

Church Time[®]

2s & 3s

Total Bible Learning[®]

**YOUR
COMPLETE
QUARTER'S
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH!**

**Lesson Plans &
Activities**

**Reproducible Student
Activity Sheets**

Sheet Music



UNIT THEMES

Jesus as a Baby

Jesus as a Boy

Jesus as a Man



HOW TO USE THIS PACKET

Your *Church Time*® packet contains all the curriculum you need to lead your children in heart-changing, Scripture-based worship of the Lord. The following is an overview of *Church Time*®:

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES)

Children who have been in Sunday School for an hour need a break, including a stop at the rest room. After this and a time of warm greeting and free play, have a snack. You may want to have a standard snack from week to week, such as cookies and juice, which can be provided by parents. Or you may want to have a snack that relates to the theme of the lesson. Each *Church Time*® lesson gives ideas for theme-related snacks. *Be sure to check with parents for any food allergies your children may have.* Then let your children rest (five to ten minutes). Children may rest better if a team member “rests” with them.

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES)

There is an activity suggestion each week that will help you introduce the Bible Truth and prepare your children for worship.

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STORY TIME (20 MINUTES)

Central to your worship time is the Bible story, which is age-appropriate and true to Scripture. To help make the Bible story “real” to the children, consider illustrating them with the colorful visuals from our 2s & 3s Sunday School *Teaching Resources*. You can share with the Sunday School teacher, or perhaps you will want to order a resource packet for your classroom. You will also find suggestions for alternate ways of telling the Bible story. Songsheets are provided at the end of this *Church Time*® manual for the songs you will use most often this quarter. The music has more songs than those included on the songsheets. These quarterly MP3s are called *Let’s Sing Motions ‘n Music*. Additionally, throughout the lessons and on the songsheets, songs are recommended that can be sung to such familiar tunes as “Farmer in the Dell” and “London Bridge.”

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10–15 MINUTES)

A follow-up art or craft activity can help reinforce the Bible Truth each week. Specific recommendations appear in the *Church Time*® lesson. What the children do with their hands will help bring the Bible Truth home to their hearts.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE)

One teacher can meet parents at the door while the other team members help children gather their Bibles, papers, and other belongings. Should your adult worship service go longer than expected, won’t it be nice to have activities or games for the children when they are finished with their craft? This packet has fun suggestions that reinforce the Bible Truth each week.

M A T E R I A L S I N C L U D E D

☐ **Lesson Plans (pp. 1–26):**

These weekly lesson plans will help you provide your children a full hour of music, activities, and time in God’s Word. Pages are detachable so the lessons can be given to several teachers throughout the quarter.

☐ **Copymasters (pp. 27–39):**

Enrich your learning time with these fun activities, which you may copy for each child. Copymasters also include the memory verse and a family time suggestion.

☐ **Music (pp. 40–45):**

Songsheets and the MP3s will help you lead your children in worship and give them opportunity to move large muscles as they act out Bible stories to music. Songsheets are reproducible for classroom use only.

ICON KEY:



TEACHER SUPPLIED
RESOURCE



STUDENT
ACTIVITY



MUSIC



VISUAL
TEACHING AID



PUPPET




PRAYER

AN ANGEL TELLS GOOD NEWS


LESSON ONE

UNIT 1: JESUS AS A BABY

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve birthday cookies or cupcakes to help the children remember that Christmas is the time we remember Jesus' birth. *Be sure to check with parents regarding their children's food allergies or other dietary restrictions.* You'll also want to recognize your children's birthdays each week, as discussed in the Hands-to-Hearts activity below.

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Christmas Decorating:** As a special treat for your children, involve them in decorating your room for the Christmas season. To prepare them for today's lesson, provide each child with a white construction-paper angel to hang in a special place in your room. Talk about angels being God's special messengers from heaven.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38, 46-47;
Matthew 1:18-25

Bible Truth

An angel tells God's good news.

Life Response Aim

To share the excitement of God's good news, and thank God for sending Jesus to be born.

Bible Verse


Galatians 4:4

Materials Needed

Cookies or cupcakes;
construction-paper angels;
Copymaster 1, copied for each child; crayons, tape, yarn, glue sticks, colored glitter, and a hole punch


Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* or both.


Today we'll hear about an angel who was sent to earth from heaven to give someone a wonderful message from God.

 Introduce the song "Bye-low, Baby Jesus" by singing it softly while the children hang up the angels. You may also want to play some of your favorite Christmas music.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

 **Offering:** Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.

 **Bible Story:** Tell the story using the actions given and any Bible art you have that will fit the story.

 **Today I am going to whisper some good news to you.** Whisper a short sentence into each child's ear—something simple, such as *Jesus loves you*. If you have a large class, have team members assist, with all of you saying the same sentence. Then sing "I Have a Message for You."

You are such good listeners! Now let's listen to a Bible story about a young woman named Mary. God had a very special message for her. Whenever I say angel, cup both hands behind your ears to show that you are listening to the special message that God sent. Demonstrate.

Mary loved God and often talked to Him in prayer. God was pleased with Mary. One day God had wonderful good news to tell Mary. It was very special news, so God sent a special messenger, an angel, [cup hands behind ears] to tell her.

The angel [cup hands] was shining so brightly that Mary was startled. But the angel [cup hands] said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God loves you very much."

And then the angel [cup hands] said, "Mary, you are going to have a very special little Baby Boy. He will be God's own Son, and you shall name Him Jesus."

What wonderful good news! How happy Mary must have been! She

was going to be the mother of God's own Son!


"I'm glad, I'm glad," sang Mary. "Thank You, God. Oh, thank You!"


This was very, very important news, so the angel [cup hands] told the good news to Joseph, who was to be Mary's husband.

The angel [cup hands] said to Joseph, "Mary is going to have a very special Baby. He will be God's own Son. And you shall name Him Jesus." What wonderful good news!

How surprised Joseph must have been to hear this wonderful news!

Mary and Joseph probably prayed and said, "Thank You, God, for loving us and sending Your very special Son." They were glad that God sent His messenger, the angel [cup hands], with such good news.

 **Worship in Song:** Sing again “Bye-low, Baby Jesus.” Then introduce “Happy Bells Are Ringing.” **Bells are often used to bring us a message, and the best message of all is the message we hear in our Bible words for today.**

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Take some time to help your children learn today’s Bible words. Use these hand actions to teach each part of the verse: Point up for God; point out in a sweeping motion for sending forth; cradle your arms for His Son.

 **Life Application:** This “Mary Loves Jesus” fingerplay will reinforce the Life Response Aim about sharing the excitement of the news that the angel told Mary and Joseph.

Long ago an angel came,

[Cup hands behind ears.]

“A Child will be born,

[Hold arms as if cradling a baby.]

And Jesus is His name.”

[Point up.]

Here is Baby Jesus.

[Hold up index finger.]

Let’s put Him to bed,

[Place index finger in palm of other hand.]

And wrap Him up snug,

[Close hand around index finger.]

All but His wee head.

[Show end of finger sticking out.]


And should He cry, let’s put Him right here,

[Put index finger on shoulder.]




And pretend we are Mary, who loved Jesus dear.

[Bend head next to finger and cuddle.]


HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10-15 MINUTES):



 **God’s Special Messenger:** You will need copies of Copymaster 1, crayons, tape, yarn, glue sticks, colored glitter, and a hole punch for this activity. (Brandon), **would you like to make an angel ornament to help decorate your home this Christmas? You can tell Mom and Dad that God’s angel came to tell Mary and Joseph the good news that Jesus would be born. You can tell them our Bible words.** Repeat the Bible words, which are on the copymaster.

Give the children each a copy of Copymaster 1 and crayons to color the angel. Show them how to fold back and tape the corners behind the picture so the Bible words and family activity are on the back. Then help them put glue around the decorative border of this ornament and sprinkle colored glitter. Punch a hole at the top and loop a piece of yarn through the hole as a hanger.

   **Birthday Ornaments:** Birthdays are important to your children. From their birthdays, children get the understanding that they are growing up. You will want to make time each week to celebrate this special occasion by letting the birthday children color special Christmas ornaments made from construction paper. Print the children’s names on the ornaments in advance. If you have a place in the room that is decorated for Christmas, let the children’s ornaments become part of the display. Sing “Happy Birthday,” and don’t forget to pray, thanking God for the birthday child.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 You will want to take the opportunity to pray with your children before they leave. If you have additional time, try this activity:

  **I Have a Message for You:** Have the children sit in a semi-circle in front of you. Using a whisper voice, say loud enough for the children to hear: **I have a message for _____.** Fill in the blank with something several of the children have in common, such as **everyone wearing blue.** The children wearing blue will come to hear the message. Whisper softly **God’s Son was born** or some other message you choose. Have the children in blue sit beside you. Continue until all the children have heard the message. Repeat the activity with other messages as time and interest permit; then sing “I Have a Message for You.”

MARY AND JOSEPH LOVE JESUS

LESSON TWO

JESUS AS A BABY

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):



Snack Time: Young children enjoy snacks that remind them of the lesson theme. This week you could prepare a refreshment that will delight them. Use a bell-shaped cookie cutter on pieces of thinly sliced bread. Spread the shape with peanut butter or cream cheese. If you prefer, use an angel-shape to help children recall last week's lesson. *Remember to always check with parents concerning food allergies or restrictions.*

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):



Christmas Bells: Give the children each a clothespin (non-clip type), a piece of chenille wire, and two jingle bells. Help the children use the chenille wire to attach the bells to the head of the clothespin. For younger children, you may want to have completed bells. They can ring their bells while singing this song to the tune of "Jingle Bells." Collect the bells before going to the story area.

**Christmas bells, Christmas bells
Ring on Christmas day.
Tell each happy boy and girl
God's Son was born today.**

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

Bible Truth

God sent His Son to be born.

Life Response Aim

To love God for sending Jesus,
and to associate the joys of
Christmas with His birth.

Bible Verse

Galatians 4:4

Materials Needed

Snack; clothespins, chenille
wire, jingle bells; Copymaster
2, copied for each child;
construction paper; crayons;
and glue

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found
on the songsheets at the end of this manual or
the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.



Bible Story: The children may enjoy doing the actions indicated by the italicized words as you tell the story.

One day an angel came to Mary and told her that she was going to be the mother of God's own Son! Then Joseph and Mary had to take a long trip. Mary probably rode on a donkey.

***Clip-clop! Clip-clop!* trotted the tired feet of Mary's donkey.**

***Step-step! Step-step!* walked the tired feet of Joseph. When they came to Bethlehem, they had to find a place to sleep. But all the inns and houses were full of tired and sleepy people.**

Mary and Joseph probably went to one house, then another, and another! Each time Joseph would knock on the door. Each time a man would *shake his head* and say, "Sorry, we don't have room for you," or "No room!" At last one man said there wasn't room in his house, but they could sleep in his stable barn if they wanted to. They were so tired! So they went into the stable where animals lived.

Something very wonderful happened in that stable! God's own Son was born to Mary. Mary *wrapped* Baby Jesus up snug and warm, round and round in warm cloth or swaddling clothes. There was no bed for Baby Jesus, so Joseph got the donkey's feed box, called a

manger. He brought the box so Mary could *lay* Baby Jesus on the hay in that manger.

How happy Mary must have been! How happy Joseph must have been! Mary and Joseph probably thanked God many times for loving them and sending His own Son, Jesus.



As an alternative to the story or as a review, teach the children this song to the tune of "Old MacDonald."

**Mary and Joseph came to town—
Little Bethlehem.**

**And in that town there was no room,
for them in the inn.**

**They looked over here and looked over there.
No room here, no room there,
there was no room anywhere!**


**Mary and Joseph came to town—
Little Bethlehem.**

**So in a stable they did stay,
curled up in some hay.**

**And on the hay God's Son was born—
that first Christmas day.**

**Mary held Him close; and Joseph was glad.
I am glad; You are glad;**

**We are glad every day.
For in that stable far away,
Jesus Christ was born.**

 **Worship in Song:** Sing “Bye-low, Baby Jesus” and “The Swaddling Clothes Song.” Then hand out the bells the children made in Preparing Their Hearts time and sing this song again (tune: “Jingle Bells”).

Christmas bells, Christmas bells

Ring on Christmas day.

Tell each happy boy and girl

God’s Son was born today.

Then sing “I Have a Message for You.” **Isn’t it good to know that Jesus loves us? Do you think it would be good for us to tell Jesus that we love Him? Yes, I think so too. Let’s sing a song that tells Him that we love Him.** Sing “Dear Jesus, I Love You.”

 **Remembering the Bible Truth: How do we know that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world?**

Because the Bible tells us so. Open your Bible to show the children that the memory verse is from the Bible. Use these hand actions introduced last week to review each part of the verse:

Point up for God.

Point out in a sweeping motion for sending forth.

Cradle your arms for His Son.

 **Thank You, God, for sending Your Son to be our Saviour. We love You. Amen.**

 **Life Application:** To reinforce the Life Response Aim of associating the joys of Christmas with Jesus’ birth, try this action rhyme together.

This is Baby Jesus

(Hold up forefinger.)

Sleeping in the hay.

(Put forefinger in palm of other hand.)

Wrap Him up with swaddling clothes;

(Cover with thumb and other fingers.)

He’s warm and snug that way.

(Hold hands to chest.)

Here’s His mother, Mary,

(Raise forefinger of clasped hand.)

And this is Joseph too.


(Raise tall finger of same hand.)

Watching while He’s sleeping.

They’re glad Jesus came. Aren’t you?

(Point to your huge smile and nod.)



HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10-15 MINUTES):

 **God Sent His Son:** For this activity you’ll need a copy of Copymaster 2 for each child, strips of yellow construction paper (optional), sheets of brown construction paper, crayons, and glue. Before class, cut off the strip with the memory verse and family activity suggestion from Copymaster 2. Give the children the picture of Baby Jesus and have them color the straw, hair, and anything else they would like to color. Then they can glue the picture to a sheet of brown construction paper, which represents the manger, and glue the memory verse strip on the back. If you’d like, give the children strips of yellow construction paper for them to glue on as straw. Curl these strips for added realism.

God showed us how much He loves us by sending Jesus to be born.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 Be sure to close in prayer with your children. If you have additional time, try this activity:

  **Christmas Storybooks:** Have several children’s Christmas storybooks available for your children to look through. Read some with them. If some of the children want to talk about secular Christmas topics, such as Santa Claus, this would be a good opportunity to help the children understand the true meaning of Christmas without infringing upon family traditions.

We do many fun things at Christmastime, but remember that the real reason for celebrating Christmas is the wonderful gift that God gave us—His Son, Jesus. Say the Bible words as a reminder that the Bible tells us that God sent His Son as the best Christmas gift of all.

THE SHEPHERDS LOVE JESUS

LESSON THREE

UNIT 1: JESUS AS A BABY

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

Snack Time: Cream cheese and raisins on graham crackers can make fun and tasty “sheep” snacks. Put several small piles of cream cheese on a graham cracker. The cream cheese piles are the bodies of the sheep, and the graham cracker is the field or sheepfold. Then put raisins on the bodies for the sheep’s “heads.” *Be aware of food allergies and provide alternative snacks as appropriate.*

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

Cotton-Ball Sheep: To introduce today’s Bible story, have the children make cotton-ball sheep. Give each child a large cotton ball to roll into the shape of a plump sheep “body.” Show the children how to make the legs from two pieces of chenille wire. Wrap one wire around the front end of the cotton-ball “body” and twist it twice to hold it in place. Bend the ends to make the front legs of the sheep. Do the same for the back legs. Now the “sheep” can stand on the wire legs.

Sheep need shepherds to take care of them. Our Bible story today is about shepherds who heard good news.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 2:8-20

Bible Truth

Angels told the shepherds about Jesus’ birth.

Life Response Aim

To thank God for sending Jesus, and to share the shepherds’ joy.

Bible Verse

Galatians 4:4

Materials Needed

Cream cheese, crackers, raisins; cotton balls, chenille wire; Copymaster 3, copied for each child; glue, crayons, cotton balls, paint materials, black construction paper, tape

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let’s Sing Motions ‘n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.



Bible Story: Tell the story, using simple props and costumes to help keep the children’s attention.

It was nighttime—dark and quiet. Tired mother and father sheep and baby lambs were sleeping on the ground. Shepherds were watching their sleeping sheep and baby lambs to be sure nothing hurt them while they slept. All was very quiet. What do you think happened next?

All of a sudden a wonderful thing happened! A bright light came from the sky onto the shepherds. The sky was so bright that the shepherds were very frightened!

But an angel from heaven came and said, “Don’t be afraid. I have good news to tell you and all the people! God’s own Son was born today! You will know Him when you see the Baby all wrapped up and lying in a manger bed.”

Suddenly some more bright and shining angels came and said happy thanks to God. Oh, it must have been wonderful to see the whole sky filled with shining, joyful angels!

Then the angels went away. The shepherds couldn’t wait to see God’s Son, Jesus! They were so excited! They said, “Let’s go right away and see the Baby.” And they did!

The shepherds found little Baby Jesus, God’s own Son, in His manger bed, just as the angel had said.

They looked and looked at Baby Jesus. Oh, how they loved Him!


Then they started back to their sheep. On their way, the excited shepherds told everyone they saw, “God sent His Son.” Oh, how glad they were! We are glad too that God loves us and sent His Son.


As an alternative, try this clapping story. Have the children sit and lead them in alternately clapping their hands and laps. They won’t be able to do this well, but they enjoy trying as you say the story in rhythm to your own claps.


As SHEP-herds WATCHED their SHEEP by NIGHT,
An AN-gel GAVE them SUCH a FRIGHT.

“Don’t BE a-FRAID,” the AN-gel SAID,
“The SAV-iour’s IN a MAN-ger BED.”


Then TO the MAN-ger THEY did COME,
And THERE they FOUND God’s ON-ly SON.

 **Worship in Song:** Sing the first two verses of “Shepherd’s Song.” **What wonderful news the angels brought the shepherds. Oh, how beautiful it must have sounded when the angels praised God. Did you know that God is pleased when we sing praises to Him? Let’s sing some songs to praise Him.** Sing “Dear Jesus, I Love You,” “His Birthday,” and some of your class’s favorite Christmas carols.

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Singing is a great way to memorize Scripture. Sing the Bible words from Galatians 4:4 to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell.” The first, second, and fourth stanzas are the Bible words. The third stanza is **That’s why we have Christmas.**

 **Life Application:** Some, if not most, of your children have been heavily exposed to the secular viewpoints of both Christmas and angels. To these children, Christmas is about Santa Claus and getting toys, and angels are television actors trying to earn their wings by doing good deeds for people. As your children grow, they will potentially be exposed to ever-increasing doses of these secular distortions. Without criticizing what the children do with their families, take every opportunity to accurately present what God’s Word says about these subjects, as well as to pray for your children. Though your children will not yet understand all that you teach, God’s Word will carry out His perfect will (Isa. 55:11). You’re helping to build a foundation now that will last forever.

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10–15 MINUTES):

 **Watching Their Flocks by Night:** For today’s craft, you’ll need sheets of black construction paper, tape, crayons, glue, cotton balls, watercolor paints with colors that could represent light (yellow, gold, light orange, etc.), paintbrushes, smocks or aprons to protect clothing, and copies of Copymaster 3. Before class, cut the copies as indicated, separating the angels from the shepherds. Cover your tables for painting and give each child the angel part of Copymaster 3. Have them paint the entire sheet yellow or some other color for light.


While the paint is drying, have the children use crayons to color the shepherd picture as desired and glue it to the lower half of a black sheet of construction paper. Then they can glue cotton-ball “sheep” to the hillside. Now help them tape the upper edge of the angel picture to the upper edge of the construction paper, so it can flip from front to back. Be sure that when it is flipped to the front, the angels show correctly. Have the children flip the angel picture to the back.

The shepherds were watching their sheep at night. But suddenly (children flip the angel picture to the front), **angels appeared with the best news ever.** Repeat the Bible words from Galatians 4:4.

Tape or glue the parent material to the back of the picture.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

One teacher can meet parents at the door, while the other team members help children gather their Bibles, papers, and any other belongings. If you have additional time, you might want to try this activity:

 **We Are Shepherds:** Your children will enjoy playing this action rhyme of the shepherds looking for Baby Jesus. If you provide something the children can use as shepherds’ staffs, such as yardsticks, it will add realism to the motions.

**We pretend we are shepherds,
With staff in hand.**

(Hold up staff.)

We walk and walk and walk

(Lead the children around the room.)

On crunchy hard sand.

We go to find Jesus;

(Look in all directions.)

God sent Him, you know.

(Point up.)

God’s very own Son,

(Nod.)

Who loves us so!

(Point to self, then others.)


 Continue as time permits. Then close in prayer, thanking God for Christmas and for sending His only Son.

SIMEON AND ANNA LOVE JESUS


LESSON FOUR

UNIT 1: JESUS AS A BABY

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** To help introduce today's Bible story, show the children how to build a "temple" with pretzel sticks. Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple, where they met two wonderful people. Serve juice with the pretzels. *Be aware of any food allergies your children may have.*

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **We Love Babies:** From your file of catalogs and magazines collect pictures of babies for your classroom bulletin board. Let the children help you place the pictures on the bulletin board, and talk about parents, relatives, other caregivers, and teachers loving babies.

When your parents (or other caregivers) **let you look at your baby pictures, they tell you to be very careful with them. You see, they want to keep those pictures of you, their special baby, nice and clean. The pictures show how you looked when you were very little.**

Would your mother and father be just as happy to have pictures of other babies instead of you? No! They like your baby pictures best because they love you. You are special to your parents. No other child can be as special to them as you are. Our Bible story today is about a wonderful Baby, God's Son, who was loved by very special people.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 2:22-39

Bible Truth

Simeon and Anna thanked God for sending Baby Jesus.

Life Response Aim

To want to thank God for sending Baby Jesus.

Bible Verse



Galatians 4:4



Materials Needed

Snack, catalog and magazine pictures of children; Copymaster 4, copied for each child; crayons, cotton balls, glue, tape, string, hole punch, craft knife, construction paper (optional)

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing* *Motions 'n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

  **Offering:** Receive any offering money the children have brought with them. Sing "Giving" as you do to emphasize that we give because we love Jesus.

  **Bible Story:** Sing "I Open God's Book" and open your Bible to let your children know this story is from God's Word.

Baby Jesus was very special to Mary and Joseph. [If you are using the alternative suggested below, enter now with doll in arms.] **But He is even more special to God, for Jesus is God's own Son!**

An old, old man named Simeon loved God very much. [If you are using the alternative suggested below, "Simeon" enters now.]

God let Simeon know that someday he would see Jesus, God's own Son!

One day Joseph and Mary took Baby Jesus to God's house. Simeon was there. Simeon knew right away that this was Jesus, God's special Baby. Very gently Simeon took Baby Jesus in his arms. He held the baby very lovingly because he knew that Jesus is very special. He knew he was holding God's own Son! Simeon prayed to God, "Thank You, dear God. My eyes have seen Your very own Son."

Anna was an old, old woman. [If you are using the alternative suggested below, "Anna" enters now.] **She wanted to see Jesus too. Anna loved God**

and prayed to Him every day. When Anna, the dear old, old woman, saw Jesus, she said, "Thank You, dear God." Then Anna went out and told her friends the good news that God's own Son was there with them. Anna had seen and loved Baby Jesus, and she wanted other people to love Him too.

Mary and Joseph were happy because Simeon and Anna loved God's special Baby. Aren't you glad that God loves us and sent His Son? Aren't you glad that the shepherds loved Jesus? And the angels loved Jesus? Don't you want to love Him too?

As an alternative storytelling method, you might want to dress up as Mary (or Joseph) and ask two of your church's senior members to dress as Simeon and Anna. A robe, sandals, and towel for head covering make simple Bible-time costumes. Use a doll to represent Baby Jesus. Then either act out the story, developing a dialog from the above narrative, or pantomime the story as one of your team members reads it to the children.



Worship in Song: Sing “We Love Jesus.” **When Joseph and Mary went to God’s house with Baby Jesus, God took care of them. He takes care of us too.** Sing “God’s Care.” Then sing the following song to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”

**Simeon loved Jesus, Simeon loved Jesus.
Yes, he did. Yes, he did.
Thank You, God, for Jesus. Thank You, God, for Jesus,
Our Saviour, our Saviour.**

**Anna loved Jesus, Anna loved Jesus.
Yes, she did. Yes, she did.
Thank You, God, for Jesus. Thank You, God, for Jesus,
Our Saviour, our Saviour.**

**We love Jesus, We love Jesus.
Yes, we do. Yes, we do.
Thank You, God, for Jesus. Thank You, God, for Jesus,
Our Saviour, our Saviour.**



Remembering the Bible Truth: If you had special guests dress up as Simeon and Anna, divide the class into two groups. Let “Simeon” and “Anna” each lead one of the groups in a simple activity to review the Bible words from Galatians 4:4. First say the Bible words together a few times; then “Anna’s” group will start the verse, and “Simeon’s” group will finish the verse. After the children have successfully said their part of the verse two or three times, switch so “Simeon’s” group starts and “Anna’s” group finishes.



Life Application: To reinforce the Life Response Aim of thanking God for sending Jesus, lead the children in this fingerplay.

Here is wee Baby, not very tall.

(Hold up little finger.)

On His way to God’s house; now don’t let Him fall.

(Wag forefinger of other hand in warning.)

Rock-a-bye Baby, rock-a-bye-bye.

(Cradle arms and rock.)

Simeon and Anna thanked God for Jesus,

(Point up and nod head.)

And so do I.

(Point to self and continue nodding head.)

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10-15 MINUTES):



Simeon or Anna Face Masks: For this craft you’ll need crayons, cotton balls, glue, string, and copies of Copymaster 4. Let your children color the face and head covering. Then the girls can glue cotton balls bordering the head covering for hair, and boys can glue cotton balls on the face for a beard, making masks of Anna or Simeon respectively. To make the masks sturdier, have the children tape or glue the pictures to construction paper.

Now use a craft knife to cut out eye holes (use several layers of cardboard to protect the surface you’re cutting on). Use a hole punch to make string holes (these can be reinforced with tape). Attach string and help the children put on their masks. With a doll wrapped in a blanket, the children can take turns acting out the Bible story of Simeon, Anna, and Baby Jesus in the temple. **Simeon and Anna loved Jesus, and so do we!**

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



If you have additional time after closing in prayer, you might try this activity:




Photo Fun: In preparation for Lesson 6’s Hands-to-Hearts activity, take photos of each child individually. If you have a camera that takes instant pictures, you’ll want to have it available next week to take pictures of children who were not in class today.

WISE MEN LOVE JESUS


LESSON FIVE

JESUS AS A BABY

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Use a camel pattern from a coloring book or other source to cut shapes from thinly sliced bread. Spread peanut butter on the shapes as “camel hair.” Children will enjoy this snack as an introduction to the Bible story. *Some young children are allergic to peanuts, so be sure to check with parents and provide another spread if necessary.*

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **God’s Bright Star:** Have a small sheet of paper with the Bible words from Galatians 4:4 printed on it, a piece of yarn, and a paper star for each child. Help the children glue the memory verse on their stars and tape the yarn on the top of the star as a hanger.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

Bible Truth

The Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus because they loved Him.

Life Response Aim

To want to show love to Jesus because He is God’s Son.

Bible Verse

Galatians 4:4

Materials Needed

Snack; yarn, glue, paper stars; Copymaster 5, copied for each child; crayons, tape, craft sticks (optional); tin foil

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let’s Sing Motions ‘n Music* or both.

Our Bible story today is about a special star that God sent to show the way to His Son, Jesus. Say the Bible words together. Let the children use the stars to participate in the telling of the Bible story.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.



Bible Story: Sing “I Open God’s Book” to help your students understand this story comes from the Bible.

Do your mother and father ever let you stay up until it is very dark outside? Do you see stars shining in the dark night sky? It’s fun to watch stars shine and twinkle in the sky, isn’t it? They look like little lights, don’t they? Whenever I say *star*, you hold your stars up high for everyone to see. *Star* is italicized throughout to help you to remind the children. Lead the children in the other italicized action words as you tell the story.

One night in the dark night sky, a very big, bright *star* shone, *twinkle, twinkle, twinkle!* Some Wise Men looked and looked at the big twinkling *star*. It was probably the brightest *star* they had ever seen.

They knew that God must have sent this *star*. God helped them to know that the *star* meant that a King had been born. They wanted to follow it to find the baby King. The Wise Men didn’t have cars to ride in. They rode on camels.

So they *climbed up* on their tall, tall camels. They rode *pad, pad, pad*, looking for Baby Jesus. They *looked* at the *star* as they rode. One night, two nights, many, many nights that bright, twinkling *star* showed the way, and each night the Wise Men followed it. One night

the Wise Men stopped traveling. The *star* was right over the house where Jesus lived.

By this time baby Jesus had grown until He was a little boy—maybe as big as you boys and girls are. Down from their tall, tall camels the Wise Men climbed.

When the Wise Men saw little Jesus, they bowed down to worship Him. They knew that Jesus was the one true King. They were thankful to God for helping them find His Son, Jesus.


The Wise Men gave some beautiful presents to little Jesus—bright, shiny gold and sweet-smelling perfume. How glad the Wise Men were that God had sent a *star* to guide them to His Son. They knew that God sent His Son.




We are glad too. Let’s tell God we are glad. “Dear God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus. He is the most wonderful gift of all. Amen.”




As an alternative, your children would enjoy acting out the story to the music of “The Wise Men” from this quarter’s music. Lead the children in doing the motions indicated by the narration.

 **Worship in Song:** Sing “Follow the Star,” “We Love Jesus,” and some of your class’s favorite Christmas songs. **The Wise Men followed the star to find Jesus and give Him gifts. A good gift that we can give Jesus is to sing songs to Him because we love Him.**

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Have the children sit on the floor with their stars from Preparing Their Hearts. Remind them that the Bible words from Galatians 4:4 are on their stars and lead them in reciting the verse a couple of times. Then let volunteers stand, hold their stars high, and recite the verse. Help as needed and commend all efforts. **You can show the way to God when you know His Word.**

 Then take time to pray with your children. **Thank You, God, for sending your Son.**


 **Life Application:** Teach this song to reinforce the Life Response Aim of wanting to show love to Jesus because He is the Son of God (tune: “Mulberry Bush”). After each verse, ask the children some ways that they can be kind, help, and share. Be prepared to help them with some ideas.

**We can show Jesus that we love Him,
We love Him, we love Him.
We can show Jesus that we love Him,
When we’re being kind.**

**We can show Jesus that we love Him,
We love Him, we love Him.
We can show Jesus that we love Him,
When we’re helping others.**

**We can show Jesus that we love Him,
We love Him, we love Him.
We can show Jesus that we love Him,
When we share with others.**


HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10–15 MINUTES):

 **Bible Story Finger Puppets:** For today’s craft, you will need crayons, craft sticks (optional), tape, and copies of Copymaster 5. Have the children color the pictures of the Wise Men, star, and young Child Jesus. Then help them cut the finger puppets apart (you might want to do this before class) and tape the sides so the puppets fit over the children’s fingers. If you like, tape the puppets to craft sticks. Now the children can retell the story of the Wise Men following the star to visit Jesus.

The Wise Men followed God’s special star to worship Jesus. Can you show me the story with your puppets?

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 If you have additional time after closing in prayer, you might try this activity:

 **Twinkle, Twinkle, God’s Big Star:** Introduce your children to this fun poem, which they will take home with them from Copymaster 5 (the back of the “Star” puppet). You’ll enjoy your children’s delight as you give them pieces of tin foil to wrap around their fingers. They can be “twinkling stars” while you recite the following poem (or sing it to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”):

**Twinkle, twinkle, God’s big star!
Wise Men wonder what you are;
Up above the world so high,
God’s bright signal in the sky.**

**Shining bright, you lead the way
To the house where Jesus stayed.
Twinkle, twinkle, God’s big star,
Leading Wise Men from afar.**


—B. T. Cory

WE LOVE BABY JESUS


LESSON SIX

JESUS AS A BABY

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Though Christmas has come and gone, your children will enjoy any Christmas-related “goodies” you or team members may still be able to bring. Christmas is such a wonderful time because we remember the best Christmas gift of all—Baby Jesus! *Be aware of any food allergies or other dietary restrictions your children may have.*

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Photo Fun (continued from Lesson 4):** In preparation for today’s Hands-to-Hearts activity, take instant photos of each child who was not here last week. Then spread all the photos of the children on a table and allow the children to find their pictures. **Did you know that Jesus loves the person in that picture?**

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Review of Scriptures from Lessons 1–5

Bible Truth

Jesus is God’s own Son.

Life Response Aim

To express joyful love for Jesus.

Bible Verse

Galatians 4:4

Materials Needed

Christmas snacks; photos of each child (optional);
Copymaster 6, copied for each child; crayons, glue or tape, construction paper, jingle bells or other musical instruments

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let’s Sing Motions ‘n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.



Bible Story: A fun way to begin your review would be to let the children act out the story to the music of “Shepherds Worship Baby Jesus.” This covers the first three lessons.



Or, bring in a simple, child-friendly nativity scene and let the children tell the Christmas story using the nativity scene figures. As they place the figures ask leading questions.

Who loved us and sent His Son?

Who was Jesus’ mother?

How did Mary know God would send Baby Jesus to her?

Why did Baby Jesus sleep in a manger?

Who told the shepherds that Baby Jesus was born?

What did the shepherds do when the angel told them that God’s Son was born?

Where did they find Baby Jesus?

How did the Wise Men find little Jesus?

Where did the Wise Men find little Jesus?

Why did the Wise Men bring gifts to Jesus?

God told an old, old man that he would see Jesus. Do you remember his name? What did Simeon do?

An old, old woman also saw Baby Jesus and loved Him. What was her name?

Whose birthday do we remember at Christmastime?



As an alternative, do any or all of these activities to review the Bible stories from Lessons 1–5.



Lessons 1 and 2:

Try this “Mary Loves Jesus” fingerplay.

Long ago an angel came,

[Cup hands behind ears.]

“A Child will be born,

[Hold arms as if cradling a baby.]

And Jesus is His name.”

[Point up.]

Here is sweet Baby Jesus.

[Hold up index finger.]

Let’s put Him to bed,

[Place index finger in palm of other hand.]



Lesson 3: Try this clapping story again.

As SHEP-herds WATCHED their SHEEP by NIGHT,

And wrap Him up snug,

[Close hand around index finger.]

All but His wee head.

[Show end of finger sticking out.]

And should He cry, let’s put Him right here,

[Put index finger on shoulder.]

And pretend we are Mary, who loved Jesus dear.

[Bend head next to finger and cuddle.]

An AN-gel GAVE them SUCH a FRIGHT.

“Don’t BE a-FRAID,” the AN-gel SAID,
“The SAV-iour’s IN a MAN-ger BED.”

Then TO the MAN-ger THEY did COME,
And THERE they FOUND God’s ON-ly SON.



Lesson 4: Finally, lead the children in this fingerplay.

Here is wee Baby, not very tall.

(Hold up little finger.)

On His way to God’s house; now don’t let Him fall.

(Wag forefinger of other hand in warning.)

Rock-a-bye Baby, rock-a-bye-bye.

(Cradle arms and rock.)

Simeon and Anna thanked God for Jesus,

(Point up and nod head.)

And so do I.

(Point to self and continue nodding head.)



Lesson 5: Your children would enjoy reviewing the Bible story to the music of “The Wise Men.” Lead the children in doing the motions indicated by the narration.



Worship in Song: Sing several of the story-related songs from the first five lessons, such as “Bye-low, Baby Jesus”; “Swaddling Clothes Song”; “Shepherd’s Song”; and “Follow the Star.”



Remembering the Bible Truth: Using one of the activities from previous lessons or an activity of your own choosing, review the Bible words from Galatians 4:4.



Life Application: Use this simple prayer with your children today. **Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Jesus is the best Christmas gift of all. Amen.**

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10–15 MINUTES):



A Booklet of Love: You will need crayons, glue or tape, construction paper, and a copy of Copymaster 6 for each child. Let the children color the picture of Baby Jesus. Print each child’s name in the two blanks provided. Cut the sheets into the three sections indicated. To save time, you may want to do this before class.

Fold construction paper in half to make booklets. Help the children glue or tape the section with the picture of Baby Jesus on the front cover: (child’s name) loves Baby Jesus (picture). The memory verse and family activity go on the second page (inside front cover). Finally, the sheet that says, “Jesus loves (child’s name)” goes on the third page (inside back cover). Paste the parent note section to the back cover. If you took pictures of the children two weeks ago (Good-bye Time) and this week (Preparing Their Hearts), attach them on page three between “Jesus loves” and the child’s name.

(Amy) loves Jesus, and Jesus loves (Amy).

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Be sure to close in prayer with your children. If you have additional time, you might try this activity:



Christmas Carols—One More Time: If you made the clothespin jingle bells in Lesson 2, Preparing Their Hearts time, hand them out to the children again. If not, perhaps your church has simple musical or rhythm instruments for the children to use. Lead the children in singing some of their favorite Christmas carols. If you have a tape of Christmas carols, the children may enjoy ringing their bells with the music.

We can say thank You to God for sending Baby Jesus to be born by singing wonderful Christmas songs to Him.

THE BOY JESUS AT HOME

LESSON SEVEN

UNIT 2: JESUS AS A BOY

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

Snack Time: Serve one of the children's favorite snacks and beverage. Take the time for the children to help set the table with plates, napkins, and cups. Then let them help clean up afterward. *As always, check with parents about food allergies.* Helping set the table and cleaning up after a meal are good things to do, especially at home. Mom and Dad (and other caregivers specific to your class) really need good helpers such as you boys and girls are.

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

Oh, How Big You Are: Have the children look through colorful picture books. As they do, comment on how big they are growing. If you have a growth chart, measure the children and mention how God helps them grow so they can love Him and be helpers.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 2:40, 52; Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 17-18; Mark 6:3; 1 Peter 2:22

Bible Truth

Jesus pleased God by obeying Mary and Joseph.

Life Response Aim

To want to please God by obeying my parents.

Bible Verse

1 John 4:15

Materials Needed

Snacks and beverage; picture books and growth chart; story props; Copymaster 7, copied for each child; tape, glue, small pieces of sandpaper, and colorful fabric strips

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.

Bible Story: For added realism, have a sleeping mat, stones, a vase that may look like a Bible-time water jar, and a broom made from twigs or branches.

Do you live in a big house or a little one? Do lots of people live in your house? Do you have a kitchen and a bedroom?

A long time ago, little Jesus lived with Joseph and His mother, Mary, in a little house. It was not like the one you live in. No, His house was very different. His family probably lived in one big room. They ate breakfast and lunch and dinner in that room. They may have sat there and talked about God's Book. They prayed together there. And they slept there at night. See what their beds may have looked like. [Show your sleeping mat.] They were mats that were unrolled and laid on the floor or a bench at night.

Mary would have worked in the kitchen, which may have been outside the house. Her stove may have just been some big stones on the ground with a flat stone on top and a fire inside. [Pile stones in a circle for the stove.] And what about their table? It was very low, and they sat on the floor to eat. They probably didn't have plates or knives or forks or spoons. Each person dipped a piece of bread, which was used like a spoon, into one big family dish of food.

But one thing was the same—Mary and Joseph loved God, just as we do. They obeyed Him and prayed to Him. They taught little Jesus about what God's Book says is right and good to do. We learn from God's Book, the Bible, at home and in church, don't we?


Every day before they ate, I believe that they thanked God for their good food. It is good to thank God for the food He gives, isn't it?



And Jesus obeyed His mother and Joseph, as God's Book tells chil-

dren to do. He probably helped bring food to the table for everyone to eat.


When Mary needed some water, she might have asked Jesus to go to the town well. Right away He would take the jar for water and go. [Show your vase/water jar.]

When Jesus helped Joseph in his carpenter shop, Joseph would say, "Jesus, please sweep the wood shavings away." Do you think Jesus did it right away? Oh, yes, I'm sure He would bring the broom and sweep whenever asked. [Sweep with your broom.] Jesus always pleased His Father, God, by obeying God's Word.


 **Worship in Song:** Sing “Helping Today,” as you lead the children in pantomiming the actions indicated by the song. Then sing “We Love Jesus” and “Thank You, God” (for Jesus).

  **Remembering the Bible Truth:** To teach the Bible words from 1 John 4:15, sing “Jesus Is the Son of God.” Close in prayer, thanking God for sending His Son.

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10–15 MINUTES):

 **Obedient Sammy and Sally:** You’ll need tape, glue, small pieces of sandpaper, strips of colorful fabric, and copies of Copymaster 7, with the children stand-up figures and kitchen chair cut from the rest of the picture before class. During class, help the children glue the following in place: the chair next to the table, a piece of sandpaper in the sandbox, and a strip of fabric for a blanket on the bed. Then help them fold the picture on the dotted lines so it will stand as a background for the Life Application story below.

Help the children fold and tape the boy and girl stand-up figures back-to-back with the bottom tabs folded up for support. Now everything is ready for the Life Application story on obeying parents.

 **Life Application:** Use the figures and background made from Copymaster 7 as you tell this story about an obedient boy or girl. Your children will enjoy playing the parts with their figures as you tell the story. Team members may need to help children place the figures as you tell the story.

Each of you has an obedient friend, either Sammy or Sally. (Children will select which friend to use.) **And each of you has the places where your friend will obey.** (Team members will help the children stand up their backgrounds for this story.)

Let’s put our friend by the sandbox. (Children do so.) **What a good time our friend is having playing in the sand. But Mother calls, “It’s time for supper.” Will our friend come quickly and obey Mother? Yes, and our friend washes up quickly for supper.** (Children put the friend by the table.)

After supper and cleanup, our friend plays in the sandbox again. (Children put friend by the sandbox.) **Now it’s getting dark and Daddy calls, “It’s bedtime.” Will our friend come quickly and obey? Yes, even though our friend wants to play longer, our friend obeys and goes right to the bedroom.** (Children put friend by the bed.) **Mother says to Daddy, “How good it is to have a child who obeys right away.”**

Boys and girls, our Bible words say, “Jesus is the Son of God.” Jesus did what was right when Mary and Joseph asked Him to do something. Because Jesus is God’s Son, He obeyed, and because we love Jesus, we obey too.

Can you show your parents (or other caregivers) how your friend obeyed? Can you obey as well as your friend did? Can you obey as well as Jesus wants you to obey?

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 If you have additional time after prayer and gathering belongings together, you might try this activity:

 **Children Who Obey:** For this fun fingerplay, have the children stand in a line, facing you.

See the children who obey standing in a row,

(Hold up 10 fingers.)

They pick up their toys and their books just so!

(Pretend to pick up items directly before you.)

They pick up toys here;

(Pick up “toys” to your left.)

They pick up books there.

(Pick up “books” to your right.)

They help and obey everywhere!

(Spread out arms.)

See the children who obey standing in a row,

(Hold up 10 fingers.)

Along comes Mom (Dad) who says, “Please come to me.”

(Use forefinger to beckon.)

My, those children come quickly as can be!

(Make fingers “run.”)


As an alternative, make this an action rhyme by having books and toys out for the children to do the things as you mention them.

THE BOY JESUS AT SCHOOL


LESSON EIGHT

UNIT 2: JESUS AS A BOY

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve a nutritious snack of fruit slices, carrot sticks, etc., to help emphasize that God gives us good foods to help us grow and be healthy. *Be sure to check with parents about food allergies.* It's important to eat the good foods that God has given us so we can grow and be strong. If you have handicapped children in the class, be sure to adapt your comments to include them. For example, a child in a wheelchair can be encouraged in other areas of development and growing up, such as seeing, hearing, learning God's Word, etc.

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Growing Shoes Are Helping Shoes:** Have your children sit and show them a pair (or several pairs) of baby shoes. Measure the shoes with a ruler, emphasizing how small they are. Then have your children stick up a foot each, as you and team members measure the children's shoes.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 2:40, 52

Bible Truth

Jesus grew and studied God's Word.

Life Response Aim

To want to study God's Word and obey, as Jesus did.

Bible Verse

1 John 4:15

Materials Needed

Nutritious snacks; a pair of baby shoes, several rulers; pencils and paper for scroll; Copymaster 8, copied for each child; crayons, glue, white pom-poms; pieces of paper and hole punch

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* or both.

Your shoes are much bigger than these baby shoes. Your shoes are growing shoes. Let's measure your shoes to see if they are big enough to be helping shoes, as well.

Make a big fuss over measuring the children's shoes precisely with the ruler; then exclaim enthusiastically that each child's shoes are big enough to be helping shoes! Your children will be encouraged to show that their shoes are truly helping shoes.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.



Bible Story: Make a scroll from paper and pencils to use as a prop as you tell the story.

When Jesus was a little Boy, fathers told their children stories from God's Book about how God had helped their grandpas and grandmas and how He would help them too. Mary and Joseph may have told Jesus all about the wonderful things that happened when He was born—about the shepherds, the angels, the special star, and the Wise Men.

When Jesus was a little Boy, many mothers sang to their children about how much God loved their grandpas and grandmas and how much He loved them too.

Do you like to pray when your mother and father do? Jesus must have prayed often with His mother, Mary, and with Joseph at home. Pretty soon you will grow big enough to go to school.

When Jesus was old enough to go to school, He probably didn't sit on a chair at a desk or table as children do today. Maybe He sat on the floor with other boys, in front of His teacher.

The boys studied all their lessons from God's Book. The teacher didn't have a Bible like mine [hold up your Bible], with a leather cover

and shiny gold edges. No, the teacher had scroll books that rolled together like this. [Demonstrate with your scroll.]

Jesus loved God's Book so much that He learned to say many Bible words without having to look at the scroll book. When Jesus grew up to be a Man, He told people the words that were in God's scroll book.

You want to grow up in every way as Jesus did, don't you? You want to grow taller and bigger, don't you? You want to learn lots of things, don't you?

 **Now let's bow our heads and close our eyes and ask God to help you grow in the ways that Jesus did. "Dear God, help all our boys and girls to grow big and strong. Help them to obey their parents and to learn more about You. Amen."**



Worship in Song: Sing “Dear Jesus, I Love You” and “We Love Jesus.”



Remembering the Bible Truth: Review the Bible words from 1 John 4:15 by singing the words to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

**Jesus is the Son of God,
Son of God, Son of God.
Jesus is the Son of God,
And we love Him so.**



Life Application: Substitute the names and circumstances that apply to your own group in the following conversation with your children.

(Karen) **has a baby brother at home. He is just a tiny baby, too little to sit up by himself. But (Joel’s) little sister can sit up in a high chair and feed herself.** (David), **your little brother just learned to roll over, didn’t he? And (Sandy’s) little sister is even bigger—she can crawl.**

(Derek) **doesn’t have a little brother or sister, but he has a big brother (Tom), almost six years old. Long ago (Derek’s) brother (Tom) was just as tiny as little Baby Jesus was. But now (Tom) is probably as tall as Jesus was when He was six.**

(Tom) **didn’t know much when he was little. But now (Tom) is going to school. How much he is learning. (Tom) likes to learn more and more things. He wants to grow tall and wise, as Jesus did. And you boys and girls want to grow tall and wise too, don’t you?**



Take time to pray for your children and their families.

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10–15 MINUTES):



God Helps Us Grow: You’ll need copies of Copymaster 8, crayons, glue, and small white pom-poms. Have the children color the picture of the child and glue white pom-poms on the picture for snowballs and the ball on the hat. Then help the children fold their pictures as indicated. Show them how the child “grows” by unfolding the picture as you say this growing rhyme a few times:

Here I am when I was small.

(Show “shorter” child.)

But God helps me grow wise and tall!

(Show how child grows.)

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Be sure to close in prayer. Since children dressed in warm coats become restless before their parents come to take them home, don’t have your preschoolers put things on too early. While you are waiting for parents, try this fun activity:



Happy Helping Train: Engage your children in a game of playing train. To do this, simply place chairs in a row and pretend that the chairs are train seats. Distribute pieces of paper to the children as tickets; then you, as the conductor, punch the tickets with a handheld hole punch before the train departs the “station.”

Carry out the imaginative play by having the children “look out the window” and tell all the interesting things they “see” on your train ride. After everyone has had a chance to talk about the train ride, sing this song to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”


**Happy helping train
Rolling down the track.
We’re on our way to help for God,
Never looking back.**

THE BOY JESUS IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE


LESSON NINE

JESUS AS A BOY

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Give the children two round crackers each and help them spread fruit-flavored cream cheese in the middle of the crackers. Then they can place a raisin in the center of the cream cheese. Now they have two tasty “eyes” for a snack. *Don't forget to check with parents about allergies.* God gave us wonderful eyes to look for things that are lost. Our story today is about Joseph and Mary looking for Someone who they thought was lost. I wonder who it was?

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Going to Church Mural:** On a strip of butcher paper or newsprint, sketch an outline of your church facility and fasten it to the wall or bulletin board at children's eye level. Place magazine or catalog pictures of people on a low table or the floor for children to reach. They'll enjoy taping these pictures on the paper to make a mural of people going to church. **See all the happy people going to church. It is good to go to church to learn more about God. Our Bible story is about Someone very special at God's house.**

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 2:41-51

Bible Truth

Jesus gladly went to God's house.

Life Response Aim

To look forward to going to church.

Bible Verse:

1 John 4:15

Materials Needed

Crackers, cream cheese, raisins; butcher paper or newsprint, magazine or catalog pictures of people, tape; Copymaster 9, copied for each child; crayons

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.



Bible Story: When Jesus was a little Boy, He was taught more and more about His Father, God, by His mother, Mary, and Joseph. When Jesus was a bigger Boy, He was taught more and more about His Father, God, by His teacher in school. Jesus always wanted to hear about His Father, God.

Every day Jesus was growing to be a bigger Boy. He was growing taller, and all the time He was being taught more and more—just as you boys and girls are being taught.

How glad Jesus was when He was old enough to go with Mary and Joseph to His Father God's house in the big city far away. Lots of people were going to God's house. And as they walked, they sang happy songs and laughed together.

They walked and walked a long, long way. How glad they were to get to the big city where God's house was.

Jesus loved being at His Father's house. He listened to the teachers talk about God. Jesus also asked the teachers questions. They were surprised that He knew so much about God. Jesus was very busy talking in God's house. He stayed there and talked, even when it was time to go home.

But Mary and Joseph were ready to go home. And some other people

had already started home.

Mary and Joseph thought Jesus had left with them and was with some friends. At nighttime they looked for Him. They looked and they looked, but they couldn't find Him anywhere. They asked everyone, “Have you seen Jesus?” But no one had seen Him.

They decided to go back to the big city with God's house. They walked all the way back to the big city. There they looked and looked and looked for Jesus. Then they decided to look in God's house.

And there was Jesus! He was still listening to the teachers and asking questions.

Mary said, “Son, why have You done this to us? We have been so worried. We've been looking all over for You.”

Jesus said, “Didn't you know I would be in My Father's house?” But even though Jesus was in His Father's house, He obeyed Mary and Joseph. Right away He started home with them.

The Bible says, “Jesus is the Son of God.” He always obeyed His Father, God, and so should we.


As an alternative, try this clapping story. Have the children sit and lead them in alternately clapping their hands and laps. They won't be able to do this well, but they enjoy trying as you say the story in rhythm to your own claps.

God's HOUSE was IN Je-RU-sa-LEM.
From FAR and NEAR His PEO-ple CAME.


Jos-EPH and MAR-y WERE there, TOO,
With JE-sus TO tell GOD, thank YOU.

And WHEN toward HOME they ALL did GO,
Where JE-sus WAS they DID not KNOW.

No NEED to WOR-ry OR to FUSS.
Je-SUS was IN His FA-ther's HOUSE.

 **Worship in Song:** Sing "I Have a Message for You" and "We Love Jesus." **When Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were on their way to God's house, who was with them? That's right, God was with them. Isn't it good to know that God is with us and cares for us when we are at home and when we are going someplace? Sing "God's Care."**


 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** To review 1 John 4:15, sing "Jesus Is the Son of God."

 **Life Application:** When Jesus was old enough, He went with Joseph and Mary to God's house. Jesus loved to be in the house of His Father, God. We're glad we can come to church too. Lead the children in this activity to reinforce the Life Response Aim of wanting to come to church.

I am glad I'm big enough—
(Place hand on top of head.)
Big enough to dress myself,
(Pretend to pull on shoes.)
Big enough to brush my teeth,
(Motion vigorously.)
Big enough to pick up blocks,
(Pretend to do so.)
Big enough now to obey,
To tell my parents, "Right away."
(Walk quickly in place.)

I am glad I'm big enough—
(Place hand on top of head.)
Big enough to come to church,
(Point to your surroundings.)
Big enough to hear God's Word,
(Cup hand behind ear; then hold up a Bible.)
Big enough to pray each day,
(Fold hands.)
Big enough now to obey,
To tell my teachers, "Right away."
(Walk quickly in place.)


HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10-15 MINUTES):

 **Where Is Jesus?** For this activity you'll need copies of Copymaster 9 and crayons. **Joseph and Mary looked and looked for Jesus. Where did they find Him? That's right, Jesus was in His Father's house. Now, can you find Jesus? Let's color all the spaces with dots. When we're done, we'll have found Jesus too.** Children may need help coloring the specific spaces.

For an additional activity, have a team member help a child hide his or her picture while the other children cover their eyes. **Now let's see who can find (Sandy's) picture of Jesus. Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus when He was in His Father's house, and we'll look for the picture of Jesus while we are in our church building.**

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 If you have additional time after closing in prayer, you might try this activity:

 **Jesus Grew, and So Do You:** Jesus grew to be the wisest Man of all because He is God's Son. Boys and girls who love Jesus can grow to be wise too. Do this activity together.


Children grow and grow and grow, (Stoop low and slowly stand taller.)
Tall and wise, tall and wise. (Stretch hands up high; then point to head.)
Children grow and grow and grow, (Stoop low and slowly stand taller.)
God, our Father, made them so! (Point up.)

JESUS' BOYHOOD


LESSON TEN

JESUS AS A BOY

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Sing “The Good Morning Song” as children arrive. Serve a favorite snack. If you have baby bottles, bring a beverage in them. When you were babies, you drank from a bottle like these bottles. But now you drink from a cup because you are growing up, just as Jesus grew from a Baby to a Boy. Pour the drink from the baby bottles into small paper cups for the children. *Be aware of any food allergies.*

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Modeling Clay Fun:** Let the children have fun with modeling clay. Cover the tables first. If you have small rolling pins, bring these today. You might guide the children in pretending they’re helping in a Bible-time kitchen, such as Mary’s, but don’t feel compelled to be overly structured. Relax and take time to enjoy your children.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Review of Lessons 7–9

Bible Truth

As He grew, Jesus pleased God.

Life Response Aim

To want to grow up to love and please God by obeying.

Bible Verse


1 John 4:15


Materials Needed


Snacks and baby bottles with the beverage; modeling clay; Copymaster 10, copied for each child, crayons

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let’s Sing Motions ‘n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

 **Offering:** Receive any offering money the children have brought with them. Sing “Giving.”

  **Bible Story:** Sing “Will You Come?” from this quarter’s CD. Review the Bible stories from Lessons 7–9 using these action alternatives.

 **Lesson 7: As Jesus grew at home, He obeyed His mother, Mary, and Joseph. When He obeyed them, He was also obeying His Father, God. When we obey our parents, we are also obeying God. God’s Word says that children should obey their parents** (see Eph. 6:1). To reinforce this Bible truth, lead your children in the following activity.

See the children who obey standing in a row,

(Hold up 10 fingers.)

They pick up their toys and their books just so!

(Pretend to pick up items directly before you.)

They pick up toys here;

(Pick up “toys” to your left.)

They pick up books there.

(Pick up “books” to your right.)

They help and obey everywhere!

(Spread out arms.)

See the children who obey standing in a row,

(Hold up 10 fingers.)


Along comes Mom (Dad) who says, “Please come to me.”

(Use forefinger to beckon.)


My, those children come quickly as can be!

(Make fingers “run.”)

As an alternative, make this an action rhyme by having books and toys out for the children to do the things as you mention them.

 **Lesson 8: Jesus went to a special school where they taught about God’s Word, and we come to Sunday School to learn God’s Word.** Review the lesson by singing this song to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”

Are you learning, are you learning,
Boys and girls, boys and girls?
Jesus went to school,
Where He heard God’s Word.
So do we! So do we!

 **Lesson 9:** To review this lesson, repeat this clapping story. Keep in mind that, though the children may not be able to clap in rhythm well, they'll have fun trying as you say the story in time to your own claps.

God's HOUSE was IN Je-RU-sa-LEM.
From FAR and NEAR His PEO-ple CAME.


Jos-EPH and MAR-y WERE there, TOO,
With JE-sus TO tell GOD thank YOU.

And WHEN toward HOME they ALL did GO,
Where JE-sus WAS they DID not KNOW.

No NEED to WOR-ry OR to FUSS.
Je-SUS was IN His FA-ther's HOUSE.

 **Worship in Song:** To reinforce the Life Response Aim about wanting to love and obey God, sing "Dear Jesus, I Love You" and this song to the tune of "Mulberry Bush" (words based on John 14:15):


**If you love Jesus, obey His Word,
Obey His Word, obey His Word.
If you love Jesus, obey His Word,
Obey His Word today.**

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Review the Bible words from 1 John 4:15 by singing the words to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."


**Jesus is the Son of God,
Son of God, Son of God.
Jesus is the Son of God,
And we love Him so.**

 **Life Application:** Pray for your children, thanking God for each by name. If you have a large class, you may want to assign the names of your children to several team members. Don't forget to pray for your team members.

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10-15 MINUTES):


 **Jesus Grew, We Grow:** You'll need copies of Copymaster 10 and crayons for each child. This activity will allow your children to begin understanding the difference between life during the times Jesus was growing up and life today. Team members can assist children as needed.

In our first picture, we see three baby beds. Two of them are beds for babies today, and one of them was the first bed Jesus slept in—a manger bed. Can you find and color the manger? In our next picture are three pairs of shoes. Two of them are shoes boys and girls wear today, and one pair are like shoes bigger children may have worn in Jesus' day. Can you find and color the kind of shoes Jesus may have worn as a big Boy? In our last picture are different ways people can go places. Two of them are ways people go places today, and one of them—the donkey—is a way Jesus traveled when He grew to be a Man (Matt. 21:1-7). Can you find and color the donkey?

 **Things were much different when Jesus was growing from the way things are today. However, at least one thing is still the same. Jesus loved and obeyed God, and we should love and obey God too. Let's pray, thanking God for sending Jesus and for helping us to love and obey Him.**

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

Help the children gather their things together before the parents arrive. If you have additional time, you might want to try this activity:


 **Look What I Can Do!** Make an action "coin" or cube by gluing magazine pictures of people doing various activities—running, walking, skipping, hopping, etc.—on both sides of a piece of cardboard or on the six sides of a small box. Have a child toss the "coin" or roll the cube to see what activity the children will show you they can do. **Jesus grew, and you are growing too. Who would like to show me what you can do?**

JESUS HELPS HIS FRIENDS CATCH FISH

LESSON ELEVEN

UNIT 3: JESUS AS A MAN


TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve tuna fish sandwiches. Cut the sandwiches diagonally in half, then cut one of the halves diagonally into quarters. Give the children a half and a quarter of a sandwich each and show them how to align the triangles to look like fish (see the diagram). If your children don't like tuna fish, you can do this with any sandwich. Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's provision. *Check with parents for any allergies.*



Sandwich fish

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Pet Fish:** Sing "The Good Morning Song" to welcome your children. If you have one, consider bringing in a fishbowl with a few fish in it. Children greatly enjoy watching the Lord's creatures. You won't have to coax them to watch the fish—they'll naturally gravitate toward a fishbowl. Remember that you teach by listening as well as by talking. So don't feel that you must explain all about the fish; however, do answer all questions. You may want to let the children feed the fish. Then sing or play "Will You Come?" from this quarter's music CD on the way to the story area.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 5:1-9

Bible Truth

Jesus can do things that no one else can do.

Life Response Aim

To thank God for Jesus, who can do such wonderful things.

Bible Verse

1 John 4:15

Materials Needed

Sandwiches; Copymaster 11, copied for each child; crayons, glue sticks, and children's scissors

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* CD or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them. Sing "Giving."



Bible Story: If you have a volleyball or badminton net, you might want to bring it to class, along with some paper fish, to help the children act out the story.

Do your parents go to work in the morning? Where do they work? Why do they work? Yes, they work so that they can earn money to buy food, clothes, and things for you and your family. They pay for a place for you to live.

Peter and Andrew didn't work in an office. They caught fish and sold them to get money so they could take care of their families. They didn't use a pole to catch fish. No, they used a big net, something like this net. *[Show your net to the class.] They would throw the net into the lake like this.* *[Show the children how to cast your net; then let volunteers try.]*

One day Peter and Andrew were washing their fishing net in the lake. *[Lead the children in "washing" net.] They had fished all night but had not caught any fish. Jesus came, and a crowd of people followed Him. People were always following Jesus because they liked to see Him do things that no one else could do.*

No one else could make blind people see.

No one else could make deaf people hear.

No one else could make lame people walk. Jesus could do these things because He is the Son of God. And the people liked to hear Him tell about His Father, God, up in heaven.

The people crowded so close to Jesus that He got into Peter's boat and sat down. He asked Peter to push the boat out a little into the lake. *[Have the children pretend to row the boat.] Then Jesus had more room to talk to all those people, and they listened while He talked to them about God.*

After Jesus was through speaking, He said to Peter, "Row out into deep water and let your net go down to catch fish."

Peter answered, "But Jesus, we fished and fished all night, and we didn't catch one fish. But if You say so, I will do it." *[Have the children "row" out farther into the lake.]*

Then a wonderful thing happened. Peter and Andrew threw their net down, down, down into the water and pulled the net up, up, up, from the water. *[Have the children all gather around your net and pretend to cast it. Then*


they can hold it as you continue the story.] **They had lots and lots of shiny, slippery fish in the net!** [Toss the paper fish into the net.] **They had so many fish that the net began to break.** [Have the children lower net, as if it were getting heavier and heavier. They might even groan over the strain of pulling in the fish.] **How surprised Peter and Andrew were. They could hardly believe their eyes. They knew that no one but Jesus, God's Son, could ever do a thing like that.**

 **Worship in Song:** Sing "We Love Jesus," "Thank You, God" (for Jesus), and this song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

**Peter and Andrew
Fished all through the night.
In and out went their big net,
Never a fish in sight.**

**Then along He came,
Jesus, the Son of God.
"Throw your net in," Jesus said.
So Peter and Andrew did.**


**Then came many fish,
Splashing in the net.
Jesus is the Son of God;
This we will not forget.**

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Review the Bible words a few times together, then do the Life Application activity below to emphasize the Bible Truth that "Jesus is the Son of God," and because He is, He can do wonderful things that no one else can.

  **Life Application:** Play the music to "Jesus Helped the Fishermen" and do the motions indicated by the narration, or try this action rhyme.

Jesus told the fishermen to row out in the lake. [Pretend to row.]
But Peter said that they had fished all night; [Pretend to be exhausted.]
There just were no fish to take. [Fling out arms in a gesture of futility.]
Yet Peter dropped in the fishing net [Pretend to cast out net.]
And bigger grew his eyes. [Circle your eyes with forefingers and thumbs.]
The net was full of wiggling fish. [Wiggle fingers rapidly.]
What a wonderful surprise! [Bring hands to face in amazement.]
Who else could do what Jesus did? [Hold up hands in question.]
I can't, and neither can you. [Point to self and class, while shaking your head.]
Jesus is the Son of God. [Point up.]
And all things He can do. [Make huge arc with arms.]



HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10-15 MINUTES):

 **Jesus Helps His Fishermen Friends:** You'll need copies of Copymaster 11, crayons, glue sticks, and children's scissors. Let the children color the picture of Jesus, Peter, and Andrew in the boat, as well as the strip of fish. Cut the strip of fish from the rest of the picture (you may want to do this before class) and, for those children who can, have them cut the strip into small pieces and glue them on the empty net. Team members may need to cut the younger children's fish strips. There are more than enough fish to cover the empty net, so have the children overlap the fish to help emphasize the Lord's abundant provision.

Jesus helped His friends catch all those fish. Only He could have done such a wonderful thing!

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

If you have additional time, you might try this activity:

  **Fishing Fun:** Let the children have an opportunity to use your net and paper fish from the Story Time to pretend to fish. If you'd like, make a fishing pole from a yardstick and string. If you tie a magnet to the string and put paper clips on the fish, the class will enjoy "fishing" in the Church Time® "fishing hole."


Jesus is the Son of God. That is why He can do wonderful things that no one else can do.

JESUS MAKES A BLIND MAN SEE


LESSON TWELVE

JESUS AS A MAN

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Put some of the children's favorite snacks in small, sealable sandwich bags (one per child) and hide the snacks in obvious places around the room. Have team members lead the children on a search for their snacks. When a child finds a snack bag, he or she should return to the snack table and wait until all the children have a snack bag. Isn't it good that God gave us wonderful eyes to see and to find things? Let's thank God for our eyes and for our food. *As always, be aware of any food allergies in the class.*

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **God Gave Us Wonderful Colors:** Read a book about colors to the children. **Who can find the color red in this picture? The color green? Oh, what good eyes you have to see these wonderful colors that God has given to us.** Continue this way throughout the book.

OVERVIEW

Scripture

Luke 18:35-43

Bible Truth

Jesus made a blind man see.

Life Response Aim

To thank God for the good and wonderful things Jesus does.

Bible Verse

1 John 4:15

Materials Needed

Snacks in sandwich bags; a book about colors; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 12, copied for each child; crayons, paper lunch bags, glue sticks or tape

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* or both.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):



Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.



Bible Story: Tell the story using colorful Bible story figures from *Teaching Resources* or pictures you have on file.

Let's close our eyes tight. Now let's put our hands over our eyes. How dark it is! We can't see a thing. I can't see you, and you can't see me.

Now open your eyes. I can see you, and you can see me. You can see the other children too.

Our Bible tells us about a man whose eyes had never seen anything. It was always as dark as night for him. Say this in a hushed tone. That man was blind.

That blind man sat by the side of the dusty road. Because he couldn't see, he couldn't work like other men. No, he couldn't go fishing, as Peter and Andrew had. All he could do was to hold out his hand [do this] and ask people for money.

The blind man couldn't see, but he could hear. He could probably hear the birds singing. He could hear people talking and walking along. He could hear donkeys walking clomp, clomp on the road.

One day, the blind man heard the footsteps of people walking. ["Walk" your feet in place, to indicate an approaching crowd.] Yes, the blind man heard a lot of people coming. He could probably smell the dust that their feet kicked up. [Sniff.] He could even feel the dust on his clothes. [Feel your clothing.]

"Why are so many people going by?" he called out to the people.

"What's happening? Somebody tell me."

Someone heard him and said, "Jesus is passing by." The blind man may have thought, *Jesus—I've heard about Him. I've heard people tell of the wonderful things Jesus can do. Perhaps Jesus can even make my eyes see!*

So, as loudly as he could, the blind man called, "Jesus, help me, help me." Some of the people told the man to be quiet, but he called out to Jesus even more loudly.

Jesus stood still. He looked at the blind man. "Bring him to Me," He said. Then Jesus asked the blind man, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Quickly the blind man said, "Lord, I want to see."

Did Jesus make the blind man see? Yes, He did! What do you think the man did after he could see? The man thanked Jesus over and over for making him see. And all the people said, "Thank You, God!" And down the road they all went, following Jesus. How happy many of the people were. And the man who had been blind was happiest of all. "Praise our God!" he shouted.

As an alternative, try this clapping story. Have the children sit, and lead them in alternately clapping their hands and laps. They won't be able to do this well, but they enjoy trying as you say the story in rhythm to your own claps.

"JE-sus, PLEASE have MER-cy on ME,"
Cried OUT the MAN who COULD not SEE.

"Bring HIM to ME," the LORD did SAY.
And SO the MAN came RIGHT a-WAY.

THEN the MAN could SEE ev'ry-ONE,
THANKS to JE-sus, GOD'S own SON.



Worship in Song: Sing "I Have a Message for You," "We Love Jesus," and "Thank You, God" (for Jesus).



Remembering the Bible Truth: Review the Bible words from 1 John 4:15; then sing "Jesus Is the Son of God."



Life Application: Lead the children in this action rhyme.

Two little eyes to see the bright sun;

(Point to eyes; then make a circle with arms.)

To see the raindrops falling one by one.

(Point to eyes; then move fingers above head.)

Two little eyes to see a green tree;

(Point to eyes; then hold arms up and spread fingers.)

To see a bird fly—and a buzzing bee.

(Point to eyes, flap arms, and wiggle fingers.)

Two little eyes that God gave to me.

(Point to eyes; then point up.)

Thank You, God, I'm as happy as can be!

(Fold hands; then point to your big smile.)

HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10-15 MINUTES):



The Blind Man Could See: For this activity, you'll need copies of Copymaster 12 with the family activity and memory verse cut from the page, crayons, paper lunch bags, and glue sticks or tape. You may also want to cut the various pieces of the picture apart in advance, including the curved slits over the eyes (dotted lines). Distribute copies of the face (Copymaster 12), and let the children color the eyes and other parts of the face as they desire. Then cut the children's pictures apart, if you haven't already, and help them glue or tape each part appropriately onto the paper lunch sacks to make a puppet, being sure not to glue or tape above the eyes. Also glue the memory verse and family activity onto the back of the puppet. Help the children slip the blinders behind the picture and into the slits to cover the eyes.

Now you can tell someone in your family about a man who could not see. Have children pull out the blinders. **But then Jesus helped him to see. Oh, how happy and thankful he was!**

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



If you have additional time after closing in prayer, you might try this activity:



Thank You, God, that We Can See: Try this fingerplay with the class in a semicircle before you.

I can't see you, and you can't see me.

(Cover eyes with hands.)

It's just as dark as can be.

Now I can see you, and you can see me.

(Uncover eyes.)


Thank You, God, that we can see!

JESUS MAKES A SMALL LUNCH BIG

LESSON THIRTEEN

JESUS AS A MAN

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Bring in unsliced loaves of bread and some of the children's favorite bread spreads. In Bible times, the people did not have sliced bread, as we do today. When they made loaves of bread, they had to cut the bread themselves, as we do when we make bread at home, or they had to break pieces off like this (demonstrate). When Jesus fed many, many people with loaves of bread and fish, the people may have broken off pieces of the loaves that He gave them. Break off pieces of bread for each child and let the children put the spread on. *Be aware of any food allergies.*

OVERVIEW

Scripture

John 6:5-13; Mark 6:34-44

Bible Truth

Jesus can do things no one else can do.

Life Response Aim

To want to thank God because Jesus can do wonderful things.

Bible Verse

1 John 4:15

Materials Needed


Bread and bread spreads;
magazine pictures of food,
glue, paper plates;
Copymaster 13, copied for
each child; crayons, glue
sticks or tape, flower stickers
(optional)



Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the Let's Sing Motions 'n Music or both.

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

   **The Good Food that God Gives to Us:** For this activity you'll need magazine pictures of food, glue, and paper plates. As the children glue the pictures onto their paper plates, talk about the good food that God provides. Then sing "Thank You, God" (for our food).

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

 **Offering:** Receive any offering money the children have brought with them.

  **Bible Story:** We like to come to church and hear about all the wonderful things that Jesus can do, don't we? But how would you like to come and stay for church and not go home at all? How would you like to stay all day long, with no lunch or supper? Would you be tired and hungry?

One time a great crowd of people listened to Jesus all day long. When it was almost nighttime, the people were very, very hungry. They had not eaten lunch. There were no stores or restaurants where they could go to get food [*shake your head*]. And they were a long way from home.

Jesus said to His friends, "Give the people something to eat."

But His friends said, "We don't have enough money to go and buy food for this crowd of people. Why don't You send them home?"

Then Jesus said, "Go and see how much food there is in the crowd."

Jesus' friends asked people if they had anything to eat. Then they found one little boy who had brought his lunch. He had just five small loaves of bread and two little fish. So Andrew brought the little

boy to Jesus.


"This little boy has only five small loaves of bread and two little fish," said Andrew to Jesus. "But that isn't enough food for all these people." The boy was probably hungry, but when Jesus asked for his lunch, the boy gave it to Him.


Then Jesus told His friends, "Have everyone sit down on the grass."

Then Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish, looked up to heaven, and said, "Thank You, Father." Then He broke the bread and fish into pieces and gave them to His friends to pass out to the people. The more Jesus' friends passed their baskets of food, the more food there was. They kept passing and passing their baskets of bread and fish. And the hungry people kept eating and eating till they were all filled. Do you think the little boy had all the lunch he wanted? Of course he did. Do you think he was surprised?

How surprised all the people probably were! No one could feed such a big crowd of people with just five loaves of bread and two small fish—no one but Jesus! Jesus is God's Son.

 As a review or an alternative to telling the Bible story, sing “Five Little Loaves—Two Little Fish” (from this quarter).

 **Worship in Song:** Sing “We Love Jesus,” “Jesus Is the Son of God,” “I Have a Message for You,” or any other songs of worship that your children enjoy.

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Review the Bible words from 1 John 4:15. Then you say the first part of the verse, and team leaders will lead the children in finishing the verse. Then ask, **Who is Jesus?** Children will answer by reciting the Bible words.

 **Life Application:** To reinforce both the Bible Truth and Life Response Aim, try this action rhyme.

Out on a hillside, where the green grass could grow tall,

(Point to a “distant hill”; indicate height of grass.)

Were many, many people—some big and some small.

(Stretch out both arms; indicate various heights.)

They listened to Jesus; they listened all day.

(Cup hands behind ears.)

They felt very hungry, but no food had they.

(Rub tummy; shake head.)

“The people must eat,” the Lord Jesus said.

(Stretch out both arms.)

So one little boy gave two fish and five loaves of bread,

(Hold up one finger; then two; then five.)


And Jesus, God’s Son, made sure that everyone was fed.

(Point up; stretch out both arms.)


Only Jesus, God’s Son, could do this wonderful thing.

(Point up; put hands on face in amazement.)

So “Dear Jesus, I Love You” are the words that we sing.


 Sing “Dear Jesus, I Love You.”


HANDS-TO-HEARTS ARTS AND CRAFTS (10–15 MINUTES):

 **Jesus Feeds the People:** For this activity you’ll need copies of Copymaster 13, crayons, and glue sticks or tape. Give the children each a copy of Copymaster 13 and let them color the picture of Jesus and the people, as well as the strip of fish and loaves. Next, cut off the strip of fish and loaves and cut two slits above the basket (you may want to do this before class). To keep the slits from tearing, put tape on the back of the picture at the ends of the slits. Help the children put the strip through the two slits so the fish and loaves are showing. Then glue or tape the ends of the strip together, making a “never-ending” loop of fish and loaves coming from the basket. You may want the children to add flower stickers to the hillside.

Now you can show someone at home that Jesus fed many, many people from one small lunch.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 You will want to take the opportunity to pray with your children before they leave. If you have additional time, try this activity:

 **Feeding Mr. Eater:** Before class, make a large cardboard face with an open mouth. Cut a hole for the mouth large enough for a paper plate to fit through easily. Then let the children take turns “feeding Mr. Eater” by tossing or dropping their food plates (from Preparing Their Hearts) through the hole. This will be a fun opportunity for you to emphasize God’s wonderful provision.

God gives us such good food to eat. Remember to thank God for the good food He gives you. Good food helps you grow big and strong.

(Galatians 4:4)

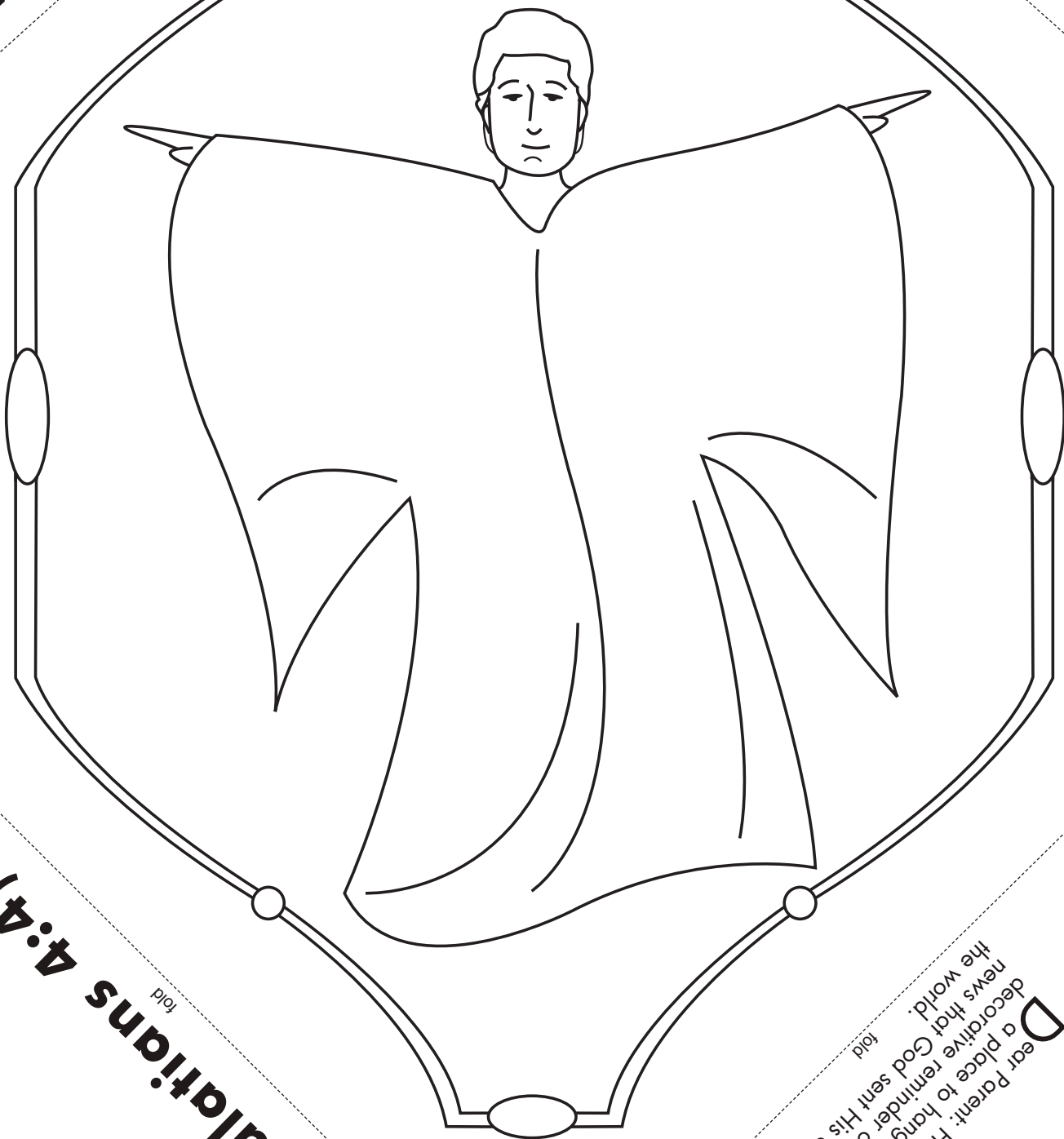
fold

**"God sent
forth His Son."**

fold

**"God sent
forth His Son."**

fold



Dear Parent: Help your child find a place to hang this decorative reminder of the good news that God sent His Son into the world.

fold



✂ cut

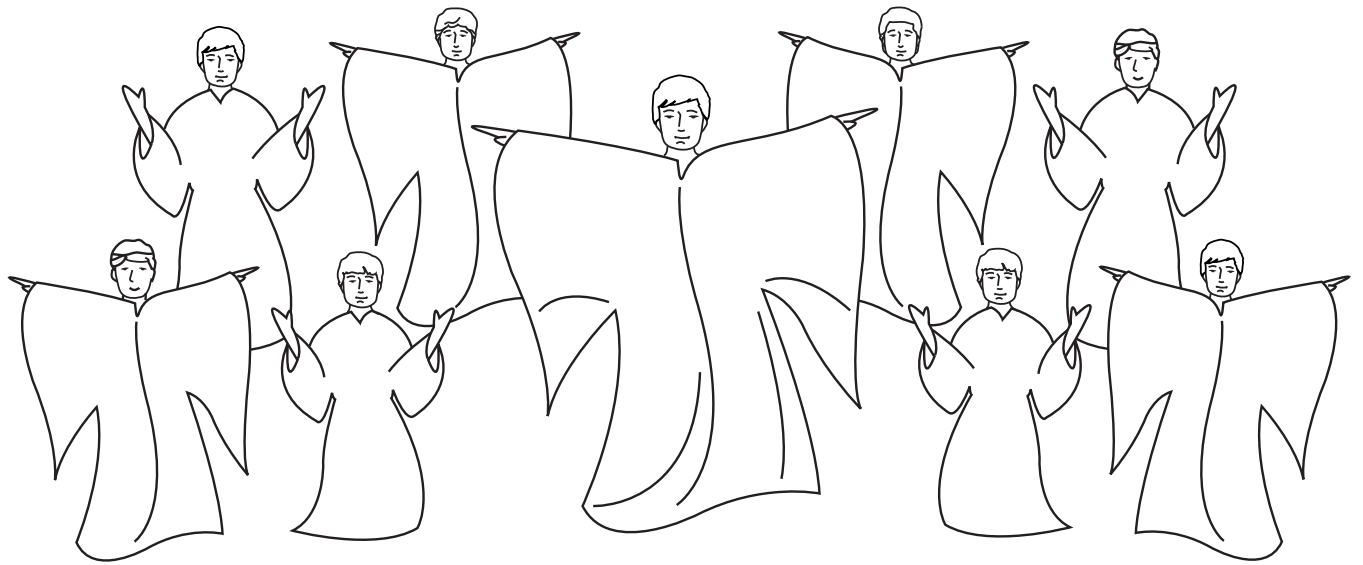
A Song to Sing at Home

God Sent Forth His Son

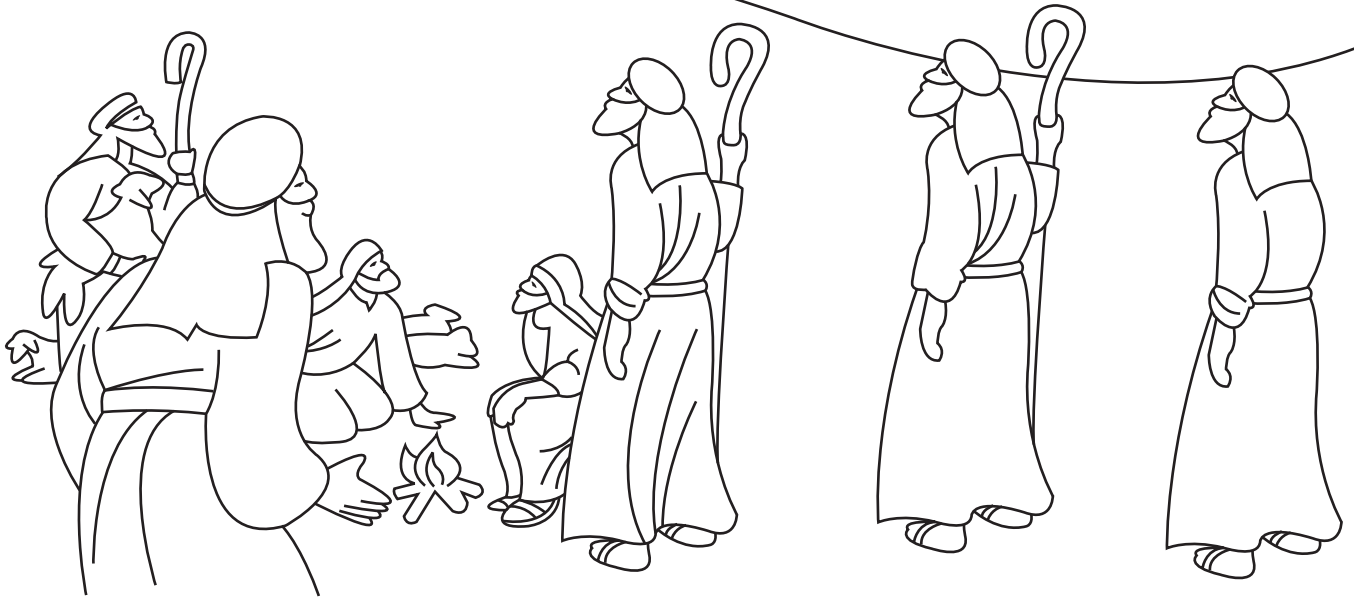
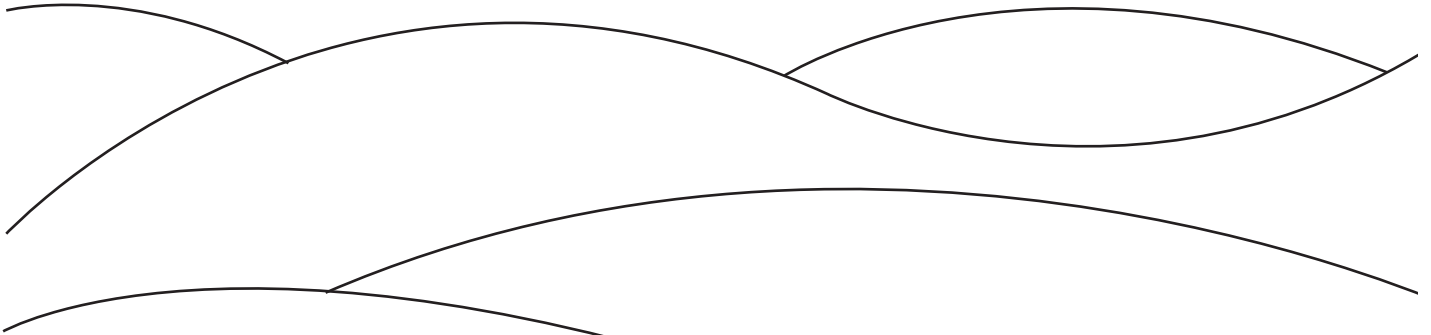
(Tune: "Farmer in the Dell")

God sent forth His Son.
God sent forth His Son.
On that first Christmas day,
God sent forth His Son.

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



cut

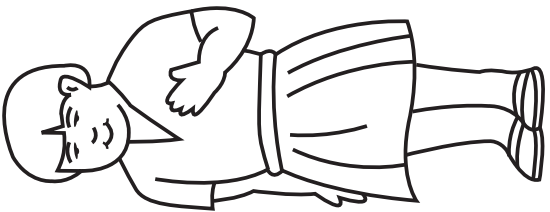


"God sent forth His Son." (Galatians 4:4)

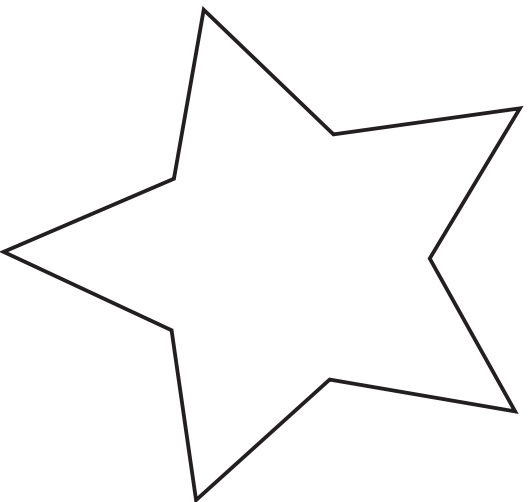
cut

Dear Parent: With this "masterpiece" in hand, your child will enjoy telling you the story of the angels visiting the shepherds. The angels brought the best news of all.





cut



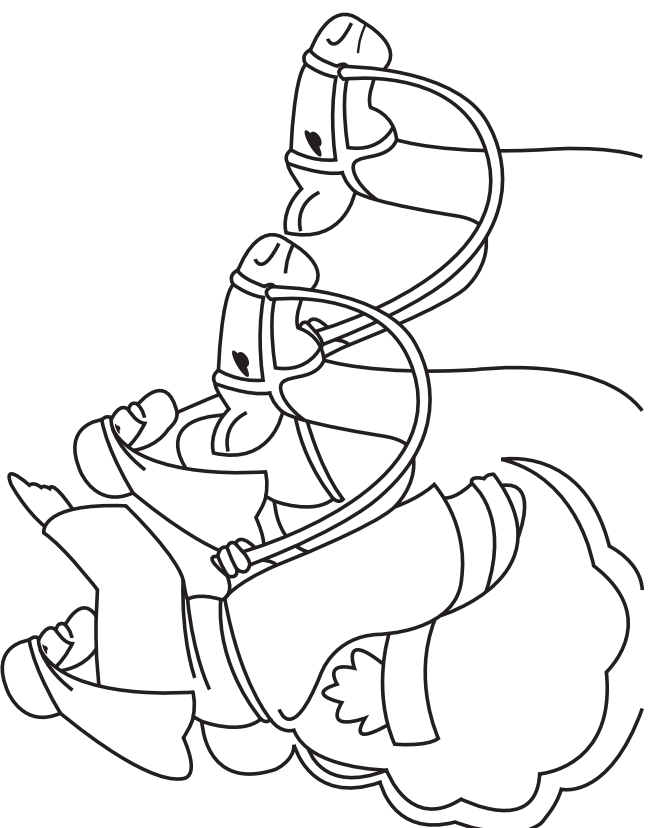
cut

A Poem for Home

(Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Twinkle, twinkle, God's big star!
Wise Men wonder what you are;
Up above the world so high,
God's bright signal in the sky.

Shining bright, you lead the way
To the house where Jesus stayed.
Twinkle, twinkle, God's big star,
Leading Wise Men from afar.
—B. T. Cory



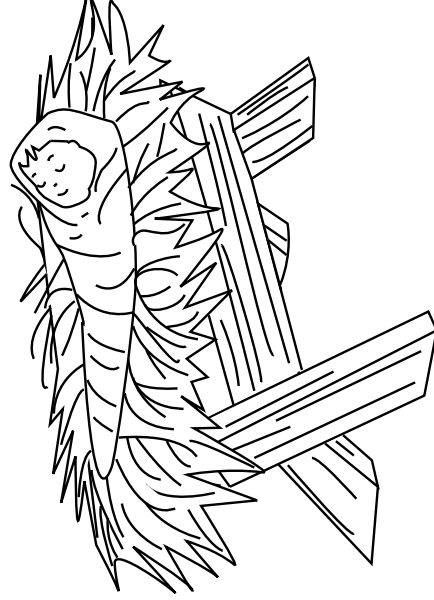
fold

**"God sent forth His Son."
(Galatians 4:4)**

 Name

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

LOVES



JESUS LOVES

Dear Parent: Today your child was reminded that Jesus loves him or her. If there isn't one already, put a picture of your child on the next page between "Jesus loves" and your child's name. Talk about the love of our Lord with your child; then sing "Jesus Loves Me" and the following song:

A Song to Sing at Home

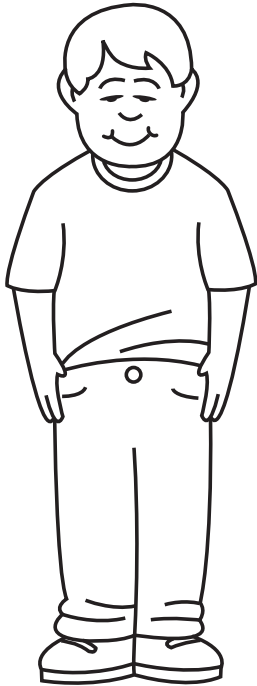
Jesus Loves Each Boy and Girl

(Tune: "London Bridge")

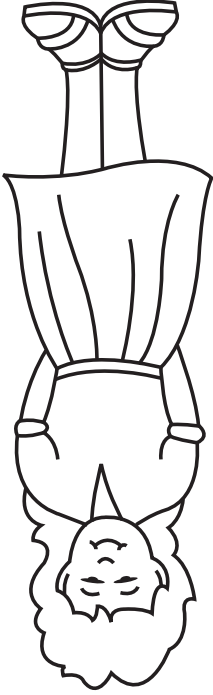
Jesus loves each boy and girl,
Boy and girl, boy and girl.
Jesus loves each boy and girl.
He loves (your child's name).

✂ cut

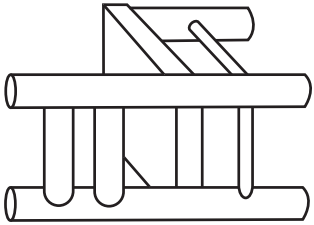
 Name



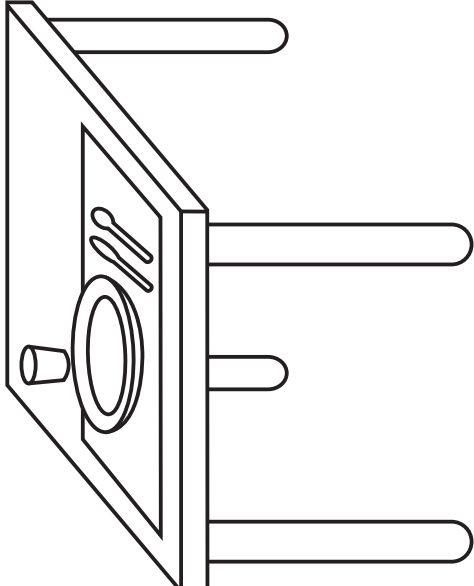
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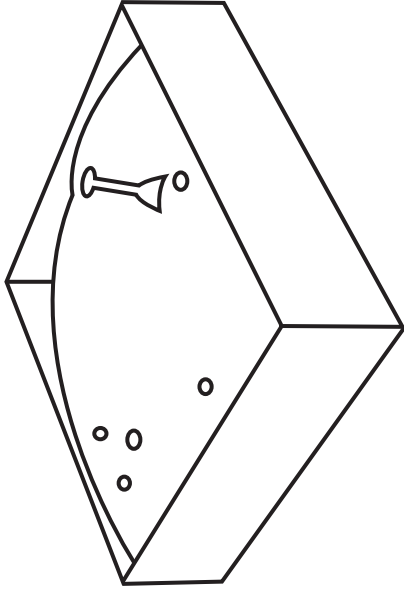
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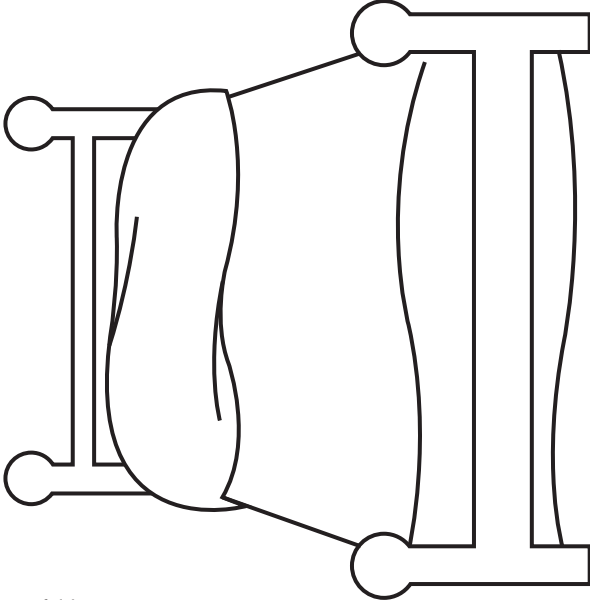
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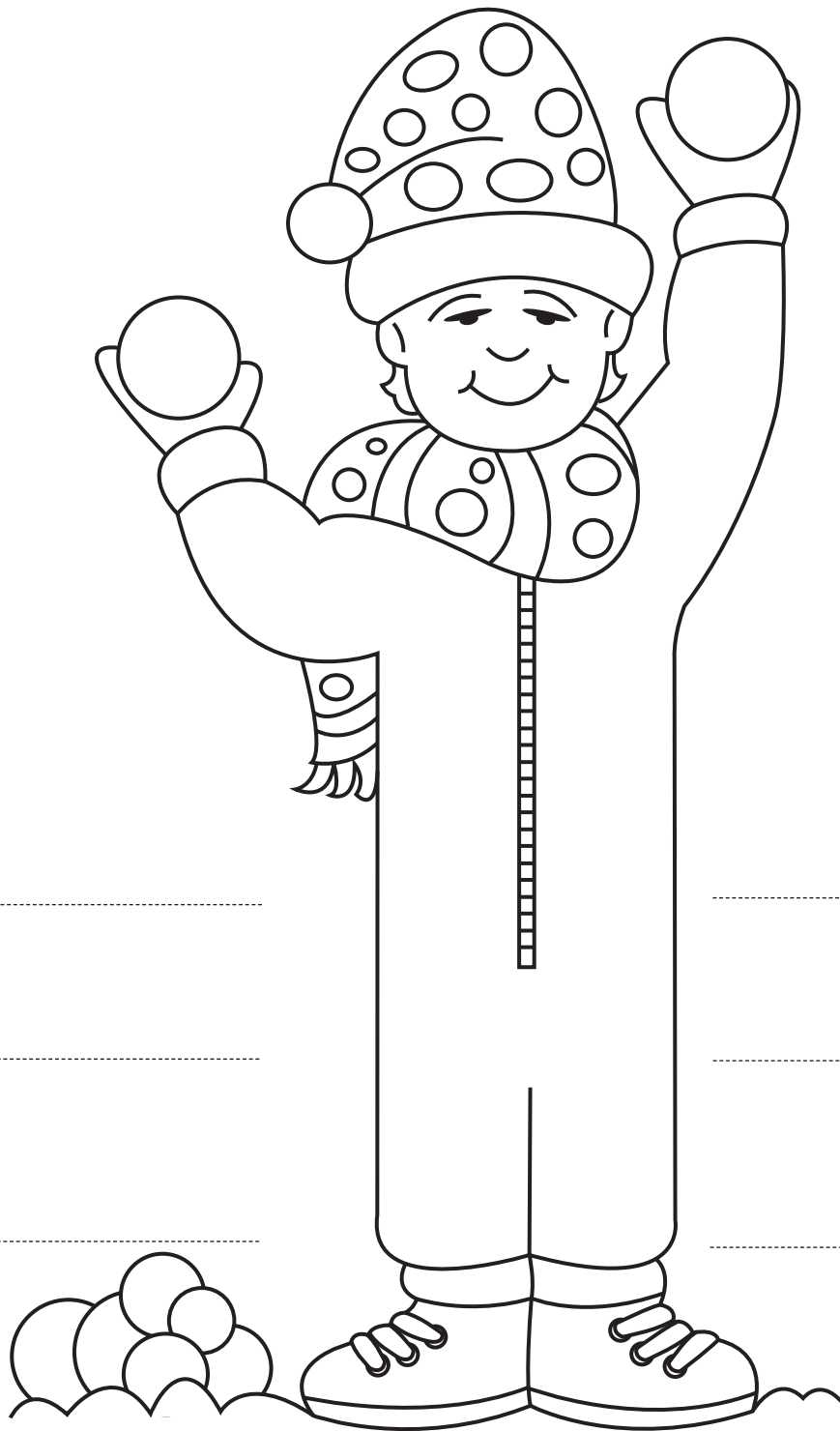
fold

"Jesus is the Son of God."

1 John 4:15

Dear Parent: Let your child show you how Sammy and Sally obeyed their parents; then discuss how your child can obey.

GOD HELPS US GROW



***"Jesus is the Son of
God."***

1 John 4:15

Song to Sing at Home

Growing Up (Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Grow, grow, growing up,
Growing up so big.
I want to grow up to obey God's Word,
Just as Jesus did.

JESUS WAS IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

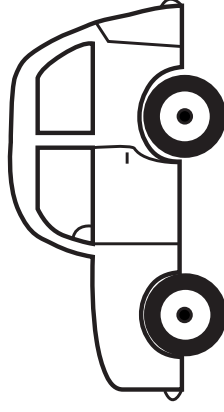
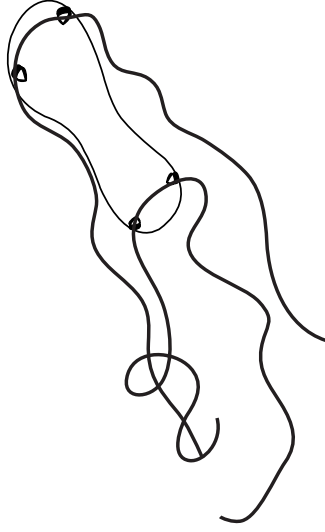
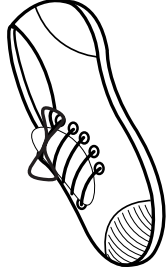
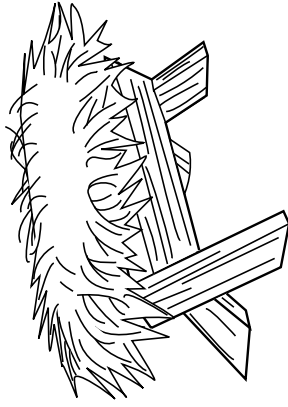
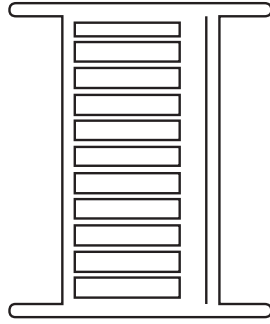
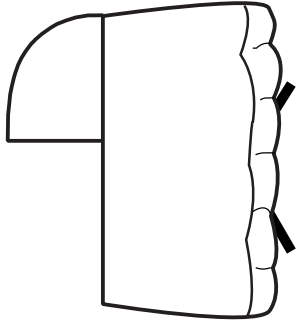


Dear Parent: Today your child learned of Jesus' obedience to Mary and Joseph. You may want to reinforce the importance of parental obedience with your child by assigning simple tasks and giving plenty of praise after each task is completed. But don't expect the same perfection Mary and Joseph had with Jesus. After all . . .

"Jesus is the Son of God."

1 John 4:15

WHEN JESUS WAS GROWING UP



Dear Parent: Your child has been learning that Jesus grew physically just as your child is. If you haven't done so already, why not make a growth chart for your child, so your child can see his or her growth. This would be a great opportunity to talk about Jesus growing up, just as your child is, and about your child's need to trust in Jesus as Saviour. Though your child may be too young now to fully understand the need to be saved from sin, you'll be planting the seeds of truth for the time when he or she does understand. And remind your child often that . . .

"Jesus is the Son of God."

1 John 4:15

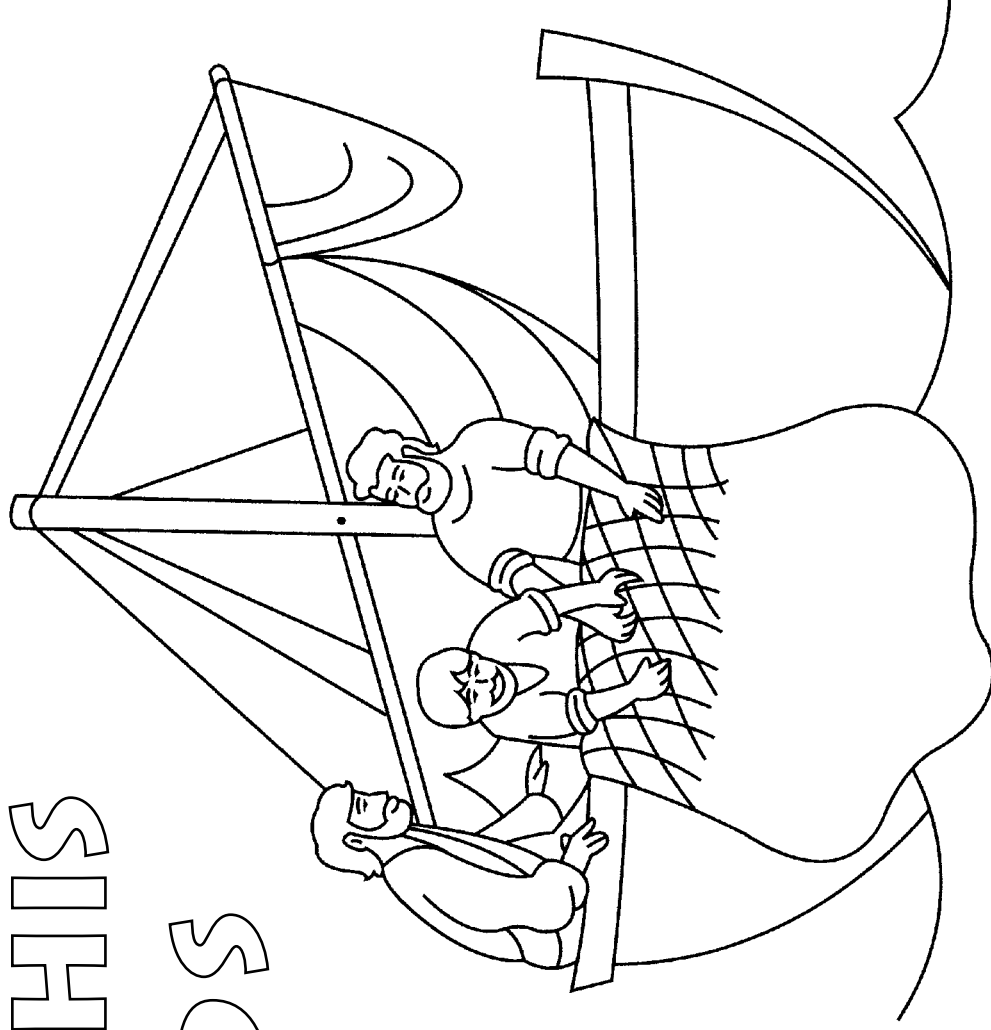
JESUS HELPS HIS FRIENDS

Song to Sing at Home Jesus Helps His Friends

(Tune: "Mulberry Bush")

Jesus helped His friends catch fish,
Friends catch fish, friends catch fish.
Jesus helped His friends catch fish,
And He helps me too.

(Then: Jesus helps me do what is right
. . . And He helps you too.)



"Jesus is the Son of God."

1 John 4:15

Do not paste across top edge of eyes so blinders can be inserted.

Cut eyelids on broken lines so blinders can be inserted.

cut

cut

cut

Blinders

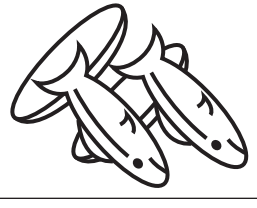
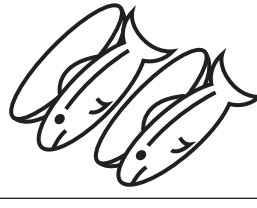
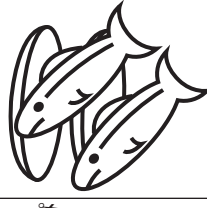
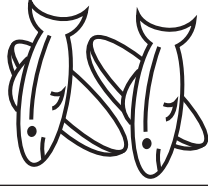
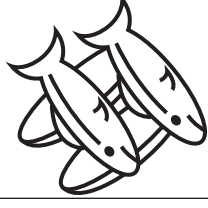
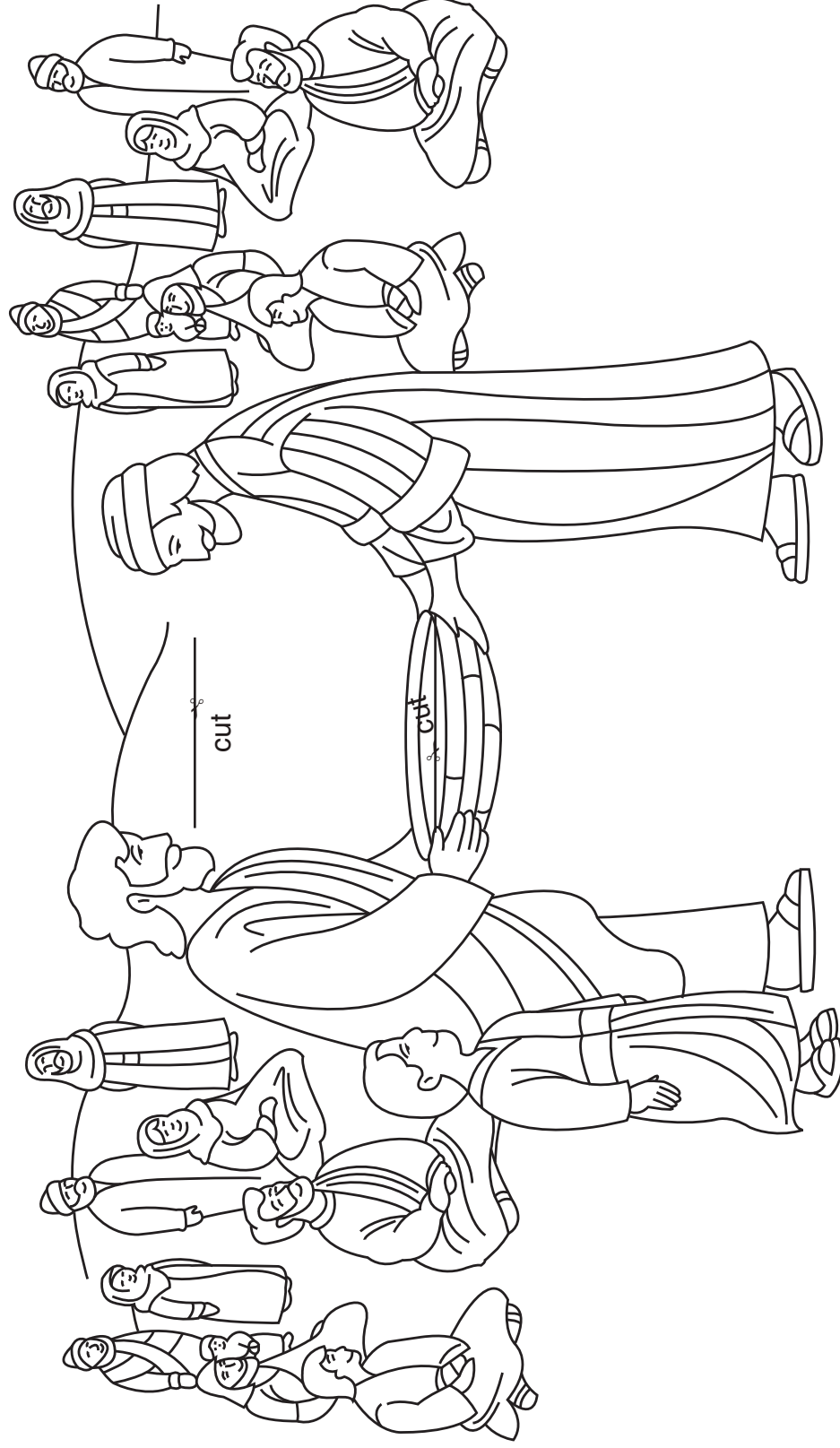
cut

"Jesus is the Son of God."

1 John 4:15

Dear Parent: Today your child learned about one of the wonderful things Jesus did—healing the blind man. Perhaps you could help your child understand what Jesus did for the man by showing your child what it is like not to see. Simply blindfold your child in a safe area, move around as you talk, and have him or her come to you. Or a game, such as "Pin the Tail on the Donkey," would be another way to demonstrate what it's like not to see. Then thank God for the gift of sight.

JESUS FEEDS THE PEOPLE



Dear Parent: The next time you're in a grocery store or driving past a large field with a food crop, take the opportunity to point out to your child all that the Lord provides people to eat. He provides in many ways.

“Jesus is the Son of God”
1 John 4:15

Giving

MARY LE BAR

A. VIVIENNE BLOMQUIST

1. I'm giv - ing, I'm giv - ing be - cause I love Je - sus: I'm
giv - ing, I'm giv - ing be - cause I love Him.

Chords: F, F, C⁷, F, F, B^b, F/C, C⁷, F

2. I'm singing, I'm singing
Because I love Jesus.
I'm singing, I'm singing
Because I love Him.

3. I'm helping, I'm helping
Because I love Jesus,
I'm helping, I'm helping
Because I love Him.

I Have a Message for You

M. A. B.

MARY A. BARBOUR

I have a mes - sage for you. — Je - sus loves you! Je - sus loves you!

I have a mes - sage for you. — Je - sus loves you! —

Chords: F, F, C⁷, F, F, C⁷, F

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Dear Jesus, I Love You

M. L.

MARY LE BAR

Dear Je - sus, I love You, I love You, I do; Dear
Je - sus, I'm sing - ing, I'm sing - ing, to You.

Chords: F, F, C⁷, F, F, Dm, C⁷, F

Happy Bells Are Ringing

M. A. B.

MARY A. BARBOUR

Ring! Ring! Hear them ring! The hap - py bells are ring - ing!
 Ring! Ring! Hear them ring! The hap - py bells are ring - ing!

Hear — them sing, Ring-ting - a - ling! O what a hap - py day! —
 Je - sus is born! Je - sus is born! O hap - py Christ - mas Day! —

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Bye-low, Baby Jesus

M. H. F.

MARIE H. FROST

Once an an - gel told a se - cret, told a se - cret long a - go
 Je - sus came to us from hea - ven as a Ba - by long a - go

Told how God would send us Je - sus, God's own Son who loves us so.
 Ma - ry held Him close and rocked Him, God's own Son who loves us so.

CHORUS

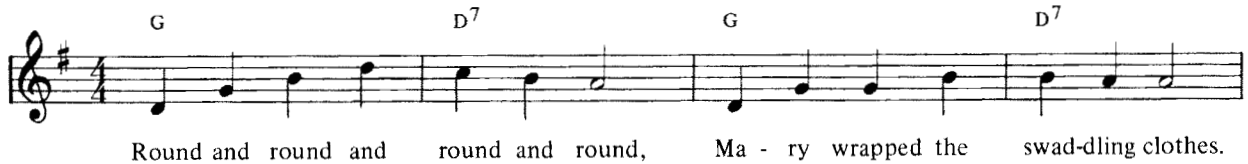
Bye - low, Ba - by Je - sus, Bye - low, Ba - by Je - sus,

Bye - low, Ba - by Je - sus, Hap - py Christ - mas - time.

Swaddling Clothes Song

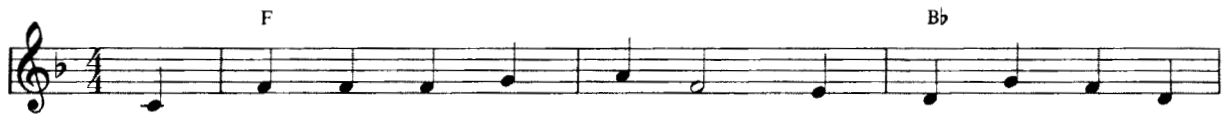
RUTH C. REID

RUTH M. HINDS



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Shepherd's Song



- | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. The | shep - herds | loved | dear | Je - sus, ¹ | They | left | their | sleep - ing |
| 2. The | shep - herds | loved | dear | Je - sus, ¹ | They | prayed | to | God and |
| 3. The | wise | men | loved | dear | Je - sus, ¹ | They | fol - lowed | God's bright |
| 4. The | wise | men | loved | dear | Je - sus, ¹ | They | brought | to Him rich |



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|-------------|------|------------------------------|
| sheep, ² | And | hur - ried | to the | man - ger ³ | Where | Je - sus | was | a - sleep. ⁴ |
| said, ⁵ | † | "Thank You, God, | for | Je - sus ⁵ | † | In | His | man - ger bed." ⁴ |
| star. ⁶ | It | led them | to our | Best Friend. | They | trav - eled | from | a - far. |
| gifts, | And | thanked the | Heaven-ly | Fa - ther, ⁵ | † | For | His | spe - cial Gift. |

1. Pretend to cradle baby in arms.
2. Begin to walk fingers up arm.
3. Walk fingers faster.

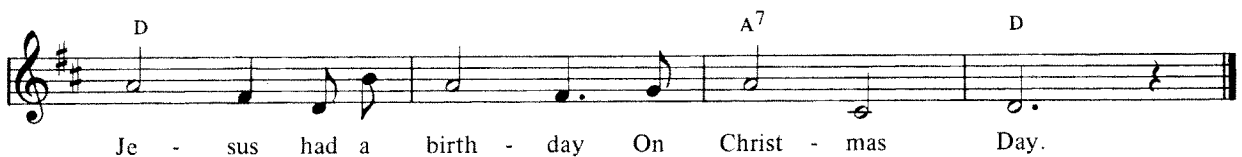
4. Pillow head on hands.
5. Fold hands in prayer.
6. Walk pointing to "star."

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His Birthday

L. L.

LOIS LE BAR



Follow the Star

M. A. B.

MARY A. BARBOUR

C Em Am F⁷ G⁷

1. Fol - low the star, Fol - low the star. Fol - low the star to Je - sus.
 2. They bro't some gifts, Some beau - ti - ful gifts. They bro't some gifts for Je - sus.

C Em C G⁷ C

That's what they did, the wise men did. They fol - lowed the star to Je - sus.
 He was God's Son, the on - ly One. They gave all their gifts to Je - sus.

Helping Today

MARIE H. FROST

TRADITIONAL

D A⁷ D

1. What shall we do when we help to - day? Help to - day, Help to - day.
 2. We will help and sweep the floor, Sweep the floor, Sweep the floor.
 3. We will put the books a - way, Books a - way, Books a - way.
 4. We will pick up toys to - day, Pick up toys, Pick up toys.
 5. We will dust the room to - day, Dust the room, Dust the room.

D A⁷ D

What shall we do when we help to - day?
 We will help and sweep the floor,
 We will put the books a - way, Help to please our Lord.
 We will pick up toys to - day,
 We will dust the room to - day,

I Open God's Book

M. H. F.

MARIE H. FROST

G D D⁷ G G D

1¹ o - pen,² o - pen, o - pen God's Book. I o - pen, o - pen,

D⁷ G G C D⁷ G

o - pen and look, And I read,³ "We love Him."

Actions for song:

1. Close outstretched hands, palms facing each other.
2. Each time you say the word "open" uncloset hands, keeping them close together, and quickly close hands again.
3. Look at open hands as you say the Bible words.

We Love Jesus

F G⁷ C⁷

1. We love Je - sus, We love Je - sus, Yes, we love Him so!
 2. We love Je - sus, We love Je - sus, Do you love Him too?

C⁷ F

We should please Him, We should please Him, Ev - 'ry - where we go.
 We should please Him, We should please Him, In all that we do.

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God's Care

M. L.

MARY LE BAR

F F F

1. When I go rid - ing a - long, a - long,)
 2. When I go walk - ing a - long, a - long, } God takes care of
 3. When I am play - ing at home, at home, }
 4. When I go vis - it - ing far a - way, }

C Am F Gm C C⁷ F

me, — God takes care of me, — God takes care of me. —

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Thank You, God

MARIE H. FROST

F C⁷

Thank You, God, thank You, God, thank You, God, for our food.
 Thank You, God, thank You, God, thank You, God, for the day.

C⁷ F

Thank You, God, thank You, God, thank You, God, for our food.
 Thank You, God, thank You, God, thank You, God, for the day.

Thank You, God, for the night.
 Thank You, God, for the grass.
 Thank You, God, for the clouds.

Jesus Is the Son of God

S.T.

STEVE TIPPETT

F C7/F F B \flat Gm7 F C

Je - sus is the Son of God, Praise His name.

F C7/F F B \flat Gm7 F B \flat /G C7 1. F

Je - sus is the Son of God, I'm so glad He came. He

B \flat F B \flat F

came be-cause He loves me, Yes Je - sus loves me. He

B \flat F G7 C D.C. 2. F

came be-cause He loves me, And I love Him too! came.

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The Good Morning Song

M. H. F.

MARIE H. FROST

F

1. Ev - 'ry day we say "Good morn - ing, good
 2. Ev - 'ry day we say "A wel - come, a
 3. Ev - 'ry day we say "God loves you, God

C7 F B \flat F/C C7 F

morn - ing, good morn - ing, good morn - ing to you."
 wel - come, a wel - come, a wel - come to you."
 loves you, God loves you, God loves you and me."

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Church Time®

ENGAGE YOUR
CHILDREN'S
HEARTS WITH
GOD'S LOVE
AND TRUTH.

Lead your children into joyful praise and worship.

With the Leader's Guide and *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* CD, the *Church Time*® packet contains all the curriculum you need for *Total Bible Learning*®.



Transition Time is a welcome break between hours filled with activities, play, snacks, and rest.

Preparing Their Hearts helps children begin thinking about the lesson's Bible Truth.

Worship and Story Time relates the Bible story, then guides children to review the memory verse and take part in a life application activity.

Hands-to-Hearts Activities use the hands of a child to create an art or craft to teach God's truth upon a young heart.

Good-bye Time provides fun activities when Mom, Dad, or the service is late.

The Leader's Guide gives you lesson plans to fill your whole hour; copymasters for fun, enriching activities; and sheet music to go with the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* CD.

Packet Components

- The 2s & 3s Packet (#4018) contains:
Leader's Guide
Let's Sing Motions 'n Music CD
- The 4s & 5s Packet (#4028) contains:
Leader's Guide
Let's Sing Motions 'n Music CD



2&3 2s & 3s
Church Time
Packet
No. 4018