

Fiesta Joy



The joy of being known



Teachers' Handbook



A lone sheep meets a young shepherd boy in a town festival. As they enjoy the bright, colourful, fun-filled fiesta together, the sheep learns from the young boy about the joy of belonging to the great shepherd, of being known and loved by him, the joy of learning to hear his voice and the joy of obeying his word.

Contents

1. Welcome	3
2. How to have a Fiesta!	4-6
3. Overview of the lessons	7-8
4. Day 1: The joy of belonging	9-12
5. Day 2: The joy of being known	13-16
6. Day 3: The joy of hearing God	17-20
7. Day 4: The joy of knowing God	21-24
8. Day 5: The joy of obeying	25-28

Welcome!



Welcome to Fiesta Joy, a vibrant Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum designed to ignite young hearts with the joy of knowing God. Through five engaging lessons, this program teaches children that God desires to speak to them personally and guide them in every season of life. In today's noisy world, children are bombarded by voices on social media and other platforms, drowning out God's quiet voice. Fiesta Joy helps children recognize and respond to God's still, small voice, just as Elijah and other faithful servants of God did in the Bible. Through interactive stories, hands-on activities, and lively discussions, children will discover they are created by a loving God who knows them deeply and longs for a personal relationship with them. They'll explore how God speaks to them and how the Holy Spirit helps them listen and follow His guidance. Each lesson emphasizes building a daily habit of meeting with God, offering lifelong strength and direction. Fiesta Joy reassures children that God knew them before creation, instilling a sense of purpose and belonging. They'll learn to embrace this relationship through prayer, finding peace and connection in His presence. As they discern God's voice, children will see how His guidance impacts their choices—whether praying for a friend, navigating school challenges, or dreaming about the future. They'll understand that God delights in walking with them every step of the way. Fiesta Joy transports children to a vibrant town in Mexico, where every day feels like a celebration! Set during a lively fiesta, this program bursts with the colors, sounds, and flavors of a true Mexican festival. The streets come alive with music, laughter, and the delicious aroma of traditional foods. Children will feel the excitement as they imagine people dressed in colorful Mexican dress and wide-brimmed sombrero hats, all joining in the fun. It's not a time for a siesta (sleep) but a festival of joy, connection, and discovery—a perfect backdrop to explore the vibrant love and guidance of God! Fiesta is more than fun and games; it's an invitation to a deeper relationship with God and a journey toward a life filled with His purpose and peace. Let's help children discover the joy of listening to God's voice and living for Him!



This VBS would not have been possible without the help of my dear friends who have given their valuable guidance and suggestions....

Stuti Tribhuvan, Suzie Jacob, Kavita D'souza, Rebecca Zombad, Shirley Lall and Blessy Jacob – thank you!

Thanks to **AI** also for helping me with designs and wording, especially **chat gpt**!

Finally, special thanks to **Kristina Krauss** whose encouragements were a vital part of making my dream become a reality!

Angie Moses



How to have a Fiesta!



Meet Pedro and Sheepy

The little Mexican boy, Pedro, and Sheepy are the stars of the show! These two stick puppets help set the scene for each day's teaching topic. Find their templates in the games booklet and make them come alive in front of the children!



Session Length

Each session is designed to run for 2 to 2.5 hours. Extend it with praise, worship, learning the Fiesta Joy song with actions, or playing extra games. Here are two suggested schedules to help you plan.

- Warm Up Game
- Sheep Tales
- Lesson & Prayer
- Pedro says
- Snack break
- Rotation stations
- Finish with game

Two hours

- Warm Up Game
- Songs
- Sheep Tales
- Lesson
- Prayer with song
- Pedro says
- Snack break
- Rotation stations
- Fiesta song
- Finish with games

Longer session



Warm Up!

Warm-Up Game

Start every day with a warm-up game! It keeps early arrivals engaged and ensures no one waits around before the fun begins. You can choose groups of 5 or 6 children to come to the front and play or if you can have the full group play together!



Sheep tales

Sheep Tales

Share the day's story in your own style! You can use the stick puppets if you like – children love listening to stories, especially when Sheepy is involved.



Lesson

Teaching Lesson

Both the Bible story and its application are key parts of this VBS. Decide how to present the story – drama, pictures, or videos all work wonderfully. Don't forget to use real life examples that your children will relate to and help them to understand what the story is teaching them.





Prayer Time

End the teaching time by praying with the children. Play a worship song softly to help them reflect on what they've learned and how they want to respond, then lead them in prayer together.



Pedro says

"Pedro Says"

Add fun to learning with "Pedro Says"! Use this activity to help children apply what they've learned about God's love. Print the page and display it in the hall for all to see. Encourage them to do what Pedro says that day and come and tell you about it!



Fiesta food!

Snacks

Snacks are optional but always a hit! Use the suggestions provided in the Fiesta Foods booklet – the recipes will help you give the children a taste of Mexican food!

Rotation Stations – Fiesta Crafts, Fiesta Games & Fiesta Books

Divide the children into three age-based groups to rotate through Fiesta Crafts, Fiesta Games, and Fiesta Books. Each activity should take about 15 minutes. Have backup games ready for extra time. Use a whistle or signal to move groups to the next station. All you need for these activities are explained in the Games and Crafts booklets, which along with the student books are free to download.



Finishing the Session

Bring everyone back together to close the session. Sing the Fiesta song with actions, repeat the warm-up game, or keep them engaged with other games until parents arrive to pick them up.





Optional Extras

Decorate the Hall

Transform the hall into a colorful Mexican-themed Fiesta! Use bright bunting, striped mats, grass mats, clay or plastic pots, and vibrant blankets or tablecloths to create a cheerful display. Print the free flex for an extra touch. As children enter, they'll feel transported to a festive new world!



Fiesta Song

Teach the children the Fiesta song and actions to express their joy throughout the week. Consider presenting it to parents or at a church meeting after VBS—it's sure to be a highlight! Find the links to the action video, song audio and song lyrics on the website!

Fiesta Selfie

Create a fun Fiesta-themed photo frame and keep it nearby. Snap pictures of the children for lasting memories of their time at VBS.



Fiesta Time!

End the week with a real Fiesta (festival)! Invite parents and volunteers to join in the fun – they can set up stalls or tables with games, activities, and snacks. Give children tickets to exchange for playing or eating—it's a celebration they'll always remember! Everyone can wear the sombrero hats made on day four and enjoy a real fiesta festival atmosphere!



Fiesta Joy Overview!



1: The joy of Belonging

Bible references: Luke 15:1-7; Ephesians 1:4; Genesis 1

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."
Ephesians 1:4



Fiesta Craft!

"Before" booklet



Fiesta Games!

"Guess the Leader"



Fiesta food!

Mexican Quesadillas

2: The joy of Being known

Bible references: Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 9:9

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
Psalm 139:1



Fiesta Craft!

Decorate sheep



Fiesta Games!

Pot's Mouth Game



Fiesta food!

Mexican Burritos





3: The joy of Hearing God

Bible references: 1 Kings 19:9-13

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.
1 Kings 19:12



Fiesta Craft!

Sombrero Hats



Fiesta Games!

Sombrero Hat Throw



Fiesta food!

Mexican Macaroni

4: The joy of Knowing God

Bible references: Psalms 5; 8; 23; 90:1-4

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me"
John 10:14



Fiesta Craft!

FIESTA memory verse booklet



Fiesta Games!

Fiesta Joy Bingo



Fiesta food!

Mexican Nachos

5: The joy of Obeying

Bible references: Genesis 6:9-22

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching."
John 14:23



Fiesta Craft!

Joy pictures



Fiesta Games!

Musical Forfeits



Fiesta food!

Mexican Aroz con Lecha



1 The joy of Belonging



Bible references: Luke 15:1-7; Ephesians 1:4; Genesis 1

Hola! Baa!

Make the two stick puppets of Pedro and Sheepy (see booklet). When you show Pedro's face, children shout "hola" (means hello in Spanish) and when you show Sheepy's face, children shout "baa" (sheep's way of saying hello!).

Start slow and go faster, showing the puppets at random! Children who say it wrong must sit down.



Sheep tales

It was a hot sunny day and the little sheep could hear the sounds from the town before he reached there. Slowly and sadly he followed the path, feeling lost and alone in the big crowd. He could see all the bright colours and decorations, hear the sounds of fun and laughter, but none of that made him feel any better. In fact, he felt more alone. As he sat on the side of the road, a young boy came over and asked the sheep why he was so sad. The sheep shared how he felt alone, how he wanted to belong to somebody. The boy sat down beside him and started to talk about everybody being a sheep and needing to belong to a shepherd. As the sheep listened to the boy, he knew that he also wanted to belong to the great shepherd.



Warm Up!



Lesson

It must feel so sad for the little sheep to feel all alone, like no one cares for him or wants him around. One day, this sheep wandered into a busy town full of people. Even though the streets were crowded, the sheep still felt completely alone. Have you ever felt that way? Maybe at school when your friends didn't include you in a game or when you had to sit by yourself at lunch. Or maybe at a family event where everyone else was having fun, but you felt left out. It hurts, doesn't it? Sometimes it's so painful that you just want to cry. But even in those moments, remember this: You are never truly alone. You belong to someone. First of all, you belong to your family - your mum, dad, brothers, sisters, and all your relatives. They love and care about you. But there's someone even greater who loves you even more. He watches over you every day, just like a shepherd watches over his sheep.





"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."
Ephesians 1:4

Imagine this: If you were a real sheep and wandered away, what would the shepherd do? He wouldn't forget about you. No! He would leave everything behind and search everywhere to find you. He'd look all night, through every valley and dark corner, until he found his lost sheep. You are like that precious sheep, and God is your Shepherd. He loves you so much that He will never leave you alone, no matter how far away you may feel.

Here's something even more amazing: Before God made anything - light, the sky/sea, plants, the sun & stars - He already knew you. Before He created the birds/fish, or animals and even Adam and Eve, God had you in His heart. He created you to belong to Him. Isn't it incredible to think that the same God who made the universe thought about you from the beginning? Today, God wants you to remember that you are His precious child, and He wants to hear you say that you want to belong to Him.

If you'd like, let's pray together:

"Dear God, thank You for thinking of me before You made the world. I want to belong to You. Please come into my heart and fill me with the joy of knowing that I am Yours. Amen."



Fiesta food!

Fiesta Joy Quesadillas

- Keep bowls of shredded chicken, stir-fry vegetables, chopped cabbage and slightly-sweetened curd.
- Children come to the serving table and take a chapati on their plate. Servers add the various ingredients and children return to their seats to fold and enjoy their quesadilla! Older children can return to the serving table for a second quesadilla.



Pedro says

Look for someone who is sitting alone and be a friend to them today!





Fiesta Craft!



"Before" booklet

Need:

- 1 book completed to show children
- 1 printout per child
- Coloured pencils, scissors, glue sticks
- Show how the completed book looks.
- Give each child a set of pages and ask them to colour the pictures.
- Cut out, glue the two pieces together and fold the paper so that "Before adam and Eve" is topmost picture.



Fiesta Books!

Use the worksheets for today's lesson to review the teaching with the children and help them to learn the memory verse.
Give the worksheets for the children to complete.



Fiesta Games!

"Guess the leader" game

Children stand in a big circle. Choose one child from the circle to be the "police person" and send them to one side, with eyes closed and ears covered!
Silently choose one child in the circle to be the leader – they will do an action that everyone else must copy. Invite the "police" to come and stand in the centre of the circle. The leader must keep changing the action and the "police" has 3 chances to guess who the leader is!
Repeat as many times as required with new "police" and leader.



Questions for older children:

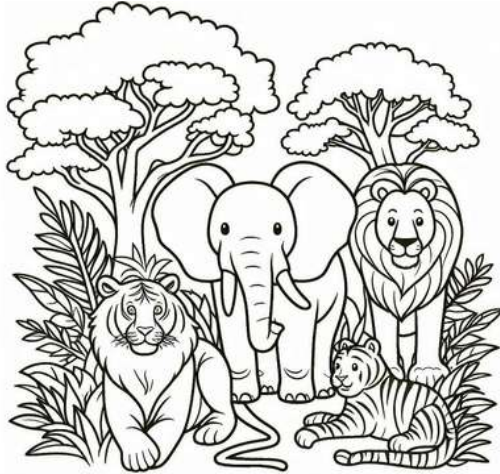
1. What is your favourite part of creation?
2. God thought about you before he created the world – write down 10 things He would have thought about about you.
3. Who do you belong to today?





Answers – Lesson 1

Easy book



Medium book

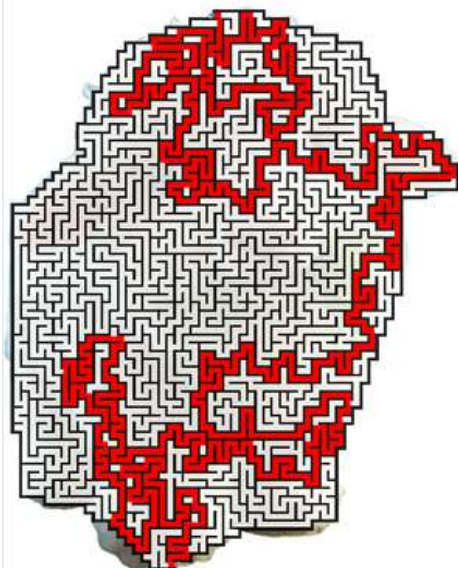
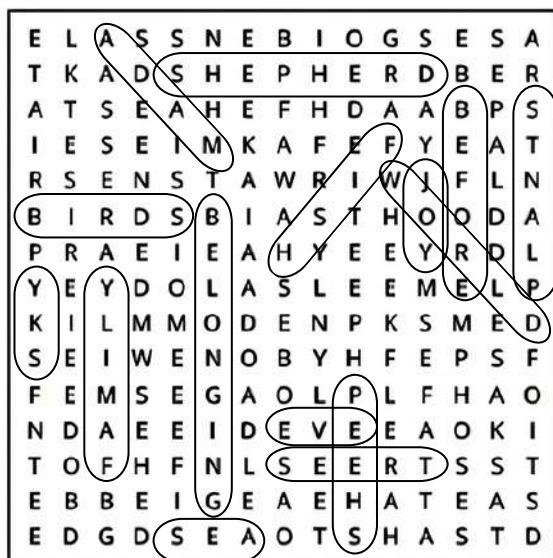


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10

Difficult book



2 The joy of Being known



Bible references: Mark 1:16–20; Matthew 9:9

“Follow the leader”

The leader stands at the front and does actions, saying either “Pedro says do this” or “do this”. Children must only do what Pedro says to do! “Do this...” means the children must not do that action!

Give each child 4 pieces of coloured paper as their “lives”

and collect one paper every time they do it wrong. Child/children with the most papers at the end wins/win! Keep the papers for repeating the game.



Warm Up!



Sheep tales

It was a hot day, and the sheep was sweating under his thick wool. The boy noticed and gave him a sombrero, saying, “This hat will keep the sun off your head. ‘Sombra’ means shade, and it will remind you that you live in the shade of the shepherd’s love.” The boy talked more, sharing how the shepherd knew him. The sheep was curious and asked the boy how the shepherd could know him. The boy explained that the great shepherd knows everything about him and loves him deeply. The sheep was amazed and excited, realizing that being known and loved by the shepherd meant never being alone again.



Lesson

Can you think of all the people who know you? Maybe your neighbours know your name and the things you like to do, like riding your bike or playing cricket. Your teachers know what subjects you’re good at—maybe English or history—and where you might struggle a little, like in math. Your friends know you’re kind and that you like to share your snacks and toys with them. And, of course, your family—your parents, brothers, and sisters—probably know you the best of all. They know what makes you laugh, what makes you sad, and all the things that make you you.

But did you know that there’s someone who knows you even better than all of them? God knows everything about you. Even before you were born, even before the world was created, God thought about you! Isn’t that amazing? He knew your name before anyone else ever did. God knows everyone’s name, and He calls each person to come and follow Him.





You have
searched me,
Lord, and you
know me.
Psalm 139:1

When Jesus called His 12 disciples, He didn't need to ask anyone, "Hey, what's that fisherman's name?" He already knew! He knew Simon Peter, James, John, and Matthew, the tax collector, by name. He didn't need to look at their ID cards or name tags. Jesus knew who they were because He knows everything about everyone.

And just like He knew His disciples, Jesus knows you. He knows your name and how it's spelled. He knows your favorite things, like your favorite snack or sweet treat. He even knows if you don't like sweet things! But here's something even more special: Jesus knows the things that are in your heart—the thoughts, worries, and dreams that you might not have shared with anyone else. He understands you more deeply than even your family or your very best friend. How wonderful is it to be known like that? Jesus is a friend who is closer than anyone else. He knows everything about you and still loves you so much!

Let's close our eyes and thank Jesus for this amazing gift. Ask Him to fill you with the joy of being fully known and loved by Him. "Dear Jesus, thank You for knowing me and loving me. Please help me feel the joy of belonging to You. Amen."



Fiesta food!

Fiesta Joy Burritos!

- Serve the children a chapatti on their plate.
- Keep bowls of beans, grated cheese and curd. Servers help the children put these onto their chapatti.
- Children return to their seats to roll and enjoy their burrito! Older children may enjoy a second burrito!



Pedro says

Find someone you don't know very well and ask them about their favourite foods, game, movie, colour and animal.





Fiesta Craft!

Decorate sheep

Need:

- Printout picture per child
 - White kite paper/paper tissues
 - Glue sticks/paper glue
 - Coloured pencils/crayons
-
- Children rip the kite paper/tissue papers into small pieces and scrunch them in to balls. They then apply a thin layer of glue on the sheep's body and stick the paper balls on.
 - They can colour the surrounding areas with coloured pencils/crayons



Fiesta Books!

Use the worksheets for today's lesson to review the teaching with the children and help them to learn the memory verse.
Give the worksheets for the children to complete.



Fiesta Games!

"Pot's Mouth" Game

Make the pots according to the instructions given in the games booklet.

Need: 5 newspaper balls per team

Make teams of 5-8 children and have them stand in team lines facing the pots. The first child in each team throws the 5 newspaper balls, aiming to get the balls into the pot's open mouth! Score 10 points for every successful throw!

Collect the newspaper balls, the first child moves to the back of the line and the second child takes their turn. Continue to the last child has played and then repeat until every child has had two chances to play.



Questions for older children:

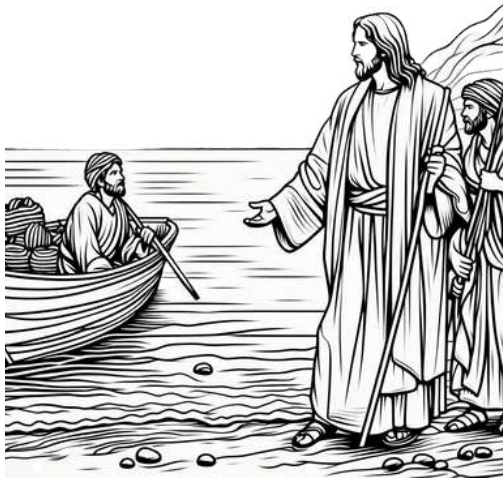
1. Make a list of the different groups of people who know you.
2. Which people on the list know you best?
3. What does God know about you? How does that make you feel?





Answers – Lesson 2

Easy book



Medium book

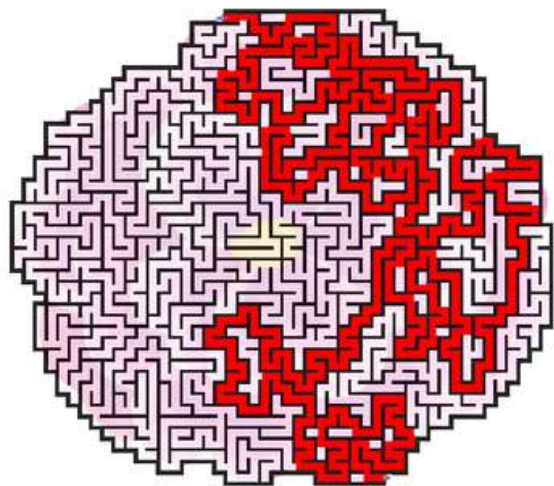
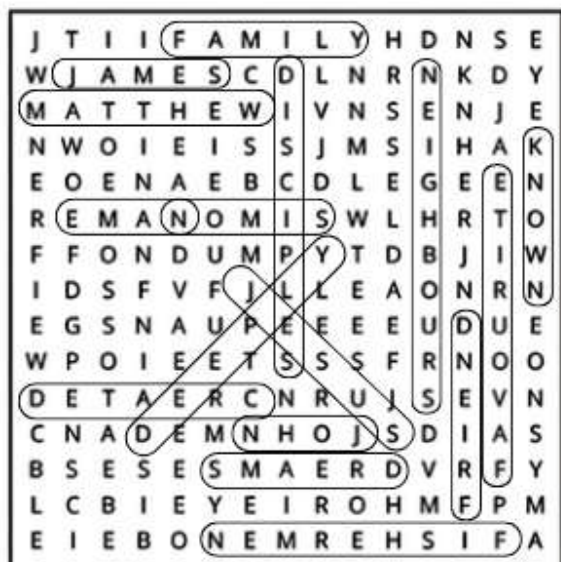


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17

Difficult book



3 The joy of Hearing God



Bible references: 1 Kings 19:9-13

"Hola baa siesta fiesta!"

(need the stick puppets of Sheepy and Pedro)

Play the game as before, but now when you show the back of Pedro (his hat), children shout "siesta" and when you show the back Of Sheepy, children shout "fiesta"!

Show at random and increase the speed as the children become more confident! Children saying the wrong word are "out" and must sit down.



Warm Up!



Sheep tales

After some time, the boy smiled and said, "Hi, I'm Pedro. What's your name?" "Sheepy," the little sheep replied, beaming with joy. It felt wonderful to know that both Pedro and the shepherd now knew his name! As they ate their lunch—cheese tacos for Pedro and fresh grass for Sheepy—Pedro began sharing something amazing: how he often talked with the shepherd, and the shepherd talked back to him! Pedro could hear the shepherd's voice? He could talk with him? That was amazing! Sheepy couldn't believe what he was hearing. "If only I knew what the shepherd's voice sounded like," sighed Sheepy. "You will, Sheepy. The shepherd knows you, and in time, you'll learn to hear his voice too. It takes practice and a heart that's willing to listen," replied Pedro.



Lesson

Elijah was a prophet who loved God very much. He spent his life following God's instructions and helping others understand God's ways. But one day, Elijah felt scared and alone. He was being chased by people who didn't like that he was doing God's work, and Elijah felt like he had no one to turn to. So, Elijah went to a quiet cave in the mountains, where he could be alone and wait for God to speak to him. Elijah was desperate to hear God's voice and to be reminded that God was with him. While Elijah waited in the cave, he experienced something powerful. First, a mighty wind came rushing through the mountains. It was so strong that it broke the rocks into pieces! Elijah might have thought that God was in the wind, but God wasn't there. Then, the ground began to shake as a great earthquake rumbled through the mountains. Surely, God's voice would be in the earthquake, but again, Elijah didn't hear God. After the earthquake, a fire swept through the mountains. It was fierce and bright, but God wasn't in the fire either.





After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.
1 Kings 19:12

Elijah was left in the quiet, waiting and wondering when he would hear God's voice. Finally, after all the noise and chaos, Elijah heard something different—a gentle, soft whisper. And that whisper was God speaking to him. In that quiet moment, God reassured Elijah that he wasn't alone, and that God was with him, guiding him every step of the way. Just like Elijah had to be still and patient to hear God's gentle whisper, we often need to quiet our hearts and wait for God to speak to us. Sometimes, we expect God to speak through big, loud events, but His voice can come to us in the quiet moments when we are listening carefully. Sheepy, like Elijah, needed to learn that God doesn't always speak through the noise and excitement of life. God's voice can be a soft, gentle whisper, reminding us that He knows us, loves us, and is always with us. When we take the time to be still and listen, we can hear God's voice guiding us too. Let's pray together. "Dear Jesus, please help me to hear your quiet whisper in my heart. I want to know the joy of hearing your voice. Amen."



Fiesta food!

Fiesta Joy Macaroni!

1. Fry chopped onions and tomatoes, add ginger-garlic paste, and cook. Add chili powder and salt according to taste.
2. Remove from heat, allow to cool and then grind to a paste. Mix the paste into cooked macaroni/pasta and garnish with chopped coriander leaves and grated cheese (optional).



Pedro says

Be kind to someone today - help them with their work, share pencils etc with them.





Fiesta Craft!

Sombrero Hats

Need:

- Example hat to show children
 - Sombrero printout per child
 - ½ sheet of chart paper per child
 - Coloured pencils, crayons etc
 - Scissors, glues, stapler and staples/sticky tape
- Each child colours their sombrero hat printout in bright colours.
 - Cut out the hat and glue onto chart paper. Allow to dry and then cut around the hat.
 - Make a headband for each child using a strip of chart paper to fit the child's head, fasten with staples/tape
 - Staple the centre of the sombrero hat onto the front of the headband.



Fiesta Books!

Use the worksheets for today's lesson to review the teaching with the children and help them to learn the memory verse. Give the worksheets for the children to complete.



Fiesta Games!

Sombrero Hat Throw

Need: a paper floor target and x5 sombrero hats per team (see games booklet)

- Teams stand in lines and the children take turns in their team to throw the hats, aiming to land them on the sheep! Score 10 points for every hat fully on the sheep and 5 points for hats touching the sheep. Team with the most points wins!



Questions for older children:

1. What are all the different voices in your life? (family, teachers, friends, internet etc)
2. Can you think of examples of when the "voices" have told you opposite things?
(God created the world/the world started with a big bang, forgive/fight back etc)
3. Where can you find the truth for these examples?



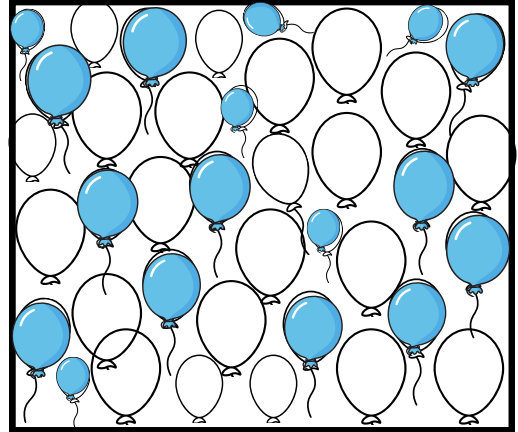


Answers – Lesson 3

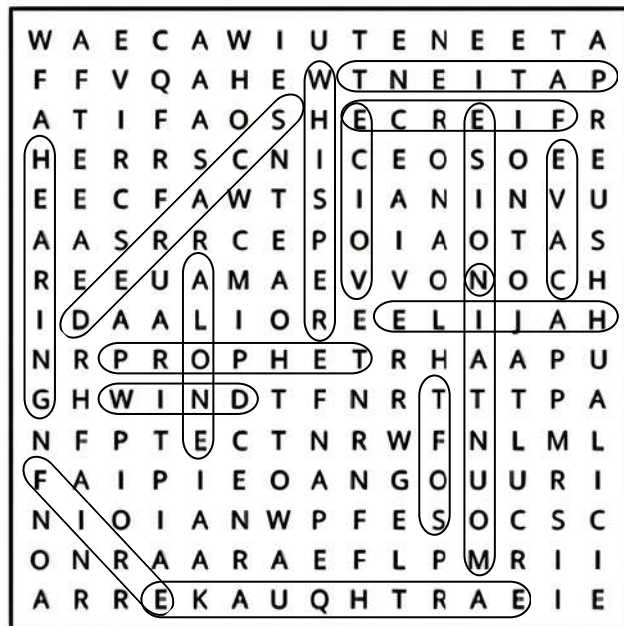
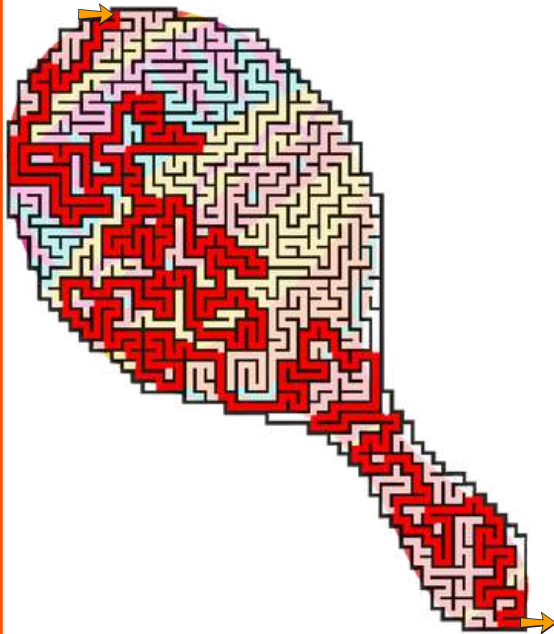
Easy book



Medium book



Difficult book



4 The joy of Knowing God

Bible references: Psalms 5; 8; 23; 90:1-4



"Idli chutney"

Choose 5 children to come to the front. They are to look very serious! Ask them a series of questions but the only answer they can give is "idli chutney" (or any local food). If they smile or laugh whilst saying this, they must return to their seat.

(If children are younger, give them 3 chances to answer without smiling/laughing)



Warm Up!



Sheep tales

By late afternoon, the sun was beginning to set behind the trees, and Sheepy felt something new and wonderful in his heart. It was a warm, joyful feeling that made him want to dance and sing! As he watched the townspeople enjoying the fiesta, Sheepy realized that in his heart, there was a fiesta too. He was known by the shepherd, the shepherd loved him, and even talked to him! This was completely different from the loneliness he felt earlier that morning when he first entered the town. Eager to know more about the shepherd, Sheepy begged Pedro to tell him how he could grow closer to him. Patiently, Pedro shared everything he had learned about the shepherd and how to know him better.



Lesson

We get to know people best when we spend time with them. Whether it's sitting together at lunch, playing games, or just talking about life, those moments help us understand who they are, what they enjoy, and how they feel about things. We listen to their words and learn about their hearts—what makes them happy, what makes them sad, and what they value most. Relationships grow when we invest time and care into knowing each other.

In the same way, we get to know God by spending time with Him. David, who wrote many of the Psalms, is a wonderful example of this. David didn't just know about God; he knew God. He understood who God is, what God thinks about things, and how God sees the world. David often wrote about God's love, power, and wisdom, and he praised God for His goodness and faithfulness. But how did David learn these things? He learned by spending time with God, reading and meditating on the Scriptures, and pouring out his heart in prayer and worship.





"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me"
John 10:14



Fiesta food!

Fiesta Joy Nachos!

Place the selected ingredients in bowls on the serving table – grated cheese, shredded chicken, rajma/kidney beans, chopped salad and sweetened curd.

Give each child a portion of nachos and toppings of their choice.



Pedro says

Find someone different to sit with today and do your work together/eat food together.





Fiesta Craft!



FIESTA memory verse booklet

Need:

- Completed book to show
 - 1 Printout per child
 - Coloured pencils
 - Scissors, glue sticks
- Show the memory verse book to the children and explain how important it is for us to learn Bible verses.
 - Give each child a printout to colour and then cut out. Glue together and fold the book.



Fiesta Books!

Use the worksheets for today's lesson to review the teaching with the children and help them to learn the memory verse.

Give the worksheets for the children to complete.



Fiesta Games!

Fiesta Joy Bingo!

Give each child a Bingo picture card and a pencil and explain how to play the game. As each picture is shown to the children, they put a line through that picture on their card. You can have winners for first full line to be crossed off, first one to cross all 4 corners, first to get a diagonal line of crossed pictures etc and then the final winner has the full card of pictures crossed through!

Play again, this time putting a line in the opposite direction on pictures to make a cross.



Questions for older children:

1. How many Bible verses can you say from memory?
2. When can you make time in the day to read the Bible and talk with God?
3. What changes do you need to make in your routine?





Answers – Lesson 4

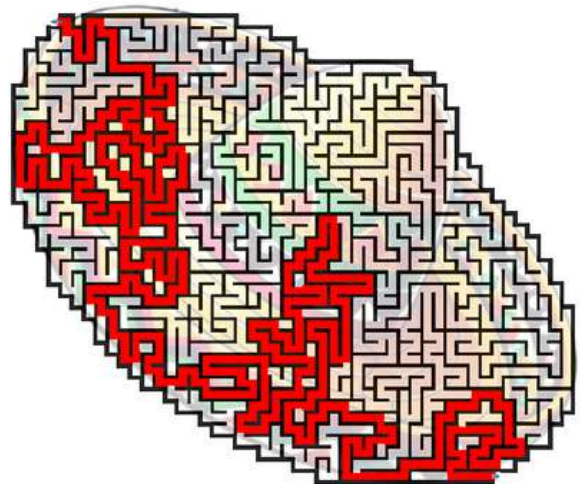
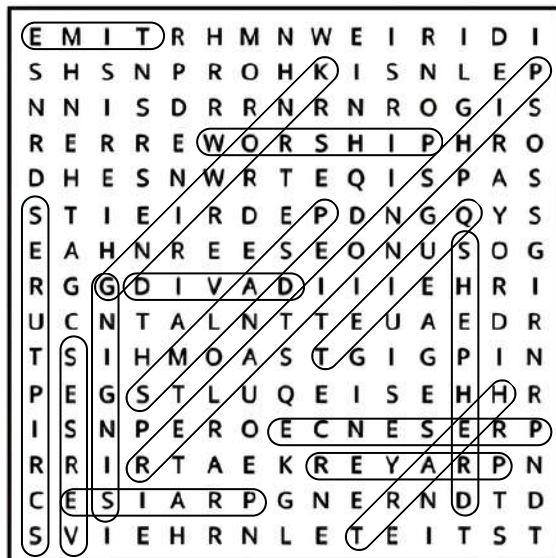
Easy book



Medium book



Difficult book



5 The joy of Obeying

Bible references: Genesis 6:9–22



WOW POP TOT!

Call 5 children to the front. Explain that the square shape is called WOW and the triangle shape is POP. As you show the cards one by one, the children must correctly say the shapes' names in the order in the picture (example, WOW POP POP!) Children who say it wrong must return to their seat. Repeat with 5 more children as time allows.



Warm Up!



Sheep tales

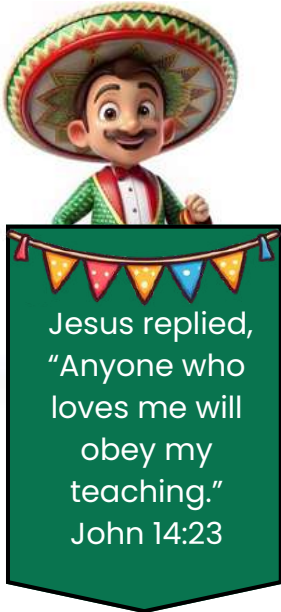
As afternoon turned to evening, Sheepy was captivated by Pedro's stories about the shepherd. Pedro spoke with such love and joy, sharing how he wanted to please the shepherd in everything he did. This was new for Sheepy. He had never thought about pleasing the shepherd before, but now the idea filled him with excitement. The thought of bringing joy to the shepherd made him feel so happy that he couldn't sit still any longer—he just had to get up and dance! Grabbing a guitar, he strummed a tune while Pedro shook some maracas, and together they danced and sang with pure joy. "No time for siesta when it's God's fiesta!" he shouted, and they laughed as they celebrated the goodness of the shepherd. It was a moment filled with joy, love, and the wonder of being known.



Lesson

The Bible teaches us that God is pleased when we obey Him, even if what He asks us to do seems unusual or difficult. Obedience is an act of trust and love, showing that we believe God knows what is best. One example of this is the story of Noah – a man who knew God and spent time with Him. He listened carefully to God and did what He said. One day, God told Noah to build an ark—a massive boat—because a great flood was coming. This was a strange command! At that time, it had likely never rained in the way we understand rain today. Building a huge boat must have seemed unnecessary to others. People probably laughed at Noah and thought he was wasting his time. But Noah didn't let that stop him. He trusted God, listened to His instructions, and obeyed. It was a good thing that Noah obeyed, because the rain did come! The ark saved Noah, his family, and the animals God had told him to bring. Noah's obedience not only pleased God, but it also saved lives and fulfilled God's plan.





Jesus replied,
"Anyone who
loves me will
obey my
teaching."
John 14:23

This story reminds us that even when obedience feels hard or doesn't make sense to us, it is always the right choice. God sees the bigger picture and knows what is best for us. God wants us to have hearts that are willing to listen to Him and choose obedience. Sometimes, obeying God might mean doing things differently from our friends or family. It might feel uncomfortable, but obedience brings joy because it draws us closer to God. Can you think of some things that God asks us to do that are uncomfortable? When we choose to follow Him, we experience His love and the satisfaction of knowing we have pleased Him. As we learn to listen to God's voice and trust Him, we will discover the deep joy that comes from pleasing the One who knows and loves us best. Let's pray together, "Father God, please help me to hear Your voice and choose to obey You. I want to know the joy of obeying. Amen."



Fiesta food!

Fiesta Joy Aroz con Lecha!

1. Cook the rice - the rice is simmered in water with cinnamon sticks until partially cooked. Add milk, and sugar for taste. Simmer (cook on low heat) until the rice absorbs the liquid and the pudding becomes creamy.
2. Aroz con lecha can be served warm, at room temperature, or chilled. Sprinkle with ground cinnamon before serving (optional).



Pedro says

Ask three different children what they have enjoyed most in Fiesta!





Fiesta Craft!

Joy pictures

Need:

- 1 picture per child
 - Pencils
 - Coloured pencils
- Give each child a paper and ask them to write in each star something they are taking away from this camp (younger children will need help with writing). They can then colour the picture.



Fiesta Books!

Use the worksheets for today's lesson to review the teaching with the children and help them to learn the memory verse. Give the worksheets for the children to complete.



Fiesta Games!

Musical Forfeits

Place 3 coloured balls into a bag. Children sit in a circle and as music plays, they pass an object around the circle (could be a sheep toy or a ball etc). When the music stops, the child holding the object must pick a ball from the bag without looking. The colour of the ball decides who will do the forfeit – for example, pink ball means all girls do the forfeit, blue ball means all boys do the forfeits and green means no one does a forfeit. Repeat as required



Questions for older children:

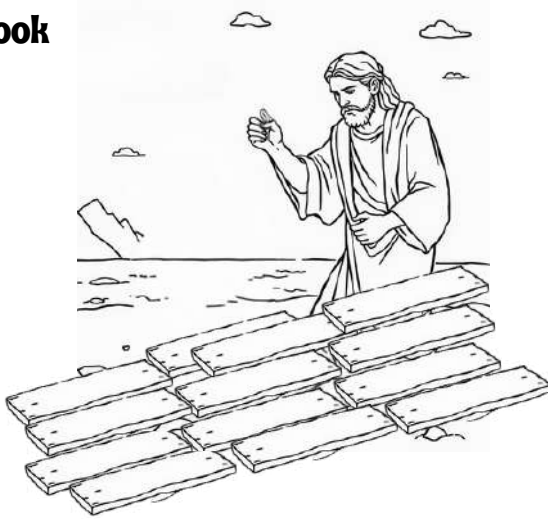
1. Can you think of something God asks us to do that is difficult to do?
2. Why do you think we find it difficult to do?
3. Which is more important, pleasing our friends or obeying God? Ask God to help you obey him.



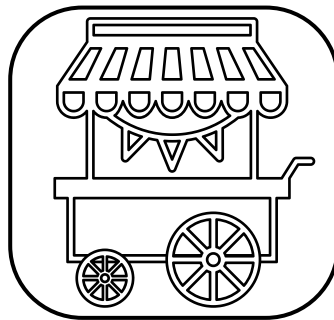


Answers – Lesson 5

Easy book

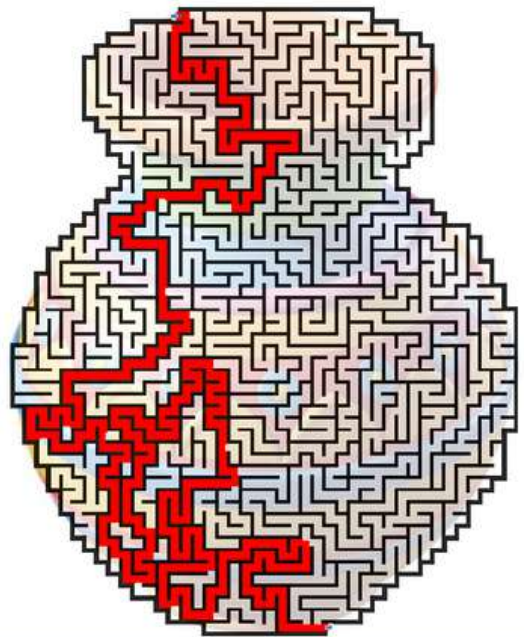
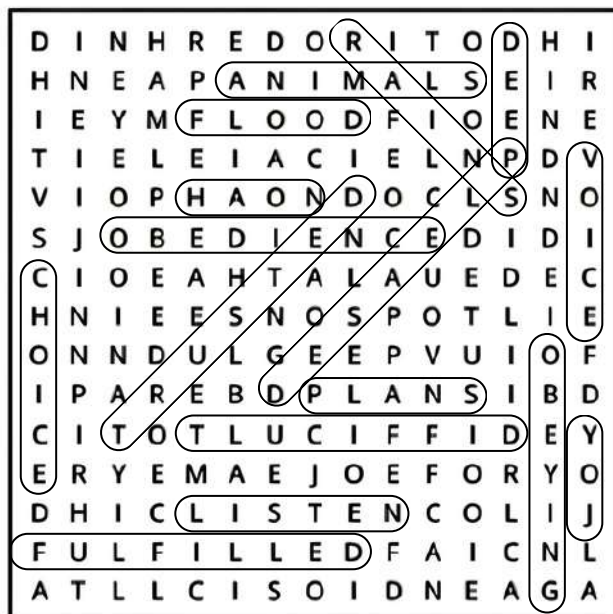


Medium book



11 differences

Difficult book





*Dear Teachers,
as you have laboured this week to bless
the children attending your VBS
classes, I believe God would say to you,*



"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.



Isaiah 55:8-11 NIV



Angie Moses

