)
- paper (optional)
- markers

Give the children either an empty walnut shell half or a piece of paper to make a boat. They can color the walnut shell with markers. Or help them fold the paper to make a simple paper boat. See directions on page 146.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What does your boat remind you of?** (the boat Paul was on)

Take your boat home, and share it with someone this week. Tell them that Paul encouraged the people on the boat by telling them that they didn't need to be afraid—that God would save them. And you can tell them that Paul brought encouragement to the sick people by asking God to heal them.

This week, look for ways you can encourage others by your words or actions. Let's say our message together one last time:



We serve others when we encourage them.

Closing

Tell the children that the community service project you participated in is now complete. Ask: **Do you think your gifts will be an encouragement to** (name people benefiting from your project)? Give them words of praise for helping, and tell them that their gifts will be an encouragement to those who receive them.

In a closing prayer, ask God to help all to remember to say encouraging words to others who are in trouble or sick this week.

STUDENT LESSON

Shipwrecked

References

Acts 27:13-28:10;
*The Acts of the
 Apostles*, pp. 442-
 446

Memory Verse

“Encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

The Message

We serve others when we encourage them.

Have you ever been on a boat? Was the water calm or choppy? Paul and his friends were on a boat in a bad storm, and something terrible happened.

The wind howled and screamed. The rain poured down. Waves pounded against the ship. And the ship rocked and tipped dangerously. All the people on board were certain the boat would sink and they would all drown. All but Paul, that is.

Paul stood before the people. “Last night my God sent an angel to me,” he shouted over the storm. “‘Do not be afraid,’ the angel said. ‘God will save you and all the other people sailing with you.’”

“I trust in God,” Paul declared. “Everything will happen as His angel told me. But we will crash on an island.”

On the fourteenth night of the storm the sailors sensed that the ship was near land. They threw their anchors overboard, hoping that would keep the ship from running into the rocky shore. As everyone waited anxiously for daylight Paul said, “You have not eaten in all these days! Please eat something! You will need your strength. Remember, we will all be saved!” Then Paul began to eat, so everyone ate, and they felt better.

When daylight finally came, the sailors tried to steer the ship to the shore, but it ran into the ground and got stuck. Then huge pounding waves broke the boat apart.

Some people swam to shore. Others clung to pieces of wood that had broken off the boat and paddled toward

the beach. All 276 people from the ship reached the shore safely.

Many of the friendly people who lived on the island built big fires on the beach to warm the survivors. While Paul helped gather wood for the fire, a poisonous snake, called a viper, bit his arm. Paul quickly shook his arm and the snake fell into the fire. The people were sure Paul would die, but nothing happened. God was taking care of him.

Publius, the chief ruler of the island, invited Paul and some others to his house and cared for their needs. During the three days he stayed with Publius, Paul learned that Publius’s father was very sick. Paul laid his hands on him and asked God to

heal him, and Publius’s father was healed.

The news of the healing flashed around the island, and people brought their sick to Paul. Paul prayed for each sick person, and the Lord healed every one of them.

The friendly people who lived on the island of Malta blessed the shipwrecked travelers by taking care of them. And God blessed the people of Malta, who were really serving Him when they showed kindness to the travelers.

We can show kindness to others too. We can serve God every day by helping people in need and by praying for them.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and re-view the memory verse:

- Encourage one** Point to others one at a
another time.
and build Pound fists together as if
each other hammering.
up. Raise hands upward.
1 Thessalonians . . . Palms together, then open.
5:11

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the boat they made in Sabbath School with someone this week and tell them how Paul encouraged people on the boat. (Or draw a picture of a boat, and share it.)

Monday

We need five servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Count how many servings you have had today.

Using blocks during worship, build an “encouragement” tower by adding a block when someone says something encouraging to someone.



Tuesday

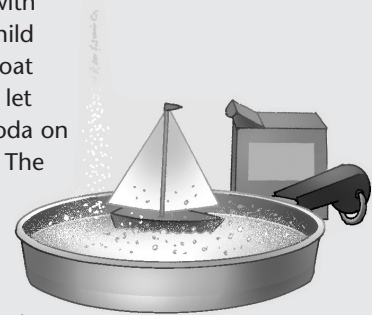
Read together Acts 27:13-28:10. Ask: Why were the people on the boat afraid? How do you think they felt after Paul talked to them? What did Paul tell them?

How did Paul encourage the sick people on the island?

Collect bandages and other items around the house, and talk about how to take care of a sick person. Let your child practice caring for you.

Wednesday

Fill a pot or pan with vinegar. Have your child float a small plastic boat on the vinegar. Then let them shake baking soda on the “water” like rain. The soda will react with the vinegar to create a “storm.” Remind them of the storm Paul was in on the boat.



Pray for the safety of people as they travel today.

Thursday

Begin a list of encouraging words or actions with your child. Each time your child hears and/or sees something encouraging this week, add it to the list.

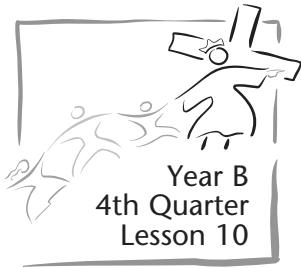
Sing helping songs; then ask Jesus to help you say only encouraging words.

Friday

Act out the story. Have your child get in a box and rock it back and forth during the storm.

Look at the list of encouraging words/actions you started on Wednesday and count them. How many times was someone encouraged?

LESSON



God's Messengers

GRACE

God's grace is His gift to us.

References

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-14; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-48.

Memory Verse

"The angels . . . serve God and are sent to help" (Hebrews 1:14, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God sends angels to care for them because He loves them.

Feel unafraid because the angels are with them.

Respond by thanking God for His gift of angels.

The Message



God sends angels to help us.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

An angel visits Mary to tell her that she will have a special baby called Jesus. The angel also visits Joseph to tell him about Mary and the baby, and says His name shall be Jesus. Later, many angels visit the shepherds and tell them that Jesus has been born in Bethlehem.

This is a lesson about grace.

Because God loves us, He sends an-

gels to comfort us, protect us, guide us, and give us messages. Angels are one of God's gifts to us.

Teacher Enrichment

"I have seen the tender love that God has for His people, and it is very great. I saw angels over the saints with their wings spread about them. Each saint had an attending angel. If the saints wept through discouragement,

TEN

| Program Outline | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Good News!</i> B. <i>Like an Angel</i> | index cards or 8½" x 11" paper, marker, props (see p. 103) |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 107. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | masking tape, large white T-shirts (optional) |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Where Does My Angel Go?</i> | none |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Angel Stick</i> | Angel pattern (see p. 147), lightweight white card stock, scissors, glue, craft sticks, glitter, craft supplies |

or were in danger, the angels that ever attended them would fly quickly upward to carry the tidings, and the angels in the city would cease to sing. Then Jesus would commission another angel to descend to encourage, watch over, and try to keep them from going out of the narrow path; but if they did not take heed to the watchful care of these angels, and would not be comforted by them, but continued to go astray, the angels would look sad and weep. They would bear the tidings upward, and all the angels in the city would weep, and then with a loud voice say, 'Amen.' But if the saints fixed their eyes upon the prize before them and glorified God by

praising Him, then the angels would bear the glad tidings to the city, and the angels in the city would touch their golden harps and sing with a loud voice, 'Alleluia!' and the heavenly arches would ring with their lovely songs" (*Early Writings*, p. 39).

Upon what are your eyes fixed today? Do you trust that Jesus has you in His loving care through whatever this day holds?

Room Decorations

Leave the desert scene from Lesson 10, but also create a stable, and start to create a manger scene. Put soft toy animals around an empty manger. Silhouettes are very effective. Hang a large star.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Good News!

You Need:

- paper
- tape or stapler
- crayons

Let each child decorate a letter-sized sheet of paper. Then have them make a megaphone by rolling the sheet of paper into a cone and taping or stapling it.

Say: **When we have good news, what kind of voice do we use to tell other people? Do we whisper?** (whisper very quietly) **Or do we speak loudly? Let's use our megaphones to spread the good news about Jesus.**

Have the children say: Jesus loves me; I love Jesus; Jesus is coming to take me to heaven; etc.

They may also use their megaphones to do a relay race. Have the children form a line. The first person at the beginning of the line will quickly walk with their megaphone at their side to another point in the room, hold up their megaphone, shout their good news about Jesus, then walk quickly back to their line. Repeat the process until each child has had a turn.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Why do we use a loud voice when we are telling good news?**

In our Bible story today the angels were special messengers with good news. They sang their loudest to spread some good news about Jesus.

What would you think if you saw an angel? What do angels do? (They help people in trouble, bring messages to people, protect us.)

Each of us has an angel with us all the time. That's our guardian angel—a special angel who watches over us everywhere we go. Angels do important work for God, and they are a gift to us from Him. Today's message is about angels:



God sends angels to help us.

Say that with me.

B. Like an Angel

In this activity, children take on the role of an angel. Have a few dolls or stuffed toys available. Ahead of time on paper, print the following: Messenger Angel; Helper Angel; Protector Angel; Comforter Angel. The child chooses a paper but might need help with reading or explaining what is on it. The child then takes a stuffed toy or doll and acts the role of the angel that is on the paper. You may have other props as well such as a car: the Protector angel has to save the “child” or a Band-Aid; the Comforter angel has to comfort the “child” who is hurt.

Debriefing

Our Bible story today is about angels. These angels brought good news about Jesus.

What would you think if you saw an angel? What do angels do? (They help people in trouble; bring messages to people.)

Each of us has an angel with us all the time—our guardian angel, a special angel who watches over us wherever we go. Angels do important work for God, and they are a gift to us from Him. Today’s message is about angels:



God sends angels to help us.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 107.

You Need:

- index cards or 8½" x 11" paper folded in two
- marker
- teddy bears and dolls
- props that relate

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- masking tape
- large white T-shirts (optional)

On the floor, tape a starting line and a finishing line, or use a wall as the finishing line. Dress the children as angels, using large white T-shirts as angel robes. The children are to stand behind the starting line, and at the appropriate time in the story, when you say "Go," they are to "fly" to the finishing line, then rush back to wait for their new task.

Read or tell the story.

The angels were so excited! They knew that many of the Jewish people had waited a long time for this special time. And finally the time was now.

"Go!" [point to the finishing line] God said.

The angel Gabriel hurried to earth to a little town called Nazareth, and a very special young woman named Mary.

"Hello, Mary." Gabriel spoke softly. "The Lord has blessed you and is with you." Mary was very, very surprised and confused! She had never seen an angel before.

"Don't be afraid, Mary; God is pleased with you," Gabriel continued.

"You will have a baby," Gabriel announced. "And you will name Him Jesus. He is the Son of God."

After Gabriel finished explaining things, Mary said, "Let it be as you have said." Then Gabriel quickly returned to heaven.

"Go!" [point to the finishing line] God said again. "It is time to talk to Joseph."

A beautiful angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Take Mary for your wife," the angel said. "She will have a Son, and you will name the baby Jesus. He will save His people from their sins. Jesus

is the one that all the Jewish people have been waiting for. He will be called Immanuel," the angel continued. "That means 'God is with us.'"

Joseph woke up. *An angel!* Joseph thought. *God sent an angel to me! An angel!*

"Go!" [point to the finishing line] God said. "It's time to tell the shepherds the good news."

The whole angel choir sped to earth. One angel appeared first and spoke. The brilliant light around the angel frightened the shepherds.

"Don't be afraid!" the angel said. "I am bringing you good news! Your Saviour was born today in Bethlehem!"

Suddenly the whole sky was filled with angel music more beautiful than anything the shepherds had ever heard before. When the joyous music ended, the beautiful light faded in the sky. The angel concert announcing Jesus' birth was over.

Then the angel choir sped back to heaven. What would be the next special work God had for them? Angels are always ready to do God's work, to watch over God's people, to care for you and me.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think about the way God sent word about Jesus' birth to Mary and Joseph? How do you think they felt? How do you think the shepherds felt?**

What would you do if you saw an angel today? God doesn't always send an angel to give us special messages, but we always have our guardian angel with us to watch over us and protect us.

Angels are a special gift from God. Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



God sends angels to help us.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; and Luke 2:8-14. Point to the text

and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What did the angel in Joseph's dream tell him to do?** (marry Mary)

How did the angel encourage Mary? (told her not to be afraid, that she would have a baby boy, that she should name Him Jesus) **What was that angel's name?** (Gabriel)

What did the angel tell the shepherds? (Do not be afraid; Jesus is born in Bethlehem; go find Baby Jesus lying in a manger.) **What did the angels do after telling the shepherds about Baby Jesus?** (sang praises to God, went back to heaven)

Angels watch over us all day, every day. They are one of God's gifts to us. Let's always remember



God sends angels to help us.

Memory Verse

Turn to Hebrews 1:14 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"The angels . . . serve God and are sent to help"** (Hebrews 1:14, ICB). Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

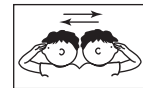
The angels . . . Flap arms gently as if wings.



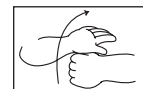
serve God Point upward.



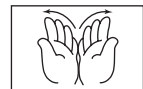
and are sent Right hand above eyes; look up from right to left.



to help. Left fist under back of right hand; push upward to chest.



Hebrews 1:14 Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson

Where Does My Angel Go?

Read the following, one at a time. At the end of each, allow response time.

1. I am traveling in a car with my family. There is a lot of traffic. Where is my angel?
2. Grandmother is very sick. She coughs a lot and has a fever. Where is her angel?
3. Jackie is playing with her kitten. Her kitten runs toward the street, and Jackie runs after it. Where is Jackie’s guardian angel?
4. Susie’s family is on their way to church. Where are their angels?
5. Kayla and her mother are shopping in a big store. Kayla stops to look at some toys. Kayla realizes that her mother is not with her. Where is Kayla’s guardian angel?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Where were the guardian angels during each of these situations? (with each person) **Where is your guardian angel right now? How do you know?** (I believe it; God promised it.)

Yes, God loves us so much that He gives us a special angel that stays with us all the time. What do you think your guardian angel does for you? (protects us, watches over us, guides us, etc.) **Let’s stop right now and thank God for our guardian angels.** Sing “Thank God for Angels Bright” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 50). **Let’s always remember . . .**



God sends angels to help us.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Angel Stick

You Need:

- Angel pattern (see p. 147)
- lightweight white card stock
- scissors
- glue
- craft sticks
- glitter
- craft supplies

In advance, make a copy of the Angel pattern (see page 147) for each child. Cut it out for the younger children ahead of time. Glue a craft stick to the back of the angel so it can be used as a puppet. Then let the children decorate the angels with glitter or other craft supplies.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask:

What good news can we share today? (the good news of

Jesus being born, and of His angel messengers)

Use your angel stick to tell your friends about the angels who took messages to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, and your angel who watches over you. Let’s share the good news of God’s angel messengers and tell others that God loves them, too. Let’s say our message together one last time:



God sends angels to help us.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study, and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "Jesus Sends the Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 48)
- "Guardian Angel Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 49)
- "Thank God for Angels Bright" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 50)
- "All Night, All Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 119)
- "Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 121, verse 3)
- "Angels Singing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 140, verses 1 and 2)
- "It Was a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 148)
- "Little Baby in the Manger, I Love You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 149)

Mission

Say: **A long time ago the angels told some people good news about Jesus. Today there are still many people who don't know about Jesus. In our story today we will hear how _____ learned the good news.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

You Need:

- Angel pattern (see p. 147)
- paper
- scissors
- tape

Say: **When we bring money to Sabbath School, it goes to help other people learn about Jesus and the gifts He gives us.**

Prayer

In advance, copy the Angel pattern (see page 147), one for each child. Cut them out, and put them in a basket. At prayer time, let each child take one. Stand or kneel in a circle to pray. Encourage the children to say thank You to God for angels. Younger children may need prompting. After the prayer, let the children tape their angel to a bulletin board or wall.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Closing

Say: **Today we have learned about God's angel messengers and how they help us. Let's say thank You to God for His angels.**

STUDENT LESSON

God's Messengers

References

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-14; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-48

Memory Verse

"The angels . . . serve God and are sent to help" (Hebrews 1:14, ICB).

The Message

God sends angels to help us.

Do you like to hear good news? A long time ago angels brought good news to some special people.

The angel Gabriel sped to earth. He knew exactly where he was going—to a little town called Nazareth. He knew exactly whom he would talk to there—a special woman named Mary. And he knew exactly what God had told him to say.

"Mary." Gabriel spoke softly. "Don't be afraid. God is pleased with you. The Lord has blessed you and is with you," he said.

Mary was very, very surprised! And very, very confused!

Mary listened carefully to everything the beautiful angel Gabriel told her.

"You will have a baby," Gabriel said. "You will name Him Jesus. He is the Son of God."

After Gabriel finished explaining things, Mary said, "Let it be as you have said."

About this same time, God sent a message to Joseph. A glorious angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

"Take Mary for your wife," the angel said. "She will have a Son, and you will name the baby Jesus. He will save His people from their sins."

Joseph woke up. *An angel!* Joseph

thought. *God sent an angel to me! An angel!*

After Baby Jesus was born, God sent another angel to shepherds who were quietly guarding their sleeping sheep.

The brilliant light of the angel suddenly shone upon them. And they were scared! "Don't be afraid!" the angel said. "I am bringing you good news! Your Saviour was born today in Bethlehem!"

Then all the angels burst into song. "Give glory to God in heaven!" they sang mightily. "And on earth let there be peace!"

The whole sky was filled with beautiful music.

Soon the angel choir

sped back to heaven. What would be the next special work God had for them?

Angels are always ready to do God's work, to carry messages, and to watch over you and me.

God has given you a special angel, your guardian angel, to watch over you all the time. Wherever you go, whatever you do, your angel is with you. Isn't God good?



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story and re-view the memory verse:

The angels Flap arms gently as if wings.

serve God Point upward.

and are sent. Right hand above eyes; look up from right to left.

to help. Left fist under back of right hand; push upward to chest.

Hebrews 1:14. Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to use the Angel Stick they made in Sabbath School to share the good news about Jesus and the angels with a friend. (Or draw a picture of an angel, and let them color it. Then cut it out and glue it on a stick.)



Monday

Read together Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-14. Ask: Whom did the angels visit? What messages did they share? How did the people in our story feel when they saw an angel? (scared, surprised) What special job does your guardian angel do?

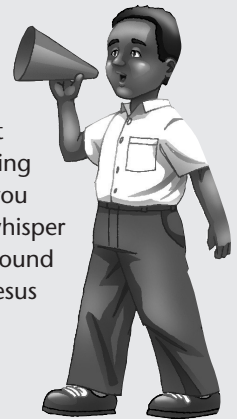
Tuesday

Have your child jump for every Bible angel story they

think of. Help your child make a list and count them. Sing about angels; then thank Jesus for them.

Wednesday

Help your child make a megaphone by rolling a letter-sized sheet of paper into a cone shape and taping or stapling it together. Ask: When you have good news, do you want to whisper or shout it? Let your child march around with their megaphone, shouting "Jesus loves me!"



Thursday

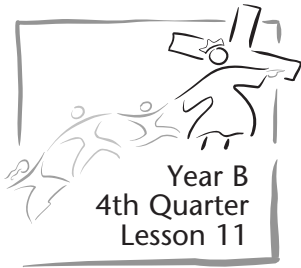
Ask your child: What did the angels tell Joseph and Mary to name their baby? (Jesus) The name Jesus means one who saves people from their sins. Tell your child why you chose their name and what it means (if you don't know, look it up on the Internet or in a book).

Friday

Act out the story of the angels coming to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Let your child shine a flashlight on the person playing the angel (it could be themselves). When the angels sing after visiting the shepherds, listen to or sing a Christmas carol such as "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

Talk about a time when you think angels helped or protected your family.

LESSON



The Best Gift

GRACE God's grace is His gift to us.

References

Luke 2:15-20; Matthew 2:1, 10, 11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 48, 59-67.

Memory Verse

"Today . . . a Savior has been born" (Luke 2:11, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that Jesus is a precious gift to them.

Feel the joy of praising God for the gift of Jesus.

Respond by giving gifts to family, friends, and those in need.

The Message



Jesus is the best gift from God.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Many people are happy that Jesus is born: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi. The Magi bring gifts for Jesus. We thank God for the gift of Jesus and worship Him by giving Him gifts: our offerings and gifts to people in need.

This is a lesson about grace.

Jesus is God's wonderful gift of love

to all of us. The baby born in a manger lived and died for us. He is our salvation, our joy today and in the days to come. Nothing is better than that.

Teacher Enrichment

"The twenty-fifth of December has long been commemorated as the day of Jesus' birth, and in this article it is not my purpose to affirm or question

ELEVEN

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Gifts</i> B. <i>Stable Birth</i> | small gifts baby lotion, music box, audio player, straw, soft cloth or blanket |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 113. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | simple costumes for children, baby doll, small towel, Wise Men's gifts |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>The Best Gift</i> | gift boxes; items or pictures of God's gifts; picture of Jesus, a baby, or the word "Jesus"; <i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> songbook |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Angel Star Ornament</i> | Angel Star pattern (see p. 147), card stock, scissors, hole punch, string or yarn, crayons, glue, glitter |

the propriety of celebrating this event on this day, but to dwell upon the childhood and life of our Saviour. It is my purpose to call the attention of the children to the humble manner in which the Redeemer came to the world. All heaven was interested in the great event of Christ's advent to earth. Heavenly messengers came to make known the birth of the long-promised, long-expected Saviour to the humble shepherds who were watching their flocks by night on the plains of Bethlehem. The first manifestation that

attracted the notice of the shepherds at the birth of the Saviour, was a radiant light in the starry heavens, which filled them with wonder and admiration" (Ellen White, in *Review and Herald*, Dec. 17, 1889).

What will be your primary focus this holiday season? How will you help the children see the real meaning of Christmas?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 11. Place a baby doll in the manger (perhaps during the story).

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Gifts

You Need:

- inexpensive gift for each child

Give each child an unexpected, unearned gift.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do you think about getting a gift for no reason? Why do we give gifts? Why do we wrap gifts?**

What is the best gift you ever received? God gives us many gifts, because He loves us. Our Bible story today is about the very best gift God ever gave us. Today’s message is:



Jesus is the best gift from God.

Say that with me.

B. Stable Birth

You Need:

- baby lotion
- music box
- audio player
- straw
- soft cloth or blanket

Say: **Baby Jesus was born in a stable, which is like a small barn. It was not like a house where you live. It smelled differently.** Talk about the difference between nice-smelling baby lotion and manure. Put a little lotion on each child and let them rub it in. Say: **It also sounded differently. Baby Jesus didn’t hear a music box playing; He heard animal sounds.** Have the children make the sounds of animals that would be in a barn. Record the sounds they make. Play it back for them and let them make more sounds. Say: **Baby Jesus’ mother didn’t have a nice soft bed in which to lay Him. She had to put Him on a bed of straw.** Let the children feel

the difference between a soft cloth and straw.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How many of you have been inside a barn? What was it like?** (smells bad, noisy, cold or hot, light or dark) **How would you sleep in a barn with animals? What smell would you like? Why? Which sounds would you like to hear when you go to sleep at**

night? Why? Would you rather sleep on a bed of soft cloth or straw? Why?

These things remind me of our Bible story. Jesus, God's most precious gift to us, was born in a stable. Baby Jesus definitely is the best gift that God ever gave us. Today's message is:



Jesus is the best gift from God.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Away in a Manger" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 141)

"Baby Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 142)

"Christmastime" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 144)

"God's Best Gift" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 145)

"Little Baby in the Manger, I Love You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 149)

Mission

Say: **Not all people in the world know about God's best gift, Jesus. Let's hear a story about someone who learns about Jesus.**

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **God gave us the best gift ever—Jesus! We gladly give what we have for others so they can know about God's best gift ever.**

Prayer

You Need:

- bag
- gift items

Bring a bag full of things children might get as gifts during the holiday season (toy, mittens, book, candy, etc.). Let the children pull them out and say what they are. Ask: **What is the best gift of all? (Jesus) Let's say a prayer thanking God for His gift. Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus, the best gift of all. Help us to remember what Christmas is really about: Your gift of Jesus. Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- simple costumes for children
- baby doll
- small towel
- Wise Men's gifts

Use the room decor of a nativity scene, including a manger with Baby Jesus wrapped in a towel.

Have the children play all the roles: Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Wise Men, sheep, donkeys, etc. Or have adults be Mary and Joseph, and have a real baby. Play the animal sounds recording made in Readiness Activity B, or make some of your own in advance.

Have Mary, Joseph, and the baby in place to begin.

Setting the scene:

Say: **Baby Jesus was born in a stable, which is like a barn. It was not a nice place like where we live. It smelled differently. It sounded differently.** [Play the recording of animal sounds.] **And there was no nice furniture, not even a bed.**

Read or tell the story.

Mary stared at her precious tiny baby sleeping soundly in her arms. She looked up at Joseph. "He's so perfect!" she breathed. "He's so perfect!"

Joseph smiled back. Baby Jesus was finally born! And God had given Him to *their* family! Joseph could hardly believe it. He leaned over and took one of the baby's little hands between his big strong fingers.

All mothers and fathers are proud of their new babies. They think their babies are special. But Mary and Joseph *knew* that their baby, Jesus, was truly the most special baby that would ever be born. Even though He had been born in a stable, He was God's Son. And God had picked them—Mary and Joseph—to take care of this priceless gift that He had sent to the world.

[Have the shepherds come, with some

children acting as sheep. Let the shepherds get close and look at the baby.]

Joseph heard scuffling noises behind him. He turned around to see what was going on. Shepherds were coming softly through the door. They tiptoed awkwardly across the floor to the place where Mary and Joseph rested on the hay. "We've come to see the baby," they explained. "Angels told us that our Saviour has been born tonight!"

"Angels?" Mary asked wonderingly. "Angels?"

The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all about the most marvelous sight they had seen in the sky only a little while before. They told Mary and Joseph about the glorious music they had heard. The shepherds lingered a long time in the stable. They believed what the angels had told them. They knew that this baby was God's own special Son. They didn't want to leave.

[Have the Wise Men come in and kneel and give gifts. Let them look at the baby.]

Some time later, after Joseph and Mary had moved from the stable to a little house, a group of strangers arrived at their door. They had been following a special star in the sky for a long, long time and for many, many miles. They knew the star was leading them to Jesus. And the star had stopped over this particular house. One of their servants went up to the door. *Knock! Knock! Knock!*

The door opened and Joseph looked out. He saw camels and servants and important, richly dressed travelers outside—Wise Men from a faraway country. "Come in," Joseph said in a surprised voice. "Come in."

The Wise Men went into the house. They saw Mary sitting quietly in a chair, holding her baby.

The Wise Men bowed down and worshiped the Baby Jesus. Then they gave Mary and Joseph the presents they had brought for Him. They praised God for giving them the gift of Jesus. They worshiped Him with their gifts and their love.

And Mary and Joseph smiled. God had given them a wonderful gift—the Saviour of the world.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about having their baby born in a stable?**

What were the shepherds thinking when they saw Baby Jesus? How did they feel about the baby?

Who came to bring gifts to Jesus? How were they dressed?

Why had they come?

Do you remember our message? Let's say it together again:



Jesus is the best gift from God.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to Luke 2:15-20 and Matthew 2:1, 10, 11. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

You Need:

Bible

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Where was Jesus born?** (Bethlehem, stable) **Who came to see the baby? What did they say?**

What did the Wise Men see that made them so happy? (star) **What gifts did they give Baby Jesus?** (gold, frankincense [incense] and myrrh) **Why did they bring gifts?**

Who is God's best gift to us?



Jesus is the best gift from God.

Memory Verse

Turn to Luke 2:11 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"Today . . . a Savior has been born."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

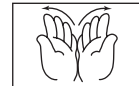
Today . . . a Savior Point upward.



has been born. Pretend to hold a baby in your arms.



Luke 2:11 Palms together, then open.



3

Applying the Lesson

The Best Gift

You Need:

- ❑ two wrapped gift boxes (see activity)
- ❑ items or pictures of God’s gifts
- ❑ picture of Jesus, a baby, or the word “Jesus”
- ❑ *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

Have two gift boxes wrapped, one fancier than the other. In the less fancy box, place items that God gives to us (picture of family, birds, animals, water, food, etc.). In the other, put a picture of Jesus, a baby, or the word “Jesus.”

Allow responses as you ask:

What gifts does God give us?

Have the children take the gifts out of the simply wrapped box, and talk about them. Do not open the fancier box.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask:

Which gift box looks nicer? (The one they haven’t opened yet.) **God gives us a lot of nice gifts, but one gift is better than all the others.** Have a child take the best gift out of the box. Say: **What is the best gift God gives us?** (Jesus)

Yes, Jesus is the best gift that God has ever given us. Without Jesus we wouldn’t be able to someday live with God in heaven. Let’s sing together about God’s best gift. Sing “God’s Best Gift” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 145). **What is our message again?**



Jesus is the best gift from God.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Angel Star Ornament

You Need:

- Angel Star pattern (see p. 147)
- card stock
- scissors
- hole punch
- string or yarn
- crayons
- glue
- glitter

In advance, copy the Angel Star pattern (see page 147) onto card stock. Cut it out, and punch a hole at the tip of one point. Insert string or yarn into the hole to hang it from a Christmas tree.

Let the children color the star and glue glitter onto it.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What did you make? Do you remember what the angels looked like in the sky above Bethlehem? (a star) They were shining over the best gift**

ever given. What is that? (Jesus)

You can take the Angel Star you made home with you and share it with someone as you tell them the good news of God's gift to us. They can hang it on their Christmas tree to remind them of Jesus' birth.

And when someone gives you a gift at Christmas, you can thank them and then tell them that Jesus is really the best gift of all. Let's say our message together one last time:



Jesus is the best gift from God.

Closing

Pray and thank Jesus for loving everyone and for being God's best gift to us.

STUDENT LESSON

The Best Gift

References

Luke 2:15-20;
Matthew 2:1, 10,
11; *The Desire
of Ages*, pp. 48,
59-67

Memory Verse

"Today . . . a
Savior has been
born" (Luke
2:11, NIV).

The Message

Jesus is the
best gift
from God.

Can you think of the best gift you've ever received? Were you excited? Is that the way you feel about Jesus, the really, truly best gift ever?

Mary stared at her precious tiny baby sleeping soundly in her arms. She looked up at Joseph. "He's so perfect!" she breathed. "He's so perfect!"

Joseph smiled back. Baby Jesus was finally born! And God had given Him to *their* family! Joseph could hardly believe it. He leaned over and took one of the baby's little hands.

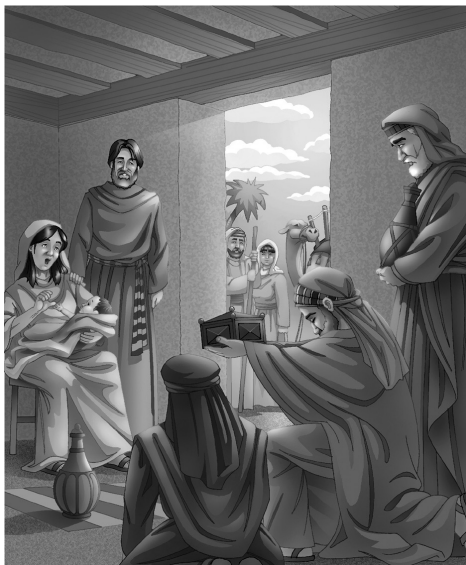
All mothers and fathers are proud of their new babies. They think their babies are special. But Mary and Joseph *knew* that their baby, Jesus, was truly the most special baby that would ever be born. He was God's Son. And God had picked them—Mary and Joseph—to take care of this priceless gift that He had sent to the world.

Joseph heard scuffling noises behind him in the stable. He turned around to see what was going on. Shepherds were coming softly through the door. They tiptoed awkwardly across the floor to the place where Mary and Joseph rested on the hay. "We've come to see the baby," they explained. "Angels told us that our Saviour has been born tonight!"

"Angels?" Mary asked wonderingly. "Angels?"

The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all about the most marvelous sight they had seen in the sky only a little while

before. They told Mary and Joseph about the glorious music they had heard. The shepherds lingered a long time in the stable. They believed what the angels had told them. They knew that this baby was God's own special Son. They didn't want to leave.



Some time later, after Joseph and Mary had moved from the stable to a little house, a group of strangers arrived at their door. They had been following a special star for a long, long time and for many, many miles. And the star had stopped over this house. One of their servants went up to the door. Knock! Knock! Knock!

The door opened and Joseph looked

out. He saw camels and servants and important, richly dressed travelers outside—Wise Men from a faraway country. "Come in," Joseph said in a surprised voice. "Come in."

The Wise Men went in and saw Mary sitting quietly, holding her baby. They bowed down and worshiped Jesus. Then they gave Mary and Joseph the presents they had brought. They worshiped Jesus with their gifts and their love.

And Mary and Joseph smiled. God had given them a wonderful gift—the Saviour of the world.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story and re-view the memory verse:

Today . . . a Savior . Point upward.
has been born. . . . Pretend to hold a baby in your arms.

Luke 2:11 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the Angel Star ornament they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Baby Jesus' birth. (Or draw a star shape, cut it out, and decorate it. String yarn or thread through one point.)



Monday

Read together Luke 2:8-20 and Matthew 2:1, 2, 10, and 11. Ask: How do you think the barn in which Jesus was born smelled? Who came to see Baby Jesus? How do you think they felt when they saw Him? Why did Jesus come to earth?

Let your child pretend to be a shepherd and run to a designated location to find Baby Jesus.

Tuesday

Have your child count how many Wise Men visited Jesus and how many gifts they brought. Ask: What kind

of gifts were they? (gold, frankincense [incense], and myrrh) Explain the value and use of the gifts. Let your child smell some perfume.

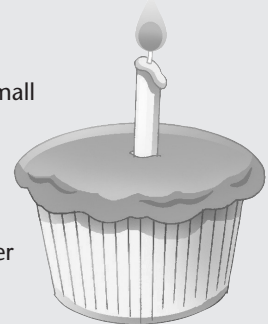
Sing "Away in a Manger" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 141); then thank God for Jesus.

Wednesday

Go outside at night, and look for stars in the sky. Ask: What do you think the star that the Wise Men saw looked like? When will people see many angels in the sky again? (When Jesus comes again.)

Thursday

Light some candles on a small cake or muffin to celebrate Jesus' birthday and to remind your child that Jesus is the best gift from God! Ask: Why do we give gifts to one another on Christmas?



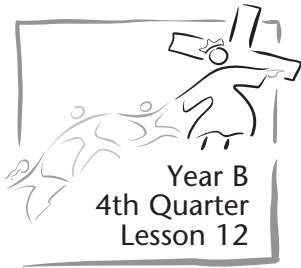
Friday

Have the whole family "dress up" and act out the nativity story. (Robes and towels make costumes.) Use a box with a towel as a manger, and add a baby doll. Ask: What gift would you have given Jesus?

Ask: What is God's best gift to us? (Jesus) Why did Jesus come to earth?

Sing about Jesus' birth; then thank Him for dying for your family.

LESSON



Dedicated to God

GRACE

God's grace is His gift to us.

References

Luke 2:21-38; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 50-58.

Memory Verse

"Children are a gift from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that Jesus was a special gift from God to all the world.

Feel love for God and Jesus.

Respond by thanking God for the gift of His Son.

The Message



God shares His gift with everyone.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Baby Jesus is taken to the Temple by His parents to be dedicated to the Lord. He is the firstborn son of Joseph and Mary. They are to make a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons in keeping with the law. Simeon holds Jesus and praises God for being able to see the Messiah. Simeon blesses Joseph and Mary and prophesies about Jesus' future. Anna, a prophetess, also sees Jesus and gives thanks to God as she spreads the word of the birth of the Messiah, the

child who has come to save the world from sin.

This is a lesson about grace.

Just as Mary and Joseph loved their precious baby and dedicated Him to serve God and the world, Christian parents do the same. Children are a special blessing from God. Parents, by God's grace, raise their children to love, honor, and serve God. Babies are dedicated to God by their parents. Children can choose to dedicate their lives to God.

TWELVE

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Streamers</i> B. <i>Clay Baby</i> C. <i>Children's Collage</i> | colored crepe paper, scissors, paper plates, glue sticks modeling clay old magazines, scissors, heavy paper, glue sticks |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 127. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | baby doll, small towel, adult female in Bible-times costume |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Who Is Dedicated?</i> | baby doll, mirror |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Bookmark</i> | Bookmark pattern (see p. 149), heavy paper, crayons, scissors |

Teacher Enrichment

"The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner. This gift was to be acknowledged in every household by the consecration of the first-born son. He was to be devoted to the priesthood, as a representative of Christ among men.

"In the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, the dedication of the first-born was again commanded. . . .

"Thus the law for the presentation of the first-born was made particularly significant. While it was a memorial of the Lord's wonderful deliverance of the children of Israel, it prefigured a greater deliverance,

to be wrought out by the only-begotten Son of God. As the blood sprinkled on the doorposts had saved the first-born of Israel, so the blood of Christ has power to save the world" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 51).

"Fathers and mothers should look upon their children as younger members of the Lord's family, committed to them to educate for heaven" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 515).

What are you doing to prepare your precious students for heaven? Do you see them as special gifts from God?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 11. Have a baby doll in the manger.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Streamers

You Need:

- crepe paper, various colors
- scissors
- paper plates
- glue sticks

In advance, cut a variety of colored crepe paper into 1" x 3' (3 cm. x 1 m.) streamers. The children can glue three to five streamers on one half of the paper plate circle, leaving the other half free for a handle. Say: **We’re going to make a colorful streamer that we can use when we sing.**

Sing a Christmas song the children know well as they sing and wave their streamers.

Debriefing

Allow responses: **Do you like to sing and wave your streamers? Why? Do you think it makes Jesus happy to hear you singing about Him? (yes) Jesus loves to hear His children singing. He likes to see you happy.**

Our Bible story is about a very happy day when the angels must have sung. Baby Jesus’ parents wanted to show that they loved God and would raise their baby to love and serve Him too. They were so happy to have little Jesus, a gift from God to all the world. Today’s message is:



God shares His gift with everyone.

Say that with me.

B. Clay Baby

You Need:

- modeling clay

Give the children some modeling clay, and ask them to shape themselves as a baby.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What do your babies look like? What are they doing? Not all these babies look alike. Each one looks different and unique, just as you did when you were a baby. But all babies have something in common. They are all a gift from**

God. Jesus loves all the children in the world, and He gives them to parents as a blessing, or a gift.

Our Bible story is about the time Baby Jesus' parents wanted to show that they loved God and would raise their baby to love and serve Him too. They were so happy to have little Jesus, a gift from God to the world. Today's message is:



God shares His gift with everyone.

Say that with me.

C. Children's Collage

You Need:

- old magazines
- scissors
- heavy paper
- glue sticks

Have a stack of old magazines so the children can cut out pictures of children and glue them onto a sheet of paper to make a collage.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Do the children in the pictures you found look happy? What are they doing? Are any of them doing the same thing? Do any of them look exactly alike?**

Can you think of anything that all these children have in common? I know one thing. They are all a gift from God. Jesus loves all the children in the world, and He gives them to parents as a blessing, or a gift.

Our Bible story is about when Baby Jesus' parents wanted to show that they loved God and would raise their baby to love Him too. They were so happy to have their little baby, God's gift, that they would share with the whole world. Today's message is:



God shares His gift with everyone.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 127.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- baby doll
- small towel
- adult female in Bible-times costume

Wrap the baby doll in the small towel, and have a female storyteller hold it as she tells or reads the story as if she were Mary.

Read or tell the story.

Hello, boys and girls. My name is Mary, and this is my little baby boy. His name is Jesus. Joseph and

I named Him that because that is what the angel told us to name Him. He is a special baby. He is God’s Son. But He is also my little son, and I just love Him so much. I think He is beautiful and precious.

I want to tell you about what happened the other day. We took our baby to the Temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to God. In our country it is our custom to take the first baby boy in the family to the Temple for a special service and to offer a sacrifice. We took with us an offering of two pigeons. You would bring an offering of money today.

While the priest accepted our offering, an older man named Simeon saw our baby. He came over to us and asked if he could hold Jesus. I was pleased and gladly let him. Simeon held Baby Jesus in his arms. Then he started thanking God for being able to see this special baby, the Saviour of the world. Simeon even blessed Joseph and me.

Joseph and I were surprised by what was happening and what Simeon was saying. We knew Jesus was special, but we didn’t quite understand everything yet.

Just then an older woman named Anna came to us also. And she asked to see our baby. We let her, of course. She smiled the biggest smile I’ve ever seen.

Then she too began thanking God for being able to see our Jesus. She began telling people who were watching us what a special child Jesus was. She told them that our baby would save everyone.

There was so much going on and so many things to think about that I was a bit confused. But later I thought again and again about the things that Simeon and Anna had said. And I remembered that the angel had told us that Jesus would save people from their sins.

The shepherds and the Wise Men knew He was special. We know it too, but Joseph and I love our baby just because He is our baby. He is a gift from God to us. Your parents love you, too, because you are a gift from God to them. Children are very special to God, especially Baby Jesus, God’s gift to everyone.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Why did Simeon and Anna want to see Jesus? Why did they praise God for Him?** (They knew that Jesus was the Saviour.) **How did Mary feel about all that happened?** (surprised, happy, confused) **How do you think Simeon and Anna felt when they knew they had seen the Saviour of the world?** (happy, joyful, thankful, excited)

Why did Jesus come to this earth?

How do you think your parents felt when you were born? Who is God’s best gift of all? Do you remember our message? Let’s say it together:



God shares His gift with everyone.

Bible Study**You Need:**
 Bible

Open your Bible to Luke 2:21-38. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Where did Joseph and Mary take Jesus to be dedicated? What offering did they take?** (two young pigeons) **Who praised God for being able to see Baby Jesus?** (Simeon and Anna) **What did they believe about Jesus?** (He would save the world.) **What do you believe?**

Memory Verse

Turn to Psalm 127:3 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"Children are a gift from the Lord."** Teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:
 Bible

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Children | Point to children. |
| are a gift | Hands out as if giving. |
| from the Lord. | Point upward. |
| Psalm 127:3 | Palms together, then open. |

**3****Applying the Lesson****Who Is Dedicated?****You Need:**
 baby doll
 mirror

Hold the baby doll and say: **When you were a baby, most of you were probably dedicated to God in a special ceremony at church, as Jesus was. Do you know why your parents did that?** (Allow responses.) **They were telling everyone in our church that they want to teach you about Jesus and help you grow up to know and love and serve Him. It is also one way your parents show their thankfulness to God for you. They know that you are a gift from God to them.**

Who is a gift from God? Let's see who is. Hold the mirror up to each child, and ask: **Who is a gift from God?** Answer it by saying: **(Child's name) is!** Say: **Each of you is a gift from God. Are you Jesus' child too?** (Yes.)

Debriefing

Say: **When you were a baby, you couldn't choose to love and obey Him yet because you didn't understand things like that. But now you are bigger, and you understand more. You can choose to love Jesus and obey Him and serve Him. By doing that, you are dedicating yourself to Him.**

Do you choose now to be dedicated to Jesus? Do you choose to love Him, to be His helper, and to help others as He does? If you do, you have accepted God's special gift to everyone: His Son, Jesus. Encourage children to say yes and affirm their decision. **Let's say our message together again:**



God shares His gift with everyone.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Bookmark

You Need:

- Bookmark pattern (see p. 149)
- heavy paper
- scissors
- crayons

In advance, make a copy of the Bookmark pattern (see page 149) for each child. Either cut them out, or let the children cut out their own. Let them color their bookmarks.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask:

Do you know what your bookmark says? Read it aloud:

“Children are a gift from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3, ICB).

Take your bookmark home with you, and share it with someone this week as you tell them about Baby Jesus’ dedication service.

And remember how special you are to Jesus, because you are a special gift from Him to your parents. Let’s say our message one more time:



God shares His gift with everyone.

Closing

Say a short prayer, thanking God for each of the children and for Jesus’ special gift to save us all.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study, and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 102)

"Jesus Loves the Children" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 106)

"Baby Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 142)

"God's Best Gift" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 145)

"Mary Loved Baby Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 150)

Mission

Say: **Not all the children in the world know that they are a special gift from God. Some don't even know that Jesus loves them. Let's hear a story about someone who learns about Jesus.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **God gave us the best gift ever—Jesus! But did you know that you are a special gift from God too? We gladly give our offerings to Jesus to thank Him for loving us.**

Prayer

Say: **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for making us a gift to our families. We love You. Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

STUDENT LESSON

Dedicated to God

References

Luke 2:21-38; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 50-58

Memory Verse

"Children are a gift from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3, ICB).

The Message

God shares His gift with everyone.

Have you ever seen a baby dedication in church? Were you dedicated to God? Jesus was.

Hello, young friends. My name is Mary, and this is my little baby boy. His name is Jesus. Joseph and I named Him that because that is what the angel told us to name Him. He is a special baby. He is God's Son. But He is also my little son, and I just love Him so much. I think He is beautiful and so precious.

I want to tell you about what hap-

pened the other day. We took Baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to God. In our country it is our custom to take the first baby boy in the family to the Temple for a special service. We took with us an offering of two pigeons.

While the priest accepted our offerings, an older man named Simeon saw our baby. He came over to

us and asked if he could hold Baby Jesus. I was pleased and gladly let him.

Simeon held Baby Jesus in his arms and looked into His face. Then he started thanking God for letting him see this special baby, the Saviour of the world. "Lord, as You have promised, let me go my way in peace, for I have seen this child who will bring salvation to all people, a light to all people."

Simeon even blessed Joseph and me. We were surprised! We knew Jesus was special, but we didn't quite understand everything yet.

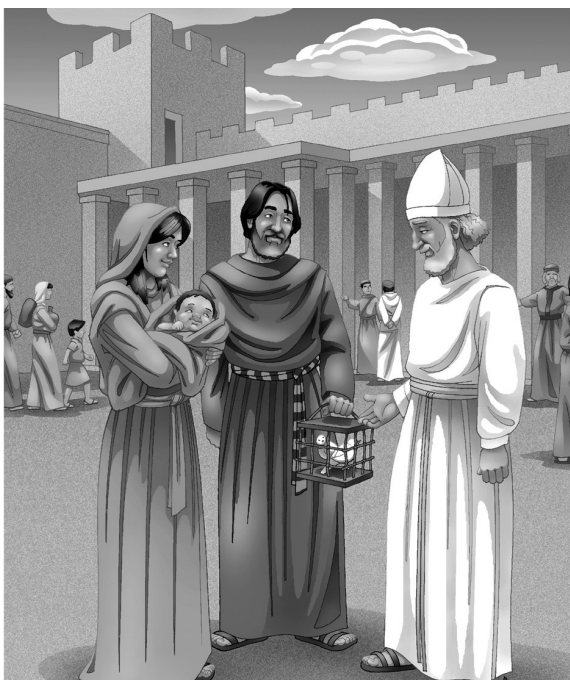
Then an older woman, Anna, came to us, and she asked to see Jesus. Of course, we let her. She smiled the biggest smile I've ever seen. She too began thanking God for

letting her see our Jesus. She began telling people who were watching us what a special child Jesus was. She said our baby was the promised Saviour.

There was so much going on and so many things to think about that I was a bit confused, but pleased, too. Later I thought again and again about the things that Simeon and Anna had said about our special baby.

It had been an amazing day! Both Simeon and Anna had seen something special about our baby. Both had said that He would bring salvation to all, that He was the promised Saviour of the world.

Joseph and I love Jesus just because He is our baby. We know that He is a gift from God to us, and to all the world. Your parents love you, too. Children are very special to God.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story and review the memory verse:

Children Point to child.

are a gift Hands out as if giving.

from the Lord. Point upward.

Psalm 127:3 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the bookmark they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Jesus' baby dedication. (Or help them cut one out of heavy paper, write the memory verse on it, and decorate it.)

Monday

Read together Luke 2:21-38. Ask: Where was Jesus' baby dedication? (in the Temple at Jerusalem) Who was happy to see Baby Jesus in the Temple? (Simeon and Anna) Why? What did Mary think about all that Simeon and Anna said?

Sing "Away In a Manger"; then thank God for Jesus.

Tuesday

Look at books with pictures of babies, young children, and their families. Talk about how Mary and Joseph loved Baby Jesus and about how parents today love their children, too.

Before prayer, sing together "Jesus Loves Me" or "Jesus Loves the Children."

Wednesday

Put a beanbag (or something similar) on your child's back, and ask them to crawl around without letting it fall off. Talk about how they crawled as a baby but now they walk. Ask: What other things have you learned to do? What have you learned about Jesus since you were a baby? Thank Jesus for your "growing" child.



Thursday

Together, look at your child's baby pictures and pictures of his or her baby dedication. Describe the events and how you felt.

Have your child look in a mirror while you ask: Who is a special gift from God? Say: You are! Ask: Who is God's special gift to all of us? (Jesus)

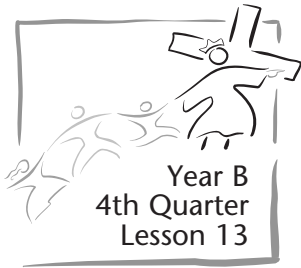
Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Use a baby doll for Baby Jesus, and wrap Him in a small towel or blanket.

Give your child a hug. Remind them that they are a special gift from God. Tell them you love them. Sing songs about Jesus' birth; then thank God for your child and for Jesus, God's gift to the whole world.



LESSON



He's Coming Again

GRACE God's grace is His gift to us.

References

Matthew 24:27, 30, 31, 42; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 1:7; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 640-645.

Memory Verse

"Look, he is coming with the clouds" (Revelations 1:7, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that Jesus will return to earth to take us to live with Him.

Feel happy that Jesus is coming soon.

Respond by thanking Jesus for His gift of eternal life.

The Message



Jesus is coming soon!

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After Jesus grows up and becomes a man, He lives His life giving to others by teaching, healing, forgiving, and loving. After His death and resurrection, He returns to heaven. One day soon He will come back to earth seated on a throne, surrounded by angels. He will come in the clouds with power and great glory. Everyone will see Him as the King of the Universe. He will take us up into heaven to live with Him forever.

This is a lesson about grace.

We are waiting for Jesus to come to take us home to heaven and give us the gift of eternal life with Him.

Teacher Enrichment

"Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it

THIRTEEN

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|--|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Surprises!</i> B. <i>Packing for a Trip</i> | paper bag or box, small treats or gifts suitcase or bag, assorted items (see activity) |
| * Prayer and Praise * | up to 10 | See page 133. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | none |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Being Ready for Jesus</i> | none |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Second Coming Picture</i> | Second Coming picture (see p. 150), card stock, cotton balls, glue, crayons, glitter (optional) |

draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a 'Man of Sorrows,' to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. . . . With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.' No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. . . . As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life.

. . . His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. 'And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, *King of kings, and Lord of lords.*' Revelation 19:16" (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 640, 641).

Are you living each day as if Jesus were coming very soon? Does His soon coming seem real and personal to you? Will it seem real in the way you teach it to the children?

Room Decorations

Keep the room decorations from the last three weeks. Add a second coming scene on a felt or bulletin board with angels, clouds, Jesus on a throne, etc.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Surprise!

You Need:

- paper bags
- small treats or gifts

Ask: **Do you like surprises? I thought you might. Well, I have a surprise for you in this bag. I can’t give it to you right now because it’s not the right time yet, but I will very soon. In the meantime, let’s talk about today’s Bible story. It is about Jesus coming to earth for a second time. Remember the first time?**

He was a baby. That baby grew up to be a man. The second time He will come as our King in the clouds with thousands and thousands of angels. Everyone will see Him and bow down to worship Him. Won’t that be a wonderful sight to see?

Now it’s time for me to give you a surprise. Give each child a treat or gift from your bag.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Did you know when you would get the surprise? No, you didn’t know exactly when. That is what it will be like when Jesus comes again. No one knows exactly when He will come. He’s going to surprise us! We do know that Jesus promised to come back again, and that He’s coming soon. And Jesus always keeps His promises. Today’s message is:**



Jesus is coming soon!

Say that with me.

You Need:

- suitcase or bag
- items to pack for a trip

B. Packing for a Trip

Place in the suitcase items you would pack for a trip—socks, jacket, shirt, toothbrush, comb, book, etc. Also include things in the suitcase that you wouldn’t ordinarily take on a trip such as a fork, a hammer, a bottle of glue, etc. Say: **I’m going on a trip, and I’ve packed my suitcase. I need some helpers to come and take one item out of my suitcase and show it to everyone.** Ask for volunteers to

take one item at a time out of the suitcase, hold it up, and ask if it is something you would need on your trip.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Did I need everything for my trip that I had packed in my suitcase? Why not? Do you know what is the biggest, most important trip we are ever going to take? Yes, our trip to heaven.**

Our Bible story is about Jesus coming to take us with Him to live in heaven. Do we need to pack our suitcases for that trip? No! How do we get ready for that big trip? (By giving our hearts to Jesus, living every day like it's the day He's coming, accepting Jesus' gift of eternal life, etc.) **Jesus will soon take us on a wonderful trip—a trip to heaven. We can't do anything to earn our trip there. It is His gift of love to us. Today's message is:**



Jesus is coming soon!

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"God's Best Gift" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 145)

"Jesus Is Coming" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 182, 183, 184)

"Jesus Is Building Mansions" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 134)

"Alway" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 128)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **We can give our money to Jesus today so others will be ready to take the trip to heaven with us when Jesus comes.**

Prayer

Ask: **If you would like to make the trip to heaven with Jesus, come and kneel down with me as we thank Jesus for His promise to come back to take us to heaven.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson**Experiencing the Story**

As you share the story have the children point to themselves when they hear the word children.

Read or tell the story.

Do you get excited when special people come to take you someplace? Soon a very special person will come for you. He will take you to His home.

God's **children** on earth know that Baby Jesus, born so long ago, had grown into a man. They know He was the One who died to save them. They know He has gone to heaven to be with God. And they know He will come to earth again.

God's **children** on earth know it will happen soon. "Watch for My coming!" Jesus said. "There will be troubles on the earth. There will be wars. There will be earthquakes. But do not worry! I am coming back to get you and take you home to heaven."

Yes, there have been earthquakes in the world. There have been wars. There have been many kinds of trouble. But God's **children** do not need to worry. They know Jesus is coming to take them home.

"When I come to get you, everyone in the world will see Me," Jesus said. "I will come like bright lightning that flashes. I will come with clouds of bright angels. And they will gather you up to meet Me in the sky."

God's **children** keep their eyes on the sky. Nobody knows which day He will come. But all God's **children** know He is coming.

All the angels in heaven know it, too. They know Jesus is going back to earth to get His **children** and bring them home. Not one of the angels knows exactly which will be the special day. But they know that on that day, the great trumpet of God will sound. And they will go with Jesus to gather His **children** from one end of the world to the other.

The excited angels wait. They practice the welcoming songs they will sing for God's **children**.

God's **children** wait and wait. "Do you think He's really coming?" some ask.

"Of course, He's coming!" their friends encourage. "Jesus never breaks His promises! Keep watching the sky."

One day, the special day will come! "It's time. The time is here" Jesus' shout will ring through all of heaven. "Let's go get My **children!**"

The angels will cheer. They will clap. They will sing and dance for joy. It will be the noisiest day ever!

Jesus and the angels will speed through the air to the earth. They will be faster than lightning, and brighter than the sun. Shining clouds of angels will surround Jesus as He comes through the sky.

"He's coming!" God's **children** will shout. "Jesus is coming! He said He would come, and He is!"

Then the angels will hurry to gather together all God's **children** to meet Jesus in the clouds.

It will be the happiest day ever! It will be a wonderful day when Jesus comes to take us home!

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What will we see in the sky when Jesus is coming? What will Jesus look like? How many angels will be with Him?**

Who will gather God's children for Jesus? How are the people who love Jesus going to feel when they see Him? How will you feel? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together again:



Jesus is coming soon!

Bible Study**You Need:** Bible

Open your Bible to Matthew 24:27, 30, 31, 42; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; and Revelation 1:7. Point to the texts and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing





Allow responses as you ask: **What will Jesus' coming be as bright as?** (lightning) **Where will Jesus be seen coming?** (in the sky, in clouds) **What will be heard when Jesus comes?** (trumpets, angels singing) **Who will see Jesus when He comes?** (everyone) **Do you want to be ready when He comes? Why? Remember . . .**



Jesus is coming soon!

Memory Verse

Turn to Revelation 1:7 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"Look, he is coming with the clouds."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Look, | Put hand above eyes. |  |
| He is coming | With palms up, move hands upward to chest. |  |
| with the clouds. | Point upward. |  |
| Revelation 1:7 | Palms together, then open. |  |

You Need: Bible

3

Applying the Lesson**Being Ready for Jesus**

Say: When someone is coming to your house to pick you up to take you somewhere special—like Grandpa coming to take you to the zoo, or a friend and his family taking you on a picnic—do you watch for them out your window? Do you ask your mother, “When are they going to get here?” Are you excited and ready to go the minute they arrive?

Our trip to heaven is a wonderful gift from Jesus. We don’t deserve it, and we can’t do anything to earn it. But we can be ready when He comes. We can do things to help us be ready. I’m going to read about some things that could or could not help you get ready for Jesus’ coming. You tell me what you think by giving me a thumbs-up sign if it would help you get ready for Jesus, or a thumbs-down sign if it would not help you.

1. Listen to Daddy read your Bible story for family worship.
2. Stomp your feet and yell at

your mommy because she won’t buy you a toy you want.

3. Pray every day and ask Jesus to forgive you if you have been naughty.
4. Hit your brother because he took your picture book.
5. Sing praises to Jesus at home and at church.
6. Talk to other children during Sabbath School when the teacher is talking.
7. Help your grandpa find his missing glasses.
8. Thank Jesus for loving you and for His promise of living with Him forever.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Can you think of any other ways to get ready for Jesus to come? Do you want to be ready when Jesus comes? Do you know when He will come again? It will be a surprise for us, but we can still be ready! We do know that He has promised and that . . .**



Jesus is coming soon!

4

Sharing the Lesson**Second Coming Picture**

In advance, copy the Second

You Need:

- Second Coming picture (see p. 150)
- card stock
- cotton balls
- glue
- crayons
- glitter (optional)

Coming picture (see page 150) onto card stock. Have the children color the picture, then glue cotton balls onto the clouds. If desired, sprinkle glitter on the finished picture.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Who would**

like to show their beautiful picture to us? You've all done a very nice job. We want everyone to be ready for Jesus to come.

Think of someone you would like to share your Second Coming picture with this week. When you do, tell them what it will be like when Jesus comes again and why He is coming. Remember our message . . .



Jesus is coming soon!

Closing

Pray and thank Jesus for giving us the promise of His soon return to this earth to take us to heaven. Ask Him to help us to be ready every day.

STUDENT LESSON

He's Coming Again

References

Matthew 24:27, 30, 31, 42; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 1:7; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 640-645.

Memory Verse

"Look, he is coming with the clouds" (Revelation 1:7, NIV).

The Message

Jesus is coming soon!

Do you get excited when special people come to take you someplace? Soon a very Special Person will come to take you to His home.

God's children on earth know that Baby Jesus, born so long ago, grew to become a man. They know He was the One who died to save them. They know He has gone to heaven to be with God. And they know He will come to earth again.

God's children on earth know it will happen soon. "Watch for My coming!" Jesus said. "There will be troubles on the earth. There will be wars. There will be earthquakes. But do not worry! I am coming back to get you and take you home to heaven."

Yes, there have been earthquakes in the world. There have been wars. There have been many kinds of trouble. But God's children do not need to worry. They know Jesus is coming to take them home.

"When I come to get you, everyone in the world will see Me," Jesus said. "I will come like bright lightning that flashes. I will come with clouds of bright angels. And they will gather you up to meet Me in the sky."

God's children keep their eyes on the sky. Nobody knows which day He will come. But all God's children know He is coming.

All the angels in heaven know it, too. They know Jesus is going back to earth to get His children and bring them home. Not one of the angels knows exactly which

will be the special day. But they know that on that day, the great trumpet of God will sound. And they will go with Jesus to gather His children from one end of the world to the other. The excited angels wait. They practice the welcoming songs they will sing for God's children.

God's children wait and wait. "Do you think He's really coming?" some ask.

"Of course, He's coming!" their friends encourage. "Jesus never breaks His promises! Keep watching the sky."

Suddenly, the special day will come! "It's time. The time is here." Jesus' shout will ring through all of heaven. "Let's go get My children!"

The angels will cheer. They will clap. They will sing and dance for joy. It will be

the noisiest day ever!

Jesus and the angels will speed through the air to the earth. Shining clouds of angels will surround Jesus as He comes through the sky.

"He's coming!" God's children will shout. "Jesus is coming! He said He would come, and He is!"

And the angels will hurry to gather together all God's children to meet Jesus in the clouds.

It will be the happiest day ever! It will be a wonderful day when Jesus comes to take us home!



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day of the week read the lesson story and review the memory verse.

Look, Put hand above eyes

He is coming With palms up, move hands upward to chest.

with the clouds. Point upward.

Revelation 1:7 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the Second Coming picture made in Sabbath School with someone they want to remind that Jesus is coming soon! (Or help them make a picture of a large cloud with Jesus on a throne surrounded by angels. Glue cotton balls on the clouds.)

Monday

Read together Matthew 24:27, 30, 31, 42; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; and Revelation 1:7. Ask: What will you hear when Jesus comes in the clouds? What will you see? What will you do?

Give your child a surprise. Talk about how Jesus' coming will surprise people. We don't know when, but He will come soon!

Tuesday

Show your child a picture of a trumpet and let them listen to some trumpet music.

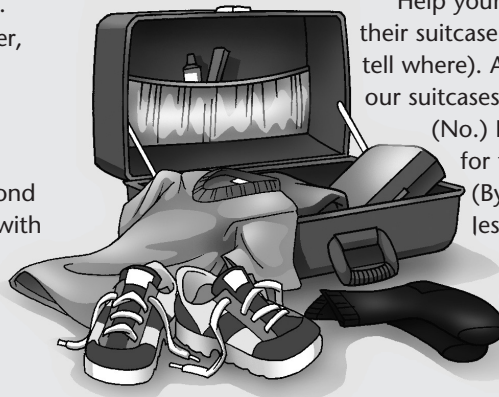


Ask: Who will play trumpets when Jesus comes? Sing "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*The SDA Church Hymnal*, No. 213) before prayer. Pray that He will come soon.

Wednesday

Help your child pretend to pack their suitcase to go on a trip (don't tell where). Ask: Will we need to pack our suitcases for our trip to heaven?

(No.) Do we need to be ready for that big trip? (Yes.) How? (By giving our hearts to Jesus.)



Thursday

Describe the lightning people will see when Jesus comes again. Help your child find East. Talk about the cloud in the East when Jesus comes. Sing "God Is So Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 88). Pray that you all will be ready when He comes.

Friday

Have the family act out the Bible story. Turn off the lights, then turn them back on for the brightness of Jesus' coming. Someone can shine a flashlight onto the face of the person playing Jesus. Crash together pot lids for the trumpet sounds.

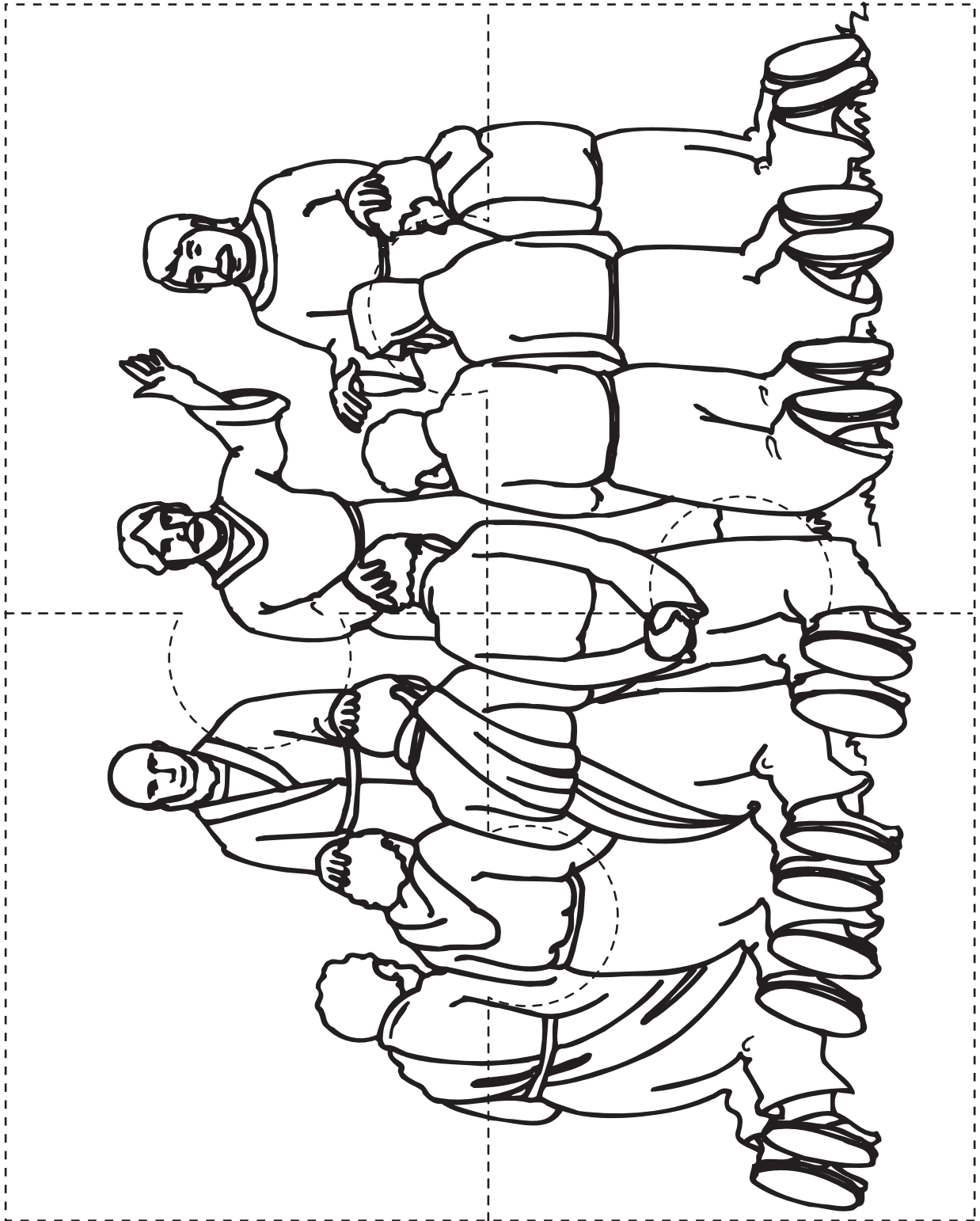
Sing "Jesus Is Coming Again," then thank Him for the promise of His coming.

Sharing Children Pattern
Lesson 1—Readiness Activity A



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Jigsaw Pattern
Lesson 2—Readiness Activity B



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Official Helper Certificate
Lesson 2—Sharing the Lesson



Certificate

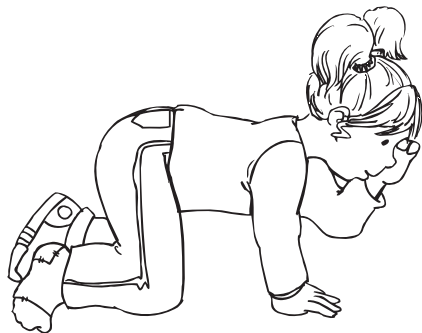
(Child's Name)

is an Official Helper of the

(Name of your church)

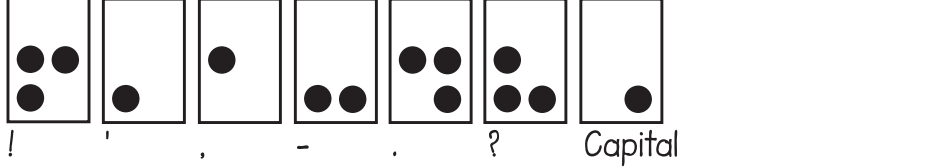
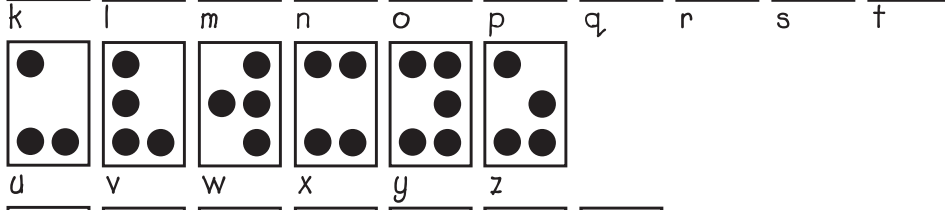
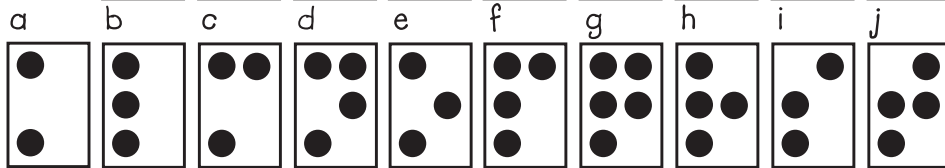
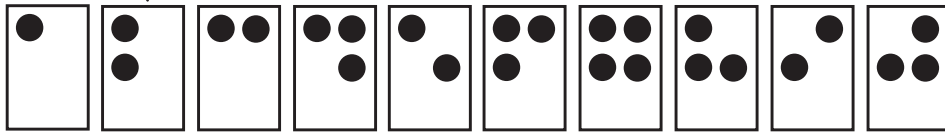
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Praying Pattern
Lesson 4—Readiness Activity B

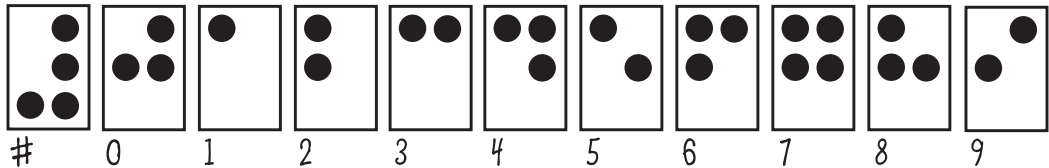


Braille Alphabet Pattern
Lesson 6—Sharing the Lesson B

Braille Alphabet:



Numbers:



Braille Jesus



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Welcome Friends Door Hanger
Lesson 7—Sharing the Lesson

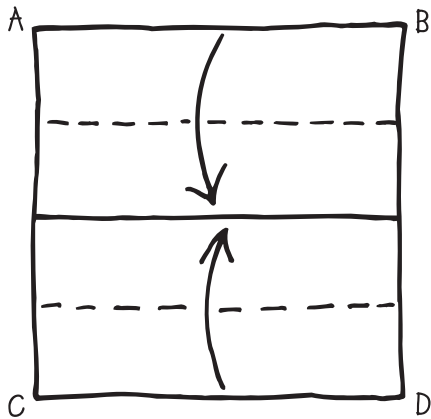


Memory Verse Chain Pattern
Lesson 8—Sharing the Lesson

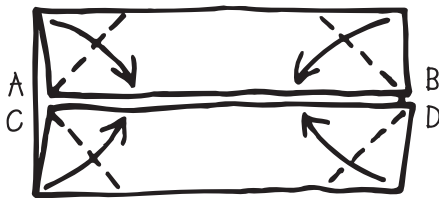
| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | “Do |
| 2 | what |
| 3 | is |
| 4 | right.” |
| 5 | 2 Corinthians 8:21 |

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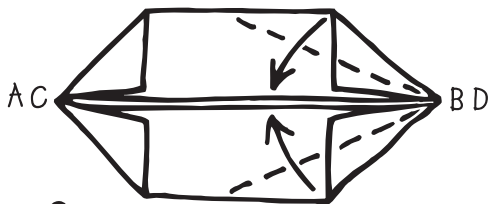
Encouragement Boat
Lesson 9—Sharing the Lesson



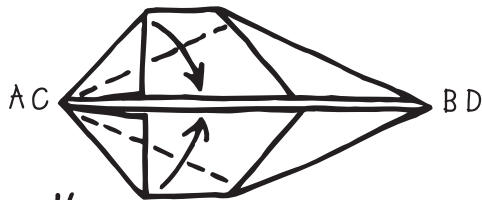
1. Mark the center of your paper.
 1. Fold the top and bottom edges to the center.



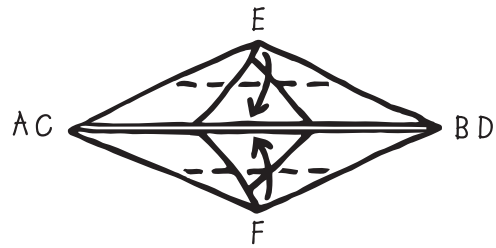
2. Fold in the corners.



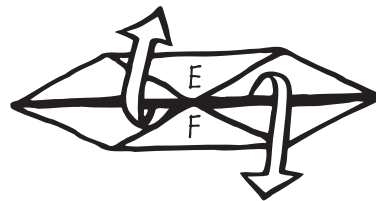
3. Fold the right corners in.



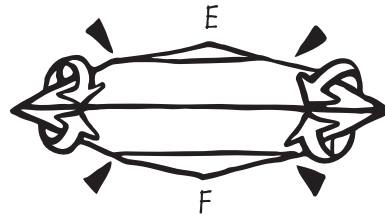
4. Fold the left corners in.



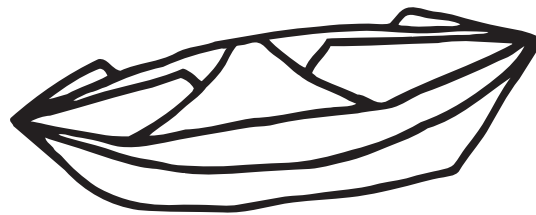
5. Fold in E & F to the center and press firmly.



6. Open out all the layers revealing the base.



7. Turn the pattern over and push down on the four corners, so the structure inverts and turns inside out.



8. Your boat is complete.

Angel Pattern
Lesson 10—Sharing the Lesson and Prayer Time



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Angel Star Ornament
Lesson 11—Sharing the Lesson




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Bookmark
Lesson 12—Sharing the Lesson


"Children
 are a
 gift from
 the Lord."
 Psalm 127:3




"Children
 are a
 gift from
 the Lord."
 Psalm 127:3



"Children
 are a
 gift from
 the Lord."
 Psalm 127:3



"Children
 are a
 gift from
 the Lord."
 Psalm 127:3



Jesus' Second Coming
Lesson 13—Sharing the Lesson



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