

# YOUR COMPLETE QUARTER'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH!

**Lesson Plans &**Activities

Reproducible Student Activity Sheets

**Sheet Music** 







# UNIT THEMES

**We Learn** to Love Jesus, Our Saviour

We Learn to Grow Strong

**We Learn** to Be Kind



# HOW TO USE THIS PACKET

Your *Church Time*<sup>®</sup> 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 students may have.* Then let them 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 with the colorful visuals from our 4s & 5s Sunday School *Teaching Resources*. You can share with the Sunday School teacher, or perhaps you will want to order a resource packet for your classroom. You will also find suggestions for alternate ways of telling the Bible story. Songsheets are provided at the end of this *Church Time*® manual for the songs you will use most often this quarter. The music has more songs than those included on the songsheets. These quarterly MP3s are called *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music*. Additionally, throughout the lessons and on the songsheets, songs are recommended that can be sung to such familiar tunes as "Farmer in the Dell" and "London Bridge."

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

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

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE)

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

#### MATERIALS INCLUDED

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:













# JESUS, GOD'S WONDERFUL SON

#### **LESSON ONE**

## UNIT 1: WE LEARN TO LOVE JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Serve triangular snacks to remind the children of the mountain Jesus and His disciples went up in the Bible story. As always, *be aware of food allergies*.

Birthday Time: Create a birthday kite to use throughout the quarter. Wrap a large kite-shaped piece of sturdy card-

board in brightly colored birthday wrapping paper. Attach a ribbon to the kite for a tail. Each week, let the birthday child attach a bow with his or her name on it to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Matthew 17:1-8

#### **Bible Truth:**

The Lord Jesus is God's only

#### Life Response Aim:

To worship the Lord Jesus.

#### Bible Verse:

1 John 4:15

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; story visuals;
Copymaster 1 (copy for each child); brightly colored cloth or paper, about 5 1/2" X 12" for each banner, ribbons or strips of cloth 1/2" to 3/4" wide (one 5 1/2" and four 3" ribbons per child), stiff plastic straws (large diameter), stapler, glue, crayons, scissors, stickers (optional); figures from Teaching Resources

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):

Mountain Pictures: Show a picture of a mountain. Talk about what beautiful, but lonely, places mountains can be. Then remind the children that Jesus, God's wonderful Son, is with us everywhere, even on the mountains. Thank God for sending Jesus, His wonderful Son.

Mountain Climbing: Pretend to climb a mountain. Walk up and up; then down and down. If your church has age-appropriate climbing equipment in a playground, consider climbing there.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

**Offering:** Receive any offering money the children have brought. **Bible Story:** Tell the story, using the colorful figures from *Teaching Resources*. Have the children show one, two, and three fingers when you mention Peter, James, and John. Have them hug themselves each time you say Jesus' name to remind them of His love for them.

One day Jesus asked three of His friends—Peter, James, and John—to walk with Him to the top of a mountain.

As Peter, James, and John followed Jesus up the path, they may have been wondering what they were going to do when they got to the top of the mountain. They had seen Jesus do many wonderful things on mountains and seashores, as well as in towns. They had seen Jesus make blind people see, make sick people well, and do many other wonderful things. As they got to the top of the mountain they probably wondered what was going to happen there.

In a quiet place, Jesus prayed. As Jesus was praying, something very wonderful happened to Him.

Suddenly His face shone, and His clothes became as white as bright light—even whiter! He became brighter and brighter until He

#### looked as bright as the sun!

Then Peter, James, and John saw two more men, one on each side of Jesus. Peter, James, and John knew these two men were Moses and Elijah. They had come from heaven to talk to Jesus.

Suddenly a bright, shining cloud came over them. A voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear Him." The voice was God's. He was talking about Jesus, His only Son. God wanted Peter, James, and John to know that Jesus is the most important Person in the world.

When Peter, James, and John heard God's voice, they fell down and bowed their faces to the ground. They had never seen or heard anything quite like this before and they were frightened.

Then Peter, James, and John heard another voice. Jesus touched them and said, "Get up; don't be afraid." Peter, James, and John got up. Only Jesus was with them. The other two men had gone, the bright cloud had gone, and Jesus' shining brightness had gone. Now Peter, James, and John knew that Jesus is the wonderful Son of God. There is no one else like Him! They knew that He must love us all very much to have come down from heaven to live among people.



Use the following action rhyme as a review or an active way of telling the Bible story. Lead the children in doing the actions indicated by the story. the actions indicated by the story.

Jesus and friends walked one day, Walking and talking on the way. They climbed up a mountain, To find a quiet place to pray.

As Jesus knelt to talk to God, His friends moved aside to wait. Suddenly they saw a bright light And fell down; it was such a fright! The light was from Jesus, God's Son. God told them Jesus is His Son. They saw Moses and Elijah, too. Jesus is God's Son, they all knew.



Worship in Song: Sing "Jesus Is the Son of God" (Let's Sing Motions 'n Musi) and "I Love Him" (page 40).

Remembering the Bible Truth: Clap on the syllables indicated with uppercase letters; follow the other motions as given IF-cus IS the SON - COOK motions as given. **JE-sus IS the SON of GOD** (*stomp*) **1 John 4:15** (*hold hands open like a book*).

**Life Application:** To reinforce the idea of coming to church to worship Jesus, read this story.

Ben loved to go to Grandma's house. Ben's mother helped him pack his bag to take to Grandma's. Soon they were ready. When Ben and his mother drove up, Grandma was waiting. Ben jumped out of the car and ran to Grandma. Mom brought Ben's things into the house and gave Ben a big hug. "I'll be back tomorrow afternoon," she said.

"Grandma, do you want to see the sticker books I brought?" asked Ben.

"Sure," said Grandma. So Ben took out the sticker books, and they worked on them for a while.

"It's almost time for supper, Ben, so you can help set the table. Your uncle is coming over and we're going to have a barbecue," said Grandma.

"Oh good!" said Ben. He liked to play with his uncle.

After supper Ben and his uncle played. When Uncle left, Grandma made some popcorn. Grandma read two stories to Ben. "It's time for bed, Ben. We need to get up early because tomorrow is Sunday," said Grandma.

"OK," said Ben. "I know what that means, it's church day. Will I be able to go to Children's Church with the other boys and girls?" Ben always liked going to church with Grandma.

"Yes," said Grandma. The next morning when Ben went to Children's Church, a teacher introduced him to another boy. They played together for a little while. Then the teacher called all the children together for story time. Ben liked stories, so he listened closely.

Ben had heard some stories about Jesus from Grandma, but this one was new to him. When Grandma came and got Ben, he showed her his project.

"Grandma," he said, "I wish I could come to Children's Church all the time."

Grandma thought about it and said, "How would you like it if we ask your mom if I could come and get you when you don't spend the night? That way you could come all of the time."

"Oh, yes, Grandma. That is a great idea," said Ben. So every week Grandma took Ben to church with her and Ben went to Children's Church. Each week he learned more about Jesus.

One afternoon a few weeks later, Ben told Grandma, "I'm glad I get to go to Children's Church. I've learned to love Jesus. He's my Friend."

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

No Bible Words Banner: Hand out Copymaster 1. Encourage children to color the circles and cut them out. Give the children the long ribbon or strip of cloth to glue across the banner a couple of inches from the bottom. Next show them how to cut a decorative fringe, scallop, or zigzag pattern under the ribbon strip. Tell them to glue their circles onto their banners in whatever arrangement they please.

While the children are doing these tasks, circulate and staple three ribbon loops evenly spaced across the top of the banners. Insert the straw through these loops and staple the ends to a loop to prevent slippage. Have children cut out and paste the Parent Time tip to the back of their banner.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

Be sure to close in prayer and help the children gather their belongings in preparation for parents' arrival. If you have additional time, try this activity:

**Bible Story Review:** Review the action rhyme for the story. Look through a Children's Bible with the children and talk about Jesus.

# JESUS IS KIND TO A BLIND MAN

#### **LESSON TWO**

## UNIT 1: WE LEARN TO LOVE JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR

## TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Provide pretzel sticks or bread sticks and juice for the children. As always, be aware of food allergies your children may have. Point out how pretzels look something like small canes. Talk with the children about how blind people often will use canes to help them know what is ahead of them.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Luke 18:35-43

#### **Bible Truth:**

Jesus helped a blind man.

#### Life Response Aim:

To show we love Jesus by being kind and helping others.

#### Bible Verse:

Ephesians 4:32

#### **Materials Needed:**

Snack; Copymaster 2 (copy for each child), paper lunch bags, crayons, scissors, glue sticks

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):

Have a few children at a time cover their eyes with their hands or a blindfold, and let other children. blindfold, and let other children—closely monitored—or adults lead them around the classroom. Keep in mind that not every child will be comfortable doing this. If you have a sight-impaired person in your congregation, ask him or her to come to class and answer any questions the children might have.



Lead the class in thanking God for sight and all of our senses.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



**Bible Story:** Have the storyteller dress in a Bible-time costume to tell this story. If you prefer, dress a puppet or make one of the craft-time puppets ahead of time to tell the story.

Children, we have a special guest from Bible times.

Hello, boys and girls. I'm a poor man who used to be blind. And in Bible times a blind person had a very hard life. I could not do all the wonderful things blind people can do today. I had to ask people to give me money.

I couldn't go to work as the other men did because I couldn't see. But I could hear when people came along the dusty road. One day I

heard many feet coming and many voices talking! And I could hear children's feet running.

I wondered what was happening. Where could such a big crowd be going? I knew that only something special would make so many feet go by me. I asked, "Why such a crowd?"

They shouted back, "Jesus is here! Jesus is here!"

I had heard about Jesus! Jesus healed sick people. Jesus helped even those for whom the doctors could do nothing. Jesus had brought a little girl back to life! Jesus had healed many, many people. Jesus would be going right by me on the road! Oh, I must talk to Jesus!

"Jesus!" I called out.

Step, step, many feet and many voices were louder. I was afraid Jesus wouldn't hear me.

"Jesus," I called out more loudly, "Jesus, help me!"Then even louder I called, "Jesus, help me!"

Some of the men didn't like to hear me shouting. "Keep still," they scolded. Maybe they thought that Jesus was too busy to pay attention to me.

But I didn't care what they said. I shouted louder and louder. "Jesus, help me!" I knew Jesus might never come near me again. I might never have another chance to ask Jesus to make me see.

Then suddenly I heard all the feet stop; a man said, "Come, Jesus wants to talk to you." I jumped to my feet and the other man led me to Jesus.

Then I heard a very kind voice ask me, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

"O Lord, I want to be able to see," I told Him, and I'll never forget His answer.

"Receive your sight," said Jesus, "because you believe in Me."

At once I could see! I saw the face of Jesus, the Son of God. Then I looked slowly around. I saw the bright sunshine. I looked at all the faces of the men, women, and children. I saw the green trees and looked up at the blue sky and the birds. I could see the grass and the flowers. I could see! When I went home I would be able to see the house I lived in. Everything looked wonderful!

"Glory to God!" I called out."God has given me eyes that see! God has been kind to send His Son to heal me. Praise God!" And all the people who stood around said, "Yes, yes! Praise God!"

And the crowd started walking down the road with Jesus again. But this time I was with them. I wasn't sitting all alone beside the road. I was singing and thanking Jesus and following Him. Never again would I have to sit alone, blind and begging beside the road.



Review the Bible story with the following action rhyme.

Dark, dark, all was dark, (Cover eyes.) For the man who could not see.

**Sit, sit was all he did,** (Sit down.) Sometimes there against a tree.

**Beg, beg—held out his hand.** (Hold out hand.) **Here's money for the man.** (*Pretend to give money.*) **Step, step, a crowd comes by.** (Step in place.)

To see Jesus he would try.

"Help, help, Jesus help me. (Hands held pleadingly.)

Lord, I really want to see."

"See, see, no longer be blind." (Point to eyes.) **To the man, Jesus was kind.** (*Point up.*)



**Worship in Song:** Sing "God Has Power" and "O Give Thanks" (page 43).



**Remembering the Bible Truth:** Sing "Be Kind to One Another" (page 44).

**Life Application:** Tell this story to reinforce being kind by helping others, especially the handicapped or elderly.

When T. J. woke up, his mother asked, "What would you like to eat, T. J.?"

"I'd like waffles, please,"T. J. answered. "And I'd like to go up and down lots of steps."

"O.K." said Mother. "I need to return a cup to Mrs. Brown. Will you take it to her?"

So T. J. ate his waffles, washed his hands again, and took the measuring cup.

T. J. walked up the steps to the second floor, went to Mrs. Brown's door, and pushed the buzzer beside the doorknob. When Mrs. Brown came and saw her measuring cup, she looked pleased.

"Thank you, T. J. And what are you doing this morning?"

T. J. felt very happy. "I'm being kind to everyone, and I'm going up and down steps!"

"Steps?" asked Mrs. Brown. "Why, I have a pretty tablecloth I borrowed from Mrs. Reed on the third floor. Would you like to return it for me?"

T. J. nodded and took the pretty cloth carefully in his hands and went to the steps.

Again T. J. walked up the steps to the third floor. He went to Mrs. Reed's door and pushed the buzzer.

When Mrs. Reed came and saw her tablecloth, she looked very pleased and smiled.

"Thank you, T. J.," she said. "What are you doing this morning?"

"I'm being kind to everyone," he said. "And I'm going up and down the steps."

"Steps?" asked Mrs. Reed."Why, I have a cake pan I borrowed from your mother last week. Could you return it to her for me?"

T. J. smiled, nodded, and took the cake pan.

So he hurried into his apartment and shouted, "Here I am, Mother!"

Mother saw her cake pan and looked pleased. She gave T. J. a big hug and thanked him.

"You're welcome, Mom!" answered T. J. "It's nice to go up and down steps."

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

Distribute Copymaster 2 and a paper lunch bag to each child. Have the children color the blind man's face, cut the face out, and cut apart on the solid line on the mouth. Show the children how to lay their bags flat and glue the top part of the face to the bottom of the paper bag, having the mouth edge line up with the side that folds down. Then have them glue the lower part of the face to the bag below the upper part of the face. When they put their hands in their puppets, the children can make the puppets "talk" by opening and closing their hands.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Close in prayer, thanking God for the wonderful gift of eyes to see. Then you might try this activity if you have



🚺 Let the children retell the Bible story with their paper-bag puppets. Talk about being kind to one another.

We are kind to others because that's what God said to do.

# JESUS TAKES TIME FOR CHILDREN

#### **LESSON THREE**

## UNIT 1: WE LEARN TO LOVE JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Serve apple slices and raisins on small, plain paper plates. *Know which children have food allergies*, and serve appropriate alternatives as needed. Our Bible story today is about some children who went to Jesus. Do you think they were happy to be with Jesus? I think so. Let's make happy faces on our plates. Have the children use raisins for eyes and nose and an apple slice for the smile.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Mark 10:13-14, 16

#### **Bible Truth:**

Jesus loves children and wants them to love Him too.

#### Life Response Aim:

To want to talk to Jesus in prayer because He is my friend and loves me.

#### Bible Verse:

Psalm 116:1

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; pictures of children; Copymaster 3 (copy for each child); figures from Teaching Resources; crayons or markers, happy-face stickers

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):



Sing: "All Children Need the Saviour" (page 44). Have pictures of children of different nationalities to show the children. Jesus

loves all the children, and He loves you! Hold up a mirror so the children can see themselves.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



**Bible Story:** Tell the story with the colorful figures from *Teaching Resources*.

The boys and girls may have been listening to the grown-up people talk. "Have you heard about Jesus?" many people were asking each other. "He made a blind man see. He made a lame man walk."

"He loves everybody," someone else probably said. "He is kind to everyone too!"

"He tells wonderful stories about God!" another added.

Many boys and girls probably wished they could see Jesus and hear Him tell stories. But Jesus was too far away for them to go see Him.

One day someone brought good news to the town. "Jesus is coming! He will be here tomorrow."

The children were probably very happy when their parents said they could go see Jesus! The next morning the children could hardly wait to go.

They started down the road. At last they came to a large crowd of people. Jesus must be in the middle of all those people. Jesus was always being followed by many people.

Some of the men standing near Jesus saw the parents and children coming, and stopped them. The men frowned and said, "Go away!" They thought that Jesus was too busy talking with some important people and didn't have time for children.

The children must have felt sad. Their families were disappointed too. They had wanted very much to talk to Iesus.

As the children turned away, they heard a kind voice saying, "Don't send the children away! Let them come to Me!"

It was Jesus' voice! Jesus had seen the men trying to send the children and their families away. But Jesus wanted to talk to the children. He wanted them to come to Him.

The children and their parents must have felt very glad as they went to Jesus. All the other people who had been standing around stepped back to let the children come. Jesus opened His arms and welcomed all the children. He took up the little children in His arms. He put his hands on the heads of the older children. All the children knew Jesus loved them, and they loved Jesus too. He is their Friend, and our Friend too.

Let the children act out the story. Have an adult helper pretend to be Jesus and bigger children or other adults the disciples. As a review or an action alternative, try this classical try. the disciples. As a review or an action alternative, try this clapping story. Have the children sit and lead them in alternately clapping their hands and laps. They won't be able to do this well, but they enjoy trying as you say the story in rhythm to your own claps.

Hur-RAY, hur-RAY, the NEWS went 'ROUND, "Je-SUS is COM-ing TO our TOWN!"

"We'll SEE Je-SUS," par-ENTS did SAY. "So COME, chil-DREN, we're ON our WAY." Then TO Je-SUS they TRIED to GO, But THEY could NOT when MEN said, "NO!"

"You LET them COME," the LORD did SAY, And MAN-y CHIL-dren CAME that DAY.

**Worship in Song:** Sing "I Love Him" (page 40), "Jesus Has Time" (page 41), and "Jesus Is the Son of God" (found on the music CD). Or sing the following words to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

Do you know that Jesus loves us? He loves us, He loves us. Do you know that Jesus loves us? He loves you and me.

So now sing a glad song. We thank God for His Son. Do you know that Jesus loves us? He loves you and me.

Remembering the Bible Truth: Teach the following motions. I (point to self) love (hug self) the Lord (point up). Psalm 116:1 (open book hands). Then sing these words to "Row Row Row Your Boat" up). **Psalm 116:1** (open book hands). Then sing these words to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

I love, love, love the Lord. Thank You, Lord, I say.

Lord Jesus is truly a Friend of mine.

Thank You, Lord, I say.

**Life Application:** Read this story to reinforce the Life Response Aim.

Ben and his Grandma were eating lunch one Sunday after church. Before they ate, Grandma folded her hands, bowed her head, and thanked God for the food. Ben had seen Grandma do this before. She always did this before they ate. Today Ben thought he would like to do that too.

"Can I do that too, Grandma?" he asked.

Grandma wondered for a moment what Ben was asking; then she said, "Oh, you want to pray. Yes, of course you can pray too."

"What should I say?" Ben asked.

"You tell Jesus thank You for giving us good food to eat," Grandma said. "Just the same way you thanked me when I put your sandwich on the table."

Ben said, "Thank You, Jesus, for this sandwich my Grandma made for me. My Grandma always makes good sandwiches." Grandma smiled and hugged him.

A little while before it was time for Ben to go home, Grandma got a phone call. When she finished talking she sat on the couch and folded her hands and closed her eyes. When she opened her eyes again Ben asked, "Were you saying thank You to Jesus for your food?"

Grandma looked at him, smiled, and shook her head. "No," she said. "One of my friends is sick, and I was praying that Jesus would take care of her. We can talk to Jesus about anything."

"Anything?" asked Ben. He knew there were a lot of things that he would sure like to talk about to his Friend, Jesus. Grandma nodded, and they prayed that Ben would have a safe ride home and a good week in kindergarten.

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

**Jesus Loves You Booklet:** Hand out Copymaster 3. Help the children fold their sheets along the dotted lines so that the words "Know What?" appear on the cover, the picture of Jesus is on page 2, the dotted-line words so that the words "Know What?" appear on the cover, the picture of Jesus is on page 2, the dotted-line words "Loves You" are on page 3, and the words "That's Good News!" appear on the back.

Have the children color the picture of Jesus, trace over the dotted-line words, and color the words on the back. Use happy-face stickers to decorate the book. Whom can you show this book to and tell about Jesus?

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

If there is time after prayer, try this activity. Have the children draw happy faces of themselves and sing "Jesus Loves Me" (MP3 only). We are glad that Jesus loves us!

# THE CHILDREN PRAISE JESUS

#### LESSON FOUR

## UNIT 1: WE LEARN TO LOVE JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR

## TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** The children would enjoy a special treat of popcorn and fruit juice. *Always be ready to serve an alter*nate snack to accommodate any dietary restrictions. Have you ever been to a parade? Many people eat fun snacks, such as popcorn, at parades. People like to cheer as the parade goes by. Our Bible story today is about children who praised Someone very special when He rode by.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Matthew 21:7-11, 14-16

#### **Bible Truth:**

God is pleased when children praise Jesus.

#### Life Response Aim:

To want to praise God each day.

#### Bible Verse:

Psalm 116:1

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; palm branch (real or paper); figures from Teaching Resources; Copymaster 4 (copy for each child), crayons or markers, scissors, glue, sand (optional); two paper plates per child, two or three inked stamp pads or paint, green markers, dried beans, soapy water and towels for cleanup, stapler

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):



Bring in a palm branch for the children to experience. Let them touch it, hold it, wave it, etc. If you can't get a real branch, consider making a paper one.



**Jesus is pleased when children praise Him.** Lead the children in a prayer of praise.

## WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

**Offering:** Receive any offering money the children have.

**Bible Story:** Tell the story, using the colorful figures from *Teaching* Resources.

One spring day a long time ago, crowds of people were on their way to the temple to praise and worship God. They had heard Jesus was coming too. Many of them wanted to see and hear Jesus.

Jesus and His disciples were going to the city but they had stopped along the way for a while. When they stopped, Jesus told two of His disciples to go to a small town nearby and bring back a young donkey, never before ridden. Jesus would ride into the big city on this donkey (Mark 11:2).

When the two disciples got to the small town, they found the donkey just as Jesus had said. On the way back to Jesus and the others, the owners of the donkey stopped them and asked why they wanted the donkey (Luke 19:33).

The two disciples said the donkey was for Jesus and went on their way. When these disciples met Jesus and the others, Jesus climbed onto the donkey. As Jesus went riding into the city, the disciples started praising Jesus. The people there joined in by saying in loud voices, "Hosanna! Praise the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"

People said "Hosanna!" as a praise word.

The people were so glad Jesus had come to the city. Many of them wanted to praise Him. Some were sick and wanted to be healed by Jesus, and others just wanted to listen to Jesus teach about God. As Jesus was riding down the road, many of these people put their coats on the road in front of Jesus. Some of the people waved palm branches as Jesus rode by, or they put their palm branches on the road.

As Jesus went through the gates into the city the people kept on shouting their praises. The people in the houses came outside and asked "What's going on? Who is this Person?" When they found out it was Jesus they joined in shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus went to the temple. The people who were sick or hurt were waiting to be healed by Jesus (Matt. 21:14). Those who were blind were waiting for Jesus to make them see, and those who couldn't walk were waiting for Him to heal their legs. There were children in the temple too, following Jesus and shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to Jesus!"

There were some men, though, who did not want anyone to praise Jesus. They were angry because the children were doing this. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked Jesus angrily. "Yes," Jesus said. "Don't you know that children give God wonderful praise?"

**Worship in Song:** For an active version of this story, play "Palm Sunday" on the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* CD. Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!" (page 45) and "All Children Need the Saviour" (page 44).

Remembering the Bible Truth: Teach the following motions. I (point to self) love (hug self) the Lord (point up). Psalm 116:1 (oney book hands). There sizes the self of the lord (point up). up). **Psalm 116:1** (open book hands). Then sing these words to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

I love, love, love the Lord. Thank You, Lord, I say. Lord Jesus is truly a Friend of mine. Thank You, Lord, I say.

**Life Application:** Read this story to reinforce today's Life Response Aim.

Todd liked to sing. He sang all the time. Sometimes he made songs up about what he was doing, other times he sang songs he knew. When he was riding in the car he would sing songs about what he saw. Sometimes his parents would make up songs back to him while they were driving. His little sister, Stephanie, would try to sing too.

One Sunday on their way home from church Todd sat in the backseat singing. He sang (make up a little tune) "Hosanna! Hosanna! all the children sang. Jesus rode on a donkey. The children and mommies and daddies sang Hosanna, Hosanna."

Stephanie clapped and said "Sanna, Sanna!"

Todd's dad glanced at the mirror. "We heard that story today in church too," he said.

"Me too," said Stephanie. "Children sang, 'Sanna!"

"Jesus was pleased with their praise," said Mother. "Jesus is pleased with our praise too."

"Can we praise Him now?" Todd asked.

"You were praising Him with the song you were singing," said Mother. "And Stephanie was praising Him too. Do you want to sing another song?"

Todd nodded and started singing a song from church that his mother and father knew. They sang along and Stephanie clapped her hands with joy.

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

**Jesus Is King!** Distribute Copymaster 4. Let the children color the city scene and cut out the figure of Jesus on the donkey. If you like, have them spread some glue on the "road" and sprinkle sand on it to give it texture. Show the children how to move the figure of Jesus on the donkey through the city scene to retell the Bible story.

**72 Ny A Joyful Noise:** Distribute two paper plates per child. Allow each child to make ink or paint prints of their hands or draw palm leaves on the bottom of each plate. Help the children glue the rim of each plate, put about a dozen dried beans between the plates, and seal the plate rims together. After the glue has set, staple the rims together for a more secure seal. Print each child's name on his or her rattle with a marker.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

You'll want to close your time with your children in prayer. If parents haven't arrived yet, consider doing this activity until they do.

Play again "Palm Sunday" from the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Musi* and have the children follow the directions. Your children will enjoy these Bible stories put to music. Let them pretend to be children at Jesus' triumphal entrance. If your class made paper plate rattles in Hands-to-Hearts, encourage the children to shake the rattles along with the music.

# JESUS DIES AND LIVES AGAIN

#### **LESSON FIVE**

## UNIT 1: WE LEARN TO LOVE JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

Snack Time: Many children will have had candy and other less-than-healthy snacks already, so serve fresh fruit for a snack today. *Check with parents about allergies*. Avoid such foods as egg candy, bunny-shaped cookies, etc. This will help ensure the children aren't distracted from the reason believers celebrate Easter.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Mark 14:43, 53; 15:25, 37, 46; 16:1-7

#### **Bible Truth:**

Jesus died because He loves us; now He is alive again.

#### Life Response Aim:

To thank Jesus for dying and coming back to life again.

#### **Bible Verse:**

Luke 24:6

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from Teaching Resources; light-colored construction paper, Copymaster 5 (copy for each child), scissors, stapler, gray or brown tempera paint, sponge pieces of various shapes and sizes, paint smocks, Easter stickers, plenty of old newspaper, soapy water, and paper towels

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):

Advance note to leaders: The Easter story is a difficult one to tell young children because they lack experience with the meaning of life and death. When else do we speak of a "tomb" or of being "risen"? Always be conscious of your use of these words. Later, as you review the Easter story, ask the children to explain what the words mean.

Many young children are not mature enough to understand the truth of salvation, but some can understand it. Watch their reaction and give individuals an opportunity to speak to you if the Holy Spirit is dealing with them. Most of all, be sure you express the joy of having a living Saviour. The children should see the wonder of Christ living in you.

Greet each child by name and say the Bible words from Luke 24:6. **Hello, Rachel, did you know that** (Bible words)? Then everyone sings "Jesus Is the Son of God." Pray, thanking Jesus for dying for us and coming back to life again.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



Bible Stories: Illustrate the story with the colorful figures from Teaching Resources.

We've seen how Jesus did only good things for everyone. You would think everyone would love Jesus and want to be His friend. But some men didn't love Jesus. When He did kind things, these men became angry because they didn't believe that Jesus is the Son of God. They wanted the people to praise them, not Jesus. So these men said, "Let's kill Jesus. Then people will forget Him and do what we say."

One evening after dinner, Jesus and His friends walked to a garden near the city. While Jesus was praying, men who didn't love Him came. Jesus let the men take Him, but He had never done anything wrong. So they made up lies about Jesus.

Then the men took Jesus to some soldiers who were in the city. The soldiers took Jesus outside the city. The soldiers had made a cross out of two big pieces of wood. They nailed Jesus to the cross and left Him to die.

Jesus' friends could not stop the men who didn't love Him. Jesus could have stopped them, but He didn't. He had decided to come to earth to take the punishment for all sin—the bad things we've done. God has to punish sin. But God made a way for Jesus to take the punishment for sin on the cross. Jesus had not done anything wrong, but He knew we could not live for Him on earth or go to heaven to live forever unless He died for all people. So Jesus let the men nail Him to the cross. He loves us very much.

Jesus died. His friends probably felt as if they would never be happy again. They thought they would never see their Friend again. A man named Joseph took Jesus' body, wrapped it in cloth, and carried it to a garden where there were large rocks. A little room had been cut out of one of the rocks, making a little cave called a tomb. Joseph put Jesus' body in the tomb. A large, heavy stone was rolled in front of the door. Then Jesus' friends went home, oh so sadly!

Three days later, early in the morning, women who were friends of Jesus decided to go to the garden where Jesus' body lay. They had sweet-smelling spices to put around His body. The women walked up the path to the tomb, wondering who would roll the heavy stone away from the tomb so they could go in. Suddenly they saw a wonderful sight—the biggest surprise in all their lives! The tomb was already open the stone was rolled away! An angel was sitting there.

The women were so afraid they couldn't speak. Then the angel said, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus, who died. He isn't here. He is risen! He is alive! Look at the place where His body was. Now, go tell Jesus' friends He is alive, and they will see Him again."

The women could hardly believe it. Jesus is alive! They looked. Yes, the tomb was empty! Jesus was not there! Turning around, the women ran down the path. They couldn't wait to get back to tell all of Jesus' friends the most wonderful news in all the world! Jesus is alive!

As an alternative or a review of the Bible story, lead the children in this action rhyme. You'll want to familiarize yourself with the actions so you can lead your shill be actions as you can lead your shill be actions. yourself with the actions so you can lead your children easily.

"Jesus is dead," His sad friends said, before that first Easter Day. (Shake head sadly.)

So they placed Him in a tomb to stay (so they thought),

**Three days before Easter day.** (*Close cupped hands together slowly.*)

One day passed, then two, and nothing happened. (Shake head sadly.)

But after three days, something exciting happened! (Suggest suspense by your voice, and smile.)

Jesus lived again! Some of His friends saw Him alive

**On that first wonderful Easter Day!** (Clasp hands enthusiastically together with joy.)

Now He lives in heaven, and we're glad He's alive

**On this happy Easter Day!** (Nod and point to your happy smile.)



**Worship in Song:** Sing "Jesus Is Living" and "Jesus Loves Me" from the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music*. Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!" (page 45).



Remembering the Bible Truth: Repeat the greeting activity in Preparing Their Hearts and have each child say the Bible words from Luke 24:6 after you. Then have the children say the Bible words together. say the Bible words from Luke 24:6 after you. Then have the children say the Bible words together.

**Life Application:** Try this activity to help the children grasp the truth of the empty tomb and that Jesus is alive. Use an old sheet to hang over a table, to make a cave "tomb." Play is one way for preschoolers to learn. Cover a small table with the sheet. Leave one end open to create a "cave tomb." Let two children volunteer to be Jesus' friends who come to the tomb. You take the part of the angel and repeat those reassuring words that Jesus was not there, but is alive. Then the two volunteers can rush to tell the others that wonderful news.

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

**Table 1** This week you should do the craft before the Life Application activity to give a team member time to put a surprise for the children in the craft projects.

Give each child a sheet of light-colored construction paper and Copymaster 5. Have the children cut out the rock shape and center the rock on the construction paper. Help them staple the top (only) of the rock to the paper. Have the children put on paint smocks and put out the paints and sponges. Show them how to dip the sponges lightly into the paint and then dab it onto their paper to get the texture of the sponge on their "rocks." Then have the children leave the project while their papers dry (do the Life Application activity after cleanup). During this time, have an assistant place an Easter sticker under each rock. During Good-bye Time, have the children look under the rock to discover the special message of Easter pictured there.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Close in prayer. Try these activities if you have extra time. First draw attention to the Easter stickers under their rocks. **We celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive.** 

No Copying Game: Encourage children in a game. Have a teacher say He is risen! and strike a pose or do an action. The children will reply "He is risen indeed!" and copy the pose or action. If you prefer not to use these words, break the memory verse into two parts and use the same call and response idea.

# JESUS GOES BACK TO HEAVEN

#### **LESSON SIX**

## UNIT 1: WE LEARN TO LOVE JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Serve marshmallows, rice cakes, graham crackers spread with marshmallow fluff, or any other food that will remind children of a cloud. *Be sure to check with parents about food allergies.* 

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Matthew 16:26–17:8; 21:7-11; Mark 16:1-7; Acts 1:3-12

#### **Bible Truth:**

Jesus is alive and is now in heaven.

#### Life Response Aim:

To want to tell others that Jesus is alive.

#### **Bible Verse:**

Luke 24:6

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from Teaching Resources; Copymaster 6 (copy for each child), cardboard circles, crayons, scissors, glue, hole punch, yarn, colored macaroni or cereal O's; magazine or catalog pictures of places children regularly visit

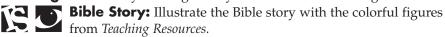
Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the Let's Sing Motions 'n Music or both.

# PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

Sing "Jesus Is Living" (*Let's Sing Motions 'n Music*) or play "Palm Sunday" and do the motions. This will be a fun review opportunity to help introduce today's story. Pray, thanking God for loving us and sending Jesus, His own Son.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



Peter, James, John, and the other friends of Jesus were walking with Jesus to a mountain. Perhaps they remembered when Jesus prayed on a mountain and a wonderful thing had happened. Jesus' face shone like a bright light, and God spoke from heaven, saying, "This is My dear Son. Listen to Him."

Perhaps they thought of the day when Jesus had ridden into the city on a donkey. What an exciting time! The people had sung, "Hosanna in the highest!"

Then Jesus was put on a cross to die. Jesus died to take the punishment for all the sins of men and women and boys and girls. Jesus loves people so much He died for them! Peter, James, John, and the other friends of Jesus remembered how happy they had been when Jesus came back to life.

Now here they were, climbing a mountain and talking with their wonderful Friend, Jesus. When they reached the top of the mountain, Jesus said, "Go and tell others everywhere about Me." Jesus' friends were to tell everyone that He died for them, He is alive again, and He loves them very much.

When Jesus finished talking with His friends, His feet left the ground, and Jesus rose up in the air. He was going back to heaven to be with God, His Heavenly Father! Then a cloud hid Him, and the

men couldn't see Him anymore.

Suddenly the men heard a voice. "Why are you looking up into heaven?" There were two angels, and they had a message for Jesus' friends. "The Lord Jesus," they said, "whom you have just seen go back to heaven, will come again some day. He will come back through the clouds."

Jesus' friends may have looked at each other. They remembered Jesus' last words to them. They knew they should tell everyone about Jesus. So the men went back to the city. And in the city they began telling others about Jesus, God's Son.

To review, bring out a puppet and have it quiz the children about the story. Adapt the following questions to suit your group of students.

Where were Jesus and His friends going? What did Jesus tell His friends on top of the mountain? Then what happened? Where did Jesus go?

## Who talked to Jesus' friends after He left? What did the angels say? What did Jesus' friends do then?

Worship in Song: Sing "Jesus Is the Son of God" (Let's Sing Motions 'n Music MP3 only), "Dear Jesus, I Love You" (page 40), and "Jesus Is Near" (page 42).



7 For a more active song, have children join hands and walk in a circle as they sing these words to the tune of "Mulberry Bush."

Jesus is the Son of God, Son of God, Son of God. **Jesus is the Son of God.** He's with me all the time.

**N** Remembering the Bible Truth: Review the Bible words from Luke 24:6 in this manner. Say the verse twice together; then you say the first part of the verse, and team members help the children say the second part. After a few times, reverse parts, with the children saying the first part. Close by everyone saying it together.

**Life Application:** Tell this action story to reinforce the Bible Truth and Life Response Aim.

**Jesus and His friends one day** (Hold up fingers of right hand.)

Went to a mountain far away. ("Walk" fingers horizontally, then up, up, up.)

**There Jesus told His friends good-bye,** (Wave good-bye with left hand.)

**And went back to His home on high.** (Raise left hand with index finger pointed upward.)

**Two angels came and stood with them,** (Two fingers of left hand by fingers of the right.)

And said, "Jesus will come back again." (Point up, then down.)

These words pleased Jesus' friends so much. (Point to your huge smile.)

**How many people did they tell? A bunch!** (Walk quickly in place and cup hands to mouth.)



Encourage children to say the words below, line by line, with you. Then pray together, thanking the Lord for being with us always.

Jesus sees me when I play. Jesus sees me when I pray. I'm glad for my Friend, Jesus!

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

Give each child a precut 3" cardboard circle and Copymaster 6. Let them color the circles on the copymaster and cut them out. Help the children also their two circles to the first and cut them out. and cut them out. Help the children glue their two circles to the front and back of the cardboard circles (see illustration). Punch a hole in the top of each completed project. Thread a 24" length of yarn through the hole. Let the children string cereal O's or colored macaroni on the lengths of yarn. Tie the ends of the thread together as a decorative reminder that Jesus is alive. Let the children wear their reminders around their necks.

Have the children cut out the Parent Tip and make that into a bracelet you tie onto each child's wrist. Tell the children that the bracelet is for their parents to read.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Close in prayer, thanking God that Jesus is alive. If there's extra time, try this activity:

Gather the children together and show pictures of places they will probably visit during the week: home, grocery store, kindergarten or nursery school, playground, and friend's house. Let the children tell about people they know at these places who can be told that Jesus is alive.

# DAVID REFUSES TO HURT SAUL

#### **LESSON SEVEN**

#### UNIT 2: WE LEARN TO GROW STRONG

## TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Chewy fruit strips or fresh fruit cut up with a knife by a teacher. Serve with juice or water. Talk about how important it is to use knives properly. Because of their sharpness, they are not things that children should touch or play with. *Be aware of food allergies*.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

1 Samuel 24:2-11, 16-19, 22

#### **Bible Truth:**

David did not harm Saul when given the opportunity.

#### Life Response Aim:

To want to become strong on the "inside" as well as on the "outside."

#### Bible Verse:

Psalm 28:7

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; birthday kite; materials to test children's strength; "cave" materials, such as a large box or blankets; figures from *Teaching Resources*, Copymaster 7 (copy for each child), construction paper, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, flannelboard, flannel or felt/soft foam shapes

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):

Strong Children: Set up a center with some "tests of strength" for the children to try: one-pound and five-pound packages to lift, a bottle top to unscrew, a ball to throw through a hoop, and similar challenges. As we grow we get stronger and can do things that we could not do when we were smaller.

**Caves:** Set up a cave area in your room. Use a large appliance box, a table draped with blankets, or whatever else you have on hand to create a "cave." Talk with the children about what a cave is and let them explore the "cave" in your room. If you can create a space big enough, use it in telling the Bible Story or bring all the children inside your "cave" to tell the Bible Story.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

**Offering:** Receive the children's offering money.

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

"King Saul and his men are coming," David's men said. "King Saul wants to kill you. We must be careful!"

David's men watched and listened. They wanted to protect their leader, David. David was a good man and had done nothing wrong. King Saul was afraid because God had said David was going to become king. And King Saul wanted to keep on being king.

King Saul took 3,000 of his strongest soldiers with him to attack David and his men. So David and his men hid in a large cave. It was hot outside, but the cave was cool. They could rest there. As they were resting they heard footsteps coming into the cave. Who could it be?

It was King Saul. David and his men hid in the dark shadows so that no one could see them. They were quiet.

Into the cave marched King Saul. It was hot outside and cool inside the cave. So King Saul rested. Quietly, David and his men

came out from where they were hiding. They went nearer and nearer to the resting king.

"Now you can kill him!" whispered David's men. "He wants to kill you; you kill him, and you'll be safe." David didn't want to kill the king. He shook his head. "No," he whispered. "No, I will not hurt him. He is the king whom God has chosen."

The men were probably surprised and disappointed. But they loved David, so they obeyed him. After David cut a piece of cloth from King Saul's robe, they all went back to where they had been hiding to wait until King Saul left the cave.

Finally, King Saul woke up and went out of the cave. David followed him. When King Saul got away from the cave, David called out, "King Saul!" The king turned around.

David bowed low and asked, "Why do you believe the people who said I want to hurt you? See, I have a piece of your robe. I was near you and had a chance to kill you, but I would not harm the king whom

God has chosen. Why do you try to kill me, King Saul?"

King Saul listened. "Is that you, David?" he called. "You are a better man than I am, David. You have done good to me when I was trying to harm you. May God do good to you because of your kindness to me today." And Saul took his 3,000 men and went home.

Teach your children this action rhyme to review or for a more active version of the Bible story:

**David, David—strong and brave,** (Flex muscles.)

**Took his men to hide in a cave.** (Move fingers of one hand into other cupped hand.)

**Saul, Saul—big and tall,** (Reach up.)

**Took his soldiers to find them all.** ("Gallop" all fingers forward.)

**Then came Saul into the cave, so deep,** (Walk in place.)

While very close David did creep. (Take stealthy steps.)

**David, David—brave and strong,** (Flex muscles.)

**To his king would do no wrong.** (Shake head and push hands away from body.)

**Worship in Song:** Sing "Prayer to Grow Strong" (page 42), "God Made Me" (page 40), or "Jesus Loves Me." For a simple, active song teach the following action rhyme to "Mulberry Bush."

I am growing, growing, growing, (*Raise hand to three heights.*)

Learning all that I can do.

(Point to head and nod.)

So I can do what Jesus says,

(Point to self.)

And so can you.

(Point to another child.)

**Remembering the Bible Truth:** Teach the memory verse using the following actions: **The Lord** (point up) **is my strength** (*make muscle*)**, Psalm 28:7** (*hold hands open like a book*).

**Life Application:** Tell this story to reinforce the Life Response Aim. If you would like to make this story more active, let the children follow you as you act out the italicized words.

Peter liked to run and jump. At preschool he could run faster than anyone, except Gretchen. And he could jump very high and very far, even farther than Gretchen.

One morning Gretchen was in a bad mood. She accidentally tore her picture during art time. That made her angry, so she scribbled on Tracy's picture and ruined it. Tracy was Peter's friend. She started to cry. Mrs. Wheeler talked to Gretchen about this.

It was raining that morning so they couldn't go outside for playtime. This made Gretchen angry. Peter asked Gretchen if she would ride the indoor see-saw with him. She said that she would, and before long she wasn't angry anymore about having to stay inside.

After playtime Mrs. Wheeler told Peter she had seen how he helped cheer up Gretchen. She said he had done a good thing. That made Peter so happy that he jumped.

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

Strong Inside and Outside: Give each child Copymaster 7 and a piece of construction paper. Have the children color and cut apart the three pictures. Fold the construction paper so the two outer edges meet in the center. Let the children paste picture A on the inside, picture B on the left outside flap, and picture C on the right outside flap. Show them how to open and close the card to tell the Bible story.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

If you have additional time after closing in prayer, try these activities:

**Surprise Faces:** Provide flannelgraph or felt shapes and let the children make surprise faces on the flannelboard or a piece of fuzzy cloth. You could also do this using soft foam pieces.

**Teacher Says:** Let the children show their "strength" to obey your instructions. Play "Teacher Says" as you would play "Simon Says."

# FOUR BOYS GROW STRONG

## **LESSON EIGHT**

#### UNIT 2: WE LEARN TO GROW STRONG

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

Snack Time: Vegetables or fruit and juice. God knew that we would need good food to help us take care of the wonderful bodies He has given us. Be sure to check with parents about food allergies.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

## Scripture:

Daniel 1:1-21

#### **Bible Truth:**

God helped four boys take care of their bodies.

#### Life Response Aim:

To want to take care of the body God has given me.

#### **Bible Verse:**

Psalm 28:7

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; pictures of healthy activities; figures from Teaching Resources; Copymaster 8 (copy for each child), crayons, glue sticks (optional), colored paper or fabric (optional); grocery store ads

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):

Healthy Pictures: Show and discuss pictures from a of ways we can take care of the bodies God has given us: a child the children of the Consider leading the children sleeping, healthy food, children playing, etc. Consider leading the children in simple exercises, such as toe touches and jumping jacks.

Pray, thanking God for giving us wonderful bodies and helping us take care of them.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



**Bible Story:** Tell the story using figures from *Teaching* Resources.

Daniel and some other boys were taken away from their homes by enemy soldiers. They had to leave their fathers and mothers to go to a faraway land.

The king of that faraway land wanted these boys to be his helpers. He called in his chief servant and gave him orders. "I want these boys to forget their old homes. Give them fine clothes and good rooms. I want them to be happy here so they will work for me. I want them to study hard. They must learn to read and write our language. Train them well."

Daniel and his friends had to obey the king. They had to wear the clothes and live in the rooms the king gave them.

When dinnertime came, the king sent fancy food. But Daniel said to his friends, "I am not going to eat the king's fancy food, and I won't drink his wine. This is food God has commanded us not to eat. We cannot disobey God."

Daniel's friends loved God too. They didn't want to eat the king's food or drinks. They would obey God. So Daniel asked the king's servant who was taking care of them, "Please, may we have vegetables, instead of this fancy food? And may we have water instead of wine?"

The king's servant was probably surprised, but God put in his heart a strong liking for Daniel. However, the servant was afraid of the king. "Daniel," he said, "the king ordered fancy food and wine to be sent to you. If you don't eat it, you won't be as strong or healthy as the others. The king will be very angry."

"Oh, please," said Daniel, "try it for just 10 days. Let my three friends and me have only vegetables and water. Then see if we aren't healthier than the other boys."

"Very well," said the servant. "You may try it for 10 days." And they did. They ate only vegetables and drank water.

The king's servant watched the boys carefully. After 10 days he looked at the boys who had eaten the king's rich food. Then he looked at Daniel and his friends. He was surprised! Daniel and his friends had brighter eyes and rosier cheeks than the other boys. They were the healthiest looking boys of all. So the servant promised they could have the good healthy food every day.

When the long time of study was over, the king asked all the boys hard questions about everything they had studied. Then he picked out for his best helpers the boys who had learned more than any of the others. Who do you think they were? Daniel and his friends, of course! Because Daniel and his friends had been faithful and obedient, God had helped them to know and understand their schoolwork much better than all the other boys.

As a review or action alternative, lead the children in following the action rhyme several times.

Daniel was in a far-off land (Strotch one forefiness are forefiness).

Daniel was in a far-off land, (Stretch one forefinger away from body.)

With his friends in a palace grand. (Indicate palace by spreading arms.)

The king wanted them to be strong, (Flex muscles.)

By eating food they knew was wrong. (Make eating motions.)

**Instead of fancy wine and meat,** (Push hands away, indicating no.)

They asked for vegetables to eat. (Make eating motions.)

When they are right for just 10 days, (Show 10 fingers.)

**It made them wise in all their ways.** (Point to temple and nod head.)

**Worship in Song:** Sing "Prayer to Grow Strong" (page 42) and "O Give Thanks" (page 43). For a more active song, sing these words to the tune of "If You're Happy."

If you're thankful for good food, clap your hands.

If you're thankful for good food, clap your hands.

If you're thankful for good food, if you're thankful for good food,

If you're thankful for good food, clap your hands.

(For more verses use stomp your feet, say "Thank You," etc.)

Remembering the Bible Truth: Teach the memory verse using the following actions: The Lord (point up) **is my strength** (make muscle), **Psalm 28:7** (hold hands open like a book).

**Life Application:** To reinforce the Life Response Aim, read this story to the children.

"Lights out at eight," said Mother, as she got ready to go to her evening class.

"All right," Cathy said as she kissed her mother good-bye.

"There is fruit on the table for a bedtime snack," Mother told Linda, the babysitter. Then she left for her class. Cathy liked to have Linda come sit for her. She read good stories and sang.

"Let's sing," said Cathy as Linda finished the storybook. They sang many songs together.

"I'm hungry now," said Cathy. Just then the telephone rang, and Linda went to answer it. Cathy went into the kitchen. There she saw the cookie jar. Cathy ate four cookies very quickly; then she looked around the kitchen. There on the counter was a bag of candy. Cathy ate a whole handful and put some more in her pocket. Then she heard Linda hang up the telephone.

"It's time for bed, Cathy," called Linda. "Do you want a snack?"

Linda gave Cathy a shiny red apple. Cathy took one slow bite and put the apple down. "I'm not hungry," she said. After the lights went out and Linda had left the room, Cathy ate the candy from her pocket. Then her tummy began to feel strange, but she finally fell asleep.

When Mother came home, Cathy woke up. She was feeling very sick to her tummy. Mother found the candy wrappers on the floor near Cathy's bed

"Did you eat anything besides candy, Cathy?" asked Mother.

"Just some cookies," she answered in a sick, sad voice.

Mother went to the kitchen and found the open cookie jar and bag of candy. Then she gave Cathy some medicine. Cathy didn't like the taste, but she swallowed it and went back to sleep.

The next morning Cathy felt better. When Mother brought some juice and toast to Cathy's room, Cathy asked, "Why did God let me get sick?"

"God takes care of us, Cathy," answered Mother. "But you disobeyed by eating food without permission. Too much of that kind of food will make you sick."

"From now on I'm going to eat only what you say I can, Mommy."

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

No Good Food Reminder: Hand out Copymaster 8 for the children to color, or let them cut out and glue pieces of colored paper or fabric on the fruits and vegetables. Help them review their Bible Words. Talk about the different kinds of food they see in the picture.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

**Look for Good Food:** Look over grocery store ads and discuss whether the foods pictured are good foods or not. Consider playing a coin-toss game. Spread the ads on the floor and have the children take turns tossing pennies on the ads. Cheer when the pennies land on good foods.

**Growing Plants:** Let the children pretend to be plants, starting as seeds and growing tall.

# ABRAHAM LEAVES HOME

#### LESSON NINE

## UNIT 2: WE LEARN TO GROW STRONG

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Fall Snack Time:** Serve grapes or figs or cheese on pita or whole wheat bread. *Be sure to check with parents regarding* food allergies. These are the kinds of foods people in Bible times may have taken on a trip. Our Bible story today is about someone who goes on a long trip. If you have an eating area in the church where your class could go on a "trip," consider going there for your snack.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

#### Scripture:

Genesis 11:31-12:8; Hebrews 11:8-9

#### **Bible Truth:**

God gives us strength to obey Him.

## Life Response Aim:

To want to obey God because He knows what is best for me.

#### Bible Verse:

Psalm 28:7

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; figures from Teaching Resources; Copymaster 9 (copy for each child), paper plates, scissors, glue sticks, chenille wires, hole punch

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

# PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

To help children remember Mother's Day, consider having the children make construction-paper cards. Then play "Mother's Hands" (Let's Sing Motions 'n Music), leading the children to do the motions indicated by the narration. Or sing the following action song to "The Farmer in the Dell."

**My mother helped me walk** (Walk in place.) When I was very small, (Fold arms to rock baby.) **But there are others I can help** (*Point to self.*) **Since I am growing tall.** (*Reach high.*)

When Mother says, "Clean up!" I help pick up my toys. (Pick up "toys.") When baby brother's sound asleep (Put cheek on hands with palms together.) I don't make any noise. (Put finger to lips.)

**Teacher Says:** Play "Teacher Says" to reinforce the concept of obedience. See Lesson 7, Good-bye Time for instructions. Talk about moving. Let the children talk about any moving experiences they have had. Then pray, thanking God for knowing what is best for us and taking care of us wherever we are.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

**Offering:** Receive any offering money the children have. **Bible Story:** Tell the story, using the figures from *Teaching* Resources.

"Leave your home here," God said to Abraham. "Go to a land I will show you, and live there." Abraham loved God and wanted to please God and do what He told him. But to leave his home and go far away would be very hard. What would the new home be like? He did not know. Who lived there? He did not know the people. Would he see his family and friends again? Probably never again.

But it was God who had told Abraham to go. So Abraham got ready to leave. It would be a long journey to the new land, and there were no trains or planes. Abraham and his family would have to go very slowly. They would have to take their sheep and camels and donkeys with them. They would have to take food and water with them.

Abraham's friends probably said, "What? You're leaving your comfortable home here to go so far away? Will you have a lovely home waiting for you there?" And Abraham would have had to answer, "I don't know."

Then his friends may have said, "Why are you moving so far away? You don't even know where you are going!"

Abraham could answer this question. God had told him to go. God would take care of Abraham and his family. The Lord was Abraham's strength, and He is our strength too. Abraham obeyed God and decided to go to the new country.

The friends did not know God. They probably shook their heads as Abraham packed food, water, clothes, and tents.

Then one day a great line of donkeys, camels, sheep, and people started for the new land. It must have been hard for Abraham to say good-bye to all his family, friends, and

neighbors. But he knew the most important thing was to obey God.

The journey went on, and on, and on. Once the people stopped and lived for quite a long time in one town, but God reminded Abraham that this was not the land where he was to live. So Abraham packed up again and went on, and on, and on. At last he came to the land where God wanted him to live. God had taken care of them all the way. God would take care of them in the new land too.

Abraham stopped and praised God and prayed to Him. He was glad he knew God and that God was his strength. Abraham was glad he had obeyed.

To review the Bible story or to tell it more actively, tell an abbreviated version as you lead the students in a game of "Follow the Leader." Mime packing in the beginning and then start and stop and start again at appropriate points in the story. Blankets and chairs for tents would make this a more realistic and enriching experience for your children.

**Worship in Song:** Sing "Prayer to Grow Strong" (page 42) and "Who Started Everything?" (*Let's Sing Motions 'n Music*). For a simpler song, sing the following words to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Jesus wants me to obey, To obey, to obey. Jesus wants me to obey. He will help me.

Remembering the Bible Truth: Teach the memory verse using the following actions: The Lord (point up) is my strength (make muscle), Psalm 28:7 (hold hands open like a book). Or sing the words to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell." The Bible words will be the first, second, and fourth stanzas, while this will be the third stanza: I know God is with me.

**Life Application:** To reinforce the Life Response Aim, read this story to the children.

Richie felt just as Abraham did in our story. He and his family were moving far away from their home. They were moving to a big new city.

Richie didn't like what his parents had told him about the new place where they would live. It wasn't at all like where they had been living. The new place was not a house with a door that opened to a big porch and a front lawn. It didn't even have a backyard with a swing set. No, the new home was an apartment, way up high in a big building. They would go to it in an elevator, and there would be lots of neighbors very close to them—all around them.

There would be a new church too. Even Mom and Dad didn't know where they would go to church yet. Richie's sister would have a new school. All the people who would be their neighbors in the building would be new too. No one would smile or call Richie's name or say hello. Richie was very sad every time he thought about moving.

When Daddy came to read Richie a story and pray with him at bedtime, Richie said, "Why do we have to move? I don't want to!"

Dad sat down on the bed. "That's a very important question, Richie," he said. "And Mom and I did a lot of thinking and praying and talking before we decided I should take the new job in the big city. But we believe that God provided this job. That's why we're moving."

"But we don't know anyone there," Richie said.

"We will meet new people," said Dad. He took Richie's Bible storybook from the bookcase. "Do you remember how Abraham went to a new home?" asked Dad. "God was leading him, so he was brave and went, even though he didn't know where he was going to live. God will go with us too, and I'm sure He has some people there who love Him. Just think, if the people in the apartment building don't love God, maybe we can show them how wonderful He is. We can be missionaries for Jesus in our new home."

Though it took a little while for Richie to get used to his new home, he met many new friends there. He was glad his family went where God had led them.

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

Card to Share about Jesus: Pass out a paper plate and Copymaster 9 to each child to color. Let the children cut out the suitcase, memory verse label, and Parent Time Tip. Show them how to glue the suitcase on the paper plate and then fold the plate in half to shut the suitcase.

Next glue the memory verse to the outside of the paper plate and Parent Time Tip to the other; children's names can be written on the Parent Time side. Punch two holes in the top of each half of the plate and help children thread a chenille wire through the holes. Twist to form a handle. Repeat for the other side. When the paper plate is folded, the two handles should match for carrying.

When we go on a trip, we pack clothing and other things we will need in a suitcase.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

After prayer, if you have more time, consider this activity until parents arrive. Play "Follow the Leader" as you go on a "trip" around the room with the children's "suitcases" from the Hands-to-Hearts activity. **Let's pretend we're going on a trip.** 

# ABRAHAM IS KIND TO LOT

#### LESSON TEN

#### UNIT 3: WE LEARN TO BE KIND

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Put pairs of small sandwiches or cookies in plastic sandwich bags. Have children share their snack in groups of two. *Be aware of any food allergies children may have.* **It is good to share and be kind to** each other. Our Bible story is about an uncle who was kind to his nephew.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Genesis 13:2, 5-12

#### **Bible Truth:**

Abraham let Lot choose where to take his flocks.

#### Life Response Aim:

To show kindness to others.

#### Bible Verse:

Ephesians 4:32

#### **Materials Needed:**

Snack; pictures or puzzles of people sharing; figures from Teaching Resources; Copymaster 10 (copy for each child), scissors, crayons, brass paper fastener, hole punch, hole reinforcements (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):

Talk about what sharing means. Show pictures of children together and talk about how those shildren will be a shildren with the shildren will be a shild will be a shildren with the shildren will be a shild with the shildren will be a shildren with the shildren will be a and talk about how these children might be sharing. Consider making the pictures into puzzles by backing them with lightweight cardboard or poster board and cutting into simple shapes. Have the children help each other put the puzzles together.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



**Bible Story:** Tell the story using the colorful figures from *Teaching Resources*.

One day Abraham's servants quarreled with Lot's servants. "Take your sheep to another field," one of Lot's angry servants may have said. "We were here first."

"I won't," said the other servant. "This land is as much ours as it is yours." The arguing grew worse and worse. There really wasn't enough grass in that place for all the animals. Abraham had many goats and sheep, and many servants to care for his animals. Lot lived near his Uncle Abraham, and Lot also had many goats, sheep, and servants. Abraham and Lot needed many fields of grass to feed all their animals.

When Abraham heard that his servants were fighting with Lot's servants, he decided to talk to Lot about it. "We don't want our servants arguing," Abraham said. "You and I don't want to fight over the land. We belong to the same family." Abraham knew that they should be kind to one another.

"You are right," said Lot. "What can we do about it?"

The two men probably walked to the top of a nearby hill. They could see far, far in one direction and far, far in another direction. One way, they could see a river with thick green grass growing all along its banks. The other way, they could see hills where the grass was not so green and thick.

"See," said Abraham, "here is the whole land before us. We must move farther away from each other. If you want to go one way, then I will go the other. You may choose your land first."

Lot should have said, "Oh, no, Uncle Abraham, you are older. God said this land was to be yours. You choose first." But Lot was selfish. He wanted the best for himself. He didn't stop to think about the kind thing to do. He looked at the hills where the grass didn't look very green or thick. He didn't think that the hills would be the best place to live. Then he looked at the land near the river where thick, green grass grew.

"I choose all the land by the river," said selfish Lot.

If we had been Abraham some of us might have said, "Oh, no, Lot, that's not fair for you to choose all the best for yourself! Let me have some of the good land." But Abraham didn't say that. He was willing to let Lot have the best land. He loved Lot. So Abraham took all his animals and servants and tents and lived in the brown, hilly land!

Which man do you think pleased God more? Which man was kind?

tune

Worship in Song: Sing "Dear Jesus, I Love You" (page 40) and "Jesus Is Pleased" (page 41).

For a more active song, have children hold hands and walk in a circle as they sing the following words to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Jesus wants me to be kind, To be kind, to be kind. Jesus wants me to be kind. He will help me.



**Remembering the Bible Truth:** Sing "Be Kind to One Another" (page 44).

**Life Application:** Tell this story to reinforce today's Life Response Aim to want to worship God.

Jill lived on a farm with a red barn full of animals and hay. She lived in a farmhouse with her mother and father and little sister, Kelly.

One time Jill and Kelly's aunt and uncle came to visit. They brought their two children, Jeff and Rachel. Jeff was Jill's age, and Rachel was two years older than Jill.

All the children wanted to see the animals, so Jill and Jeff and Rachel went running toward the barn to see the new baby calf. But Kelly couldn't keep up; she couldn't run as fast as the bigger kids. And when she got to the pen she was too short to see over the fence.

"C'mon, I'll show you the chickens!" said Jill. And off they ran again to the chicken coop by the barn. But Kelly couldn't keep up. She was sad.

"C'mon, I'll show you the cats in the hayloft!" said Jill. She ran to a ladder in the barn and climbed up. Jeff and Rachel climbed after her. Soon they were all standing in the sweet-smelling hay. But Kelly couldn't climb the ladder. She stood at the bottom of the ladder and cried.

"Kelly wants to see the animals too," Rachel said.

"What can we do?" asked Jeff.

Jill thought for a moment. Then she said, "Let's take a cat down for her to see."

"Yes," said Rachel. "And if we walk slower, she can keep up with us."

"And we can hold her up to see over the fence," said Jeff. "That way she can see all the animals too!"
And that's what they did. When Kelly saw the kitten they brought down, she stopped crying. When she
saw that the others were going to walk slowly enough so she could keep up, she smiled. When they held
her up to see the rabbits, she clapped her hands and laughed happily. This made Jill and Jeff and Rachel
laugh too.

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

Hand out Copymaster 10 and one brass paper fastener to each child. Have the children color the pictures and then cut off the strip containing the arm. They should then cut out the arm.

Circulate among the children, punching a hole in the arm at the X. Then help the children attach the arm to the girl's body. Fold over the fasteners, and show the children how to move the arm so it does not tear. (You may want to reinforce the holes.)

The girl is sharing a cookie with her friend. She has made him happy. Sharing is one way to show Jesus' love. Sharing makes us happy, too.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

Clo

Close in prayer. Consider doing this activity if you're still waiting for parents:

Play "Teacher Says" the way you would play "Simon Says." **It is kind for boys and girls to listen to their parents and teachers. Thank you.** Add some variety to the game by letting one or two children be the "Teacher."

# ABRAHAM IS KIND TO VISITORS

#### LESSON ELEVEN

#### UNIT 3: WE LEARN TO BE KIND

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Invite a visitor (an adult from your church) to snack time today. Serve small sandwiches and milk or juice. *Serve appropriate alternatives to children with food allergies*. **It's good to have a visitor in our class today. We are glad to share our snack with our visitor.** Be sure to make children who are visiting feel welcome too.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Genesis 18:1-16

#### **Bible Truth:**

Abraham showed hospitality to his visitors.

## **Life Response Aim:**

To want to be kind to visitors, both at church and at home.

#### Bible Verse:

Ephesians 4:32

#### Materials Needed:

Snack; construction paper, blanket for "tent"; figures from Teaching Resources; Copymaster 11 (copy for each child), crayons, scissors, tape, plastic straws

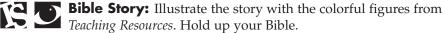
Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the Let's Sing Motions 'n Music or both.

# PREPARING THEIR HEARTS (15 MINUTES):

Make a tent by draping a blanket over a table. Let the children explore your tent. Consider telling the Bible story by your tent.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



Our story today really happened; it's in the Bible.

Long, long ago people lived in tents. One hot afternoon Abraham was sitting in the doorway of his tent.

Abraham and Sarah, his wife, didn't have children. God had promised them a son, but He had not yet sent a baby boy.

Abraham looked up and saw three men. They looked like travelers. Abraham ran to meet them. He bowed very low, because that was the polite way to greet visitors in that country. "Please come and rest under this shady tree," he said to the men. "I'll get some water to wash your feet. Then I'll bring some food for you to eat before you go on with your trip." The men did as Abraham asked.

Abraham hurried to tell his wife, Sarah, to prepare a meal for the visitors. She got the food ready for the men. Abraham himself ran to get some fresh meat. He gave it to a servant.

Soon a good meal was ready. Abraham carried butter and milk and the meat and fresh bread to the men. Abraham served the best food he had, for he wanted to be kind to his visitors. As they ate, Abraham stood beside them to see that the men had all they wanted.

"Where is your wife, Sarah?" they asked.

"In the tent," answered Abraham. These men knew that his wife's name was Sarah because they were from God.

"You will have a baby son in your family before long," the men told him. This was a message from God. What good news for Abraham and Sarah!

After the men had given their message to Abraham and were through eating, they said they must go on to the city where they had more work to do. Abraham walked part of the way with them, showing every kindness he could.



Review the Bible story by playing "Abraham's Kindness" from this quarter's music and leading the children to do the motions indicated by the narration.

Worship in Song: Sing "Prayer to Grow Strong" (page 42).



Remembering the Bible Truth: Sing "Be Kind to One Another" (page 44).

**Life Application:** This story will help underscore the theme of kindness. After telling it, ask your children if there are people in their neighborhoods who need help.

How did John McDonnell begin to think about grandmothers? He was playing in the sandbox with Craig, who lived three houses down.

"My grandmother makes cookies for me and tells me stories," Craig told John. "And I am kind to her and help her dry the dishes and put them in the cupboard."

When John went home for lunch he asked his mother, "Do I have a grandmother?" He was very sad when his mother said, "You have a grandmother, but she lives far away."

John sighed. "I wish I had a grandmother right next door!"

How did John McDonnell begin to think of Mrs. Johnson? Mrs. Johnson came out of her house next door and called, "Kitty, kitty, kitty!"

John went next door to Mrs. Johnson's yard and said, "I'll look for your cat."

"That would be very kind of you," said Mrs. Johnson.

Then John ran all through Mrs. Johnson's yard. He looked up in the trees. He looked around the bushes, in boxes, and behind rocks and flower beds. When he saw the cat hiding in the grass, he shouted, "Here she is!" and picked her up gently. Mrs. Johnson looked pleased as she took the cat in her arms.

"Do you have any grandchildren?" asked John.

"Why, yes," answered Mrs. Johnson. "I have three grandchildren."

"Do you make them cookies and tell them stories?" John asked.

Mrs. Johnson looked at John as though he had made her think of something very important. Then she said, "I would make cookies for them and tell them stories, but my grandchildren live far, far away."

"My grandmother is far away, too," said John in a sad voice.

"Then why don't we pretend that I'm your grandmother?" asked Mrs. Johnson. "I'll make cookies for you and tell you stories."

John smiled and said, "And I'll be kind and help you find your cat when she's lost."

So that is how it happened that John McDonnell came to have a grandmother living right next door to him!

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

**Abraham's Kindness:** Hand out Copymaster 11. Let the children color the picture and cut on the solid lines around Abraham and the visitors. Have tape on hand to repair any wayward cuts. Fold up picture as indicated so Abraham and the visitors are in front of the tent. Secure the tent by taping two straws to the X's.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



After closing in a prayer of thanksgiving for each of your children, try this activity if time permits:

**"Come, Travel with Me."** Boys and girls, let's play a fun game that shows kindness. All the children should stand in a circle. One child is "it." "It" walks around the circle behind the children. Finally, "it" taps one child on the shoulder, saying, "Come, travel with me." Then those two children join hands and skip around the circle. When they return to the empty space, "it" takes a seat and the second child becomes "it." Be sure everyone has a chance to be "it."

# MARY IS KIND TO JESUS

#### **LESSON TWELVE**

#### UNIT 3: WE LEARN TO BE KIND

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Serve a "supper" of cheese cubes and grapes or raisins. *Be sure to check with parents regarding any* food allergies. If you have tables with folding legs, consider folding the legs down so the tables are on the floor. Have the children recline on the floor to eat. **In Bible times, people ate like this.** 

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIEW

## Scripture:

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8

#### **Bible Truth:**

lesus loves us and wants us to show our love for Him by being kind to others.

#### Life Response Aim:

To show kindness because I love Jesus.

#### **Bible Verse:**

Ephesians 4:32

#### **Materials Needed:**

Snack; perfumes, lotions, etc.; figures from Teaching Resources; Copymaster 12 (copy for each child), crayons, scissors, envelopes or 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):

Bring in various perfumes, scented lotions, etc., and let the children smell them. (*Be sure to check with parents about allergies*.) Talk with your class about ways people are kind to each other. **Being kind to someone shows that you care about them. It** shows that we love them and that we love Jesus. Pray, thanking God for His kindness to us.

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



**Bible Story:** Illustrate the Bible story with the colorful story figures from *Teaching Resources*.

A dinner was given to honor Jesus when He came to visit the town of Bethany. The Bible says Mary and Martha were there, serving the

Let's talk about what may have happened before dinnertime.

Martha hurried along the little path that led to her house. She had good news to tell her sister Mary.

"Our friend Jesus is coming on His way to the big city," said Martha. "He is invited to dinner tonight at Simon's house, and I was asked to make and serve dinner. Would you please help me get everything ready?"

"I'll be happy to help you," Mary said.

So the two women went to Simon's house and started to work. They swept the floor and made the guest room ready for their very special Guest. They filled the water pots with fresh, cool water. Then they cooked delicious foods for Jesus and the other guests.

When Jesus arrived, He was probably tired, hot, and ready to rest.

And hungry too! Do you think He was glad to find everything ready for Him?

As soon as He came into the house, a servant would have brought a pitcher of clean water and washed His feet. Jesus' feet had become dusty from the dirt road. Mary and Martha would have done everything they could to make their Friend feel comfortable and happy.

Many other guests were invited too. As they came into the house, a servant would have taken off their sandals and washed their feet, too.

Now listen to what the Bible says happened during dinnertime at Simon's house. When dinner was ready, all the guests came to the table. As Jesus and the other friends were enjoying the good food, Mary decided to do something special to show Jesus that she loved Him. So she went to get a special gift.

Suddenly all the guests around the table smelled something very sweet. They probably stopped eating. The air smelled like beautiful flowers. What could it be? Then they saw Mary beside Jesus. In her hands she held a beautiful perfume bottle. She had poured all the perfume on Jesus' head and feet.

One man frowned. "Why did she put that very expensive perfume on Jesus?" he asked. "She could have sold the perfume and given the money to the poor people."

Jesus heard the man. He knew the man wasn't happy with what Mary had done. "Don't say anything against Mary," Jesus told him. "She has done this because she loves Me. Wherever people hear about Me, they will also hear how Mary gave Me a very special gift because she loves Me."

🚺 As a review or action alternative, tell the highlights of the story, letting the children pantomime the words in italics.

Mary helped her sister get ready for the dinner. They swept the floor and filled the water pots. They mixed batter to bake. When Jesus arrived, a servant brought water and washed His feet.

Soon dinner was ready and Martha carried the dishes of good food to the table and set them down. Mary walked to another place and got a jar of special perfume. She carried it back carefully. She poured it on Jesus' head and feet to show she loved Him.



**Worship in Song:** Sing "Dear Jesus, I Love You" and "I Love Him" (page 40). For a more active song, sing the following words to "Skip to My Lou."

We love Jesus, yes, we do.

We love Jesus, yes, we do.

We love Jesus, yes, we do.

We love to sing and praise Him.



**Remembering the Bible Truth:** Sing "Be Kind to One Another" (page 44) to teach the children this week's Bible words from Ephesians 4:32.

**Life Application:** To reinforce today's Life Response Aim, read this story.

Mr. Duncan told the story in Ben's Church Time class about a lady who gave Jesus her precious perfume. After church, Grandma came to Ben's house for lunch. While Ben's mother was getting the food ready, Ben took Grandma into his playroom. Ben looked very carefully at all of his toys.

"What are you looking for?" asked Grandma.

"I want to give a gift to Jesus like that lady in the story did," said Ben, "but I can't find anything. I don't have anything special enough to give to Jesus."

Grandma smiled and said, "I see something very special that would please Jesus very much."

"What is it, Grandma?" asked Ben."Is it this bulldozer? It's my favorite, but I don't think Jesus would want it. It's kinda scratched up, and it has dirt on it."

"No," Grandma said with a smile, "it's not that. It's much more special than any truck."

"More special than my fire truck with real working lights and siren and ladder?" asked Ben. That was the best truck he had.

"More special than a fire truck," said Grandma. "More special than any toy in the world!"

"Grandma," Ben pleaded, "tell me. What can I give Jesus that's so special?"

"This gift, "said Grandma, "has two feet that go where Father and Mother and Grandma ask them to go. It has lips and a tongue that don't sass their mother and say just the right thing to cheer me up when I'm sad. It has two hands that help hold and carry things when asked. Do you know what it is?"

Ben thought—two feet, two hands, lips, and a tongue. He looked up at Grandma and smiled. "It's me!" he said. "I can give Jesus all of me."

Grandma nodded. "That's the kind of gift Jesus wants most of all!"

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

[ A Hand out Copymaster 12 for the children to color. Then they can cut the picture apart and put the puzzle together. Hand out envelopes or paper clips to keep the puzzle pieces together to go home.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):



Pray for your children by name, thanking God for caring for them. If you have additional time, try this activity:

Sing a "head, shoulders, knees, and toes" song or play "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says," having children point to or use different parts of their bodies. Talk about how the children can use their bodies to show love for Jesus (mouths for singing, eyes for reading the Bible, hands for helping, etc.).

# STORIES OF KINDNESS

#### LESSON THIRTEEN

#### UNIT 3: WE LEARN TO BE KIND

# TRANSITION (25-30 MINUTES):

**Snack Time:** Serve banana halves (sliced lengthwise) or other fresh fruit. *Be sure to check with parents regarding* food allergies. Banana halves can be used to make smiles that show how happy we are when we are kind or when other people are kind to us.

**Birthday Time:** Let the birthday children attach their bows to the kite tail.

# OVERVIE

## Scripture:

Review of Lessons 9-10

#### **Bible Truth:**

We remember how Abraham and Jesus were kind.

#### Life Response Aim:

To want to be kind every day.

#### **Bible Verse:**

Ephesians 4:32

#### **Materials Needed:**

Snack; storybooks, puzzles; Copymaster 13 (copy for each child), scissors, 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):



Read children's storybooks about kindness. Bring out the sharing pictures or puzzles from Lesson 9. Talk about ways other people are kind to

# WORSHIP AND STORY TIME (20 MINUTES):

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



**Bible Story:** Review the Bible stories from Lessons 9–10.

ways other people are kind to us and how we can be kind to them.



Summarize the story from Lesson 9 and lead the children in doing the motions indicated.

Abraham and Lot had too many animals to share the land they were living on. So Abraham took Lot to the top of a nearby hill (pretend to climb a hill). There they saw (put hands over eyes) a green, green valley and brown hills. Abraham told Lot to choose where he would like to live (large sweeping motions with both arms). Lot said he would like the green, green valley. Abraham agreed and moved his animals to the brown hills.

Who was kind in this story? Who acted in a selfish way? Which man pleased God?

**Worship in Song:** Sing "Dear Jesus, I Love You" (page 40) and "Jesus Is Pleased" (page 41). For a more active song, have children hold hands and walk in a circle as they sing the following words to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Jesus wants me to be kind, To be kind, to be kind. **Jesus** wants me to be kind. He will help me.

Act out the Lesson 10 Bible story by playing "Abraham's Kindness" from this quarter's music.

How did Abraham show kindness to the three controls. How did Abraham show kindness to the three men? Why was Abraham kind? What did the men

"Come, Travel with Me." Boys and girls, let's play a fun game that shows kindness. The children will enjoy this activity again. All the children should stand in a similar of the children will be considered to a similar of the children will be considered to a similar of the children will be considered to a similar of the children will be childre enjoy this activity again. All the children should stand in a circle. One child is "it." "It" walks around the circle behind the children. Finally, "it" taps one child on the shoulder, saying, "Come, travel with me." Then those two children join hands and skip around the circle. When they return to the empty space, "it" takes a seat and the second child becomes "it." Be sure everyone has a chance to be "it."



Worship in Song: Sing "O Give Thanks" (page 43) and "God Made Me" (page 40).



**Remembering the Bible Truth:** Sing "Be Kind to One Another" (page 44).

**Life Application:** Let this story lead to a discussion about kindness and being helpful.

Just before leaving for town, Uncle Frank called the twins. His eyes were twinkling as he leaned down to whisper something. When Uncle Frank was finished talking to them, Chad and Kyle clapped their hands and said, "Good! Good!"

"What? Tell me!" begged their younger brother, Andrew.

Chad and Kyle stopped whispering to each other. "Are you big enough to keep a secret?" they asked

"Yes!" said Andrew.

"Uncle Frank is going to bring his new red car home this afternoon. He wants to surprise Mom and Dad. Don't tell them."

"I won't tell," Andrew whispered.

Then Chad had an idea and whispered it to Kyle. Kyle shook his head and whispered something back.

"What? What? Tell me!" begged Andrew again.

"Are you big enough to keep another secret AND be kind and helpful?" they asked.

"Yes!" said Andrew.

Kyle whispered, "We're going to clean the garage so Uncle Frank can put his new car into it. He'll be surprised!"

Then all three boys laughed and ran to the garage. They felt happy to have good secrets and to plan a surprise for Uncle Frank.

So they were busy working. Chad and Kyle pulled some boards to the side of the garage and put them in a neat pile. Andrew was big enough to help by carrying some smaller boards and placing them on top of the pile. The twins moved some large boxes to the back of the garage. Andrew was big enough to help by putting a hammer, some nails, and some paint cans on the right shelves. The twins swept the garage floor. Andrew was big enough to help by emptying the dustpan into the big trash can outside the garage.

At last they were finished. When Mom and Dad thanked them at lunch for cleaning the garage, the three boys worked hard to keep from laughing. Andrew wished he could tell, but he was big enough to keep the secret as he promised.

Suddenly they all heard a loud car horn. They all ran outside. There was a new red car with Uncle Frank behind the wheel. Mom and Dad were surprised! Then Uncle Frank looked at the garage, and he was surprised. He thanked the boys.

Then the family locked up the house, climbed into the new red car, and went for a ride. When they came back, they put the car into the clean garage.

All that time Andrew was very happy. He was thinking how nice it was to be kind and helpful and to have nice surprises.

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

Hand out Copymaster 13. Instruct the children to cut off the strip of Bible review pictures across the top of the sheet. As the children color the hands and pictures, talk about 12. Bill a least 12. Bill a least 12. Bill a least 13. sheet. As the children color the hands and pictures, talk about the Bible stories shown in the pictures. **How do** each of these stories tell us that God wants us to be kind to others?

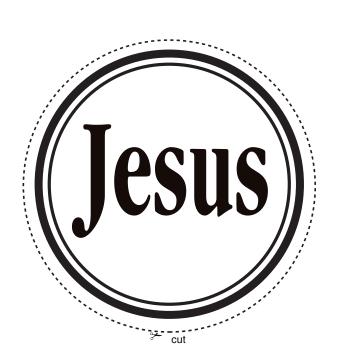
While the children are coloring the pictures, circulate among them and assist by carefully cutting open the vertical lines in the palms of the hands. (These slits may be difficult to cut neatly without sharp scissors or a craft knife, which could be dangerous for your children to use.)

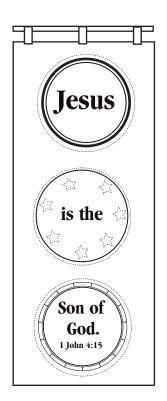
Help the children weave the picture strip into the "Loving Hands" slits—from the back side to the front and then out the back again—so the strip can move back and forth, displaying different pictures. To prevent the strip from slipping out of the slits too easily, fold over the 1/4" free portion on each end of the strip.

# GOOD-BYE TIME (UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE):

Be sure to close in prayer. If you have additional time, try the following activity.

**"Sharing Circle."** All children should stand in a circle. One child with a toy is "it." "It" walks around the circle behind the children. Finally, he taps one child on the shoulder, saying, "Would you like to share?" The circle behind the children. Finally, he taps one child on the shoulder, saying, "Would you like to share?" Then those two children join hands and skip around the circle. When they return to the empty space, "it" takes a seat and the second child becomes "it." Be sure every child gets a turn.



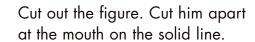






Dear Parent: Today your child heard about a time when Jesus showed some of His disciples who He really was (Matthew 17:1-8), God's only Son. Help your child think of ways he or she can worship Jesus every day.

# To make puppet:



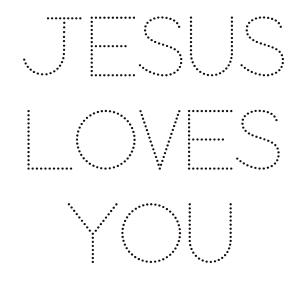
Paste the figure to a paper bag as illustrated in the sketch.



Dear Parent: Today your child heard how Jesus helped a blind man (Luke 18:35-43). We can show we love Jesus by helping others.





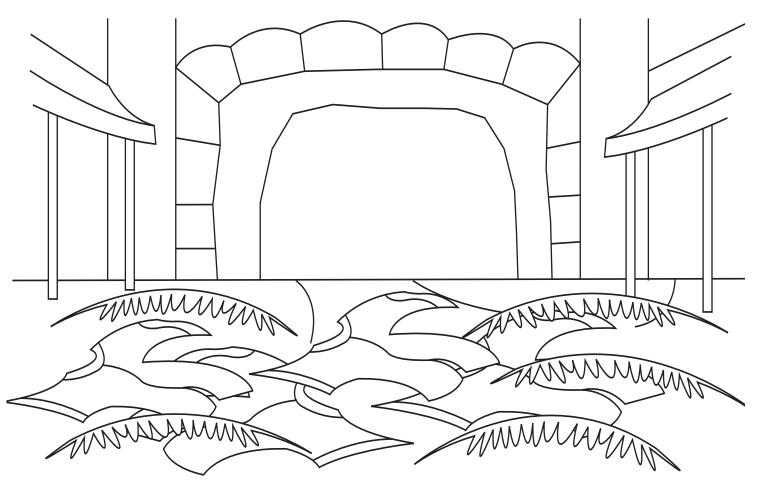


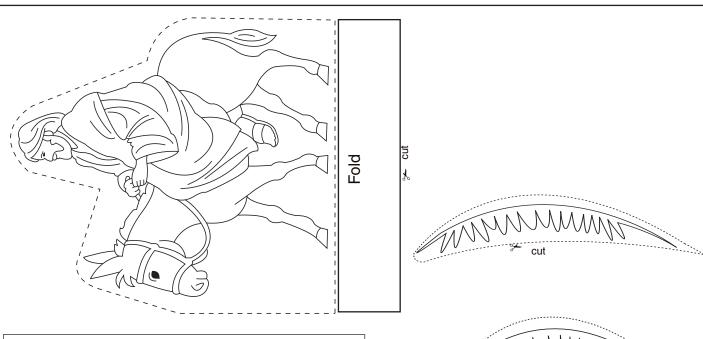
# **KNON STAHM**

"I love the Lorp."
Psalm 116:1

Dear Parent: Today's Bible words, "I love the LORD," (Ps. 116:1) will help your child respond to the love Jesus has for him or her. Your child saw that love displayed in Jesus' acceptance and blessing of the children who came to Him (Mark 10.13.11.11)

.(61, 41-81:01

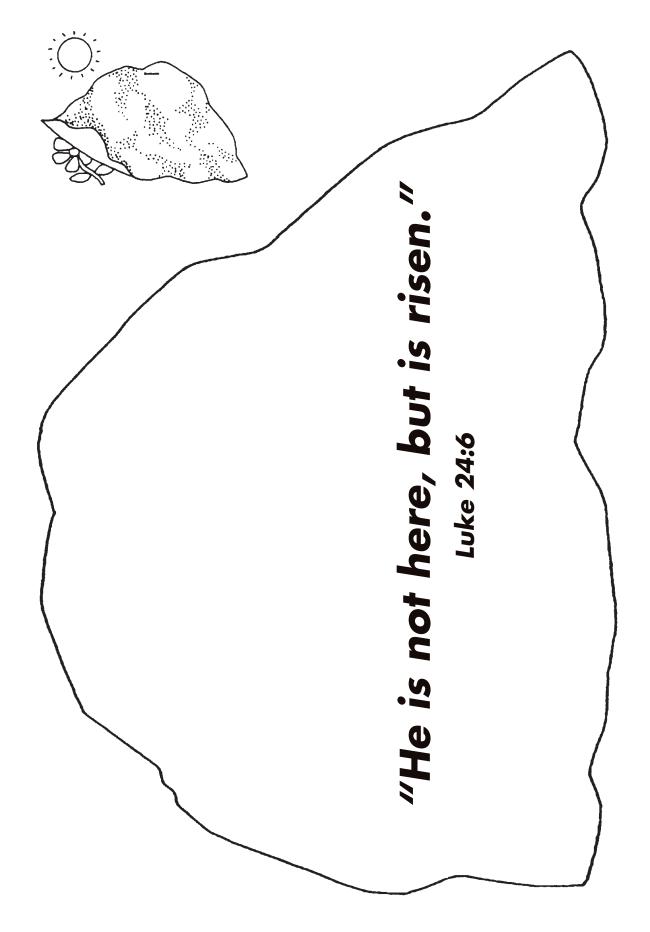




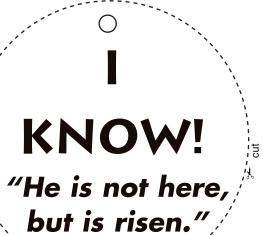
Dear Parent: Your child has been learning about the events that led up to Easter Sunday. Today we heard the story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matt. 21:7-11, 14-16). Help your child discover ways he or she can praise God every day.

"I love the LORD."

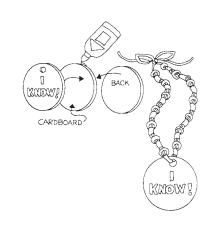
Psalm 116:1

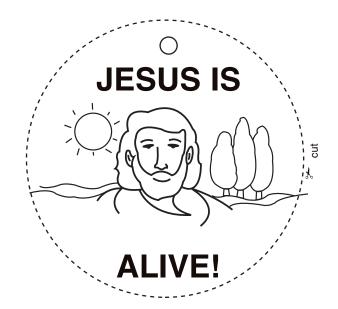


Dear Parent: Today your child learned why we celebrate Easter (Mark 14:43, 53; 15:25, 37, 46; 16:1-7). Help your child look for signs of new life in your yard or neighborhood.



Luke 24:6





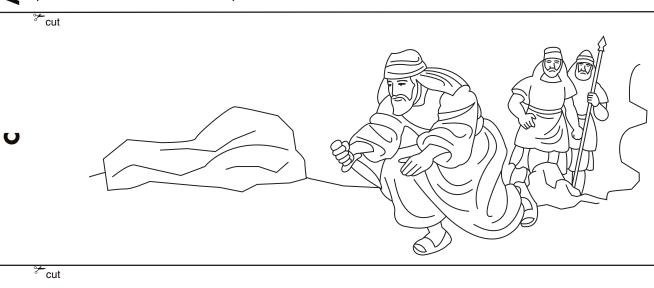
Dear Parent: Today
your child heard about Jesus'
return to heaven (Matt. 16:27–
17:8; 21:7-11). Help your child think
of ways to share the good news
that Jesus is alive.

0

# "The LORD is my strength." Psalm 28:7



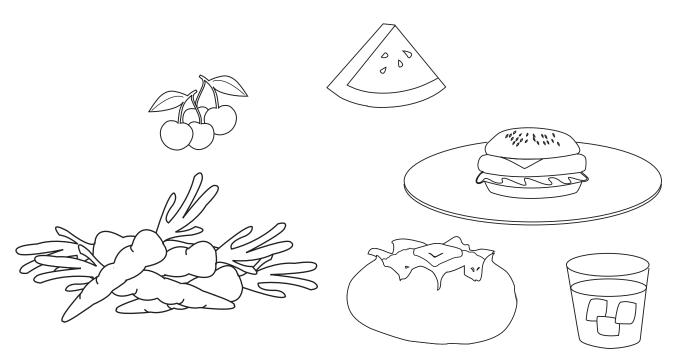
Dear Parent: This week your child learned about how God helped David to be strong "inside" as well as "outside." David refused to hurt someone who was trying to hurt him (1 Sam. 24:2-22). Look for ways to talk with your child about character issues you want to reinforce this week.



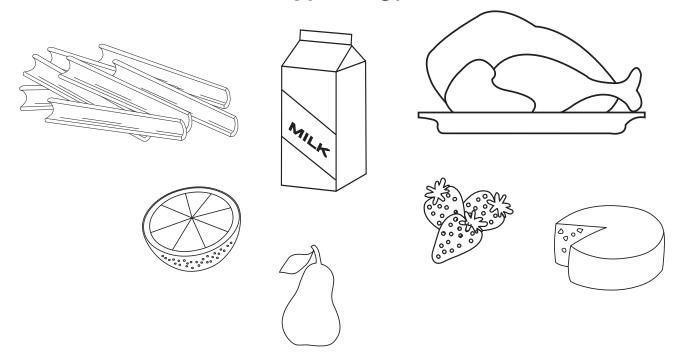
8

Copymaster 7 Lesson 7





# "The LORD is my strength." **Psalm 28:7**



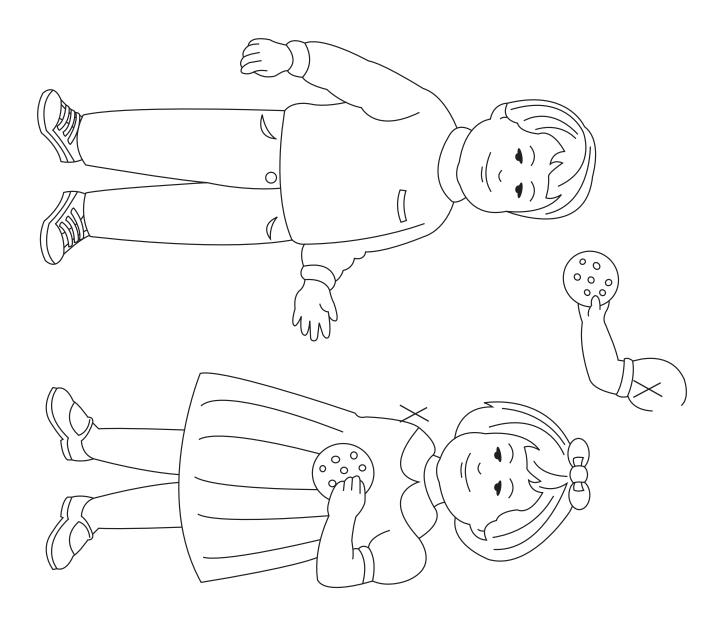
Dear Parent: Today your child learned that God gave us our bodies and we should eat good food to keep them healthy. Daniel and his friends ate good food (Dan. 1:1-21). Let your child help you as you make a snack to share this week.



Dear Parent: Today your child learned how God gave Abraham the strength to obey Him (Gen. 11:31–12:8) and will do the same for us. Talk about how much you love your child and want what is best for him or her. Also talk about how much your child's disobedience hurts you.

cut





Dear Parent: Today your child learned that Abraham and Lot shared pasture land (Gen. 13:2, 5-12). Talk with your child about how we show kindness when we share with others. Play sharing games together and look for ways to praise your child when he or she is sharing well.

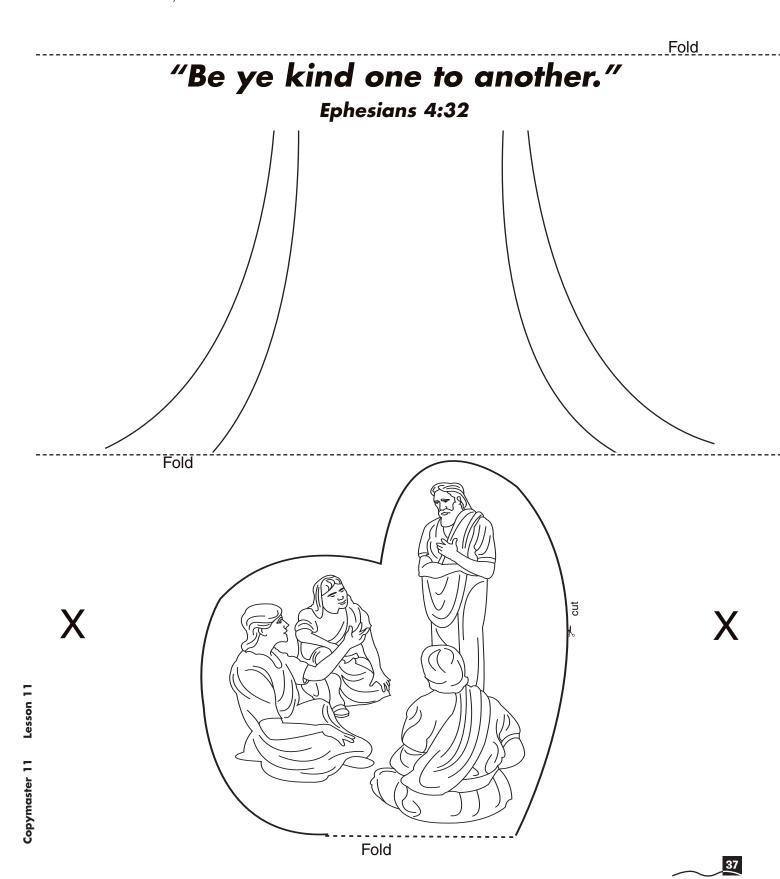
# "Be ye kind one to another." Ephesians 4:32







Dear Parent: Today your child learned about Abraham's kindness toward visitors (Gen. 18:1-16). Discuss with your child ways he or she can be kind when visitors come to your home. You might want to make plans to have your child invite a friend or family member over. Help your child think of specific ways he or she can show kindness to your visitor.



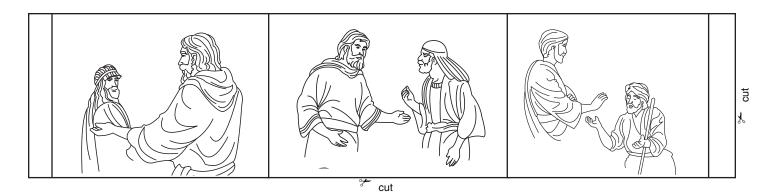
## "Be ye kind one to another."

**Ephesians 4:32** 

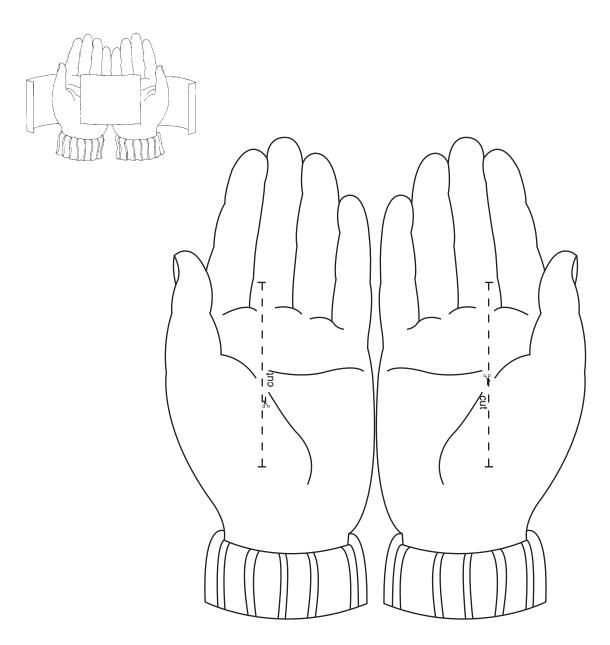


Dear Parent: Today your child heard a story about how a woman named Mary was kind to Jesus because she loved Him (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8). Talk with your child about ways he or she can be kind to show they love other people.





## "Be ye kind one to another." **Ephesians 4:32**



Dear Parent: Today your child reviewed stories about people who were kind. Let your child tell you what the pictures in this project are about. Help your child plan ways he or she can be kind every day.



#### I Love Him







#### Spoken-Head Bowed-Hands Folded

- I6 love You, Jesus, for loving me.
- I6 love You, Jesus, for watching me.
- I6 love You, Jesus, for hearing me.
- 1. Point upward
- 2. Cross arms, hands on shoulders
- Point to self
- 4. Shade hand over eyes
- 5. Cup hand behind ear
- 6. Fold hands

#### Dear Jesus, I Love You



#### God Made Me



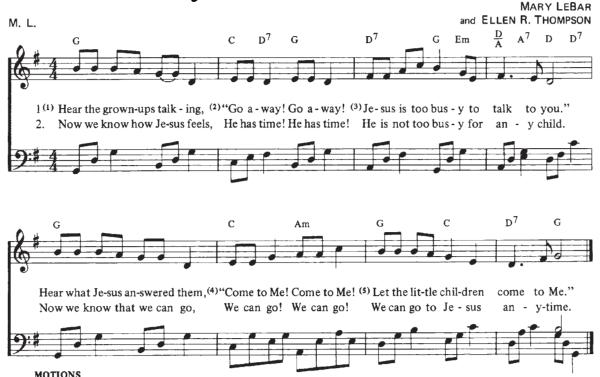
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Point upward. <sup>2</sup> Point to self. <sup>3</sup> Fold hands to form a book.

### Jesus Is Pleased



Jesus wants me to learn more about Him, More about Him, more about Him. Jesus wants me to learn more about Him, So that's what I will do.

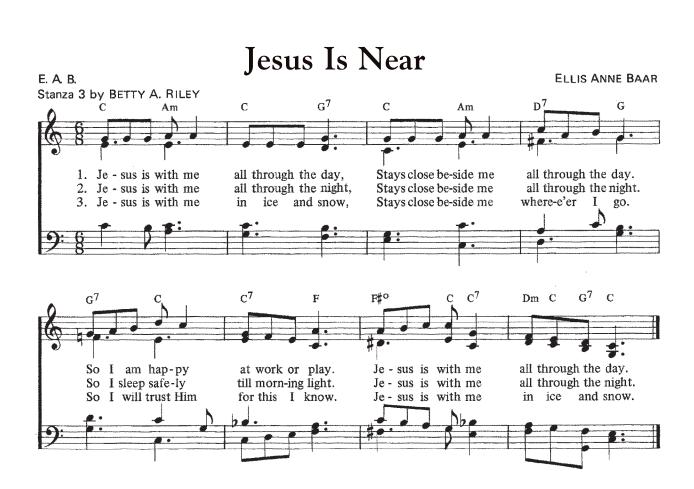




- (1) Cup hand over ear. (2) Push hands away from body. (3) Shake head. (4) Draw hands toward body.
- (5) Cross arms over chest.

### Prayer to Grow Strong

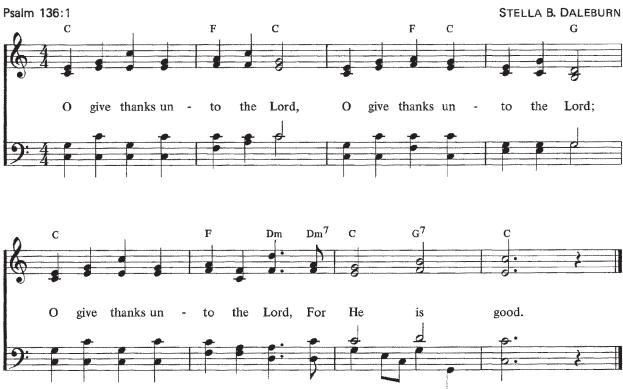




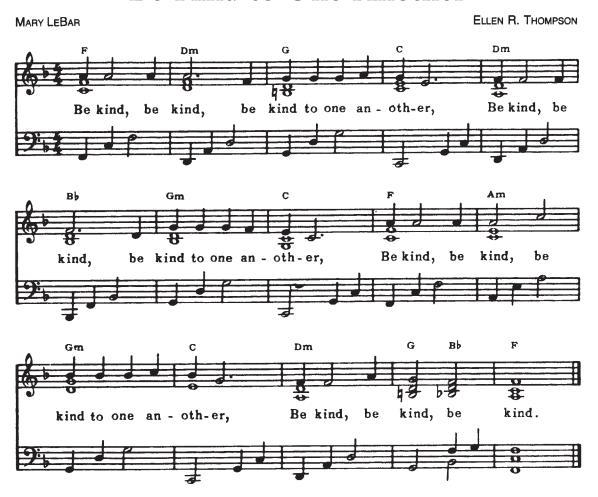
#### God Has Power



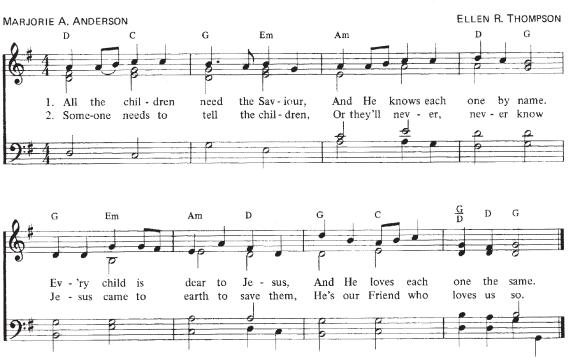
#### O Give Thanks



#### Be Kind to One Another



#### All Children Need the Saviour



### Hosanna, Hosanna!



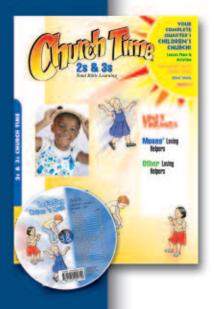
- 1. Make two fingers walk along table, lap, or hand.
- 2. All ten fingers in running motion.
- 3. Cup hands around mouth.
- 4. Motion as if laying coats on ground.
- 5. Hands waving branches in air.

- 6. Cup hands behind ear.
- 7. Cup hands around mouth.
- 8. Point finger as if scolding.
- 9. Point upward.
- Cup hands around mouth from beginning of chorus.
   Or you may clap in rhythm.



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

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®.



COMPATE COMPAT

**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



4s & 5s Church Time Packet No. 4028