Kindergarten



Grace Link Curriculum

Resource for Leaders/Teachers

Third Quarter B

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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, Third Quarter

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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—three to six 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
- ❑ posterboard
- ❑ 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 (empty rolls)
- ❑ yarn, several colors

Other

- ❑ adhesive bandages
- ❑ bags, paper and plastic, all sizes
- ❑ beanbag
- ❑ balloons
- ❑ blindfold for each child
- ❑ blocks, boxes, or Legos
- ❑ boxes, large cardboard (appliance size)
- ❑ device that can play music (CD, MP3, streaming, etc.)
- ❑ 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
- ❑ small magnets
- ❑ 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
- ❑ clothes
- ❑ small boxes
- ❑ pictures of people
- ❑ picture of a church
- ❑ Paper People Chain pattern (see p. 140)

Lesson 2
- ❑ sticks, stones, shells
- ❑ thick rope, 10 feet or three meters long
- ❑ gold- and silver-colored dishes
- ❑ coins
- ❑ "clean" trash
- ❑ Temple pattern (see p. 141)

Lesson 3
- ❑ 8-10 envelopes
- ❑ pretty pictures (nature, animals)
- ❑ unattractive pictures (nature, animals)
- ❑ Caring for All Ages pattern (see p. 142)
- ❑ crowns
- ❑ Stop Sign pattern (see p. 143)

Lesson 4
- ❑ round dry cereal
- ❑ scepter model or picture
- ❑ Praying Hands Crown pattern (see p. 144)
- ❑ Star pattern (see p. 143)

Lesson 5
- ❑ Can I Help Here? pattern (see p. 145)
- ❑ items from other countries
- ❑ transportation toys (optional)
- ❑ missionary costumes (optional)
- ❑ globe or world map
- ❑ World Map pattern (see activity)

Lesson 6
- ❑ felts or puppets
- ❑ felt board
- ❑ Butterfly pattern (see p. 146)

Lesson 7
- ❑ clear bowl with water
- ❑ spoon
- ❑ something that dissolves in water
- ❑ something that won't dissolve
- ❑ toy medical equipment
- ❑ white sticky dots or white chalk
- ❑ Jordan River pattern (see p. 147)
- ❑ Naaman pattern (see p. 148)

Lesson 8
- ❑ whiteboard or chart paper
- ❑ three nature pictures
- ❑ basket
- ❑ large picture or felt of Jesus
- ❑ first-, second-, and third-place ribbons
- ❑ Ribbon pattern (see p. 148)
- ❑ blue paper
- ❑ two-sided tape

Lesson 9
- ❑ stiff cardboard
- ❑ large bowl or basin
- ❑ pebbles
- ❑ tray
- ❑ tea towel
- ❑ items used for protection (see activity)
- ❑ baby doll with blanket
- ❑ feathers or Ping-Pong balls
- ❑ small margarine or cottage cheese containers (empty)
- ❑ green ribbon or fabric
- ❑ green markers
- ❑ small dolls or craft sticks

Lesson 10
- ❑ yardstick or meter stick
- ❑ several large boxes
- ❑ Cloud pattern (see p. 149)
- ❑ drinking straws or twigs or craft sticks
- ❑ crayons, red and yellow glow-in-the-dark (if possible)

Lesson 11
- ❑ pitcher of water
- ❑ disposable cups or spoons
- ❑ dead plant
- ❑ healthy plant
- ❑ box or paper bag
- ❑ salt
- ❑ "cloud" on a stick from Lesson 10
- ❑ sandwich-size plastic bags
- ❑ tablespoon
- ❑ ribbon or yarn
- ❑ Body of Water pattern (see p. 150)

Lesson 12
- ❑ puffed rice cereal or popped popcorn
- ❑ soft sweet objects
- ❑ strong-smelling foods
- ❑ empty plastic containers
- ❑ felt or plastic fruit/vegetables
- ❑ Favorite Food pattern (see p. 149)

Lesson 13
- ❑ bowls
- ❑ "cloud" on stick from Lesson 10
- ❑ two cooking pot lids
- ❑ flat stone for each child

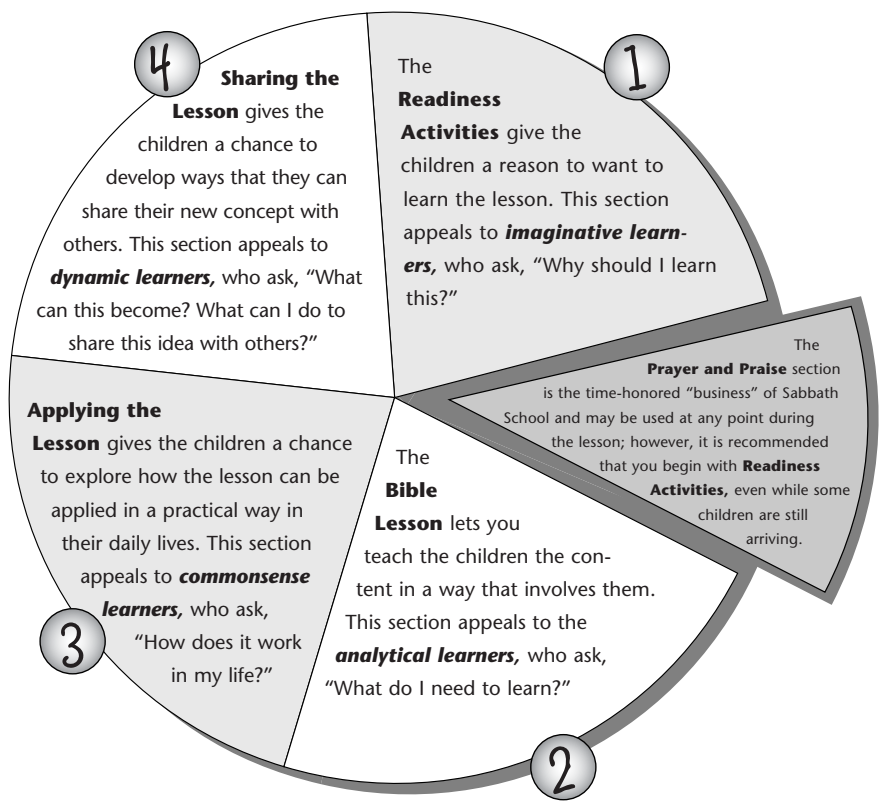
Lesson	Bible Story	References	Memory Verse	Message	Materials
	**COMMUNITY:** We help each other.				
Lesson 1 July 6	Joash, the little prince	2 Kings 11; PK 215, 216	Romans 12:10, ICB	In God's family, we love and protect each other.	See p. 11.
Lesson 2 July 13	Joash repairs the temple.	2 Kings 12:1-15; 2 Chronicles 24:1-14; SDABC v. 2, 923, 924	Philippians 1:27, ICB	In God's family, we work together.	See p. 21.
Lesson 3 July 20	Queen Esther	Esther 1; 2:1-20; SDABC v. 3, 468-471	Hebrews 13:1, NIV	God's people care for each other.	See p. 31.
Lesson 4 July 27	Esther saves her people.	Esther 4; 5:1-7; 7:1-4; 8:11; PK 602-606	Matthew 18:20, NIV	God hears us when we pray together.	See p. 41.
	**SERVICE:** God teaches us how to serve.				
Lesson 5 August 3	The captive maid	2 Kings 5:1, 2; PK 244, 245	Galatians 6:10, NIV	We can serve God wherever we are.	See p. 51.
Lesson 6 August 10	The captive maid (continued)	2 Kings 5:1-8; PK 246	2 Thess. 2:16, 17, NIV	We serve God by what we do and say.	See p. 61.
Lesson 7 August 17	Naaman is cured of leprosy.	2 Kings 5:9-14; PK 246-249	Ephesians 2:10, NIV	We serve God by doing good for others.	See p. 71.
Lesson 8 August 24	Naaman accepts the God of Israel.	2 Kings 5:15-17; PK 249, 250	2 Kings 5:15, NIV	We serve others, but we put God first.	See p. 81.
	**WORSHIP:** We thank God for being with us.				
Lesson 9 August 31	Baby Moses	Exodus 1; 2:1-10; PP 241-244	Psalm 32:7, NIV	We worship God when we thank Him.	See p. 91.
Lesson 10 Sept. 7	Israel leaves Egypt.	Exodus 13:21, 22; 14:19, 20; PP 282-287	Genesis 28:15, NIV	We thank God for taking good care of us.	See p. 101.
Lesson 11 Sept. 14	Bitter water made sweet	Exodus 15:22-25; PP 291-294	Revelation 7:17, NIV	We thank God for giving us water.	See p. 111.
Lesson 12 Sept. 21	Manna from heaven	Exodus 16:1-5, 14-26; PP 294-297	Joel 2:26, NIV	We thank God for giving us good food.	See p. 121.
Lesson 13 Sept. 28	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:1-11, 16-20, 25; 20:1-17; 32:15, 16; PP 303-309	Exodus 19:8, NIV	We thank God for showing us how to live.	See p. 131.

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.

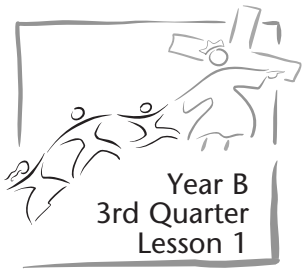
E. **Involve the adult Sabbath School staff** in new and flexible ways.
   - A very small Sabbath School can be managed by one adult.
   - A larger Sabbath School can be managed by one leader/teacher with other adult volunteers to facilitate the small group interaction. This gives small group facilitators 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.



The Little Prince

COMMUNITY We help each other.

References
2 Kings 11; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 215, 216.

Memory Verse
"Love each other like brothers and sisters" (Romans 12:10, ICB).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that they can help protect others.
Feel sympathy for those who are threatened.
Respond by standing up for those who are treated unfairly.

The Message
In God's family, we love and protect each other.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Wicked Queen Athaliah wants to kill Baby Joash and all the other princes so they can never become king. But his aunt Jehosheba (wife of priest Jehoiada) takes him away and hides him in the temple for six years. When he is 7 years old, his uncle Jehoiada, the priest, crowns him king in place of Queen Athaliah. Soldiers protect Joash and lead Athaliah away. Young Joash is a good king who leads his people back to worship the true God.

This is a lesson about community.
Christian families protect and support their communities. That protection may not take the drastic form it did for Joash, but Christians protect others because Christ and His angels protect them.

ONE

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Dress Up* *B. Mystery Boxes*	box, clothes small boxes, pictures or figures of people, picture of a church
*	**Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 13. ***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	*Protecting Others*	none
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Paper People Chain*	Paper People Chain pattern (see p. 140), paper, scissors, crayons

Teacher Enrichment

"Those who took part in acclaiming Joash king, had solemnly covenanted 'that they should be the Lord's people.' And now that the evil influence of the daughter of Jezebel had been removed from the kingdom of Judah, and the priests of Baal had been slain and their temple destroyed, 'all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet.' 2 Chronicles 23:16, 21" (*Prophets and Kings,* p. 216).

"The prominent position which you as a family occupy in the church makes it highly necessary for you to be burden bearers. Not that you are to take burdens for those who are able to bear their own and also to aid others; but you should help those who stand most in need of help" (*Testimonies for the Church,* vol. 2, p. 75).

How do you protect and love the children in your church? Do you feel as if they are part of your family?

Room Decorations

Set up part of the room to look like a palace/temple. This set will be used all month. Have pillars (perhaps made of rolled corrugated cardboard), cushions or pillows on the floor, and a large chair (for a throne) with a purple or red cloth draped over it.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Dress Up

You Need:

- ❑ box
- ❑ clothes

In a box, place clothes that represent people in the church: mothers, fathers, boys, girls, pastors, choir members, teachers, deacons, etc. Say: **Let's dress up and pretend we are people in the church.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do these people help us in church?** (Teachers help us learn about the Bible, pastors tell us about God, choir members praise God by singing, deacons help by collecting the offering and by caring for the church, etc.) **What's your favorite part of being a family? Do family members protect each other? How do people in your family help protect each other?** (by watching out for each other, standing up for each other, etc.) **It feels good to be part of a family, because family members love and protect one another. People in the church, in God's family, care for and protect one another. The Bible story today is about a family that protected a baby. Today's message is:**



In God's family, we love and protect each other.

Say that with me.

B. Mystery Boxes

You Need:

- ❑ small boxes
- ❑ pictures or figures of people
- ❑ picture of a church

In advance, put pictures or figures of different people (toy people), such as men, women, boys, girls, etc., in small boxes, one to each box. Hide them around the room and ask the children to find a box. Say: **We are going to open these boxes one at a time. You can shake the box, listen, and guess what's inside.** Children each take a box and shake it. Allow time for guessing. Say: **(Name of child), would you open your box and show us what is inside?** Child opens box and tells what's inside. Say: **Oh, your figure is a (boy). Now, (name of another child), you may open your box.** Continue in this manner until all the boxes are opened.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **One person in a church would be lonely, don't you think? Let's put all our people together in front of the picture of a church. It takes many people of all ages to make a church. The church is people, not just a building. People in the church, in God's family, love and protect each other. The Bible story today is about a family protecting a baby. Today's message is:**



In God's family, we love and protect each other.

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

"The Helping Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 297)
"Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264)
"Care for One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 262)
"Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260)
"Plenty of Room in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 248)

Mission

Say: **In God's family, people help protect one another in all the different countries of the world.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **In God's family, people help protect one another. We also serve God when we give Him our offerings. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, that people in God's family protect each other. Amen.**

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



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Say: ***We're going to hear a story about how God kept a little boy named Joash safe from a bad woman. Her name was Queen Athaliah. When I say "Athaliah," I want you to point your thumbs down. When I say "Joash," I want you to clap your hands.*** *Practice these before starting the story.*

Read or tell the story.

Prince **Joash** *[clap hands]* lived in the royal palace in Israel. But even though **Joash** *[clap hands]* was a prince he still needed someone to protect him. He needed protection from **Athaliah** *[thumbs down],* the bad queen.

Queen **Athaliah** *[thumbs down]* was very angry. She was so angry that she wanted to hurt all the princes in Israel who could someday become king. There was no way **Joash** *[clap hands]* could protect himself from Queen **Athaliah** *[thumbs down],* because he was just a baby.

Joash *[clap hands]* had an aunt named Jehosheba, who lived in the temple with her husband, Jehoiada, the priest. Because she believed in God, she chose to protect **Joash** *[clap hands]* from Queen **Athaliah** *[thumbs down].* So Jehosheba secretly took the baby boy and his nurse to the temple. Jehosheba and her husband decided to hide them in a room there.

For six years **Joash** *[clap hands]* and his nurse lived in the temple with Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada. The nurse took care of **Joash** *[clap hands].* Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada kept him hidden from bad Queen **Athaliah** *[thumbs down].* They secretly taught him that someday he would be king. Though he was just a boy, **Joash** *[clap hands]* knew that one day he would rule over Israel.

And finally that day came. **Joash** *[clap hands]* was 7 years old when Uncle Jehoiada decided it was time to crown him king. Uncle Jehoiada called soldiers to the temple and told them that Prince **Joash** *[clap hands]* was alive. He told them he and Aunt Jehosheba had been protecting Prince **Joash** *[clap hands]* from bad Queen **Athaliah** *[thumbs down]* for six years. He asked the soldiers to gather around the prince to protect him from **Athaliah** *[thumbs down]* as **Joash** *[clap hands]* was crowned king. The soldiers agreed, because they knew Queen **Athaliah** *[thumbs down]* would hurt **Joash** *[clap hands]* if she could. They would stay close to **Joash** *[clap hands]* and protect him wherever he went.

Soon after that, Uncle Jehoiada led Prince **Joash** *[clap hands]* out of the temple. A crowd of people had gathered to see what was happening. Just as they had promised, the soldiers gathered around the boy who would become their king.

Uncle Jehoiada poured sweet-smelling oil on **Joash's** *[clap hands]* head. He gave **Joash** *[clap hands]* a copy of the law and proclaimed him king. The crowd watched quietly as Jehoiada

put the crown on **Joash's** *[clap hands]* head. Then all the people cheered and shouted, "Long live the king!" The trumpeters blew their trumpets, and the singers led songs of praise. Everyone was happy that **Joash** *[clap hands]* had become their king.

Queen **Athaliah** *[thumbs down]* heard all the noise and came running to the temple. There she saw a boy who had just been crowned king! She was surprised. And she was very angry! She ordered the soldiers to take **Joash** *[clap hands]* away. But the soldiers took her away instead. She could no longer be queen.

Joash *[clap hands]* was the new king! He would be safe now. He sat on the royal throne and ruled over Israel. He knew that God had led Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada to protect him all those years. And he was a good king who led his people to know God again.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How long did Jehosheba and Jehoiada hide Joash? Where did they hide him? How old was Joash when he was crowned king? What did the people shout when he was crowned? Was Queen Athaliah happy or angry when she saw Joash? Was Joash a good king? How do you know?**

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 11. Point to the verses and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read a few verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Why do you think Jehosheba and Jehoiada secretly hid Joash for so many years? Is it easy or hard to keep a baby quiet? What do you think Joash thought about being crowned a king when he was only 7 years old? How do you think he felt when Queen Athaliah saw him?**

How could you protect someone who needed help? God gives us our church family so we can care for and help protect each other. We protect and care for others because God wants us to help those who are in need. Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



In God's family, we love and protect each other.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Romans 12:10 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Point to the verse and read it aloud. **"Love each other like brothers and sisters."** Teach the children the following actions as you teach the memory verse:

Love	Cross arms over chest.	
each other	Point to others.	
like brothers	Point to a boy.	
and sisters.	Point to a girl.	
Romans 12:10	Palms together, then open.	

3 Applying the Lesson

Protecting Others

Use the following scenarios to help the children realize that they can have a part in protecting people in the community of faith. Be sure to use the debriefing activity that follows.

1. You and a friend are playing with a ball in your yard. The ball rolls into the street. Your friend runs after it. You see a car coming. What can you do to help protect your friend?
2. You and your mother are walking in the park. Some big boys are throwing stones high up in the air so they fall on the sidewalk near you. What can you do to help protect your mother and yourself from the stones?
3. On a cold Sabbath morning you come to Sabbath School. The church steps are covered with ice. People are walking toward the church. What can you do to help keep them from falling on the icy steps?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who was in danger and needed protection in each of these stories? Do you think they knew they were in danger? What do you think about helping people who need protection? Why? How do you know when someone needs help and protection?** (when bad things might happen to them)

Protecting someone, especially a younger or smaller child, is a very brave thing to do. In your family, who protects you? Whom do you protect?

How can you protect a younger child from another child who is being mean to them? How can you help keep them safe from hurting themselves when they play with things they shouldn't? Can you show them you care by playing gently with them? Can you help protect them when they are afraid?

Can you protect an older person by not running around them so you won't bump into them and make them fall?

God wants us to help protect and care for other people.

How can you protect your brother or sister at home? at church? when you are playing outdoors? Why should we care for and protect others? Remember our message:



In God's family, we love and protect each other.



Sharing the Lesson

Paper People Chain

You Need:

- ❑ Paper People Chain pattern (see p. 140)
- ❑ paper
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ crayons

Copy the Paper People Chain pattern (see page 150) for each child. Fold the pattern as indicated and help the children cut it out. The children can draw faces on the people and color them. Encourage them to make some of them look like people they know or see at church.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Did you make your paper people look like anyone you know at church? In a church, people join together to protect each other like these paper people are joined together with their hands. People in our church, in God's family, love and protect each other because they are just like brothers and sisters. We help each other because we want to be like Jesus, who helps and protects us.**

Take your Paper People Chain home with you and share it with someone this week as you tell about Joash's aunt and uncle protecting him all those years. Let's say our message together one last time:



In God's family, we love and protect each other.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, please help us as we love and protect each other. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

The Little Prince

References
2 Kings 11; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 215, 216

Memory Verse
"Love each other like brothers and sisters" (Romans 12:10, ICB).

The Message
In God's family, we love and protect each other.

Have you ever been picked on by someone bigger or older than you? Did you wish you had someone who could help and protect you? Prince Joash's aunt and uncle did just that.

Prince Joash lived in the royal palace in Israel. But even though Joash was a prince, he still needed someone to protect him. He needed protection from Athaliah, the queen.

Queen Athaliah was cruel and mean. She didn't want Joash to become king. Joash could not protect himself from Queen Athaliah, because he was just a baby. So God sent someone to take care of him.

Joash's aunt Jehosheba lived in the temple with her husband, Jehoiada, the priest. She chose to listen to God and protect Joash from the cruel queen. So Jehosheba secretly took baby Joash and his nurse to the temple. There she and her husband hid them in a bedroom.

For six years Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada kept him hidden. They secretly taught him that someday he would be king. Though he was just a little boy, Joash knew that one day he would rule over Israel.



And finally that day came. When Joash was 7 years old, Uncle Jehoiada decided it was time to make him king. Uncle Jehoiada called soldiers to the temple. "Prince Joash is alive," he told them. "Aunt Jehosheba and I have been protecting Prince Joash from Queen Athaliah for six years. Now it is time for you to protect the prince from the queen. It is time for Joash to be crowned king."

The soldiers agreed. They knew the queen was evil. They promised to stay close to Joash wherever he went.

Soon after that, Uncle Jehoiada led Prince Joash out of the temple to a place where a crowd had gathered. Just as they had promised, the soldiers gathered around Joash.

Uncle Jehoiada poured sweet-smelling oil on Joash's head. He gave Joash a copy of the law and then proclaimed him king. The crowd watched quietly as Jehoiada put the crown on Joash's head. Then all the people cheered and shouted, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" The trumpeters blew their trumpets, and the singers led songs of praise.

Queen Athaliah heard all the noise. She rushed to the temple. There she saw a boy who had just been crowned king! She was surprised. And she was very angry! She ordered the soldiers to take Joash away. But the soldiers took her away instead. She would no longer be queen.

Joash would be safe now as he ruled over Israel. He knew that God had led Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada to help and protect him all those years. And he was a good king all the years his uncle Jehoiada lived. He led his people to know God again.

We can help and protect babies and little children, too. We can make sure they are safe. We can play gently with them. We obey God when we protect and care for His children.

Do and Say

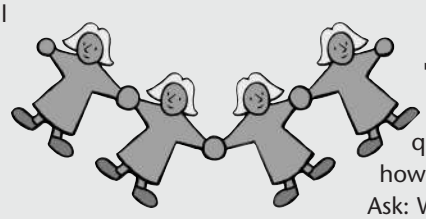
Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse by using the following motions:

Love . . . . . Cross arms over chest.
each other . . . . . Point to others.
like brothers . . . . . Point to a boy.
and sisters. . . . . . Point to a girl.
Romans 12:10 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share with someone the Paper People Chain they made in Sabbath School and tell them about Joash. (Or help them cut out and color a simple paper doll chain of four people.) Say: In God's family, in our church, we love and protect each other.



Monday

Read 2 Kings 11 together, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: How many years was Joash hidden at the temple? Who hid him? What happened when he was 7 years old?

Have your child hide while you count slowly to seven. Find them. Ask: How old are you now? How many more years until you are 7? What do you think it was like for Joash to be hidden for seven years? Help them count to seven.

Tuesday

If possible, have your child play with a younger child while you supervise. Remind your child of ways they can help and protect younger children. Show your child a stuffed animal that is often used as a pet. Have your child act out ways to show love and protection to this animal and to animals in general. Talk about how people need to be cared for and protected even more than we care for our animals.

Wednesday

Help your child draw a picture of themselves protecting someone. Have them draw small happy faces around the edge of their drawing.

Tell your child about a time when someone protected you as a child.

Thursday

Talk about what it is like trying to keep a baby quiet and happy. Use a doll and let your child show how they would try to keep a baby quiet and safe. Ask: What do you think Jehosheba and Jehoiada did to keep Baby Joash quiet and happy? Who helped them keep Joash safe? Who keeps you safe today?

Help your child make and decorate a crown. Save the crown for tomorrow.

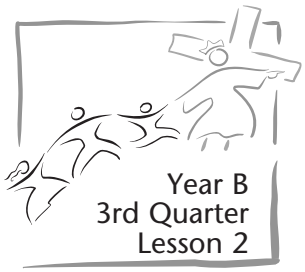
Friday



Act out the Bible story with your family. "Crown" your child with the crown made yesterday.

Thank God for sending people to help protect your family.

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



Repairing the Temple

COMMUNITY We help each other.

References

2 Kings 12:1-15; 2 Chronicles 24:1-14; *The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 2, pp. 923, 924.

Memory Verse

"Work together as a team for the faith" (Philippians 1:27, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that they can cooperate with others to work for God.
Feel a part of a community in working for God.
Respond by being willing to work in cooperation with others.

The Message



In God's family, we work together.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joash decides to rebuild the temple, God's house of worship. He has a hole made in the top of a chest. He asks the priests to have the people who come to worship put their offerings in the chest. The offerings will be used to rebuild the temple. The people fill the chest. When the money is removed, they fill the chest again. The best workers were hired, and they worked together to rebuild the temple.

This is a lesson about community.

God's children work together with others to honor God and do His will. Though they are young, children can bring an offering to help take care of God's house. They also help by keeping God's house, the church, clean.

TWO

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Building Together*	building blocks; or sticks, stones, and shells
			B. Tug o' War	thick rope, adult male
			C. Orchestra	toy musical or rhythm instruments
*	**Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 26. ***Prayer and Praise** may be used at any time during the program.	
2	**Bible Lesson**	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	broken cardboard boxes, building blocks, or pieces of wood; good cardboard boxes; decorated box with slit in top as offering box; gold- and silver-colored dishes; toy carpenter's tools; coins; Bible-times costumes
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*Working Together*	clean trash, trash cans or bags
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Repairing the Temple*	Temple pattern (see p. 141); paper; crayons; gold paper; scissors; craft jewels, sequins or buttons; glue sticks

Teacher Enrichment

"What had evidently happened was that the priests were receiving the money and using it for themselves. The king now ordered that this be stopped, and that the money be handed over for the purpose for which it was intended—the repair of the temple. . . .

"The matter was taken entirely out of the hands of the recreant priests. They gave their consent not to endeavor to collect further funds for this purpose, and to allow the work of repair to be directed by others" (*The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 2, p. 923).

"This is a splendid testimony to the character of those chosen for this important responsibility. . . . It is a sad commentary on the character of the priests who by their faithlessness had made this step necessary" (*The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 2, p. 924).

How do you work together with others? Are you a team player?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Building Together

You Need:

- ❑ building blocks; or sticks, stones, and shells

Divide the children into groups of four or five to build a temple together. They can use the building blocks, or sticks, stones, and shells. When the time is up, all children walk around the area together to affirm one another's skills in making temples.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Did you like making a temple together? Is it easier or harder to work together? What lovely things we can do for God when we work together! God's children work together to make lovely things to honor Him. What does *to honor* mean? Yes, to be respectful, but in today's story it also means to do things to show how important someone is. When we do our best for God, we honor Him or show everyone that God is the most important person to us. Today's Bible story is about people working together to honor God. Today's message is:**



In God's family, we work together.

Say that with me.

B. Tug o' War

You Need:

- ❑ 10 feet (three meters) of thick rope
- ❑ adult male

Select a strong man to pull on one end of the rope. Ask for a volunteer to pull against him. Choose a small child. Say: **That didn't work, did it? It was too hard for (child's name). What can we do now?** Allow others to try. Keep asking: **What can we do?** until someone suggests using more than one person. You may have to prompt them. Add children one at a time until children can pull the man away from where he is standing.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did we just do? How did we**

make that happen? (We all worked together.) **What great things we can do when we work together! God's children work together to do great things for God. Today's Bible story is about people working together to honor God. What does *to honor* mean? Yes, to be respectful, but in today's story it also means to do things to show how important someone is. When we do our best for God, we honor Him or show everyone that God is the most important person to us. Today's message is:**



In God's family, we work together.

Say that with me.

C. Orchestra

You Need:

- ❑ toy musical or rhythm instruments

Teach the children to sing with you "When We All Work Together" (sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?").

When we all work together, together, together,
When we all work together, how happy we'll be.
When your work is my work and our work is God's work, When we all work together, how happy we'll be.

Say: **Listen to the sound.** Then give the children a type of musical instrument (wooden sticks or blocks, or shakers). Have the children play while you sing the song alone. Say: **Listen to the sound.** Then have the children sing and play their instruments at the same time. Say: **Listen to the sound.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Which sound did you like best, just singing, just playing, or doing both together? I think it sounded best with us all together too. We can make a beautiful sound when we all sing and play together. What great things we can do when we work together! God's children work together to do great things for God. Today's Bible story is about people working together to honor God. What does *to honor* mean? Yes, to be respectful, but in today's story it also means to do things to show how important someone is. When we do our best for God, we honor Him or show everyone that God is the most important person to us. Today's message is:**



In God's family, we work together.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 26.



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ broken cardboard boxes, building blocks, or pieces of wood
- ❑ good cardboard boxes
- ❑ decorated box with slit in top as offering box
- ❑ gold- and silver-colored dishes
- ❑ toy carpenter's tools
- ❑ coins
- ❑ Bible-times costumes

Spread the broken cardboard boxes, building blocks, or pieces of wood around a cleared area to make the broken-down temple. Use good cardboard boxes to build the repaired temple. You need the following actors, in costume if possible.

Joash (grown-up)
Jehoiada and other priests (children)
workers (children)
people (children)

Give each worker a tool, and give the people some coins. Help the children act out the story.

Read or tell the story.

King Joash went to God's temple with Jehoiada and the other priests. They stood in the middle of the temple and looked around. They shook their heads sadly. Walls were broken. Dirt was everywhere. Furniture was missing too. Everything was such a mess. They talked together about what had happened. During all the years when wicked kings and queens ruled Israel, God's temple hadn't been cared for. In fact, some of the kings and queens had even taken away part of the temple walls and used the stones to build temples to the idols they worshipped. The sons of bad Queen Athaliah had taken the gold and silver dishes from the temple and used them to worship their idols.

Joash told the priests that he wanted to fix the temple. He wanted to rebuild the walls with the same fine wood and stone that had been used to build them when they were new. He wanted new gold and silver dishes for the service of the Lord. But it would cost a lot of money.

"Where will we get the money?" he asked the priests. They all shook their heads and spread out their hands. They didn't know.

Then Joash had an idea. He'd save for it. But he wouldn't be the only one. He would ask all the people to help too.

Joash called his workers. "Make a chest with a hole in the top," he said. The workers went to work and soon returned with the chest. Joash told them to place the chest near the doorway to the temple.

Every day when the people came to worship, they dropped their offerings into the hole in the chest. Some people had a lot of money to give; some had only a little. But they all gave cheerfully. Before long, the chest was full.

The priests took the money out of the chest and put it in bags. The bags went to the king's treasury, where they would be safe. Then the priests set the chest out to be refilled. Again and again the priests emptied the chest and put it back near the temple doorway to be filled. And always the people brought their offerings to drop into the chest with the hole in the top.

The money in King Joash's treasury grew. When all the offerings of all the people were put together, Joash could begin fixing the temple.

Joash told the priests to hire the best carpenters and stonemasons in all the land. They bought the finest wood and stone. Men who worked with iron and bronze were hired too. Together they rebuilt the temple according to the original plans. And when they were finished, they looked in their bags and in the chest.

There was money left over! With the left-over money King Joash had new golden dishes and other furnishings made to be used in the temple service.

Joash was pleased to see the rebuilt temple and the beautiful things made just for the temple service. So were the people. They had been able to work together to honor God, and they were happy. They had made God's house a special, beautiful place.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did Joash want to please God? How do you think he felt when he first entered the temple? Why did the temple look terrible? How do you think Joash felt when the people willingly gave so much money?**

What do you think the people did when the temple repairs were finished? What do you think about working together to make God's house a beautiful place?

How can we honor God when we come into His house? What can we do to keep our church clean? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:


In God's family, we work together.

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 12:1-15. Point to the verses and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read some verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What was Joash's plan to collect money? Why do you think the people put money in the chest? Where do we put our offerings? How did the people feel about giving their money? Did Joash collect enough?**

What needed to be done to repair the temple? Why did the people work together? (They wanted God's temple to be nice; they wanted to honor God.) **How did they honor God?** (They worked together.) **Remember:**

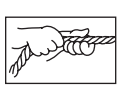
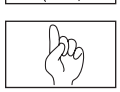
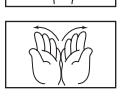

In God's family, we work together.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Philippians 1:27 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"Work together as a team for the faith."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Work together	Pretend to pull a rope with both hands.	
as a team	Clasp hands together over head.	
for the faith.	Point upward.	
Philippians 1:27	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

"My Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 252)

"With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 273) (Make a new verse: "When families work together, happy, happy home.")

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

"God's Children Are Helpful" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 287)

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

Mission

Say: **God's children work together to honor God and do His will in all the different countries of the world.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **God's children work together to honor God and do His will. We also serve God when we give Him our offerings. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, that God's children work together to honor God and do His will. Amen.**

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

3 Applying the Lesson

Working Together

You Need:
- ❑ clean trash
- ❑ trash cans or bags

Scatter clean trash (paper, cartons, small boxes, etc.) around the room and say: **I had such a lot of trash at home today, I thought I would leave some of it in Sabbath School.**

What do you think? Is it OK with you? (no) **Does it look good?** (no) **What shall we do about it?** (We'll all pick up some. We'll work together to make our Sabbath School look better.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Why should we work together to take care of God's house, His church? How else can we work together to care for God's house? What can you do to care for your home?** (Offer to help, obey quickly.) **What about in your neighborhood? What about at church?** (Offer to help in Sabbath School; listen when the teacher is talking.) **Let's remember:**



In God's family, we work together.

4 Sharing the Lesson

Repairing the Temple

In advance, prepare a copy of the Temple pattern (see page 141) for each child. Also, cut some gold paper into small squares. Ask the children to glue some gold paper pieces and craft jewels, sequins, or buttons over the places on the temple that need repairing. They may also color other areas of the temple.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do your temples look now? How can we work together to care for God's house, our church? Take your picture home and share it with someone this week. Tell them about the people who gave offerings to help Joash repair God's temple. Talk about ways to work together to care for our church. Let's say our message one last time together:**



In God's family, we work together.

You Need:
- ❑ Temple pattern (see p. 141)
- ❑ paper
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ gold paper
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ craft jewels, sequins, or buttons
- ❑ glue sticks

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, help us to look for ways we can work together to bring honor to You. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Repairing the Temple

References

2 Kings 12:1-15; 2 Chronicles 24:1-14; *The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 2, pp. 923, 924

Memory Verse

"Work together as a team for the faith" (Philippians 1:27, ICB).

The Message

In God's family, we work together.

Have you ever helped with a family project such as washing windows or weeding a flower garden? Joash led his country in a big church project. Everyone worked together.

King Joash saw something he really wanted to do. During all the years when wicked kings and queens ruled Israel, God's temple hadn't been cared for. Some of the kings and queens had even taken away part of the temple walls and used the stones to build temples to the idols they worshipped. The sons of wicked Queen Athaliah had taken the gold and silver dishes from the temple and used them to worship their idols.



Now that Joash was king, he wanted to fix the temple. He wanted to rebuild the walls with fine wood and stone. He wanted new dishes for the service of the Lord. But it would cost a lot. Where would he get the money?

Then Joash had an idea. He'd save for it. But he wouldn't be the only one. He'd ask everyone in the country to help too.

Joash had his workers make a chest, something like a big wooden box, with a hole in the top. He placed the chest near the doorway to the temple. When the people came to worship, they dropped their offering in the chest. Some people had a lot of money to give; some only a little. But they all gave cheerfully. All their offerings added up, and before long the chest was full.

The priests took the money out of the chest. They sent it to the king's treasury, where it would be safe. Then the priests set the empty chest by the door to the temple again. Again and again the priests emptied the chest and put it back to be filled. And the people kept bringing their offerings to fill the chest with the hole in the top.

More and more money went into King Joash's treasury. All the offerings of all the people added up to a lot of money. Soon there was enough to begin fixing the temple.

The priests hired the best carpenters and stonemasons in all the land. They bought the finest wood and stone. Men who worked with iron and bronze were hired too. Together they rebuilt the temple so it looked like it had before. And when they were finished, they had money left over! With the leftover money King Joash ordered new golden dishes and other furnishings to be used in the temple service.

Joash was pleased. So were the people. They were happy they had worked together to honor God. They had made God's house a special, beautiful place.

We can work together to honor God too. We can help keep God's house clean and beautiful. We can work together to honor God at home, at church, and at school.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse by using the following motions:

Work together . . . Pretend to pull a rope with both hands.
as a team . . . . . Clasp hands together over head.
for the faith. . . . . . Point upward.
Philippians 1:27 . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the temple they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell how people worked together to repair God's temple. (Or draw a simple outline of a church and have your child color and decorate it.)

Monday

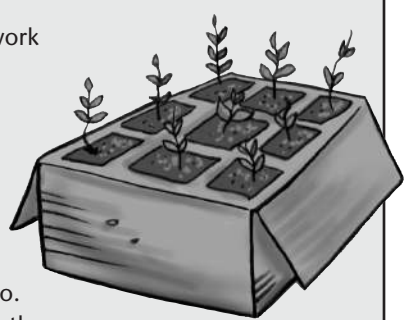
If possible, take your child to observe a building project. Ask: What are these people doing? Talk about ways the people are working together. Remind them that God's people work together to do good things for God.

Tuesday



Have everyone in your family get something to use as a rhythm instrument, such as two spoons to hit together, a spoon and a bowl, two sticks, etc. Have each one play alone while one person sings a song. Then have everyone play together while everyone sings. Ask: Which is more fun? Say: God's children work together to honor God.

Wednesday



Have your family work together on a task at home (washing the car, planting flowers, weeding the garden, picking up trash, etc.). Remind everyone that God's children work together too.

Sing "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 273), but add "When families work together, happy, happy home."

Thursday

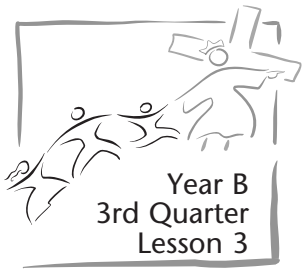
Plan a way your family can do something as a team to care for or improve your church. Include something for your child to do.

Friday

Help your child build a "church" as your family acts out the story.

Thank God that you can work together to do things for Him.

Sing a "helping" song before prayer.



Queen Esther

COMMUNITY We help each other.

References
Esther 1; 2:1-20; *The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, pp. 468-471.

Memory Verse
"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters" (Hebrews 13:1, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that they shouldn't stop caring for others.
Feel that they want to be caring and kind to others.
Respond by finding ways to be caring to their family and friends.

The Message
God's people care for each other.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
When young Esther's parents die, Cousin Mordecai takes her to live with his family. He treats her as his own daughter as she grows up. When the king is looking for a new queen, Esther, along with many other women, is taken to the king's palace in hope that one of them would be queen. Mordecai continues to help Esther as she lives in the palace and prepares to be presented before the king. The king chooses Esther to be his queen.

This is a lesson about community.
Christian family members and friends help one another in many ways because we care about each other in the same way that God cares about us. We never stop caring for each other because Jesus never stops caring for us.

THREE

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. We Never Stop Caring*	poster paper, old magazines, scissors, glue sticks
			B. Inside/Outside	3-5 dirty, crushed-looking envelopes 3-5 pretty or nicely decorated envelopes 3-5 pretty pictures (nature scenery, animals, etc.) 3-5 unattractive pictures (for example, in nature: a dead tree; a nice picture with crayon, pencil, or marker scribbles all over it; etc.)
			C. Caring for All Ages	Caring for All Ages pattern (see p. 142), pencils, crayons
*	**Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 35. ***Prayer and Praise** may be used at any time during the program.	
2	**Bible Lesson**	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	Bible-times costumes, crowns
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*Scenarios*	none
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Don't Stop Caring*	Stop Sign pattern (see p. 143), heavy paper, crayons, scissors

Teacher Enrichment

"Profound respect for her benefactor led Esther to cherish his counsel even after she became queen. This fact speaks well of Mordecai as a foster parent, and of Esther as a loyal and obedient daughter. Her beauty was essentially beauty of character and personality; beauty of appearance was incidental. Too often parental laxity on the one hand or overbearing strictness on the other, implants in young people the desire to be free from restraint, and cultivates waywardness and delinquency. Happy the home where parental authority is balanced with respect for the individuality of its youth, where parental control is exercised with the objective of developing self-control. Like Esther, such youth leave home with well-balanced personalities and disciplined characters" (*The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, pp. 470, 471).

Do you find it easy or hard to balance being too strict with too lax in Sabbath School? How do the children view your authority? Do they respect and love you?

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. We Never Stop Caring

You Need:

- ❑ poster paper
- ❑ old magazines
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ glue sticks

For each child, prepare a large poster paper with the heading "We Never Stop Caring." Ask the children to look through the magazines and cut out pictures showing people caring for each other, then glue them to the poster paper. Encourage them to find pictures of caring for people of all ages.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Let's look at the posters you made. Show me any pictures of people caring for babies. How about young children? How about people caring for older people? How can you help care for babies? for other children? for older people? Our Bible story is about someone who never stopped caring for someone in his family. He cared for her when she was young and had no parents, and he still cared for her when she was grown up. Today's message is:**



God's people care for each other.

Say that with me.

B. Inside/Outside

You Need:

- ❑ 3-5 dirty, crushed-looking envelopes
- ❑ 3-5 pretty or nicely decorated envelopes
- ❑ 3-5 pretty pictures (nature scenery, animals, etc.)
- ❑ 3-5 unattractive pictures (for example, in nature: a dead tree; or a nice picture with crayon, pencil, or marker scribbles all over it; etc.)

Ahead of time, put some pretty pictures (beautiful nature sceneries or animals, etc.) into dirty, crushed-looking envelopes. Also place some pictures of unattractive scenery or animals, etc., into some very pretty envelopes. Also have one messed-up envelope with an ugly picture and a pretty envelope with a pretty picture. Hold on to those. Ask students to choose which envelopes they would like to open. Chances are almost all the students will gravitate toward the pretty envelopes. If no one chose the messed-up envelopes, then open a few yourself to reveal the pretty pictures inside.

Debriefing

Were some of you disappointed when you opened the pretty envelopes? What did you expect to see in the pretty envelope? The messy one? People are a little like that. We may be able to tell a few things about the outside of a person from looking at them but the outside of a person doesn't really tell us how that person is on the inside. Our Bible story is about a young woman who was in a beauty contest to become queen. We know that she was pretty on the outside because she won this contest, but she was also beautiful on the inside. Like this envelope. (Show the pretty envelope with the pretty picture.) **How do we know if someone is beautiful on the inside?** (They are kind, they care about others, they smile, etc.) **How can people become beautiful on the inside?** (Become like Jesus by reading the Bible and praying every day.) **One way of showing that we are beautiful on the inside is to show that we care for others. Our message today reminds us of this.**



God's people care for each other.

Say that with me.

C. Caring for All Ages

You Need:

- ❑ Caring for All Ages pattern (see p. 142)
- ❑ pencils
- ❑ crayons

Prepare a copy of the Caring for All Ages pattern (see page 152) for each child. Ask the children to look at the pictures, think about how old each person is, then put them in order by age. Have the children use a pencil to write the number in the box beside the picture of the youngest person, the next youngest, etc. As time permits, let the children color the pictures.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Let's see if you got them right. Which one comes first? Next? And then?** Continue until all pictures have been discussed. **Do babies need a lot of care? Do young children? Do older children still need someone to care for them? Do mommies and daddies still like to know someone cares for them and loves them? Do grandmas and grandpas? Yes, everyone needs someone to watch out for them and care for them. It's nice to know that someone loves you and cares about you. Our Bible story is about a man who cared for his niece when she was very young and had no parents. He cared for her when she was grown up too. Today's message is:**



God's people care for each other.

Say that with me.

* **NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 35.**



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ Bible-times costumes
- ❑ child "actors"
- ❑ two crowns

Ask for volunteers to be Esther, her mother, her father, Mordecai, and the king. As you tell the story, give the directions in parentheses.

Read or tell the story.

Esther was a little girl who lived in the land of Persia. *[All the group points to Esther.]* When both her parents died, *[Esther's mother and father sit down in their seats]* Esther went to live with her older cousin, Mordecai. *[All the group points to Mordecai.]* Mordecai loved Esther and cared for her as if she were his own daughter.

As Esther grew to be a young woman, Mordecai taught her all the things parents teach their children. *[Mordecai talks to Esther.]* He taught her to be kind and helpful. *[Esther pretends to sweep.]* He taught her to be honest and brave. And he taught her to love and worship God. *[Esther kneels as if in prayer.]*

When Esther was a young woman, the king of Persia decided to look for a new queen. *[All the group points to the king.]* Young women from all over the country were called to the palace so the king could choose a new queen. Esther went to the king's palace. *[Esther goes to stand behind the king.]*

Even though she now lived in the king's palace with special helpers and special food and special beauty treatments, Mordecai still cared about Esther. Every day he walked in the gardens near where the young women lived so he could find out what was happening to her. *[Mordecai walks around Esther and the king.]*

Finally it was time for Esther to meet the king. Would he like her? Would he make her queen? *[Esther moves to stand in front of the king and curtsies.]*

The king did like her. Mordecai had raised her well. She was not only beautiful, she was kind and sweet, and she won the king's favor.

The king put a royal crown on Esther's head *[king places a crown on Esther's head]* and made her queen. He gave a great feast for her, proclaimed a holiday throughout the entire country, and gave her lots of gifts. *[King claps his hands. Everyone claps for Esther.]*

Mordecai had cared for Esther when she was a young girl and when she became a young woman. He never stopped caring for her. In God's family we never stop caring for our friends and family.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do you think about Mordecai? Do you think Esther was happy when her cousin Mordecai took her to live in his home? How did he treat her? How do you think Esther felt when she realized that Mordecai still cared for her even after she went to live in the palace?**

Bible Study

You Need:

- ❑ Bible

Open your Bible to Esther 2:1-20. Point to the verses and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read some verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **When Esther's mother and father died, who looked after Esther?** (Mordecai) **Did he take good care of her?** (yes) **What did he do?** (He looked after her; taught her to be kind and helpful and to worship God.)

Why did Esther go to live in the king's palace? What happened to Esther while she lived in the palace? (beauty treatments, special food, etc.) **Why do you think Esther was chosen to be the queen?** (She was beautiful inside and out, and her inside beauty and her outside beauty showed.)

Mordecai cared about Esther. And because of his love and care, Esther was beautiful on the inside and the outside. She was kind and helpful to others. She had learned that from her cousin Mordecai. Do you remember the message? Let's say it together:



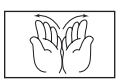
God's people care for each other.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Hebrews 13:1 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Keep on loving	Cross arms over chest.	
one another	Point to others.	
as brothers and sisters.	Point to a boy. Point to a girl.	
Hebrews 13:1	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

"Our Church Is a Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 257)
"Giving Jesus Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 301)
"Little Feet, Be Careful" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 307)
"We Are His Hands" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 314)

Mission

Say: **Let's see who in our mission story cared for someone else.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **Our offerings will help someone in another country. We serve God when we give Him our offerings so others may be helped. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me: Thank You, Jesus, that we can always care for each other. Amen.**

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

3 Applying the Lesson

Scenarios

Tell the children you are going to read them a few little stories and you would like to know what they would do. Allow response time after each example.

Janae's mother is late to pick her up from Sabbath School. Janae is crying. What can you and your mother do? (Stay with her until her mother comes, hug her, play with her, pray with her.)

Matthew is 8 years old. His mother goes to the hospital to have a new baby. Matthew comes to stay at your house while his father is at work. What can you do to make Matthew happy? (Share your toys; play with him.)

Jonathan's grandma lives with his family. She starts coughing and coughing one day while she is reading a book to him. What can Jonathan do to help her? (Get her a glass of water; pat her on the back; ask if she's all right.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How many of you have a brother or a sister? How do you want your brother or sister to treat you?** (kindly, lovingly) **How should we treat our brothers and sisters?**

How can we help care for our parents? Our grandparents? How can we treat people in God's family as if they are our real brothers or sisters?

Should we ever stop caring for people? Why?

Let's say our message together:



God's people care for each other.



Sharing the Lesson

Don't Stop Caring

You Need:

- ❑ Stop Sign pattern (see p. 143)
- ❑ heavy paper
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ crayons

In advance, prepare a copy of the Stop Sign pattern (see page 143) on heavy paper for each child. Have the children color the inside of the stop sign red and leave the STOP letters white. Then have them cut it out.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know what your stop sign says?** Read it aloud. **Take this home and share it with someone as you tell them about Mordecai, who never stopped caring for Esther. It can help remind you to care for others too. Let's say our message one last time:**



God's people care for each other.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a simple prayer such as: **Dear Jesus, help us always to care for others. Help us to never stop caring. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Queen Esther

References

Esther 1; 2:1-20; *The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, pp. 468-471

Memory Verse

"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters" (Hebrews 13:1, NIV).

The Message

God's people care for each other.

Who do you stay with when you can't be with your parents? Esther's cousin cared for her for a long time.

Esther, a pretty little girl, lived in the land of Persia. When both her parents died, Esther went to live with her older cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai loved Esther and cared for her as if she were his own daughter.

As Esther grew to be a young woman, Mordecai taught her all the things parents teach their children. He taught her to be kind and helpful. He taught her to be honest and brave. And he taught her to love and worship God. Although Esther and Mordecai lived in Persia, they weren't Persian. They were Jewish, and Mordecai didn't want Esther to forget the God of her people.



When Esther was a young woman, the king of Persia decided to look for a new queen. Young women from all over the country were called to the palace. The king would choose a new queen from among them. Esther was one of those young women.

Each young woman enjoyed a year of special care before they went to meet the king. During this time they lived in a special part of the king's palace and were cared for by special helpers. Esther was such a kind, thoughtful girl, that she soon became friends with the one in charge of all the girls. He gave her seven special maids, the best food, and the best place to stay.

Mordecai worked in the king's palace. He could walk in the gardens near where the young women lived. There he could find out how Esther was, and what was happening to her.

Finally it was time for Esther to meet the king. Would he like her? Would he like her more than all the other young women? Would he make her queen?

The king did like her. Mordecai had raised her well. She was not only beautiful, she was kind and sweet, and she won the king's favor.

The king put a royal crown on Esther's head and made her queen. He gave a great feast for her. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the entire country, and gave lots of gifts in honor of his new queen.

Mordecai had cared for Esther most of her life. And he didn't stop caring for her when she became queen. Mordecai and Esther were part of God's family. And people in God's family never stop caring for each other.

How can you show others that you care for them? Think of several things you can do. Can you help people in your family? Can you pray for them? Sing a song for them? Or give them a hug? Show your love to someone in your family today.

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

Keep on loving . . . . Cross arms over chest.
one another . . . . . Point to others.
as brothers . . . . . Point to a boy.
and sisters. . . . . . Point to a girl.
Hebrews 13:1 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 314). Bang some blocks or spoons together as you sing if you want to.

Help your child show they care about someone else in your family by doing something nice for them as a surprise.

Monday

Talk about the beauty treatments Esther had for months. Let your child put on some nice-smelling lotion or perfume. Talk about how Esther was beautiful on the inside because she treated people with love. Ask: How can you be beautiful on the inside?

Tuesday

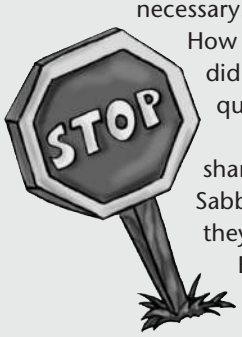
Help your child do something caring for an elderly neighbor, friend, or relative. Help with yard work or housework, sit and listen while they talk, give them a hug.



Look at books or magazines together and have your child point out pictures of people helping other people of all ages.

Wednesday

Read Esther 2:1-20 together, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: Who was Esther's cousin? How did he take care of her? Why did the king choose Esther for his queen?



Encourage your child to share the stop sign they made in Sabbath School with someone as they tell them about Mordecai and Esther. (Or draw and color a six-sided stop sign shape with STOP in big letters.)

Thursday

Help your child make a paper crown like the one you think the king gave Esther when he made her his queen. Save it for Friday night worship.

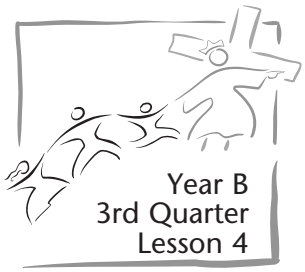
Friday

Act out the Bible story as a family. Be sure to use the crown made yesterday.

Make a list of ways your family has shown love to one another this week. Then say the memory verse together.

Ask God to help you always to show love and care for others in His family.

LESSON



Esther Saves Her People

COMMUNITY We help each other.

References
Esther 4; 5:1-7; 7:1-4; 8:11; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 602-606.

Memory Verse
"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God hears the prayers of His people.
Feel stronger and encouraged when praying with others.
Respond by praying for others with their friends and families.

The Message


God hears us when we pray together.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
A wicked man, Haman, persuades the king to make a law to have all the Jewish people killed. Mordecai tells Queen Esther and asks her to speak to the king. She is afraid, but Mordecai persuades her that she may have become queen for just this reason. She agrees, but only after spending three days and nights fasting. She asks that the Jewish community do the same. She risks her life before the king and pleads for the life of her people. God helps the king to say yes to Esther's request. Esther's people are saved because she is brave, and because God answered their prayers.

This is a lesson about community.
Esther's story assures us that God hears when we pray on behalf of others.

FOUR

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Prayer Circle*	round dry cereal, yarn, scissors
			B. Three-Legged Walk	old neckties or wide strips of material, scissors
*	**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	scepter model or picture
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*Praying Together*	none
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*A. Praying Hands Crown*	Praying Hands Crown pattern (see p. 144), heavy paper, scissors, crayons, tape or stapler
			B. Esther Shines	Star pattern (see p. 143), cardboard or heavy paper, scissors, aluminum foil, flashlight (optional)

People in a Christian community support and intercede for one another in prayer. Jesus also is always interceding for us before the Father.

Teacher Enrichment

"It was still the Lord's purpose, as it had been from the beginning, that His people should be a praise in the earth, to the glory of His name. During the long years of their exile He had given them many opportunities to return to their allegiance to Him. Some had chosen to listen and to learn; some had found salvation in the midst of affliction" (*Prophets and Kings,* p. 599).

"The crisis that Esther faced demanded quick, earnest action; but both she and Mordecai realized that unless God should work mightily in their behalf, their own efforts would be unavailing. So Esther took time for communion with God, the source of her strength" (*Prophets and Kings,* p. 601).

Do you take time daily to commune with God? Is He the source of your strength?

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Prayer Circle

You Need:

- ❑ round dry cereal
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ yarn

In advance, cut the yarn in six-inch (15-centimeter) lengths, one for each child. Have the children string one round cereal piece on the yarn to represent each person they normally pray with (mother, father, brothers, sisters, grandmother, grandfather, church family, Sabbath School family, etc.). Help them tie the ends of the yarn together.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you like to pray with people? Where do you usually pray with people?** (at Sabbath School, at church, at home) **Your cereal pieces are close together and are made into a circle. That reminds me of praying together. Praying together gives us strength and makes us want to help each other. We can do great things when we pray together. God listens to us whether we pray alone or together. Our Bible story is about a time Jewish people prayed together to give someone courage. Today's message is:**



God hears us when we pray together.

Say that with me.

B. Three-Legged Walk

You Need:

- ❑ old neckties or wide pieces of material
- ❑ scissors

Have the children form pairs. Give each pair an old necktie or wide strip of material to tie two of their legs together as they stand side by side. Let them practice walking together with three legs. Then have each pair walk to the other side of the room together, then back, without falling.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did you manage to walk together? That reminds me of praying together. How is walking together like praying together? Sometimes you may feel awkward about praying aloud with someone. But praying together gives us**

strength and binds us together with others. Just as you had to work together and be close together to walk with three legs, when we pray with one another we should bring our minds and hearts together. Do you like praying with other people? Where do you usually pray with others? (at Sabbath School, at church, at home)

God will do great things when we pray together. God listens to us when we pray alone, and when we pray together. Today's Bible story is about a time all the Jewish people prayed together. They were praying for someone special to have courage. Today's message is:



God hears us when we pray together.

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

"O God, Listen to My Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 15)
"I Talk to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 228)
"Jesus Is My Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 230)
"Praying Every Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 232)
"Whisper a Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 233)

Mission

Say: **Jesus hears us when we pray together in all the different countries of the world. Let's see what country our mission story is from today.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **Jesus hears us when we pray together. We also serve God when we give Him our offerings. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, that You hear us when we pray together. We love You. Amen.**

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

2 Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ scepter model or picture

The names of the people in this story may be unfamiliar to the children. To help the children remember which people belong to God, have them react to the names as they are read in the story. Practice together before beginning the story. It may be helpful to have an adult helper lead the children.

If desired, form four groups and assign one of the following words and actions to each.

When they hear:	They should:
Esther	raise hands to head as if wearing a crown
The king	bow
Mordecai	clap
Haman	thumbs down

Show a picture of a scepter, or make a model by pushing a piece of dowel into a styrofoam or tennis ball. The ball can be decorated with masking tape and the model sprayed gold. Show the children the scepter before you tell the story. Explain that it's something that only a king can have and shows his power.

Read or tell the story.

Esther *["crown" action]* was now the queen of Persia. The little orphaned Jewish girl who lived in a foreign country had grown up to become queen. **Mordecai** *[clap]* had raised her to love and honor God, but he had also told her not to tell anyone she was Jewish. He didn't want the **king** *[bow]* to change his mind about **Esther** *["crown" action]* because her people were from another country.

Mordecai's *[clap]* job was to sit near the palace gate and help people who came to the palace. Because he worked in the palace, he was able to keep in touch with **Esther** *["crown" action]* and to send her messages and advice. **Esther** *["crown" action]* was glad to hear from **Mordecai** *[clap]* and always did what he told her to do.

One day after **Esther** *["crown" action]* had been queen for about five years, she got a very important message from **Mordecai** *[clap].* It said that the **king's** *[bow]* most important helper, **Haman** *[thumbs down],* had tricked the **king** *[bow]* into making a terrible new law. **Haman** *[thumbs down]* didn't like the Jewish people. This new law said that on a certain date the people of Persia could kill all the Jewish people and take everything they owned.

Mordecai *[clap]* sent a message to **Esther** *["crown" action].* "You must tell the **king** *[bow]* that you are Jewish and ask him to save the lives of all your people," it said.

Esther *["crown" action]* sent a message back to **Mordecai** *[clap].* "I am afraid. The **king** *[bow]* hasn't asked to see me for over a month, and I'm not allowed to go see him." No one, not even the queen, was allowed to go into the **king's** *[bow]* inner court without being invited. Anyone who did would be killed, unless the **king** *[bow]* held out his royal scepter *[show the scepter].* How would she get a chance to talk to him?

Mordecai *[clap]* sent back a message. "Don't think that you will escape just because you live in the **king's** *[bow]* house. Who knows, you may have been chosen queen for just such a time as this."

Esther *["crown" action]* made up her mind and sent a message back to **Mordecai** *[clap].* "Gather together all the Jews in the city. For three days, spend all your time fasting and praying. My maids and I will do the same thing. On the third day I will go and see the **king** *[bow],* even

though it is against the law, and if I die, I die."

When people don't eat, it is called fasting. **Esther** *["crown" action]* wanted to think only about God and not even be thinking about food. All over the city people were fasting and praying together.

On the third day, **Esther** *["crown" action]* said a last prayer and put on her royal robes. Would the **king** *[bow]* be happy to see her? Would he hold out his royal scepter *[show the scepter]* to her? Bravely she walked into the **king's** *[bow]* inner court.

The **king** *[bow]* looked up. Who would dare to come before him without an invitation? Why, it was **Esther** *["crown" action]!* The **king** *[bow]* smiled and held out his golden scepter *[show the scepter]*. "What is it, Queen **Esther** *["crown" action]?"* he asked. "Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

Esther *["crown" action]* reached out and touched the tip of the scepter *[show scepter].* Then she invited the **king** *[bow]* to two special dinners. At the second dinner she told the **king** *[bow]* that she was Jewish. Then she asked him to change the terrible law that would cause her and all her people to be destroyed.

The **king** *[bow]* was angry that he had been tricked into making such a horrible law, but the law could not be changed. So he had a new law written that said that the Jews could protect themselves. When the day came, no one tried to destroy them.

The Jewish people had been saved by **Esther's** *["crown" action]* bravery and prayers. God had heard the prayers of all the people praying together. God still hears our prayers, whether we pray alone or with others. He is a wonderful God who cares for us all the time.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think Esther felt when she went to see the king?** (scared, worried, calm)

What did Esther first ask the king? (to come to a dinner) **How did the king help Esther and her people?** (He had a new law made to protect them.)

Could you have done what Esther did? Can you be brave even when you're frightened? (yes) **What can help you to be brave?** (Jesus can help when you pray or when someone else prays for you.)

Bible Study

You Need:

- ❑ Bible

Open your Bible to Esther 4; 5:1-7; 7:1-4; 8:11. 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: **Why did Haman want to destroy the Jews?** (He didn't like them.) **What did Esther do to help her people?** (She fasted and prayed; she went to see the king to ask for help.)

Why did Esther and the Jewish people fast (or not eat) while they prayed? (so they could think about God and how to pray better) **God doesn't expect children to stop eating, but He does want you to think only about Him when you are praying.**

Esther may have been very calm because she had spent three days praying and asking God to be with her. Praying with other people helps you feel closer together. You can encourage one another.

Praying together can also help you feel stronger in your faith in God. Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



God hears us when we pray together.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Matthew 18:20 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined:



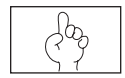
Where two — Hold up two fingers.



or three — Hold up three fingers.



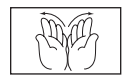
gather in my name, — Arms outstretched as if gathering together.



there am I — Point upward.



with them. — Point to self and others.



Matthew 18:20 — Palms together, then open.

3 Applying the Lesson

Praying Together

Allow response time as you ask: **What do we do when we pray? Can you show me? Why do we fold our hands?** (so we aren't playing with things) **Why do you bow your head and sometimes kneel down?** (to be respectful and show reverence to God) **Why do you close your eyes?** (so we're not looking around at things or people; so we can only think about God)

Where do you usually pray with other people? (in Sabbath School, in church, at home) **Why do we pray together?** (It encourages us, makes us stronger together.) **Do you think God likes it when we pray together?** (yes)

Do you think fasting and praying together with her maids and knowing that others were fasting and praying for her helped Queen Esther be brave? (yes)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What would you like to pray about? Do you have something that is worrying you, or making you sad, or bringing you happiness?** (Encourage children to respond with their prayer requests.) **These are all things you can pray about.**

Remember, Jesus hears us when we pray together. Ask the children to kneel while you pray for their requests. Then sing as a response "Thank You for Hearing Our Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 20). Say: **Let's say our message together again:**



God hears us when we pray together.

4 Sharing the Lesson

A. Praying Hands Crown

You Need:

- ❑ Praying Hands Crown pattern (see p. 144)
- ❑ heavy paper
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ tape or stapler

In advance, prepare a copy of the Praying Hands Crown pattern (see page 144) for each child on heavy paper. Either cut the crowns out beforehand, or have the children do it. Have the children ask each other to color a set of praying hands on their crown. Encourage them to make it colorful. Then attach the long strip to the crown and tape or staple the crown to fit the child's head.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you like all the colorful praying hands you have on your crown now? It can remind you of Queen Esther's crown and all the people who were praying for her when she went to see the king.**

Take your praying hands crown home and share it with someone you want to pray for. Tell them that your Sabbath School class is praying for them too.

Now let's pray together in small groups. Try to remember who the other people in your group prayed for so you can pray for those people this week too. Let's say our message together:



God hears us when we pray together.

B. Esther Shines

You Need:

- ❑ Star pattern (see p. 143)
- ❑ cardboard or heavy paper
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ aluminum foil
- ❑ flashlight (optional)

In advance, prepare a copy of the Star pattern (see page 143) for each child cut from cardboard or heavy paper. Give each child a piece of aluminum foil large enough to cover the star, and tell them to make it as smooth as they can. Shine the flashlight on their stars (or go outside in the sun) so they can see how the stars reflect the light.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **See how your star shines? Esther's name is similar to the Persian word for "star." Take your star home and share it with someone as you tell them how Queen Esther shone like a star as she prayed for courage to help her people. Tell that person that your Sabbath School class is praying for them too.**

Right now we are going to pray together in small groups. Let's say our message together:



God hears us when we pray together.

Closing

Say: **Try to remember who the other people prayed for so you can pray for them this week too.** Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44).

STUDENT LESSON

Esther Saves Her People

References

Esther 4; 5:1-7; 7:1-4; 8:11; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 602-606

Memory Verse

"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20, NIV).

The Message

God hears us when we pray together.

Do you pray with your family at home? Queen Esther prayed with her maids in the palace. Lots of other people were praying for her too.

Esther, the little orphaned Jewish girl who lived in a foreign country, had grown up to be queen. Her cousin Mordecai had raised her to love and honor God, but he had also told her not to tell anyone she was Jewish. Mordecai didn't want the king to change his mind about Esther.

Because Mordecai worked in the palace, he could give Esther messages and advice. Esther was always glad to hear from him.



One day after Esther had been queen for about five years, she got a very important message from Mordecai. The king's important helper, Haman, had tricked the king into making a terrible new law. This new law said that on a certain date the people of Persia could hurt all the Jewish people and take everything they owned. "You must ask the king to save the lives of all your people," Mordecai said.

Esther sent a message back to Mordecai. "I am afraid. The king hasn't asked to see me for more than a month, and I'm not allowed to go see him." No one, not even the queen, was allowed to go into the king's inner court without being invited. Anyone who did would be killed, unless the king held out his royal scepter.

Mordecai sent another message. "Don't think that you will escape because you live in the king's house. Who knows, you may have been chosen queen for just such a time as this."

Esther made up her mind. She sent a message back to Mordecai. "Gather all the Jews in the city. For three days don't eat anything. Spend all your time praying. My maids and I will do the same thing. On the third day, I will go and see the king, and if I die, I die."

On the third day, Esther said a last prayer and put on her royal robes. Bravely she walked into the king's inner court.

The king looked up. Who would dare to come before him without an invitation? Why, it was Esther! The king smiled and held out his golden scepter. "What is it, Queen Esther?" he asked. "Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

Esther reached out and touched the tip of the scepter. Then she invited the king to two special dinners. At the second dinner she told the king she was Jewish. And she asked him to change the terrible law that would hurt her and her people.

The king knew then that he had been tricked into making such a horrible law. But the law could not be changed. So he had a new law written that said that the Jews could protect themselves. When the day came, no one tried to hurt them.

The Jewish people had been saved by Esther's bravery and God's power. God had heard the prayers of all the people praying. God still hears our prayers, whether we pray alone or with others. He is a wonderful God who cares for us all the time.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

Where two . . . . . Hold up two fingers.
or three . . . . . Hold up three fingers.
gather . . . . . Arms outstretched as if
in my name, gathering together.
there am I . . . . . Point upward.
with them. . . . . . Point to self and others.
Matthew 18:20 . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the Crown of Praying Hands or the star they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Queen Esther. (Or draw a picture of a crown or a star.) Esther shone like a star when she led her people to pray.

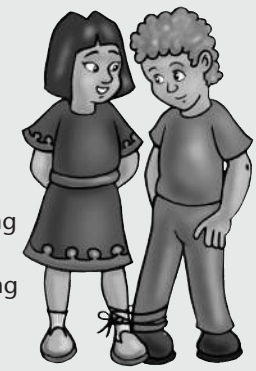
Monday



Read together Esther 4. Talk about why people fast and pray.

Help your child string together round cereal pieces on yarn to represent the people they pray with. Tie the ends together. Tying the yarn together will make a circle, like a prayer circle.

Tuesday



Tie one of your legs to one of your child's legs with a wide strip of material or an old necktie and try walking together without falling. Say: That reminds me: Praying together gives us strength and binds us together with others. Sing a prayer song.

Wednesday

Hold a towel outstretched between you and your child. Put an inflated balloon on it and walk around the house without letting it fall off. Ask: Was that fun? We made a good team. We can do other things together, such as praying.

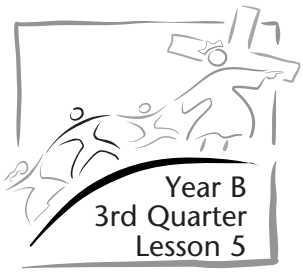
Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 233). then pray for someone you know.

Thursday

Ask: What do we do to get ready to pray? Why do we do those things? (so we can think only about God; to be reverent and respectful) Thank God that your family can pray together. Tell Him that you love Him.

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Talk about ways your child can be brave like Esther, and act out some situations. Ask: Who can help you be brave? (Jesus)



The Little Maid

SERVICE God teaches us how to serve.

References
2 Kings 5:1, 2; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 244, 245.

Memory Verse
"Let us do good to all people" (Galatians 6:10, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:

Know that God will lead them to places where they can serve Him.
Feel that they can help wherever they are.
Respond by being helpful to all people.

The Message



We can serve God wherever we are.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Naaman is captain of the king of Syria's army. He defeats the army of Israel and captures a little girl whom he takes home to be his wife's personal maid. This little maid is well trained in character and habit by her parents. Although far from her Israelite home and family, she is a faithful worker. By her service her captors see her love of God.

This is a lesson about service.

Wherever we go, we can serve God. We are all missionaries whether at home or far away. People do notice how we represent Jesus whose mission on earth was to serve God and others.

Teacher Enrichment

"The conduct of the captive maid, the way that she bore herself in that heathen

FIVE

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Can I Help Here?*	Can I Help Here? pattern (see p.145), paper, crayons
			B. Missionaries Everywhere	items from other countries, bag or box
			C. Missionary Songs	*Little Voices Praise Him* songbook, transportation toys (optional), missionary costumes (optional)
*	**Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 57. ***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	*Where Am I?*	*Little Voices Praise Him* songbook
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Where in the World?*	globe or world map, World Map pattern (see activity), crayons

home, is a strong witness to the power of early home training. There is no higher trust than that committed to fathers and mothers in the care and training of their children. Parents have to do with the very foundations of habit and character. By their example and teaching the future of their children is largely decided" (*Prophets and Kings,* p. 245).

"We know not in what line our children may be called to serve. They may spend their lives within the circle of the home; they may engage in life's common vocations, or go as teachers of the gospel to heathen lands; but all are alike called to be missionaries for God, ministers of mercy to the world" (*Prophets and Kings,* p. 245).

You also have an impact on your students' character. What has it been?

Room Decorations

Set up a home scene, including household items such as a broom, wooden or clay bowls, multicolored fabric, little table, chair, etc. Also use a blue blanket or sheet or other large piece of cloth to spread out to represent the Jordan River. These items will be used for the rest of the quarter.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Can I Help Here?

You Need:

- ❑ Can I Help Here? pattern (see p. 145)
- ❑ paper
- ❑ crayons

In advance, prepare a copy of the Can I Help Here? pattern (see page 145) for each child. Say: **These are drawings showing different places. Circle the pictures of places where you can help. Be thinking about how you could help at the places you circled, because I'm going to ask you about them when you finish coloring the pictures.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you see some places where you can help? What did you circle? What could you do to help there? What do you think about helping people in other countries? Our Bible story is about a little girl who learned to serve God at home, and then also served God far away from home. She served God wherever she was. Today's message is:**



We can serve God wherever we are.

Say that with me.

B. Missionaries Everywhere

You Need:

- ❑ items from other countries
- ❑ bag or box
- ❑ world map

Have a variety of items representing other countries (chopsticks, Mexican hat, French beret, Native American moccasins, kangaroo stuffed animal, flower lei, etc.) in a bag or box. Ask for volunteers to take out one item each and tell what country it might represent. If the children have difficulty figuring out which country the items are from, tell them and point out that country on a map.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know what a missionary is? Yes, a missionary is someone who tells or shows someone else about Jesus. Are all these countries we talked about places where missionaries go?** (yes) **But do you have to go to a country far away to be a**

missionary? No! Can you be a missionary? Yes, you can be a missionary right now, wherever you are. Our Bible story is about a little girl who learned to serve God at home, and then also served God far away from home. She served God wherever she was. Today's message is:



We can serve God wherever we are.

Say that with me.

C. Missionary Songs

Sing one of two missionary songs: "A Boat Goes Sailing" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 35) or "Five Little Missionaries" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 308). Use transportation toys such as a toy boat, plane, and train for children to hold while you sing the first three verses. Use the following words for the last verse:

I'll be a missionary where I am,
Missionary where I am.
I'll show and tell them all about Jesus—
Missionary where I am.

You Need:

- ❑ *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook
- ❑ transportation toys (optional)
- ❑ missionary costumes (optional)

If you use "Five Little Missionaries," dress five children as missionaries (doctor, preacher, teacher, nurse, pilot, etc.). Have the children come forward and do as the song directs.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know what a missionary is? Yes, a missionary is someone who tells or shows someone else about Jesus. Are all these countries we talked about places where missionaries go?** (yes) **But do you have to go to a country far away to be a missionary? No! Can you be a missionary? Yes, you can be a missionary right now, wherever you are. Our Bible story is about a little girl who learned to serve God at home, and also served God far away from home. She served God wherever she was. Today's message is:**



We can serve God wherever we are.

Say that with me.

* **NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 57.**



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Say: ***I'm going to read the Bible story. Once in a while during the story I'm going to ask you where Little Maid was serving God. Then you tell me where she was: at home, in the kitchen, in the bedroom, or in some other place. This is how it may have happened.***

Read or tell the story.

The little girl looked around the kitchen. It was different from the kitchen at home. This one was bigger, and it had more bowls and baskets. She was a good cook. She had often helped her mother make delicious bread and stews. *[You ask: Where did she serve God? Children answer: In the kitchen.]*

Then the little girl looked around the dining area. It too looked a little different from the dining room she was used to. This one had a huge table, much larger than the one her family had at home. In the corner she saw a broom for sweeping. Stacked on another smaller table were pretty dishes for eating. The little girl was good at sweeping, especially in the hard-to-reach corners. She was also good at setting the table. She had been taught by her mother just where to put the bowls and plates and cups. *[Where did she serve God? In the dining room.]*

She knew that this was the home of the man in charge of the Syrian army. He was an important man and a brave soldier. He had recently led the army in an attack against her country, Israel, and he had won.

Suddenly a woman came into the room and smiled at the little girl. "Oh, you must be the little girl my husband, Naaman, told me about. I'm Mrs. Naaman. You are going to be my helper. Come, little maid, I'll show you what I need you to do first." The woman walked fast as she led the girl down a long hallway.

The little girl (we'll call her Little Maid), followed Mrs. Naaman. Mrs. Naaman pointed out her bed. Little Maid saw that it needed to be made. Mrs. Naaman asked Little Maid to make the bed, then sweep her bedroom and dust the furniture. *[Where did she serve God? In Mrs. Naaman's bedroom.]*

Little Maid soon felt at ease doing the many chores Mrs. Naaman had for her to do each day. Little Maid worked very hard, many hours a day. But she didn't complain or whine. Her parents had taught her to be a cheerful helper and to do her work as best she could. Sometimes Little Maid wanted to just go outside and play, but she never stopped working until she was all done.

Mrs. Naaman and Captain Naaman noticed how good Little Maid worked. Everything she did was done well. She didn't give up if something was hard. She didn't grumble or complain. She smiled while she worked! Imagine that, a servant smiling and working at the same time! She was smart. She could make delicious food that Mrs. Naaman and Captain Naaman really liked. *[Where did she serve God? In the kitchen.]* She was friendly and happy. She came quickly when she was called. She obeyed all the time.

There was something different about this little girl from Israel. She wasn't like the other servants.

How was she different? She knew God. Little Maid wanted to serve God in everything she did. She served God wherever she was, whether it was at home in Israel with her family *[Where did she serve God? At home.]* or in

Syria at the home of Captain and Mrs. Naaman. *[Where did she serve God? At Mrs. Naaman's house.]* Little Maid could have been angry at Captain Naaman for taking her away from her home, but she trusted God, and she acted how she knew God wanted her to act wherever she was.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was Little Maid a good worker?** (yes) **How did she serve God?** (cleaning, cooking, washing, caring for Mrs. Naaman, being cheerful, obeying, etc.) **Where did she serve God?** (wherever she was)

Do you have to live far away from your family to be of service to God? (no) **Where can you serve God?** (anywhere) **Do you have certain jobs that you do every day (except Sabbath) to help at home? What do you usually do?**

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5:1, 2. 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: **What was Naaman's job?** (captain in the Syrian army) **Was he a brave soldier?** (yes) **Where did he take Little Maid to live?** (Syria) **What was Little Maid's job?** (helping Mrs. Naaman take care of the house) **Did she serve God well? How did she do that?** (by being a good worker, being cheerful, kind, caring, obeying, etc.)

How do you usually respond when someone asks you to help? Do you show others that you are serving God by how you help? Would you like to? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



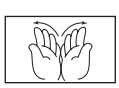
We can serve God wherever we are.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Galatians 6:10 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"Let us do good to all people."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Let us	Point to self and then others.	
do good	Touch fingers of right hand to chin.	
to all people.	With palm up, move hand to gesture to others.	
Galatians 6:10	Palms together, then open.	

You may want to sing "Let Us Do Good to All Men" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 265).

3 Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- ❑ *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

Where Am I?

Ask the children to guess the place you are describing and tell how they can serve God there. Say:

1. **This is a building where you live. It has beds, chairs, a kitchen, and a bathroom.** (home)
2. **This is where children go to learn things. Teachers are there. Children may sit at a desk or table.** (school)
3. **This is where children climb things, swing, play in a sandbox.** (playground)
4. **This is where you go to visit someone you like to play with.** (friend's house)
5. **This is where you come once a week to worship Jesus. You sing songs, learn about God, and see your friends.** (church)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know what a missionary is?** (Yes, someone who tells or shows others about Jesus.) **Do you have to go far away from your home to be a missionary?** (No!) **Are you missionaries?** (Yes!) **You can show and tell people about Jesus in your neighborhood, at the playground, at school, at the store, anywhere. And you don't always have to *tell* people; you can also show them.**

How do you show others about Jesus? (by being helpful, being kind and gentle, obeying your parents quickly, being encouraging, comforting those who are hurt or sick, sharing and being unselfish, etc.) **That's being a missionary wherever you are. You can serve God wherever you are. Let's sing a song about it.** Sing, "Oh, Where" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 311). **Let's say our message together again:**



We can serve God wherever we are.

4 Sharing the Lesson

You Need:

- ❑ globe or world map
- ❑ World Map pattern
- ❑ crayons

Where in the World?

In advance, download and print a copy of the World Map pattern for each child from our Web site, www.gracelink.net/activities. Show the children a globe or a world map. Help them find where they live, then say: **Our Bible story today is about Little Maid. She was from Israel. Israel is here on the map (or globe).** Point it out on the globe or map. **She was taken to Syria. Here is Syria.** Help find it on the globe or map. Show the children how far apart they are. Then let the children color the "world."

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Where in this world can you help**

others? (anywhere) **Do you need to go far away from home?** (No, but you can serve God in all the places you do go.)

Where are you going to serve God this week? You can take your colored map home and share it with someone this week as you tell them about Little Maid, who served others wherever she was. Let's say our message together one last time:



We can serve God wherever we are.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a prayer something like this: **Thank You, Jesus, that we can serve You wherever we go. We love You. Amen.**

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 Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 202)
"A Boat Goes Sailing" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 35)
"Five Little Missionaries" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 308)
"This Little Light of Mine" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 313)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **We serve God by helping wherever we are. We also serve God when we give Him our offerings.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, that we can serve You wherever we are. Amen.**

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

STUDENT LESSON

The Little Maid

References

2 Kings 5:1, 2; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 244, 245

Memory Verse

"Let us do good to all people" (Galatians 6:10, NIV).

The Message

We can serve God wherever we are.

Do you have work that you do to help at home? Do you help at Grandma's house? at the park? at the babysitter's? Little Maid helped too. This is how it may have happened.

The little girl looked around the kitchen. It was bigger than the one at home. She had often helped her mother make delicious bread and stews.

Then the little girl looked around the dining room. She saw a huge table, much larger than the one her family had at home. She saw a broom, and pretty dishes on a table. The little girl was good at sweeping. She was also good at setting the table. She had been taught by her mother just where to put the bowls and plates and cups.



The little girl was in the home of the man in charge of the Syrian army. An important man and a brave soldier, he had recently led the army in an attack against Israel, and he had won.

Suddenly a woman came into the room and smiled at the little girl. "Oh, you must be the little girl my husband, Naaman, told me about. I'm Mrs. Naaman. You are going to be my helper. Come, Little Maid, I'll show you what to do."

The lady led Little Maid down a long hallway. Little Maid followed. Mrs. Naaman pointed to the beds to be made, then floors to be swept and furniture to be dusted. Then there were clothes to wash and hang out to dry.

Little Maid soon felt at ease doing the many chores. She worked very hard, many hours a day. But she didn't complain or whine. Her parents had taught her well to be a cheerful helper and to do the best she could.

Mrs. Naaman and Captain Naaman noticed how good Little Maid worked. Everything she did was done well. She didn't give up if something was hard. She didn't grumble or complain. She smiled while she worked! She was friendly and happy. There was something different about this little girl from Israel. She wasn't like the other servants.

How was she different? She knew God. Little Maid served God wherever she was, whether at home in Israel with her family, or in Syria at the home of Captain and Mrs. Naaman. Little Maid could have been angry at Captain Naaman for taking her away from her home. But she trusted God and wanted to serve Him wherever she was.

You can serve God wherever you are too. You can help at home. Take your dirty dishes to the sink after you eat. Offer to dust the furniture. Play kindly with your brothers and sisters. Share your toys with friends. Smile and be friendly to the children you see at the playground. In all these ways and in all these places you are serving God. You can serve God wherever you are.

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

Let us . . . . . Point to self and then others.
do good . . . . . Touch chin with fingers of right hand.
to all people. . . . . . With palm up, move hand to gesture to others.
Galatians 6:10 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Read together 2 Kings 5:1, 2. Ask: What was Naaman's job? What was Little Maid's job? Was she a good worker for God? Where did she serve God?

Help your child make a Happy Helper chart. List something for your child to do each day this week. When it is done, draw a smiley face beside that day.

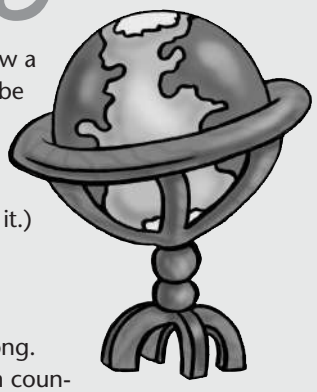
Monday

Sing "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 202).

Look at pictures of a kitchen, playground, store, library, church, etc. Or walk through your house and stop in each room. Ask: How can you serve God here? Have your child name and count three places where they can serve God.

Tuesday

Encourage your child to share the "world" they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Little Maid. (Or draw a circle to represent the globe with a simple outline of your continent. Write the memory verse across it and have your child color it.)



Wednesday

Sing a "missionary" song. Look at pictures of foreign countries or objects from another country. Ask: Do you have to go to a different country to serve God? How can you be a missionary where you are?



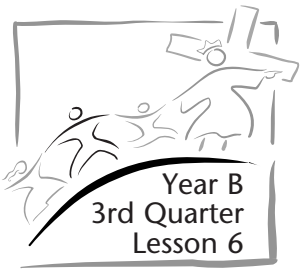
Thursday

With your child, role-play different ways to serve God and help others at school, home, a friend's house, grocery store, around the neighborhood, etc.

Let your child help you do household chores as you talk about things Little Maid may have done to help Mrs. Naaman.

Friday

During worship act out the Bible story with your family. Have your child show the Happy Helper chart they made Sunday. Let them count and/or name the days they helped and tell what they did. Thank God for your child's helpful ways.



Little Maid Serves God

SERVICE God teaches us how to serve.

References
2 Kings 5:1-8; *Prophets and Kings,* p. 246.

Memory Verse
"May . . . God . . . strengthen you in every good deed and word" (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that they serve God with their actions and words.
Feel excited about telling others about God.
Respond by sharing about God with their actions and words.

The Message


We serve God by what we do and say.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
The little girl that Naaman took from Israel turns out to be a very good helper for his wife. She is an obedient, kind, and diligent servant. They notice that her actions speak loudly and clearly of her belief in her God. Little Maid tells Captain and Mrs. Naaman about how God can use His servant Elisha to heal Captain Naaman of his leprosy.

This is a lesson about service.
We can serve others by our actions and our words that tell of God. People notice what we do and say, and whom we represent.

Teacher Enrichment
"A slave, far from her home, this little maid was nevertheless one of God's witnesses, unconsciously fulfilling the

SIX

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Felt or Puppet Center*	felts and felt board, or puppets (optional)
			B. How Do We Serve God?	none
			C. Joyful Sounds	none
*	**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	Bible felts, felt board
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*Scenarios*	none
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Secret Message Butterfly*	Butterfly pattern (see p. 146), paper, pen, chenille sticks or pipe cleaners, crayons, scissors, tape

purpose for which God had chosen Israel as His people. As she ministered in that heathen home, her sympathies were aroused in behalf of her master" (*Prophets and Kings,* p. 244).

"He who sent Philip to the Ethiopian councilor, Peter to the Roman centurion, and the little Israelitish maiden to the help of Naaman, the Syrian captain, sends men and women and youth today as His representatives to those in need of divine help and guidance" (*Conflict and Courage,* p. 332).

Are you leading someone to Christ by your words and actions? Do your Sabbath School children see your love for Jesus in what you say and do?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Felt or Puppet Center

You Need:

- ❑ felts and felt board or puppets

Help the children use felts or puppets. Suggest situations to role-play that involve serving God by our actions and words (being kind, telling others about God, sharing, helping, etc.).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did your felts (or puppets) find ways to share God with others? What did they do? Today we'll learn more about how Little Maid showed Captain Naaman and his wife about God. Our message for today is:**



We serve God by what we do and say.

Say that with me.

B. How Do We Serve God?

Help the children take turns acting out ways in which they can serve God with actions and words. (comforting someone; giving water to someone; sharing toys; saying encouraging words; etc.) The other children should guess what each child does.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do you think about helping others know about God by what you do or say? Are you serving God when you are kind to someone? What other ways can you serve God?** (Talk about Him, be helpful, be unselfish, be obedient, etc.) **We can serve God by what we do and say to others. Today we'll learn more about how Little Maid showed Captain Naaman and his wife about God. Our message for today is:**



We serve God by what we do and say.

Say that with me.

C. Joyful Sounds

Have the children sit in a circle. (Large class: form several circles.) Say: **Think about the happiest sound you can make.** Ask the first child to turn to the child next to them and make their happiest sound. That child will copy the sound to the next child and so on around the circle. At the end everyone will make the sound together. Repeat with the second child's happiest sound.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **When do you make your happy sound?** (When I'm doing something I like to do, when something makes me happy, etc.) **Can you think of other happy sounds in the world?** (music, birds singing, crickets chirping, etc.) **Do you know that telling someone about God is a very happy sound? God loves to hear you serve Him that way. Today we'll learn more about Little Maid and Captain Naaman. Our message for today is:**



We serve God by what we do and say.

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 Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 202)
"Kind Lips" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 310)
"Share the Good News" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 312)
"This Little Light of Mine" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 313)
"We Are His Hands" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 314)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **We also serve God when we give Him our offerings.**

Prayer

Say: **Repeat after me: Thank You, Jesus, that we can serve You by doing things for others and by telling them about You. Amen.**

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

2 Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ Bible felts
- ❑ felt board

Use the appropriate Bible felts as you read or tell the story. Maybe the story of Little Maid and Captain Naaman happened like this.

The little slave girl, Little Maid, carefully lifted the perfume bottles and dusted underneath them. This was one job she especially liked to do. The bottles were so beautiful. They usually sparkled in the light that streamed through the bedroom windows. But not today.

Today the curtains were pulled across the windows. And Mrs. Naaman was sitting on her bed in the darkness. She was softly crying. And Little Maid knew why. Her husband, Captain Naaman, had leprosy. No one could make the leprosy go away. Leprosy made white spots on his skin. And he could not feel things with his fingers and toes. Mrs. Naaman was very, very sad.

The kind Little Maid tiptoed quietly over to the bed. "I wish Captain Naaman would go see the prophet in my country," she whispered. "Prophet Elisha would heal him of his leprosy."

Mrs. Naaman wiped her eyes. "What are you talking about, child?" she asked.

Little Maid sat down on a stool beside Mrs. Naaman's bed. She told Mrs. Naaman all about the prophet Elisha, who lived in Israel. She told her that the Lord of heaven worked miracles through the prophet Elisha. The little girl told her mistress stories she had learned from her parents about the true and living God.

Mrs. Naaman scooted off the bed. "Bring me some water to wash my face," she said. "I must go and talk to my husband."

Captain Naaman was a great friend of the king. He was the commander of the king's army. So Captain Naaman told the king what the slave girl had told his wife.

"Go!" said the king. "Go and visit the prophet. I will send a letter to the king of Israel for you." So he wrote a letter to Israel's king. "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy" (2 Kings 5:6, NIV).

Captain Naaman took some gifts with him. He took silver and gold coins and 10 sets of beautiful clothes. These would be thank-you gifts.

But the king of Israel didn't care about Naaman's gifts. After he read the letter from the king of Syria and saw Naaman standing before him with leprosy, he was deeply troubled. The king of Israel knew he wasn't God. He knew that he couldn't heal Naaman. He didn't understand why the king of Syria thought he could. In those days if you were upset, you would tear your clothes, so that's what the king of Israel did. He tore his royal robes and grumbled.

Prophet Elisha heard that the king was so upset that he had torn his robes. So Elisha sent the king a message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." Prophet Elisha knew that the king couldn't heal Naaman. He knew that he couldn't heal Naaman either. But Prophet Elisha also knew that he represented God and that God could heal Captain Naaman.

Prophet Elisha and Little Maid both wanted Captain Naaman to know about the true God. Little Maid showed her love of God in every way as she helped Mrs. Naaman, and in everything that she said. She loved to share God with others.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think Little Maid felt about Captain Naaman being sick?** (She felt sad, sorry for him; she wanted to help.) **What did Little Maid suggest that Captain Naaman should do?** (go to the prophet in Israel to be cured)

Do you think Naaman believed he could be cured by Little Maid's God? (probably so) **He probably believed her, because he did what she suggested. He had seen what kind of person she was—kind, loving, patient, obedient, and a cheerful worker.**

Naaman and his wife knew that Little Maid worshipped and prayed only to her God. Little Maid had told them things about her God. Naaman listened to what a little girl told him to do.

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5:1-8. 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: **What disease did Naaman have?** (leprosy) **What did Little Maid tell Mrs. Naaman her husband should do?** (go see the prophet in her country)

Why was the king of Israel upset with the letter he got from the king of Syria? (Because the letter said that Naaman was coming to Israel to be cured of leprosy, and the king knew he couldn't cure him.)

What did Elisha say when he heard about the king getting upset? (He sent a message to the king of Israel telling him to send Naaman to him so God could cure him.)

Little Maid did a good job of serving God by sharing Him with others. She had shared God by how she acted, and by what she said.

Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



We serve God by what we do and say.

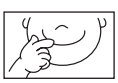
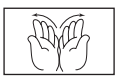
Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"May . . . God . . . strengthen you in every good deed and word."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Teach the children the following actions for the words in their memory verse:

May . . . God . . .	Point upward.	
strengthen you	Arms up, fists closed, make muscles.	
in every good deed	Palms up, hands outstretched.	
and word.	Point to mouth.	
2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17	Palms together, then open.	

3 Applying the Lesson

Scenarios

Ask the children how they could serve after you read each scenario or have them act them out.

1. **Your friend Juliana falls down and scrapes her knee. How can you serve God?** (Help Juliana get up; comfort her; get a bandage; get help.)
2. **Your friend Jonathan tells you he is really sad because his pet rabbit died. How can you serve God?** (Comfort Jonathan with a hug or a prayer; say encouraging words such as "Jesus knows how you feel"; share your toys.)
3. **You see your grandma trying to bend down to pick up something she dropped, but she can't quite get it. How can you serve God?** (Pick it up for her.)
4. **Your uncle Fred's office told him he can't work there any more. Uncle Fred is sad and worried about finding a new job. How can you serve God?** (Remind Uncle Fred that God loves him and will take care of him; pray with him to find a new job; comfort him with a hug or encouraging words.)
5. **Your mother asks you to set the table for dinner. You are right in the middle of putting a puzzle together. How can you serve God?** (Obey quickly and cheerfully.)
6. **Your neighbor just had surgery. He is home now, but still stays in bed most of the time. How can you serve God?** (Draw a get-well card for your neighbor; help your mother or father make some food for him; phone him to say you hope he feels better soon, and that you are praying for him; pray for his fast recovery.)
7. **Your friend from down the street doesn't go to church. Your church is having a Vacation Bible School in a few weeks. How can you serve God?** (Invite your friend to come with you.)
8. **Your father has lost his keys. He's looked all over. How can you serve God?** (Help your father look; pray with him; say encouraging words.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you think you can find ways to serve God this week? Remember that Little Maid served God by what she said and did. We can serve God that way also.**

Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to serve God. As our memory verse says, God can help you to be a strong servant for Him in whatever you do and say. Let's say our message together:



We serve God by what we do and say.



Sharing the Lesson

Secret Message Butterfly

You Need:

- ❑ Butterfly pattern (see p. 146)
- ❑ paper
- ❑ pen
- ❑ chenille sticks or pipe cleaners
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ tape

In advance, make a copy of the Butterfly pattern (see page 146) for each child.

Distribute the pattern and one chenille stick or pipe cleaner to each child. Write a secret message on paper, such as "God Loves You," and copy one for each child.

Tell the children they are going to make a Secret Message Butterfly to take home and share with someone. Have them roll the secret message paper into a scroll. Then tape it to the butterfly's body. Have the children color the butterfly and cut it out. (Taken from *Come Meet Jesus Program Guide* [Ages 4-7], copyright © 1998 by Review and Herald Publishing Association, p. 51.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know who you want to share your Secret Message Butterfly with? You will be serving God by doing something nice for them and by telling them about God in your secret message. You can also tell them about Little Maid and how she served God by what she did and said. Let's say our message together one last time:**



We serve God by what we do and say.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a prayer similar to the following: **Thank You, Jesus, that we can serve You by what we do and say. Help us to remember that. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Little Maid Serves God

References

2 Kings 5:1-8; *Prophets and Kings,* p. 246

Memory Verse

"May . . . God . . . strengthen you in every good deed and word" (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17, NIV).

The Message

We serve God by what we do and say.

Do you know how to serve God? Little Maid served God by what she did and said. This is how it may have happened.

The little slave girl, Little Maid, carefully lifted the perfume bottles and dusted them. The bottles usually sparkled in the light that streamed through the bedroom windows. But not today.

Today the curtains were closed. And Mrs. Naaman was sitting on her bed in the darkness, crying softly. Little Maid knew why. Captain Naaman had leprosy. No one could make the leprosy go away. The leprosy made white spots on his skin. And he could not feel things with his fingers and toes. Mrs. Naaman was very, very sad.



Little Maid tiptoed quietly to the bed. "I wish Master Naaman would go to see the prophet in my country," she whispered. "Prophet Elisha would heal him of his leprosy."

Mrs. Naaman wiped her eyes. "What are you talking about, child?" she asked.

So Little Maid told Mrs. Naaman all about the prophet Elisha, who lived in Israel. "The Lord of heaven works miracles through the prophet Elisha," she said. Then Little Maid told Mrs. Naaman all she had learned from her parents about the true and living God.

Mrs. Naaman scooted off the bed. "Bring me some water to wash my face," she said. "I must talk to my husband."

Captain Naaman was the commander of the king's army. So Naaman told the king what Little Maid had told his wife. "Go!" said the king. "Go and visit the prophet. I will send a letter to the king of Israel for you."

Captain Naaman took silver and gold coins and 10 sets of beautiful clothes with him. These would be gifts to people in Israel who helped him.

But when the king of Israel read the letter from the king of Syria, he was deeply troubled. The king of Israel knew he couldn't heal Naaman. He didn't understand why the king of Syria thought he could. He was worried. What if Naaman wasn't healed? Would the king of Syria attack Israel again?

Prophet Elisha heard about Naaman's visit. Elisha sent Israel's king a message. "Why are you so upset? Have Naaman come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." Prophet Elisha knew that he couldn't heal Captain Naaman, but God could.

Prophet Elisha and Little Maid both wanted Captain Naaman to know about the true God. Little Maid showed her love of God as she helped Mrs. Naaman and in everything she said. She loved to share God with others.

You can serve God too by what you do and say. That is how others will know that you love God.

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

May . . . God . . . . . . Point upward.
strengthen you . . . . Arms up, fists closed, make muscles.
in every good deed . . . . . Palms up, hands outstretched.
and word. . . . . . Point to mouth.
2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17 . . . Palms together, then open.

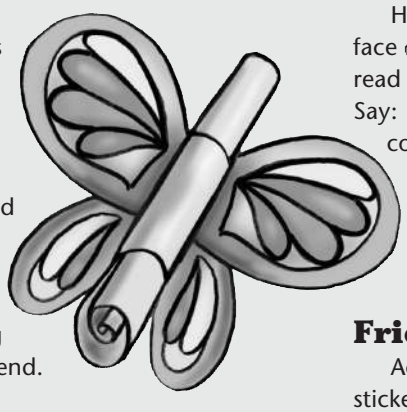
Sunday

Encourage your child to share the Secret Message Butterfly made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Little Maid. (Or help them write a secret message, such as "God loves you," to someone.)

Monday

Read together 2 Kings 5:1-8. Ask: How did Little Maid serve God? Did Naaman think God could heal him? Did Little Maid serve God by what she did and said?

Plan a way you and your child can serve God this week by helping an elderly neighbor or friend.



Tuesday

Sing "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 202).

Let your child call or visit a friend or neighbor who is sick and tell them, "God loves you and so do I." Pray for that person today.



Wednesday

Take turns acting out ways in which we can serve God with our actions and our words. (Comforting someone, sharing toys, etc.) Guess what the other person is acting out. Decide on one thing and do it today.

Thursday

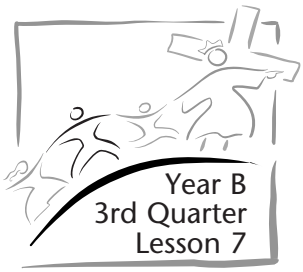
Help your child draw a happy face ☺ and a sad face ☹. Then hold up the appropriate face as you read the lesson and relate the happy and sad events. Say: Naaman heard from Little Maid that God could heal him. Do you think that made him happy?

Sing "This Little Light of Mine" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 313).

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Use white sticker circles or chalk dots to represent leprosy on whoever plays Naaman.

Sing helping songs. Thank God you can do or say nice things to others. Ask Him to help your family always to be ready to serve Him.



Disappearing Spots

SERVICE God teaches us how to serve.

References
2 Kings 5:9-14; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 246-249.

Memory Verse
"For we are . . . created . . . to do good works" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God made them to help each other.
Feel willing to help wherever and whenever needed.
Respond by doing good deeds for others.

The Message



We serve God by doing good for others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Captain Naaman is sent to the prophet Elisha by the king of Israel. Elisha does not meet with Naaman, but has his servant tell Naaman to wash himself in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman is angry at the suggestion. It isn't what he expected. Naaman's servants reason with him. So he swallows his pride, washes in the river seven times, and is healed after dipping under the water the seventh time.

This is a lesson about service.

We can serve God by doing good for others as Little Maid and Prophet Elisha did. They didn't have to help the foreigner and unbeliever, Naaman, but they acted out their love for God by doing good works for others.

SEVEN

Program Outline

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 **Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Disappear*	clear bowl, water, spoon, dissolvable item, nondissolvable item
		B. Medical Help	toy medical equipment
		C. What's Leprosy?	white sticky dots or white chalk, crayons, plastic cups
* **Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 76. ***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	*Good Deeds Tick-Tack-Toe*	chalkboard or whiteboard or poster paper, chalk or marker
4 **Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Naaman Dips*	Jordan River pattern (see p. 147), Naaman pattern (see p. 148), paper, scissors, crayons, craft sticks, glue or tape

Teacher Enrichment

"You must *be* good before you can *do* good. You cannot exert an influence that will transform others until your own heart has been humbled and refined and made tender by the grace of Christ. When this change has been wrought in you, it will be as natural for you to live to bless others as it is for the rosebush to yield its fragrant bloom or the vine its purple clusters" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* p. 128).

"It is our duty ever to seek to do good in the use of the muscles and brain God has given to youth, that they may be useful to others, making their labors lighter, soothing the sorrowing, lifting up the discouraged, speaking words of comfort to the hopeless" (*My Life Today,* p. 118).

"All power to do good is God-given. . . . To God belongs all the glory for the wise and good deeds of human agents" (*My Life Today,* p. 118).

Has your own heart been "humbled and refined and made tender by the grace of Christ" so that you can do good?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Disappear

You Need:

- ❑ clear bowl
- ❑ water
- ❑ spoon
- ❑ dissolvable item
- ❑ non-dissolvable item

Have a clear bowl of water on a table. Pour in an item that can dissolve in water (salt, powdered sugar, powdered drink mix) and stir. Then drop in an item that will not dissolve (a nail, a nut, a rock).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Why do some things disappear in water while others don't? When we wash our hands, what things do we get off of them?** (dirt, food, germs, etc.) **If you cut your finger, can you wash the cut away? No. In our story today we will learn how God made something disappear like the salt in our experiment.**

Is water important to us? (Yes. Water is very important.) **What do we do with water?** (bathe, drink, wash clothes, cook, water plants, etc.) **Our Bible story is about Naaman. He listened to Little Maid's advice and went to see Prophet Elisha. Today we will find out what happened. Both Little Maid and Prophet Elisha did a good thing for Captain Naaman. Today's message is:**



We serve God by doing good for others.

Say that with me.

B. Medical Help

You Need:

- ❑ toy medical equipment

If you don't have toy medical equipment, you can simply use a washcloth, blanket, adhesive or cloth bandages, pillow, etc. The children can take turns pretending they are doctors, nurses, or patients as they help each other.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you take good care of each other? Doing good to sick people is one way we can serve God.**

Our Bible story tells us more about Naaman. He listened to Little Maid's advice and went to see Prophet Elisha because he was sick with leprosy. Today we will find out what happened. Both Little Maid and Prophet Elisha did a good thing for Captain Naaman. God likes it when we do good things for others. Today's message is:



We serve God by doing good for others.

Say that with me.

C. What's Leprosy?

You Need:

- ❑ white sticky dots or white chalk
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ plastic cups

Stick some white sticky dots of various sizes to the faces and arms of the children to indicate leprosy, or make some spots with white chalk. Ask the children to close their eyes and keep them closed. Touch them gently with your finger on their arms and have them point to the place you touched. Explain that a person with leprosy cannot feel anything in the areas where the spots are. They cannot feel it if they touch something hot or step on a sharp stone. That's why they get many sores on their hands and feet.

Then have the children open their eyes and hold up both hands. Ask them to bend their fingers so that their fingertips touch their open palms. Explain that the fingers of leprosy patients are often bent like this all the time.

Place a crayon in front of each child. Ask them to try to pick up the crayon without using their fingers. Give each child a plastic cup. Ask them to lift it to their mouths and pretend to drink without stretching their fingers out. Ask how easy or hard it was to do that. Explain that a person with leprosy has great difficulty playing, working, eating, etc.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What would it be like not to be able to feel anything on your skin? What would you be glad you couldn't feel? Pain isn't always a bad thing. It can help protect us.**

Today we will learn more about Naaman and leprosy. Naaman listened to Little Maid's advice. He went to see Prophet Elisha. Today we will find out what happened. Both Little Maid and Prophet Elisha did a good thing for Captain Naaman. Today's message is:



We serve God by doing good for others.

Say that with me.

* **NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 76.**

2 Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

At the appropriate time have the children stand up and then "dip" down and jump up while they help you count the seven times Naaman dipped in the Jordan River. This story is found in 2 Kings 5:1-14, and this is how parts of it may have happened.

Read or tell the story.

Captain Naaman was excited and afraid at the same time. He was on his way to see Prophet Elisha. He was excited because he might be healed of his leprosy. He was afraid because he thought maybe he wouldn't be healed.

Captain Naaman had packed a lot of silver and gold. He had packed 10 sets of expensive new clothes. These would be thank-you gifts—if he was healed.

At last Captain Naaman and his servants arrived at the prophet's house. Naaman stepped out of his chariot and knocked on the door. Someone answered. Was this the prophet? No, this was the prophet's servant, but he would tell the prophet Captain Naaman had arrived.

Naaman waited impatiently outside the house. A few minutes later the servant returned to the door with a message for Captain Naaman. "Prophet Elisha says you are to go wash seven times in the Jordan River, and God will heal your leprosy."

Captain Naaman's face turned red with anger. His heart beat faster. He was angry! *I can't believe that prophet didn't even come to the door and talk to me,* he thought. And he didn't like the message the prophet sent to him. *I didn't come all this way to wash in that muddy little river! We have cleaner rivers in my country! I'm going home!*

Captain Naaman stomped back to his chariot. He shouted, "Let's go home!"

Naaman's servants looked at each other. They were confused. "Why are we going home?" they asked.

"Because I'm not going to wash in the muddy Jordan River. We have cleaner rivers at home if washing is all I need to do," he replied.

"Wait!" said the servants. "If the prophet had asked you to do something really, really hard, you would have tried to do it. Why not try something easy?"

Captain Naaman stopped and thought about it. *They are right. I've come all this way. I really want to be healed. I'll do what the prophet asks me to do.*

"All right," Captain Naaman replied. "Let's go to the Jordan River."

Quickly Naaman and his servants went to the river. Naaman took off his robes and sandals. He looked at the muddy river with a frown, but he waded right in. *[Tell the children to stand up and get ready to "dip" under the water.]*

Captain Naaman dipped under the water one time, but the spots were still there. Two times: the spots were still there. Three times—spots still there. Four times—spots still there. Five times—spots still there. Six times—spots still there. Seven times—spots gone! God healed Naaman, just as Elisha had said!

Naaman leaped out of the river. He looked himself over. He shook his hands. He touched his fingers. He could feel things again! Yes, he really was healed! No more leprosy spots. This was the happiest day of his life! He couldn't wait to go back to see Prophet Elisha to thank him. He couldn't wait to get home to tell his family.

Little Maid and Prophet Elisha did a good service to Naaman. Little Maid told him about her God and Prophet Elisha. Prophet Elisha told Naaman what he must do to be healed by God.

God wants us to do good things for others. We can help others too.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think Naaman felt when Prophet Elisha didn't even come to talk with him?** (angry, disappointed)

How do you think he felt when he dipped in the river the first six times and nothing had changed? (anxious, disappointed, worried) **How do you think Naaman felt when he came up the seventh time?** (happy, surprised, thankful)

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5:9-14. 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: **Whose house did Captain Naaman go to? What did Prophet Elisha tell Naaman to do? Why didn't Naaman want to do it?** (The river was muddy; he was too proud.) **Who talked him into going to the river to wash?** (his servants)

How many times was Naaman supposed to dip into the river? What happened when he dipped in the first six times? (nothing) **What happened when he came up the seventh time?** (He was healed.)

Who had done good deeds for Naaman? (Little Maid, Elisha, God) **Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:**



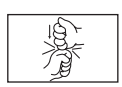
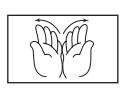
We serve God by doing good for others.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Ephesians 2:10 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud. **"For we are . . . created . . . to do good works."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

For we	Point to self, then to others.	
are . . . created . . .	Move hands as if forming clay into a shape.	
to do good works.	Make fists. Tap one with the other.	
Ephesians 2:10	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

"Dip, Dip, Dip in the River" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 56)
"Go and Wash" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 64)
"Naaman's Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 65)
"Let Us Do Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 263)
"Blessings" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 302)

Mission

Say: **Let's see in our mission story today who did something good for someone else.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **God does so many wonderfully good things for us that we want to thank Him. We can do that by giving our offering to help do good things for others. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Dear Jesus, please help us to always do good things for people. We love You. Amen.**

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

3 Applying the Lesson

Good Deeds Tick-Tack-Toe

You Need:

- ❑ chalkboard or whiteboard or poster paper
- ❑ chalk or marker

Draw a tick-tack-toe square. Divide the children into two teams. Say: **We're going to play tick-tack-toe. You can put an X or an O on the board for your team if you can tell one way you can do good to people.** (play nicely with your brother or sister, pick up your toys without being asked to, play quietly while your mommy lies down because she has a headache, etc.) **Think of a good deed you can tell us about.** Give the teams turns.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Did you enjoy playing this game? We heard a lot of good ideas about doing good deeds.** Review some of their ideas.

I hope you will remember some

of them this week and try them out. God loves it when you serve Him by doing good for others. Let's say our message together:



We serve God by doing good for others.

4 Sharing the Lesson

Naaman Dips

You Need:

- ❑ Jordan River pattern (see p. 147)
- ❑ Naaman pattern (see p. 148)
- ❑ paper
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ craft sticks
- ❑ glue or tape

In advance, prepare a copy of the Jordan River pattern (see page 147) and the Naaman pattern (see page 148) for each child. Cut open along the dotted line in the river. You may want to cut out the two Naamans for the children in advance.

During Sabbath School the children may color the Jordan River scene and both pictures of Naaman. Then have the children cut out or use the precut Naaman figures to glue or tape onto the craft stick, one Naaman on either side of the stick.

They should be able to put Naaman's stick through the slit in the river and have him dip down in the river six times. The seventh time they can turn Naaman around so he has no spots and let him come up out of the river "healed."

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Take this home and tell someone about Naaman being healed. Share with them how Little Maid, Prophet Elisha, and God did good things for Naaman.**

This week, look for ways you can do good deeds for others too. Let's say our message again:



We serve God by doing good for others.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, please help us to remember to serve You by doing good deeds for others. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Disappearing Spots

References

2 Kings 5:9-14; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 246-249

Memory Verse

"For we are . . . created . . . to do good works" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).

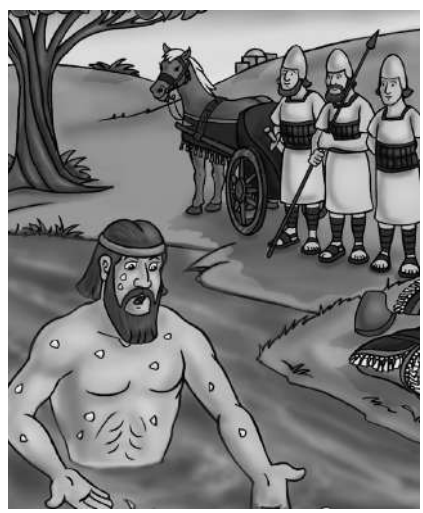
The Message

We serve God by doing good for others.

Have you ever done something really nice for someone else just because you wanted to? Naaman had some people doing good deeds for him.This is how it may have happened.

Captain Naaman was excited and afraid at the same time. He was on his way to see Prophet Elisha. He was excited because he might be healed of his leprosy. He was scared because maybe he wouldn't be healed.

Captain Naaman packed silver and gold and expensive new clothes. These would be thank-you gifts if he was healed.



At last Captain Naaman and his servants arrived at the prophet's house. Captain Naaman stepped out of his chariot. Elisha's servant greeted him. He would tell the prophet that Captain Naaman had arrived.

Captain Naaman waited impatiently outside the house. A few minutes later the servant returned with a message. "Prophet Elisha says you are to wash seven times in the Jordan River, and your leprosy will be healed."

Captain Naaman's face turned red with anger! *The prophet didn't even talk to me,* he thought to himself. He didn't like the message either. Captain Naaman stomped back to his chariot. He shouted, "Let's go home!"

Captain Naaman's servants looked at each other. "Why are we going home?" they asked.

"Because I am not going to wash in the muddy Jordan River. If washing is all I need to do, we have better rivers at home," he replied.

"Wait," said the servants. "If the prophet had asked you to do something hard, you would have tried to do it. Why not do something easy?"

Captain Naaman stopped and thought about it. *They are right,* he thought. *I've come all this way. I'll do what the prophet says.* "All right," Captain Naaman said. "Let's go to the Jordan River."

Quickly they rode to the river. Captain Naaman took off his robes and sandals. He looked at the muddy river with a frown, but he waded right in.

Captain Naaman dipped under the water one time—but the spots were still there. Two times—the spots were still there. Three times—spots still there. Four times—spots still there. Five times—spots still there. Six times—spots still there. Seven times—spots gone! God healed Captain Naaman just as Elisha had said He would!

Captain Naaman leaped out of the river. He looked at himself. Yes! He really was healed! No more leprosy spots! He couldn't wait to thank Prophet Elisha. He couldn't wait to get home to tell his family.

Little Maid and Prophet Elisha had served God well by doing good for Captain Naaman. Little Maid told him about her God and Prophet Elisha told him how to be healed by God. God wants us to do good things for others too.

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

For we . . . . . Point to self, then others.
are . . . created . . . Move hands as if forming clay into a shape.
to do good works. Tap one fist over the other.
Ephesians 2:10 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Read together 2 Kings 5:9-14. Ask: How do you think Naaman felt after he dipped the seventh time? Have your child close their eyes, then touch their hand. Ask: If you had leprosy, could you feel that? What might happen if you could not feel pain?

Take a walk to a river, if possible. Ask: Is it muddy or clear? What was the Jordan River like? (muddy) Do you think you'd like to wash in a muddy river? Naaman didn't either, but he obeyed God and God healed him.

Sing "Dip, Dip, Dip in the River" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 56).

Monday

Have your child sprinkle some salt in water, stir it, and watch what happens. Talk about how God healed Naaman.



Tuesday

As you bathe your child, have him or her dip into the water seven times and count each dip.



Have your child feel different textures (soft, fuzzy, rough, smooth, prickly, etc.). Talk about how Naaman's new skin must have felt.

Wednesday

Use a baby doll to represent Naaman. Have your child dip it in a basin of water and count to seven at the appropriate times as you tell or read the story.

Sing "Naaman's Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 65).

Thursday

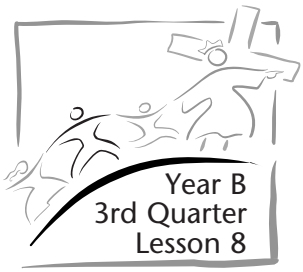
Encourage your child to share their Naaman picture with someone and tell them about Naaman being healed. (Or help them draw a picture of Naaman coming up out of the Jordan River.)

Friday

Act out the Bible story for worship. Use sticky white dots or white chalk for leprosy spots on Naaman.

Sing "Let Us Do Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 263). Then thank God for creating us with the ability to do good deeds for others. Ask Him to help us look for ways to be of service to others every day.

LESSON



Naaman Serves God

SERVICE God teaches us how to serve.

References
2 Kings 5:15-17; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 249, 250.

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

Objectives
The children will:
Know that there is only one God to worship and serve.
Feel willing to live their lives as examples for others.
Respond by putting God first in their life.

The Message



We serve others, but we put God first.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Story at a Glance
Naaman has been healed of leprosy. He acknowledges to Prophet Elisha that he will never again worship any other God than the true God of Israel. Naaman wants to thank Elisha by leaving many expensive gifts, but Elisha refuses. Elisha wants Naaman to know that he, Elisha, didn't heal him, God did. Elisha wants Naaman to serve the true God. Naaman returns home. His wife and servant girl, Little Maid, are happy, and they all worship God together. Naaman serves others in his home and heathen country by putting God first in his life. Others see his life as an example of how to live and worship.

This is a lesson about service.
The way we live and what we put first is an example to others. People watch our actions and listen to our words. We serve others by showing that we put God and Jesus first in our lives.

Teacher Enrichment
"Centuries after Naaman returned

EIGHT

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. It's My Favorite!* *B. Lining Up* *C. Voting*	whiteboard or chart paper stickers or other small gifts three nature pictures, marker, tape, slips of paper, pencils, basket
*	**Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 86. ***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	*Jesus Is First*	picture or large felt of Jesus; various pictures or objects; first-, second-, and third-place ribbons (see p. 148)
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*First-Place Ribbon*	Ribbon pattern (see p. 148), blue paper, scissors, two-sided tape

to his Syrian home, healed in body and converted in spirit, his wonderful faith was referred to and commended by the Saviour as an object lesson for all who claim to serve God. 'Many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet,' the Saviour declared; 'and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.' Luke 4:27. . . . God works for those who appreciate His favors and respond to the light given them from heaven.

"Today in every land there are those who are honest in heart, and upon these the light of heaven is shining. If they continue faithful in following that which they understand to be duty, they will be given increased light, until, like Naaman of old, they will be constrained to acknowledge that 'there is no God in all the earth,' save the living God, the Creator" (*Prophets and Kings,* pp. 252, 253).

Do you have faith as Naaman did in trusting God? What do you do to share God's light with others?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. It's My Favorite!

You Need:

- ❑ whiteboard or chart paper

Teachers: List the following activities on whiteboard or chart paper (large enough for everyone to see). Have your class raise their hands as you ask the following questions: **Who likes to spend time eating? Who likes to spend time with your mom and dad? Who enjoys hanging out and playing with friends? Who likes playing games?**

Say: **Of these activities we just talked about, which is your favorite? That means you enjoy doing that more than all the others.**

As you go through the list again, have the children raise their hands if this is their favorite activity. Check to be sure each child votes only once.

Debriefing

Say: **Do you know that how we spend our time tells us what is important to us?** (yes) **What should be the most important thing in our lives?** (God, Jesus, following God, helping others)

Have you ever thought about the place God should be in our lives? Should He be the most important person, number one, in our lives? (yes) **Today's Bible story is about the change in Naaman after he was healed of leprosy. He had learned something important. Something we all need to learn. Today's message is:**



We serve others, but we put God first.

Say that with me.

B. Lining Up

Say: **I'm going to give each of you a sticker. Would you please come and make a line here to get a sticker?** Watch for those who let others get in front of them.

You Need:

- ❑ stickers or other small gifts

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you like your sticker? I was watching you as you lined up to get your sticker. Did anybody put others first and invite them to get in front of them in line?** Comment in general on the way the children lined up. Praise those who let others go first.

Today's Bible story is about Naaman. He learned more about the true God in heaven. We want to learn more about God too. I want to put God first in my life. Do you? Today's message is:



We serve others, but we put God first.

Say that with me.

C. Voting

You Need:

- ❑ three nature pictures
- ❑ marker
- ❑ tape
- ❑ slips of paper
- ❑ pencils
- ❑ basket

Cut three nature pictures from a magazine, or use poster-size pictures. With the marker write A, B, or C at the bottom corner of the pictures and tape them on the walls. Give each child a slip of paper and a pencil and tell them they are to vote for their favorite picture. Have them put their slip of paper in the basket.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Let's look at the slips of paper to see which picture had the most votes.** Count the votes and decide which picture came in first place, which in second place, and which in third place. Tell the children the results. **Do you think being first or winning is what is the most important thing in our lives?** (No. It's nice, but not the most important thing in our lives.) **What should be the most important thing in our life?** (God, Jesus, following God, helping others)

Have you ever thought about what place God should be in our lives? Should He be the most important person, number one, in our lives? (yes) **Today's Bible story is about Naaman and an important lesson he learned. He learned to put God first in his life. We want to learn that lesson too. Today's message is:**



We serve others, but we put God first.

Say that with me.

* **NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 86.**

2 Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Ask the children to say "God is first" each time they hear you say the word God*. Practice before telling the story.*

Read or tell the story.

Perhaps Captain Naaman raced his chariot horses as fast as they would go. He was so excited to be going back to Prophet Elisha's house. Healed! Healed! That sounded so wonderful. Yes, he was healed. The **God** *[Say: "God is first"]* of Israel and of Little Maid had healed him.

Dust swirled around the horses as Naaman and his servants stopped in front of Elisha's house. Captain Naaman knocked on the door. No doubt he couldn't stop smiling. He was so happy to be well.

Maybe this time Elisha opened the door. "Oh, you must be Prophet Elisha," Naaman may have said, a little surprised to see him. Naaman must have smiled from ear to ear. Likely it made Elisha smile back. Captain Naaman showed Elisha his skin. It was smooth and healthy looking. Over and over he thanked Elisha. Elisha nodded and smiled.

"Now I know that there is no **God** *["God is first"]* in all the world like the **God** *["God is first"]* of Israel," Naaman exclaimed. "Please take these gifts."

Naaman's servants began to unload all the silver and all the gold and all the new clothes they had brought from Captain Naaman's home.

Elisha held up his hand. "No, no," he said, shaking his head from side to side. "I will not take any gifts." Elisha did not want to take presents from Naaman, because he did not want Naaman to think he could pay to have **God** *["God is first"]* heal him. Elisha didn't serve **God** *["God is first"]* to make money. Elisha wanted to give **God** *["God is first"]* the credit for healing him. He was just happy that Naaman now knew **God** *["God is first"]* and wanted to serve and worship Him.

Naaman begged Elisha to accept the gifts. "Please, take these gifts. I want to show you how thankful I am." Still Prophet Elisha shook his head no. He would not accept the gifts.

Naaman was quiet. He nodded his head in thanks to Elisha. Then he ordered his servants to pack the gifts. Soon Captain Naaman stepped into his chariot and shook the reins as he called out, "Let's go home!"

Perhaps, Mrs. Naaman had been watching the road from her window for some time. She must have been expecting her husband back any day. No doubt when she saw a dust cloud form on the horizon, she hoped it would be Captain Naaman. The cloud of dust moved nearer, and she saw that it really was her husband. She probably hurried to meet him.

Maybe she blinked her eyes a few times as she looked at him. Her husband might have looked years younger! The white leprosy spots were gone! "You're well! Tell me everything!" she may have shouted with joy. Now *she* couldn't stop smiling! Perhaps Naaman smiled and laughed as he told his wife about all that had happened. "I knew Little Maid's prophet could heal you," she may have said.

"Yes, but it wasn't the prophet who healed me," Naaman said. "It was **God** *["God is first"]*. There is no other **God** *["God is first"]* like Him. We pray to our idols, but they don't help us. They don't heal people. The **God** *["God is first"]* of Israel is the true **God** *["God is first"]*. I have decided to worship only Him from now on."

Mrs. Naaman likely nodded her head in agreement. "Yes, this **God** *["God is first"]* is like no other."

From then on Captain Naaman prayed only to **God** *["God is first"]*. No longer were there wooden or stone or metal idols in their home. Little Maid was so happy to see Naaman and his wife praying to her **God** *["God is first"]*, the true **God** *["God is first"]*.

The whole country heard that Naaman's leprosy was gone. The whole country knew now that there was a **God** *["God is first"]* in Israel who could do mighty things, things that their idols never could do.

Captain Naaman became an example of someone who puts **God** *["God is first"]* first. His family saw this, his servants saw, his soldiers saw, and his neighbors saw. Everyone saw that Naaman put **God** *["God is first"]* first in his life.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did Naaman feel when he saw Prophet Elisha?** (happy, thankful) **What did Naaman say about God?** (The God of Israel is the only true God.)

Was Naaman thankful to God for healing him? Do you think Naaman was happy to tell his family and friends about putting God first and encourage them to worship Him too? (yes) **That is one way he could serve God. You can do that too.**

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5:15-17. 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: **Why wouldn't Elisha accept the gifts?** (Because he hadn't healed Naaman, God had; he didn't want Naaman to think he could buy healing; he didn't want Naaman to think he [Elisha] worked for money.)

Did Naaman continue to worship idols after he got back home? (no) **What were the two big changes in Captain Naaman's life?** (He was healed of leprosy; he learned to put God first in his life.)

Do you think Naaman tried to put God first in his life once he found out about Him? (yes) **Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:**



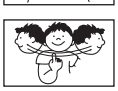
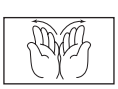
We serve others, but we put God first.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to 2 Kings 5:15 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Now I know	Point to forehead.	
that there is no God	Shake head "no"; point upward.	
in all the world	Outstretch arms.	
except in Israel.	Bring arms back together and lock hands.	
2 Kings 5:15	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

"I Go to Church" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 187)
"Into My Heart" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 195)
"Happy All the Time" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 198)
"If You're Happy" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 200)
"Oh, Friend, Do You Love Jesus?" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 210)

Mission

Say: **Let's see who put God first in our mission story today.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **We want to put God first in our lives. One way to do that is to give our offerings. God gives us everything we have. So we happily give some money back to Him to help other people know about Him. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Dear Jesus, we want to put You first in our lives. We love You. Amen.**

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

3 Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- ❑ large image of Jesus
- ❑ various pictures or objects
- ❑ first-, second-, and third-place ribbons (see pattern on p. 148)

Jesus Is First

In advance, purchase or make "1st Place," "2nd Place," and "3rd Place" ribbons (see page 148). (First place is usually blue, second is red, third is white.) Also arrange a picture or large felt of Jesus, along with pictures or objects to represent family, friends, toys, TV, candy, sports, clothes, money, etc., where all can see.

Say: **Have you ever seen a ribbon that someone won for doing something really well? The ribbons usually say first place or second place.**

Look at these pictures (or objects), and let's decide together which should have first place in our lives, second place, and third place. The first place should be the most important thing to us. The second place should be a little less important, and so on.

As a group decide (Jesus should be first, family second, friends third) and

place the appropriate ribbon beside the picture or object.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Are you happy with our decision? Who should have first place in our lives? You've made a very good choice to put Jesus first.**

What can we do to put Jesus first in our lives? (Talk to Him every day, have family worship, listen to Bible stories, etc.) **How do you think Jesus feels when you make Him first? Or last?**

Talk to Jesus every day and ask Him to be first in your life that day. He can help you make good choices.

You can serve Him better when you put Him first. Others will see what kind of person you are, and they will want to know more about the God you serve. Let's repeat our message:



We serve others, but we put God first.

4 Sharing the Lesson

First-Place Ribbon

You Need:

- ❑ Ribbon pattern (see p. 148)
- ❑ blue paper
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ two-sided tape

In advance, make a copy of the Ribbon pattern (see page 148) on blue paper for each child. Help the children cut them out and put two-sided tape on the back so they can wear it.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you like your ribbons? Do you know what they say?** (God is first.) Read it aloud.

Take your ribbon home and share it with someone this week as you tell them about Naaman putting God first in his life. And put God first in your life every day this week. Let's say our message together one last time:



We serve others, but we put God first.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a prayer something like this: **Dear Jesus, help us to remember to talk to You every day and to put You first in our lives. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Naaman Serves God

References

2 Kings 5:15-17; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 249, 250

Memory Verse

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

The Message

We serve others, but we put God first.

What things are very important to you? Is it your family or your friends? What about God? Why did Naaman say that God was the true God? Find out in the story below.

Perhaps Naaman ran his chariot horses as fast as they would go. The God of Israel and of Little Maid had healed him. He just had to show Elisha.

Dust swirled around the horses as Naaman and his servants stopped in front of Elisha's house. Naaman knocked on the door. He couldn't stop smiling.



Maybe this time Elisha came to the door. Naaman might have smiled from ear to ear. It made Elisha smile. Naaman showed Elisha his skin. It was smooth and healthy looking. Over and over he thanked Elisha. Elisha probably just nodded and smiled.

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world like the God of Israel," Naaman exclaimed. "Please take these gifts." Naaman's servants began to unload all the silver and gold and new clothes they had brought.

Elisha held up his hand. "No," he said, shaking his head back and forth. "I will not take any gifts." Elisha did not want to take presents from Naaman, because he did not want Naaman to think he could pay to have God heal him. Elisha wanted God to have the glory for healing Naaman. He was just happy that Naaman now knew the true God.

Naaman begged Elisha to accept the gifts. "Please, take these gifts. I want to show you how thankful I am." Still Prophet Elisha shook his head no.

Naaman bowed his head in thanks to Elisha and Elisha's God. His servants packed the gifts. Naaman stepped into his chariot and shook the reins as he shouted, "Let's go home!"

Mrs. Naaman may have been watching the road from her window. A dust cloud formed on the road. Her husband! She likely ran to meet him. She couldn't believe her eyes! The white leprosy spots were gone. "You're well!" she may have shouted with joy. Now *she* couldn't stop smiling! Naaman may have smiled and laughed as he told his wife all that had happened. "I am so happy that Little Maid's prophet has healed you," she might have said.

"Yes, but it wasn't the prophet who healed me," Naaman said. "It was God. There is no other God like Him. The God of Israel is the true God. I have decided to worship only Him from now on."

The whole country heard that Naaman's leprosy was gone. The whole country knew now that there was a God in Israel who could do mighty things that their idols could never do.

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

Now I know. . . . . Point to forehead.
that there is . . . . . Shake head no; point
no God upward.
in all the world. . . . Outstretch arms.
except in Israel. . . . Bring arms back together and clasp hands.
2 Kings 5:15 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Read 2 Kings 5:15-17 together. Ask: Why did Naaman want to give Prophet Elisha gifts? Why didn't Elisha take them? Did Naaman worship idols anymore? Whom did he worship?

Pray with your child every morning. Ask God to help your child serve Him throughout the day.

Monday

Encourage your child to share the first-place ribbon they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Naaman putting God first in his life. (Or draw a ribbon on a blue piece of paper and write "God is first" on it.)

Sing a happy song.



Tuesday



Help your child make modeling clay coins by using bottle lids as cutters. Talk about the gold and silver gifts that Naaman wanted to give to Elisha. Ask: Why didn't Elisha take the gifts? Should we help others just to get a gift? Why?

Wednesday

Talk about why God should be first in our lives. What can we do today to make God first in our lives? Do something your child suggests.

Thursday

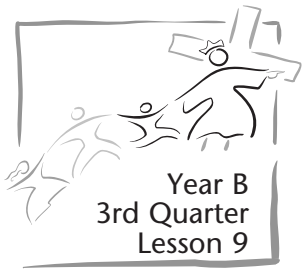
Let your child draw and decorate a thank-you note. Send it to someone who has helped your child know Jesus better.

Help your child put coins in order of their monetary value. Ask: Which is worth the most money? Which is next? Do some people put money first in their lives? Let's pray that God will help you always to keep Him first.

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family for worship. Ask: How can we give Jesus first place in our lives?

Sing "Into My Heart" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 195), then ask God to help your family keep Him in first place.



Baby Moses

WORSHIP We thank God for being with us.

References
Exodus 1; 2:1-10; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 241-244.

Memory Verse
"You are my hiding place" (Psalm 32:7, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God is always with them as He was with Baby Moses.
Feel that God will take care of them.
Respond by thanking God for His protection and care.

The Message
We worship God when we thank Him.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Pharaoh orders that all boy babies born to the Israelites in his country are to be killed. When a baby boy is born to one Israelite family, they hide him in their home for three months. Then the mother makes a basket that will float on the water, puts the baby in the basket, and places it in the river. When Pharaoh's daughter comes to the river, she sees the basket, takes it out of the water, and decides to keep the baby. She names him Moses. The baby's sister, Miriam, comes, asks if the princess wants a nurse for the baby, and is sent to get one. Miriam gets her mother, who takes Baby Moses home and raises him for the princess. The family is glad because Baby Moses is safe. They thank God for His protection and care.

This is a lesson about worship.
God still watches over boys and girls today. When we thank Him for His protection and care we are worshipping Him.

NINE

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Paper Boat Loading*	paper, cardboard, large bowl or basin, water, pebbles
			B. Water Tick-Tack-Toe	chalkboard or whiteboard or poster paper, chalk or marker
			C. Protection	tray, items used for protection, towel, chalkboard or whiteboard or poster paper, chalk or marker
*	**Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 96. ***Prayer and Praise** may be used at any time during the program.	
2	**Bible Lesson**	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	basket or box, baby doll with blanket
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*Angel Protectors*	feathers or Ping-Pong balls, *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Baby's Basket Boat*	small margarine or cottage cheese containers, green ribbon or fabric, scissors, tape, polyester fiberfill, small dolls or craft sticks, green markers

Teacher Enrichment

"The babe was 'a goodly child;' and the parents, believing that the time of Israel's release was drawing near, and that God would raise up a deliverer for His people, determined that their little one should not be sacrificed. Faith in God strengthened their hearts, 'and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.' Hebrews 11:23.

"The mother's earnest prayers had committed her child to the care of God; and angels, unseen, hovered above his lowly resting place. Angels directed Pharaoh's daughter thither. Her curiosity was excited by the little basket, and as she looked upon the beautiful child within, she read the story at a glance" (*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 242, 243).

How has God protected your life in the past? How do you thank Him?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5. Add some plants, either real or fake (grass, hay, straw, etc.), to represent the reeds at the edge of the water. Have a basket, lined with a towel, large enough to hold a baby doll that is wrapped in a blanket.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask them 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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Paper Boat Loading

You Need:

- ❑ paper
- ❑ stiff cardboard
- ❑ large bowl or basin
- ❑ water
- ❑ pebbles

Fill the bowl or basin with water. Float a piece of paper on the water, making sure that none of the edges are turned down and that no water is allowed to come over the sides of the paper. On top of the floating paper, place a somewhat smaller piece of stiff cardboard. This is the boat that is to be loaded with small pebbles. Ask the children to sit around the bowl, and give each child a few pebbles. They are to take turns placing a pebble very carefully on the cardboard. See how many pebbles can be loaded on the boat without sinking it. If the paper gets wet and sinks, you need to start over with dry paper and cardboard.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you have fun floating pebbles on the paper? Did you know little stones could float on paper? That reminds me of our Bible story today. It is about something precious that floated in a little basket made of grass and held together with tar and pitch. God protected that basket and kept it floating. And some people were very thankful. Today's message is:**



We worship God when we thank Him.

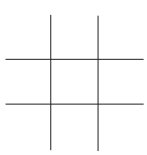
Say that with me.

B. Water Tick-Tack-Toe

You Need:

- ❑ chalkboard or whiteboard or poster paper
- ❑ chalk or marker

Make a tick-tack-toe grid on the chalk or whiteboard or poster paper. Divide the children into two teams. The object is to get three X's or O's in a row, either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Each team tries to block the other. Say: **Our Bible story today has something to do with water. We're going to play tick-tack-toe. You can put an X or an O on the board for your team if you can name a story in the Bible that has water in it.** Give the teams turns.



Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you enjoy playing this game? There are a lot of Bible stories with water in them. Is water important to us? Yes. Water is very important. Water keeps us healthy. What do we do with water?** (bathe, drink, wash clothes, cook, water plants, etc.) **Our Bible story is about a basket floating on a river. Angels watched over and protected something precious that was in the basket. God sends His angels to protect us, too. We are thankful for God's care. Today's message is:**



We worship God when we thank Him.

Say that with me.

C. Protection

You Need:

- ❑ tray
- ❑ items used for protection (see activity)
- ❑ towel
- ❑ chalkboard or whiteboard or poster paper
- ❑ chalk or marker

In advance, place items we use to protect ourselves on a large tray and cover it with a towel. Items could include: bicycle helmet, elbow/knee pads, catcher's mask, oven mitt, baseball glove, sunglasses, insect repellent, sunscreen, gloves, raincoat, apron, etc. Place the tray on a table and have the children gather around it. Say: **On this tray are items we use to protect ourselves. I'm going to uncover the tray and let you look at it for one minute. Then I'm going to cover it back up, and we'll work together as a group trying to remember all the items on the tray. I'll write them on the board.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was that fun? You did a good job remembering. Let's count how many things you remembered. I'm going to uncover the tray now. Let's see if we got all of them.** Hold up each item and ask: **How do we use this to protect us?**

We use these things to help keep us safe, but I know of something even better that God uses to protect us. Do you know what that is? (angels) **Yes, God's angels are with us all the time, even though we don't see them. Our Bible story today is about God's angels protecting a precious baby whose family was very thankful. Today's message is:**



We worship God when we thank Him.

Say that with me.

* **NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 96.**

2 Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ basket or box
- ❑ baby doll with blanket

Use a basket or a painted box for the baby basket. The children may kneel around the baby basket and raise their swaying hands as reeds. You can be Moses' mother and do the actions as you read or tell the story.

God's people, the Israelites, had lived in the land of Egypt for a long time. Their families had grown very large. Now there were thousands and thousands of Israelites.

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was afraid they would take over his kingdom. He made them become his slaves. He made them work very hard making bricks, building things, and working in the fields. Pharaoh even ordered the Egyptian soldiers to throw all the Israelite baby boys into the river.

One Israelite family wanted to save their baby. *[Hold the doll.]* They hid him at home until he was 3 months old. *[Hide doll under blanket.]* But as he grew bigger, he cried louder, and they were afraid someone would find him. So the family came up with a new plan.

The baby's mother took reeds from the riverbank and used them to weave a basket. *[Pretend you are weaving.]* She carefully covered the basket with tar and pitch so water wouldn't leak in. *[Pretend to paint the basket or box.]* Then she laid the baby in the basket and covered the top. *[Put doll in basket.]* Praying to God to guard the precious basket *[pretend to pray],* she carried it to the river and hid it in the rushes that grew in the water near the riverbank. *[Place it near "river."]* The baby's older sister, Miriam, played nearby to keep watch over the basket.

His little boat floated gently on the water.

It wasn't long before Pharaoh's daughter, the princess, came down to the river. There in the water she saw the basket. She sent one of her maids to bring it to her. Imagine her surprise when she opened the basket and found a baby boy inside! *[Pick up basket or box and look inside.]*

"Oh, isn't he lovely! I think I'll keep him. He can be my son. I know, I'll call him Moses," said the princess.

Miriam ran up to the princess. "Shall I go and get one of the Israelite women to take care of the baby for you?" she asked.

"Yes, go," said the princess.

Miriam ran home as fast as she could to get her mother. When the baby's mother saw the princess, she smiled.

"Please," the princess said, "take this baby home with you. Care for him until he is a big boy. Then he will come to live with me in the royal palace."

Moses had been saved! Now that the princess had found him, Moses' family wouldn't have to worry about Egyptians coming to throw him in the river. They were so thankful that God had answered their prayers. He had kept their precious baby safe.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think Moses' family felt when Pharaoh told the Egyptian soldiers to kill all the baby boys?** (afraid, worried) **What did they do?** (prayed) **God gave them strength and courage and the wisdom to help save Moses.**

How do you think Miriam felt when she saw the king's daughter

coming to the river? When the princess found Baby Moses? (scared, nervous, worried) **How do you think Moses' mother felt when Miriam came and told her the good news?** (happy, joyful, excited)

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to Exodus 1 and 2:1-10. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What kind of work did the Israelites do?** (built things, made bricks, worked in fields)

How long did Moses' mother hide him? (three months) **What did she do then?** (She made a basket boat.) **What was the boat made of?** (reeds like grass, tar and pitch) **Who watched over the boat?** (angels, Miriam)

How did the princess save Moses? (She claimed him as her own; she let his mother take him home to raise him.) **The princess named the baby Moses. Do you know what his name means?** (To "draw out," like drawing him out of the river.)

What do you think Moses' family did as soon as they got home with him? (They thanked God for caring for him.) **Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:**



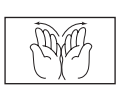
We worship God when we thank Him.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Psalm 32:7 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud: **"You are my hiding place."** Explain the meaning of the verse. (God protects us and keeps us safe, just as He kept Moses safe.) Then use the motions to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You	Point upward.	
are my	Point to self.	
hiding place.	Hold hands over face/head.	
Psalm 32:7	Palms together, then open.	

3 Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- ❑ feathers or Ping-Pong balls
- ❑ *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

Angel Protectors

Use feathers or Ping-Pong balls or something very light. Place them on a flat surface and have the children blow on them to make them move across the surface.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What made the feather (or Ping-Pong ball) move?** (your breath) **Can you see your breath?** (no) **But we still know it's there, because we see what is happening. It's the same way with God and His angels. We can't see them, but we know they're there because of what they do for us. They take care of us just as they took care of Baby Moses.**

Aren't you glad God sends angels to watch over us? Let's remember to thank Him for that.

Remember our message:



We worship God when we thank Him.

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 Takes Care of Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 90)
"God Sent His Angels," third verse only (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 47)
"Jesus Sends the Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 48)
"Thank God for Angels Bright" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 50)

Mission

Say: **Let's see what our mission story is about today.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **We worship God when we give Him our offerings.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, for protecting us. We love You. Amen.**

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

4 Sharing the Lesson

Baby's Basket Boat

You Need:

- ❑ small margarine or cottage cheese containers
- ❑ green ribbon or fabric
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ tape
- ❑ polyester fiberfill
- ❑ small dolls or craft sticks
- ❑ green markers

In advance, draw a face on craft sticks for a baby (or use small plastic dolls). Cut fabric for each child to use as a blanket to wrap their "baby."

Also in advance, cut down the sides of a margarine or cottage cheese containers to make even-sized strips down to the base. Cut many narrow strips of the green ribbon or fabric a little longer than the circumference of the container. Then tape the end of the ribbon or fabric to one of the container's strips on each child's basket.

Say: **You're going to weave a basket boat like Moses' mother made for him.** Have a completed basket to show the children. Demonstrate on one basket how to "weave" the ribbon or cloth in front and behind the strips on the carton. Children will need help, but don't be too concerned if they don't get it exactly right. When one circumference is completed, they'll need the next strip taped for them.

When they are finished, give each child a bit of fiberfill to line their basket. Then have them take their small doll (or stick with a face drawn on it) and wrap it in the fabric like a baby and place it in the basket. If you have time, the children may color the lid with a green marker to match the basket.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy to make the basket?** (probably not) **Do you think it was easy for Moses' family to keep him hidden?** (no)

Do you have a safe and comfortable bed? (yes) **God takes care of us, doesn't He? Let's be thankful for all the things He gives us.**

Take your basket home with you and share it with someone as you tell them how God protected Baby Moses and how thankful his family was. Let's say our message together one last time:



We worship God when we thank Him.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a prayer something like this: **Thank You, Jesus, that You send Your angels to protect us. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Baby Moses

References

Exodus 1; 2:1-10; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 241-244

Memory Verse

"You are my hiding place" (Psalm 32:7, NIV).

The Message

We worship God when we thank Him.

Do you know you have angels watching you all the time? Baby Moses had angels watching him.

God's people, the Israelites, had lived in the land of Egypt for a long time. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was afraid of the Israelites. He worried that they might go to war against the Egyptians. First he made the Israelites work very hard, hoping that would keep them from growing in number. Finally the cruel king ordered the Egyptian soldiers to throw all the baby Israelite boys into the river.



One family found a way to save their baby boy. They hid him at home. But as he grew bigger, they were afraid someone would find him. So they came up with a new plan.

The baby's mother took reeds from the riverbank and used them to weave a basket. She carefully covered the basket with tar and pitch so water wouldn't leak in. Then she laid the baby in the basket and put a top on it. She prayed as she carried the basket to the river and hid it in the rushes that grew in the water near the riverbank. The baby's older sister, Miriam, played nearby to keep watch over the basket. And God sent angels to watch over the little baby as the basket gently rocked on the water.

Before long, the king's daughter came to the river. There in the water she saw the basket. She sent one of her maids to bring it to her. Imagine her surprise when she opened the basket and found a baby boy inside! She felt sorry for the baby and decided to keep him for her own. And right there she named him Moses.

Miriam came running up to the princess. "Shall I go and get one of the Israelite women to take care of the baby for you?" she asked.

"Oh, yes," the princess answered.

Miriam ran home as fast as she could. She and her mother hurried back to the princess. The princess asked Moses' mother to take him home with her and raise him until he was a big boy. Then he would go to live with the princess in the royal palace.

Moses had been saved! Now his family wouldn't have to worry about soldiers throwing him into the river. They were so thankful that God had answered their prayers. Their precious baby was safe! Perhaps the whole family knelt and said, "Thank You, God, for saving our baby."

God watches over you, too, just as He watched over Moses. Your angel is with you all the time to keep you safe. Even when you don't know you are in danger, God loves you and will never leave you.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and use the motions to review the memory verse.

You . . . . . Point upward.
are my . . . . . Point to self.
hiding place. . . . . . Hold hands over face/head.
Psalm 32:7 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Read together Exodus 1 and 2:1-10. Ask: How do you think Moses' mother felt when she found out about the king's law to kill the boy babies? How do you think she felt when she found out that the king's daughter found Baby Moses? What do you think their family did when Baby Moses was back home?



Monday

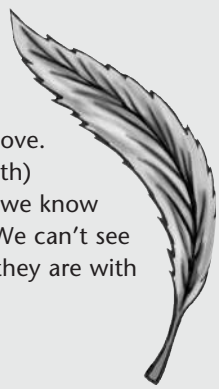
Find things around the house that we use to protect us (raincoat, sunscreen, insect repellent, gloves, sunglasses, bicycle helmet, apron, etc.). Talk about each, then ask: What does God use to protect us? Tell your child about a time when you felt God's protection.



Tuesday

Encourage your child to share the Baby's Basket Boat that they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Baby Moses.

Find a feather (or something very light). Blow on it to make it move. Ask: What made it move? (my breath) Can you see your breath? (no) But we know it's there because of what it does. We can't see God and His angels, but we know they are with us.



Wednesday

Test things that float on water and things that sink. Ask: Who was watching over Baby Moses as his basket floated on the water? Why didn't it sink?

Ask: Do you know you will meet your guardian angel when Jesus comes? What would you like to say to your guardian angel?

Thursday

Make a bread basket by helping your child scoop out the middle of a small roll. Roll up a slice of cheese to look like a baby and put it in the "basket." As you share this snack, talk about how Baby Moses was saved in the basket boat. This is best done at meal time.

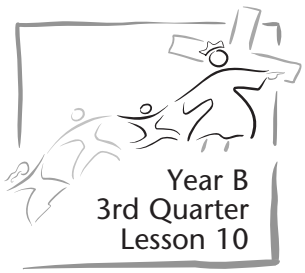
Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family.

Ask each member of your family to tell one thing that God has done to take care of them this week. Thank Him for His loving care.

Sing songs about angels before prayer.

LESSON



Pillars of Cloud and Fire

WORSHIP We thank God for being with us.

References
Exodus 13:21, 22; 14:19, 20; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 282-287.

Memory Verse
"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go" (Genesis 28:15, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:

Know that God is with us day and night and provides for all our needs.
Feel confident that God is with us always and will supply all our needs.
Respond by thanking God for His care and protection.

The Message



We thank God for taking good care of us.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Moses is now grown and has been called by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God rescues the Israelites from the Egyptians and tells Moses to lead them away from Egypt toward the Promised Land. God is with them by day in the pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire. The pillar is always with them to protect them and lead them. The Israelites are grateful for the cloud. By day it provides shade (the daytime desert is *hot*) and moisture in the dry desert; by night the pillar of fire keeps them warm (the night desert is cold), gives light and reassurance of God's presence, and keeps the wild animals away. The Israelites praise God for His care.

This is a lesson about worship.

Praising God for caring for and leading us is a part of worshipping Him. We too have much for which to be thankful. When we say thanks to God for all He does for us, we are worshipping Him.

Teacher Enrichment

"The standard of their invisible

TEN

Program Outline

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 **Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Follow the Leader*	flashlight
		B. Thank-You Paper Chain	strips of different-colored paper, crayons or markers, tape or stapler
		C. Treasure Hunt	small pieces of paper, pencil
* **Prayer and Praise***	up to 10	See page 103. ***Prayer and Praise** may be used at any time during the program.	
2 **Bible Lesson**	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	white paper, orange or yellow paper, yardstick or meter stick, scissors, glue or tape, flashlight
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 **Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*A. Where God Leads*	none
		B. Trust Walk	chairs and boxes, blindfolds
4 **Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Cloud and Fire Pillars*	Cloud pattern (see p. 149); white construction paper or thin card stock; scissors; drinking straws, thin twigs, or craft sticks; red and yellow crayons (glow-in-the-dark, if possible); cotton balls; glue; tape

Leader was ever with them. By day the cloud directed their journeyings or spread as a canopy above the host. It served as a protection from the burning heat, and by its coolness and moisture afforded grateful refreshment in the parched, thirsty desert. By night it became a pillar of fire, illuminating their encampment and constantly assuring them of the divine presence" (*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 282).

"Ever He watches over His children with a care that is measureless" (*Prophets and Kings,* p. 59).

How has God led you in the past? How have you experienced His care?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5. Remove from the river Moses' basket and the plants along the edge. The river will now be the Red Sea. Have a desert backdrop made from one yard/meter of brown fabric. Set up a small tent or make a tent with a sheet. Make pillars of cloud and fire (see Experiencing 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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Follow the Leader

You Need:

- ❑ flashlight

If possible, darken the room. Select one child to hold up the flashlight and lead the children around the room. When the child with the flashlight stops, everyone stops.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Are you ever afraid of the dark?** (no, yes, probably) **What do you do when you are scared?** (Find Mommy or Daddy, hide, pray, cry, etc.) **Do you know that God is always with you and takes care of you? Our Bible story is about God's leading the Israelites in a special way. God was always with them, caring for them. God is always with us, too. Today's message is:**



We thank God for taking good care of us.

Say that with me.

B. Thank-You Paper Chain

You Need:

- ❑ strips of different-colored paper
- ❑ crayons or markers
- ❑ tape or stapler

Distribute the supplies. Ask the children to draw (or help them write) on their paper strip something for which they want to thank God. Then have them tape or staple the strips together to make a paper chain. Hang the chain where all may see.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you thank God for? He does so many things for us. Our Bible story is about the Israelites being thankful that God led them in a special way. God was always with them. God is always with us, too. Today's message is:**



We thank God for taking good care of us.

Say that with me.

C. Treasure Hunt

In advance, plan a simple treasure hunt in the room with clues written or drawn on small pieces of paper. Use clues such as "Look on the thing that makes music" (piano, smart phone, mp3 player, or CD player, etc.). And then have another clue in that place that leads them to "look where the sun comes in" (window), etc. Provide at least five clues, then have the last clue direct them to "the chair you sit in for Sabbath School."

You Need:

- ❑ small pieces of paper
- ❑ pencil

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to follow the clues? Was it important to pay close attention to the clues? Where did the clues lead you? Our Bible story is about God's leading the Israelites in a special way. God was always with them. God is always with us, too. Today's message is:**



We thank God for taking good care of us.

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 Takes Care of Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 90)
"Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 103)
"All Night, All Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 119)
"Come Praise the Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 211)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **We worship God when we give Him our offerings.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, for taking care of us. We love You. Amen.**

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

2 Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ white paper
- ❑ orange or yellow paper
- ❑ yardstick or meter stick
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ glue or tape
- ❑ flashlight

In advance, cut a large white cloud outline from white paper and glue it to the top of the yardstick or meter stick. Then cut out a pillar of fire from the orange or yellow paper and glue that to the other side of the yardstick. You will carry the stick above you as you lead the children during the story. (SAVE THIS CLOUD FOR USE IN LESSONS 11 AND 13.) Say: ***Children, I want you to join in the story today by pretending you are the Israelites and following me. I'll pretend I am Moses.***

Read or tell the story.

Many years had passed since Pharaoh's daughter had found Moses in the basket by the edge of the river. While Moses lived with his family, his parents taught him to know and love God. When he was about 12 years old, he went to live with Pharaoh's daughter in the king's palace. Moses had grown to be a wise man, and God had chosen him to lead the Israelites away from Egypt to a better land.

When the Israelites left Egypt, they crossed the Red Sea *[have children cross the Red Sea with you]* and soon found themselves out in the desert *[have children walk with you around the room].* What is a desert like? Yes, it's hot and dry and full of sand. The desert was very hot during the day and very cold at night. Wild animals lived there. And even Moses wasn't sure which way they were to go.

But God had a special plan to keep them safe and to make sure they wouldn't get lost. During the daytime the Israelites could see above them a huge cloud rising up like a pillar into the sky. *[Hold the cloud above your head so the children can see it.]* The cloud moved forward slowly, and they moved with it, for it was God leading them. *[Walk around the room.]* But the cloud did more than just show them where to go. During the day when it was hot, the cloud also gave them shade to keep them cool. It protected them from the burning sun. *[Say with relief "aaaah."]*

But at night when it was cold and dark, a cloud wasn't much good. *[Turn off lights, walk around.]* Then the Israelites needed light and warmth. *[Pretend to be unable to see; shiver.]* And that was when the huge cloud would turn into a pillar of fire. *[Turn the cloud around so the children can see the pillar of fire. Shine the flashlight on it.]* The fire gave them light at night. *[Look around as if now being able to see.]* It helped to keep them warm in the cold desert. *[Rub your arms in comfort.]* And it scared away the wild animals that might try to hurt them.

God had the perfect way to protect and lead His people. Day or night the Israelites could always see that God was leading them and keeping them safe. They knew He was protecting them, and they praised Him for His care.

God protects us, too. He takes care of us wherever we are. Let's remember to thank Him for His care.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think the Israelites felt when they left Egypt and went into the desert?** (unsure, scared, confused, etc.) **What guided the Israelites in the daytime? What guided them at night? How do you think they felt about the way God cared for them?** (thankful, happy, etc.)

Bible Study

You Need:
❑ Bible

Open your Bible to Exodus 13:21, 22; and 14:19, 20. 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: **Where did the pillar of cloud or fire normally stay when the Israelites were being led?** (in front of the people) **During one night, where did the pillar go?** (between them and the Egyptians) **What did the Israelites see?** (light) **What did the Egyptians see?** (darkness)

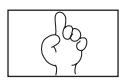
Does God still take care of people today? Does He take care of you and your family? Do you remember today's message? Let's say it together:


We thank God for taking good care of us.

Memory Verse

You Need:
❑ Bible

Turn to Genesis 28:15 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go."** Ask: **Who is with us? Who watches over us?** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined.

I	Point upward.	
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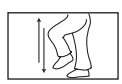
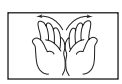
wherever you go.	Walk in place.	
Genesis 28:15	Palms together, then open.	

3 Applying the Lesson

A. Where God Leads

Say: **God led the Israelites through a desert. God doesn't use a cloud or fire to lead us today, but He still cares for us and leads us. Sometimes He uses our parents to lead us. Sometimes He uses our teachers or pastors. I'm going to ask you if you think God is leading after each little story I read to you.**

1. It is starting to rain, and you hear thunder. Your mother calls for you to come inside. Did God use your mom to help lead you inside to safety? (yes)

2. You are with your dad at the grocery store, and you see toys on one shelf. You stop to look. Then you realize your dad isn't with you anymore. You're lost and scared, so you pray. A store worker finds your dad. Did God lead the worker to help? (yes)

3. Your mom asks you to play with your little brother while she cooks supper. You look for him and find him in the bathroom about to drink some poisonous cleaning fluid. You stop him and call for your mom to come. Did God lead you to help your brother stay safe? (yes)

4. Your Sabbath School teacher

teaches you about Jesus, and you learn to love Jesus more. Did God use your teacher to help lead you to Him? (yes)

Say: **Let's do a finger play together called "God's Care Finger Play."** Repeat the finger play several times with the children.



God sends angels from above — Point upward.



To keep us safe, to show His love. — Cross hands over heart.



An angel left, — Tap your left shoulder.



An angel right, — Tap your right shoulder.



God keeps us safe all through the night. — Close eyes and snore.



And when we wake up to the day, — Rub eyes and stretch arms.



Then angels watch us as we play. — Wave.

Adapted from Beth Rowland Wolf and Jan Kershner, *Let's Play! Group Games for Preschoolers* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, Inc., 1996), p. 115. Used by permission.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Where does God watch over you?** (at home, school, church, at the playground) **When does God watch over you?** (In the daytime, at nighttime, when it's raining, when it's sunny, when I'm traveling, all the time.) **Let's always remember to thank God for taking care of us. We worship God when we thank Him. Let's say our message together again:**



B. Trust Walk

You Need:

- ❑ chairs and boxes
- ❑ blindfolds

Set up an obstacle course with chairs and boxes. Say: **Stand next to a friend you trust.** One pair at a time, blindfold one child and have the other lead them through the obstacle course. Let the children take turns. If a child does not want to take part, ask them to watch carefully as the other children lead their partner.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did it feel to move forward without being able to see where you were going? Was it hard to believe that your friend wouldn't let you bump into something and hurt yourself? How did you feel when you finished? If your partner was really helpful to you, praise them by clapping your hands.**

The Israelites praised God for leading them safely too. Who is with us and leads us safely all the time? Where does He watch over you? (at home, school, church, play) **Let's always remember to thank God for taking good care of us and leading us. We worship God when we thank Him. Let's say our message together again:**





Sharing the Lesson

Cloud and Fire Pillars

You Need:

- ❑ Cloud pattern (see p. 149)
- ❑ white construction paper or thin card stock
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ drinking straws or thin twigs or craft sticks
- ❑ red and yellow crayons (glow-in-the-dark, if possible)
- ❑ cotton balls
- ❑ glue
- ❑ tape

In advance, prepare a copy of the Cloud pattern (see page 149) for each child and cut them out. The children will color one side of the cloud red in the middle and yellow on the edges for the cloud of fire. On the other side of the paper the children will glue on cotton balls for the pillar of cloud. Teachers will help the children attach the straws with tape to the cotton ball cloud side.

Adapted from Karyn Henley and Lois Keffer, *Crafts and More for Children's Ministry* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing Co., 1993), p. 26. Used by permission.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **When do you like to see clouds in the sky?** (when the weather is very hot) **When do you like to see a bright light?** (at night) **Does it make you feel safer?** (yes)

Take your cloud home with you and share it with someone. Tell them about God's leading the Israelites night and day. And remember to tell them who takes care of you day and night. Let's say our message together one last time:



We thank God for taking good care of us.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a prayer similar to the following: **Thank You, Jesus, that You care for us and lead us. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Pillars of Cloud and Fire

References

Exodus 13:21, 22; 14:19, 20; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 282-287

Memory Verse

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go" (Genesis 28:15, NIV).

The Message

We thank God for taking good care of us.

Have you ever been lost? The Israelites didn't get lost, because they had two things to lead them.

Many years had passed since Pharaoh's daughter had found Moses in the basket by the edge of the river. While Moses lived with his family, his parents taught him to know and love God. When he was about 12 years old, he went to live with Pharaoh's daughter in the king's palace. Moses had grown to be a wise man, and God had chosen him to lead the Israelites away from the cruel Pharaoh in Egypt to a better land.



When the Israelites left Egypt, they crossed the Red Sea and soon found themselves in the desert. What is a desert like? It's very hot and dry and full of sand; very hot during the day and very cold at night. Wild animals lived there. But God had a special plan to keep them safe and to make sure they wouldn't get lost. God led them in a wonderful way.

During the daytime the Israelites could see above them a huge cloud rising up like a pillar into the sky. The cloud moved forward slowly, and they moved with it, for God was in the cloud leading them. But the cloud did more than just show them where to go. During the heat of the day, the cloud gave them shade to keep them cool. It protected them from the burning sun.

At night, when it was cold and dark, the Israelites didn't need a cloud. The Israelites needed light and warmth. And that was when the huge cloud became a pillar of fire. The fire gave them light at night. It helped to keep them warm in the cold desert. And it probably scared away any wild animals.

God had come up with the perfect way to protect and lead His people. Day or night the Israelites could always see that God was leading them and keeping them safe. They knew He was protecting them, and they praised Him for His care.

We can thank God for taking care of us, too. He watches over us and leads us every day. We don't see a cloud or fire, but we know that God still protects us. Let's remember to thank Him for taking good care of us.

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

I . . . . . Point upward.
am with you . . . . . Point to self.
and will watch . . . . Hand above eyes.
over you . . . . . Point to others.
wherever you go. . Walk in place.
Genesis 28:15 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the cloud and fire pillars they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about the cloud and pillar of fire that led the Israelites.

Monday

The Israelites left Egypt in such a hurry that they made bread with no yeast. They didn't have time to wait for the yeast to make the dough rise. Have your child help you make some unleavened bread, or buy some flatbread and eat it for lunch.

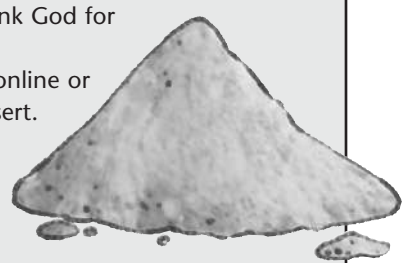
Do the finger play "God's Care" on page 68. When you pray, thank God for caring for your family as He did for the Israelites.

Tuesday

Play follow the leader with your child. Take turns being the leader and the follower. Talk about how God led Moses, and how He leads your family.

Wednesday

Together, read Exodus 13:21, 22. Ask: How did God lead the Israelites in the daytime? at nighttime? Whom does God use to lead you places? (Mommy, Daddy, teacher, etc.) Thank God for leading us.



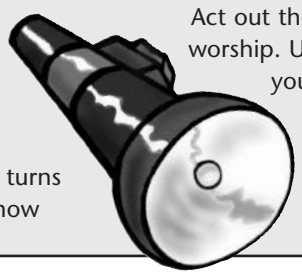
With your child, look online or find a book about the desert. Ask: What kind of plants grow in a desert? What is the temperature like? If possible, let your child play with sand. Ask: How does it feel to walk on sand?

Thursday

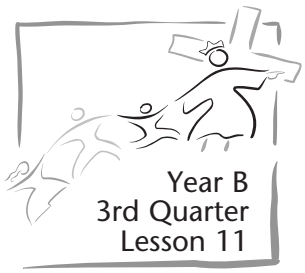
Look at a map with your child. Discuss its purpose and how to use it. Show your child on the map a trip your family has taken or will take. Ask: Did the Israelites have a map? (No, they had something better—God led them using pillars of cloud and fire.)

Friday

Act out the story with your family for evening worship. Use a flashlight for the pillar of fire as you "travel" around the house or yard.



Have each family member tell one way that God has cared for them this week. Sing songs about God's care, then thank Him for it.



Bitter Water to Better Water

WORSHIP We thank God for being with us.

References
Exodus 15:22-25; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 291-294.

Memory Verse
"He will lead them to springs of living water" (Revelation 7:17, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God wants them to have good, clean water to drink.
Feel confident that God cares for their needs.
Respond by thanking God for water.

The Message



We thank God for giving us water.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
One of the Israelites' most important needs is drinking water, but the only water available is bitter. Moses tells God about it. God listens and tells Moses to throw a stick in the water. Moses does as God says, and the water becomes good water, not bitter. The people and animals drink all they want. The people worship God and thank Him for taking care of their needs.

This is a lesson about worship.
Our prayers should be overflowing with thanks to God for providing our basic needs such as food and water. When we thank Him for these, we are truly worshipping Him, for we give Him the credit we often take for ourselves. Praising God for caring for all our needs is a part of worshipping Him.

Teacher Enrichment
"Many look back to the Israelites, and marvel at their unbelief and murmuring, feeling that they themselves would not have been so ungrateful; but when their faith is tested, even by little trials, they manifest no more faith or patience than did ancient Israel"

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. How Much Water?*	disposable cups, pitcher of water
			B. Mystery Box	dead plant, healthy plant, box or paper bag
*	**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	adult-size Bible-times costume, pitcher of salted water, pitcher of fresh water, disposable cups or spoons, stick, adult to be Moses, "cloud" on a stick from Lesson 10
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*What I Need*	*Little Voices Praise Him* songbook
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*A. Share the Salt*	bowl of salt, sandwich-size plastic bags, ribbon or yarn, scissors, tablespoon
			B. Body of Water	Body of Water pattern (see p. 150), white paper, blue crayons

(*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 293).

"In view of all that God has wrought for us, our faith should be strong, active, and enduring. Instead of murmuring and complaining, the language of our hearts should be, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.' Psalm 103:1, 2" (*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 294).

"Our God has heaven and earth at His command, and He knows just what we need. . . . Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best" (*Testimonies for the Church,* vol. 8, pp. 272, 273).

What do you do when you experience hardships and trials? Is there anything God cannot help you with?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 10. The sheet or blanket of "water" can now be the stream at Marah. Have a long stick or staff to use as Moses' rod.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. How Much Water?

You Need:

- ❑ disposable cups
- ❑ pitcher of water

Ask: **How many cups of water do you need every day?** Fill up one cup and ask: **Just this much?** (no) Fill another one and ask: **This much?** (no) Keep asking and filling until you reach six. Then say: **This is about how much water someone your age should drink every day. But what else do we use water for?** (washing clothes, bathing, cleaning dishes, cooking, watering plants, etc.) Ask: **How much more water would that be?** Allow guesses.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Is water important to us? Yes. Water is very important. What would happen if we didn't have any water? God gives us the water we need. Our Bible story today is about an unusual way God provided water for the Israelites as they traveled in the dry desert. Today's message is:**



We thank God for giving us water.

Say that with me.

B. Mystery Box

You Need:

- ❑ dead plant
- ❑ healthy plant
- ❑ box or paper bag

In advance, put a dead plant in a box (or paper bag) and seal it. Say: **We're going to pass around this box, and you're going to try to guess what's in it—without looking. You can hold it and gently shake it, but don't peek inside.** Accept the children's guesses. When everyone has had a chance to hold the box/paper bag, choose one of the children to open it and hold up the dead plant.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you think it was a dead plant? Did you hear the dry leaves scraping the box? Why do you think this**

plant died? (You didn't give it any water; you kept it in a box, etc.) **Yes, it died because it didn't get enough water.** Now show the healthy plant. Ask: **How is this plant different from the dead one?** (It's alive; it's green; you gave it water.)

Is water important to us? Yes. Water is very important. It keeps us healthy. What do we do with water? (bathe, drink, wash clothes, cook, water plants, etc.) **Today's Bible story is about an unusual way God provided water for the Israelites as they traveled in the dry desert. Today's message is:**



We thank God for giving us water.

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

"All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85)
"God Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 86)
"God Is So Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 88)
"The Raindrops Fall" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 94)
"Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 221)

Mission

Say: **We worship God when we thank Him for giving us water in all the different countries of the world. Our mission story today is about _____.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **We worship God when we thank Him for giving us water. We also worship God when we give Him our offerings. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, that You give us the water we need. Amen.**

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



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ adult-size Bible-times costume
- ❑ pitcher of salted water
- ❑ pitcher of fresh water
- ❑ disposable cups or spoons
- ❑ stick
- ❑ adult to be Moses
- ❑ "cloud" on a stick from Lesson 10

Say: ***Today we're all going to have a part in the story. _____ will be Moses, and you will all be Israelites. When you hear me say the word "happy" or "happiness," I want you to smile really big. When you hear me say the word "sad" or "disappointed," I want you to frown. And I want you to do what I do during the story, so watch me carefully.***

Read or tell the story.

The Israelites were **happy** *[smile]* as the great pillar of cloud *[hold up cloud]* led them out of Egypt and out into the wilderness. *[Moses, carrying the stick, starts walking slowly, children following, pretending to be very hot and pretending to drink often.]* But soon the water they had with them was gone, and they had not found any more. Everyone in the whole camp of Israel was very, very thirsty and **sad.** *[Frown, tongues hanging out.]*

The cloud led them toward a place called Marah. *[Moses leads the children to the "stream."]* Moses knew there was water at Marah, but he also knew it tasted so bad that the people wouldn't be able to drink it. In fact, the word *Marah* meant "bitter." Something bitter tastes bad.

As soon as the Israelites saw the water, they became **happy** *[smile]* and excited. "Water! Water! There's water up ahead!" they may have shouted.

Some of the people ran forward to the water *[give the children about* ***a drop or two*** *of the salty water on a spoon or in a small cup to taste (each child should be given a different spoon or cup)],* but as soon as they tasted it, their **happiness** *[smile]* turned to **disappointment** *[frown].* They began to grumble and complain to Moses.

Moses knew that God had not left His people. He knew God would take care of their needs. So Moses prayed to God and asked for help *[hands folded].* God told Moses to find a piece of wood and throw it into the water. Moses did this *[throw stick]* and the water turned sweet.

Once again the people rushed forward to the water. *[Give the children cups of the good water.]* This time they were **happy** *[smile],* and they drank all they wanted of the cool sweet water.

God had worked a miracle to care for their needs, including their great need for water in the desert. They thanked and praised God for caring for them. Let's thank Him right now for the good water He provides for us. *[Fold hands and close eyes, and pray a simple prayer.]*

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did the Israelites need? Why didn't they have water? What did the people do when they were sad?** (They grumbled and complained.) **What did the people do when they had water?** (They praised God.)

We worship God when we thank Him for our water. Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



We thank God for giving us water.

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to Exodus 15:22-25. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How many days were the Israelites traveling in the desert before they found water?** (three) **Where did they find water?** (at Marah) **What kind of water was it?** (bitter) **What did God tell Moses to do?** (Throw a piece of wood into the water.) **Then what happened to the water?** (It became sweet.)

If I put some wood into water, will it make the water better? (no) **Who is the only one who can do that?** (God) **Does God still care about people's needs? Let's remember today's message:**



We thank God for giving us water.

Say that with me.

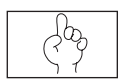
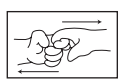
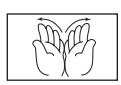
Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Revelation 7:17 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"He will lead them to springs of living water."** Be sure the children understand the verse. Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Teach the children the following actions for the words in their memory verse:

He	Point upward.	
will lead	Lock fingers. Right hand pulls left hand to the right.	
them	Point to others and then self.	
to springs of living water.	Pretend to drink from cup.	
Revelation 7:17	Palms together, then open.	

3 Applying the Lesson

What I Need

You Need:

- ❑ *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you really need water?** (yes) **What would happen if you didn't have it?** (We would die.)

Do you know what other things you really need? There are many things we would like to have, but we really don't need many of them. We need air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, a place to sleep, and so forth.

I'm going to name some things, and you can tell me if it's something you *really* need.

1. A new toy
2. Shoes
3. Clean water
4. A long vacation
5. Someone to love and care for you
6. A big house
7. Healthy food
8. Lots of new clothes
9. Friends
10. Candy
11. Safe place to sleep
12. Jesus

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Sometimes we are given things we really like but don't really need. And that's OK. We can trust God to give us what we really need, such as water. Let's thank Him for doing that by singing "All Our Needs"** (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85, first verse). **Let's say our message together again:**



We thank God for giving us water.

4 Sharing the Lesson

A. Share the Salt

You Need:

- ❑ salt
- ❑ sandwich-size plastic bags
- ❑ ribbon or yarn
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ tablespoon

In advance, cut a piece of ribbon or yarn about six inches (15 centimeters) long for each child. Give each child a plastic bag and let them pour a tablespoon of salt into it. Help them tie it with the ribbon or yarn.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you fill your bags with?** (salt) **Take your salt bag home and share it with someone as you tell them how God provided water for the Israelites as they traveled in the desert.**

Tell them that God also gives us the water we need. Give them some good, clean water to drink.

Remind them that God gives us good water to drink, and we should thank Him for that. **Let's say our message together one last time:**



We thank God for giving us water.

B. Body of Water

You Need:

- ❑ Body of Water pattern (see p. 150)
- ❑ white paper
- ❑ blue crayons

In advance, prepare for each child a copy of the Body of Water pattern (see page 150) on white paper. Point out the water line on the pattern and explain that our bodies need lots of water.

Say: **About 60 percent of what you weigh (that's just a little more than half) is water. So if you could see how much your body weighs in water, it would come up to about here** (point to line), **although we really aren't empty inside and filled up about to our neck with just water.**

This shows how important water is to our bodies. Color up to the water line at the neck with a blue crayon.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you know you had that much water in your body? Why is it important to drink lots of water every day?**

Take this home with you and share it with someone as you tell them how God gave water to the Israelites in the desert. Remind them that God gives us good water to drink, and we should thank Him for that. Let's say our message again:



We thank God for giving us water.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a prayer something like this: **Thank You, Jesus, for giving us clean water to drink. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Bitter Water to Better Water

References

Exodus 15:22-25; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 291-294

Memory Verse

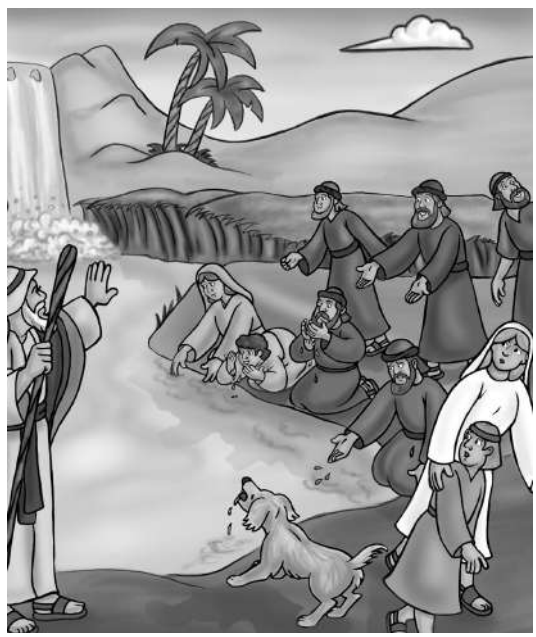
"He will lead them to springs of living water" (Revelation 7:17, NIV).

The Message

We thank God for giving us water.

Have you ever been thirsty? Really, really thirsty? The children of Israel thought they might die of thirst.

The Israelites rejoiced as the great pillar of cloud led them out of Egypt and away from their lives of slavery. They followed as it led them across the Red Sea and out into the wilderness. But after three days of walking in the desert, the Israelites had used up all the water they brought with them from Egypt, and they hadn't found any more. The children were thirsty. The grown-ups were thirsty. The animals were thirsty. Everyone in the whole camp of Israel was very, very thirsty.



The cloud led them toward a place called Marah. Moses had been a shepherd in the wilderness for 40 years, and he knew the area well. Moses knew there was water at Marah, but he also knew it tasted so bad that the people wouldn't be able to drink it. In fact, the word *Marah* meant "bitter." Something bitter tastes very bad.

But the people didn't know that, and as soon as they saw the water, they likely grew excited. "Water! Water! There's water up ahead!" they may have shouted.

Some of the people ran forward to the water, but when they tasted it, their happiness turned to disappointment. Now the people felt even thirstier than they had before they saw the bitter water. They began to grumble and complain to Moses.

Moses knew that God had not left His people. He knew that God would take care of their needs. So Moses prayed to God and asked for help, and God told Moses what to do. He told Moses to find a piece of wood and throw the wood into the water. Moses did as God said, and the water turned sweet.

Once again the people rushed forward to the water. This time they were not disappointed. They drank all they wanted of the cool sweet water. Children, grown-ups, and animals drank all the water they wanted. God had worked a miracle to care for their needs, including their great need for water in the desert. They thanked and praised God for caring for them.

God cares for our needs, just as He did for the Israelites. God has given us clean water, good food, and air to breathe. He has given us families and friends to care for us. We may not always get everything we want, but God provides the things we need to be healthy and strong. Let's thank God for taking care of our needs.

Do and Say

Sabbath

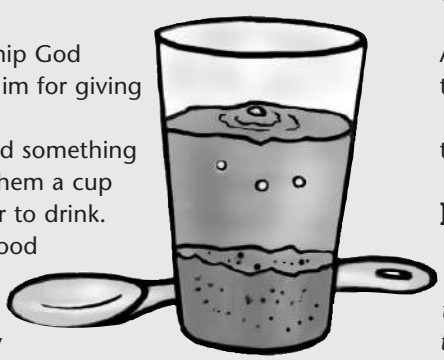
Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

He. . . . . Point upward.
will lead. . . . . Lock fingers. Right hand pulls left hand to the right.
them . . . . . Point to others and then self.
to springs of living water. . . . . . Pretend to drink from cup.
Revelation 7:17. . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share their bag of salt or Body of Water picture they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them of the Israelites' need for water. Tell them that their body weight is a little more than half water. Give your child two plants and let them water one of them. Ask your child what will happen to the plant that will not get water. Continue watering that one plant until Wednesday.

Monday



Say: We worship God when we thank Him for giving us what we need.

Feed your child something salty. Then give them a cup good, clean water to drink. Thank Jesus for good water. Continue the activity begun on Sunday by watering one of the two plants.

Tuesday

Read together Exodus 15:22-25. Ask: Why did the people grumble and complain? What did the people do when God gave them sweet-tasting water? Let's thank God right now for our good water.



Continue the activity begun on Sunday by watering one of the two plants.

Wednesday

When you give your child a drink of water, have them say their memory verse again. Ask: How much water does your body need every day? (six cups) Have your child fill a cup with water. Ask: Just this much? Have them fill six cups of water and count them. Say: Let's take a look at the two plants. What's happened? (One has started to wither; the other one is OK.) What does the withered one need? Allow your child to water both plants.

Thursday

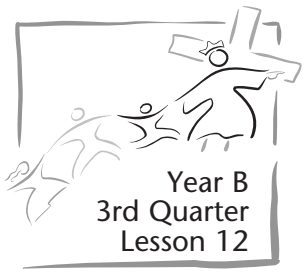
List and count ways you use water at your house. Allow your child to play in some water (in the bathtub, at the kitchen sink).

Tell about a time God supplied a need of yours, then thank Him for doing so.

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. (Make water bitter by adding salt. *Give **a drop or two** of the salty water on a spoon or in a small cup to everyone to taste.*) Have each person tell what their favorite beverage is; then thank God for giving us good things to drink.

Sing "God Is So Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 88).



God Gives Manna

WORSHIP We thank God for being with us.

References
Exodus 16:1-5, 14-26; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 294-297.

Memory Verse
"You will have plenty to eat . . . and you will praise the name of the LORD" (Joel 2:26, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God wants them to have sufficient healthful food.
Feel confident that God will care for their needs.
Respond by thanking God for their food.

The Message


We thank God for giving us good food.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
While the Israelites are in the desert, they run out of food. They cry to God, and He hears them. He sends them manna to eat. God tells Moses to have the people pick up only what they need for one day, but on Friday they are to pick up enough for two days, because no manna will be found on Sabbath. While they follow God's instructions, they have fresh food every day. They praise God for food.

This is a lesson about worship.
God blesses us every day with the things we need to survive on this earth. Food is one of them. Praising Him for providing for our needs through Jesus is a part of worshipping Him.

Teacher Enrichment
"They had not as yet suffered from hunger; their present wants were supplied, but they feared for the future. They could not understand how these

TWELVE

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. What Is It?*	large paper bag; white, soft, fluffy, and sweet objects
			B. Food Quiz	variety of strong-smelling foods, small empty containers
			C. Name a Food	beanbag or wadded paper ball
*	**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	puffed rice cereal or popped popcorn; adult-size Bible-times costume
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*Fruits and Vegetables*	basket of felt or plastic fruit and vegetables, *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Favorite Food*	Favorite Food pattern (see p. 149), paper, crayons

vast multitudes were to subsist in their travels through the wilderness, and in imagination they saw their children famishing. The Lord permitted difficulties to surround them, and their supply of food to be cut short, that their hearts might turn to Him who had hitherto been their Deliverer. If in their want they would call upon Him, He would still grant them manifest tokens of His love and care. He had promised that if they would obey His commandments, no disease should come upon them, and it was sinful unbelief on their part to anticipate that they or their children might die of hunger" (*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 292).

Do you daily call upon Him to supply you with your needs for the day?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 11.

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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. What Is It?

You Need:

- ❑ large paper bag
- ❑ white, fluffy, sweet, and soft objects

In advance, gather a variety of things that are white, soft, fluffy, sweet (or a combination of these), such as cotton balls, saltine crackers, popcorn, puffed rice cereal, stuffed toy, etc. Place them in the paper bag.

Say: **We are going to play a guessing game. Let's see, I have something in this bag that is soft and white. What is it?** Allow a child to come and try to guess what the object is only by feeling it and without looking. Continue with another item and another child guessing until you have used all the things you brought.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **We will be learning about something white, fluffy, and sweet today in our Bible story. The Israelites were worried about food. So God gave them something they had never seen before. They asked "What is it?" Do you know? It was a new kind of food. The Israelites were thankful for the food God provided. And we are thankful for our food too. Today's message is:**



We thank God for giving us good food.

Say that with me.

B. Food Quiz

You Need:

- ❑ variety of strong-smelling foods
- ❑ small empty containers

In advance, put one food item in each container. Choose strong-smelling foods (chocolate, strawberry, orange, onion, garlic, etc.), so it will be easy for the children to guess what they are. Have the children close their eyes as you pass each container and let them smell it.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to guess what foods these were? Some foods have a**

strong smell that is easy to recognize. Which do you think had the strongest smell?

God is good to give us so many different kinds of foods to eat. Our Bible story today is about a time God gave the Israelites some special food to eat in the desert. They thanked God for giving them food. And we thank Him for our food too. Today's message is:



We thank God for giving us good food.

Say that with me.

C. Name a Food

Have the children sit on the floor in a circle. Explain that you will toss the beanbag to someone while you name a food. Then they have to name a different food as they toss the beanbag to someone else. Continue until all have tossed the beanbag.

You Need:

- ❑ beanbag or wadded paper ball

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you think you named all the different foods there are in the world? God gives us so many good and different things to eat. Our Bible story today is about God's giving the Israelites some special food to eat in the desert. They thanked God for their food. We thank Him for our food too. Today's message is:**



We thank God for giving us good food.

Say that with me.

* **NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 127.**

2 Bible Lesson

You Need:

- ❑ puffed rice cereal or popped popcorn
- ❑ adult-size Bible-times costume

Experiencing the Story

Say: **Today we are all going to have a part in the story again. _____ will be Moses, and all of you will be Israelites. During the story we will stop and do some things, so watch to see what we are to do.**

Read or tell the story.

After the Israelites had been traveling for several weeks in the desert, the food they had brought with them from Egypt ran out. There were no stores. There were no fields or trees to get food from. So the people began to grumble about food. What would all those people eat out there in the desert where nothing grew? Instead of trusting God, they started complaining and grumbling again.

God knew they would need food. Moses prayed for help. *[Moses prays.]* So God told Moses He would send bread from heaven for the people to eat. During the night while the people were sleeping something wonderful happened. *[Have the children lie down and close their eyes. Scatter puffed rice cereal or popped corn on the piece of brown "desert" fabric.]* In the morning, white flakes lay on the ground all around the camp. *[Have the children open their eyes and sit up.]* The Israelites had never seen anything like it.

"What is it?" the people asked.

Moses said, "It's the bread the Lord has given you to eat."

When the people ate it, it tasted like honey wafers. The people called it manna, which means "What is it?"

Moses told the people, "Each morning you will find the manna on the ground. Get up early and gather enough for that day, but don't keep any of it overnight."

But some people didn't listen to Moses. They tried to save some manna for the next day so they wouldn't have to gather more. The next morning their manna was rotten and smelled bad. *[Have children hold noses and look disgusted.]* Some people were lazy and didn't gather enough for the whole day. *[Some children go and look for more.]* But when the sun grew hot, it melted the manna away *[hold out hands and rub tummies],* and those people went hungry until the next day. *[Look sad.]*

On Friday Moses told the people to gather enough manna for two days, because no manna would appear on Sabbath. But some people didn't listen to Moses. Every other night the extra manna had spoiled. They thought it would spoil on Friday night too. But on Friday night the manna didn't spoil, and on Sabbath there was no manna on the ground. The people who didn't gather enough for two days on Friday went hungry during Sabbath. *[Look sad.]*

By the end of the first week everyone knew they had to follow God's directions. As long as they gathered enough manna for the whole day every morning, they had enough to eat. And every Friday they had to gather enough for two days. When the Israelites followed God's directions, they had fresh food every day. God took care of their needs. He gave them plenty of food to eat in the desert. *[Smile.]*

And God takes care of our needs, too.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **When you're hungry, what do you do?** (Ask Mommy or Daddy for something to eat.) **Where does Mommy or**

Daddy get the food? (market, shop or store) **Where does the store get the food?** (farmers or factory) **Where would a factory get the food from?** (farm, farmers) **Who sends the sun and rain to make them grow?** (Jesus)

Let's thank God for our food. We're worshipping God when we thank Him. Remember our message? Let's say it together:



We thank God for giving us good food.

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to Exodus 16:1-5 and 14-26. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Why did the Israelites grumble?** (They were afraid they wouldn't have enough food.) **What did God send down from heaven?** (manna)

How much manna did God tell the Israelites to gather every day except Friday? (just enough for that day) **What happened to the manna if they saved it overnight?** (It spoiled and smelled bad.) **What were they supposed to do on Friday?** (gather enough for Friday and Sabbath)

Did God send manna on Sabbath? (no) **Was the manna they collected on Friday for Sabbath rotten or good the next morning?** (good)

How do you think the Israelites felt about the manna? (thankful, grateful, happy)

Do you think God provides food for us today? What does our message tell us to do?



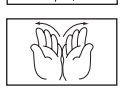
We thank God for giving us good food.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Joel 2:26 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"You will have plenty to eat . . . and you will praise the name of the LORD."** Be sure the children understand the text. Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You	Point to others.	
will have	Hold out hands as if offering something.	
plenty to eat . . .	Hands to mouth as if eating.	
and you will praise the name	Arms outstretched above head.	
of the LORD.	Point upward.	
Joel 2:26	Palms together, then open.	

3 Applying the Lesson

Fruits and Vegetables

You Need:

- ❑ basket of felt or plastic fruit and vegetables
- ❑ *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

Allow response time as you ask: **What is your favorite fruit or vegetable?** Give the child the fruit or vegetable they name, or something similar.

What do you do before you eat your meals? (pray; thank God for our food) **God is so good to give us so many different kinds of food.**

I know a song we could sing while you're holding your favorite fruit or vegetable.

Use "I Like to Eat an Apple" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 167) or "I Am So Happy" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 199).

I like to eat an apple
Picked from the apple tree.
Dear Jesus sends the sun and rain
To make them grow for me.

OR

Oh I am so happy,
As happy as can be.
For I have some _____*
That Jesus made for me.

*apples sweet, peas to eat, oranges sweet, corn to eat, etc.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do you do when your mom or dad makes food that you don't particularly like?** (Eat it anyway; complain; don't eat it; ask for something else.)

I hope you don't complain about food like the Israelites did! How would you feel if you made something nice for someone else and they said they didn't like it? (sad, angry, embarrassed, disappointed) **Would it be a good feeling?**

God helps your family grow or buy your food. Your parents prepare healthy food for you because they love you. Our food is a gift from God, and we should be thankful for it. Let's say our message together again:



We thank God for giving us good food.

4 Sharing the Lesson

Favorite Food

You Need:

- ❑ crayons
- ❑ Favorite Food pattern (see p. 149)
- ❑ paper

In advance, prepare a copy of the Favorite Food pattern (see page 149) for each child. Read the memory verse to them and the sentence below it. Then ask them to draw a picture of their favorite food on the bottom half of the paper.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What food did you draw? Hold up your picture so we all can see it. Let's say together: "Thank You, Jesus, for our food."**

Take your picture home and share it with someone as you tell them about God's giving manna

to the Israelites, and how He gives food to us today. Say your memory verse too. And let's remember our message:



We thank God for giving us good food.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a brief prayer similar to this: **Thank You, Jesus, for all the good food You give us to eat. Help us always to be thankful. We love You. Amen.**

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

"All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85)
"God Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 86)
"Yes, Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 118)
"Hallelu, Hallelu" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 213)
"Let's Give the Lord Our Praise" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 219)

Mission

Say: **When we thank God for our food, we are worshipping Him. Children in all the different countries of the world thank Him too. Our mission story today is _____.** Use a story from *Children's Mission.*

Offering

Say: **When we thank God for our food, we are worshipping Him. We also worship God when we give Him our offerings. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, for giving us the food we need. Amen.**

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

STUDENT LESSON

God Gives Manna

References
Exodus 16:1-5, 14-26; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 294-297

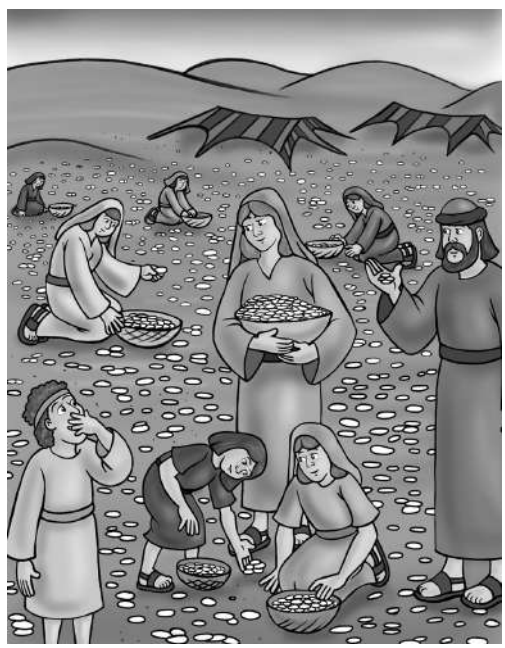
Memory Verse
"You will have plenty to eat . . . and you will praise the name of the LORD" (Joel 2:26, NIV).

The Message
We thank God for giving us good food.

Where do you get your food? From a store? From an orchard or field? God gave the Israelites some unusual food.

After the Israelites had been traveling in the desert for several weeks, the food they had brought with them from Egypt ran out. They started to worry about food. Nothing grew in the desert. Instead of trusting God, they started complaining and grumbling again.

God knew they needed food. God knew they were hungry. He knew they needed healthy food. So God told Moses He would send them food from heaven.



During the night something wonderful happened. In the morning, thin white flakes lay on the ground all around the camp.

The Israelites had never seen anything like it. "What is it?" they said to one another. All over the camp people could be heard asking, "What is it?"

"It's the food the Lord has given you to eat," said Moses. This special food tasted like honey wafers! The people called it *manna,* which means "What is it?"

Then Moses said, "Each morning you will find manna on the ground. Get up early and gather enough for the day. Do not keep any overnight."

But some people didn't listen to Moses. They tried to save some manna for the next day. The next morning their manna was spoiled and smelled bad. Some people were lazy and didn't gather enough for the whole day. But the hot sun melted the manna, and those people went hungry until the next day.

On Friday Moses told the people to gather enough manna for two days, because God would not send manna on Sabbath. But some people didn't listen to Moses. On other nights the manna had spoiled. They thought it would spoil on Friday night, too. But it didn't, and on Sabbath no manna appeared on the ground.

By the end of the first week, everyone knew that they had to follow God's directions. As long as they gathered enough manna for the whole day every morning, they had enough to eat. And every Friday they had to gather enough for two days. When the Israelites followed God's directions, they had fresh food every day. God took care of their needs. And God takes care of our needs too.

God gives us our food today too. He may not send manna from heaven, but however you get food, it is because God provides for your needs. Let's praise God for our food!

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

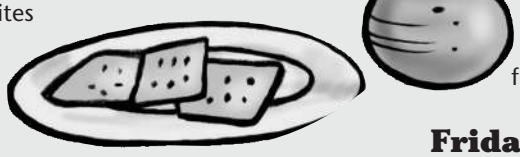
You . . . . . Point to others.
will have . . . . . Hold out hands as if offering something.
plenty to eat . . . . . Hands to mouth as if eating.
and you will praise the name of the LORD. . . . . . Arms outstretched above head. Point upward.
Joel 2:26 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Help your child share the favorite food drawing they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them how God supplied manna to the Israelites in the desert.

Monday

Read together Exodus 16:1-5, 14-26. Ask: Why did the Israelites complain and grumble? How did God help them? How does God help supply your food?



Serve honey on crackers for lunch. Ask: Do you think this is what manna might have tasted like? Thank God for the good food He gives your family.

Tuesday

Roll a small ball back and forth with your child as you both name different foods. Thank God for food choices.

Have your child feel things that are white and fluffy, such as cotton balls. When the Israelites first saw manna they asked, "What is it?" and that's what the word "manna" means.



Wednesday

Help your child make bread or visit a bakery and ask someone how it is done. Whether you make or buy some bread, share it with someone.

Thursday

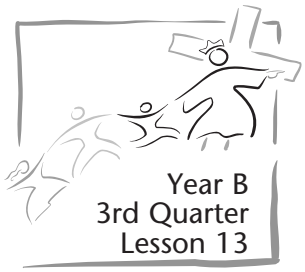
Have your child close their eyes as you put under their nose a variety of strong-smelling foods such as a strawberry, onion, garlic, a slice of lemon, etc., and have them guess what they smell. Tell them that smelling food is part of enjoying how it tastes.

Sing a thank-You song, then thank God for good food.

Friday

Act out the story for worship. Name the days of the week and have your child pretend to pick up manna for each day. Remember that on Friday the Israelites gathered a double portion, and on Sabbath they gathered none.

Have each family member tell what their favorite food is. Then thank God for giving us food.



God's 10 Rules

WORSHIP We thank God for being with us.

References
Exodus 19:1-11, 16-20, 25; 20:1-17; 32:15, 16; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 303-309.

Memory Verse
"We will do everything the LORD has said" (Exodus 19:8, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God gave rules to live by.
Feel that living by God's rules is worshipping Him.
Respond by thanking God for His rules.

The Message


We thank God for showing us how to live.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
The Israelites prepare to meet with God by cleaning themselves inside (spiritually) and out; they fast and pray and wash their bodies and clothes. They pledge to do everything God asks them to do. God speaks to the Israelites personally as He appears on Mount Sinai in a cloud of thunder and lightning, accompanied by trumpets and an earthquake. He says that if they obey Him, they will be blessed. God gives them the Ten Commandments to help them live happier lives and to be an example to the world.

This is a lesson about worship.
We worship God when we live by His rules as an expression of love for His goodness toward us. He created us and knows what is best for us. He promises blessings when we obey His rules, which keep us from being controlled by Satan. We thank God for showing us how to live.

THIRTEEN

Program Outline

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1	**Readiness Activities**	up to 10	*A. Stop and Go* *B. Not Playing by the Rules*	none beanbags, plastic bowls
*	**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	poster board or cardboard, marker, heavy scissors, "cloud" on stick (from Lesson 10), two pot lids
			Bible Study	Bible
			Memory Verse	Bible
3	**Applying the Lesson**	up to 15	*Scenarios*	none
4	**Sharing the Lesson**	up to 15	*Rules Set in Stone*	flat stones, crayons or markers

Teacher Enrichment

"The law was not spoken at this time exclusively for the benefit of the Hebrews. God honored them by making them the guardians and keepers of His law, but it was to be held as a sacred trust for the whole world. The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all. Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love" (*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 305).

"There is not a negative in that law, although it may appear thus. It is DO, and Live (letter 89, 1898)" (*The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 1105).

What are your feelings toward the rules that God asks you to obey? Do you convey your attitude to the children?

Room Decorations

Continue to use the desert scene and tent. Add a ten-commandment tablet (see Experiencing 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.

1 Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Stop and Go

Play "stop and go." Have the children stand in a line at the back of the room with a cleared space in front of them. Tell them that when you turn your back and say "go," they may quickly walk toward you. When you turn back around and say "stop," they must stop and stand still. If anyone moves, they have to go back to the starting line. Continue until one child reaches you.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you enjoy playing this game? Was it easy or hard to obey the rules? Where else do we have rules?** (home [don't play with electrical outlets, obey quickly, go to bed when told], school [don't run with scissors], driving [traffic signs, speed limits], swimming pool [no running, no diving])

Why do we have rules when playing a game? (Makes it fair, no one cheats, everyone knows what to do, no one gets hurt.) **Why do we have traffic rules? rules at home? What would happen if we didn't? Our Bible story today is about God giving the Israelites 10 rules to live by. These rules help us live the right way too. Today's message is:**



We thank God for showing us how to live.

Say that with me.

B. Not Playing by the Rules

You Need:

- ❑ beanbags
- ❑ plastic bowls

Set up a beanbag toss using plastic bowls (or something similar) for the children to toss beanbags into. Allow each child to have three tries. Then you take a turn and miss on purpose so you can pick up the beanbag and say: **That didn't count. Let me try that again.** Continue to *not* "play by the rules," but make sure the children obey the rules.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you notice how I was playing?**

Was I playing by the rules? (no) **Should I have played by the rules, as you did?** (yes) **How did you feel when I wasn't playing by the rules?** (cheated, upset, frustrated)

When we don't follow God's rules, it makes people unhappy. It makes us unhappy, because we usually get ourselves into trouble, and it makes others unhappy, because we aren't showing love to them. Our Bible story is about God's giving the Israelites the Ten Commandments, 10 rules to help them have happier lives. He wanted them to live happy lives and to express their love for Him by following these rules. And He wants us to do the same. Today's message is:



We thank God for showing us how to live.

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 Is Happy" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 268)
"Obedient" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 270)
"Sad or Glad" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 271)
"Oh, Friend, Do You Love Jesus?" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 210)
"I Love the Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 207)

Mission

Say: **All over the world people obey God's rules so they have happier lives. Let's learn about some children in a different part of the world. Our mission story today is _____.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **When we thank God for giving us rules, we are worshipping Him. We also worship God when we give Him our offerings.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Please repeat after me. Thank You, Jesus, for giving us rules to help us live happy lives. Amen.**

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

2 Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- ❑ poster board or cardboard
- ❑ marker
- ❑ heavy scissors
- ❑ "cloud" on stick (from Lesson 10)
- ❑ two pot lids

In advance, prepare tablets of the Ten Commandments. Either write a simplified version of the commandments on poster board or cardboard or just write numbers 1-10. Cut out the tablets. Have the children do motions as you share the story.

Read or tell the story.

The Israelites were still in the desert. It had been three months since they had left Egypt. They were camped beside a mountain when God told Moses He had something very important He wanted to tell His people.

God wanted to remind them how He had cared for them and led them since they left Egypt. He promised that if the Israelites would continue to follow His directions, they would live happier and healthier lives. He would bless them. The people living in other nations around them would see how much God loved them, and they would want to know about God too.

The people promised that they would do whatever God wanted them to do. They said, "We will do everything the Lord has said." *[Have the children repeat the sentence.]*

Then God told Moses that He was going to come in a cloud and talk so the people could hear His voice. He told Moses to tell the people to get ready to meet with Him.

The people had to wash their clothes and take a bath. They would look their cleanest and best to show that they were being respectful to God when they met with Him.

Three days later God came in a cloud of thunder and lightning on top of the mountain. The people heard very loud trumpets. They saw the mountain shake. The people stood in front of the mountain, ready to meet with God. They were afraid because of the power and strength they saw coming from the cloud.

But God didn't want the Israelites to be afraid. He loved them. He spoke directly to them and told them about 10 special rules He wanted them to live by. Do you know what the Ten Commandments say? Here they are:

1. Love God the most, and don't love other things or people more than God.
2. Worship only God; you don't need idols or things to look at to worship Him.
3. Speak God's name with reverence and respect.
4. Keep the Sabbath as a holy and special day. Spend it with God each week.
5. Treat your mother and father with respect and obedience.
6. The life of others is important; don't hate or hurt others. Care for those who are needy or hurting.
7. Be faithful to the person you marry.
8. Don't take things that aren't yours.
9. Always tell the truth.
10. Be happy with what you have; don't want other people's things.

Then God told Moses to come up to the top of the mountain. There God wrote on two stone tablets those 10 important rules that He wanted His people to follow. God didn't use a pencil or a pen. Do you know what He used? He wrote on the stone tablets with His finger! *[Show Ten Commandments tablet.]*

Those rules sound good to me, don't they to you? They tell us to love God and to love other people in all

that we do. God gave us rules to live by because He loves us. He promises that if we obey them, we will be happy. God made us, so we can trust Him to know how to make us happy. When we obey God and live as He asks, we are worshipping Him.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think the Israelites felt as they got ready to meet with God?** (happy, afraid, nervous, anxious, honored)

How do you get ready to come to God's house, our church? Why?

How do God's rules show He loves us? (Because they will make us happy if we obey them; He promises we'll be blessed if we follow them.)

Do you want to obey God's rules for your life? What are some ways to do this?

Bible Study

You Need:

❑ Bible

Open your Bible to Exodus 19:1-11, 16-20, 25; 20:1-17; and 32:15, 16. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read a few verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Where were the Israelites?** (near a mountain) **What did God ask them to do to get ready to meet with Him?** (wash their clothes and themselves) **Why did He ask them to get ready?** (Because He is holy and special; He wanted them to remember that day.)

How did God come to meet with them? (He came in a cloud with thunder and lightning and trumpets and an earthquake.) **How many rules for happy living did He give them?** (10) **How did God write the Ten Commandments, or rules, on stone?** (with His finger)

What did the Israelites promise God they would do? (obey all His commands)

Do you want to be happy? Do you want to live by God's rules? Why?

Do you remember today's message? Let's say it together:



We thank God for showing us how to live.

Memory Verse

You Need:

❑ Bible

Turn to Exodus 19:8 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** This is the promise God's people made. Read the text aloud. **"We will do everything the LORD has said."** Be sure the children understand the verse. Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

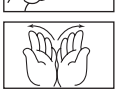
We	Point to self and others.
will do everything	Open arms wide.
the LORD	Point upward.
has said.	Point to lips.
Exodus 19:8	Palms together, then open.











3 Applying the Lesson

Scenarios

Say: **The Ten Commandments are about loving God or loving others. I'm going to read a little story and ask you to answer my question at the end. Each story is about one of the Ten Commandments.**

1. Nick loves going to Sabbath School, because he learns more about Jesus. He is sad when he has to stay home because he is sick. For whom is Nick showing love? (God)
2. Janae closes her eyes and folds her hands when she prays. She doesn't want anything to take her attention away when she's talking to God. For whom is Janae showing love? (God)
3. James talks about God with a smile. He hears other children say God's name when they get hurt or are mad, but he knows to use God's name only with respect and reverence. For whom is James showing love? (God)
4. Sarah's family spends Sabbath afternoon together having a picnic lunch and taking a walk in the woods. They try to make every Sabbath a special day of thanks and worship. For whom is Sarah's family showing love? (God)
5. Rebecca is swinging in the garden. Mommy calls her to come and help set the table for dinner. Rebecca runs quickly and helps. For whom is Rebecca showing love? (parents)
6. Luke's older brother keeps teasing him and making him upset. Luke feels like hitting his brother, but instead he asks God to help him. Then he goes to his room to play alone. For whom is Luke showing love? (his brother)
7. Tara's mommy and daddy are having a disagreement. Tara is scared, because she's heard that some other mommies and daddies quarrel and get a divorce. She asks her parents if they are going to divorce. They say no; they love each other and have promised always to stay together. For whom are Tara's parents showing love? (each other and their family)
8. Patty is in the store with Heidi. Heidi is buying some candy. Patty doesn't have any money. She would really like a piece of candy, but she knows it wouldn't be right to take one without paying for it. For whom is Patty showing love? (the store owner)
9. Daddy asks Carter not to play with Daddy's tools when he's not there. When Daddy looks for his hammer and can't find it, Carter tells the truth and admits that he took it to play with. For whom is Carter showing love? (Daddy)
10. Charlotte doesn't have a tea set, and she really wants one. Her friend Emily invites her to come and play tea party with her new tea set. Charlotte thinks it is so pretty and is happy for Emily. For whom is Charlotte showing love? (Emily)

Debriefing

Say: **Remember that all the Ten Commandments are about loving God or loving others. They are promises from God. If we obey, we will not do what Satan wants us to**

do. There are only two choices in life: follow God or follow Satan.

Do you want to follow and obey God's rules? God can help you when you are having trouble obeying. He wants to help you. Ask Him to be with you. He will give you extra strength to obey.

When we obey we are showing God how much we love Him. That is worshipping Him. Let's say our message together again:



We thank God for showing us how to live.

4 Sharing the Lesson

Rules Set in Stone

You Need:

- ❑ flat stones
- ❑ crayons or markers

Give each child a stone and a crayon or marker. Ask them to write numbers on the stone or draw a picture of one of the Ten Commandments (review them).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Does God want us to obey the same rules He gave the Israelites?** (yes) **Do God's rules change?** (no) **What did He write them on?** (stone tablets) **What did He use to write them with?** (His finger) **God wrote them in stone to show that they are for everyone, forever.**

Take your stone home with you and share it with someone as you tell them about God's giving the Ten Commandments in stone to the Israelites and to us today. Let's say our message together one last time:



We thank God for showing us how to live.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44). Say a brief prayer such as: **Thank You, Jesus, for giving us rules to live by. Help us always to worship You by obeying them and loving You. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

God's 10 Rules

References

Exodus 19:1-11, 16-20, 25; 20:1-17; 32:15, 16; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 303-309

Memory Verse

"We will do everything the LORD has said" (Exodus 19:8, NIV).

The Message

We thank God for showing us how to live.

Do you have some rules in your house? Do you have rules such as not eating between meals or putting your toys away? Rules help us. They helped the Israelites too.

The Israelites were still in the desert. It had been three months since they had left Egypt. They were camped beside a mountain when God told Moses He had something very important He wanted to tell His people.

God promised Moses that if the Israelites would follow His directions, they would live happier and healthier lives. He would bless them, and people in other nations would see how much God loved them, and they would want to know about God too.

The people promised, "We will do everything the Lord has said."

Moses was to tell the people that God wanted to talk to them. He was to have them get ready to meet with God.

So the people washed their clothes and themselves.



Three days later God came to the top of the mountain in a cloud of thunder and lightning. The people heard loud trumpet blasts. They saw the mountain shake. They stood near the mountain, ready to meet with God. But they were afraid!

God didn't want the Israelites to be afraid. He loved them. He spoke directly to them and told them about 10 special rules He wanted them to live by. We call those rules the Ten Commandments. Here they are:

1. Love God the most, and don't love other things or people more than God.
2. Worship only God; you don't need idols or things to look at to worship Him.
3. Speak God's name with reverence and respect.
4. Keep the Sabbath a holy and special day spent with God each week.
5. Treat your mother and father with respect and obedience.
6. The life of others is important; don't hate or hurt others. Care for those who are needy or hurting.
7. Be faithful to the person you marry.
8. Don't take things that aren't yours.
9. Always tell the truth.
10. Be happy with what you have; don't want other people's things.

Then God told Moses to come up to the top of the mountain. There God wrote those 10 important rules for happy living on two stone tablets. God didn't use a pencil or a pen. He wrote on the stone tablets with His finger!

Those rules sound good to me, don't they to you? They tell us to love God and to love other people. God gave us rules to live by because He loves us. He promises that if we obey them, we will always be happy. When we obey God and live as He asks, we are worshipping Him. He will help us obey Him. Let's remember to thank God for showing us how to live.

Do and Say

Sabbath

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

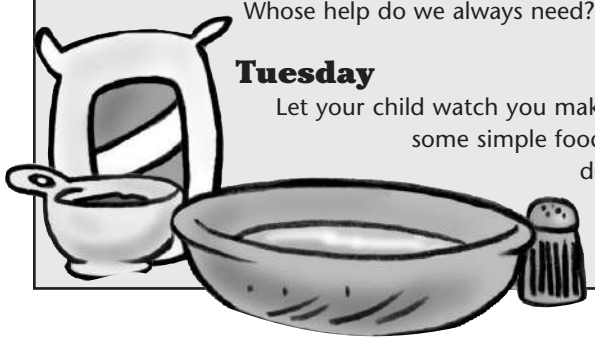
We . . . . . Point to self and others.
will do everything . Open arms wide.
the LORD . . . . . Point upward.
has said. . . . . . Point to lips.
Exodus 19:8 . . . . . Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the stone they wrote or drew on in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about God giving the Israelites the Ten Commandments. Begin to teach the first four commandments to your child. The first four commandments tell us how to love and worship God.

Monday

Read together Exodus 19:1-11, 16-20, 25; 20:1-17; and 32:15, 16. Ask: Why did God give us these rules to live by? Play "red light, green light." Ask: Was it hard to obey the rules? Is it hard to obey God's rules? Whose help do we always need?



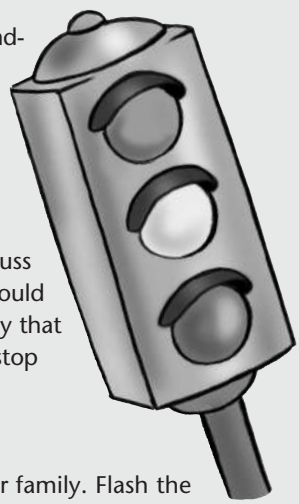
Tuesday

Let your child watch you make some simple food, but don't follow directions (put in too much salt or sugar, etc.). Ask: What happened because we didn't follow the directions? Talk about how important it is to follow God's directions.

Wednesday

Play a game with your child, but don't follow the rules. Ask: How do you feel when I don't follow the game rules?

Review the last six commandments together. Be sure your child knows they tell us how to live with others.



Thursday

While driving or walking, point out traffic signs and discuss what they mean. Ask: What would happen if someone didn't obey that traffic sign? Why do we have stop signs? Are rules good?

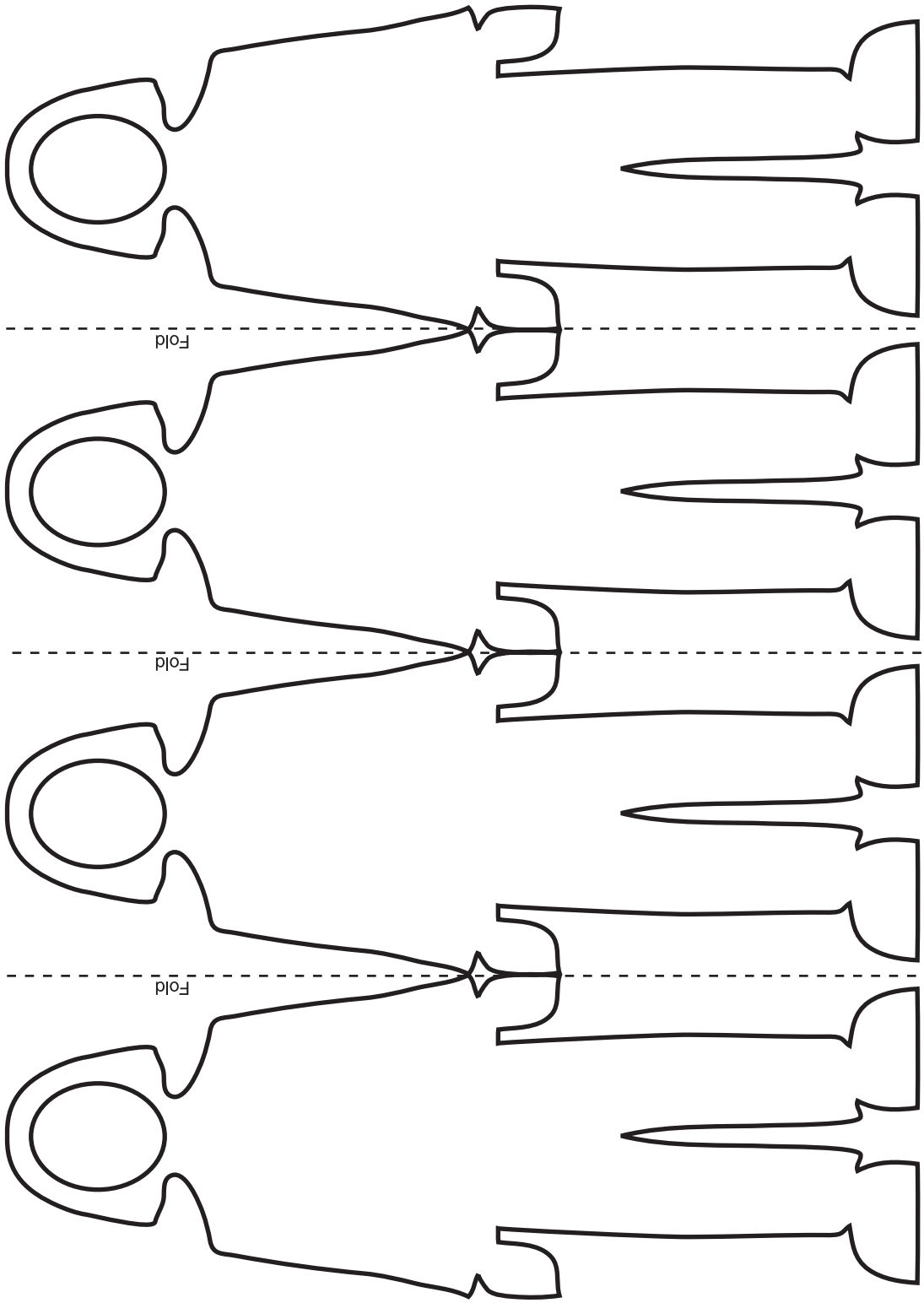
Friday

Act out the story with your family. Flash the lights off and on for lightning. Have an adult read the Ten Commandments from the lesson story.

Plan something special to do together as a family tomorrow. Sing a happy song; then thank God for giving us rules to make us happy. Ask Him to help us to obey and honor Him.

Paper People Chain

Lesson 1—Sharing the Lesson



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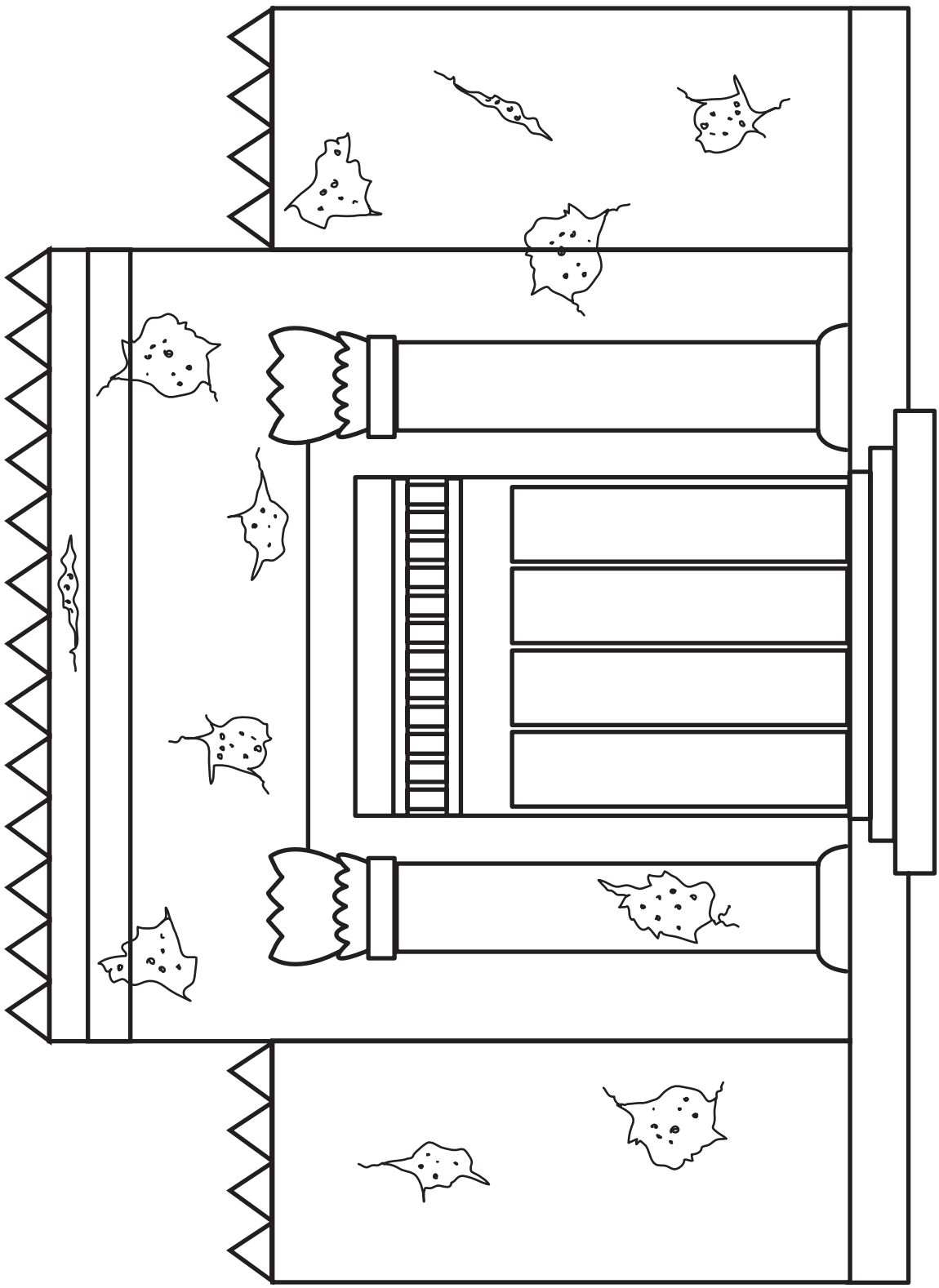
Temple Pattern

Lesson 2—Sharing the Lesson



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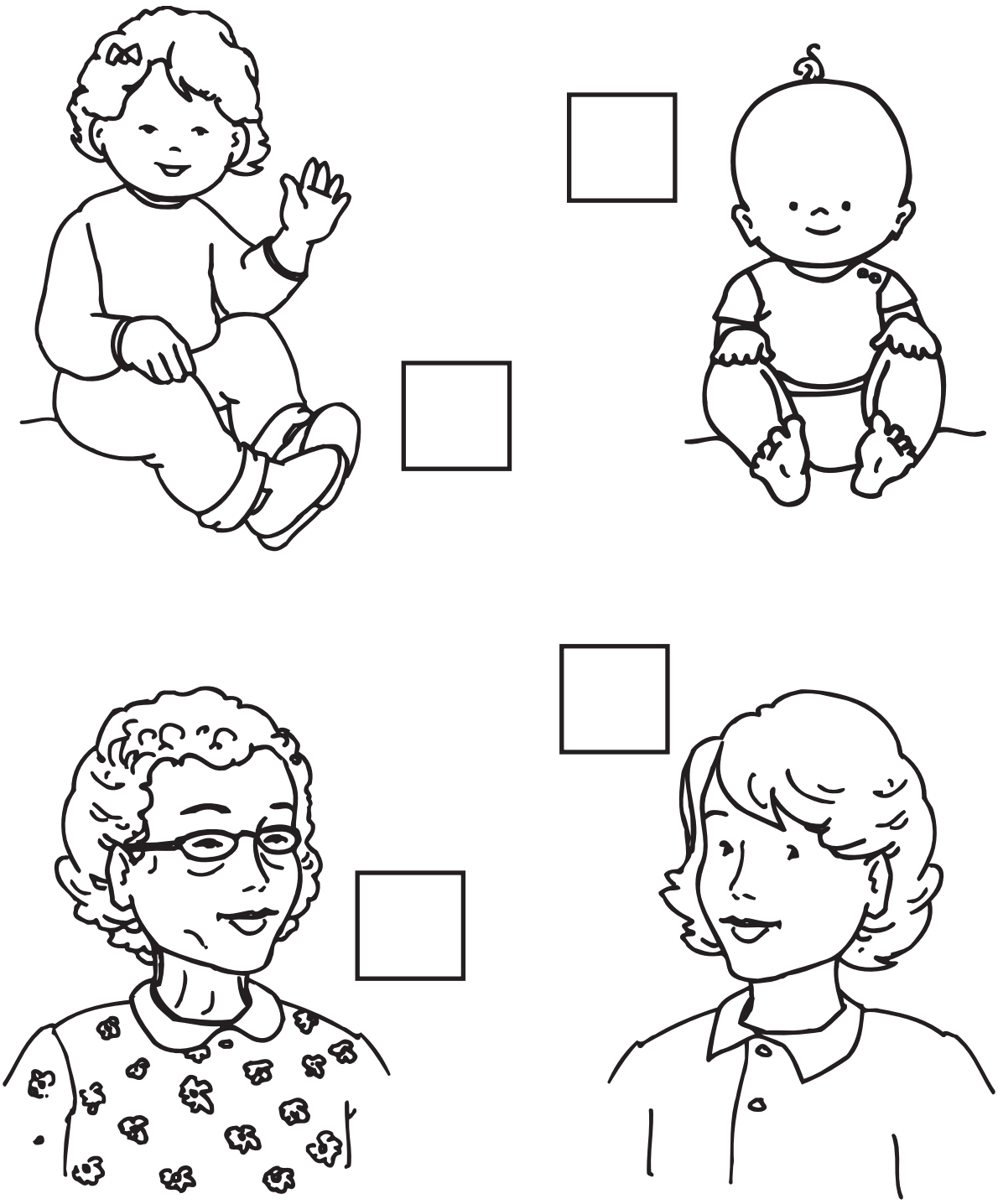
Caring for All Ages Pattern
Lesson 3—Readiness Activity C



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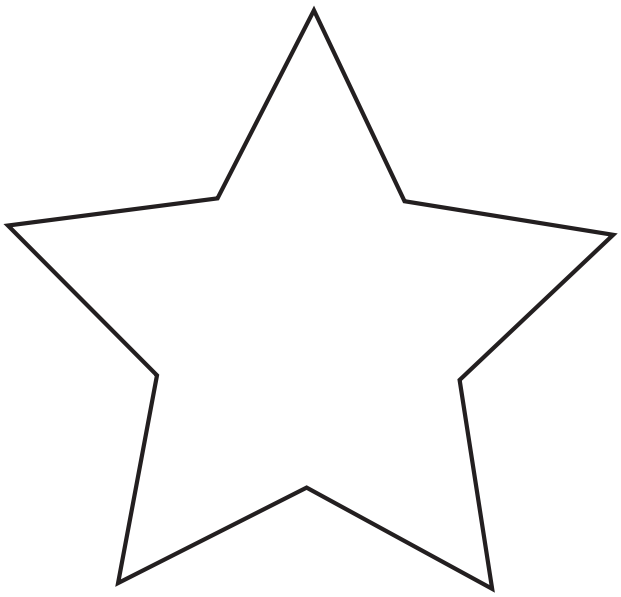
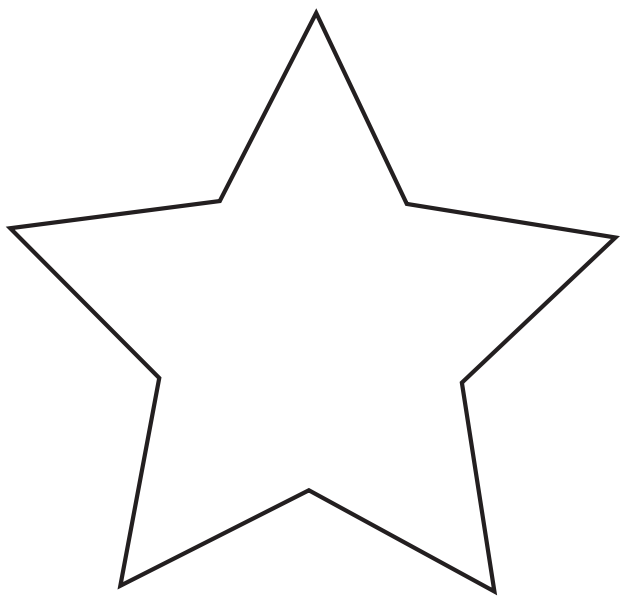
Stop Sign Pattern
Lesson 3—Sharing the Lesson





Star Pattern
Lesson 4—Sharing the Lesson





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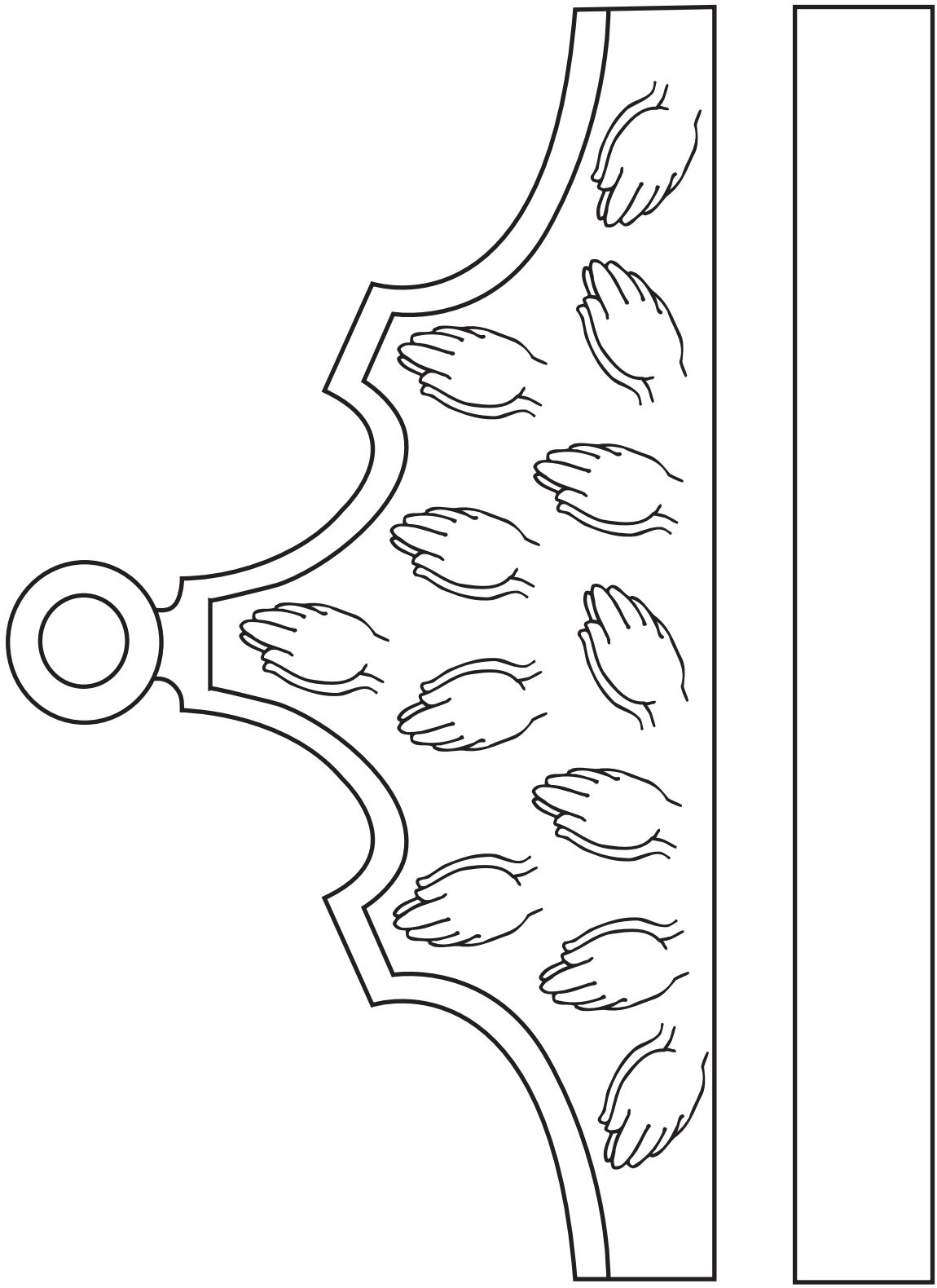
Praying Hands Crown Pattern

Lesson 4—Sharing the Lesson



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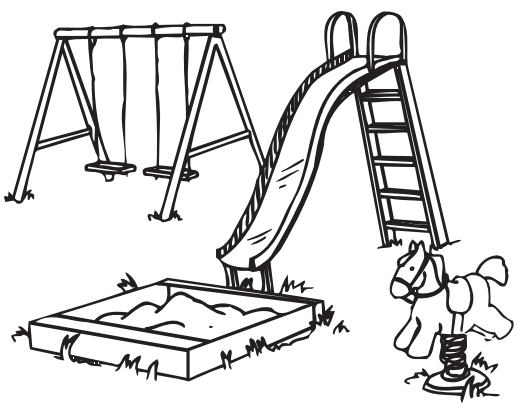
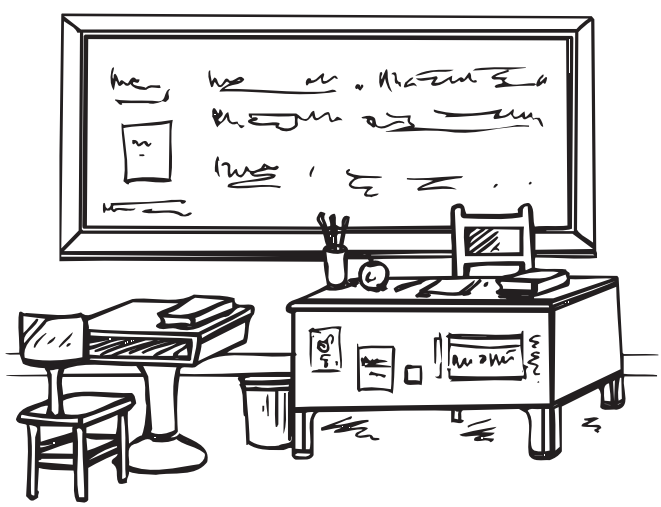
Can I Help Here? Pattern
Lesson 5—Readiness Activity A













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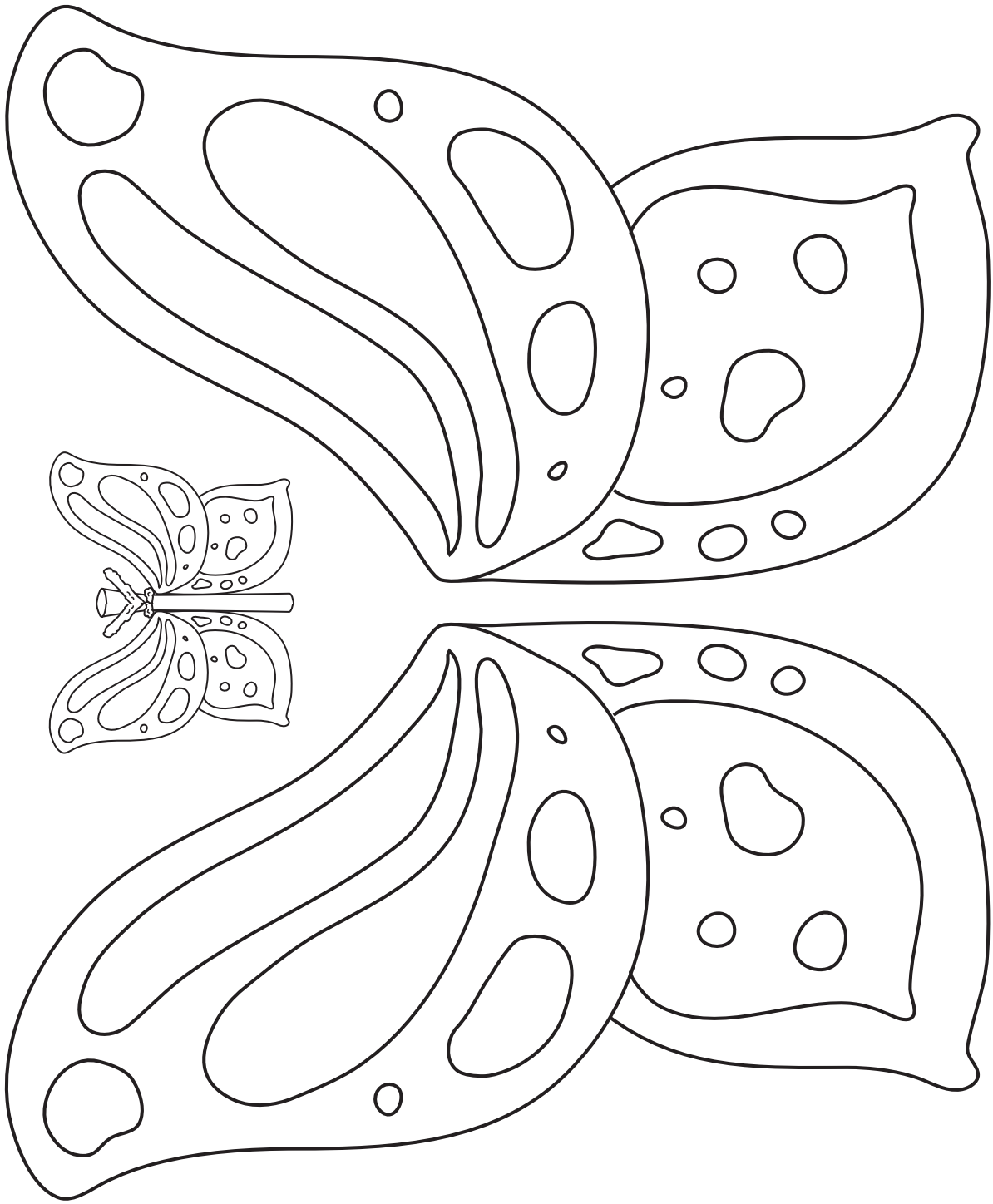
Secret Message Butterfly

Lesson 6—Sharing the Lesson



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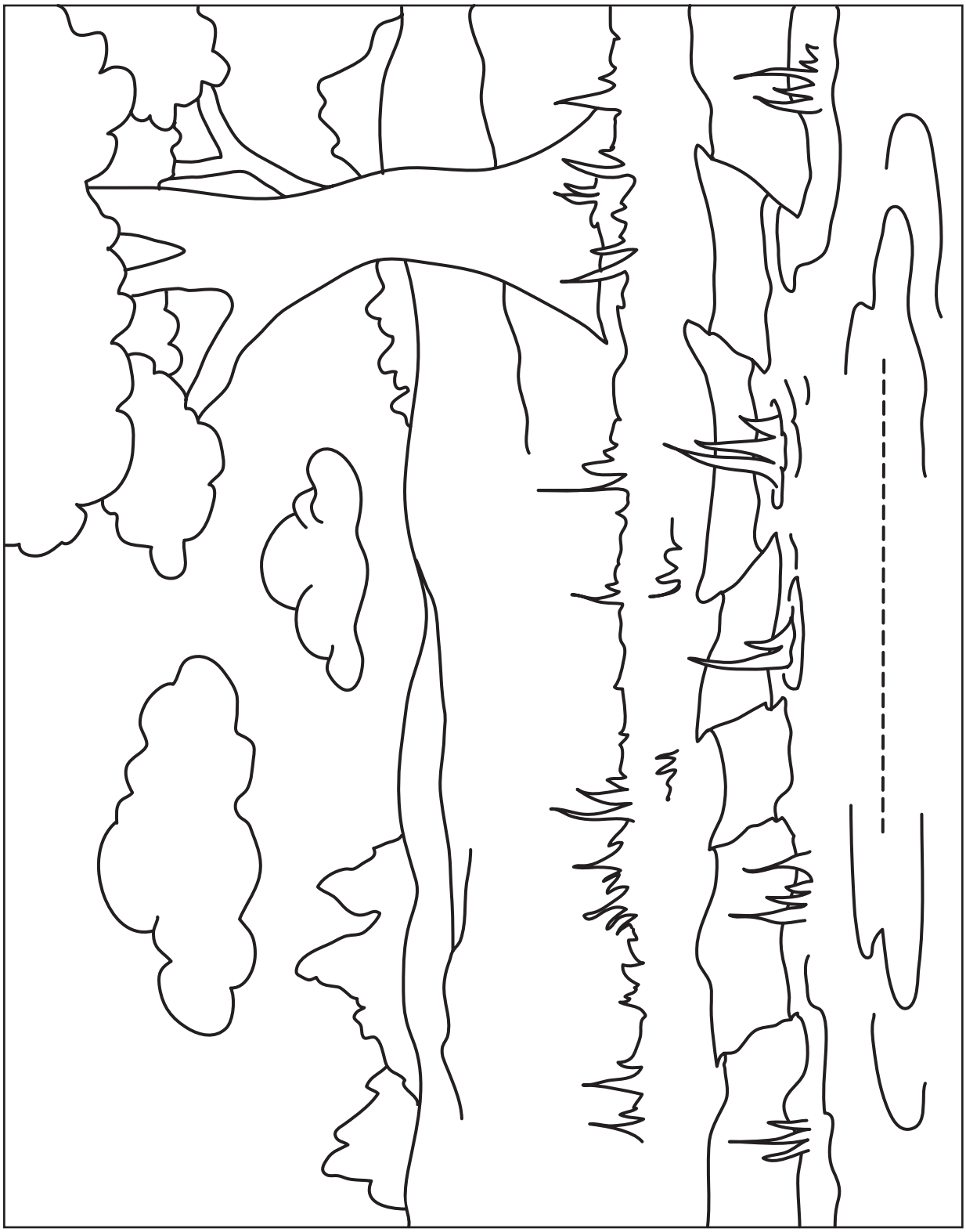
Jordan River
Lesson 7—Sharing the Lesson



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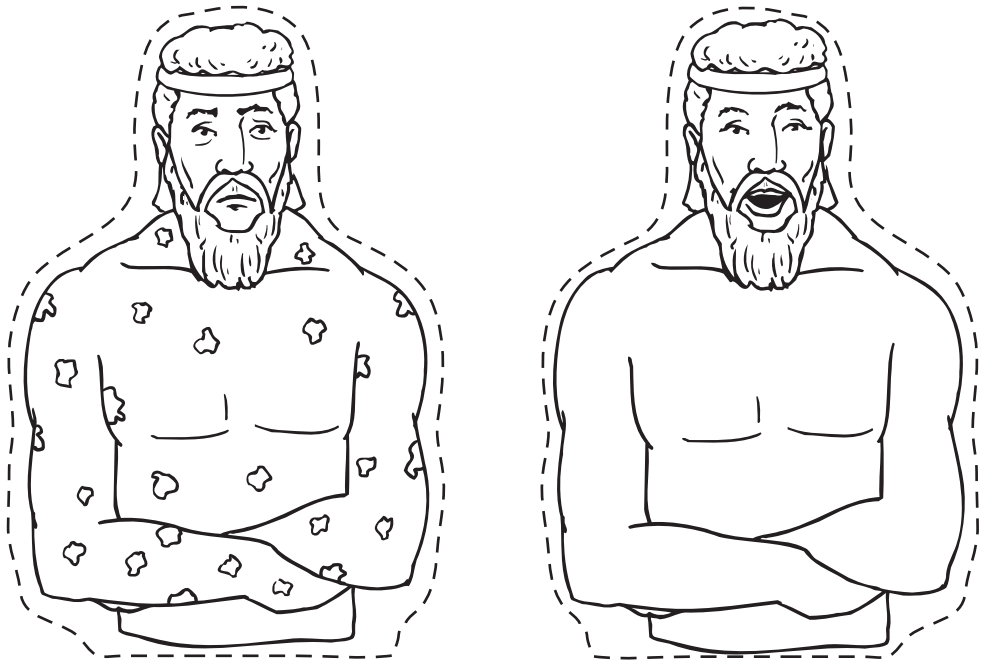
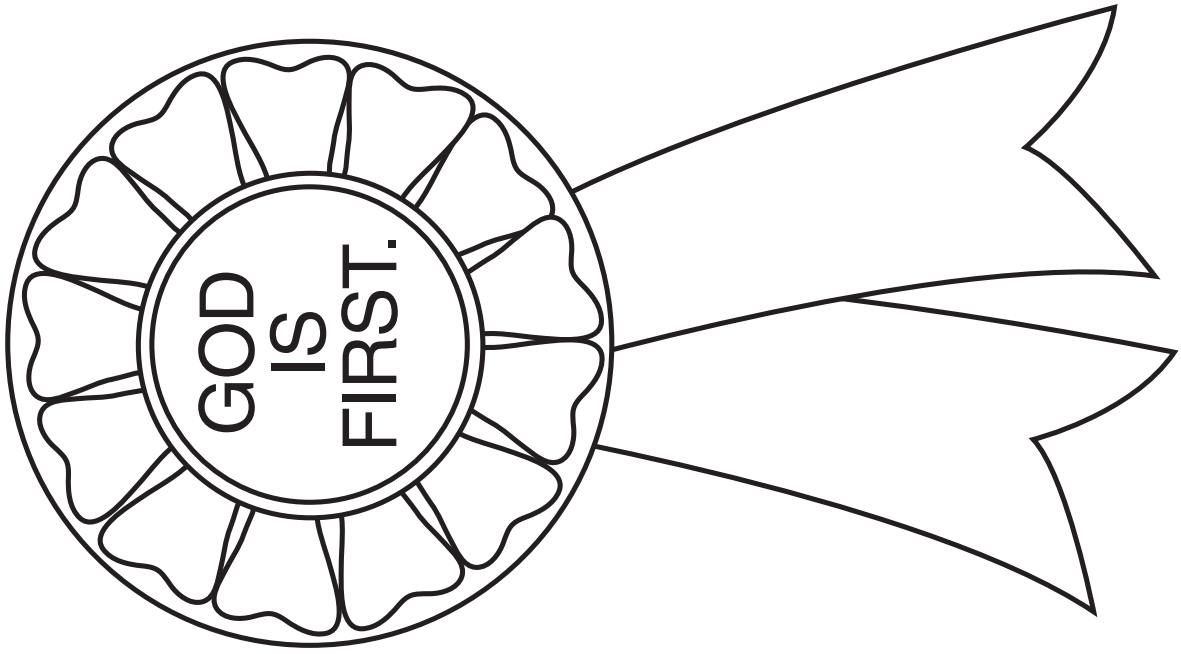
Naaman Pattern

Lesson 7—Sharing the Lesson



Ribbon Pattern

Lesson 8—Applying the Lesson; Sharing the Lesson



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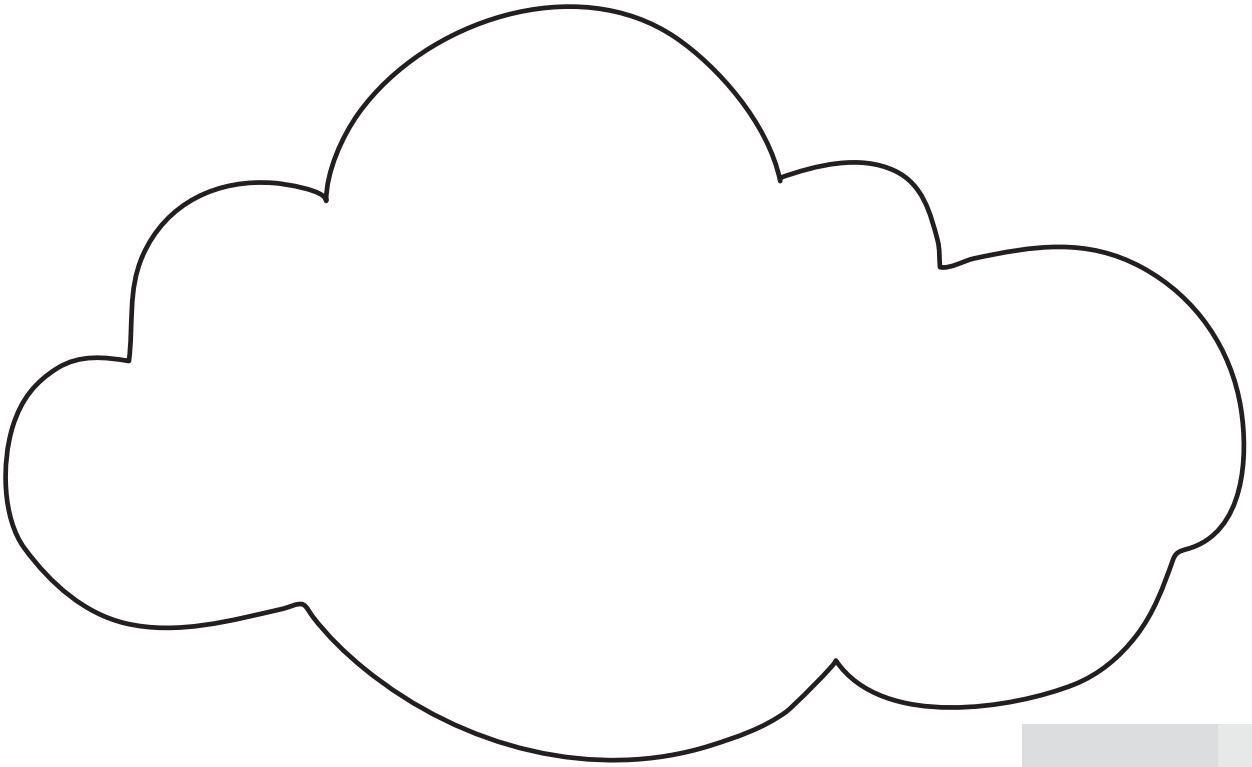
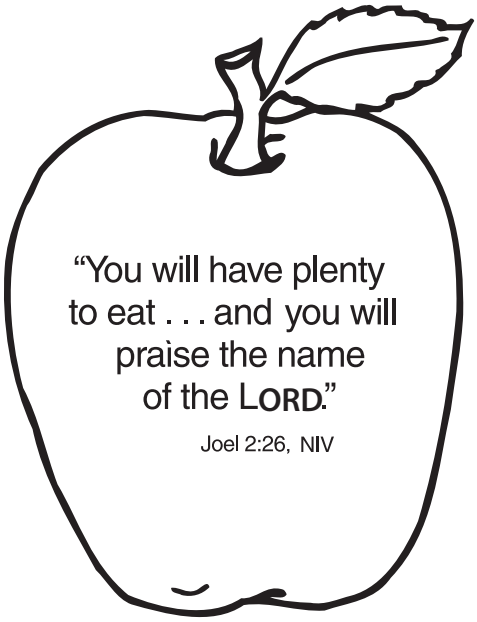
Pillar of Cloud and Fire
Lesson 10—Sharing the Lesson



Favorite Food
Lesson 12—Sharing the Lesson



My favorite food is:

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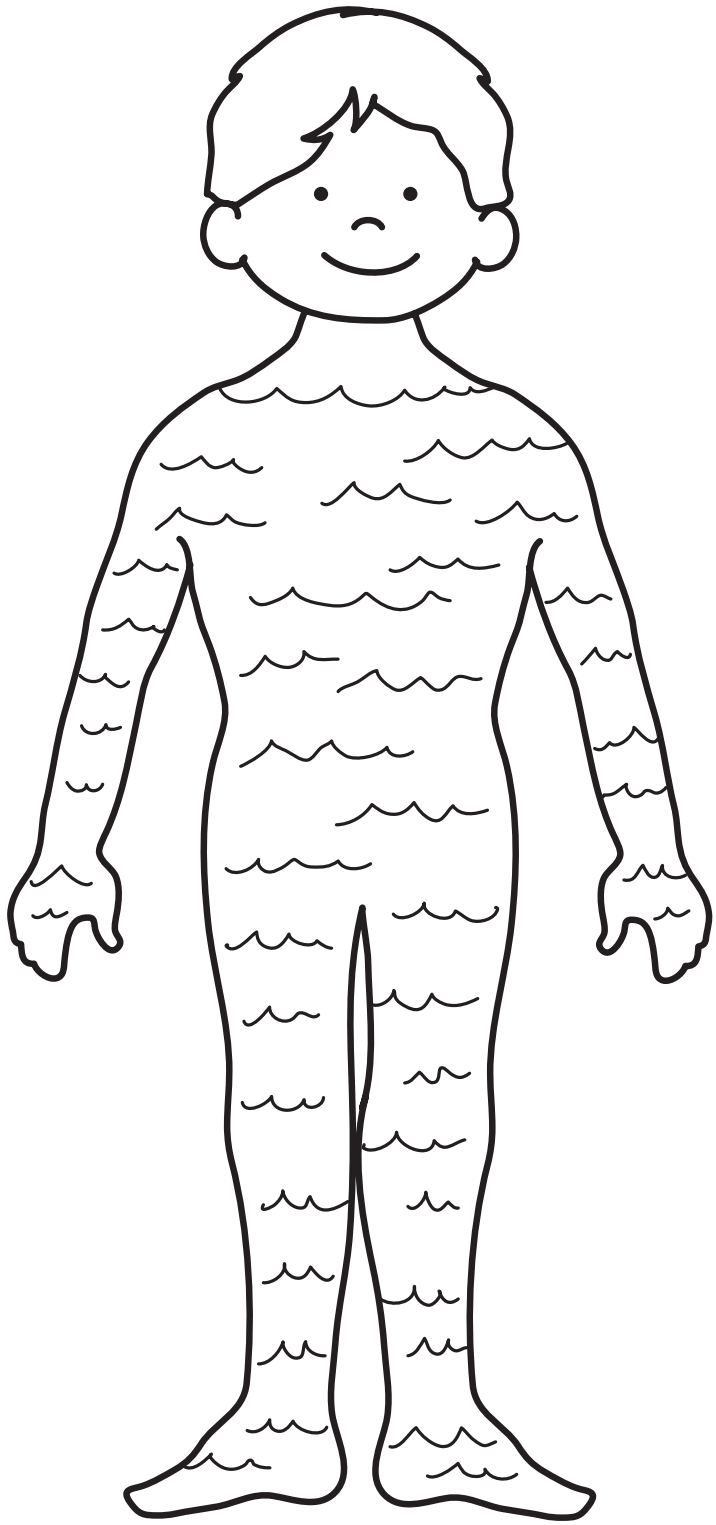
Body of Water
Lesson 11—Sharing the Lesson



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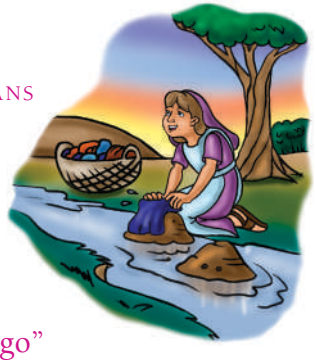
My Memory Verses

1. "Love each other like brothers and sisters" (ROMANS 12:10, ICB).
2. "Work together as a team for the faith" (PHILIPPIANS 1:27, ICB).
3. "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters" (HEBREWS 13:1, NIV).
4. "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (MATTHEW 18:20, NIV).
5. "Let us do good to all people" (GALATIANS 6:10, NIV).
6. "May . . . God . . . strengthen you in every good deed and word" (2 THESSALONIANS 2:16, 17, NIV).
7. "For we are . . . created . . . to do good works" (EPHESIANS 2:10, NIV).
8. "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel" (2 KINGS 5:15, NIV).
9. "You are my hiding place" (PSALM 32:7, NIV).
10. "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go" (GENESIS 28:15, NIV).
11. "He will lead them to springs of living water" (REVELATION 7:17, NIV).
12. "You will have plenty to eat . . . and you will praise the name of the LORD" (JOEL 2:26, NIV).
13. "We will do everything the LORD has said" (EXODUS 19:8, NIV).







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