

Church Time[®]

4s & 5s

Total Bible Learning[®]

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

**Lesson Plans &
Activities**

**Reproducible Student
Activity Sheets**

Sheet Music



UNIT THEMES

We See
God's Love by
His Giving

We Listen
to God

We Talk
to God



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 it with the colorful visuals from our Sunday School *Teaching Resources*. You can share with the Sunday School teacher, or perhaps you’d want to order a packet specifically 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-on art or craft activity can help reinforce the Bible Truth each week. Specific recommendations are 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, wouldn’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


GOD'S SON, JESUS, IS BORN

LESSON ONE

UNIT 1: WE SEE GOD'S LOVE BY HIS GIVING

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Display a list of foods to alert parents. Construct a stable with pieces of graham crackers, (base, three side panels) “glued” with icing or simply resting on one another, and animal crackers. Talk about stables as children eat their crackers. **A stable is where animals live. What do you think a stable is like? Our story today is about Someone special in a stable.**

 **Birthday Time:** Begin a birthday album for the quarter. Take instant snapshots or ask parents to bring in a recent photo of their birthday child. Each child can decorate the page on which his or her picture is mounted, adding any special touches desired to the album. Allow the birthday children time to talk about their families and themselves. Then everyone can sing “Happy Birthday.”

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

Bible Truth:

Jesus, God's Son, was born.

Life Response Aim:

To celebrate Christmas for the best reason—Jesus' birth.

Bible Verse:


1 John 4:10

Materials Needed:

Snack; scissors, glue, paper, colored markers; jingle bells; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 1, copied for each child; construction paper, strips of yellow 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.



PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Traveling to Bethlehem:** Talk with the children as you walk together around the room. End at the table prepared with scissors, glue, paper, and markers.

Has anyone here ever taken a long walk? How did you feel? Mary and Joseph took a long walk to get to Bethlehem. Perhaps Mary rode a donkey. I'm sure that they were very tired, but there were no beds for them. Other people had come to the town before them and had taken all the places to sleep. Mary and Joseph rested with the animals. Soon, something very special happened.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take up any offering the children have brought at this time (if you have not already done so).


  **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources*. Otherwise, be as animated as you can in telling the story. Be sure to get your students involved.

Mary and Joseph lived in a small town called Nazareth. Joseph probably asked Mary's father if he could marry her. Mary and Joseph might have been excited about getting married and one day having little children. One night, when Mary was alone, an angel from God came to her. He told her that God wanted her to be the mother of God's Son. The angel told Mary that God would take care of her.

When Joseph heard that Mary was going to have a baby, he became worried. But God wanted Joseph to be Mary's husband. So when Joseph fell asleep, an angel came and told him that the Baby was God's Son. The angel also told Joseph to take Mary as his wife. Joseph would help take care of God's Son as He grew up.

One day, not long after the angel's visit, Joseph and Mary had to leave Nazareth and go on a long trip to a little town called Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem, there was no room for them to sleep in the places where travelers stayed. These places were called inns. Joseph and Mary were very tired. They went into a building called a stable where animals slept and ate.

While Joseph and Mary were in the stable, Baby Jesus was born. They put Him in a box called a manger where people put hay for the animals to eat. And there, God's Son, Jesus, slept quietly in a bed full of hay.

 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” from this quarter’s music CD. Then hand out some jingle bells and sing this song (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 “Happy Bells Are Ringing”. **What a wonderful time Christmas is. I’m very happy, aren’t 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 to teach each part of the verse:

Point up for He.

Hug self for love.

Point out in a sweeping motion for sending forth.


Cradle your arms for His Son.

 **Life Application:** To reinforce the Life Response Aim of remembering that Christmas is a celebration of Jesus’ birth, gather the children in a semicircle and have them sit on the floor. In a box, or some other substitute manger, place a doll wrapped in a blanket.

What would you like as a gift on your birthday? For Baby Jesus’ birthday, what do you think He would have liked? As a baby, He really couldn’t have played with your toys.

Guide their answers to gifts such as a smile, a kiss—priceless gifts, but they have no monetary value. Whenever appropriate, remind the children that God’s gift—His Son, Jesus—was the best gift ever. Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.

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


 **God Sent His Son:** For this activity you’ll need a copy of Copymaster 1 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.

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 the strips for added realism.

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

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

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


 With an extra copy of Copymaster 1, make a birthday page for Jesus in the class’s birthday album. Let the children work with you in decorating the page. Remind them that God loves them so much He sent his Son, Jesus, to be born on earth. If there is time before the parents arrive, allow the children to act out the Bible story. Move around the room as you progress from Nazareth to Bethlehem and finally to the stable. As parents arrive, invite them to see the birthday album.


SHEPHERDS THANK GOD FOR JESUS

LESSON TWO

UNIT 1: WE SEE GOD'S LOVE BY HIS GIVING

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** On small squares of cloth, place a serving of trail mix, dried fruit, or jerky. Tie the sacks with twine. If available, attach the sacks to craft sticks. **The shepherds may have put their food into a sack to keep it off the ground. Do you know why they might have done this? Yes, so the animals wouldn't get it. Our story today is about some shepherds who received a very special message from God. I wonder what that message was?** Be aware of any dietary restrictions your children may have.

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children complete their pages of the photo album. Be sure to sing "Happy Birthday" to them.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Luke 2:8-20

Bible Truth:

The shepherds worshiped Baby Jesus.

Life Response Aim:

To thank God for sending Jesus to be our Saviour.

Bible Verse:


1 John 4:10

Materials Needed:

Snack; green sheet or table cloth, homemade planetarium; paper angels, lights, angel and shepherd costumes for helpers; rod; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 2, glue, crayons, cotton balls, paint materials, black construction paper

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):

 **One Starry Night:** Before class, prepare a place in the room to look like a grassy field (green sheet or tablecloth for grass). Prepare a large box, bottom and top removed. Cover the top with black paper pierced with tiny holes. Place a flashlight through the bottom opening (or check with other church members to see if any of them have a home planetarium). Cut angels from white paper. Paper clip them to strings lying on floor until used. Have one end of string attached near the ceiling on one side of the room. Put low-wattage lamps behind to project the shadows of the paper angels onto the walls.

Gather the children in the "grassy field." Turn off all the lights and turn on the box with stars. Discuss how beautiful the night must have been when the shepherds rested their heads on the rocks and listened to hear if any of their sheep were calling for them.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take some time to receive offering money.

 **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources*. Otherwise, be as animated as you can in telling the story. Be sure to get your students involved.

One night, something wonderful happened, but almost no one knew about what had just happened. In a little quiet town called Bethlehem, a man and a woman sat in a stable. And with them was a special Baby who had just been born. This Baby had been promised by God for many years. People watched for Him. This Baby whom God had promised was born in a quiet stable, and almost no one knew about it.


However, on a dark hill near Bethlehem, a few shepherds were taking care of their sheep. One shepherd may have been falling

asleep, another might have been praying and watching carefully so no wolves would get to the sheep.

Suddenly, an angel came to them. The angel spoke to them about a tiny Baby, Jesus, who had been born that night. Jesus was born to be the Saviour of the world. He is God's very own Son. One day, He would die for us to take away our sins.

Before the shepherds could even speak, the whole sky lit up with many angels. They began to worship God, who had sent Baby Jesus to be born. Can you imagine how the shepherds felt? I believe the shepherds were a bit frightened. That is why the angel told them not to be frightened.



After the angels left, the hill was just as quiet as it had been. The stars were still twinkling and the sheep still baaing. The shepherds quickly decided to see about what the angel had said. So they hurried to the town of Bethlehem, where Jesus was lying in a manger. They worshiped the Baby and then told many, many people about Him.


 As an action alternative or review of the Bible story, continue with the activity you started in Preparing Their Hearts. With the “stars” shining and all quiet, turn a projection lamp or flashlight on a helper dressed as an angel (a white sheet would work). The “angel” will say, **Do not be afraid. I bring good news of great joy for all the people. Today, in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find Him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.**

Suddenly, angels appeared in the sky. Pull the strings of angels up in front of the projection lamps. Have helpers boldly proclaim the angels’ message from Luke 2:14. Make it as full and majestic as possible. Then have all the angels leave by turning off the projection lamps, leaving the “starry room” quiet again. Have a helper who is acting as a shepherd say to the children, **Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has told us about.** Have this shepherd helper lead the children in acting out the rest of the story by leading them to the manger, which you made for last week’s Life Application.

 **Worship in Song:** Sing “Rock-a-bye Jesus” and “Happy Bells Are Ringing” from this quarter’s music. Then sing this song to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”


**A great light filled the sky,
And gave shepherds a fright.
“God’s Son, the Saviour, was born,” the angel did say.
So they worshiped Him that night.**

  **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Bring in a stick as a shepherd’s staff or rod. Explain that the staff was used to save the sheep from danger or to keep them on the right path. **The Bible tells us that if we hide God’s Word in our hearts we will not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11). So learning Bible verses is like the shepherd’s staff to protect us from danger.** Analogies are difficult for 4’s and 5’s, but a few might understand. We need to give our little ones the meat of the Scripture appropriate to their age, but since there are varying levels even in age groups, try to challenge each child’s level of understanding. Then, using the motions from last week, review the Bible words from 1 John 4:10.

 **Life Application:** It is good for children to learn at an early age that prayer is not something that is boring or unrewarding. It is part of worship. Many children at this age may wonder if they need a telephone to talk to God. Explain that He can hear their tiniest thoughts or whispers. Allow each child to thank God for sending Jesus, our Saviour. After all the children who would like to pray are given the opportunity to do so, a leader should thank God and close the prayer time. For example:

Dear God, thank You for hearing us. Thank You that You sent Your Son, Jesus, from heaven to live on earth for a short time. Thank You that He was willing to die to take away our sins.

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, water-color paints with colors that could represent light (yellow, gold, light orange, etc.), paintbrushes, smocks to protect clothing, and copies of Copymaster 2. 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 2. 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 1 John 4:10.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

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


  **Bible Story Review:** Play “Shepherds Worship Baby Jesus” from this quarter’s music and lead the children in acting out the story to music.

THE WISE MEN VISIT JESUS

LESSON THREE

UNIT 1: WE SEE GOD'S LOVE BY HIS GIVING

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Cut slices of bread with a star cookie cutter. Sprinkle with colored sugar to make the star appear to twinkle. Cream cheese, jelly, or apple butter can be options according to preferences parents have shown in the past. **Our Bible story today has something to do with a special star that led people to a very special Person.** Be sure to check with parents regarding food allergies.

  **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children complete their pages of the photo album. Be sure to sing "Happy Birthday" to them.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Matthew 2:1-12

Bible Truth:

The Wise Men gave gifts as they worshiped Baby Jesus.

Life Response Aim:

To show my love for Jesus by giving to others.

Bible Verse:



1 John 4:10

Materials Needed:


Snack; small boxes, smocks for clothing protection, glue, glitter, gold paint, gold ribbon; an inexpensive gift for each child; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 3; crayons or colored markers

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):

  **How Do We Go to Jesus Today?** Talk about the difference between how the Wise Men went to Jesus and how we go to Jesus today. Have pictures of a camel, a phone (or a toy phone), a church building, and various places where your children might find themselves (house, playground, school, etc.).

Long ago, some Wise Men had a hard journey to reach the place where God's Son was. Show the camel picture. **Do we have to ride a camel to talk to Jesus? No, we can talk to Him right where we are, and He hears us. We don't need a telephone.** Show picture or toy phone. **We don't need to go anywhere special.** Show church picture. **No matter where we are or who else is around, we can whisper a prayer to Jesus, and He will hear us.** Show pictures of places where children can pray.



 **Wise Men's Gifts:** Have the children make gifts for the story time. Have a small box and clothes protection for each child. The children can decorate their boxes with glitter, gold paint, and gold ribbon.

During story time, turn off the lights in the classroom and use the star box from last week to light the room with stars. You can add a few luminescent stick-on stars around the classroom for the children to find as they follow the star in search of the young King. One leader can carry a large star for the children to follow.

The children will enjoy pretending to ride camels as they carry their treasure boxes to the young King. If you have the facilities, walk down the hallways and around other parts of the church following the hanging star. If you have a large doll, consider using that for the Child Jesus. The children can place their gifts at the doll's feet.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take up any offerings the children have brought.

  **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources*. Be as animated as possible and be sure to get your students involved. Have your Bible open on your lap or nearby.

I'm going to tell you about what happened many years ago, before your mom and dad or even grandmother or grandfather were born. People studied God's Word then, just as we study the Bible now. Some Wise Men were watching for the signs God had promised to send to them, just as we look forward to Jesus coming back for us today. The sign God sent was a star that would lead to the new King. We know what happened because we study our Bibles. Show your Bible.

When the Wise Men saw the star shining in the sky, they left their homes and went on a long journey to find the young King. On their way, they stopped to ask the leader of the land if he knew where the new King was. The leader, who was a king too, was not a good man. He was a bad king, and he was very unhappy that someone else would be king. He wanted to be the only king.

The bad king told the Wise Men what town to go to to find the new King. They were to go there and then come back to tell him where the new King was. The bad king said that he wanted to worship the new King. Do you think that was what he wanted to do? What is that called when we don't tell the truth? Yes, the Bible calls it a lie.

The Wise Men found the new King, Jesus, with His mother in Bethlehem. They worshiped Jesus and gave Him many wonderful presents. Then God told the Wise Men to go home another way because the bad king wanted to hurt Jesus. So the Wise Men obeyed God. They did not go back to the bad king.



Worship in Song: Sing "Happy Bells Are Ringing" and "We Love Jesus" from this quarter's music. Then sing this song to the tune of "Three Blind Mice."

The Wise Men,
The Wise Men,
Followed a star,
Followed a star.
They followed and followed for days and days.
They slept in fields where animals grazed.
They found the King and praised and praised
God's own Son,
God's own Son.



Remembering the Bible Truth: Review the Bible verse from the past few weeks by reciting it a few times together. Then give volunteers the opportunity to recite the verse in front of the class. Help as needed and praise all efforts.



When the Wise Men came to worship young Jesus, they gave Him presents they thought were good. The gifts probably cost them a lot of money. They could have bought themselves new clothes. Instead, they gave their gifts to Jesus to worship Him. Why? Sing again "We Love Jesus." That's a wonderful reason to worship Him, isn't it?

Life Application: Have small, inexpensive gifts for your children, such as small, stuffed toys from a thrift shop. You may even be able to buy them in bulk. Have one wrapped for each child. Then have a few children hand out the gifts to the rest of the class.

Wasn't it fun to give and receive gifts? The Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus because they wanted to worship the new King. Jesus gave us a wonderful gift by coming to earth as a baby. He left His beautiful home in heaven to live with people. And His best gift of all was when He died on the cross and made it possible for people to come to God. That's why we give gifts at Christmastime—to show our love and to remember the best gift of all.

Then open the gifts together.

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



The Wise Men Searched for Jesus: Hand out a copy of Copymaster 3 to each child. Let the children color the picture with crayons or colored markers. Guide the first part of this project; then let them color the rest of the picture as they would like.

The Wise Men searched and searched until they found Jesus. To find the young Child Jesus in your picture, color all the spaces with dots first. When you are done, all that will be left uncolored is a picture of the young King. Show me when you have found Him. Then you may want to color His picture too. Will you show someone in your family your picture and tell the story of the Wise Men?

When the children have finished coloring, point out the Bible words from 1 John 4:10 on their papers and say the verse together again.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

If you have additional time, try this activity:




Bible Story Review: Play "Wise Men" from this quarter's music and lead the children in acting out the story to music.

WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY

LESSON FOUR

UNIT 1: WE SEE GOD'S LOVE BY HIS GIVING

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve some of the children's favorite Christmas snacks, such as cookies that have been cut into Christmas shapes. **Christmas is such a wonderful time of year. I love Christmas snacks, don't you?** As always, be aware of any dietary restrictions your children may have and serve alternative snacks if necessary.

  **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the birthday album. Sing "Happy Birthday."

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Review of Lessons 1-3

Bible Truth:

God sent His Son to be our Saviour.

Life Response Aim:

To celebrate Christmas as Jesus' birthday.

Bible Verse:



1 John 4:10

Materials Needed:

Snack of the children's favorite Christmas goodies; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 4, crayons, glue or tape, construction paper



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):

  **Christmas Animals:** Make the sounds of some animals that may have been part of the Christmas story, such as the donkey Mary may have ridden, animals that may have been in the stable, sheep, and camels the Wise Men may have ridden. Let the children guess the animals. Or sing "Old MacDonald" together, naming the various animals and the noises they make.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought.

  You may want to sing the teacher's part to the tune of "Have You Ever Seen a Lassie?" If this is not comfortable for you to do, say the words in rhythmic cadence. It may be helpful to clap hands and lap to keep the rhythm. The children may answer in the same manner. You may want to use the colorful figures from *Teaching Resources* to help tell the story.

TEACHER: Tell me who did have a baby, a baby, a baby? Tell me who did have a baby and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Mary, Mary.

TEACHER: Tell me what did she name Him, she name Him, she name Him? Tell me what did she name Him and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Jesus, Jesus.

TEACHER: Tell me where was Jesus born, Jesus born, Jesus born? Tell me where was Jesus born and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Stable, stable.

TEACHER: Tell me where did Jesus sleep, Jesus sleep, Jesus sleep?

Tell me where did Jesus sleep and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Manger, manger.

TEACHER: Tell me who takes care of sheep, care of sheep, care of sheep? Tell me who takes care of sheep and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Shepherds, shepherds.

TEACHER: Tell me who told them about Jesus, about Jesus, about Jesus? Tell me who told them about Jesus and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Angels, angels.

TEACHER: Tell me who followed the bright star, the bright star, the bright star? Tell me who followed the bright star and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Wise Men, Wise Men.

TEACHER: Tell me what they brought to Jesus, to Jesus, to Jesus? Tell me what they brought to Jesus and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Presents, presents.

TEACHER: Tell me what the people did, people did, people did? Tell me what the people did and tell me right now.

CHILDREN: Praised Him! Praised Him!



As a review of the Bible stories or an action alternative, play “Shepherds Worship Baby Jesus” and “Wise Men” from this quarter’s music and lead the children in doing the motions indicated by the narration. The first story, “Shepherds Worship Baby Jesus,” covers the first two lessons. Your children will enjoy acting out these Bible stories to music.



Worship in Song: Sing “Rock-a-bye Jesus,” “The Swaddling Clothes Song,” “Bye-low, Baby Jesus,” and “Happy Bells Are Ringing” from the CD. Then sing these words. (Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)

Mary loved Jesus. Joseph loved Jesus.
Yes, they did. Yes, they did.
Thank You, God, for Jesus. Thank You, God, for Jesus,
Our Saviour, our Saviour.

Shepherds loved Jesus. Shepherds loved Jesus.
Yes, they did. Yes, they did.
Thank You, God, for Jesus. Thank You, God, for Jesus,
Our Saviour, our Saviour.

Wise Men loved Jesus. Wise Men loved Jesus.
Yes, they did. Yes, they 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:

Whom did God send to earth? (His Son, Jesus)
Why did Jesus come to earth? (Because He loves us)
Can you say our Bible words with me? (Repeat the Bible words from 1 John 4:10)



Life Application: Let the children share some of their family Christmas experiences. You may want to share your own to get things started. Then close by praying for each child’s family.

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 4 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). The back cover is for your own ideas, or just leave it blank. On page 3, have each child draw a self-portrait under “Jesus loves.” **We love Jesus, and Jesus loves us.**

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Lead the class in prayer thanking God for sending Jesus, our Saviour. If you have additional time after closing in prayer, try this activity:



Try this action rhyme to the cadence of “Baa, Baa Black Sheep.”


Baa baa little lamb, (*Pretend to pet lamb.*)
What do you see tonight? (*Hand over eyes, peering out.*)
God’s Son born (*Rock baby.*)
And travelers in the night. (*Walk in place.*)
Some bringing gifts, (*Fill arms with pretend presents.*)
And some tending sheep. (*Kneel down and baa.*)
All of them searching for Jesus fast asleep. (*Finger to lips and say “shhh.”*)


MOSES LISTENS TO GOD

LESSON FIVE

UNIT 2: WE LISTEN TO GOD

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve whole grain cereal on paper plates. Pour a little cherry pie filling over the cereal. If there's a microwave available, consider warming the pie filling, but not too hot. Give each child a plastic spoon to stir the cereal and pie filling together. **Now hold up your spoon. Cherries and cereal have stuck together on your spoon. I think it looks a little bit like a burning bush. Our story today is about a burning bush. From that bush, Someone special spoke. I wonder who was speaking.** Be aware of any food restrictions your children might have.

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the photo album.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Exodus 3:1-6, 10-12

Bible Truth:

Moses listened to God and obeyed.

Life Response Aim:

To listen to God's Word so we can obey Him.

Bible Verse:


1 Samuel 3:9

Materials Needed:

Snack; a branch from a bush; story telling props; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 5, construction paper; scissors, glue, glitter (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):

 **Listen Carefully:** Choose a birthday child to be "it" or any child if you have no birthdays this week. Explain that you are pretending that a branch is from the bush that did not burn when Moses was at Mount Horeb. This branch will be hidden somewhere in the room. Ask "it" to leave the room or close his or her eyes. Hide the branch. The rest of the children will sing a well-known song. As "it" hunts for the branch, the song will increase and decrease in volume—increase if closer to the branch and decrease if farther from the branch. Then let other children be "it" as time and interest permit.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take up any offering money the children have brought.

 **Bible Story:** Prepare an audio tape of birds singing, flames crackling (this can be done by crinkling cellophane paper by the microphone), and the parts of the story that represent God's voice. Young children associate the actors with the character portrayed, so have the part of God's voice be unseen, just as Moses experienced it. You may want to use colorful figures from *Teaching Resources* to help tell the story.

Characters (all played by adult leaders): Moses as a shepherd; God's voice—tape recording; and narrator.

Props (be as creative and elaborate as you want): a lamp with a red light bulb; branches arranged as a bush around the lamp (to avoid a fire hazard use a low-wattage light bulb); tape player hidden among the branches; sheep made from white construction paper.

The Bible story begins. Moses stands as the tape plays the sound of birds singing.

Narrator: Moses was a shepherd. He took care of sheep. He stayed in the green pasture with the sheep to be sure they had plenty of green grass to eat. One day, Moses took the sheep to a mountain named Horeb. This mountain was known to many people as the 'mountain of God.' Moses stands with the sheep. He looks at the sky and talks to the sheep.

Tape: Birds are quiet, and there's the sound of crackling fire. Dim lights as you turn on the red lamp.

Moses: Moses looks at bush and walks slowly, questioningly toward it. The flames get louder. **What is this? How can this be? The bush does not burn, but I'm sure that I see fire.**

Narrator: When Moses noticed the bush, God called out to him.

God's voice: Moses, Moses!

Moses: Here I am.

God's voice: Do not walk closer. Take off your shoes. This is a special place because I am here.

Narrator: Moses took off his shoes. He was amazed at what he was hearing.

God's voice: Moses, I am the Living God that your father and his father believed in and obeyed.

Narrator: This made Moses hide his face. He was afraid to look at God.

God's voice: **Moses, I want you to go to Pharaoh.**

Narrator: **Pharaoh was the leader of the country that made God's people become slaves.**

Moses: **Who am I to go to Pharaoh? Why should Pharaoh listen to me?**

God's voice: **I will go with you. And I will free My people. Then you will serve Me.**

Narrator: **Moses obeyed, and God went with Moses. Moses learned that he could do anything that God told him to do because God was with him. Let's say this together. We can do anything that God tells us to do because God is with us!**


 **Worship in Song:** Sing "We're Listening" and "God's Word" from this quarter's music. Then sing this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

**Moses saw a burning bush,
Burning bush, burning bush.
Moses saw a burning bush,
But the green leaves never burned.**

**Moses listened to God's words,
To God's words, to God's words.
Moses listened to God's words,
Coming from the bush.**

**Go to set My people free,
People free, people free.
Go to set My people free,
Go tell Pharaoh so.**

**You will never be alone,
Be alone, be alone.
You will never be alone.
I will go with you.**

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Teach the Bible words from 1 Samuel 3:9, using these motions. Touch hands to lips for *speak*; point up for *Lord*; bow low for *servant*; and then put hands behind ears.

Life Application: Try this fun activity to emphasize the need to listen.

Listen very carefully to my silly sayings. If you listen carefully, you may be able to answer the riddles.

Moses had a riddle to figure out. Why was the bush filled with fire and not burning up? Because God wanted Moses to listen to Him. Give additional hints until someone guesses.

I have four fingers and a thumb but I'm not your hand. What am I? (a glove)

How many animals can jump higher than a house? (all animals that can jump, for a house can't jump)


What has eyes but not a nose? (a potato)

What eats every day, builds its home wherever it wants, but never has to buy food? (a bird)

What can have water running into it all the time but never fills up? (the ocean)

These were silly questions, weren't they? Now I have a serious question. What Book is God's Word? That's right, the Bible. And we should always obey the Bible.

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

 **Moses Listens to God:** Give each child a copy of Copymaster 5, crayons, scissors, glue, and small pieces of fire-colored construction paper (red, yellow, orange, etc.). Let the children color the picture of Moses and the bush. Then have them cut slivers of construction paper to glue onto the bush. If you'd like, have the children glue fire-colored glitter on the bush. **God spoke to Moses through the burning bush, and Moses obeyed. Today God speaks to us through His Word. Should we obey? Yes, we should.**

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

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


 **Puzzle Fun:** Have the children put together puzzles prepared from the lesson's copymaster. Color the pictures and cover with clear, self-adhesive plastic; then cut into pieces appropriate for your class's ability.

SAMUEL HEARS GOD'S VOICE

LESSON SIX

UNIT 2: WE LISTEN TO GOD

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve sliced fruit with crackers and juice, being aware of any food allergies. **What do you think Samuel would eat every day? It probably wasn't anything like what you eat; no macaroni and cheese, no spaghetti and meatballs. I think Samuel might have enjoyed fruit and crackers and juice.** Pick the birthday child or children to be Samuel. Dress them with robes. Have the other children introduce "Samuel" to their favorite fruit and enjoy the snack together.

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the photo album. Sing "Happy Birthday."

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-21

Bible Truth:

God spoke to a little boy and will speak to us too.

Life Response Aim:

To do what God tells us in His Word.

Bible Verse:


1 Samuel 3:9

Materials Needed:

Snack, robes; figures from *Teaching Resources*;
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.


PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **A Listening Game:** Have one child seated on a chair in the middle of the floor, another child standing behind the chair. The child standing should disguise his or her voice. The seated child guesses whose voice it is. Allow all the children interested to participate.

It isn't always easy to tell who is calling you, especially if you're asleep. Samuel was asleep when he heard his name being called. It was late at night. Everyone was probably asleep. Listen to what happened to him late at night.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought.

 **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources*. Otherwise, be as animated as you can in telling the story. Be sure to get your students involved.

Have you ever prayed to God? Has your prayer been answered?
Allow time for response.

There was a woman who prayed that God would give her a child. When God answered her prayer by giving her a boy, she gave the child back to God by letting him live at the tabernacle—God's house. This child's name was Samuel.

 **Samuel served the priest who lived in the tabernacle. The priest's name was Eli.** Play "Samuel Helping" from this

quarter's music and lead the children in doing the motions indicated by the narration. When the story is over, have the children sit down again.

Samuel saw his mom and dad only one time every year. I think he might have felt lonely at times. But one day, Samuel met Someone else, Someone who would be with him every day. He would never have to be alone again. I'll tell you how it happened.

Samuel had fallen asleep in a very special place. It was where a lamp of God burned. Samuel might have sat alone in the dim light and fallen asleep.

Then he heard a voice call, "Samuel, Samuel." The first thing he thought was that Eli, the priest, wanted him. He ran to find Eli. Eli was asleep in bed.

"I did not call you," Eli told Samuel. "Now go lie down again." When Samuel had fallen asleep, he heard the voice again. He ran to Eli, but Eli hadn't called him.

Samuel tried to sleep again, but again the voice called. This time, Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. Eli said, "Go lie down again, and if you hear the voice calling say . . ." Have the children say the memory verse with you.

God told Samuel many things. Samuel would never be alone again. He knew God and had heard His voice. As Samuel grew to be a man, he served God and pleased Him very much.

Wouldn't it be wonderful for us to love and serve God? Samuel was like a missionary who told others about God's Word, even when he was a small child. How can we be missionaries right now, right where we live?

Encourage the children to discuss the salvation message.



Review by letting the children act out the story. You may need to guide them with questions and fill in some of the details.



Worship in Song: Sing "God's Word" and "I Love the Bible" from this quarter's music. Then sing these words to familiar tunes.

Sing to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel."

"Samuel, Samuel," the quiet voice said.

Eli, I'm here. Did you call me?

Again and again the voice called to him.

God talked to Samuel.

Sing to the tune of "Clementine."

Little Samuel, little Samuel,

Little Samuel, please hear Me.

Samuel answered, Samuel listened,

Samuel did all that God said.



Remembering the Bible Truth: When Samuel understood that God was speaking to him, he said—

Bible words from 1 Samuel 3:9. Have the children repeat the verse after you as often as time and children's interest permit. Remind them how important it is to listen to God's Word and obey, as Samuel did.



Life Application: Do this activity to reinforce the importance of listening and obeying. Play "Samuel Says" as you would "Simon Says." Explain that you only do what you are told to do if Samuel says to do it. If Samuel doesn't say, then don't do it. Those caught must sit down for the next command only. You don't want them out too long, so they don't think that they're being punished.

Samuel says, "Shout your name."

Samuel says, "Whisper your name."

Samuel says, "Hop on one foot."

Stop hopping. (Samuel didn't say it—the children caught sit down for one turn.)

Samuel says, "Touch your nose."

Touch your toes. (Those caught sit down for one turn.)

Continue for as long as you like and conclude with . . . **The Bible says that we should always listen to God's Word. As much fun as our game was, it was only a game. But when it comes to the Bible, we're not playing games anymore. What God tells us in His Word is very, very important. And the most important thing we should know from God's Word is that Jesus came to save us from our sins.**



Take time to talk about the Gospel and pray for your children to trust Jesus to save them from their sins.

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



Things We Can Hear: Each child will need a copy of Copymaster 6 and crayons. As the children color a specific picture, talk about the sound made by that object.

God has given us wonderful ears to hear people and many other things. However, the best thing to hear is the Bible being read. We can listen and obey.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Close in prayer. Then try this activity if you have extra time:



Thank You for Listening and Helping: Place a few items in plain sight throughout the room, such as paper, pencils, notebooks, Bibles, etc. Have the children sit in a semicircle and ask a volunteer to help you find and pick up each item.


(Phil), **would you please help me find my pencil and bring it to me? Thank you for listening and being so helpful!** Continue until all the children have had a turn.

ELIJAH HEARS A STILL SMALL VOICE

LESSON SEVEN

UNIT 2: WE LISTEN TO GOD

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve water and pieces of bread. You may want to serve fruit bread or a cheese spread, being aware of food allergies. **Our story is about a man who received water and bread in a surprising way.**

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the birthday photo album. Be sure to sing "Happy Birthday" to them.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

1 Kings 19:1-18

Bible Truth:

God spoke to Elijah quietly.

Life Response Aim:

To want to hear God speak through His Word.

Bible Verse:


1 Samuel 3:9

Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 7, crayons, scissors, tape or glue; grocery bags, feathers or colored paper

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):

 **Elijah's Song:** After snack cleanup, introduce the story by singing the following action song to the children and have them repeat your actions. Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

There was a man of God, (*Stand tall and point up.*)

Elijah was his name.

He ran and ran and ran and ran, (*Run in place.*)

So he would not be hurt. (*Hands in front of face, duck down.*)

But God took care of him, (*Point up.*)

But God took care of him.


Elijah did not have to fear, (*Stand tall and unafraid.*)

For God took care of him. (*Point up.*)

How does God take care of us? Let children respond, guiding as needed. **Listen carefully to find out how God took care of Elijah.**

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take some time to receive offering money.

 **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources*. Otherwise, be as animated as you can in telling the story. Be sure to get your students involved. Have your Bible open on your lap.

Have you ever become so tired and hungry that you fell asleep and didn't even eat? That happened to a man we can read about in the Old Testament of our Bibles. Point to 1 Kings 19. **His name was Elijah.**

Elijah was a man of God. God answered Elijah's prayers, and Elijah served God. One day he was running away from someone who promised to hurt him. He ran and ran and finally sat down out in the country under a tree. There he fell asleep.

An angel from God woke Elijah and told him to eat. Elijah looked around and, sure enough, there was a jug of water and a loaf of fresh bread. He ate and then he fell back asleep. The angel woke him again and told him to eat and drink again.

Maybe we would have felt like saying, "I'm too tired." But this was an angel from God. God had another job for Elijah. So Elijah ate and drank.

The angel told Elijah to go on a long, long walk. Elijah was to walk to Mount Horeb. Do you remember who else came to this mountain? Yes, Moses did. Moses was there many, many years before Elijah was. Mount Horeb means the Mountain of God.


When Elijah reached the mountain he found a cave and hid. God said to him, "Why are you hiding?"


Elijah said, "Your people have stopped worshiping You. They have killed all God's prophets, and now I am the only one left. They want to kill me too!"

God simply told Elijah to stand out on the mountain. When Elijah got outside the cave, the wind blew and blew. The wind was so strong that stones were flying and the mountain was breaking apart. But God was not in the wind. Then, an earthquake began. It shook the mountain, the rocks, and the trees. But God was not in the earthquake. Then, a raging fire began, but God was not in the fire.

Elijah hid again in the cave. But when he heard a still small voice, he went to the entrance of the cave to listen closely.


“What are you doing here, Elijah?” God asked in quiet voice. Elijah again told Him of his troubles. But God told him to go and serve Him. Elijah obeyed God, and God went with him and made him strong.


 This would be a fun story for the children to act out together. Have one child be Elijah, another the angel, and the rest of the children could enthusiastically play the parts of the mighty wind, the earthquake, and the fire. Have a leader play the part of God’s voice from behind a screen, or record it beforehand on a tape, as you did for Lesson 5. The children will act out the parts as you direct and narrate. You may want the “angel” to serve some of the water and bread from Snack Time to “Elijah.”

 **Worship in Song:** Sing “Show Me Your Ways” and “God’s Ways” from this quarter’s music. Then sing “Elijah’s Song” from Preparing Their Hearts and this song to the tune of “On Top of Old Smoky.”

**On top of Mount Horeb
Stood Elijah in fear.
Wind, earthquake, and fire,
God’s words were not here.**

**On top of Mount Horeb,
As a bird’s gentle wings,
A voice still and quiet,
God’s words it did bring.**


 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Review the Bible words from 1 Samuel 3:9 after the children have made their “listening ears” in the Hands-to-Hearts Time. Your children will enjoy putting their hands behind their “listening ears” as they recite the verse with you.

 **Life Application:** Play a quiet game of charades. Have a child act like an animal or natural event, such as a dog or an earthquake, while the other children guess. When everyone has had a turn, say this rhyme.

**God wasn’t in the wind.
God wasn’t in the quakes.
God wasn’t in the fire.
God’s voice a whisper makes.**

**We need a quiet heart
To hear God’s Word today,
Still speaking to His children
In His quiet, gentle way.**


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

 **Listening Ears:** Give a copy of Copymaster 7 and crayons to each child. Children can color the ears and the strips that will hold the ears to their heads. Then have them cut out the ears and the strips, tape or glue together, and put on their heads. Be sure to help the children adjust the strips to fit their heads. As the children work, talk to them about the importance of listening to God’s Word and obeying Him. Don’t forget the first step of obedience that every person must take—trusting Christ for salvation from sin.

Now we’re ready to say our Bible words about listening to God. See Remembering the Bible Truth.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 After closing in prayer, try this activity if you have additional time:

 **Quiet Wings:** Make wings to quietly fly. Cut paper grocery bags into large wings. Either buy feathers at a craft store or have children tear feathers from construction paper and glue onto their wings. Then tape the wings to the children’s arms. Fly quietly around the room. Talk about the fact that God’s voice was like a soft and quiet breeze, the kind of sound made by flapping wings.


God speaks quietly to us on the inside when we read His Word. The more we obey His Word, the easier it is to hear Him speak to us on the inside.


MARY LISTENS TO JESUS

LESSON EIGHT

UNIT 2: WE LISTEN TO GOD

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve a favorite snack. Let them pretend that they are busy bees, buzzing from one part of the room to the next to get a napkin, plate, cup, snack, and juice. Check for allergies. **Bees are very busy bugs. Today's story is about someone too busy to listen to Jesus. Let's never be that busy.**

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the birthday album.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Luke 10:38-42

Bible Truth:

Jesus talked to Mary when she spent time listening to Him.

Life Response Aim:

To choose to listen to God anytime, anyplace.

Bible Verse:

1 Samuel 3:9

Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 8, crayons or colored markers; cheesecloth squares, aromatic spices, and ribbon

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):

 **Mary and Martha Action Rhyme:** To introduce the Bible story for today, lead the children in this action rhyme.

Martha stirred and stirred the pot. *Pretend to stir a huge pot.*

Since Jesus arrived, she'd been cooking a lot. *Wipe your brow.*


Her sister Mary listened to Jesus speak. *Sit on the floor, listening.*

She didn't even care to eat. *Push the food away.*

After saying the rhyme together a few times, lead the children in a game of "Teacher, May We?" This will reinforce the idea of listening and obeying. You tell them what kinds of steps to take toward you, and they have to say, "Teacher, May We?" before stepping.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take some time to receive offering money.

 **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources* to tell this story.

Mary and Martha had a special Guest coming—Jesus. When Jesus arrived, Mary and Martha hurried to meet Him. They were so happy to see Him. They loved Him very much.

Martha's way of showing love was to take care of everyone. She cleaned and cooked. That was good. But sometimes she forgot what was most important.

Do you ever want to continue playing when you need to wash up or go to sleep? Sometimes we can think about just one thing at a time.

When you're playing nicely with a friend, do you ever want to just keep playing when Mom says, "Dinner's ready, it's time to come in"? Well, that is how Martha felt. She just decided to keep on working, even when Jesus started talking.

But Jesus wanted her to listen to Him. She needed to stop working, sit quietly, and hear what Jesus had to say. It's always important to listen to the Lord.

Sometimes it is very hard to stop when we're doing something. It was hard for Martha to stop. And worse yet, she got upset with her sister.

"Lord," Martha said, "Mary has left all the work for me. Tell her to help me!"

What did Jesus do? He didn't shout at her. He didn't make her come out of the kitchen. He knew what she was doing was a good thing that people needed to do. But Martha had picked the wrong time. At that time she needed to be with Jesus. He quietly spoke to her in His loving voice.

"Martha," Jesus said, "you are worrying about many things. But Mary has chosen the best thing—to listen to Me."

The Bible doesn't say what Martha did next. But we know that Martha loved Jesus, so I think she may have said something like . . . (say the Bible words from 1 Samuel 3:9).



Worship in Song: Sing “We’re Listening,” “Jesus Knows,” and “We Love Jesus” from this quarter’s music. Then sing this song to the tune of “Mulberry Bush.” Have children hold hands and walk in a circle as they sing.

**Jesus came to visit two sisters,
Visit two sisters, visit two sisters.
Jesus came to visit two sisters,
And they were so glad He did.**

**Martha cooked and cleaned all day,
Cooked and cleaned, cooked and cleaned.
Martha cooked and cleaned all day,
When Jesus came to visit.**

**Mary sat and listened to Jesus,
Listened to Jesus, listened to Jesus.
Mary sat and listened to Jesus,
When Jesus came to visit.**



Remembering the Bible Truth: Review the Bible words from 1 Samuel 3:9, using these motions. Touch hands to lips for *speak*; point up for *Lord*; bow low for *servant*; and then put hands behind ears.



Life Application: Tell this rhyme to reinforce the Life Response Aim.

**Martha was acting a little bit sad.
Ok, let’s admit it, she was getting mad.
The anger grew and grew in Martha’s heart.
She asked, “Lord, why isn’t Mary out here doing her part?”**

**“Martha, Martha,” Jesus did say.
“You fuss and you worry about too much today.
“Many things are good, but Mary has chosen the best.
“She listened to Me, and for that she’ll have rest.”**

**Mary sat quietly and listened to the Lord.
She loved Him dearly and never felt bored.
What He said filled her heart from wall to wall.
Her choice was to listen—the best choice of all.**

**Good, better, best—which choice should we make?
Should we stand in the kitchen and whip up a cake?
Or listen to Jesus and all His Word gives?
His Word will lead us for as long as we live.**

To lead into the Hands-to-Hearts activity, talk about the many good things that children do that might keep them too busy to do the best thing—listening to and obeying God’s Word.

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



Am I Too Busy? Give each child Copymaster 8 and some crayons. As the children color each picture, ask them how they might be able to listen to God and obey Him while they take part in the activity that’s depicted. **That’s right, one way to listen to God and obey Him is to play nicely with other children.**

Continue with each picture. Guide as needed. You may want to jot down some ideas prior to class, or ask a team member to do so.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Close in prayer. Then try this activity (be careful, some of your children may be allergic to some spices):



We Like Our Homes to Smell Good: Martha and Mary probably liked to keep their home very clean and smelling good. Let’s make a nice smelling bag for our homes. Every time we smell it, let’s think about Mary and how she chose to listen to the wonderful things Jesus had to say to her. Let’s keep our hearts ready to hear and obey God’s Word, even if we are playing with our toys.


In a precut cheesecloth square for each child, put pieces of a cinnamon stick, cloves, dried flower petals, and any other aromatic spices you’d like to add. Tie the four corners of the square together with ribbon.

DANIEL PRAYS IN THE LIONS' DEN

LESSON NINE

UNIT 3: WE TALK TO GOD

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve “lions” today. Roll grain or crispy cereal with peanut butter into balls for the lion’s head and mane. Then, with pretzels, the children can make the lion’s body and legs on their plates. Add raisins for eyes. **We’re not going to add mouths to our lions, because in today’s Bible story we will hear that God kept some lions’ mouths closed tight.** Check with parents for food allergies.

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the birthday album. Be sure to sing “Happy Birthday” to them.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Daniel 6:1-23, 25-27

Bible Truth:

Daniel prayed, and God answered his prayers.

Life Response Aim:

To talk to God often, especially when we are afraid.

Bible Verse:

Psalm 4:3

Materials Needed:

Snack; nature book of wild animals and a book of farm or other domestic animals; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 9, string or yarn, hole punch, crayons or markers, yellow yarn, glue, stick-on hole reinforcers; a toy telephone

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):



Animals, Animals, Animals: Show nature books of wild animals and of farm or other domestic animals. Without building undue fear, talk about some of the dangers of dealing with animals, even the large domestic animals. Let children share some of their zoo, pet, or farm experiences. Talk about what makes an animal wild versus domesticated. Then introduce the story.

Our Bible story today is about some very dangerous wild animals—some big, strong lions. But did you know that God is bigger and stronger than a lion? That's right. In fact, He's bigger and stronger than all the lions in the world. He's bigger and stronger than everything. That's why it is so important to pray, because God is bigger and stronger than our biggest problems.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take some time to receive offering money.



Bible Story: You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources*.

I'm going to tell you about a king who really lived many years ago. The Bible tells us about what happened so we know it is true. The Bible is not make-believe. King Darius and a man named Daniel really lived long ago in Bible times. I'll tell you some of what the Bible says about them.

King Darius was the ruler of a large kingdom where many people lived. He picked a few of the people to help him take care of the kingdom. One of his most important helpers was a man named Daniel. Daniel loved God and prayed to God every day at least three times.

Some of King Darius's other helpers saw that Daniel was pleasing to God and to King Darius. They wished they could find some way to get rid of Daniel. They were jealous. So they wrote a law that no one could pray to the true God for 30 days. If they did, they would be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius signed the law without thinking that his good helper Daniel would have to be punished because he prayed to God.

Of course, Daniel was not going to obey this evil law. He continued to pray to the true God every day. So the wicked rulers made the king punish Daniel. They made the king order Daniel to be thrown into a den of hungry lions.

The king was very sad to have to put Daniel into the den of lions. He did not eat anything, and he did not sleep all night long. He did not know the true God, but He knew that Daniel believed that the true God was strong enough to shut the mouths of the lions. The next day the king quickly went to the lions' den.

“Daniel,” he called. “Was your God able to save you from the lions?”

Daniel called back to him. "Yes, my God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me."

The king was so happy that he told his whole kingdom that Daniel's God is the true, living God of heaven and earth.



Worship in Song: Sing "I Will" (pray like Daniel—second stanza) and "God Hears Me" from this quarter's music CD. Then sing this song to the tune of "Old MacDonald."

Daniel prayed three times a day:

Morning, noon, and night.

Daniel prayed three times a day:

Morning, noon, and night.

With a thank-You prayer

For His constant care

To the Living God, who is always there.

Daniel prayed three times a day:

Morning, noon, and night.



Remembering the Bible Truth: Teach the Bible words from Psalm 4:3, using these simple actions to help the children remember the words.

Point up for Lord.

Cup hands behind ears for hear.

Cup hands around mouth for call.

Point up for Him.



As a supplement to the motions stated above, have simple pictures cut from magazines to represent each part:

A picture of the sky to represent pointing up where God is in heaven

A picture of an ear

A picture of a person praying



Life Application: To reinforce the Life Response Aim, talk about times when we might be afraid. Let the children share times when they have been afraid. Then close in prayer, asking God to help the children when they are afraid. Consider teaching the children this prayer-poem:

Help me, please, Lord,

To pray all through the day,

And especially when I fear.

Because whenever I pray,

I know that You will hear.

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



Lions, Lions Everywhere! Make lion masks. Hand out copies of Copymaster 9 and lion-colored crayons (brown, yellow, tan, gold, etc.). Have children color the lion face and glue on yellow yarn for the mane. Punch holes for the string to tie the mask to each child's head. You may want to reinforce the holes with tape or stick-on hole reinforcers. Fold the Parent Tip back and tape it in place.

Now take time to act out the Bible story with your children. Children or helpers can play the parts of Daniel, Darius, and two bad rulers. And, of course, the rest of the children can be the lions. When "Daniel" is thrown into the lions' den, the "lions" can roar and growl. Then, when "Daniel" prays, the "lions" will be quiet and calm.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Close in prayer. If you have additional time, try this activity.




Bring in a toy telephone or have the children draw pictures of the different ways we talk with each other: telephones, radio, friends talking, etc. Discuss how God talks with us. Emphasize that we don't ever need a telephone to talk to God. We can talk to Him anywhere, anytime.

THE PEOPLE PRAY FOR SAFETY

LESSON TEN

UNIT 3: WE TALK TO GOD

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve wheat, rye, or other whole grain crackers with grape juice. Explain that grape juice, olive oil, salt, and grain were given to the people of Israel when they left the king's land (Ezra 7:22). **In our story today, we'll hear how God provided wonderfully for His people.** Show a few small samples of each item if you have some. Check with parents regarding allergies.

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the birthday photo album.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Ezra 7:10-28; 8:15-23, 31-32

Bible Truth:

God answered His people's prayer for safety.

Life Response Aim:

To talk to God about all our concerns.

Bible Verse:


Psalms 4:3

Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 10, crayons, yarn or ribbon; pictures of church-related activities

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):

 **Ezra Obeyed; We Obey:** Our Bible story today is about a man named Ezra who faithfully learned, obeyed, and taught God's Law. We have God's whole Word today—our Bible. It's important to obey God's Word. Let's play an obeying game.

Have one child be "it" and stand across the room from the other children. With his or her back turned to the group, "it" will count to three, quickly turn, and say either "red light" or "green light." While "it" counts to three, the other children can tiptoe toward him or her.

At red light they must stop. Any child who doesn't freeze in place should go back a few steps. If "it" turns and says, "green light," the children can continue to tiptoe quickly forward (no noise and no running). Continue this way until a child reaches "it." This child will then be "it." Play as long as time and interest permit.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Be sure to receive the children's offering.

 **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources*.

Ezra was a man who loved God very much. He wanted others to learn more about God too. He wanted them to go with him to worship and hear God's Law in the temple in Jerusalem.

So Ezra asked the king, "May I go to Jerusalem, O King?"

The king answered, "Yes, you may go. And you may take along all God's people who want to go with you. I'm also going to give you silver and gold and lots of money. You will want to make offerings in your temple."

Ezra was so happy that he thanked God for all He had done. Soon lots and lots of people were ready to go with Ezra for the long journey back to Jerusalem. They carried bundles of clothes and baskets of food, which they loaded onto donkeys and camels.

Ezra knew he couldn't make the long trip without God's help. He said to the people, "Before we start, let's pray to God and ask Him for a safe journey." The people knew there were many dangers ahead of them. Robbers were hiding along the way. "I could have asked the king for soldiers to guard us," Ezra said, "but I have told the king that God takes care of those who love Him.

"Let's kneel and ask God to keep us safe. Let's ask Him to show the king and all the people of this country that our God cares for those who love Him." So early in the morning the people prayed.

 Consider photo-enlarging a copy of the picture of people praying on Copymaster 13 and coloring it to show the class today. **What are the people asking God? All of them prayed that God would be with them.**

All morning they prayed. They didn't even stop to eat lunch. All afternoon they prayed. The fathers asked God to keep them safe. The mothers asked God to keep them safe. The children asked God to keep them safe. No one stopped to eat supper. They went on praying, telling God how much they needed His help to protect them.

After they had prayed, God's people knew that He had heard their prayers and would give them a safe journey. They knew God would be with them.

Day after day they traveled. It was a long, hard trip. One day the people saw the buildings of a big city. They were safely back in their own land! Oh, how happy they were! God had heard their prayers. He had kept them safe all the way.



To review the Bible story, let the children pantomime the actions as you narrate. When you get to the part of the story where the people travel, play “Steppity-Step” from this quarter’s music and let the children walk lively to music as they “travel to Jerusalem.”



Worship in Song: Sing “God’s Word,” “God Hears Me,” and “Sing Unto the Lord” from this quarter’s music CD. Then sing this song to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.”

One little, two little, three little lessons,
Four little, five little, six little lessons,
Seven little, eight little, nine little lessons.
Ezra loved and taught God’s Law.

One day, two days, three days of traveling.
Four days, five days, six days of traveling.
Seven days, eight days, nine days of traveling.
And God was always with them.

One little, two little, three little prayers,
Four little, five little, six little prayers,
Seven little, eight little, nine little prayers.
All God’s people prayed to Him.

One person, two people, three people thanked God.
Four people, five people, six people thanked God.
Seven people, eight people, nine people thanked God.
All God’s people said, “Thank You.”



Remembering the Bible Truth: Before class copy the Bible words from Psalm 4:3 three times on a piece of paper. Photocopy the paper so there is a verse for each child. Cut the verses apart and roll the paper from both ends into “scrolls.” In class, give each child a “scroll.”

In Ezra’s time, there were no books like our books today. God’s Word was written on scroll-books like the one each of you has. When Ezra taught God’s Law, he would have unrolled the scroll and read. Our scrolls have our Bible words on them. Let’s unroll our scrolls and say our Bible words from Psalm 4:3 together.

Recite the verse a few times, and then let volunteers pretend to be Ezra and recite the verse to the rest of the class. Help as needed and encourage all efforts.



Life Application: To reinforce the Life Response Aim, lead the children in this action rhyme. Recite the rhyme as slowly as necessary to allow the children to do the various actions indicated.

When I’m walking, I can pray.
When I’m running, I can pray.
When I’m sitting, and when I’m standing,
I can talk to God.

When I’m walking, God hears me.
When I’m running, God hears me.
When I’m sitting, and when I’m standing,
He listens closely to me.

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



Happy Feet Bring Us to Church: Hand out Copymaster 10, crayons, and two pieces of yarn or ribbon to each child. Let the children color the shoes and help them punch holes to receive the yarn or ribbon as shoe laces. Now the children can put the yarn or ribbon through the holes and “tie” their shoes.

Do these shoes look like the shoes on your feet? Maybe not, but we can pretend that these are our happy feet that bring us to church. Ezra and the other people walked a long way to the city where God’s house was, didn’t they? How did you get to church this morning? Let children respond. We didn’t walk as far as Ezra did, but no matter how you came to church, I’m glad you’re here!

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Close the classtime in prayer. If you have additional time, try this activity.



Have a picture walk. From your picture file, place on the walls throughout the room pictures of people involved in various church activities. Also place pictures of families engaged in activities that could show them getting ready to come to church, such as eating breakfast, putting on coats, riding in a car, etc. Have the children help build a walking path with their “walking shoes” from Copymaster 10. Follow the path and have the children describe their impressions of each picture.

Ezra and the people walked and walked and walked. They prayed before they began walking, and God was with them the whole way. One of the things we do when we come to church is pray, but do we need to come to church to pray? No, we can pray anytime and anywhere.

ELIJAH PRAYS FOR RAIN

LESSON ELEVEN

UNIT 3: WE TALK TO GOD

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve fruit slices and bread cut into raindrop shapes with cheese spread. Be sure to have paper towels and water on hand to clean up sticky fingers. Serve milk or 100 percent fruit juice. Be aware of food allergies or other dietary restrictions.

Our story today is about a man who prayed and prayed and prayed for rain. He kept praying, because he knew that God hears our prayers. And God did send the rain. Do you like the rain? I do, because it makes the things grow that we need, such as the fruit you are eating.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

1 Kings 17:1; 18:1-2, 41-46

Bible Truth:

Sometimes God waits before He answers our prayers.

Life Response Aim:

To keep on praying even when we don't receive an answer right away.

Bible Verse:

Psalm 4:3


Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 11, blue water paints; plastic cups, dirt, and a small plant for each child

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.

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the birthday album.


PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

 **Come to Me by Sevens:** Play a counting game that will emphasize the number seven—the number of times Elijah sent his servant to look for rain clouds.

Boys and girls, line up against the wall. Now, listen carefully. Come to me by taking seven (little steps, big steps, hops, skips, etc.). **Now count with me as you come: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Now come to me by taking seven . . .** Continue as time and interest permit.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Take some time to receive offering money.

 **Bible Story:** You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources* to tell this story.

Elijah walked right up the steps and into the king's palace. He said, "King, you have done wrong. You and the people have sinned, and God says there will be no rain for years." Then Elijah walked out of the palace. So for a long time the hot sun shone. No rain fell.

Soon the grass turned brown. Leaves turned brown and fell off the trees. Brooks, creeks, and rivers dried up. Not a drop of rain fell, just as God had promised.

After God showed all the people, including the king, that He is the only true God, it was time to send some rain.

Elijah and his servant went to the top of a mountain. Elijah bowed down on the ground and talked to God. He asked God to send rain soon. Then Elijah said to his servant, "Go to the highest place on this mountain. Look far out over the sea." He wanted to know if his servant could see a rain cloud in the sky. If there was one, it meant God would soon send rain.

The servant went quickly and came back. "There's nothing," he said. He could see nothing that looked like a rain cloud.

"Go again," said Elijah. And he again bowed down and prayed.

The servant went and came back. He said, "There is nothing!"

"Go again," said Elijah. The servant went and came back. "There is nothing."

"Go again," said Elijah. He knew that God heard his prayer and would answer. The servant came back again with the same answer.

"Go again, then," Elijah said. One, two, three, four, five, six times the servant said that he could see nothing.

The seventh time the servant came running back with the good news, "A little cloud is forming in the sky—a cloud that looks as small as my hand."

"Run to the king, who is up on the mountain," was Elijah's next command. "Tell the king to get his horses and chariot ready to hurry down the mountain before the rain stops him."

Soon the sky was black with clouds. The king left at once and drove down the mountain as fast as his horses could go. God helped Elijah run in front of the king's horses!

Even with such speed, they were not able to reach the city before the rain clouds burst. The king got wet, Elijah got wet, and the servant got wet. But Elijah didn't care, because God answered Elijah's prayer by sending the rain!



Worship in Song: Review the Bible story by playing "Elijah's Prayer for Rain" from this quarter's music CD, and lead the children in doing the motions indicated by the narration. Your children will enjoy these musical reviews.



Worship in Song: Sing "God's Ways," "God Hears Me," and "Jesus Knows" from this quarter's music. Then sing these words to the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin?"

Where is the rain?
Where is the rain?
Elijah prayed,
Prayed and prayed.
God made heavy rain fall
On people, plants, and all.
Elijah prayed,
Prayed and prayed.



Remembering the Bible Truth: Review the Bible words by handing out Copymaster 11 and having the children paint the page with blue water colors. Then guide them in "reading" the Bible words from Psalm 4:3 by going from one raindrop on the paper to the next.



Life Application: To reinforce the Life Response Aim, lead the children in this action rhyme that you introduced last week. Recite the rhyme as slowly as necessary to allow the children to do the various actions indicated.

When I'm walking, I can pray.
When I'm running, I can pray.
When I'm sitting, and when I'm standing,
I can talk to God. He listens closely to me.

When I'm walking, God hears me.
When I'm running, God hears me.
When I'm sitting, and when I'm standing,
He listens closely to me.

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



Plants Need Water: Lay newspapers on tables. Hand out a clear plastic cup for each child; a small, inexpensive plant; and a small amount of dirt. Have the children put the dirt into the cup. Then place the plant and add a little water. Cover the top of the cup with plastic wrap with two or three holes punched in it. Attach with a rubber band around the cup. Remind the children not to overwater the plant. Emphasize that they should not remove the plastic for at least two weeks.

Elijah prayed that the land would not have rain. Without rain the land would dry up and the plants would all die. This week, watch the water go to the top of the cup and form little "raindrops" on the plastic. The raindrops will fall down into the cup and water the plant again. Put your plants on the windowsill so they will also receive sunlight.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

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



Using a square box, such as a tissue box, make an activity cube for your children. Cover the box with colorful paper; then on each of the six sides, glue or tape a catalog or magazine picture of children doing various activities, such as skipping, jumping rope, etc. Have children stand in a circle and give each child an opportunity to roll the cube. Whatever activity is pictured on the top of the cube, lead the class in doing seven repetitions of that activity, again to emphasize the number of times Elijah's servant went to look for rain clouds. Team members can help any children who need it to be part of this activity.


We are thankful for the wonderful bodies God has given us, and we're thankful that He hears and answers us when we pray. Remember to keep on praying until you know what God's answer is.


PETER'S FRIENDS PRAY FOR HIM

LESSON TWELVE

UNIT 3: WE TALK TO GOD

TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

 **Snack Time:** Serve pretzel sticks and juice, being aware of children's dietary restrictions. Then have the children build "prison doors" on their plate or napkin with the pretzels. **Prisons should be for people who break the law. However, sometimes people are sent to prison because they love the Lord. This shouldn't be, but when it does happen, these people know that the Lord is with them. Today's Bible story is about someone who was sent to prison because he loved the Lord. I wonder what happened.**

 **Birthday Time:** Have the birthday children add their pictures to the photo album.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Acts 12:1-17

Bible Truth:

God answers our prayers for people who have needs.

Life Response Aim:

To pray this week for people who have needs.

Bible Verse:

James 5:16

Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 12, crayons, tape, scissors; strips of gray paper

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):



Listening and Obeying: Use this activity to introduce today's Bible story. You may want to combine this activity with snack time.

I'll ask each of you to do something for me. When I ask, don't ask why, just do it.

(Amy), **please pick up the box over there and bring it here. Thank you.**

(Billy), **please open this box for me. Thank you.**

(Janet and Linda), **please put some of these pretzels on a napkin in front of each child. Thank you.**

(Andy), **please put a cup by each child. Thank you.**

Continue until each child has one opportunity to obey. Try to make some nonsense requests, such as hopping, stomping feet, etc., so the children are acting out of pure obedience.

Today's story is about a man who was in prison because he loved and obeyed the Lord. To get out of prison, the man had to obey a special messenger of the Lord immediately, without asking questions. Listen to find out if he obeyed.

WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

Offering: Receive any offering money the children have brought.



Bible Story: You may want to use the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources* to tell this story. Have your Bible open in you lap.

"Jesus loves you and will save you from your sins," Peter told the people. "Obey Him to show that you love Him."

The wicked king didn't like what he heard. He told Peter and others to stop talking about Jesus. The king didn't love Jesus, so he didn't want Peter to talk about Him.

"Put Peter in prison," the king told some of his soldiers. He thought that would stop Peter.

So the soldiers put heavy chains on Peter's hands, and then they chained Peter's legs to some big, strong guards. They locked the prison gate and put other soldiers near it to watch. No one could get in or out. What could Peter do? Who could help him get out of prison?

Only God could help him. Peter's friends knew that the best way that they could help him was by praying. Prayer is the best way to help anyone. So Peter's friends prayed that God would help Peter. The friends prayed morning, noon, and night. And one night they had a special prayer meeting at someone's house. They prayed for hours and hours.

And was Peter still in prison? Yes! He was sound asleep between two guards. Peter was not worried. He knew that, no matter what happened, God was with him.

Suddenly an angel of God stood in the prison beside Peter. The angel tapped him on the side.

"Get up quickly!" said the angel. The chains dropped from Peter's hands.

What happened next? The angel said, "Put on your shoes and coat. Follow me."

Peter quickly got dressed. The soldiers were still sound asleep. Peter followed the angel to the door. And that door, which had been locked, was wide open! When Peter and the angel came to the

second door, it was open too. Even the heavy iron gate outside swung open! The angel walked with Peter to the end of the street and suddenly was gone.

Peter looked all around. He was really outside the prison. He wasn't dreaming! God sent His angel to take me out of prison, Peter must have thought. I must tell my friends that God has answered their prayers by helping me.

Peter went quickly to the house where his friends were praying and knocked at the gate.

A girl named Rhoda answered. When she heard Peter's voice, she was so excited that she quickly ran back into the house without opening the gate. "Peter is outside!" she gasped. "Peter is here!"

"Peter?" the others cried out. "He can't be here." At first they didn't believe her.

Peter knocked again. Some people went to see who was at the gate. It was Peter! They were so excited. "How did you get out of prison?" they probably asked.

Peter answered, "God sent His angel to take me out of prison." God had answered their prayer to help Peter.

 Review the Bible story by letting the children act it out as you narrate. Let them play each part.


Peter taught many, many people about Jesus.

Therefore, the soldiers threw him into prison.

His friends prayed for him.

While Peter slept, an angel came, woke him up, and led him out of prison.

When Peter came to where his friends were praying, everyone rejoiced and praised God.

 **Worship in Song:** Sing "Cod's Ways," "Sing Unto the Lord," and "God Hears Me" from this quarter's music CD. Then sing this song to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus Go 'Round and 'Round."

Our prayers go to heaven, up and up,

Up and up, up and up.

Our prayers go to heaven, up and up,


Every time we pray.


Believe God will answer when we pray,

When we pray, when we pray.

Believe God will answer when we pray.


Every time we pray.

 **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Have all the children sit in a line on the floor. Play "whisper down the lane." You whisper the Bible words from James 5:16 to the first child who, in turn, whispers to the next child, and so on until the last child repeats it aloud.

 **Life Application: Let's make a prayer list for this week. For whom do we need to pray?** Ask for prayer requests and write them on the board with the child's name next to it. If children don't volunteer requests, ask them questions until you can determine a specific request. **Is anyone sick in your family? What did you do yesterday? Did something special happen for which you can thank God?**


When you pray for a child's request, have that child say, "Thank You, God, for hearing my request."

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

 **Bible Story Finger Puppets:** Pass out copies of Copymaster 12. Let the children color the figures of Peter and the angel before cutting them out. Cut out the finger strips and help the children roll them into tubes and tape them together. Then tape a tube onto the back of each puppet. Have the children retell the story with their puppets.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

As you are waiting for parents to arrive, try this activity:

 Have the children make chains from strips of gray construction paper. Link at least three chains on each of the children's wrists.

When people ask you why you have chains on your hands today, you can tell them the story of how Peter's friends prayed for him while he was in jail. Tell someone that God sent an angel to free Peter from the jail and how happy his friends were.

WE TALK TO GOD

LESSON THIRTEEN

UNIT 3: WE TALK TO GOD

TRANSITION (25–30 MINUTES):



Snack Time: Serve a snack your children have particularly enjoyed this quarter. Be sure to pray, thanking God for the wonderful food He gives us.



Birthday Time: Have the birthday children add their pictures to the photo album.

PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):



Bible Story Teams: To review the facts of this unit's Bible stories, divide the children into four teams: the Daniel Team, the Ezra Team, the Elijah Team, and the Peter Team. When you say a word or phrase that relates to one of these four people, that person's team will stand. Then mention a little about the story.

Lions' den. Very good. Daniel's team, can you tell me why Daniel was put in the lions' den? That's right, because he prayed to God when the bad law said that he couldn't.

A long, long journey. Right, Ezra's team should stand. Who was with the people when they traveled? That's right, God was with them because the people asked for His protection.

No rain. Elijah's team should stand. When Elijah prayed for rain, how many times did his helper go to look for rain clouds? That's right, seven times.

An angel in a prison. Very good, Peter's team. Who prayed for Peter? How did he get out of prison?

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

Review of Lessons 9–12

Bible Truth:

God wants us to talk to Him, and He will answer our prayers.

Life Response Aim:

To remember that we can talk to God often.

Bible Verse:

Psalms 4:3

Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from *Teaching Resources*; Copymaster 13, 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: Take some time to receive offering money.

Bible Story: Review the Bible stories from Lessons 9–12 by using the colorful figures from the *Teaching Resources* to tell this story. Or, have a musical review as follows:



Briefly summarize the story of Daniel with the lions; then sing this song to the tune of "Old MacDonald."

Daniel prayed three times a day:

Morning, noon, and night.

Daniel prayed three times a day:

Morning, noon, and night.

With a thank-You prayer

For His constant care

To the Living God, who is always there.

Daniel prayed three times a day:

Morning, noon, and night.





Briefly summarize the story of the people's journey; then sing this song to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."

**One little, two little, three little lessons,
Four little, five little, six little lessons,
Seven little, eight little, nine little lessons.
Ezra loved and taught God's Law.**

**One day, two days, three days of traveling.
Four days, five days, six days of traveling.
Seven days, eight days, nine days of traveling.
And God was always with them.**

**One little, two little, three little prayers,
Four little, five little, six little prayers,
Seven little, eight little, nine little prayers.
All God's people prayed to Him.**

**One person, two people, three people thanked God.
Four people, five people, six people thanked God.
Seven people, eight people, nine people thanked God.
All God's people said, "Thank You."**

  Review the story of Elijah's prayer by playing "Elijah's Prayer for Rain" from this quarter's *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* CD. Lead the children in doing the motions indicated by the narration. These Bible stories set to music can be a delightful way to review the stories and allow the children to use their large-muscle groups.



 Briefly summarize the story of Peter in prison; then sing this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."


**Peter said, "You must be saved,
Must be saved, must be saved."
Peter said, "You must be saved,
So believe on Jesus."**

**Peter was thrown into jail,
Thrown into jail, thrown into jail.
Peter was thrown into jail
Because he loved the Lord.**

**Peter's friends then prayed and prayed,
Prayed and prayed, prayed and prayed.
Peter's friends then prayed and prayed,
And an angel led him out.**

  **Worship in Song:** Sing any songs your class particularly enjoyed from this quarter's music CD, *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music*.

  **Remembering the Bible Truth:** Review the Bible words using the simple actions and visuals from Lesson 9.

 **Life Application:** Tell this activity to reinforce the Life Response Aim of remembering to pray often.

Let's make a prayer reminder to take home with us. Ask someone at home to help you hang it in a place that will remind you to pray often.

Before class, write in black marker "I Can Pray All the Time" on a sheet of paper and make enough photocopies so each child can have one. Be sure to leave enough room on the paper to trace a child's hand.


When we pray, we often put our hands together to help us remember that we are talking to God. So let's draw our praying hands on our pictures. Trace each child's hand on his or her paper and have the children color their hands any way they wish.

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

 **Bible Story Matching:** Let the children color Copymaster 13. Then guide them in matching the pictures that go to the same story: cloud/raindrops, male lion/female lion, angel/Peter, people praying/temple.

GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

 Close the class in prayer, reminding the children that God always hears and answers our prayers. If you have more time, try this activity.

 Play "Ring around the Rosie" as team members recite the words below. The children will repeat each line as they hold hands and walk in a circle. After they repeat the last line, they'll sit or kneel, as indicated.

**Elijah prayed for rain,
Seven times he did pray.
Raindrops, raindrops,
Came falling down.**

**Daniel prayed to his God;
To the lions he went.
Lions' mouths shut,
So they just sat down.**

**Ezra and the people prayed
Before they took the trip.
God was with them,
So they all knelt down.**

**Peter chained in prison,
With soldiers everywhere.
Friends prayed; an angel came;
And the chains fell down.**



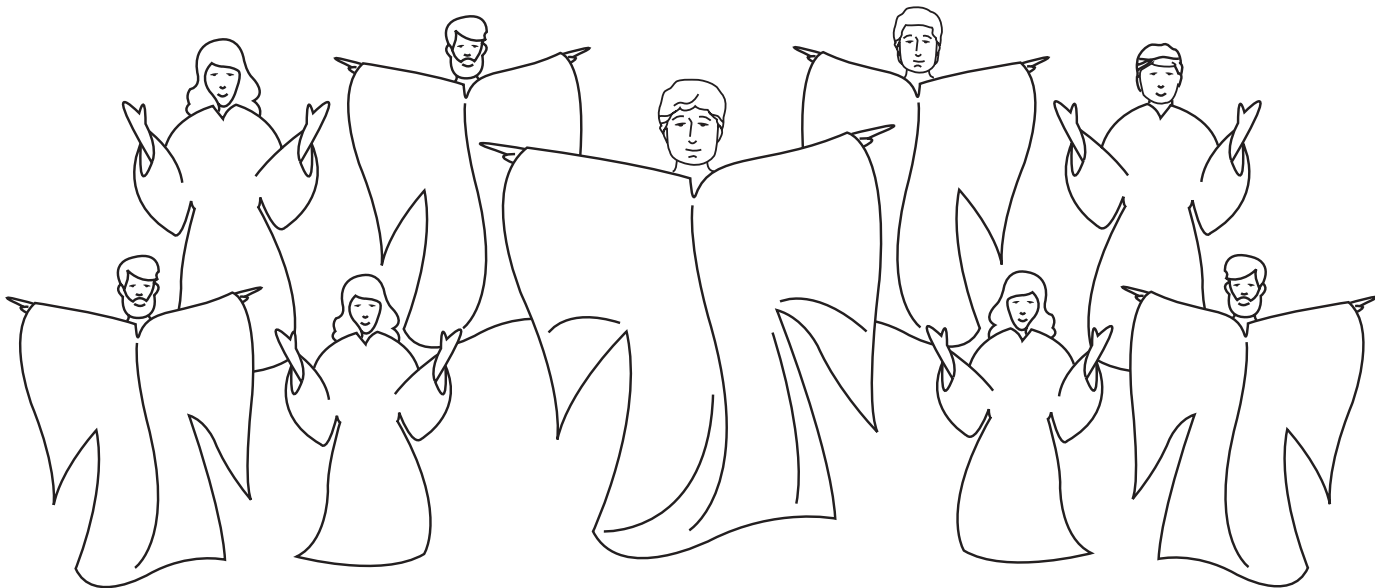
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A Song to Sing at Home

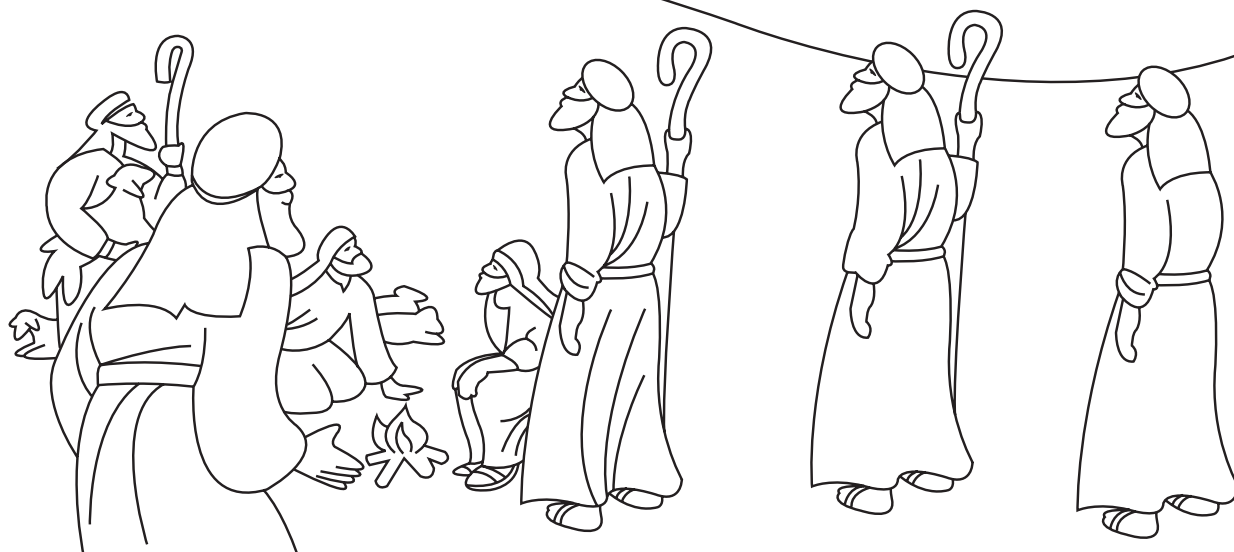
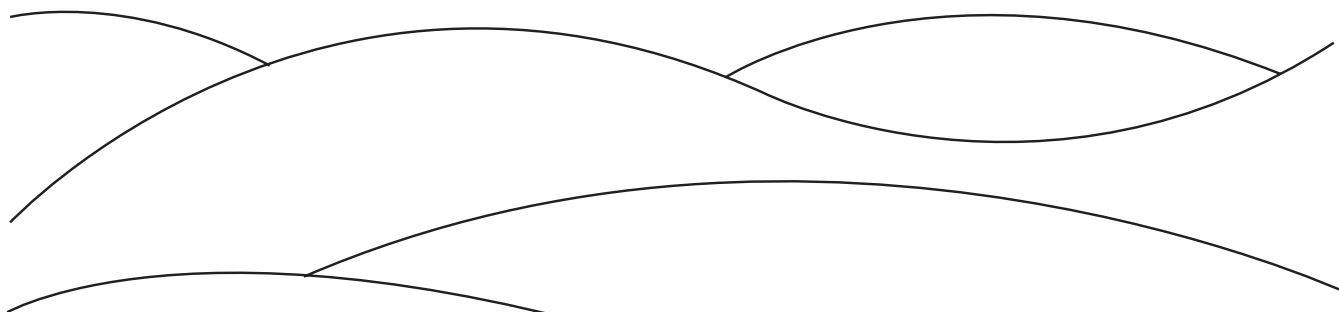
God Sent Forth His Son

(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.

***"He loved us, and
sent his Son."
(1 John 4:10)***



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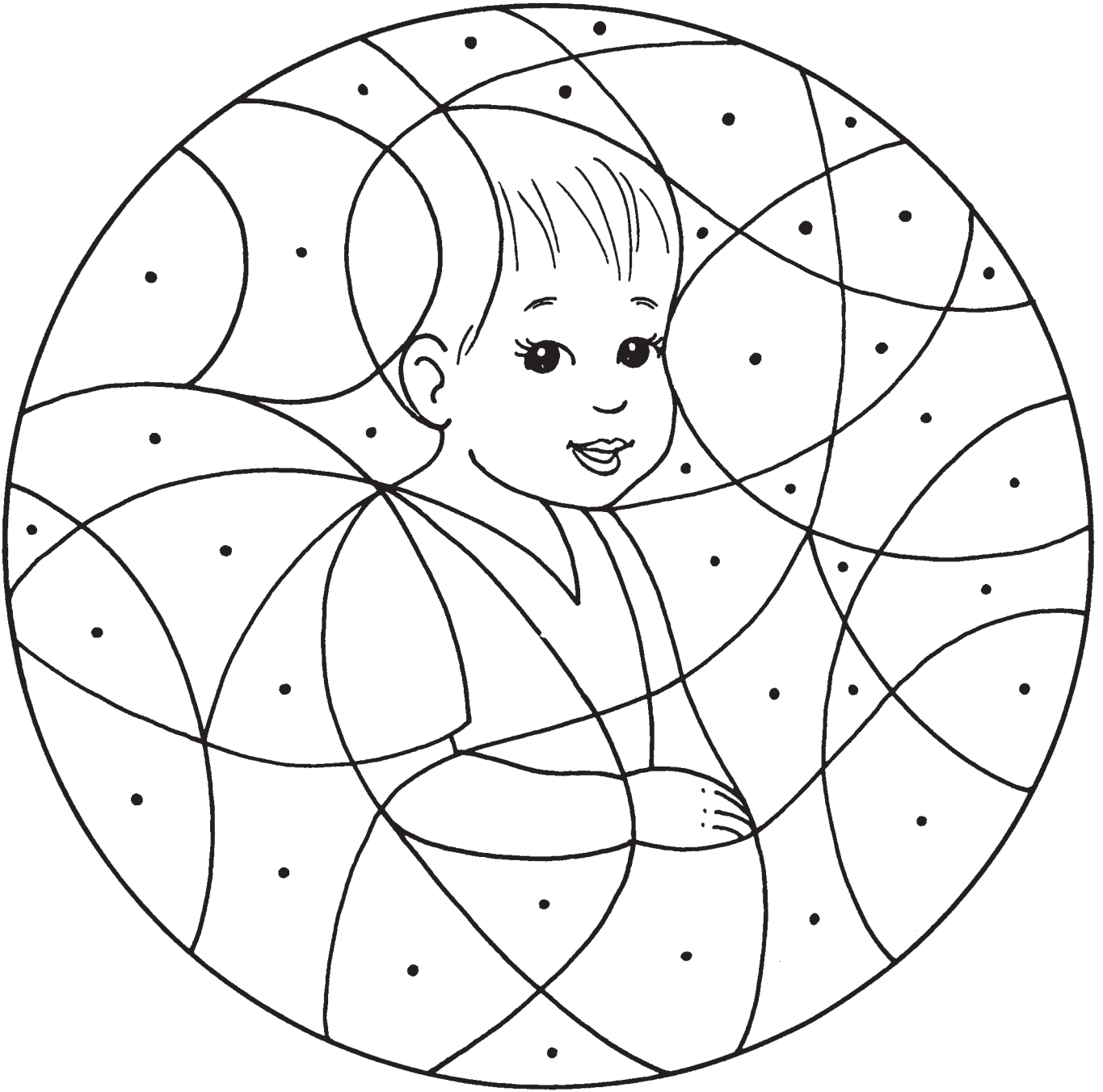


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Dear Parent: With this “masterpiece” in hand, your child will enjoy telling you the story of the angels visiting the shepherds. The angels brought the best news of all.

**“He loved us, and sent
his Son.”**
(1 John 4:10)

The Wise Men Searched For Jesus

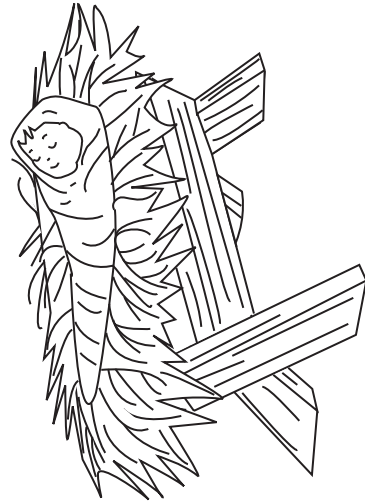


“He loved us, and sent his Son.”
(1 John 4:10)

Dear Parent: Today your child learned that the Wise Men worshiped Jesus by bringing gifts. Take time to talk about the true meaning of Christmas and why we give gifts to one another. Build the foundation for your child to receive the greatest gift of all—salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

 Name

LOVES



***“He loved us,
and sent his
Son.”***

(1 John 4:10)

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; then your other children's names).

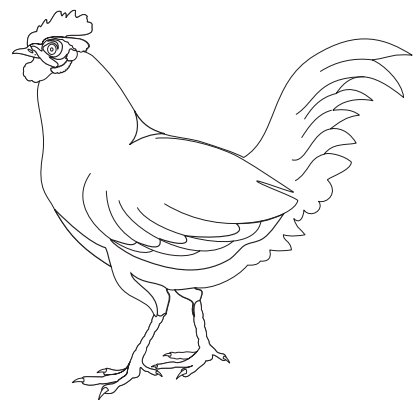
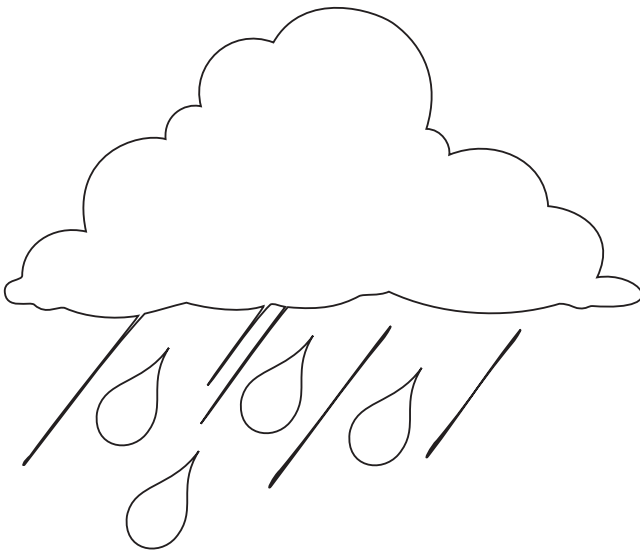
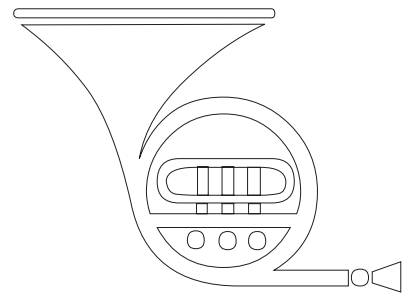
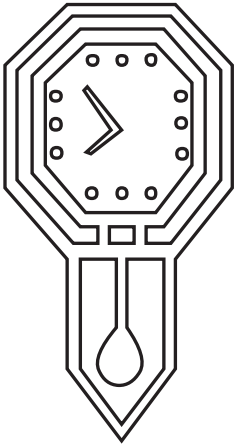
 Name

JESUS LOVES



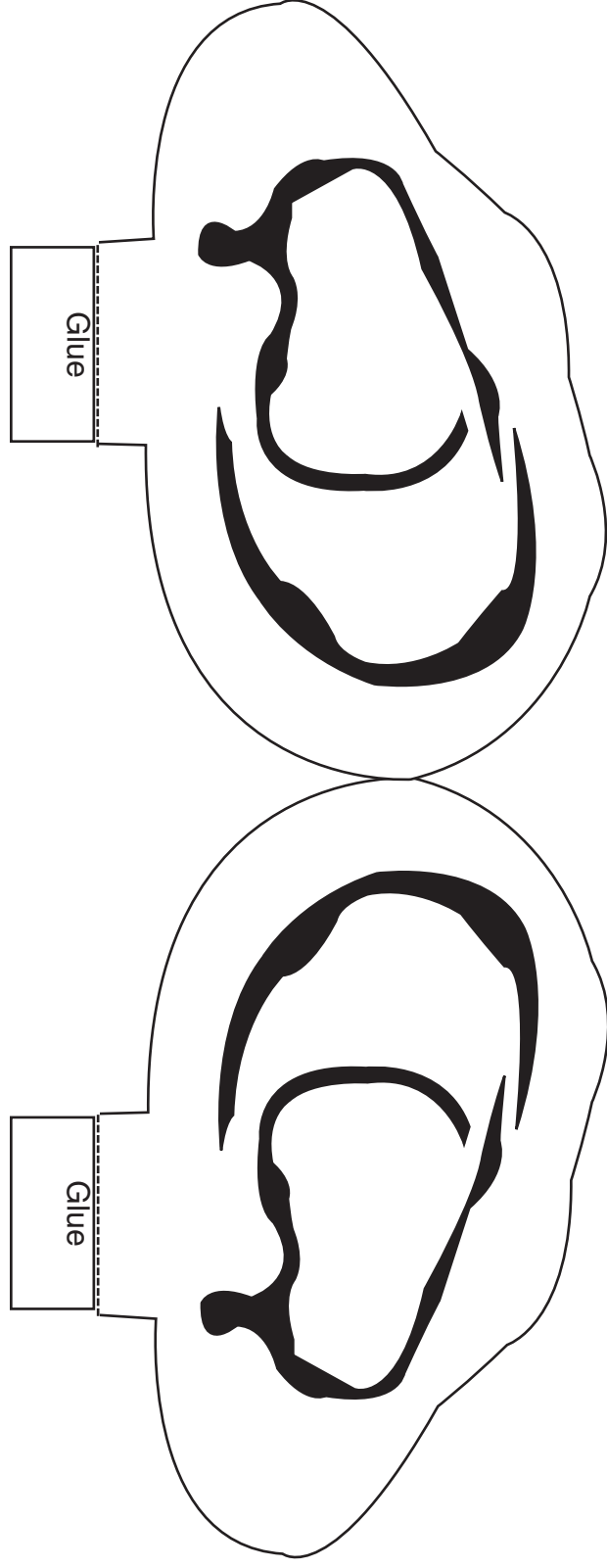
Dear Parent: Today's Bible words, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth" (1 Samuel 3:9,) will help your child remember that the most important thing that God's people can do is listen to His Word and obey it. If you don't have a regular family time of prayer and study in the Word, now would be a great time to start.

THINGS WE CAN HEAR



Dear Parent: Today your child heard the story about how the boy Samuel listened when God spoke to him (1 Samuel 3:1-21). Help your child realize that he or she is not too young to begin listening to God's Word and obeying Him. May your and your child's prayer be the same as young Samuel's.

***"Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth."
(1 Samuel 3:9)***



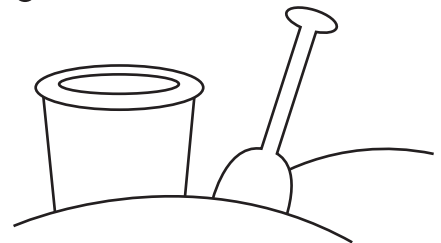
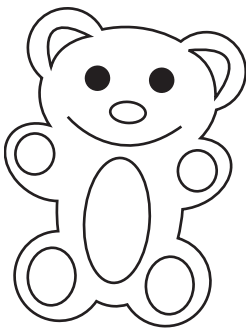
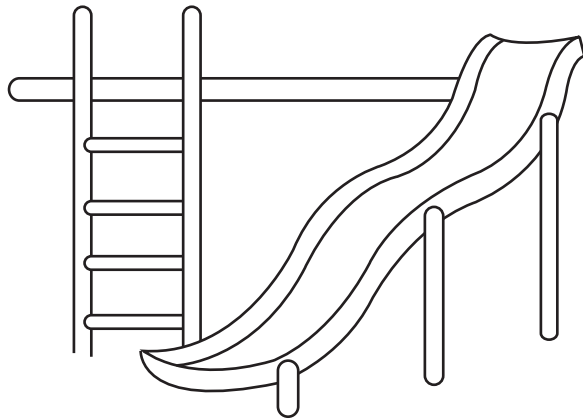
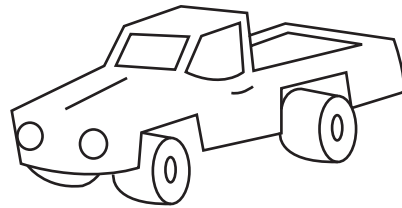
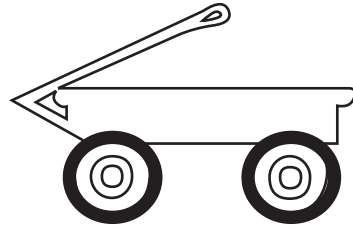
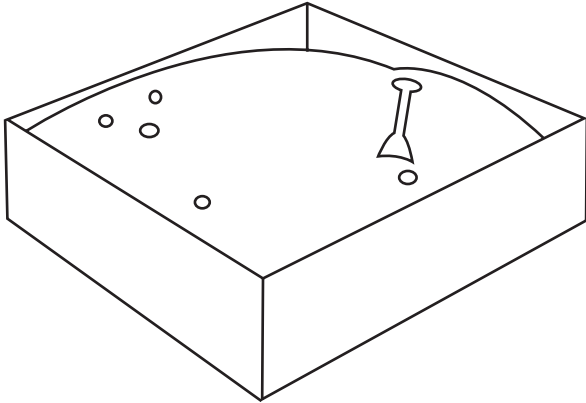
“Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.”

(1 Samuel 3:9)

An Action Rhyme for Home

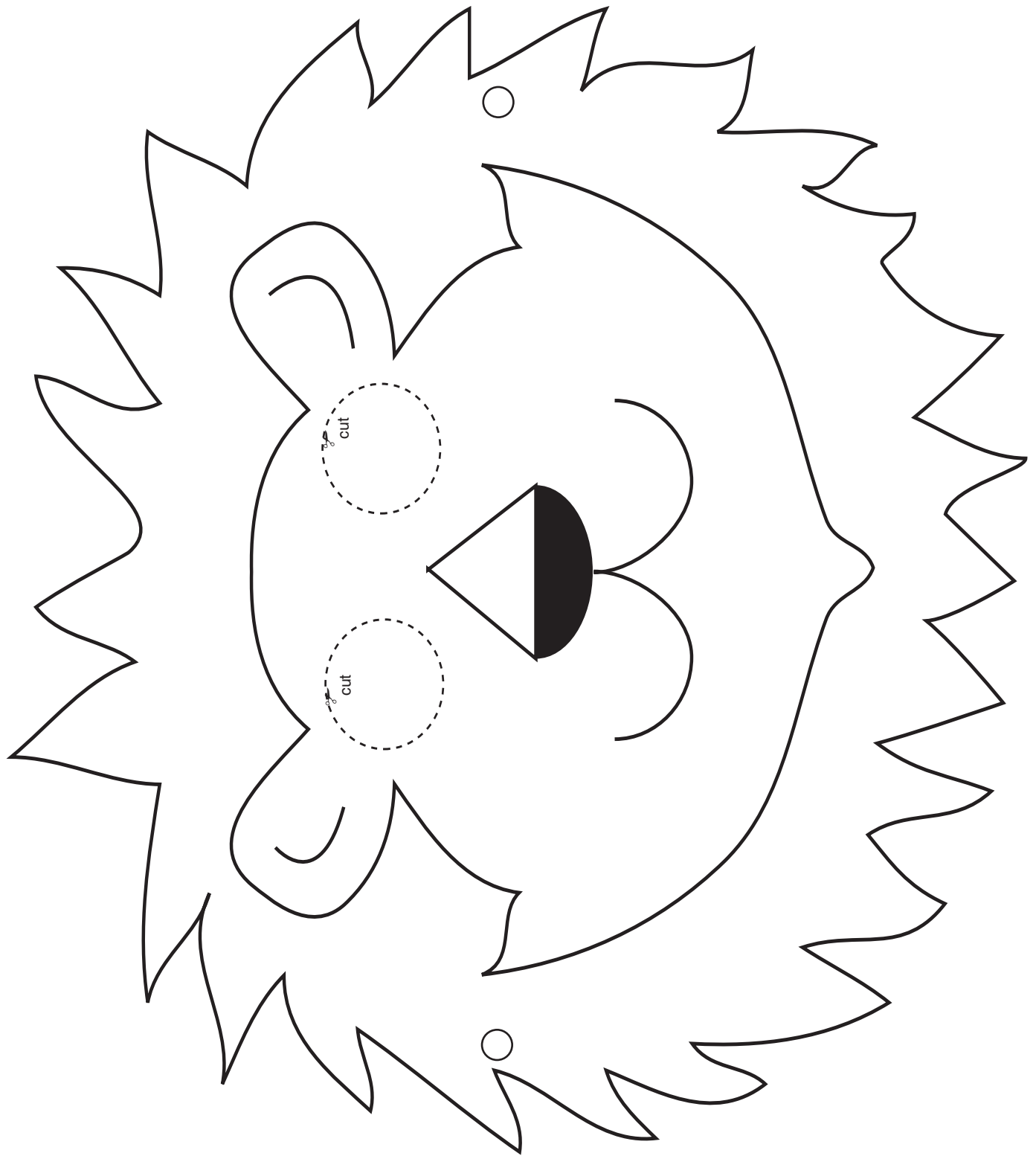
I Will Listen
I have one mouth with which to talk (*Point to mouth*).
I have two lips to say, (*Move lips*).
“I will listen to God’s Word; (*Nod vigorously*).
I’ll listen and obey.” (*Look up and nod head*).

AM I TOO BUSY?



“Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.”
(1 Samuel 3:9)

Dear Parent: Today your child learned that we should never be too busy to take time for Jesus. This week, make an effort to stop what you are doing and help your child find time to spend with Jesus. The time you spend with Jesus will be a blessing to both you and your child.

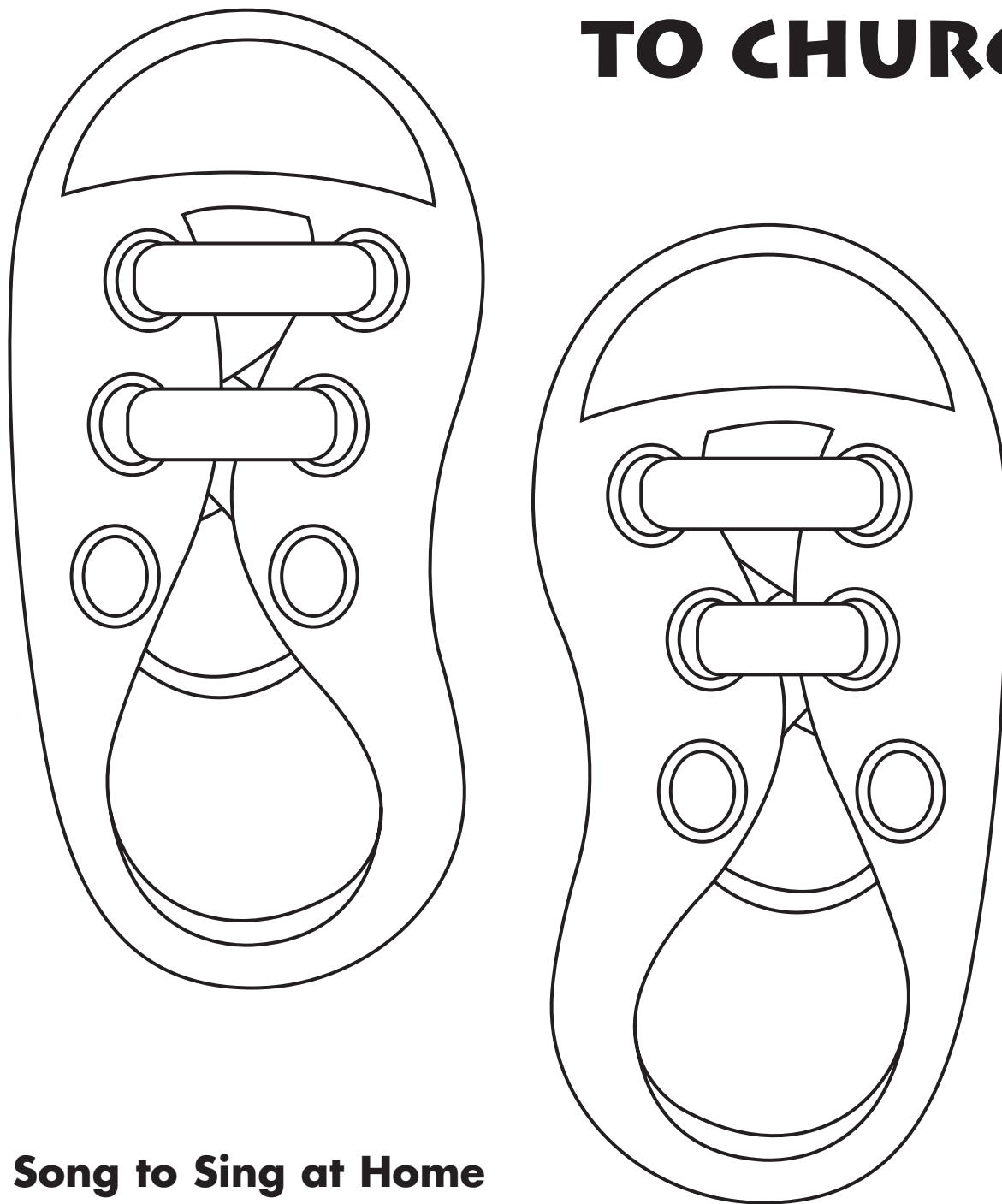


Fold

Dear Parent: Though you or your child will not likely be in a lions' den, there are plenty of tight spots we can get into through no fault of our own. When that happens, remember

***"The LORD will hear when I call unto him."
(Psalm 4:3)***

HAPPY FEET BRING US TO CHURCH



A Song to Sing at Home

This Is the Way We Go to Church
(Tune: "Mulberry Bush")

This is the way we go to church,
Go to church, go to church.
This is the way we go to church,
On a Sunday morning.

***"The LORD will hear
when I call unto him."
(Psalm 4:3)***



**The
LORD**



**will
hear**



**when
I**



**call
unto**



**him.
(Psalm 4:3)**

A Song to Sing at Home

(Tune: "London Bridge")

The Lord will hear when I call,

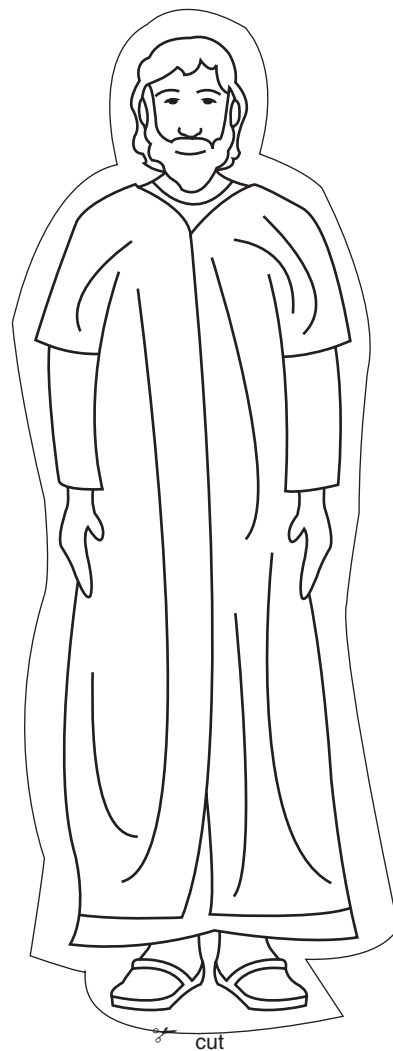
When I call, when I call.

The Lord will hear when I call,

Unto Him.

Cut finger strip

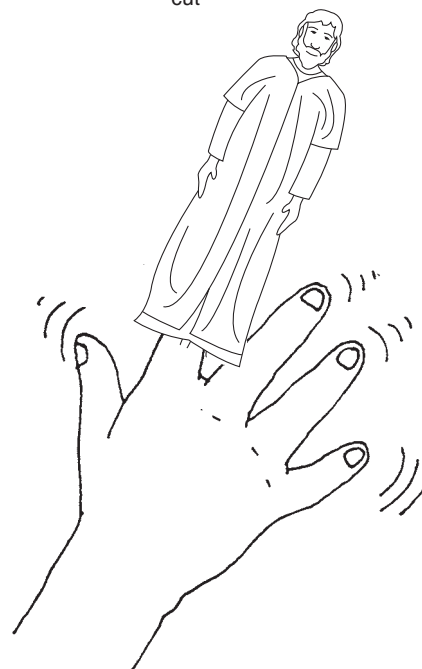
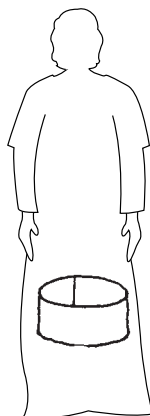
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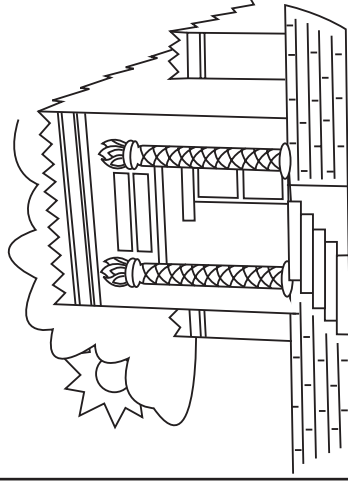
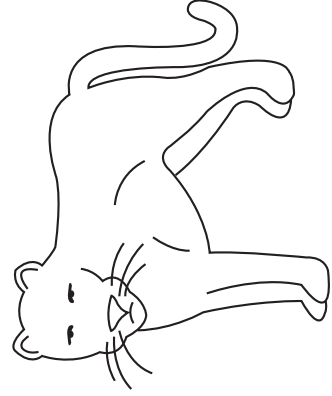
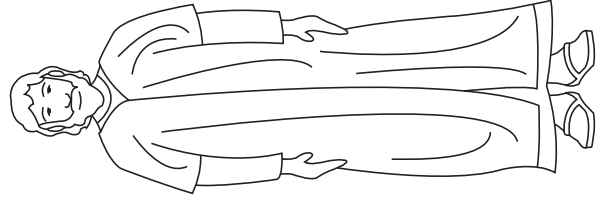
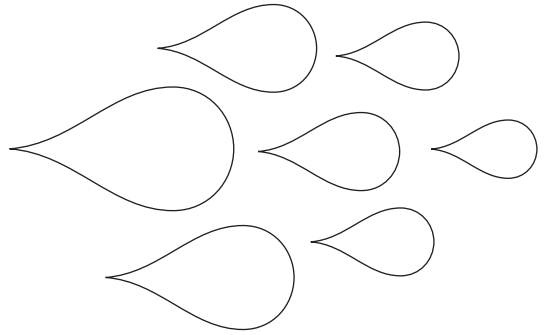
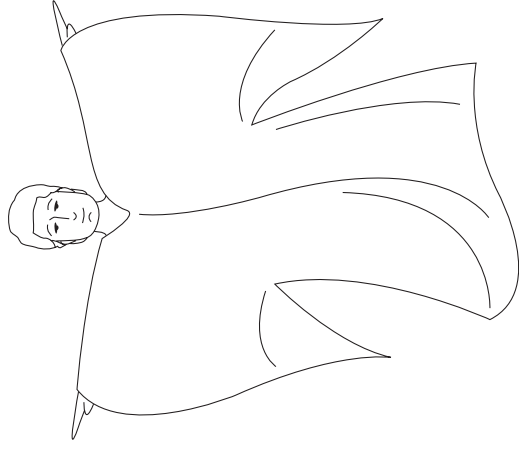
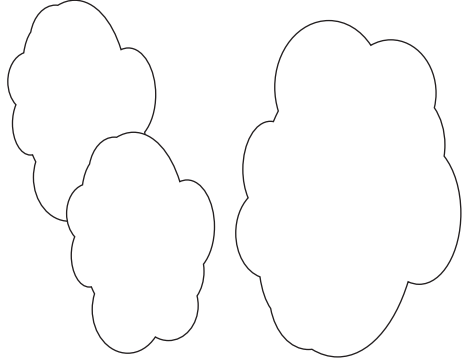
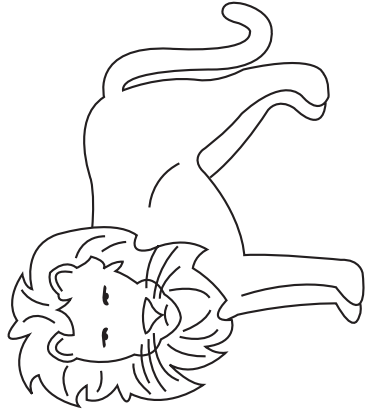
Dear Parent: Your child heard about the angel helping Peter escape from prison.
(Acts 12:1-17)

Help your child retell the story with these puppets.

"Pray one for another."
(James 5:16)



"Pray one for another."
(James 5:16)



Dear Parent: Have your child tell you about the stories these matching pictures represent. Be sure to pray often with your child, and share how God has answered your prayers.

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! —

The Swaddling Clothes Song

RUTH C. REID

RUTH M. HINDS

Round and round and round and round. Ma - ry wrapped the swad-dling clothes.

Round and round and round and round. Wrapped her Babe from head to toes.

Sing Unto the Lord

Psalms 96:1

ELLEN R. THOMPSON

“O sing, sing, sing un - to the Lord.” “O sing un - to the Lord.”

Rock-a-bye Jesus

M. H. F.

MARIE H. FROST

Musical notation for the song 'Rock-a-bye Jesus'. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The notes are: Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb3. The second staff has notes: Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb3. The lyrics are: 'Thank You, God, for send - ing me Lit - tle Ba - by Je - sus. Dear - est in the world is He, Lit - tle Ba - by Je - sus.'

Eb Cm Bb Eb Fm Bb7 Eb
 Thank You, God, for send - ing me Lit - tle Ba - by Je - sus.
 Eb Cm Bb Eb Fm Bb7 Eb
 Dear - est in the world is He, Lit - tle Ba - by Je - sus.

We Love Jesus

Musical notation for the song 'We Love Jesus'. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The notes are: Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb3. The second staff has notes: Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb3. The lyrics are: '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? 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.'

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.

Jesus Knows

M. A. B.

MARY A. BARBOUR

Musical notation for the song 'Jesus Knows'. It consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff has a key signature of three flats (Bbb) and a common time signature (C). The notes are: Bbb4, Ab4, Gb4, Fb4, Eb4, Db4, Cb4, Bbb3. The second staff has notes: Bbb4, Ab4, Gb4, Fb4, Eb4, Db4, Cb4, Bbb3. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus knows just where I am, Je - sus loves me too! — Je - sus knows me by my name, And ev - 'ry-thing I do. —'

Db Ab7
 Je - sus knows just where I am, Je - sus loves me too! —
 Db Gb Db/Ab Ab7 Db
 Je - sus knows me by my name, And ev - 'ry-thing I do. —

I Love the Bible

L. W.

LILLIAN WALDECKER

E♭

B♭

I love the Bi - ble, it is God's Book;¹ I love the

E♭ *E♭*

Bi - ble, it is God's Book.¹ I love the Bi - ble, it

B♭7 *Ab/E♭* *E♭*

is God's Book.¹ It tells me all a - bout Je - sus.²
It tells me that Je - sus loves me.³

Motions

1. Hold up Bible or pretend Bible.
2. Point upward.
3. Cross arms, putting hands on opposite shoulders.

Show Me Your Ways

PSALM 25:4a

MARY LeBAR

C *F* *C* *Em* *Fmaj7* *G*

Show me Your ways, O Lord. Show me Your ways, O Lord.

Am *C* *F* *C* *G7* *C*

Show me Your ways, O Lord. Show me Your ways.

We're Listening

M. L.

MARY LEBAR
and ELLEN R. THOMPSON

C Am Em C G Am Em G G⁷

We're listen-ing, Lord, we're listen - ing to hear what You will say. We're

C G⁷ C F Dm C/G G G⁷ C

listen - ing to Your Book to hear You speak to us to - day.

God's Word

S. B. D.

STELLA B. DALEBURN

E^b B^{b7} B^b/_{E^b} E^b

We must not for - get God's Word; That is where His voice is heard.

E^{b7} Fm B^{b7} E^b/_{B^b} B^{b7} E^b

If we lis - ten and o - bey, We'll grow strong-er ev - 'ry day.

JOHANNA PULS

God Hears Me

ELLEN R. THOMPSON

C Am D G C D

1. God hears me when I talk to Him, At church, at home, at play; God
 2. God hears me when I talk to Him, I tell Him of my fun; I
 3. God hears me when I talk to Him, I pray for oth - ers too; If

Em C Em⁷ A D D⁷ G

hears me when I talk to Him, I'll talk to Him each day.
 thank Him for my hap - py times, The pleas - ant things I've done.
 they are sick or sad or glad, He knows just what to do.

God's Ways

MARY LEBAR

ELLEN R. THOMPSON

F Eb F G⁷ C

1. I'll make my home* a hap - py home By fol - low - ing God's ways; If
 2. I'll make my home a hap - py home By fol - low - ing God's ways; If
 3. I'll make my home a hap - py home By fol - low - ing God's ways; If

F Eb Bb F⁷ Bb

I am kind and lov - ing there, We shall have hap - py days.
 I work well with oth - ers there, We shall have hap - py days.
 I don't ev - er quar - rel there, We shall have hap - py days.

*The words "church" or "school" may be substituted for "home" in each stanza.

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.

I Will

ELLIS ANNE BAAR

ELLEN R. THOMPSON

First system of musical notation for 'I Will'. It features a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Chord symbols G7, Em7, D7, G, and D7 are placed above the staff. The lyrics are: 1. I will sing like Da - vid; I will sing, I will sing. 2. I will pray like Dan - iel; I will pray, I will pray. 3. I will work like Sam - uel; I will work, I will work.

Second system of musical notation for 'I Will'. It continues the melody. Chord symbols G7, Am, D7, D9, and G4sus are placed above the staff. The lyrics are: I will sing like Da - vid; I will sing to God. I will pray like Dan - iel; I will pray to God. I will work like Sam - uel; I will work for God.

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 etch 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



4&5 4s & 5s
Church Time
Packet
No. 4028