

Dear Homeroom Parent (HRP),

This booklet contains a number of ideas for games, snacks, crafts, lessons, and service ideas to use in the classroom. The use of these ideas is completely optional.

There is a summary list of ideas sorted by activity (craft, lesson, game, snack, service, and general) with reference to a page number. Please remember to review ideas with the teacher as needed. Service projects may require advanced planning.

The ideas are from reproducible books and previous HRPs. Copies may be made for use within CHCA Lower School.

If you have an idea to add to the booklet, please fill out the "blank party idea" form and send to Jessica Snyder (jessicasnyder1@gmail.com) We would like to have any of your comments/feedback on the ideas provided (see comment/feedback form).

We appreciate your willingness to volunteer. Thank you, CHCA PTF

Event (s):	Туре:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
Christmas	Craft	Chrismon	The Name above all Names	Philippians 2: 9-11	18
Christmas		Christmas Candle	The Reason for the Season	Hebrews 12:2	19
Christmas		Christmas Kit and Video	Christmas Story	2 Corinthians 9:15	22
Christmas	Craft	Christmas Wreath	Nothing is impossible with God	Luke 1: 37	29
Christmas	Craft	Foam Candle	Jesus is the Light of the World	John 8:12	44
Christmas	Craft	Foam Holly Wreath	Peace on Earth	Luke 2: 13-14	65
Christmas	Craft	Foam Manger	Jesus was born in Bethlehem	Luke 2: 4-7	72
Christmas	Craft	Foam Mary	An angel told Mary she would give birth to God's son	Luke 1: 30-33	76
Christmas	Craft	Foam Pine Tree	Wise men gave Jesus gifts and worshipped Him	Matthew 2: 11	84
Christmas	Craft	Foam Shepherd	An Angel told shepherds that a Savior had been born	Luke 2: 10-11	91
Christmas	Craft	Foam Snowman	God tells the snow when to fall	Job 37:6	95
Christmas	Craft	Gabriel Macaroni Pin	Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Mary	Luke 1: 26-38	110
Christmas	Craft	Gingerbread Magi Men	Magi come from the East	Matthew 2: 1-2	118
Christmas	Craft	God's Gift	Worship: to show love and respect	Romans 12:1	119
Christmas	Craft	Good News Angel	The news about Jesus' birth	Luke 2:10	123
Christmas	Craft	Happy Birthday Pin	Jesus is born	Luke 2:11	125
Christmas	Craft	King's Crown	Jesus is King	1 Timothy 6: 14-16	146
Christmas	Craft	Magi gift bag	Magi present Jesus with their gifts	Matthew 2:11	148
Christmas	Craft	Miniature Poinsettia	The desert rejoices in the Savior	Isaiah 35: 1-2	150
Christmas	Craft	Paper Clip Heavenly Host	Angels praise God	Luke 2: 13-14	158
Christmas	Craft	Reindeer Candy Cane	God strengthens us	Psalm 18: 32-33	181
Christmas	Craft	Rock Trivet	Jesus is our Rock	Matthew 7: 24-27	185
Christmas	Craft	Sheep Lollipop	We are His sheep	John 10: 14-16	188
Christmas	Craft	Shepherd Treat Holder	Jesus is the Good Shepherd	John 10:11	191
Christmas	Craft	Snowflake Fleece Scarf	Put on love	Colossians 3: 12-14	193

Christmas	Craft	Spicy Scented Coasters	We are th aroma of Christ	2 Corinthians 2:15	194
Christmas	Craft	Star of Bethlehem Pencil Topper	The star leads the wise men to Jesus	Matthew 2:2	196
Christmas	Craft	The Greatest Gift	God's gift to us	2 Corinthians 9:15	203
Easter	Craft	Colorful Cross of Salvation	Jesus died to save them from their sins	Psalm 13:5	31

Event (s):	Туре:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
Easter	Craft	Foam Cross	God sent Jesus so that we can live in Heaven someday	John 3:16	52
Easter	Craft	Foam Easter Lily	God raised Jesus from the death back to life	Acts 2:32	55
Easter	Craft	Foam Open Tomb	Jesus rose from the dead	Matthew 28:6	58
Easter	Craft	Foam Palm Branch Necklace	People praised Jesus	Matthew 21: 8-9	80
Easter	Craft	Jesus Lives Pin	Jesus Lives!	Psalm 147:5	136
Easter	Craft	Rock of Salvation Stones	God is the "Rock of Our Salvation"	Psalm 95:1	184
General	Craft	Be Glad Mobile	Remind children to praise God during the sunny days and thank Him for helping them through the stormy days	Psalm 118:24	6
General	Craft	Caring Headband	A Caring Heart	Matthew 25:40	13
General	Craft	Cele-bracelets	Celebrate and proclaim the goodness of the Lord	Psalm 145:7	16
General	Craft	Courage Necklace	Be strong and courageous	Joshua 1:9	37
General	Craft	Cross Plaque	Mercy	James 5:11	38
General	Craft	Dad Rocks! Paper Weight	Compassion	Psalm 145:9	39
General	Craft	Decoupage Vase	Respect: honor your father and mother	Ephesians 6:2	40
General	Craft	Foam Kite	Jesus is the only way to Heaven	John 14: 2-6	68
General	Craft	Foam Lily	God made everything beautiful	Ecclesiastes 3:11	103
General	Craft	Foam Teapot	I thank God when I remember you	Philippians 1:3	99
General	Craft	Forgiveness Backpack Buddy	Remember to forgive others	Colossians 3:13	106

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General	Craft	God's House magnet	Let us not give up meeting together	Hebrews 10:25	120
General	Craft	Hang In There	Persevere	James 1:12	124
General	Craft	Joyful Centerpiece	Joy: to be happy in all situations	1 Thessalonians 5:16	141
General	Craft	Joyful Sound Tambourine	Joyful music to praise God	Psalm 150:4	143
General	Craft	Lost Sheep Game	Search: to look carefully to find something	John 10:11	147
General	Craft	Musical Chimes	Listening to God	1 Samuel 3:10	151
General	Craft	Pencil Toppers	Sharing Generously	2 Corinthians 9:11	159
General	Craft	Personal Size White Boards	Bible: God's book that instructs us how to live	Psalm 119:11	160
General	Craft	Praise Pockets	Praise God for His Word	Psalm 119:171	162
General	Craft	Praise Prayer Card Holder	Praise cards for kids to use each day	Psalm 3:4	167

Event (s):	Type:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
General	Craft	Praise Pyramids	Remind children of many reasons to praise God	Psalm 16:7	170
General	Craft	Psalm 23 Fan Booklet	Praising God for being a good shepherd to his people	Psalm 23:1	174
General	Craft	Scratchy Paintings	Wisdom: to think and act in right ways that show love and obedience to God	Proverbs 19:20	186
General	Craft	Smiley Face Door Hanger	God loves us	1 John 4:10	192
General	Craft	Sunshine Hands	Shine for God	Psalm 139:14	198
General	Craft	Verse Pouch	Humility: to think of others before yourselp, instead of being selfish	Philippians 2:3	209
General	Craft	Works of Wonder Booklet	Encourage children to praise God's wonder works in each other	Psalm 66:3	214
Harvest	Craft	Foam Cornucopia	Give thanks to Him and Praise Him	Psalm 100:4	48
Harvest	Craft	Foam Pumpkin	God makes His light shine in us	2 Corinthians 4:6	87
Harvest	Craft	Thanksgiving Tree	Giving thanks	1 Thessalonians 5:18	200
Valentine	Craft	Foam Hanging Hearts	God loves us	1 John 4:11	62

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Valentine	Craft	Heart Hanger	Love for God	1 John 5:3	126
Valentine	Craft	Heart of Praise	Encourage them to store Scripture in their hearts	Psalm 119:11	127
Valentine	Craft	Heart Plaque	Create in me a pure heart	Psalm 51:10	131
Valentine	Craft	Marble Valentine	Honor: to show sincere respect for someone	Romans 12:10	149
Christmas	Game	Build a Stable Relay	Jesus was born in a stable	Luke 2:7	10
Christmas	Game	Camels and Donkeys	Traveling to Bethlehem	Luke 2: 4-5	11
Christmas	Game	Christmas Go Fish	Love for others	Psalm 130:7; Luke 2:1-20	20
Christmas	Game	Christmas Hunt	Finding Jesus	Psalm 9:1; Luke 2:2238	21
Christmas	Game	Christmas Scrolls	Celebrate Jesus' birth	Luke 2:1-20	23
Christmas	Game	Christmas Tree Relay	Worship God	Luke 2:1-20	28
Christmas	Game	Coin Toss	God's faithfulness	Matthew 2:1-12	30
Christmas	Game	Escape to Egypt	Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee from Judea	Matthew 2: 13-15	43
Christmas	Game	Journey to Bethelhem	We can worship God	Matthew 2:1-16; John 8:12	138

Event (s):	Туре:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
Christmas	Game	No Room at the Inn	Jesus knew rejection even before He was born, but He makes room for all children in His kingdom.	Luke 2: 7, Mark 10: 13-16	153
Christmas	Game	Ring Toss	The season when people get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the promised Savior, is called Advent.	Isaiah 9:1-7; Micah 5:2-4	183
Christmas	Game	Sheep on the Hillside	Shepherds watch their flock	Luke 2:8	189
Christmas	Game	Shepherd Relay	The birth of God's Son, Jesus, the Savior, is reason for the whole world to celebrate!	Luke 2:1-20; 1 John 4:9	190
Christmas	Game	The Call from King Herod!	King Herod summons the Wise Men	Matthew 2: 7-8	201
Christmas	Game	The Census in Bethlehem	Joseph and Mary register in Bethlehem	Luke 2: 1-5	202
Easter	Game	Full of Life	Jesus death and resurrection	Mark 16:1-7	109

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Easter	Game	He's Alive! Relay	Jesus is alive	Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20	133
Easter	Game	Palm Branch Pass	People praised Him by waving palm branches in the air	Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:1219	155
Easter	Game	Palm Branch Pickup	When Jesus was entering Jerusalem, people gave Him praise by covering the ground with branches from palm trees.	Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:1219	156
Easter	Game	Resurrection Toss	God's promise of salvation came true in Jesus' death and resurrection.	Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20	182
General	Game	ABCs	Any	Any	1
General	Game	Add-a-Fruit relay	Fruits of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22-23	2
General	Game	After You	Putting others first	Luke 18:9-14; Philippians 2:3	3
General	Game	All Strung Up	God's love is for everyone	Acts 10	4
General	Game	Amazing Feet	Serve one another	John 13:1-17	5
General	Game	Bread, Basket, Fish	Giving to Jesus	Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-15	9
General	Game	Compassion Corners	Show His love and compassion to others	Luke 10:25-37	33
General	Game	Connect the Part	Good to obey God	Psalm 119:60	34
General	Game	Courage Collection	Love our enemies	1 Samuel 24; Luke 6:27	36

Event (s):	Туре:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
General	Game	Forgiveness Frenzy	God's forgiveness is for everyone	Luke 19:1-10	107
General	Game	Fruit of the Spirit Toss	Learning the qualities of the fruit of the Spirit will help you to be a better friend to others.	Galatians 5:22-23	108
General	Game	Helpful Actions	We can how faithfulness by using what God gives us to help others.	Acts 11:19-30	132
General	Game	Joyful Relay	Knowing Jesus is alive gives us great joy!	Psalm 95:1; John 20	142

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General	Game	Name Game	God created us to know Him and love each other.	Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7,15-23	152
General	Game	Paper Airplane Fun	Showing mercy and helping someone who is hurting	Luke 6:36	157
General	Game	Practice, Practice!	The more we pray, the more we get to know God and the ways in which we can love and obey Him.	Daniel 6	161
General	Game	Prayer Hop	Jesus taught us how important it is to pray to God.	Matthew 6:9-13	173
General	Game	Quick Slow Switch	Being careful about what we say shows self-control and helps us be better friends to others.	James 1:19; 3:3-12	180
General	Game	Secret Pass-Off	Jesus helps us share what we have to help other people.	Acts 3:1-16	187
General	Game	Stick Together Relay	Faithfulness to others means being a friend in good and bad times.	Colossians 3:15	197
General	Game	Toe Service	One of the ways Jesus showed His love just before He suffered and died to take the punishment for our sins was to wash His disciples' feet.	John 15:13	207
General	Game	Verse Bowl	God's patience with us shows us how to be patient with others.	1 Corinthians 13:7	208
General	Game	Watch Your Back	We need to be watching for the ways He answers.	Acts 12:1-17; Colossians 4:2	210
General	Game	WITNESS	When the disciples went out and "witnessed," they were telling others about Jesus.	Acts 1:8	213
Harvest	Game	Pumpkin Praise	Thanksgiving time reminds us to give thanks to God for His care for us.	Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:1219	179

Event (s):	Туре:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
Valentine	Game	Candy Heart relay	God's love for us is the greatest love of all.	1 Corinthians 13:4	12
Valentine	Game	God's Love	Love: to show strong affection and concern for someone	1 John 4:10	121

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Valentine	Game	Overflowing Love	Being kind means doing good things for others without expecting anything in return.	1 Thessalonians3:12	154
Christmas	General	General Christmas Items	Happy Birthday, Jesus!, Hanging the Greens, Caroling Party, Christmas Kindness Tree, Sing!, Sparkling Snowflakes, Star of Wonder, Welcome Wreath	Various	111
Christmas	Lesson	Caroling Fun	Sing Praises to God	Psalm 47:6	14
Christmas	Lesson	Christmas Story	Ways to tell the Christmas story	Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-20	24
Christmas	Lesson	Don't Miss the Party!	Happy Birthday, Jesus!	Micah 5:2, Matthew 25:13, John 1: 9-11	41
Christmas	Lesson	God's Messengers	Angels are God's messengers	Matthew 2: 13-15, Luke 1: 26-35, 2: 815	122
Christmas	Lesson	Immanuel	Jesus has many names	Matthew 1:23	134
Christmas	Lesson	J.O.Y.	Jesus, Others, You	Mark 12: 30-31	139
Christmas	Lesson	Jesus Came for Everybody	Jesus came for all people	Matthew 2: 1-2, Luke 2:10	135
Christmas	Lesson	Spread the News	We can look at the shepherds as a model for sharing Christ. They heard the Good News from the angels, sought out and found Jesus for themselves and then told everyone what they had discovered.	Luke 2: 8-18	195
Christmas	Lesson	The Light of the World	Jesus shines through believers	Matthew 5: 14-16, John 8:12	204
Christmas	Lesson	Why a Baby?	God became incarnate as a baby in an ordinary family, rather than as a temporal king, military leader or priest.		211
Christmas	Lesson	Worship the King	The wise men's visit to the Christ Child demonstrates different ways to worship.	Psalm 95:6, Matthew 2:9-11	217
Christmas	Lesson	Wrapping Gifts with Jesus	Wrapping a gift demonstrates important elements of God's free gift to us: eternal life in Christ Jesus.	Romans 6:23	218

Event (s):	Туре:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
Christmas	Service	The Mitten Tree	Give to the least of these	Matthew 25: 31-40	206
Easter	Service	Baskets of I.i.f.e	Without Easter, Christmas would be just another birthday!	Romans 12:10	243
General	Service	Adopt a missionary	Your class can "adopt" a missionary or family and write letters encouraging them in their work. This can be done throughout the year, not just at holidays. The class can develop a relationship with the missionary and also start to develop a world view of all of God's people.		224
General	Service	Candy Treats	Making small bags of treats for people in poor countries.	Romans 12:10	226
General	Service	Eyeglass cases	This is a great project to do for a group of residents at a nursing home. It is also something that could be done on Grandparent's Day at school or for a gift for any holiday.	1 Peter 4:10	219
General	Service	More than warmth	Make a quilt for a child in need from Sudan.	Romans 12:13	221
General	Service	Postcards	Create bundles of postcards to give as gifts.	John 13:34-35	228
General	Service	Birdfeeders	Make bird feeders or bird houses and deliver to a nursing home or assisted living center to put outside of the residents windows		230
General	Service	Birthday bags for shelters	center to put outside of the residents windows	Hebrews 13:2	233
General	Service	Foot soaks	Making a personal bag of foot soak for the teachers and all of the staff at the school. This could also be made for arents as a gift or thank-you.	John 13:14-17	235

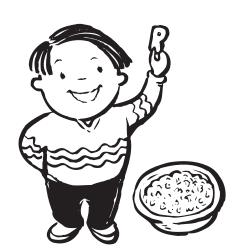
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General	Service		Pack a snack bag or sack breakfast Romans 12:10 for the families of children hospitalized at		237
			Children's Hospital and staying at		
			the Ronald McDonald House.		
General	Service	Snackbags for	Make snack bags for children	Matthew 25:35-36	239
		children in shelters	living in homeless shelters.		

Event (s):	Туре:	Activity:	Bible Reference:	Scripture Reference:	Page:
General	Service	Window washing	Serving the staff and teachers of the school by washing their car windows.	Romans 12:10	241
Christmas	Snack	Cornflake Wreath	Jesus never changes	Hebrews 13:8	35
Christmas	Snack	John the Baptist's Snack Mix	John the Baptist preaches repentance	Matthew 3: 1-6	137

Lesson 11

Getting Active





What You Need

bowls alphabet-shaped cereal

What You Do

- 1. Pour a large amount of cereal into two bowls. Place bowls on the far side of the playing area.
- 2. Divide group into two teams. Children line up in the playing area, across from the bowls of cereal letters.
- 3. At your signal, the first child on each team moves quickly to his or her team's bowl of cereal letters and digs through it to find a T. Child returns to team with letter. The next child moves to the bowl and searches for an I. Relay continues in this manner with each child finding the next letter of the word "tithe." Teams try to form the word "tithe" as many times as possible. Play as time permits.
- 4. Children from the team who formed the word "tithe" the most times wins.

Add-a-Fruit Relay

Bible Focus > Galatians 5:22-23

Materials

Bibles, white paper, marker, colored paper, butcher paper, masking tape, scissors, pencils.

Preparation

Draw a fruit shape (apple, banana, orange, pear, lemon, etc.) on white paper. Shape should be large enough for students to write on. Photocopy onto colored paper. On a sheet of butcher paper, draw the outline of a large leafy tree. Attach the paper to the wall or place it on the floor on one side of the playing area.

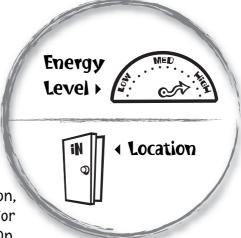
Lead the Game

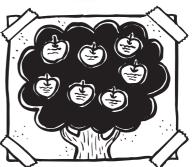
- 1. Growing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives begins with love for God. Let's play a game to learn more about the fruit of the Spirit!
- 2. Divide group into equal teams. Each student cuts out a fruit shape. Read Galatians 5:22-23 aloud. Assign each student the name of one of the fruit of the Spirit to write on his or her shape, referring to verses in Bibles. Students then attach masking-tape loops to the backs of their shapes.
- 3. Teams line up in single-file lines across the room from the tree. At your signal, students on each team take turns running to the tree, attaching shape to it, returning to team and tagging the next student in line. Play continues until each student has attached a fruit shape. Have teams sit down as they finish.
- 4. Ask a volunteer from the first team that finished to answer one of the Discussion Questions below or to recite Galatians 5:22-23. Repeat relay and continue discussion as time allows.

Option

To simplify preparation, each student draws a fruit on a Post-it Note and writes name of a fruit of the Spirit on the note. Students use Post-it Notes instead of fruit shapes in relau.

- 1. Which of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 are most needed by kids your age?
- 2. How has someone you know shown a fruit of the Spirit?
- 3. When might a kid your age show love? Patience? Jou? Repeat with other fruit of the Spirit as time allows.





"After You"

Bible Focus > Luke 18:9-14; Philippians 2:3

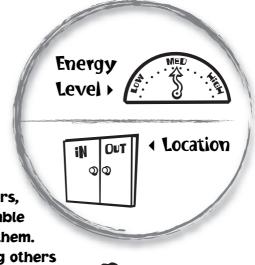
Materials

Bibles, one tube sock for each pair of students.

Lead the Game

- 1. Jesus told a story about a person who humbly asked God for mercy. When we care about others, we remember God's love for them, and our humble and gentle attitudes help us not look down on them. Let's each practice a humble attitude by putting others first in our game today.
- 2. Students form pairs. Pairs stand on one side of the playing area.
- **3.** Give each pair a tube sock. Partners hold sock between them, each with one hand on the sock. Pairs practice stepping over the sock, one foot at a time, without letting go of the sock.
- 4. To begin game, students stand at one side of the playing area. At your signal, one student in the pair says "After you," and his or her partner takes a step, putting one foot and then the other over the sock. Then the partner who stepped says "After you," and the other partner takes a turn. Students continue in this manner, moving across the playing area and back.
- 5. After all pairs have returned to the starting area, ask the pair who finished first to answer one of the Discussion Questions below, or play several more rounds and then lead the discussion.

- 1. What are some examples of a humble and gentle attitude? (Letting others go first. Not thinking you are better than anyone else. Listening carefully when others speak.)
- 2. Ask an older student to read Philippians 2:3 aloud. What does this verse say about having a humble attitude? (Don't do things because you are trying to get something for yourself or because you think you are better than other people. Don't spend too much time thinking about yourself.)
- 3. When we have humble attitudes, we don't spend our time comparing ourselves to others. What should we think about instead? (Ways to love God and others. How we can help others.)



AN STRUMG Up

Bible Focus > acts 10

Materials

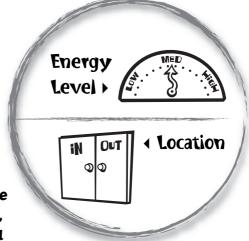
Bibles, ball of yarn of the same size for every 4 to 6 students.

Lead the Game

- God showed Peter how His love was for everyone in the world. Because God's love is for everyone, not just for people like us, we need to accept all kinds of people. Let's play a game in which we work together with people who might be different from us in some ways.
- 2. Students number off to form teams of four to six players. Teams form single-file lines in center of the playing area, leaving plenty of space between teams.
- 3. Give the first student in each line a ball of yarn. The first student holds the end of the yarn to his or her stomach with one hand and then passes the rest to the next student in line. Students continue passing yarn to student at end of line who wraps it around his or

her back and passes it back to the front of the line. Passing continues until students have wrapped themselves (from the waist down) with the entire ball of yarn. (Note: Students should stand as close together as possible to speed up the wrapping process.) The first team to finish names a way to accept other people who are different from them or a way to share God's love with people who are different.

- 1. What are some ways the people on your team are different from each other? (Hair color. Places we live in. Names. Interests. Ages.)
- 2. What kinds of things do all people have in common? (Need air, water, food and shelter. Loved by God. Jesus died for our sins.)
- 3. How are we to treat all people, even if they seem different from us? (Love them in the same way we want to be loved.)
- **4. What can we do to help all people learn about God's love?** (Pray for them. Tell them about God's love. Invite them to church.)





Amazing Feet

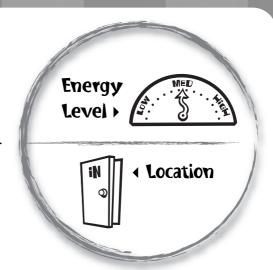
Bible Focus > John 13:1-17

Materials

Bibles, two large sheets of butcher paper, crayons.

Preparation

Place sheets of butcher paper and crayons on the floor in an open area of the room.



Lead the Game

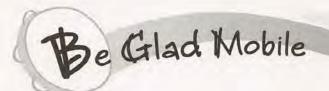
- Jesus showed His love to His disciples and served them by washing their feet during the last meal He ate with them. Let's play a game where we serve each other, too.
- 2. All students take off shoes and place them in a large pile on one side of the playing area. Group students into two equal teams. Assign each team a paper on the floor.
- 3. Students on each team line up in pairs. At your signal, the first pair in each line runs to his or her team's paper. Students trace each others' feet on the paper and return to their team. Continue until all students have had their feet traced.
- **4.** When tracing is completed, pairs take turns running to the shoe pile. Students must find partner's shoes (with help from partner as needed) and put shoes on partner's feet. Game continues until all students have had their feet traced and are wearing their shoes.

Options

- 1. If you have more than 14 to 16 students, form more than two teams and limit each team to eight students.
- 2. If a team has an uneven number of students, play the relay with them.



- What are some ways Jesus loved and served people when He was here on Earth? (Healed them. Fed them. Taught them the best way to live. Washed the disciples' feet.)
- **2.** How does Jesus show love for us today? (Answers our prayers. Promises to always be with us.)
- **3.** What are some ways we can show Jesus' love to people today? (Be patient with brothers or sisters. Help others at school. Play games fairly.)



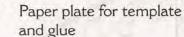
This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad today! Psalm 118:24

Children can display this" Be Glad" mobile to remind them to praise God during sunny days and to thank Him for helping them through the stormy days.

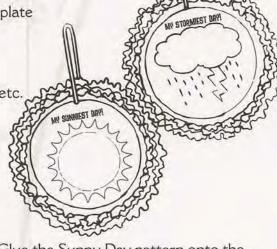


Materials Needed

- Sunny Day and Stormy Day patterns (pp. 45–46)
- White paper
- · Pencils
- Yellow and blue construction paper
- Yellow, orange, blue, and purple tissue paper
- · White glue



- Paper hole punch
- Yarn or string
- Crayons, markers, etc.





Directions

- Copy the Sunny Day and Stormy Day patterns onto white paper for each child.
- On the Sunny Day pattern page, instruct the children to draw or write about their "sunniest" or best day in the sun's center.
- Repeat this for the Stormy Day pattern page, instructing children to draw or write about their "stormiest" or worst day in the cloud shape.
- 4. Color and cut out both patterns.
- Using a paper plate as a template, trace circles on yellow and blue construction paper. Cut out both circles.
- Glue the yellow and blue circles together back to back.

- Glue the Sunny Day pattern onto the yellow circle. Glue the Stormy Day pattern onto the blue circle.
- 8. Squeeze a small amount of white glue onto the center of a paper plate.
- 9. Tear the tissue paper into 2"-2 1/2" pieces.
- Using the yellow and orange tissue paper for the "sunny side," dip scrunched up tissue paper into glue and press onto the outer rim of the yellow circle. Continue until covered.
- Repeat steps 9 and 10 using blue and purple tissue paper on the blue circle for the "stormy side" of the mobile.
- Punch a hole in the top center of the circle and thread yarn through the hole. Tie ends to make a loop for hanging.



Praise Points

Encourage students to share their "sunniest" and their "stormiest" days. How can we praise God even when things are hard? Whatever type of day we are having—sunny or stormy—God is with us and that is reason to rejoice!



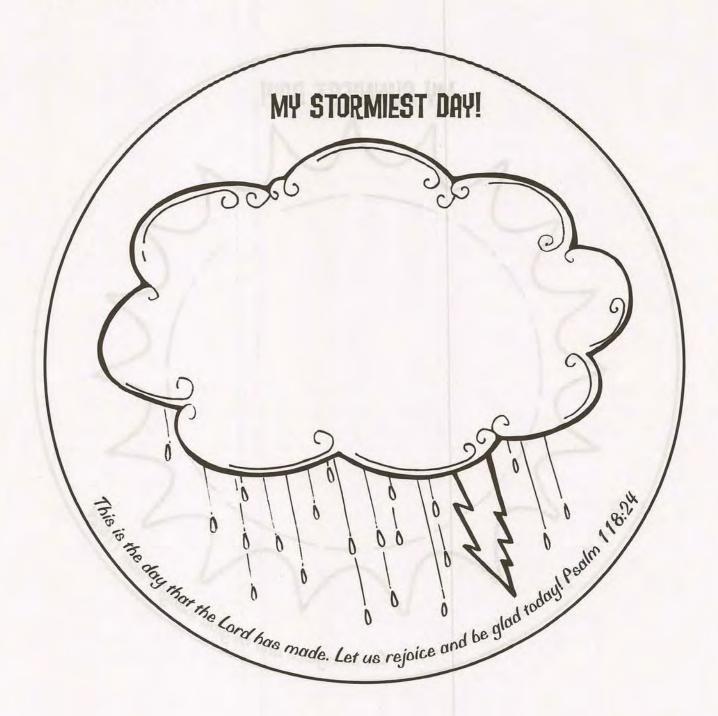
Praise Prayers

Lord, thank You for every day. Help me to be glad and rejoice, no matter what type of day it is. Amen.

Sunny Day Pattern



Stormy Day Pattern



Bread, Basket, fish

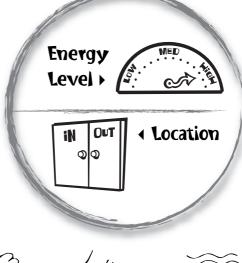
Bible Focus > Mark 6:30-44: John 6:1-15

Materials

Bibles, large sheet of paper, marker.

Lead the Game

- 1. When we give to God, He can do great things with our gifts to Him. A boy once gave his lunch to Jesus. Jesus used this small lunch to feed a huge crowd. Let's play a game to remind us of the gifts given by this boy.
- 2. Students form two teams and stand in the center of a large playing area. Designate a safe zone (wall, door, etc.) for each team, one on each end of the playing area.







- 3. Play a large-group version of Rock, Paper, Scissors using the words "bread," "basket" and "fish" and these signs: bread-fist, basket-two hands cupped together, fish-two palms pressed together swimming like a fish. Basket defeats bread because bread is put into the basket. Bread defeats fish because bread is wrapped around fish for eating. Fish defeats basket because live fish can flop out of the basket. Write signs and scoring system on large sheet of paper to which students can refer.
- 4. Each team huddles near its safe zone and chooses one sign. Then, after moving to the center of the playing area, all members of each team say "bread, basket, fish" aloud in unison and show their team's chosen sign. Winning team chases the losing team back toward the losing team's safe zone. Any student who is tagged joins the winning team. If both teams show the same sign, teams rehuddle and play again. Repeat game as time permits, with team members taking turns choosing their team's sign.

Option

Play game in pairs. After the first round, each winner plays another winner and each loser plays another loser. Game is over when one student has won five rounds. Play as many games as time and interest allow.

- 1. What did Jesus do with the boy's bread and fish?
- 2. What can we give to God to show love for Him? (Actions that show obedience to God. Time when we pray to Him or read His Word. Money to help others.)
- 3. How might God use gifts like these? (Kind action might help someone who is sad and remind the person of God's love.)



Build a Stable Relay

*** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Jesus was born in a stable / Luke 2:7



Overview

Jesus was born in the humblest of surroundings – a stable! In this relay race, the children will learn how buildings were constructed in Bible times.

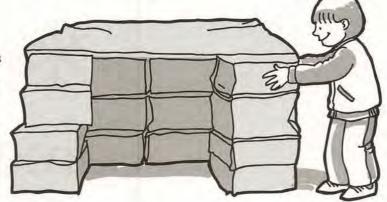
Helpers: 2

one person to give instructions, referee the race and award prizes one person to restack the blocks



What You Need

- * brown paper grocery bags
- * newspapers
- * masking tape or chalk
- * beach towels
- * prizes





Preparation

To make a "mud brick block," fill a brown paper grocery sack with 5 to 6 loosely crushed pages of newspaper. Insert the filled sack, top side down, into a second, empty grocery sack – creating a block. Make 32 blocks (16 for each team). Use masking tape or chalk to create two parallel lanes – each 24" x 12-16 feet – leading to the "construction zone." Mark a starting line at one end of the lanes and a finish line at the other end. Place the pile of mud brick blocks and beach towels at the starting line.



- 1. Divide the children into two teams. Have them line up behind the starting line.
- 2. Say, In Bible times, many buildings were constructed of stones or mud bricks. It took hard work to build a house. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, the town was so crowded that there was no place for them to stay. They ended up spending the night in a stable with the animals. Let's see which team can build a stable first using these "mud bricks."
- 3. At your signal, the first child in each line should select a brick, carry it down the lane and place it in the construction zone. When that child returns to the starting line, the second child can take a turn.
- Play should continue until each team has constructed a U-shaped "mud brick" stable, and placed a beach towel on top for the roof.
- 5. Every participant should receive a prize.





Gamels and Donkeys

**** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Traveling to Bethlehem / Luke 2:4-5



Mary and Joseph likely traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. When the wise men went to find Jesus, they probably traveled on camels. In this race, the children will "ride" balloon donkeys and camels to Bethlehem.



Helpers: 1

one person to give instructions, referee the race and hand out prizes



What You Need

- ☆ 10" brown and 10" gray (or black) helium-quality balloons
- ★ masking tape
- * prizes



Preparation

With masking tape, create two parallel "roads" on the floor, each about 24" wide and 12-16 feet long. Mark a start line at one end of the roads and a finish line at the other. Inflate several balloons of each color. Place the brown balloons at the beginning of one lane and the gray (or black) balloons at the other one.



- 1. Divide the children into two teams. Have them line up behind the starting lines.
- 2. Hold up a gray (or black) balloon. Say, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem on a donkey.
- 3. Hold up a brown balloon. Say, The wise men traveled to Bethlehem on camels.
- 4. Say, We are going to ride camels and donkeys to Bethlehem, too. Explain that the brown balloons represent camels and the gray (or black) balloons represent donkeys.
- 5. At your signal, the first child in each line should straddle a balloon between the legs or knees, and jump down the "road" to Bethlehem. If the balloon falls during the trip, the child should pick it up and "climb back on" to finish the journey.
- 6. As each child crosses the finish line, the next child in that line can begin the trip.
- 7. The team whose players finish first wins.
- 8. When everyone has had a turn, say, We've traveled to Bethlehem to worship baby Jesus!
- Each participant should receive a prize.



Candy Heart Relay

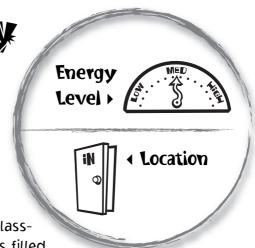
Bible Focus > 1 Corinthians 13:4

Materials

Bibles, disposable bowls, small Valentine's Day conversation hearts, plastic spoons, sandwichsized plastic bags.

Preparation

Place two empty bowls on one side of open area in classroom. On the other side of the room, place two bowls filled with equal amounts of candy.



Lead the Game

- 1. God's love for us is the greatest love of all. On Valentine's Day, people talk a lot about love, send cards and eat candy; but often they forget God's love! Let's play a game with candy to celebrate God's love!
- **2.** Group students into two teams. Teams line up by empty bowls. Give the first student on each team a spoon.
- 3. At your signal, the first student on each team walks quickly to his or her team's bowl of candy, fills spoon with candy and returns with the candy, dumping candy into team's empty bowl. If student drops any candy, student picks it up and returns to the candy bowl to begin again with new candy. (Students throw away dropped candy.) Next student in line repeats the action. Play continues until both teams have transferred all candies from one bowl to the other. Volunteer from the first team to complete the relay answers one of the Discussion Questions below. Repeat relay as time permits.
- 4. Students take home candy in plastic bags.

Option

Limit number of students on each team to six. If you have more than 12 students, form additional teams and provide additional materials.

- 1. What are some ways God's love is different than the love people have for one another? (God always loves us no matter what. We don't have to do anything to earn God's love for us. God's love is shown by His forgiveness of our sins.)
- 2. Have an older student read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 aloud. How do these verses describe love? Volunteers name characteristics. These are the ways God loves us!
- 3. What are some ways we can show God's love to others?

Dated 9/3/2010

Getting Crafty

Caring Headband

What Each Child Needs

8-inch (20.5-cm) square of pink or lightcolored craft foam

pencil

permanent marker

scissors

6x12-inch (15x30.5-cm) piece of craft

foam (any color)

stapler

craft glue

various craft foam cutouts or sequins



What Each Child Does

- 1. Using a pencil, draw a large heart shape on the pink or light-colored craft foam. Write "I have a caring heart!" on the heart with a permanent marker. Cut out the heart shape.
- 2. Cut the other piece of craft foam in half lengthwise. Lay the pieces end to end and have an adult help you staple them together in the middle to form one long band. Glue the heart in place in the center of the band covering the staples.
- 3. Glue pieces of craft foam or sequins to the headband to decorate it as much as you like.
- 4. With an adult's help, when the headband has had time to dry, measure it around your head and staple the ends together.





Garoling Fun

*** * * * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Sing praises to God / Psalm 47:6



Children and families will sing Christmas carols together and praise God for sending His Son.



Helpers: varies

one person to prepare songbooks and candleholders

several people to chaperone carolers (if children)



What You Need

- Caroling Songbooks, see below
- ☼ Caroling Candleholders, page 149
- * flashlights
- ☼ your church's brochure and Advent schedule of events
- * refreshments (see Snacks, pages 127-145)



Preparation

Decide what kind of Caroling Activity is appropriate for your situation (see ideas on the following pages). Determine a date and time. Be sure to allow enough time at the beginning of your party so that participants can gather, practice singing the carols and make Caroling Candleholders, if desired. Estimate how many participants you will have. Prepare Caroling Songbooks, allowing at least one songbook for every two singers. If you elect to prepare Caroling Candleholders prior to the party instead of during the event, make one for each participant. Recruit a volunteer with a strong singing voice to lead the carols.

Caroling Songbooks



What You Need

- ★ Caroling Songbook cover and lyrics, pages 244-252
- * card stock
- * stapler
- * scissors
- ☆ ruler



- 1. Reproduce the Caroling Songbook lyrics.
- 2. You can supplement the songbook with additional selections. Be sure that the carols



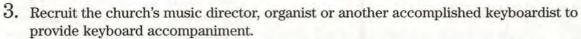
- 10. Continue caroling through the building.
- 11. Return to your church for refreshments.

Carol Sing

Bring family and friends together for an old-fashioned Carol Sing. This format does not require traveling to another location.



- Encourage congregation members to invite family, friends and neighbors to the Carol Sing.
- If desired, plan a meal, games, crafts or gift-making prior to the Sing.



- Recruit several volunteers to light candles at the start of the Sing. Give each volunteer a fire starter.
- You might want to supplement the Caroling Songbooks with carols from your church's hymnbook.
- 6. Participants can gather in a large room, fellowship hall or church sanctuary.
- 7. Distribute candleholders. Have volunteers light each participant's candle.
- 8. Participants can request favorite carols from a songbook or hymnal.
- 9. At some point during the event, the song leader should invite Carol Sing visitors to return and join your congregation for worship.
- 10. Make sure each visitor receives a church brochure and an Advent schedule of events.
- 11. Conclude the Sing with an a cappella version of "Silent Night." Participants should exit the building quietly and extinguish candles once outside.







(We) will celebrate your abundant goodness....

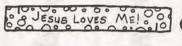
Todana Trodit IIII

Celebrate and proclaim the goodness of the Lord with Cele-bracelets! These bracelets also provide a way for children to share their faith with others.



Materials Weeded

- · Cele-bracelets patterns (page 20)
- · White construction paper or card stock
- · Crayons, markers, glitter
- · Glue
- Scissors
- Paper hole punch (optional)
- · Yarn (optional)









Directions

- 1. Copy the Cele-bracelets patterns (page 20) onto card stock for each child.
- Color, decorate, and cut out the Celebracelets. Have the children illustrate their own cele-bracelets using the blank pattern.
- 3. Help size the Cele-bracelets around the children's wrists. Cut off excess paper, leaving room to make one small (1/4") slit
- on each end (top on one side and bottom on the other).
- 4. Slide Cele-bracelets together at slit openings on either end.
- Alternative: After sizing the Celebracelets around the children's wrists, use a hole punch on each end of the strip. Loop a six inch piece of yarn through the holes and tie around the children's wrists.



Praise Points

As the children complete the project, engage them in learning more about celebrating God's goodness.

- How can we celebrate God's goodness every day in our lives? (singing, praying, being good or kind to others, etc.)
- Encourage the children to wear their Cele-bracelets to remind them to praise God every day for His goodness!



Praise Prayers

Lord, help us to remember to celebrate Your abundant goodness every day and to share Your goodness with others. Amen.

Cele-bracelets Patterns

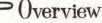
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hrismon

* * * * * AGES 7-12

Bible Reference: The Name above all names / Philippians 2:9-11



The term "chrismon" is a combination of "Christ" and "monogram." Tradition holds that Chrismons symbols of Jesus - are white and gold, the liturgical colors for Christmas Day. White symbolizes Christ's purity, and gold symbolizes His majesty.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- ★ Chrismon patterns, pages 216-218
- * poster board
- * white craft foam
- ★ gold metallic spray paint
- ★ gold glitter glue
- ★ pencil
- * white paint pens
- * scissors
- ★ gold sequins
- * hole punch
- ★ gold and white beads ★ ruler ★ gold glitter
 - * gold metallic thread
- ★ craft glue
- * newspapers



Preparation

Make templates of the patterns using poster board. Trace and cut out the Chrismons from poster board and white craft foam. Use a hole punch to make a hole at the top of each one. Spread newspapers on your work surface. Lay out the Chrismons and spray both sides of the poster board with gold metallic paint. Foan pieces do not need to be sprayed. Allow to dry. Measure and cut 12" lengths of gold metallic thread. You will need one length for every Chrismon. Set out glitter glue, paint pens, sequins, beads, glitter and craft glue. Note: For safety purposes, do not use beads, sequins or glitter around very young children.



- 1. Say, We are going to make special ornaments called "Chrismons." The word "chrismon" is a combination of "Christ" and "monogram." Each Chrismon is a symbol of Jesus Christ.
- 2. Let the children select Chrismons to decorate with glue, paints and craft supplies. Say, We use only two colors for Chrismons: white and gold. White represents Christ's purity. Gold represents His majesty.
- 3. While the Chrismons are drying, point to each one and ask, Why does this symbolize Jesus Christ? If the children struggle to answer, help them with the appropriate information (see page 218 for the Chrismons' symbolic meanings).
- 4. Help the children loop gold metallic thread through the Chrismons' holes and tie the ends in knots. Say, God gave His Son the Name above all names: Jesus,
- 5. Have the children write their names on the backs of the Chrismons. They can use the Chrismons to decorate a Jesus Tree (see page 160), or they can take them home to hang in windows, on mirrors or from gift bows.

Lesson 49

Getting Crafty

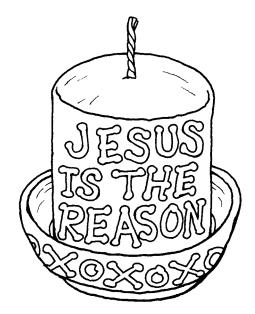
Christmas Candle

What Each Child Needs

newspaper

saucers

4-inch (10-cm) clay saucer acrylic paint in assorted Christmas colors paintbrushes 3-inch (7.5-cm) pillar candle Christmas stickers letter stickers optional—various sizes of candles and



What Each Child Does

- 1. Spread newspaper over your work area. Paint the clay saucer with one color and set it aside to dry. (Optional: If you have provided candles and saucers in a variety of sizes, help each child choose a candle and saucer that fit together.)
- 2. Decorate candle with stickers. Consider spelling a message on the candle like "Jesus is the Reason."
- 3. Use other paint colors to paint details on the saucer. After saucer is dry (about 15 minutes), place the candle in the saucer.
- 4. Take your candle home and place on your dinner table. With your mom or dad, light the candle as a reminder that Jesus is our focus at Christmas. (Optional: Make an extra candle to give as a Christmas gift to someone special.)

Christmas Go-Kish

Bible Focus > Psalm 130:7; Luke 2:1-20

Materials

Bibles, large sheet of paper, marker, index cards (six for each student), pencils; optional—Christmas stickers.

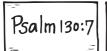
Preparation

Print Psalm 130:7 on large sheet of paper, drawing lines to divide the verse into six sections.

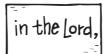
Energy Level > ◆ Location

Lead the Game

- 1. Give each student six index cards. Students copy verse onto cards, dividing verse as shown on large sheet of paper (see sketch). (Optional: Students decorate cards with Christmas stickers.) Collect all cards and shuffle them together.
- 2. Lead students in playing a game similar to Go Fish. Place all cards facedown in a pile. Each student takes a turn to choose four cards. Students look at their cards to see what they need in order to complete the verse. First player asks any student for a card he or she needs. If student has the card, he or she must give the card to the player, ending the first player's turn. If student does not have the card, the first player chooses a card from the pile. Play continues until one student has collected all the words of Psalm 130:7 and places the cards in order faceup on table or floor.
- 3. Player who won finds Psalm 130:7 in his or her Bible, reads the verse aloud and tells why Jesus' birth fulfilled Israel's hope for love and redemption. Ask the Discussion Questions below. Repeat game as time permits.











him is full redemption."

Option

Gather old Christmas cards. Cut pictures on cards to the same size. Students write verse on back of picture and use as game cards in the game above.

- 1. When might someone your age need to know about God's love? Need God's forgiveness?
- 2. When might we need help in knowing what to do?
- 3. How does the meaning of Christmas give you hope? Give an answer before asking students to respond.

Christmas Hunt

Bible Focus > Psalm 9:1; Luke 2:22-38

Materials

Bibles, large sheet of paper, marker, small Christmas object (Christmas sticker on a small piece of paper, small pinecone or unbreakable ornament or nativity figure).

Energy Level > Location

Preparation

Print several prayer starters (for example, "Thank You, God, for . . ." and "Jesus, You are . . .") on the large sheet of paper. Leave space for students to complete the prayer starters and write other sentences. Hide the Christmas object somewhere in your classroom.

Lead the Game

- 1. There is a (Christmas sticker) hidden somewhere in the classroom. When you see it, quickly sit down in the center of the room without telling where the object is. When two or three students have located the object and are seated, call the remaining students back to the center of the room. Ask the student who was the first one seated to bring the object to the center of the room. Review the story of Simeon and Anna by asking the Discussion Questions below.
- 2. One way we can show God we are thankful that He sent Jesus to be our Savior is by telling Him in prayer. Read Psalm 4:1 aloud as a prayer. Show students prayer starters you prepared. Ask the student who brought the object back to complete one of the prayer starters, praising Jesus for who He is or thanking God for sending Jesus. Student writes prayer on paper.
- 3. Students close their eyes while student who wrote prayer hides the object again. Repeat activity as above. First student seated retrieves the object and writes another sentence of prayer before hiding the object again. Repeat hiding and adding sentences to prayer as time allows.
- **4.** Lead students in reading the completed prayer aloud together.

- 1. Who did Simeon and Anna find at the Temple? (Baby Jesus, the Savior for all people.)
- 2. What does it mean to say that Jesus is the Savior for all people? (He saves us from the punishment we deserve for the wrong things we do.)
- **3. What did Simeon and Anna do when they saw Jesus?** (They thanked and praised God. Told others who Jesus is.)

Lesson 51

Faith Builders at Home

Parents: Use these ideas to help build your child's faith, encouraging your child to become a lifelong follower of Jesus Christ.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

Key Word

Gift: Something given to someone else without expecting to be paid back.

Steppin' Out

With your family, collect and assemble a Christmas kit that can be given to a homeless shelter for children. In a Christmas gift bag, put items such as a package of Christmas stickers, a children's book about the first Christmas, Christmas cards along with envelopes and stamps, Christmas cookies, etc.

Fun at Home

Videotape your family as you take turns reading or telling parts of the Christmas story and/or singing carols. Send the tape as a gift to someone you love who is far away. (Keep a copy as a special family memory!)

Quick Pick

Read the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20, and then read one or more contemporary Christmas storybooks. As a family, evaluate the contemporary books by identifying which parts of the story match the biblical version.

Christmas Serolls

Bible Focus > Luke 2:1-20

Materials

Bibles, masking tape, three large sheets of butcher paper, two lengths of yarn, 3x5-inch (7.5x12.5-cm) pieces of red and green construction paper, markers, two rolls of transparent tape.

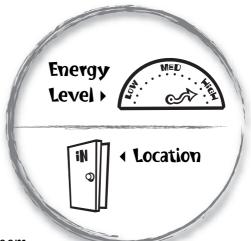
Preparation

Make a masking-tape line on one side of your classroom. Roll up two of the sheets of butcher paper to make two scrolls and tie with yarn.

Lead the Game

- 1. Invite students to list as many ways to celebrate Jesus' birth as they can (singing Christmas carols, decorating, making cookies, sending Christmas cards). List ideas on remaining sheet of butcher paper. Each student writes one idea from the list on a piece of red or green paper.
- 2. Divide class into two teams. (Students keep their own pieces of paper.) Teams line up behind masking-tape line. Place one scroll and roll of tape opposite each team on the other side of the room. At your signal, first player on each team runs with his or her piece of paper to a scroll, unties and unrolls it, then tapes the paper onto the scroll before rolling it back up and tying it again. Continue until all players have completed the relay.
- 3. Two volunteers from the winning team unroll the team's scroll and hold scroll open for others to read. One at a time, read aloud the ways of celebrating Jesus' birth attached to the scroll. Discuss the ways by asking the Discussion Questions below. Two volunteers from the other team unroll the scroll and hold it open to see if there are any additional ways of celebrating Christmas mentioned. Encourage students to write additional items on the scroll.
- 4. Invite each student to write his or her initials on at least one way he or she plans to help others celebrate God's gift of Jesus at Christmas.

- 1. How does (singing Christmas carols) remind you of God's gift of Jesus at Christmas?
- 2. How can this way or celebrating help you share the good news of Jesus' birth?
- 3. What are some other ways we can help others celebrate God's gift of Jesus at Christmas? (Send a Christmas card about Jesus to someone who doesn't know about Him. Invite a friend to come to a special Christmas event at church.)



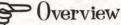




The Christmas Story

**** ** * * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: The Christmas Story / Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-20



Select from these various ways to present the Christmas story to children and families.



Helpers: varies

varies according to chosen format



What You Need

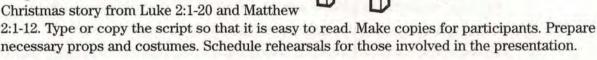
* varies according to chosen format



Preparation

Decide how you and your team will present the Christmas story (see ideas on the following pages). If you choose the Christmas Card Magnet Scene, Crèche Drama, Finger Puppet Presentation or the Pageant With Narration and Carols, prepare the text from Scripture. Combine the accounts of the

Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew

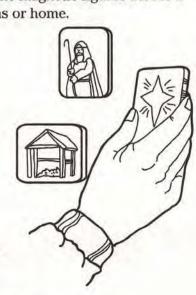


Christmas Card Magnet Scene

Children can take an active role in telling the story by moving the magnetic figures across a metal display surface. This is an excellent choice for classrooms or home.



- 1. Prepare Christmas Card Magnets (page 66). Make sure to select cards that include the key figures in the Christmas story: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angel, wise men, camels and star. You may also wish to make magnets that show the town of Bethlehem and the nearby hillsides.
- 2. Find a metal surface on which to manipulate the figures, such as the side of a metal file cabinet or the front of a refrigerator. Check to see if the prepared magnets will attach to the surface.
- 3. Recruit two presenters: one with a clear speaking voice to read the script, and one to manage the magnets.
- 4. Have the presenters rehearse the story for clarity and pacing. Time the presentation to make certain that it is 10 minutes or less.



- 5. Let the children sit in a semi-circle around the presenters.
- 6. Before the presentation begins, solicit volunteers to handle the magnet figures. Give each volunteer one figure. Cue him or her at the proper time in the story.

Crèche Drama

This method works well with a small group of children, where participants can help manipulate the figures during the presentation.



What to Do

- 1. Prepare the Tabletop Crèche figures (page 61).
- 2. Recruit two presenters: one with a clear speaking voice to read the script, and one to manage the crèche.
- Make sure there is a suitable table or flat surface for the crèche.
- Have the presenters rehearse the story for clarity and pacing. Time the presentation to make certain that it is 10 minutes or less.
- 5. Arrange chairs so that everyone in the audience will be able to see the tabletop.
- 6. Before the presentation begins, solicit volunteers from the audience to handle the crèche figures. Give each volunteer one figure. Cue him or her at the proper time in the story.

Finger Puppet Presentation

Use this option for simple storytelling to very young children. The informal atmosphere will allow youngsters to make comments and ask questions.



What to Do

- 1. Make the finger Pocket Crèche Puppets (page 73).
- Recruit several presenters: one with a clear speaking voice to read the script, and 2-4 additional helpers to portray the characters with finger puppets.
- 3. Have the presenters rehearse the story for clarity and pacing. Time the presentation to make certain that it is 10 minutes or less.
- Invite audience members to sit in a semi-circle around the presenters.

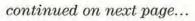
Pageant with Narration and Carols

While this choice requires extra planning, it can have significant impact. Familiar carols will impart deep meaning to the audience members when the music is intertwined with a live portrayal of the Christmas story. Also, a pageant is flexible. It is suitable for a large assembly but can be adapted for a small venue.



What to Do

1. Recruit a presenter with a clear speaking voice to serve as narrator for the drama.



Remind him or her to speak slowly and distinctly. If your presentation will be held in a large room or church sanctuary, make sure the narrator has a microphone.

2. Enlist your church's music director, accompanist or another skilled keyboardist to provide keyboard accompaniment for the carols.



Use your church's hymnal or songbook to select carols. Consider interspersing a carol
at each important juncture in the story. Here are some suitable choices:

Prelude: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Manger in Bethlehem: "Away in a Manger" or "What Child is This?"

The Angels: "Angels From the Realms of Glory," "Angels We Have Heard on High" or "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

The Shepherds: "The First Noel" or "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

The Wise Men: "We Three Kings"

Personal Commitment: "In the Bleak Midwinter" or "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Celebration of Christ's Birth: "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" or "Joy to the World"

Postlude and Exit Music: "Silent Night"

- Mark the place for each carol in the script. Make sure the narrator and the accompanist have copies of the script.
- 5. Recruit volunteers to enact the drama. Explain to the actors that they will not need to speak, but can merely pantomime along with the narration.
- 6. Assemble simple Bible-time costumes for the actors, such as sheets draped around the shoulders in earth-tones for Joseph and the shepherds, light blue for Mary, white for the angels and purple for the wise men. Make men's headpieces from dishtowels and headbands. Angels can wear tinsel halos. Make King's Crowns (page 70) for the wise men.
- 7. Assemble props, such as a doll wrapped in a blanket (baby Jesus), a wooden box (manger), lawn-sized plastic candy canes covered with brown packaging tape (shepherds' staffs) and foil-and-rhinestone wrapped containers (wise men's gifts).

- Rehearse the drama several times so the actors, narrator and accompanist feel
 comfortable with their roles.
- 9. Time the presentation to make sure that the narration portion does not exceed 10 minutes. Carols add more time.

Story Book

Children love to hear stories and see pictures. This option works well for both large and small groups.



What to Do

- 1. Choose a storybook with clear text and attractive illustrations. Consult your pastor, local Christian bookstore staff and public library personnel for suggestions.
- 2. Recruit a volunteer with a clear speaking voice to read the story. Remind the reader to speak slowly and distinctly. If your presentation will be held in a large room or church sanctuary, make sure the narrator has proper amplification. Encourage the reader to show the pictures on each page of the book to the audience after reading that page's text.
- 3. Arrange chairs around the reader or provide rugs and pillows for seating.



Christmas-Tree Relay

Bible Focus > Luke 2:1-20

Materials

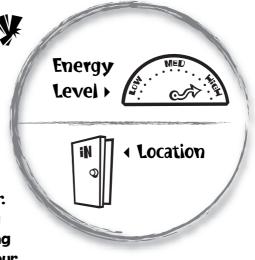
Bibles, colored paper cups.

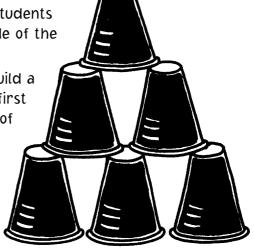
Lead the Game

1. At Christmastime, we worship God because He loves us and promised to send Jesus, our Savior. Some people celebrate Christmas by decorating Christmas trees, singing special songs and giving gifts to one another. Let's play a game to build our own Christmas trees!

2. Group students into teams of no more than six students each. Teams line up in single-file lines on one side of the playing area. Give each team six cups.

3. Demonstrate to students how to stack cups to build a Christmas tree (see sketch). At your signal, the first student on each team runs to the opposite side of the playing area, sets down his or her cup, returns to his or her team and tags the next student in line. Team members repeat actions. Volunteer from the first team that finishes building Christmas tree answers one of the Discussion Ouestions below.





Options

- 1. Use Christmas cups for the relay.
- 2. For older students, provide 10 cups for each team. Print the letters of the sentence "Worship God" on paper cups, one letter on each cup. Team members complete relay in the correct order to build a tree that spells "Worship God" from the top down.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What fun things do you and your family do to celebrate Christmas?
- 2. What can we thank God for at Christmastime? (His love. Sending Jesus, the Savior.)
- 3. How does giving and receiving gifts help us celebrate Jesus' birth? (Jesus is God's gift to us.)

Getting Crafty

Christmas Wreath

What Each Child Needs

two 9-inch (23-cm) paper plates

scissors

green paint

paintbrush

marker

stapler

hole punch

8-inch (20.5-cm) piece of ribbon

(any color)

glue

10 to 15 individually wrapped

candies

optional—green paper plates with green front and back



- 1. (Optional: Use green paper plates with green front and back.) Fold one plate in half. Cut a circle out of the middle of the plate. Make sure you leave an outside rim big enough to glue candies on. Paint the bottom side of this plate green. Set aside to dry.
- 2. On the other plate, write the words of Luke 1:37 in the center of the plate.
- 3. Place the plates together with the tops facing each other. Staple plates together along the outer rims. Punch a hole at the top of the plates. Tie a ribbon through the hole to use as a hanger.
- 4. Lay the plates flat with the painted side up. Glue candies around the edge of the plate. Let it dry completely before hanging up. (Optional: Count the number of days left until Christmas. Glue that number of candies on the wreath. Every day take off one candy.)



Coin Toss

Bible Focus > Matthew 2:1-12

Materials

Bibles, large sheet of paper, marker, coins, paper, pencils.

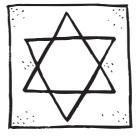
Preparation

Draw, divide and number a large star on the sheet of paper (see sketch). Place paper on the floor in the middle of the playing area.

Energy Level + Cocation

Lead the Game

 God showed His faithfulness in keeping His promise to send the Savior. When the wise men saw a bright star, they traveled to worship Jesus, the great King God had promised. Let's play a game to remember God's faithfulness.



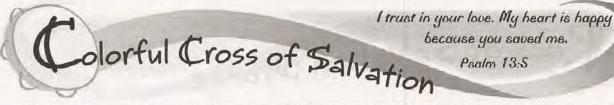


- 2. Group students into teams of three to four. Teams gather around the paper, standing at least 4 feet (1.2 m) from the paper. Give each group a coin, a paper and a pencil.
- **3.** Silently choose a number over 30. Teams take turns tossing coins onto the paper, one student at a time. One student on each team keeps track of team's points, adding them up and announcing the point total after each toss.
- **4.** Call stop when a team gets close to or scores the exact number you chose. Announce what your number was. Volunteer from the team who got closest or scored the exact number you chose tells a way God shows His faithfulness. Continue discussion by asking questions below. Repeat game as time allows, choosing a new number for each round.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What have you heard or read about in the Bible that shows God's faithfulness?

 (God kept His promise to send Jesus, the Savior. God kept His promise to Noah that a flood wouldn't destroy the earth. God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.)
- **2.** How does God show His faithfulness to people today? (Answers prayers. Forgives us.)
- 3. Why is it important to know God kept His promise to send us a Savior? Talk with interested students about becoming a member of God's family. Refer to guidelines in "Leading a Child to Christ" on page 11.

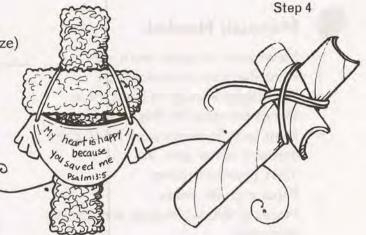


Children will make a colorful cross with a Scripture banner to remind them that Jesus died to save them from their sins.



Materials Needed

- Scissors
- Large cardboard tube (paper towel size)
- · Yarn or ribbon
- · White glue
- · Paper plate (for glue)
- Various colorful tissue paper
- Cross Scripture pattern (page 43)
- · Crayons, markers, etc.
- · Paper hole punch





Directions

- Cut the cardboard tube in half lengthwise.
- 2. Cut one of the pieces in half horizontally.
- Place the shorter piece of tube, rounded edge facing outward, on top of the larger piece to create a cross.
- Crisscross yarn or ribbon several times around the middle where the tubes meet. Tie the ends of the yarn or ribbon together in the back to hold in place. (See illustration above.)
- 5. Spread glue onto the center of the paper plate.
- 6. Cut or tear small pieces of tissue paper

(quarter to half-dollar size).

- 7. Scrunch the tissue paper and dip the center in the glue. Press it on the cardboard tubes. Continue until the surfaces of both tubes are covered with tissue paper pieces.
- 8. Copy and cut out Cross Scripture pattern (page 43).
- 9. Color, decorate and cut out.
- Punch holes on the top left and right side of the Cross Scripture pattern.
- Thread yarn or ribbon through both holes and tie ends together. Hang banner on the cross.



Praise Points

As children create the crosses, ask, "What does it mean to be saved?" Invite children to share when they invited Jesus into their hearts and were saved. Share your testimony of when you accepted Jesus' salvation as well. Offer an opportunity for anyone in the class who has not been saved to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

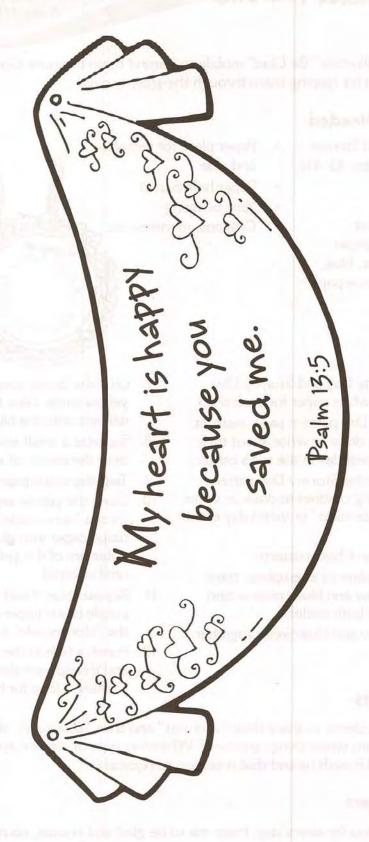


Praise Prayers

Dear Father, I praise You because You saved and forgave me. I trust in Your love. Amen.



Cross Scripture Pattern



Compassion Coiners

Bible Focus > Luke 10:25-37

Materials

Bibles, four sheets of paper, index cards, marker, masking tape, small paper bag.

Preparation

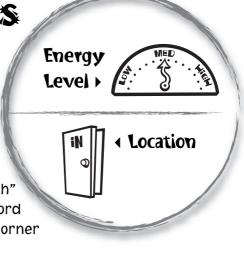
Print the words "heart," "soul," "mind" and "strength" on four sheets of paper and four index cards, one word per paper and card. Post each paper in a separate corner of the room. Place index cards in bag.

Lead the Game

- 1. Because we have experienced God's great love for us, we can show His love and compassion to others. In our game today, we'll describe ways to show love and compassion every day.
- 2. Volunteer reads Luke 10:27 aloud. What does this verse describe? (How we are to love God.) Volunteers read aloud the words on the papers in the corners of the room.
- 3. Students stand in a circle. Ask a volunteer to be "It." "It" stands in the middle of the circle. Students walk around the circle. After a few moments, "It" calls "Stop." Students move quickly to the nearest corners. "It" picks an index card from bag and reads card aloud before returning card to bag. Volunteer from the corner named on the index card tells one way to show love for God or compassion to others (obey God's Word, be kind to others, pray to God, be friends with people who speak a different language, etc.), recites Luke 10:27 or answers a Discussion Question below. Student who answered becomes the new "It" and game continues as time allows.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How has God shown His love and compassion for you? (He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to forgive my sins. He answers my prayers. He helps me do right.) How can you show your love for God? (Tell Him. Follow His commands. Pray to Him. Read the Bible. Tell others about Him.)
- 2. What are some other words or phrases that describe ways of showing love? (Help. Care. Encourage. Pray for. Share with.)
- 3. What are some things you could do to show your love for others at home? At a park? At school?



Connect the Part

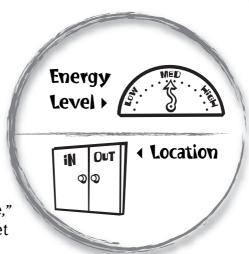
Bible Focus > Psalm 119:60

Materials

Bibles, index cards, marker.

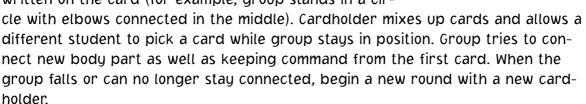
Preparation

Print the following words on index cards, one word per card: "elbow," "foot," "hand," "shoulder," "knee," "back," "wrist," "toe," "head," "finger." Make one set of cards for every six students.



Lead the Game

- The words in Psalm 114:60 tell us it is good to obey God eagerly. Let's play a game in which we eagerly follow some funny commands to connect groups of people together.
- **2.** Group students into teams of six. Distribute a set of cards to each team.
- 3. One student on each team acts as the cardholder. This student mixes up the cards and then holds cards so that the other students cannot see words. Another student from the team picks a card and reads it aloud. Everyone on the team quickly connects the body part written on the card (for example, group stands in a cir-





Option

If you have a small class, make one set of cards. Students form pairs. Choose two cards and read them aloud. Students in each pair connect the named body parts (such as wrist to ear). Mix up the cards and choose two new cards.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What made it hard to stay connected? What made it hard to follow the commands?
- 2. In what ways can we learn about God's commands? What are some of God's commands you remember? (Treat others fairly. Be patient.)
- 3. When might a kid your age find it hard to obey one of God's commands?



Cornflake Wreaths

*** * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Jesus never changes / Hebrews 13:8



Overview .

The children will make a cereal treat in the shape of a festive Christmas wreath.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- * cornflake cereal
- ☆ 40 large marshmallows
- *3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- * green food coloring
- * candy cinnamon dots
- ★ microwave-safe bowl
- * wax paper
- ★ vegetable spray
- ☆ large mixing bowl
 ※ measuring cup
- ★ wooden spoon
- * tray or plate
- ★ 13" x 9" pan
- * drinking glass or biscuit cutter



Preparation

None.



What to Do

- 1. If the children are helping, instruct them to wash their hands before preparing food.
- 2. Place butter or margarine in microwave-safe bowl. Cover it with wax paper.

 Microwave on high for 30 seconds and stir. Repeat until butter or margarine is melted.
- 3. Toss the marshmallows in the melted butter or margarine to coat. Microwave them on high for 30 seconds and stir. Repeat until marshmallows are melted and smooth.
- 4. Add 10-12 drops of green food coloring to the marshmallow mixture. Stir thoroughly.
- In a large mixing bowl, measure 8 cups of cornflakes. Pour the marshmallow mixture into the cornflakes and mix until all the flakes are coated.
- 6. Spray a 13" x 9" pan with vegetable spray. Press the cornflake mixture into pan.
- 7. Use a drinking glass or biscuit cutter to cut out the cornflake "wreaths." (Dip the glass in cold water for a cleaner cut.) Place the wreaths on a tray or plate.
- 8. Use the handle end of a wooden spoon to press a hole in the center of each wreath.
- 9. Say, At Christmastime, many people decorate their homes with evergreen wreaths. Wreaths are round, like circles. How does that remind us of Jesus? Allow the children to respond. Say, Yes, a circle is never-ending. In the same way, Jesus' love for us is never-ending. He will never change. The Bible says,
 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
- 10. The children can decorate their cornflake wreaths with cinnamon candies.
- 11. Store extra Cornflake Wreaths in an airtight container.

Courage Collection

Bible Focus > 1 Samuel 24; Luke 6:27

Materials

Bibles, large sheet of colored butcher paper, marker, newspaper, masking tape, two bowls, flour, marshmallows, pencils, paper.

Preparation

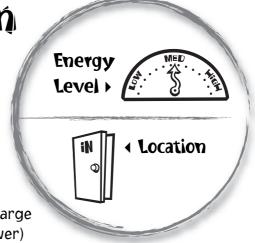
Draw lines to divide butcher paper into at least 12 large sections. In each section print a number (five or lower) and a word from Luke 6:27, including the reference. Tape paper to wall. Spread newspaper on the floor under the paper and out about 4 feet (1.2 m) from wall. Fill bowls \(^{1}/_{3}\) full with flour and place at edge of newspaper.

Lead the Game

- In the Old Testament David demonstrates love for an enemy who was trying to kill him. We think of our enemies as people we don't like, but God can give us the courage to love our enemies! Let's play a game to find out what Jesus said about loving enemies.
- **2.** Divide group into two teams. Teams line up single file at edge of newspaper.
- 3. Each student takes a turn to dip a marshmallow into the flour, and then toss it at the paper. Teams attempt to hit all sections to collect each word of the verse and earn as many points as possible. Have an older student on each team write on a sheet of paper which words of the verse have been collected and the number of points earned. Student refers to Bible for verse order. Students take turns tossing marshmallows until both teams have collected all the words of the verse. A volunteer from the first team to finish reads Luke 6:27 aloud or answers one of the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What are some ways to show love and do good things for people you might think of as enemies? (Don't be mean back to them. Don't say mean things about them to others. Smile and be friendly to them.)
- 2. What can you do when it seems too hard to show God's love to an enemy? (Ask God for courage to do what's right. Ask a parent or teacher for advice on how to show love.)





Getting Crafty

Courage Necklace

What Each Child Needs

plastic letter beads thin plastic cord scissors

plastic pony beads in various colors

- 1. Sort through the letter beads to find all the letters for "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS." Lay the beads out in word order. Cut a 24-inch (61 cm) length of plastic cord.
- 2. To start the necklace, tie the cord around one pony bead in a knot so the beads won't slip off. Begin stringing the beads as desired. (Optional: Form a pattern with different colored beads.) Use a colored bead as a spacer between each word.
- 3. Tie the end of the necklace to the first bead securely. (Optional: Wear necklaces as a reminder of how to have courage.)

Getting Crafty

Cross Plaque

What Each Child Needs

handful of small pebbles

3/4 cup (180 ml) of plaster of paris

1/4 cup (60 ml) of water

plastic or paper cup

plastic spoon

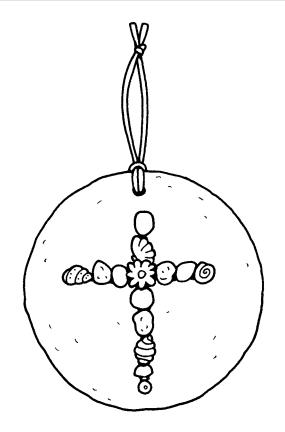
small plastic plate

optional—leaves, twigs, dried

flowers, nuts or seashells,

sharp pencil or scissors,

ribbon



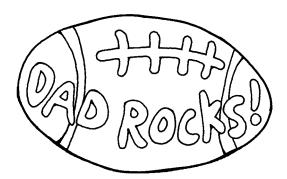
- 1. Wash and dry the pebbles. Set them aside.
- 2. Mix plaster of paris and water in a plastic cup with a plastic spoon for easy clean up. The consistency should be slightly runny, but not watery. Add more plaster of paris or water as needed.
- 3. With an adult's help, pour the plaster mixture onto the plastic plate. Place the pebbles in the plaster in the shape of a cross. (Optional: Use leaves, twigs, dried flowers, nuts or seashells to create a more detailed picture.)
- 4. Let the plaster dry completely. Depending on the consistency of the plaster, drying time is about 30 minutes. When it is completely dry, carefully remove it from the plate. (Optional: When the plaster is almost dry, use a sharp pencil or scissors to create a hole at the top of the plaque. String a ribbon through the hole and hang it on the wall.)

Getting Crafty

Dad Rocks! Paper Weight

What Each Child Needs

3- to 4-inch (7.5- to 10-cm) rock acrylic paint in various colors paintbrushes in various sizes spray sealer



- 1. Think of someone (dad, grandpa, uncle, teacher, coach) to whom you want to give a special gift.
- 2. Look at your rock. What object does it remind you of? What do you want to turn your rock into? You might try a football, basketball, bug, dog or dinosaur.
- 3. Paint your rock however you want to make it look like the object you thought of. Take your time and be creative!
- 4. On one side of the rock, paint the words "(Dad) Rocks!" Use the name of the person to whom you are giving your gift.
- 5. Let paint dry completely. With an adult's help, spray with sealer. The sealer will keep your rock from chipping or getting ruined if anything spills on it.
- 6. Give the gift to the special person you want to honor.

Getting Crafty

Decoupage Vase

What Each Child Needs

old magazines

scissors

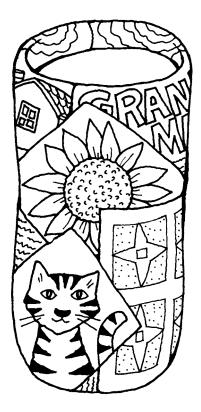
water

glue

plastic bowl

paint brush

empty water bottle with the top cut off spray sealer



- 1. Think of an adult to whom you want to give a special gift (mom, dad, teacher, grandma).
- 2. Search through old magazines and cut out pictures of things that this person likes. Also look for words and phrases that describe the person.
- 3. Mix one part water with two parts glue in a plastic bowl. Paint a layer of glue over a small section of the water bottle. Place one of the pictures or words on the bottle and smooth out. Paint another layer of glue over the picture to secure in place. Repeat process until the bottle is covered with pictures or words.
- 4. With an adult's help, after vase is dry, coat with a sealer spray to protect it from water. (Optional: Put flowers in the vase before giving it as a gift.)



Don't Miss the Party!

**** ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Micah 5:2, Matthew 25:13, John 1:9-11



Overview

Only God knew when Jesus would be born, and only He knows when Christ will return.



What You Need

- * construction paper
- * markers
- ★ birthday party invitation, Bulletin Insert or Publicity Postcard, page 192
- ★ beanbag
- pictures of innkeeper, Bible-time townspeople, shepherds and wise men
- ★ Bible





Preparation

If you are planning a Celebration for Jesus' Birthday at your church, present this lesson prior to the event. Reserve a completed Bulletin Insert or Publicity Postcard to use for the lesson. Otherwise, complete a birthday party invitation using information for your church's Christmas Eve service in place of the party information. On a piece of construction paper, write, "God's Party! Savior to be born in Bethlehem. Please come! Micah 5:2." Place markers at Micah 5:2, Matthew 25:13 and John 1:9-11 in your Bible.



Presentation

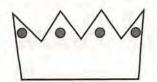
- Have the children sit in a semi-circle around you. Toss the beanbag to the first
 participant and ask, When is your birthday? Let the child respond with the date or
 month of his or her birthday, and toss the beanbag back. Continue through the group
 until everyone has shared. Say, It's important to know special dates so you can
 plan to celebrate.
- 2. Say, Jesus has a birthday, too. When do we celebrate it? (on Christmas; on December 25)
- 3. Bring out the completed Bulletin Insert, Publicity Postcard or completed party invitation. Say, We are having a special birthday party for Jesus, and you are invited. When will the party take place? Allow the children to respond. Help them refer to the insert, postcard or invitation for correct information. Say, Yes, it is important to know the date and time of the party so you can make sure to come.
- 4. Say, In Bible times, God told the people that He was sending them a ruler. The Savior was to be born in Bethlehem. But God didn't tell the people the date and time of the Savior's arrival. Read Micah 5:2.
- 5. Hold up the construction paper announcement. Say, God told the people where His

continued on next page...

special party was going to take place. But He didn't tell the people when it would happen.

- 6. Say, This was confusing for the people. It can be hard to wait and wait and wait for a party, especially if you don't know when it will be. Allow the children to respond. Say, Many people were discouraged. Some gave up waiting. By the time Jesus was born, most people weren't looking for Him. They weren't expecting Him to come anytime soon. Read John 1:9-11.
- 7. Hold up the pictures of the innkeeper and townspeople. Say, These people didn't recognize Jesus. They missed the party!
- 8. Hold up pictures of the shepherds and wise men. Say, But some people were paying attention to God. They recognized Jesus was the new ruler. How? (they were alert; the angel told them; God sent them to Bethlehem) Say, Yes, they believed God. They were the first ones to see the Savior. They got to go to the party!
- 9. Say, The Bible tells us that Jesus is coming back to earth again. We don't want to miss the party!
- 10. Read Matthew 25:13. Say, We don't know when Jesus is coming again. But God tells us we can be ready. What instructions does He give us? (watch; pay attention; be on the alert; be prepared)
- 11. Say, Let's pray together. Have the children bow their heads. Say, God, thank You that You sent Jesus to earth for us. We want to be ready to meet Him when He comes again. Help us live for You. Help us listen to You. Help us to pay attention to You and Your Word. We don't want to miss the party! In Jesus' name, amen.
- 12. If time allows, have the children make invitations to your Celebration for Jesus' Birthday with construction paper and markers. Encourage them to share their invitations with their friends.





Escape to Egypt

* * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Joseph, Mary and Jesus flee from Judea / Matthew 2:13-15



Overview

This obstacle course is a reminder that Jesus and His family fled to Egypt for safety during the reign of King Herod.



Helpers: 2

one person to give instructions, monitor the players and award the prizes

one person to time the players



What You Need

- ★ assorted tables, chairs, large boxes, Hula Hoops® and pillows
- ☆ flashlight
- * masking tape or chalk
- * stopwatch or watch with second hand
- * prizes



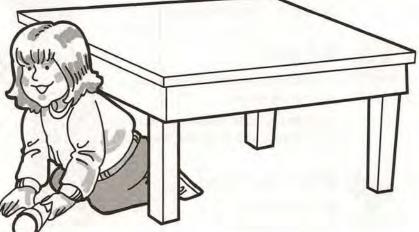
Preparation

Set up an obstacle course in the play area so the children can crawl under tables, climb over chairs, wriggle through large boxes, hop through consecutive hoops and jump on pillows. Close the curtains or blinds in the play area to make it as dark as possible. Mark a start line and a finish line with masking tape or chalk.



What to Do

- 1. Have the children line up behind the start line. Say, King Herod was looking for baby Jesus and wanted to hurt Him. So God told Joseph to leave Bethlehem with Mary and baby Jesus and take them to Egypt instead. The family left Bethlehem at night so they wouldn't be noticed.
- 2. Give the first player a flashlight. Explain that the object of the game is to escape from Bethlehem in Judea (the starting line) and travel to Egypt (the finish line) as quickly as possible.
- 3. At your signal, the first player should move through the obstacles. If desired, use a stopwatch or watch with a second hand to calculate the player's time.
- 4. When the player crosses the finish line, say, You have escaped safely to Egypt! Let's give thanks to God.
- 5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 for each player.
- 6. Each player should receive a prize.



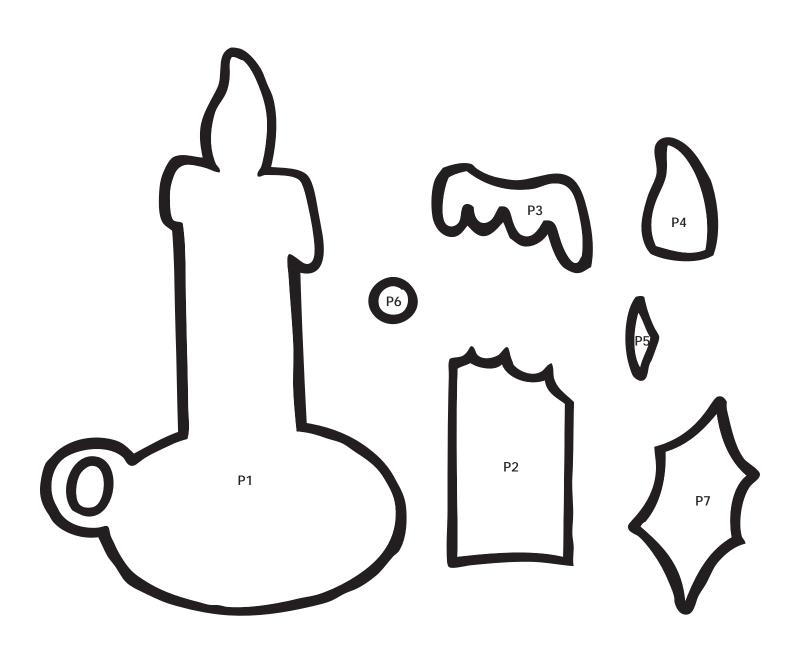
PG 80_CANDLE

Photo



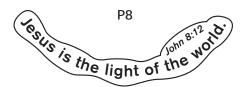
PG 80_CANDLE

Pattern



PG 80_CANDLE

Scripture label



EBL SL Party Information Page 47

PG 80_CANDLE

Try it Out!

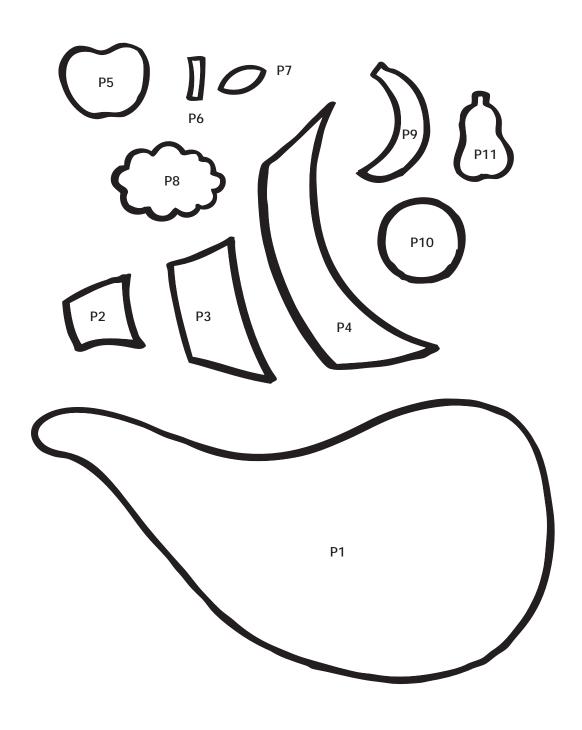
Materials: all materials listed on page 80 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus the following: hole punch, ornament hook, gold glitter glue

Turn this craft into a sparkling ornament by outlining the flame with gold glitter glue. Punch a hole through the top of the flame and attach an ornament hook through the hole.

Photo



Pattern



Scripture label



Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 76 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus the following: brown craft foam, hole punch, paper fasteners

Turn this craft into a holiday napkin ring! Cut a 1" x 3" strip of brown craft foam. Glue the craft to the center of the strip. Wrap the strip in a ring and attach the ends using paper fasteners. Insert a napkin through the ring and use this enhanced craft for the holidays!



PG 53_CROSS

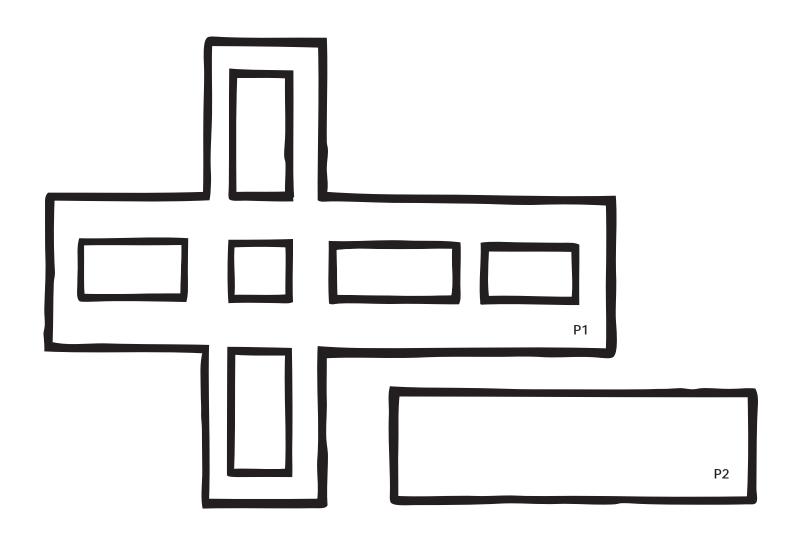
Photo



New Testament Crafts

PG 53_CROSS

Pattern



New Testament Crafts

PG 53_CROSS

Scripture label

Р3



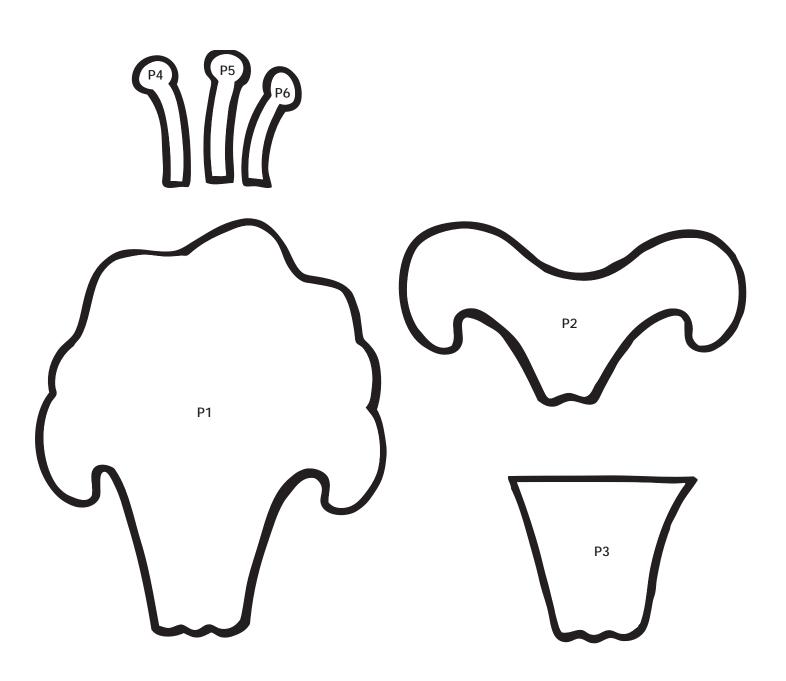
PG 70_LILY

Photo



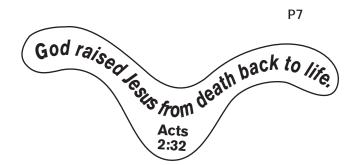
PG 70_LILY

Pattern



PG 70_LILY

Scripture label



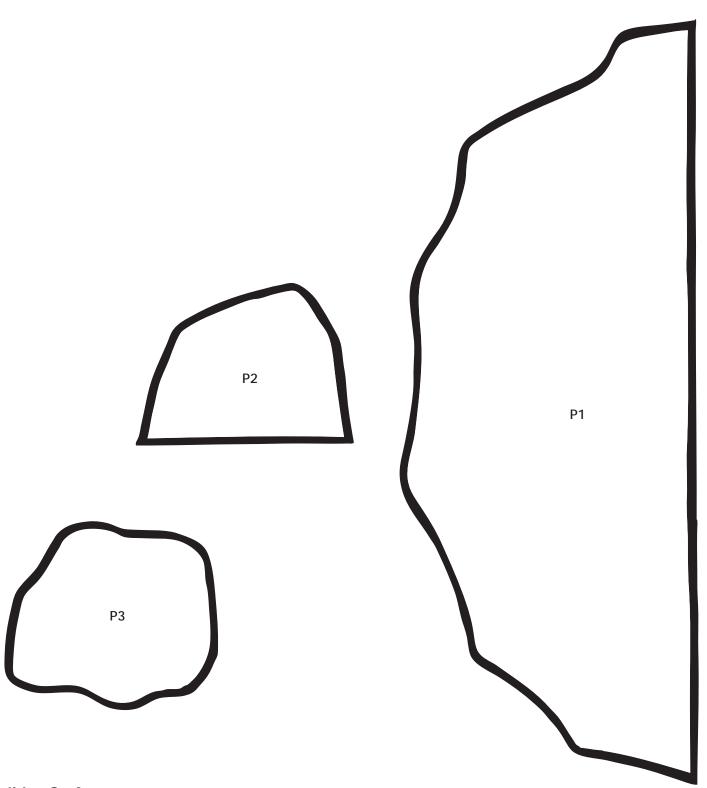
PG 69_OPEN TOMB

Photo



PG 69_OPEN TOMB

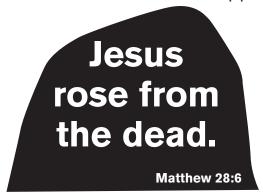
Pattern



PG 69_OPEN TOMB

Scripture label

P4



EBL SL Party Information Page 61

PG 69_OPEN TOMB

Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 69 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus green felt and gray copy paper

Add texture to this craft! Cut a strip of green felt to look like grass and glue it to the front of the craft. (See the *Try it Out!* tip for the Neighbor's House craft on pages 44, 45 for an example of this technique.) Crumple gray copy paper and glue it over P3 to look like real stone.

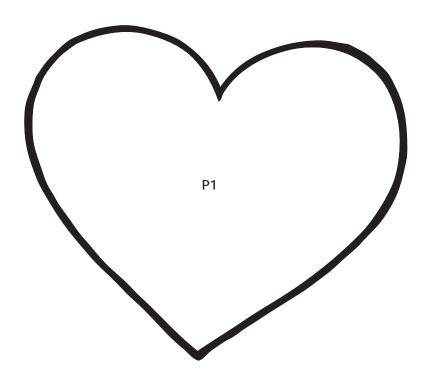
PG 68_HANGING HEARTS

Photo



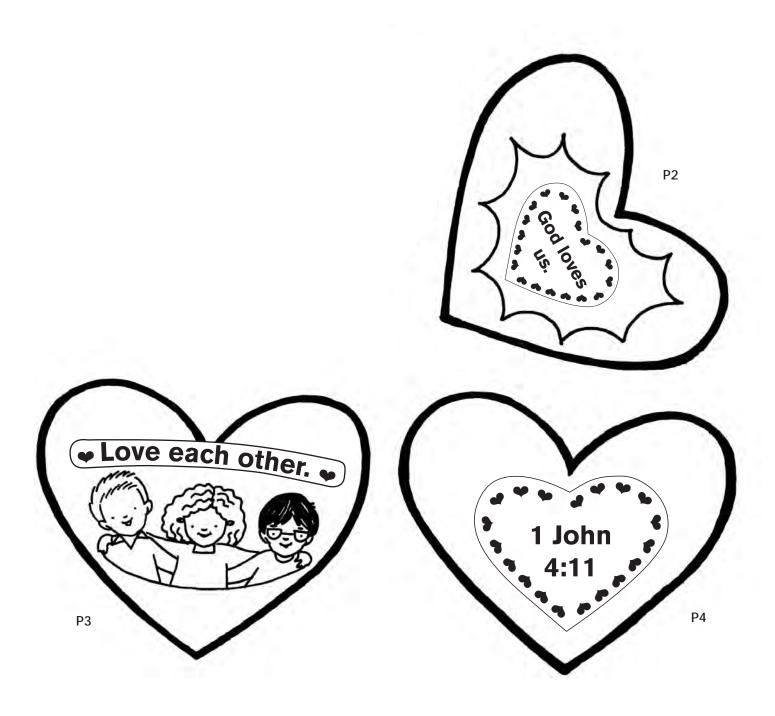
PG 68_HANGING HEARTS

Pattern



PG 68_HANGING HEARTS

Scripture label



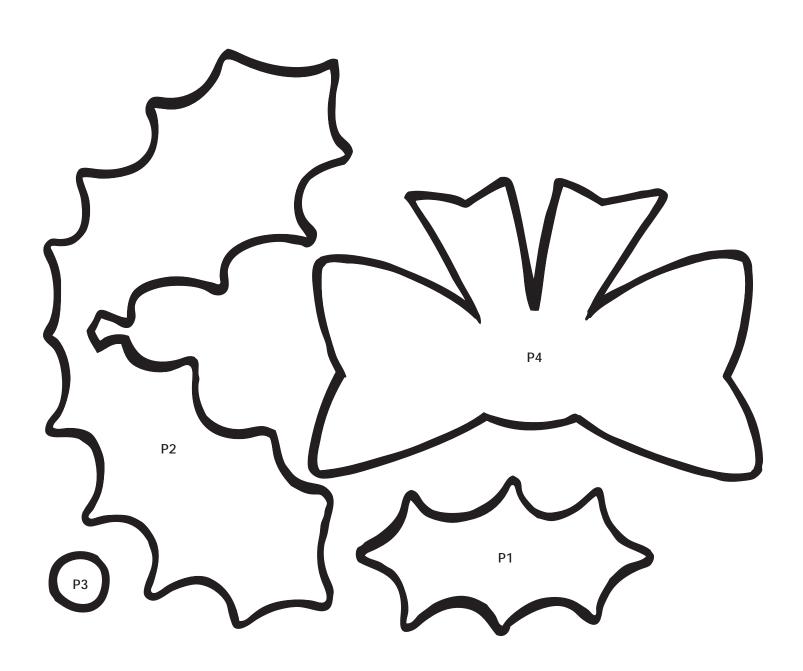
PG 79_HOLLY WREATH

Photo



PG 79_HOLLY WREATH

Pattern



PG 79_HOLLY WREATH

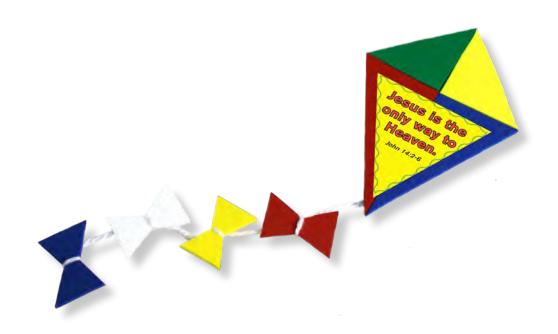
Scripture label

P5



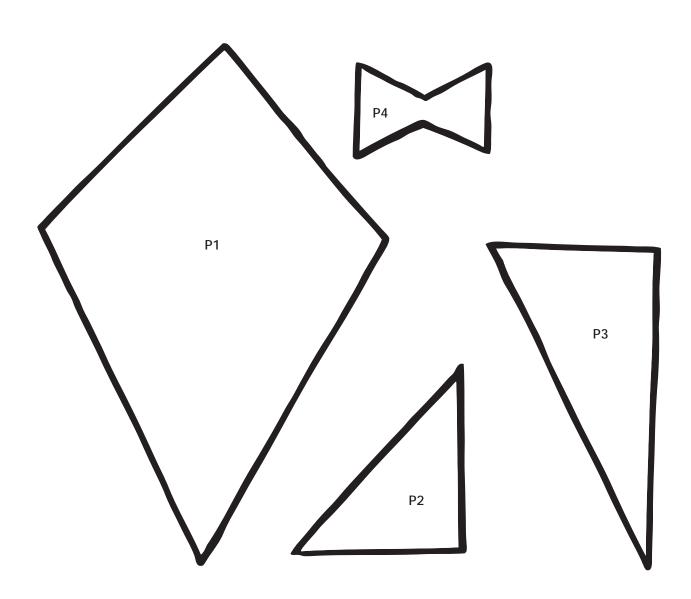
PG 56_KITE

Photo



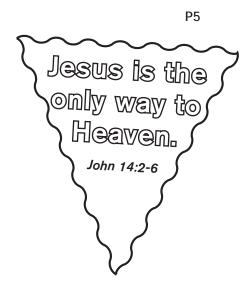
PG 56_KITE

Pattern



PG 56_KITE

Scripture label



EBL SL Party Information Page 71

PG 56_KITE

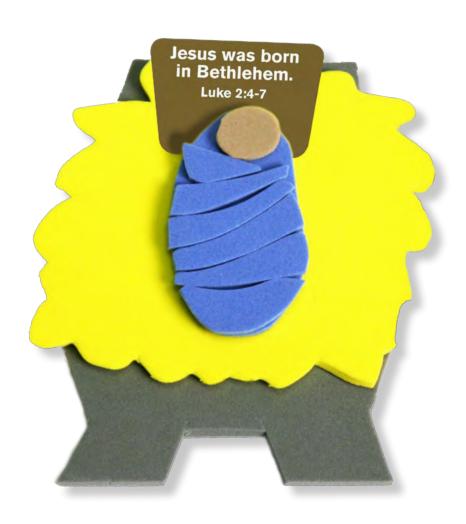
Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 56 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus various colors of fabric

Instead of using craft foam, tie various colors of fabric to the tail of the kite.

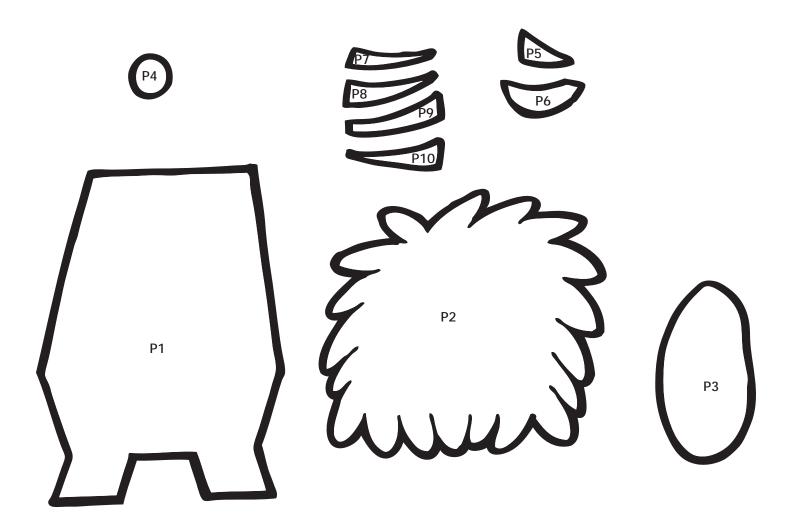
PG 77_MANGER

Photo



PG 77_MANGER

Pattern



PG 77_MANGER

Scripture label

P11

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Luke 2:4-7

EBL SL Party Information Page 75

PG 77_MANGER

Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 77 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus light brown craft raffia

Create a realistic-looking bed of straw using craft raffia. Assemble the craft following the instructions above. Then glue small strips of raffia around the figure of the baby.

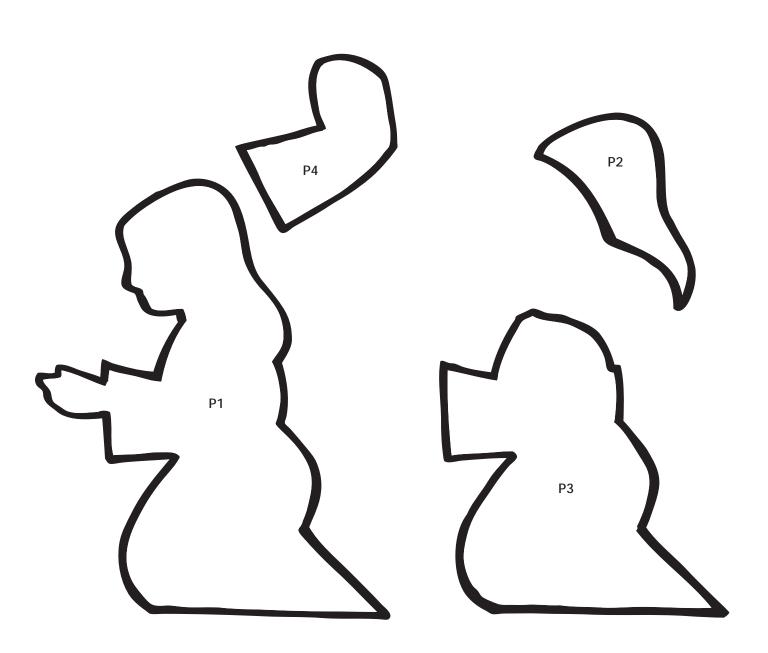
PG 49_MARY

Photo



PG 49_MARY

Pattern



PG 49_MARY

Scripture label

P5

An angel told Mary that she would give birth to God's Son. Luke 1:30-33

EBL SL Party Information Page 79

PG 49_MARY Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 49 of Foam Craft Fun plus tan and/or blue fabric

Adhere fabric to the garment and head covering portions of this craft for a textured

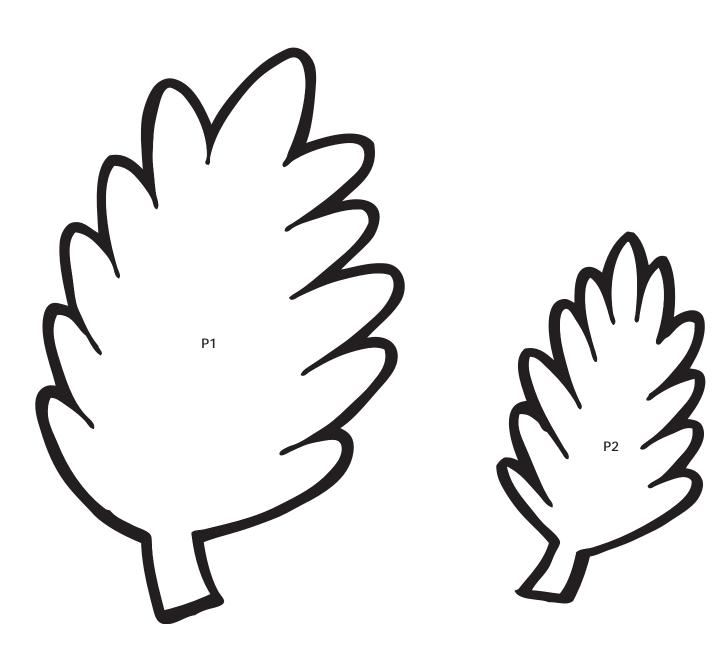
PG 43_PALM BRANCH NECKLACE

Photo



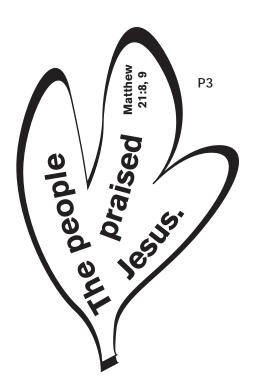
PG 43_PALM BRANCH NECKLACE

Pattern



PG 43_PALM BRANCH NECKLACE

Scripture label



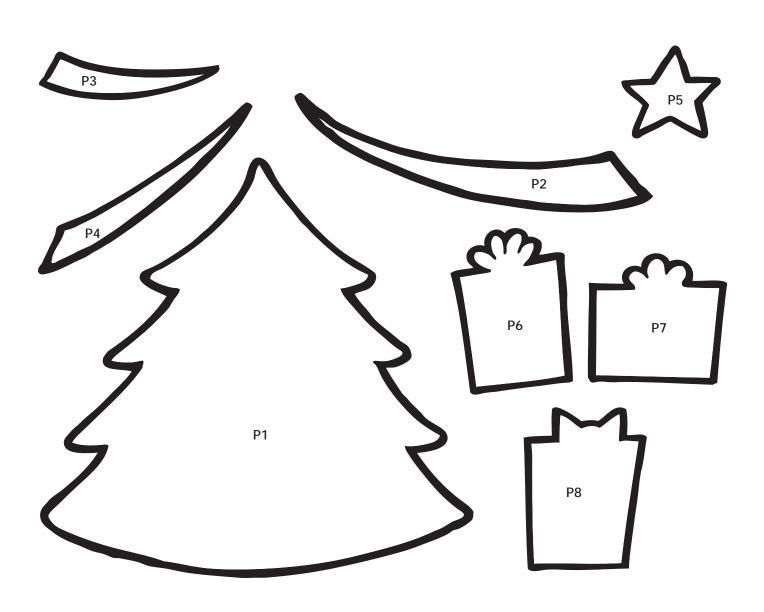
PG 78_PINE TREE

Photo



PG 78_PINE TREE

Pattern



PG 78_PINE TREE

Scripture label

Р9

Wise men gave Jesus gifts and worshipped him.

Matthew 2:11

EBL SL Party Information Page 86

PG 78_PINE TREE

Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 78 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus a tree-shaped, pine-scented automotive air freshener and Christmas-print wrapping paper

Add more color and a pine scent to this craft! Attach an automotive air freshener (pine scented) to the back of this craft. You may need to cut the air freshener down to size to fit. Cover P6-8 in Christmas-print wrapping paper.

PG 87_PUMPKIN

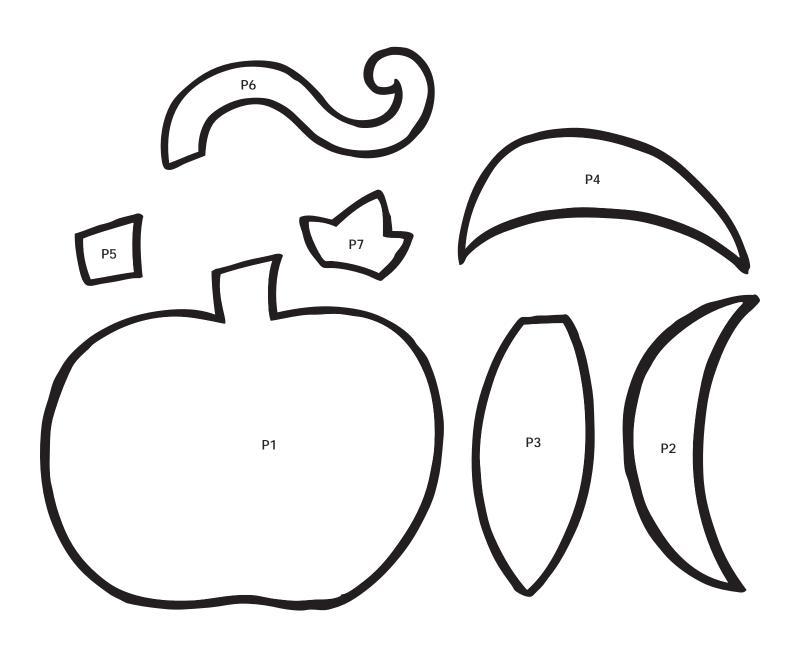
Photo



Seasonal Crafts

PG 87_PUMPKIN

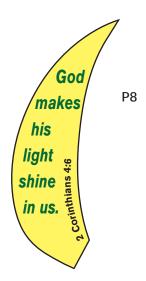
Pattern



Seasonal Crafts

PG 87_PUMPKIN

Scripture label



EBL SL Party Information Page 90

PG 87_PUMPKIN

Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 87 of Foam Craft Fun plus fall print paper

Turn this craft into a candle wrap. Cut fall print paper to the desired size for creating a wrap to fit a candle of your choice. Then attach the pumpkin craft to the paper wrap. Display this craft throughout the fall season!

PG 50_SHEPHERD

Photo



PG 50_SHEPHERD

Pattern



PG 50_SHEPHERD

Scripture label

Р9

An angel told shepherds that a Savior had been born.

Luke 2:10, 11

EBL SL Party Information Page 94

PG 50_SHEPHERD

Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 50 of Foam Craft Fun plus red and/or brown fabric

Adhere fabric to the garment and head covering portions of this craft for a textured effect

PG 88_SNOWMAN

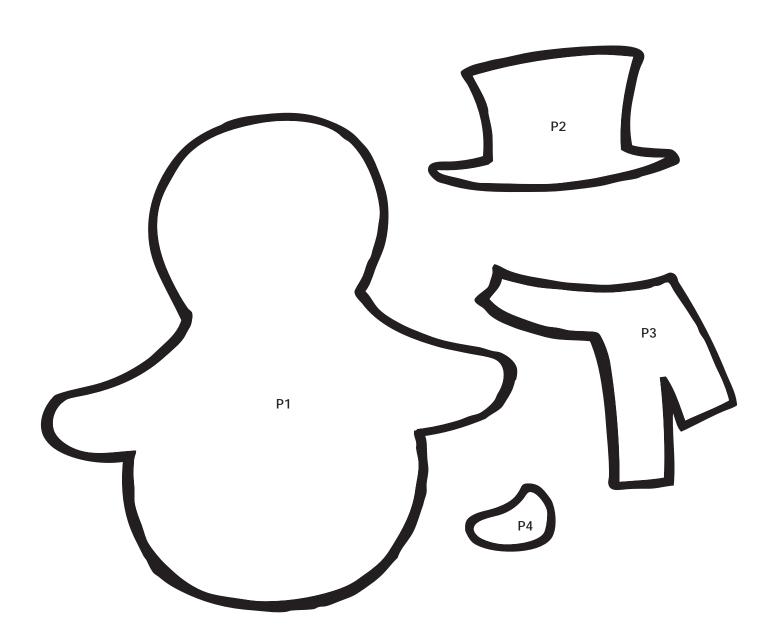
Photo



Seasonal Crafts

PG 88_SNOWMAN

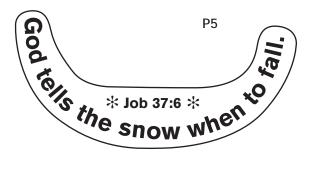
Pattern



Seasonal Crafts

PG 88_SNOWMAN

Scripture label



EBL SL Party Information Page 98

PG 88_SNOWMAN

Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 88 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus black and green felt and 2 small black buttons

Add texture and dimension to this craft! Glue black felt to the hat and green felt to the scarf. Glue two small black buttons to the snowman's tummy.

Photo



Holiday Crafts

Pattern



Holiday Crafts

Scripture label

I thank
God when I
remember
you!

Philippians 1:3

Try it Out!

Materials: all materials listed on page 71 of *Foam Craft Fun* plus a recipe card and a spring clothespin

Make this craft into a standing recipe-card holder! Instead of an adhesive-backed magnet, glue a spring clothespin to the back of the craft with the closed end facing up and the open end even with the bottom edge of the craft. Then write a favorite recipe (perhaps one that a mother or grandmother in your family has handed down) on a recipe card. Clip the recipe card into the spring clothespin behind the teapot.



Holiday Crafts

PG 81_TULIP

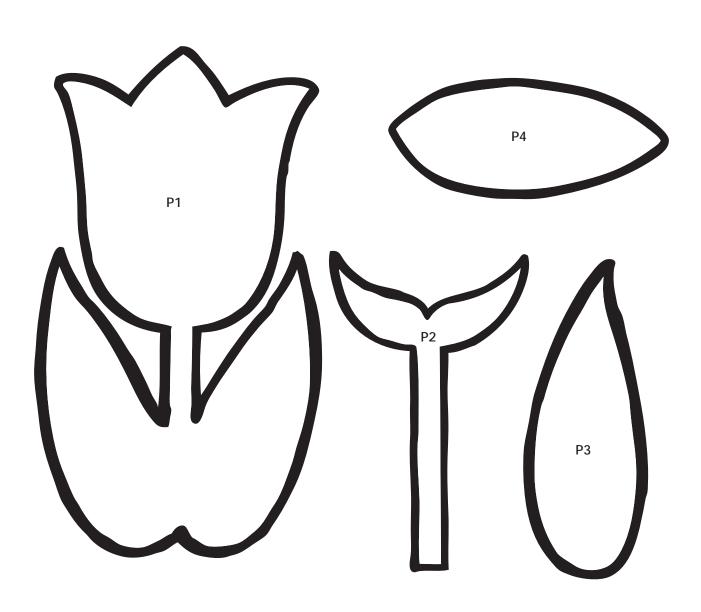
Photo



Seasonal Crafts

PG 81_TULIP

Pattern



Seasonal Crafts

PG 81_TULIP

Scripture label



Lesson 37

Getting Crafty

Forgiveness Backpack Buddy

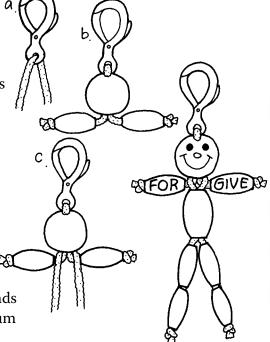
What Each Child Needs

two 12-inch (30.5-cm) pieces of chenille wire medium-size metal lobster claw variety of round and oval-shaped wooden beads scissors

fine-tipped permanent marker

What Each Child Does

- 1. Thread one end of chenille wire through the small hole at the base of the metal lobster claw (see sketch a). Make sure the chenille wire is equal length. Thread both ends of the chenille wire through a large or medium round-shaped wooden bead for the head.
- 2. Separate the two pieces of chenille wire and thread one small oval-shaped wooden bead to one piece of the chenille wire. Thread another small oval-shaped wooden bead through the other piece of chenille wire to make arms. Tie knots in both ends of chenille wire to secure the beads (see sketch b). Cut off excess chenille wire.
- 3. Use second piece of chenille wire to loop around wire in between arms. Make sure the chenille wire is equal length after looping around arms (see sketch c). Thread both ends of the chenille wire through a medium oval-shaped wooden bead to serve as the torso.
- 4. Separate the two pieces of chenille wire. Thread two small oval-shaped wooden beads (use the same size beads you used for the arms) through one end of chenille wire. Thread two more small oval-shaped wooden beads through the other piece of chenille wire. Tie knots in both ends of chenille wire to secure the beads. Cut off excess chenille wire.
- 5. Use a fine tipped marker to write "Forgive" across the arms of the Forgiveness Backpack Buddy. Clip the Forgiveness Backpack Buddy to your backpack to remind you to forgive others.



Forgiveness Frenzy

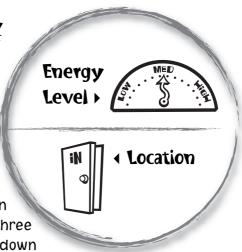
Bible Focus > Luke 19:1-10

Materials

Bibles, markers, index cards, children's music CD and player, stopwatch or watch with second hand.

Preparation

Print the word "forgive" on index cards, one letter on each card. Make at least one set of cards for every three to six students. Mix up all cards and place them facedown in a large circle on the floor.



Lead the Game

- 1. Let's play a game to celebrate the fact that God's forgiveness is for everyone!
- 2. Students form teams of three to six students. Assign a name or number to each team. Members from all teams stand in mixed-up order around the circle of cards.
- 3. As you play music, students walk around the circle. Stop the music after 15 or 20 seconds. When the music stops, each student picks up the card closest to him or her and finds other team members. Team members compare cards collected, keeping cards with letters needed to spell "forgive" and placing duplicate cards facedown back in the circle. Add blank cards to the circle as needed so that there is always a card for each student.
- 4. When one or more teams have collected a complete set of cards to spell "forgive," ask one or more of the Discussion Questions below. Repeat game as time allows.

Options

- 1. Students prepare cards in class.
- 2. If you have fewer than six students in your class, students form pairs or play individually.
- 3. For older students, add a few cards with letters not used in "forgive" (s, m, b, etc.).

- 1. What are some things people might think they have to do to be forgiven? (Go to church. Read their Bibles.) Those are all good things to do, but who does Acts 10:43 say can have their sins forgiven? (Anyone who asks God for forgiveness of sin and who believes in Jesus.)
- 2. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? (To believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He died to take the punishment for our sins.)
- 3. How can we be sure our sins are forgiven? (God always keeps His promises.)

Fruit of the Spirit Toss

Bible Focus > Galatians 5:22-23

Materials

Bibles, balloons in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors, permanent markers, masking tape, two bedsheets.

Preparation

Inflate balloons. Print one fruit of the Spirit on each balloon. Tape each set of balloons to a wall, several feet apart. Spread bedsheets on the floor across the room, one opposite each group of balloons. Inflate a few extra balloons to give to students if balloons pop.



1. Learning the qualities of the fruit of the Spirit will help you to be a better friend to others.

2. Divide class into teams of up to 10 players each. Teams stand in lines, with the first players next to the balloons and last players near the sheets.

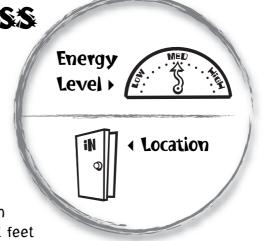
3. At your signal, the first player on each team takes a balloon off the wall, removes tape and bats it to the next player in line. Players bat the balloon down the line, with the last player batting it onto the sheet. Meanwhile, the first player picks another balloon and passes it down the line. If a balloon pops, give the student last holding it another balloon and quickly write the popped

balloon's word on it. The first team to have all its balloons on their sheet wins.

Option

After all the balloons are on their team's sheet, students pick up the balloons and arrange themselves in the Galatians 5:22-23 verse order.

- 1. The Bible calls these the fruit of the Spirit because they are qualities that God grows in us as we become more like Jesus. How can these qualities help you be a better friend?
- 2. What are some ways to show these qualities to kids older than you? Younger than you?
- **3. What fruit quality do you need most?** Tell an example before asking for students' responses.



Full of Life

Bible Focus > Mark 16:1-7

Materials

Bibles, five large sheets of paper, markers, masking tape, small slips of paper, paper bag, pencils.

Preparation

On large sheets of paper, print the following sentence starters, one sentence starter on each paper: "I can follow Jesus by ...," "I'm glad Jesus is alive because ...," I want to praise God by ...," "I thank God for His Son because ...,"

"I will celebrate Jesus' resurrection by . . . " Attach large sheets of paper to a wall. Place markers near papers. On small slips of paper print different ways to move ("crabwalk," "skip," "hop on one foot," "walk backwards," "crawl," etc.). Place slips of paper in a bag.

Lead the Game

- 1. Distribute blank slips of paper and pencils to students. Students choose one of the sentence starters and write or draw sentence completion on their papers.
- 2. Students line up across from large sheets of paper. First student picks a slip of paper from the bag you prepared, reads it, places it back in the
 - bag and moves in that manner to the paper with the sentence starter matching the one he or she completed. Student writes or draws his or her sentence completion on the large piece of paper and then continues movement back to the line. Next student repeats the process.
- 3. When all students have completed the activity, ask the Discussion Questions.

- 1. Why was Jesus the only One who could take the punishment for our sins? (Jesus is the only person who never sinned. He is the One God promised to send.)
- 2. When we choose to become members of God's family, what does He give us? (Forgiveness for our sins. Eternal life.)
- 3. What are some ways we remember Jesus' death and celebrate His resurrection? (Thank Jesus for His love. Sing special songs. Celebrate Easter with our church families at special worship services.)
- 4. How does your family celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Eastertime?





Gabriel Macaroni Pin

**** AGES 7-12

Bible Reference: Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Mary / Luke 1:26-38



Overview

The children will make a clever pin from dry pasta that represents the angel Gabriel.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- * dry bow tie pasta
- * dry elbow pasta
- * 14 mm wooden craft balls
- ₩ 8 mm brass craft rings
- ★ satin craft rosettes
- * white spray paint
- ☆ craft glue
- * pin backs
- * paper plates
- * old newspapers



Preparation

Spread newspapers over your work surface. Lay out the bow tie pasta, elbow pasta and wooden craft balls. Use white spray paint to cover the pasta and balls. After they dry, turn over the pieces and repeat for the other sides. Allow the pieces to dry thoroughly. You will need two bow ties, two elbows and one wooden ball for each angel.



What to Do

- Give each child a paper plate on which to work. Show how to place one bow tie
 perpendicular to the other to create Gabriel's body and wings. Have the children glue
 the bow ties into place.
- 2. Help each child use glue to affix the elbows (arms) to Gabriel's body, and the wooden ball (head) to the top of his body. Allow the glue to dry.
- 3. Each child should use glue to attach the brass ring halo to Gabriel's head, and to place the satin rosette in the angel's hands. Allow the glue to dry.
- 4. Have each child turn Gabriel over. Show where to place a pin back. Help them attach the pin backs with glue.
- 5. As the children are working, say, The angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that she would have a baby boy. He said she should name the baby "Jesus." He told her that Jesus would be the Savior of the world!



- * Make sure to label rest rooms.
- * Encourage movement. When lines get too long, offer guests the option to try something else first. Say, "We need a few more people to play Camels and Donkeys. Would you like to join us, and then come back to make a gift for your mom when it's less crowded here?"



Decorations

If your church usually decorates for Christmas, some of your decoration work for this party will be done for you! If you're not sure what kinds of decorations your church will provide, ask your pastor or church secretary so you don't duplicate efforts.

Secure permission to add special accents for your celebration. Choose decorations that reinforce the season: Christmas trees, greenery (fresh or artificial), wreaths and swags. Borrow winter props from congregation members, such as sleds, ice skates, snowsuits, boots, scarves and hats. Hang a series of Christmas stockings along a hallway. Twinkling lights can sparkle on trees and outline doorways and windows. Ideas for **Decorations** you can make are on pages 34-42. Decorations that adults or kids can make for your celebration or to take home are on pages 49-62.

Complement theme parties with these special touches:

** A Birthday Party for Jesus. Balloons and crepe paper streamers will highlight the fact that Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Inflate and knot balloons, tie on curling ribbon tails, assemble the balloons in bunches and attach to railings, chair backs and table legs. Twist, hang and tape crepe paper streamers in doorways. Loop streamers across ceilings. Distribute party noisemakers with registration packets. Make and post a "Happy Birthday Jesus!" Banner (page 36).

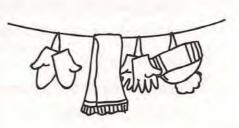


* Hanging the Greens. Because decorating will be the main activity at this party, preparation is easy. Simply assemble what you will need: decoration supplies (from the activities you choose on pages 158-160), Christmas lights, fresh greenery, garden shears, gardening gloves, sturdy wire and ladders. Set up Christmas trees ahead of time. Figure out where decorations are to be placed.

* Santa's Gift Shop. Collect assorted empty boxes. Wrap them in Christmas gift wrap, add ribbons and bows, and pile the packages beneath Christmas trees.

Have your workers wear red stocking "elf" hats with white trim. Hang **Sparkling Snowflakes** (page 38) from ceilings.

* Christmas Caroling Party. String mittens, gloves and hats along hallways and in doorways. Hang Sing, Sing, Sing! notes (page 37) from ceilings. Spray artificial snow around windowpanes and place electric candles on windowsills. Set out Luminaries for the Light of the World (page 56) along outdoor walkways.





*An Epiphany Party. Decorate with a "royalty" theme. Purchase a long length of inexpensive red fabric and lay it near your entrance or registration table so guests can "walk the red carpet." Gather containers of different shapes and cover them with aluminum foil or gold gift wrap. Group these "gifts" in different areas around your set-up. String small white lights across ceilings to resemble starry skies. Cut out stars from metallic or

holographic paper and hang them from the ceilings and in doorways. Construct a **Star of Wonder** (page 39). Let guests make and wear **King's Crowns** (page 70).

Overwhelmed with making decorations? Ask women's groups, Sunday school classes, Bible clubs or teens to make some for you. Provide small goody bags of treats or candy canes as a thank-you. They will enjoy the satisfaction of contributing to one of your church's ministries – and you will have decorations for your party!

Christmas Kindness Tree

If possible, leave the Christmas Kindness Tree hanging up all season long. Members of your congregation will enjoy reading how the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of those in your community. They can also add their own anecdotes to the tree.

***What You Need**

- tree pattern, page 208
- star pattern, page 209
- 🏶 ornament pattern, page 209
- green poster board
- construction paper, assorted colors
- pencil pencil
- * markers
- clear tape
- step stool or ladder

*What to Do

1. Enlarge the tree pattern on green poster board to about 22" x 28" (see page 24 for how to



enlarge patterns). Note: Each tree will hold 20-25 bulbs. If you are having a large party with many volunteers, prepare several trees.

- 2. Cut out the tree.
- 3. Make a template of the star pattern using poster board (see page 25 for how to make pattern templates).
- 4. Trace and cut out a star from yellow construction paper.
- 5. Tape the star to the top of the tree.
- 6. Use markers to draw garlands as shown on the tree. Decorate the garlands with the words from Galatians 5:22-23: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
- 7. Use markers to write "Gifts from God" on the tree trunk and stand.
- 8. Tape the Christmas Kindness Tree to a wall in a prominent location.
- 9. Make a template of the ornament pattern using poster board.
- 10. Trace and cut out ornaments from various colors of construction paper.
- 11. As volunteers and guests arrive for your party, give each one an ornament. Say, Think of a situation where you saw someone demonstrate one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Review the list that is printed on the tree: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Have volunteers and guests use markers to record one observation per ornament. Let them attach ornaments to the tree with clear tape. Let them complete as many ornaments as they wish.
- 12. Leave a basket of extra ornaments, markers and tape next to the tree so people can add to it throughout the party.

"Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Banner

*What You Need

- poster paper
- construction paper, assorted colors
- pencil *
- * markers
- ruler or yardstick
- 🅸 scissors
- a craft glue
- a clear tape
- * step stool or ladder



*What to Do

- 1. Measure the wall where you want to place your banner. Cut a piece of newsprint or shelf paper that length.
- 2. With a pencil, sketch "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" onto the banner.
- 3. Trace over the lettering with markers.
- 4. Cut construction paper into 1" squares.
- 5. Randomly position the squares on the banner to resemble "confetti." Glue the confetti into place. Allow the glue to dry.
- 6. Hang the banner on the wall with clear tape.

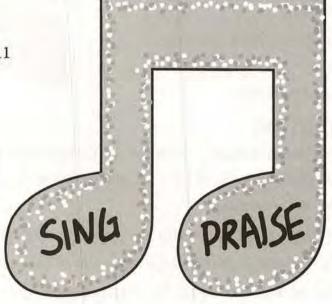
Sing, Sing, Sing!

***What You Need**

- music note patterns, pages 210-211
- poster board, assorted colors
- pencil
- a markers
- a glitter
- a craft glue
- a hole punch
- fishing line or heavy thread
- & clear tape
- step stool or ladder

*What to Do

- 1. Enlarge the music note patterns on poster board (see page 24 for how to enlarge patterns). Make them at least 12" high so they are noticeable. Metallic-colored poster board works especially well for this decoration.
- 2. Cut out the music notes.
- 3. Use a pencil to write "Sing!" "Sing to the Lord!" or "Sing praises!" on the bodies of the music notes.
- 4. Outline the letters with markers.
- 5. Decorate the notes with glitter and glue.
- 6. Punch holes in the stems of the music notes.



- 7. Cut fishing line or thread to desired lengths. Thread the line through the note holes. Knot to secure.
- 8. Use clear tape to hang the notes from the ceiling.

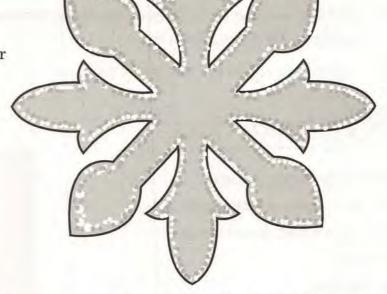
Sparkling Snowflakes

*What You Need

- snowflake pattern, page 212
- * white poster board or heavy paper
- * scissors
- 🕸 glitter
- a craft glue
- a hole punch
- fishing line or heavy thread
- a clear tape
- step stool or ladder

*What to Do

- 1. Enlarge the snowflake patterns on poster board or heavy paper. (See page 24 for how to enlarge patterns.) About 16" x 16" makes a nice size.
- 2. Cut out the snowflakes.
- 3. Decorate the snowflakes with glue and glitter. Allow to dry.
- 4. With a hole punch, make a hole in the top of each snowflake.
- 5. Cut fishing line or thread to the desired lengths (be sure they are not so low that adults will bump into them!).
- 6. Thread a strand through the hole in one of the snowflakes. Knot to secure. Repeat for the other snowflakes.
- 7. Use clear tape to hang the snowflakes from the ceiling. Make and hang as many as you want to create your own "winter wonderland." Sparkling Snowflakes are particularly beautiful when intermingled with strings of miniature white lights.





Star of Wonder

***What You Need**

- star pattern, page 209
- poster board or large piece of cardboard
- aluminum foil
- a ruler
- scissors
- a craft glue
- a clear tape
- step stool or ladder

*What to Do

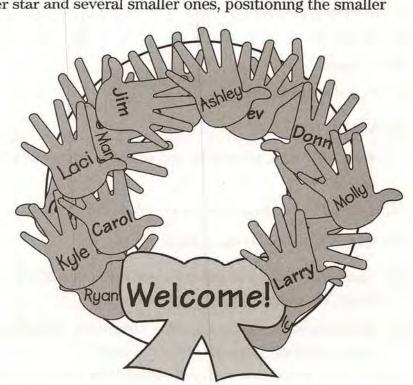
- 1. Enlarge the star pattern on poster board or a large piece of cardboard to about 22" x 28" (see page 24 for how to enlarge patterns).
- 2. Cut out the star.
- 3. Cut aluminum foil into 6" squares.
- 4. Crumple each square into a cluster.
- 5. Glue the clusters onto the star, covering it completely. Allow to dry.
- 6. Use clear tape to hang your Star of Wonder on the wall. Hang the larger stars throughout your facility. Or, make one larger star and several smaller ones, positioning the smaller stars as a "tail."

Welcome Wreath

***What You Need**

- wreath pattern, page 213
- bow pattern, page 214
- green and red poster board
- green construction paper
- pencil *
- markers
- a craft glue
- 🌞 clear tape
- step stool or ladder





*What to Do

- 1. Enlarge the wreath pattern on green poster board to about 22" x 28" (see page 24 for how to enlarge patterns). Note: Each wreath will hold 25-30 hands. If you are having a large party with many volunteers, prepare several wreaths.
- 2. Cut out the wreath.
- 3. Enlarge the bow pattern on red poster board.
- 4. Cut out the bow.
- 5. Write "Welcome" on the bow with a marker.
- 6. Glue the bow to the wreath.
- 7. Hang the wreath at shoulder height on a wall near your registration area.
- 8. Have the volunteers trace their hands on green construction paper, write their names on the hands and cut them out.
- 9. Show how to position the hands on the wreath and tape in place.
- 10. As guests arrive at the registration table, let them make their own hands to hang on the wreath. (Occasionally check the wreath to make sure names aren't covered up as new ones are added.)

Grepe Paper Gascades

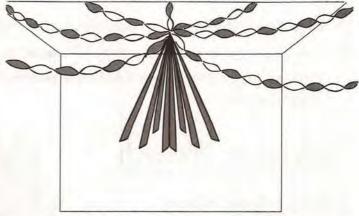
***What You Need**

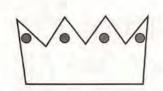
- rolls of crepe paper streamers in assorted colors
- 🌞 clear tape
- scissors
- step stool or ladder

*What to Do

- 1. With clear tape, secure the end of one streamer to the ceiling where it meets the corner and the wall.
- 2. Unravel the streamer to the center of the room.
- 3. Twist the streamer for a ripple effect.
- 4. Tape the streamer to the ceiling at the center of the room. Cut the streamer about two or three feet below this taped position.
- Repeat these steps for the other streamers, stringing them in each corner of the room and at periodic intervals along the walls.

Note: Take extra care with your balance as you tape streamers to the walls and ceiling.





Gingerbread Magi Men

*** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Magi come from the East / Matthew 2:1-2



Overview

The children will make beanbags to represent the wise men in the Christmas story.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- ☆ Gingerbread Magi Men patterns, page 226
- * poster board
- * brown and gold felt
- ★ gold braid or rickrack
- ★ sequins
- * white fabric paint
- * fabric glue
- * scissors
- * popcorn kernels
- ★ funnel with ½"-wide spout
- ☼ masking tape



Preparation

Make a template of the Gingerbread Magi Men patterns using poster board. Trace and cut out two gingerbread men from brown felt and one crown from yellow felt for each beanbag.



What to Do

- Give each child two gingerbread men and one crown. Have each child lay one of the
 felt gingerbread men on the work surface. Show where to attach the crown to the
 gingerbread man's head with fabric glue.
- Demonstrate how to pipe a bead of fabric glue around the entire outer edge of a
 gingerbread man, leaving an opening along the crown at the top of the head. Each
 child should place the second gingerbread man on top of the first and gently seal the
 edges. Allow the gingerbread men to dry.
- Help each child insert the funnel into the opening at the crown and fill the gingerbread man with popcorn kernels.
- 4. Show how to secure the top edges of the beanbags with fabric glue.
- Let the children decorate their Gingerbread Magi Men. They can cut and attach gold braid or rickrack belts and sequin buttons with fabric glue. Show how to outline the edges and add facial features with white fabric paint.
- 6. As the children are working, say, After baby Jesus was born, He had visitors. The wise men, also called "Magi," saw a special star in the sky. They followed it for many miles until they reached the stable in Bethlehem.
- 7. Have the children write their names on masking tape and stick the tapes on the backs of their Gingerbread Magi Men.
- 8. Allow the Gingerbread Magi Men to dry. The children can use their beanbags to play The Call From King Herod (page 111).



Lesson 43

Getting Crafty

God's Gift





What Each Child Needs

shoe box or other small box

scissors

3x5-inch (7.5x12.5-cm) photo of him- or herself

wrapping paper

tape

construction paper

ribbon or bow

optional—3x5-inch (7.5x12.5-cm) paper or index card, markers

What Each Child Does

- 1. Remove the lid from box and carefully cut a small rectangle in one end of the box. Fold the bottom of your picture over 1/2 inch (1.3 cm). Tape picture inside box facing the rectangle opening. (Optional: If photo is not available, child draws a picture of self on paper or index card.)
- 2. Replace the lid on box. Wrap entire box, except the opening, with wrapping paper. Make sure not to wrap opening so you can look inside and see your picture. Add a ribbon or bow on top of box.
- 3. Draw a gift tag on a sheet of construction paper. Cut out the gift tag. Write "To: God, From: (Justin)" and add your name. Tape gift tag on box lid.

Dated 9/3/2010

Lesson 9

Getting Crafty

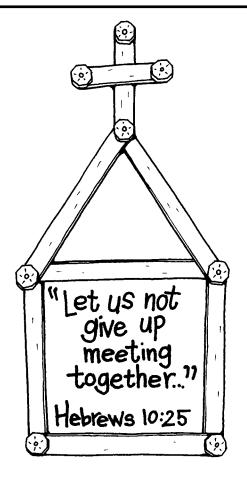
God's House Magnet

What Each Child Needs

6 craft sticks
2 half-size craft sticks
craft glue
small beads (any color and shape)

1/2 piece of card stock (any color)

marker scissors magnet



What Each Child Does

- 1. Glue four craft sticks in the shape of a square. Then glue two craft sticks to form a steeple on the top of the square.
- 2. Next, use the two small craft sticks to make a cross and glue the cross to the top of the steeple.
- 3. Glue small beads onto the craft sticks as desired. You can use a few beads or lots of beads, depending on how colorful and decorated you want the church to be.
- 4. After the glue has had a few minutes to dry, trace around the church onto a piece of card stock. Cut out the shape on the card stock paper and glue it to the back of the church. On the front side, write "Let us not give up meeting together . . . " from Hebrews 10:25.
- 5. Glue a magnet to the back of the church. Take home the magnet and stick it on your refrigerator.

Lesson 7

Getting Active

GODS LOVE

What You Need

string or yarn

scissors

stopwatch or watch with a second hand

What You Do

- 1. Cut string into varying lengths (at least two lengths for each student). Hide string in classroom or outdoor area.
- 2. Group children in two or more teams of four to five each.
- 3. At your signal, children look for and collect string, trying to find as many pieces as they can in 30 seconds.
- 4. After time is called, team members lay out end-to-end the pieces of string they have collected. Team who collected the longest length wins. Play additional rounds of this game as time permits. At the end of the game, teams use string to spell out the words "God's Love."



God's Messengers

**** ** * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Matthew 2:13-15 and Luke 1:26-35, 2:8-15



Overview

Angels are God's messengers.



What You Need

☼ instructions and materials for Tabletop Crèche (page 61), or other crèche figures

☼ Bible



Preparation

Make the Mary, Joseph, shepherds and angel figures from the Tabletop Crèche, or have other crèche figures ready. You will need more than one angel. If you plan to have the children make their own Tabletop Crèche angels, have the materials ready. Place markers at Matthew 2:13-15 and Luke 1:26-35, 2:8-15 in your Bible.



Presentation

- 1. Set an angel in front of you. Say, In Bible times, one way God communicated an extra-special piece of information was by using a messenger.
- 2. Set Mary next to the angel. Read Luke 1:26-35. Ask, Who gave Mary a message? (an angel; Gabriel) Why was the message so important? (she was going to have a baby; the Messiah was coming; God had chosen her) Set Mary aside.
- 3. Set out the shepherds and additional angels. Read Luke 2:8-15. Ask, Who gave the shepherds a message? (the angel of the Lord; a choir of angels; the heavenly host) Why was the message so important? (a Savior was born; He came for everyone, not just a few; the angels told them where to look for baby Jesus; the whole choir sang) Set the shepherds and all but one of the angels aside.
- 4. Set out Joseph next to the remaining angel. Read Matthew 2:13-15. Ask, Who gave Joseph a message? (an angel of the Lord; an angel in a dream) Why was the message so important? (Joseph, Mary and Jesus needed to escape; their lives were in danger; King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus)
- 5. Assemble Mary, Joseph and the shepherds together. Set an angel nearby. Say, God used His angels to deliver important information. Move Mary forward slightly. Say, An angel told Mary to get ready to be Jesus' mother. Move the shepherds forward slightly. Say, An angel announced Jesus' birth. Move Joseph forward. Say, An angel warned Joseph to escape to Egypt with his family. Angels are God's messengers.
- 6. Say, God speaks to us in other ways, too. He speaks through the Bible. He speaks to us in prayer.
- 7. Say, Let's pray together. Have the children bow their heads. Say, Dear God, thank You that You want to communicate with us. We are glad that You used Your messengers to speak to Mary, Joseph and the angels. Help us to hear You when You speak to us through prayer and through the Bible. In Jesus' name, amen.
- 8. If time allows, have the children make their own Tabletop Crèche angels.



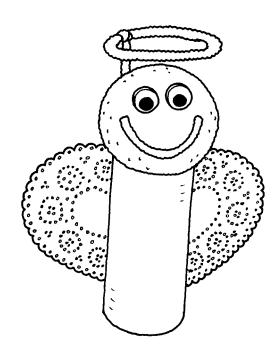
Lesson 50

Getting Crafty

Good News Angel

What Each Child Needs

toilet paper tube
white craft paint
paintbrush
yellow or gold chenille wire
red chenille wire
3-inch (7.5-cm) styrofoam ball
scissors
craft glue
two ¹/₄-inch (.6-cm) wiggly eyes
two small white heart doilies



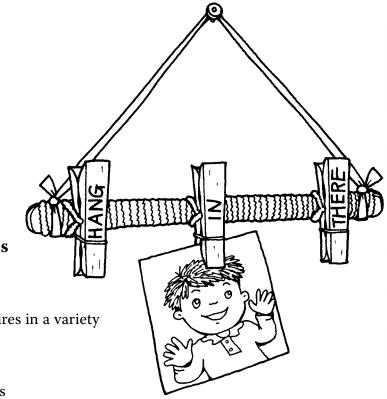
What Each Child Does

- 1. Paint toilet paper tube white. Set aside to dry.
- 2. Use the yellow or gold chenille wire to form a small halo. Leave a $1^{1/2}$ -inch (4-cm) end on the halo. Trim off any excess chenille wire. Push the end of the halo into the styrofoam ball so the halo appears to float above the ball.
- 3. With an adult's help, cut a $1^{1/2}$ inch (4-cm) piece of red chenille wire. Bend wire to form a smile. Push ends of chenille wire into the styrofoam ball and bend the smile shape to lay flat against the ball. Glue wiggly eyes in place on ball.
- 4. Spread craft glue on one side of toilet paper tube. Glue one of the heart doilies to toilet paper tube. Spread more glue over doily and overlap second doily. The hearts should extend beyond each side of toilet paper tube to form wings.
- 5. Spread craft glue around top edge of the tube. Place styrofoam ball firmly on top and allow it to dry completely. (Optional: Use angel as a Christmas tree topper to remind you that the angels told the good news about Jesus at the first Christmas.)

Lesson 27

Getting Crafty

"Hang in There" Picture Hanger



What Each Child Needs

tape

three craft sticks

approximately 15 chenille wires in a variety of colors

scissors

three spring-type clothespins

18-inch (45.5-cm) length of ribbon

What Each Child Does

- 1. With an adult's help, tape three craft sticks together to form one long stick. Do this by overlapping craft sticks about 1/2-inch (1.3-cm) and wrapping tape around sticks to secure in place.
- 2. Wrap chenille wires tightly around the long stick to create a colorful pattern.
- 3. Cut a chenille wire in half for each clothespin. Thread both pieces of chenille wire through the metal hole in the clothespin. Repeat for each clothespin. Twist the chenille wire around the long stick to secure each clothespin in place. Write "Hang in There" on the clothespins, with one word on each clothespin.
- 4. Tie one end of ribbon to one end of the long stick. Repeat on the other side with the other end of ribbon to create a hanger.
- 5. Hang up photographs or artwork by clipping them with the clothespins. The hanger will remind you and others to "Hang in There."



Happy Birthday Pin

*** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Jesus is born / Luke 2:11



This pin made from paper, craft foam and gift wrap announces Jesus' birthday.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

☼ Happy Birthday Pin patterns, page 224

- ☼ poster board
- * brightly colored paper
- * clear, adhesive-backed plastic
- ☆ craft foam
- * foil or metallic gift wrap
- ☼ 1" metal pin backs
- **₩** markers
- * craft glue
- ☆ scissors
- ₩ ruler
- * craft paint pens



Preparation

Use the Happy Birthday Pin patterns to reproduce the pin fronts on brightly-colored paper. Make templates of the Happy Birthday Pin patterns. Use the templates to trace and cut out pin backings from craft foam. On foil or metallic gift wrap, trace and cut out pin fringe borders. Cut 3" squares of adhesive-backed plastic. You will need one pin front, one pin backing, one pin fringe border and one square of adhesive-backed plastic for each pin.



What to Do

- 1. Distribute the pin fronts and markers. Tell the children to color the pin fronts as they like.
- Help the children cover the pin fronts with adhesive-backed plastic for durability. Have them trim the edges.
- 3. Give each child a pin fringe border. Show how to fringe the borders by making ½" cuts around the circle's perimeter.
- 4. Each child should glue a pin together like a sandwich, layering the fringe border on top of the foam pin backing, and the pin front on top of the fringe border.
- Have the children position metal pin backs on the foam backings and attach them with glue.
- 6. Let the children use paint pens to decorate the circular edges of the pin fronts.
- 7. Be sure the children write their names on the backs of their pins.
- 8. Say, Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Wear your pin to celebrate!
- 9. Allow the pins to dry before the children attach them to their clothing.



Lesson 5

Getting Crafty

Heart Hanger

What Each Child Needs

Bible

pencil

2 8x11-inch (20.5x28-cm) sheets of pink or other light-colored craft foam

scissors

permanent marker

stapler

cotton balls or batting

1 pipe cleaner

6 inches (15 cm) of ribbon



What Each Child Does

- 1. Using a pencil, draw a large heart shape on one sheet of craft foam. Cut out the heart and trace around it on the other sheet of craft foam. Cut out the second heart.
- 2. On one heart, use a permanent marker to write the words of 1 John 5:3. Place hearts back-to-back.
- 3. Have an adult help you staple around the edges of the hearts, leaving an opening to stuff the cotton in. After you have filled the heart with cotton, staple the opening closed.
- 4. To make the handle, poke one end of the pipe cleaner through the top edge of the heart and twist it so it won't come out of the hole. Loop the pipe cleaner over and poke it through the heart again, forming a rainbow shape over the top of the heart. Twist the end to secure it in place.
- 5. Tie a bow on the pipe cleaner with the ribbon for extra decoration.



I have taken your words to heart so I would not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11

Empower children with God's Word by encouraging them to store Scripture in their hearts. The laced heart pocket holds a heart booklet with several Scriptures for the children to learn.



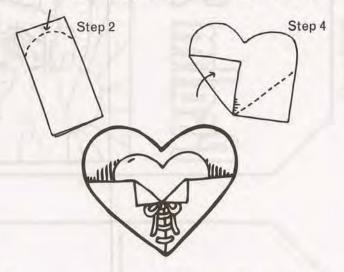
Materials Needed

- · Colorful construction paper
- Scissors
- · Paper hole punch
- · Yarn
- Heart Pocket and Scripture Heart Patterns (page 59–61)
- · Red construction paper
- · White paper
- Stapler



Directions

- 1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half.
- 2. Cut an arch along the top portion of the folded paper. (See illustration above.)
- Open up the paper on a flat surface with the arches at the top.
- Fold the lower left corner inward at a 45 degree angle, until the lower edge is flush with the center crease. (See illustration.)
- 5. Repeat step 4 for the right side.
- 6. Fold the tips of the left and right panels back as shown in the picture.
- 7. Punch three evenly spaced holes along the inside of each of the folded panels.
- 8. Cut a piece of yarn (about 8"). Lace the



- yarn through the holes of both panels to create a pocket. Tie the ends of the yarn in a bow.
- Copy the Heart Pocket pattern (page 59) and cut out. Use as a template to trace two hearts onto red construction paper and cut out.
- 10. Copy the Scripture Heart patterns (pages 60–61) onto white paper and cut out.
- 11. Stack the Scripture Hearts together and staple the top of the hearts to the top of the red construction paper heart with the red heart pattern as the booklet cover.
- 12. Place the heart booklet inside the laced heart pocket.



Praise Points

Why is it important to take God's Word to heart? Psalm 119:11 gives one reason—so we won't sin against God. How can memorizing God's Word keep us from sinning? (His Word will come to our minds to remind us of His commands.) Encourage the children to write additional verses on the blank heart pattern and record the date on which they memorized the verse.

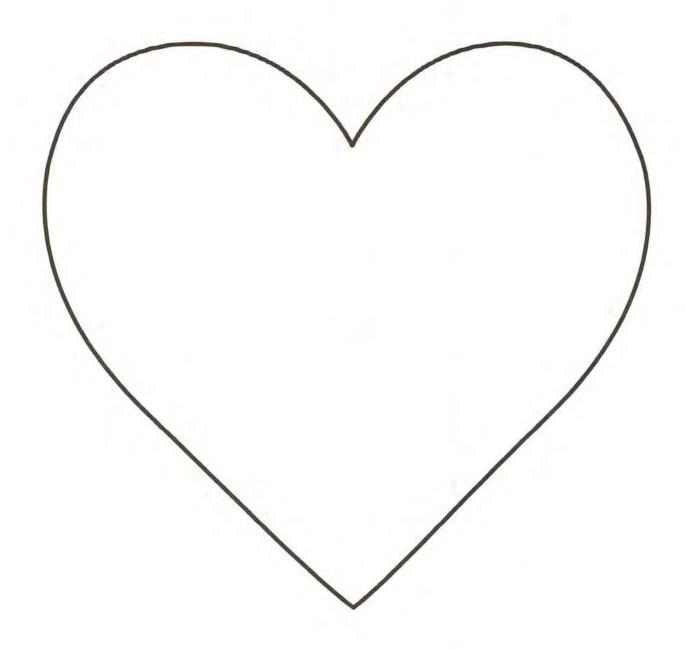


Praise Prayers

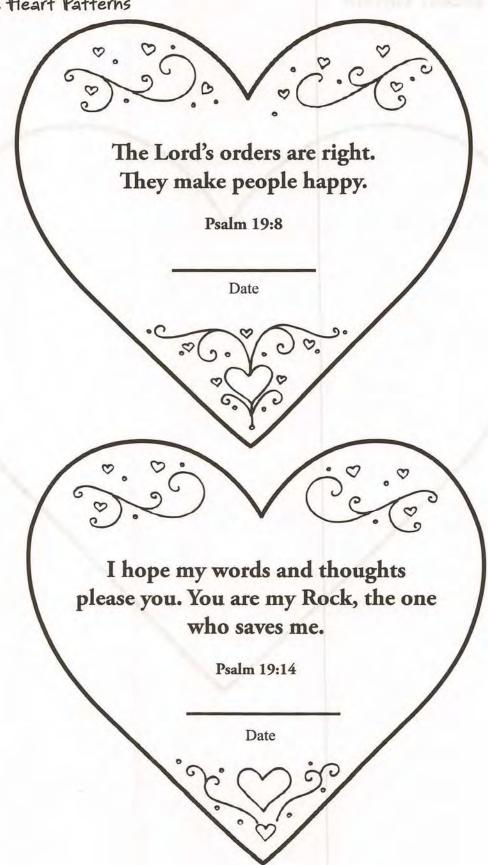
Lord, we praise You for Your Word, for it guides us and tells us how much You love us. Help us to take Your words to heart so that we may not sin against You. Amen.



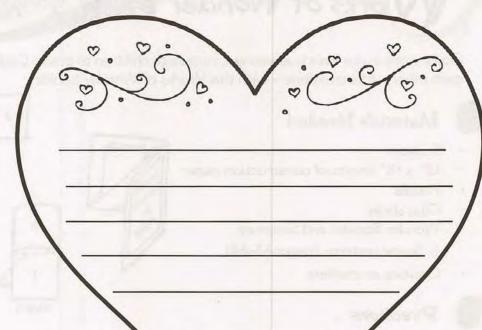
Heart Pocket Pattern



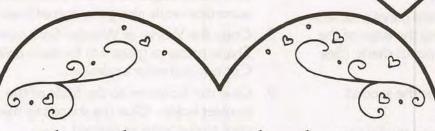
Scripture Heart Patterns



Scripture Heart & Blank Patterns

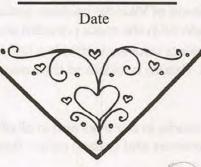


Date



I have taken your words to heart so I would not sin against you. Lord, you should be praised.

Psalm 119: 11-12



Dated 9/3/2010

Lesson 4

Getting Crafty

Heart Plaque

What Each Child Needs

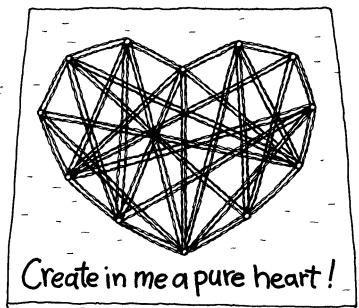
12x12-inch (30.5x30.5-cm) piece of wood at least $^{1/2}$ inch (1.3 cm) thick pencil

hammer

12 to 15 nails at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) long

3 yards (91 cm) long of yarn or embroidery thread permanent marker scissors

optional—acrylic paint, paint brush



What Each Child Does

- 1. (Optional: Paint the block of wood before you begin the project.) Using a pencil, draw a large heart shape on the block of wood. Have an adult help you pound nails about $^{1}/_{4}$ inch (.6 cm) into the wood along the pencil line heart, leaving about $^{1}/_{2}$ inches (4 cm) in between each nail.
- 2. Choose a starting nail and tie the end of the yarn tightly to the nail. Begin threading the yarn to other nails to create a pattern. As you reach each new nail, wrap the yarn tightly around the nail before moving on to the next one. Continue going back and forth between nails until you've run out of room on the nails or you've run out of yarn.
- 3. When you are finished with your pattern, tie the end of the yarn tightly to one of the nails.
- 4. Using a permanent marker, write "Create in me a pure heart!" under or around the yarn pattern.

Heipful Actions

Bible Focus > acts 11:19-30

Materials

Bibles, slips of paper, marker, paper bags, paper plates.

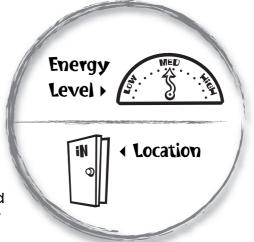
Preparation

Print the following words on slips of paper, one word on each paper: "head," "shoulder," "hand," "elbow," "knees". Prepare two sets of papers and put each set in a separate paper bag.



- 1. The people of the early church were persecuted for believing in Jesus. But they did what they could to help one another. We can also show faithfulness by using what God gives us to help others. Let's help each other play a game using the bodies God has given us!
- 2. Group students into teams of no more than eight. Students within teams form pairs. (If there is not an even number of students on each team, students repeat relay as necessary.) Teams line up in pairs on one side of the room.
- 3. Give one bag of papers and one paper plate to each team. Volunteer on each team chooses two slips of paper from his or her team's bag. Students read papers aloud. The first pair of students on each team places the paper plate between the two body parts listed on the chosen slips of paper (see sketch).
- 4. At your signal, the first pair of students on each team walks to the other side of the room and back, keeping the paper plate in position. As pairs return to teams, the next pairs position the plates in the same way and walk across the room. Relay continues until all pairs have had a turn with the plates in that position. Ask a volunteer from the team that finished first to answer one of the Discussion Questions below.
- 5. Begin a new round of the game with new pairs choosing slips of paper for their teams.

- 1. What parts of your body can you use to help other people? (Arms. Legs. Mouth. Mind.) What skills? (Skill at drawing. Skill at taking care of other kids.)
- 2. What are some ways to help other people using (your arms)? (Carry groceries into the house. Fold laundry. Hold a crying baby.) Repeat question with other gifts.
- 3. What are some ways you can use the money or possessions God has given you and your family to help other people? (Give money to organizations that help others.)





He's Alive! Relay

Bible Focus > Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20

Materials

Bibles, large sheets of brown or gray paper, scissors, black markers; optional—Post-it Notes, pencils.

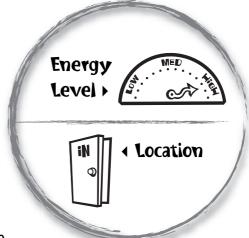
Preparation

Cut paper into rock shapes, creating one "rock" for every four to six students. Place paper rocks on one side of the playing area. Place a black marker next to each paper rock.

Lead the Game

- 1. John the Baptist's announcement about Jesus helped everyone know—even people today—that Jesus is the Savior. We're going to play a game to announce that great news, too! When Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning, what did she find? (The stone had been rolled back and the tomb was empty.) Mary, Peter and John discovered that the tomb was empty because Jesus had risen from the dead and was alive! What did they all do next? (Told everyone that Jesus had risen!)
- 2. What are some things we can say to share the good news about Jesus' resurrection? ("Jesus is alive!" "He is risen!" "Christ conquered death!" "Hallelujah!" "Jesus rose!") List students' responses on a large sheet of paper. (Optional: Each student writes one phrase on a Post-it Note.)
- **3.** Group students into teams of four to six, creating at least two teams. Teams line up across the playing area from the paper rocks. At your signal, the first student from each team runs to his or her team's paper rock, writes one good news phrase on the rock, calls out the phrase and returns to his or her line, tagging the next student, who repeats the action. (Optional: Student sticks Post-it Note phrase on rock.) Students refer to list of responses during relay if necessary. Relay continues until all students have had a turn. Repeat relay as time permits.

- 1. What does Jesus' death and resurrection mean for us? (Our sins can be forgiven when we believe in His death and resurrection. Jesus has the power to forgive our sins.)
- 2. What do you want to do when you hear the good news about eternal life through Jesus' death and resurrection? (Tell others. Thank God. Celebrate.)
- 3. With whom can you share this good news?





Immanuel

**** ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Matthew 1:23



Overview

Jesus has many names. One of them is "Immanuel," which means "God With Us."



What You Need

- ☼ instructions and materials for Chrismons, page 52
- ★ name tag stickers
- * marker or pen
- * doll wrapped in a blanket
- * paper cups and juice
- ※ Bible



Preparation

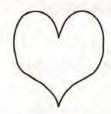
Make sample Chrismons: bread, chalice, cross, crown and shepherd's crook. If you plan to have the children make their own Chrismons, have materials ready. Put a marker at Matthew 1:23 in your Bible.





Presentation

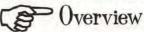
- 1. Say, Some of you here may not know my name. I'm going to make myself a name tag. What I should write on the tag? Can you think of any other names someone might call me? (If you have a special title, be sure to share it with the children.) Write each name on a separate tag. Stick the tags to your shirt.
- 2. Ask, Are you surprised that I have so many names? (Yes, I thought you were just my teacher) Ask, What do you notice about each of my names? Say, Each of my names tells something about me. From my names, you can learn that I [am married; have children, grandchildren, parents; am a teacher].
- 3. Ask, What about you? Let the children share their names. Write tags for the children and stick them on them.
- 4. Let one of the children hold the doll. Ask, Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus) Make name tags for the doll using each appropriate name mentioned by the children. Stick the name tags on the doll's blanket.
- 5. Say, The name "Jesus" means "God is our salvation." Show the children the cross Chrismon. Say, Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus has other names, too. Set out the bread, crown and shepherd's crook Chrismons. Ask, What names for Jesus go with each of these symbols? (The Bread of Life; The King of Kings; The Good Shepherd) Make tags for the doll and stick them to the doll blanket.
- 6. Distribute cups of juice. Ask, How does it feel to drink juice together? (It's fun being with friends) Say, That's the idea behind another special name God gave baby Jesus when He sent Him to earth.
- 7. Read Matthew 1:23. Set out the chalice Chrismon. Say, Jesus' other special name is "Immanuel." That means, "God with us." God sent His Son to live with us. That way, people could spend time with Him, eat meals with Him and learn from Him. Make an "Immanuel" name tag and attach it to the doll blanket.
- 8. Say, Let's pray. Father, thank You for sending Jesus so that we can be close to You. We praise You for Immanuel God With Us. Amen.



Jesus Game for Everybody

**** ** * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Matthew 2:1-2, Luke 2:10



Jesus came to earth for all people.



What You Need

- * world map
- * pictures or name tags of missionaries
- ★ yarn
- * push pins
- * clear tape
- ★ scissors
- * pictures of people from around the world
- ★ Bible





Preparation

Post the world map on the wall or bulletin board. Tape the missionary pictures or name tags around the perimeter of the map. (If your church doesn't sponsor missionaries, check with other local churches or your denomination's headquarters for a list of missionaries.) Place pictures of people from around the world in a stack next to your chair. Mark Matthew 2:1-2 and Luke 2:10 in your Bible.



Presentation

1. Ask the children to find your city (approximately) and state on the map.

2. Say, Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, which is in the country of Israel. Help the children locate Bethlehem, Judea and Israel on the map.

3. Say, We don't live in Israel. Do you think Jesus came to earth for you and me?

4. Read Luke 2:10. Say, In Bible times, the Israelites were waiting for the Messiah.

God had promised them a leader. Some Israelites thought that the Messiah was going to be a leader only for them – God's chosen people. But the angel told the shepherds that the Good News was for all the people. Jesus came for everybody!

5. Read Matthew 2:1-2. Say, The wise men came from the east. Most Bible teachers think they were from Persia, which is the area now called Iran. Point to Iran on the map. Say, The wise men weren't from Israel. But the Bible tells us they worshiped baby Jesus. Jesus came for everybody.

6. Point to one of the missionary pictures on your map. Say, [name] lives in [country] and tells people there about Jesus. Hold up a people group picture from that part of the world. Did Jesus come to earth for the people in [country]? (yes, Jesus came for everybody) Have the children help you use yarn and push pins or clear tape to place a locator line from each missionary picture to the area on the map where they serve.

7. Continue to identify all the missionaries on your map as described in Step 6. Reinforce the idea that "Jesus came for everybody" as you mention each missionary group. Label

8. Say, Let's pray together. Have the children bow their heads. Dear Father, thank You for sending Jesus to earth. Your good news is for all the people. Help our missionaries [names of missionaries] share this good news in [names of countries]. And let us share this good news with our friends and families today. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Lesson 16

Getting Crafty

Jesus Lives Pin

What Each Child Needs

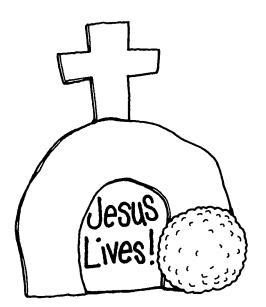
3-inch (7.5-cm) square of brown craft foam scissors

1-inch (2.5-cm) square of white craft foam craft glue

fine-point permanent marker

2-inch (5-cm) square of red craft foam pin back

1-inch (2.5-cm) brown or tan pom-pom



What Each Child Does

- 1. Cut a small cave shape out of the brown craft foam. Cut a smaller cave shape from the white craft foam.
- 2. Glue the white craft foam in the middle of the brown craft foam. On the white craft foam write, "Jesus Lives!"
- 3. Cut out a small cross from the red craft foam (or any color). Glue the red craft foam cross to the top of the brown craft foam cave.
- 4. Glue a brown pom-pom near the piece of white craft foam to serve as the stone, and glue a pin back to the back of the project just below the cross. (Optional: Make more than one pin and give it to a friend or family member to wear at Eastertime.)



John the Baptist's Snack Mix

* * * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: John the Baptist preaches repentance / Matthew 3:1-6



Overview

The children will prepare a snack mix that teaches about John the Baptist.



Helpers: 1

one for every 5-6 children



What You Need

- * pretzel sticks
- * shredded, sweetened coconut
- ☆ cinnamon
- * whole, pitted dates
- * honey-roasted peanuts
- ★ table knife
- * plate or cutting board
- * small mixing bowl
- ☆ large mixing bowl
 ☆ measuring spoons
- ★ measuring cup

 ★ wooden spoon



Preparation

Cut whole, pitted dates into length-wise strips.



What to Do

- 1. If the children are helping, instruct them to wash their hands before preparing food.
- 2. Say, God sent John to tell people that Jesus was coming. John preached to the people who lived in a desert area called "Judea." What is the desert like? Allow the children to respond. Say, Yes, the desert is dry and hot. John needed a walking stick for his travels. Let's pretend these pretzel sticks are walking sticks.
- 3. Help the children break pretzel sticks into 1" or 1½" pieces. Have them measure one cup of broken pretzel sticks and pour into the large mixing bowl. Say, **These pretzel sticks represent John's time in the desert.**
- 4. Help the children measure one cup of shredded coconut and one teaspoon of cinnamon into a small bowl, and blend together. Say, John wore unusual clothing. It was made of camel's hair, which is brown and coarse. This cinnamon coconut looks like camel's hair. Have the children pour the coconut mixture into a large bowl.
- 5. Help the children measure one cup of pre-cut date strips and pour them into the large bowl. Say, **John wore a leather belt. These dates are leathery like his belt.**
- 6. Say, John knew God would provide food for him. And God did! Help the children measure one cup of honey-roasted peanuts and pour them into the large bowl. Say, John ate locusts and wild honey. These peanuts look like the locusts. They are covered with honey.
- 7. Have the children take turns mixing the snacks in the bowl. As they eat the snack, say, When the people heard John preach, they felt sorry for their sins. They wanted to know about Jesus and be ready when He came. John baptized them. That is why people called him "John the Baptist."

Lourney to Bethlehem

Bible Focus > Matthew 2:1-16; John 8:12

Materials

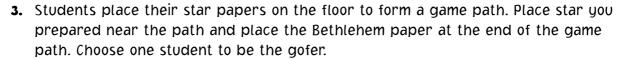
Bibles, butcher paper, markers, measuring stick, colored construction paper, beanbags.

Preparation

Draw a 4-foot (1.2-m) star on a section of butcher paper. Draw lines to divide the star into five sections and then label star as shown in sketch a. Print "Bethlehem" on a sheet of construction paper.

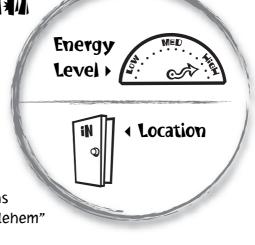


- We can worship Jesus as the Savior whom God sent for the whole world! Some of the first people who worshiped Jesus—the wise men—went on a long journey to find Jesus in Bethlehem. Let's play a game to take a journey to Bethlehem, too.
- **2.** Give each student three or four sheets of construction paper. Students draw stars on each sheet of paper.



4. Students line up at the beginning of the game path. Students take turns tossing beanbag onto the star you prepared and moving the number of star papers written in the section that the beanbag landed in (see sketch b). The gofer retrieves the beanbag and moves the star around for students as needed. (If a star paper is already occupied, student moves to the next unoccupied star paper.) The first student to reach the Bethlehem paper answers one of the Discussion Questions below. Repeat game with a new gofer.

- 1. How do we know that God sent Jesus as the Savior for the whole world? (Jesus said He came to offer salvation to all people.) Have an older student read John 8:12 aloud.
- 2. What are some reasons to worship Jesus? (He died on the cross to forgive our sins. He is God. He loves and cares for all people.)
- **3. What gifts can we give Jesus?** (Sing songs to praise Him. Tell Jesus the things we are thankful He did. Do the things Jesus told people to do in the Bible.)





J.O.Y.

* * * * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Mark 12:30-31



Overview

The word "joy" provides the biblical order for priorities in prayer: Jesus first (J), others second (O) and yourself third (Y).



What You Need

* 3 sheets of construction paper

* markers

* hymnal or Caroling Songbook (page 148)

☆ Bible



Preparation

On the first sheet of construction paper, write the letter "J." On the second sheet of construction paper, write the letter "O." On the third sheet of construction paper, write the letter "Y." Mark the carol "Joy to the World" in a hymnal or your Caroling Songbook. Place a marker at Mark 12:30-31 in your Bible.





Presentation

- Open the hymnal or songbook to "Joy to the World." Say, One of the most beloved Christmas carols is "Joy to the World." Let's sing the first verse together. Have the children join in singing.
- 2. Ask, Why does this carol tell us we can be joyful? (the Lord is come; we have a new King; all of nature can rejoice in the Creator) Say, Yes, those are all good reasons that we can be joyful at Christmas.
- 3. Say, It can be hard to keep that Christmas joy all year long. Why is it difficult for you? (the rest of the year is predictable; we have parties and celebrations at Christmas)
- 4. Say, Let's learn about an easy way to have joy every day, even after Christmas is past.
- 5. Read Mark 12:30-31. Say, These Bible verses tell us what God thinks is important. He wants to come first in our lives, and He wants us to love others. One way we can do both of those things each day is prayer.
- 6. Say, Joy is spelled J-O-Y. Set out the sheets of construction paper in order.
- 7. Point to the J. Say, The J stands for "Jesus." When you put Jesus first in your life and praise Him each day, you discover that remembering His great love brings you joy.
- 8. Point to the O. Say, The O stands for "others." When you put others ahead of

continued on next page...

yourself and pray for them each day, you discover that helping them brings you joy.

- 9. Point to the Y. Say, The Y stands for "yourself." When you finally pray for yourself after you have praised Jesus and prayed for others, you discover that all your blessings bring you joy.
- 10. Say, J-O-Y. Jesus, others, yourself. When you pray each day this way, you can have joy all year long.
- 11. Say, Here is a song to help you remember to pray the J.O.Y. way.

(sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Here's an easy way to pray. place hands together in prayer

It will bring you joy each day. point index fingers at your smile

Worship Jesus, reach hands up,

then ask for help, bow down

first for others point out into the group,

then yourself. point to self.

Here's an easy way to pray. place hands together in prayer

It will bring you joy each day. point index fingers at your smile

12. Say, Let's pray together. Do you know anyone who needs special prayers? Allow the children to respond. Have the children bow their heads. Say, Dear God, We praise You for Jesus. We ask that You would help [name the children's requests]. We thank You for loving us, and pray that You can help us pray with J.O.Y. each day, all year long. Amen.



Lesson 29

Getting Crafty

Joyful Centerpiece

What Each Child Needs

silver or gold paint paintbrush 2-inch (5-cm) clay pot silver or gold curling ribbon scissors

tape

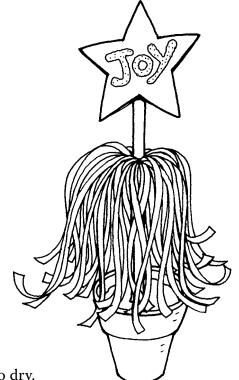
⁵/₈-inch (1.59-cm) wooden dowel plaster of paris

water

4-inch (10-cm) piece of craft foam glue silver or gold glitter

What Each Child Does

- 1. Paint the clay pot silver or gold. Set it aside to dry.
- 2. Cut 40 pieces of ribbon about 6 inches (15 cm) long. Lay a 2-inch (5-cm) piece of tape on a flat surface with the sticky side up. Place one end of a piece of ribbon on the tape so it sticks. Add six or seven pieces of ribbon to the tape. Make sure that the ribbons are curling up from the flat surface.
- 3. Wrap the tape with ribbon on it around the middle of the wooden dowel. Make as many strips of tape with ribbon as you like. Keep adding tape with ribbon to the dowel to create layers of sparkle.
- 4. With an adult's help, mix ¹/₂ cup (120 ml) of plaster of paris as directed on the package. Place a small piece of tape over the hole in the bottom of the clay pot. Pour the plaster into the pot. When the plaster has begun to thicken, push the wooden dowel vertically into the center of the pot.
- 5. Cut any shape out of the craft foam. With glue, write the word "JOY" on the craft foam shape and sprinkle with glitter. Glue craft foam shape to the top of the wooden dowel.
- 6. Place the centerpiece on a table or in a window as a reminder of the joy God gives us.



Toyful Relay

Bible Focus > Psalm 95:1; John 20

Materials

Bibles, index cards, marker, two paper bags, children's music CD and player.

Lead the Game

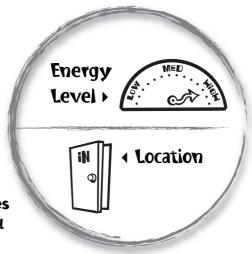
- 1. Read Psalm 45:1. Knowing that Jesus is alive gives us great joy! Let's play a game using some joyful actions to remind us to celebrate.
- 2. What are some actions people do to show that they are full of joy? (Smile. Sing. Jump. Clap. Cheer. High-five. Skip.) List each student's idea on two separate index cards to create two identical sets of cards. Put one set in each bag.
- **3.** Group students into two equal teams. Teams line up single file on one side of the playing area. Place a bag of cards across playing area from each team.
- 4. Play an upbeat song from a CD. When the music begins, the first student on each team runs to the paper bag, takes out an index card, reads action, returns card to bag and performs that action during the entire time it takes to return to his or her team. Student then tags the next student in line. Game continues until each student has had a turn.

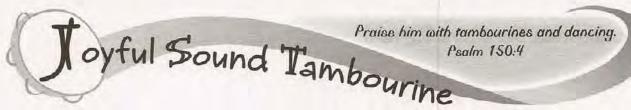
a circle). Continue until all students have had a turn picking cards.



If you have fewer than eight students, make one set of action cards and one set of directional cards (forward, backward, in a circle, sideways, by the table, etc.). Place each set of cards in a separate bag. Students spread out around the playing area. While you play music each student takes a turn picking a card from each bag. The student holds up both cards, so all students can see and perform actions as a group (for example, smile while moving in

- 1. What can we do to celebrate the fact that Jesus died for our sins and rose again? (Sing songs about it. Thank Jesus in our prayers. Accept Jesus' forgiveness and become a member of His family.) Talk with interested students about salvation (see "Leading a Child to Christ" article on p. 11 of this book).
- 2. What can we do to share with others the joy that comes from knowing that Jesus is alive? (Tell them Jesus loves us and rose again because He wants to give us eternal life. Invite them to church on Easter. Ask God to help us show joy to others and explain why we have that joy.)



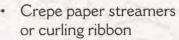


One of the ways we praise and worship God is through music. These tambourines will have the children making beautiful, joyful music to praise God.

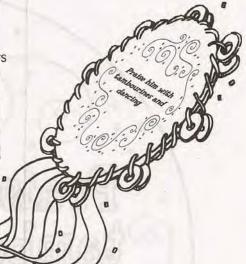


Materials Needed

- Tambourine Scripture patterns (pp. 48–49)
- Markers or crayons
- · Glue sticks
- 2–8" white paper plates per child.
- · Paper hole punch
- · Yarn or ribbon
- · Clear tape



- 12 metal washers per child (washers can be various sizes)
- Alternative: 6–8 small jingle bells in place of washers





Directions

- 1. Copy and cut out Tambourine Scripture patterns (page 48–49) for each child.
- Decorate patterns and glue to center of the underside of both paper plates. Color and decorate the paper plates if desired.
- Hold the plates together with the pattern sides facing outward. Punch holes around the rims spaced about 1" apart.
- Cut a length of yarn or ribbon (about 28"). Knot one end and tape around the other end to make a "needle" to loop through the holes.

- Lace the yarn through one hole and knot or tape. Then, loop metal washers (or bells) onto the yarn.
- Continue lacing the yarn around the paper plate, stopping to loop 2 washers after every third or fourth hole.
- 7. Knot the yarn after the final hole.
- 8. Glue colorful crepe paper streamers or curling ribbon around the rim of the tambourine.



Praise Points

How do you feel when you sing songs about God? Most praise and worship songs are prayers put to music. As a class, choose a well-known tune like *Jesus Loves Me* or *This Little Light of Mine*, and make up a "praise prayer" to go with the tune. Encourage all the children to play their tambourines along with the song.

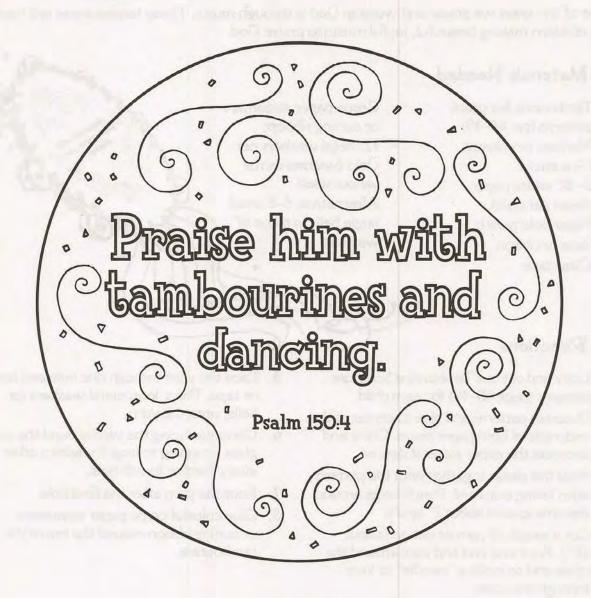


Praise Prayers

Lord, we lift our voices and sing with joy today because You are our God. Amen.

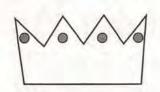


Tambourine Scripture Pattern



Tambourine Scripture Pattern





King's Grown

* * * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Jesus is King / 1 Timothy 6:14-16



Overview

The children will make and wear crowns that honor Christ the King.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- ★ King's Crown pattern, page 227
- ★ gold poster board
- * paint pens
- * rhinestones, sequins and buttons
- ★ pencil
- ☼ scissors
- ☼ craft glue
- ★ stapler
- * clear tape
- * old newspapers





Preparation

Make a template of the King's Crown pattern using poster board, making sure to trace the pattern end to end $2\frac{1}{2}$ times so that the template is 25" long. Trace and cut the crowns from gold poster board. You will need one pre-cut crown for each child.



What to Do

- 1. Give each child a pre-cut crown. Say, Jesus is King. Kings wear crowns!
- 2. Have the children decorate their crowns with glitter glue, paint pens, rhinestones, sequins and buttons. Allow the crowns to dry.
- 3. Fit a headband around each child's head and staple the ends together to secure. Cover the staples with clear tape to avoid injury.
- 4. Be sure the children write their names on the backs of their crowns.
- 5. Say, Wear your crown in honor of Christ the King!



Lesson 31

Getting Crafty

Lost Sheep Game

What Each Child Needs

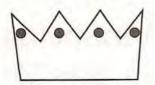
air drying clay or play dough 4 plastic or paper cups glue water paintbrush

2-inch (5-cm) squares of fabric



What Each Child Does

- 1. With an adult's help, mold a small sheep out of clay and set it aside to dry. Make sure that it is small enough to fit under an upside-down cup.
- 2. In one cup, mix equal parts glue and water. Use this mixture and a paintbrush to glue the fabric squares on the outside of the three remaining cups. (Optional: To make cups look like green hills, use green fabric or fabric printed with leaves or other plant patterns.)
- 3. Allow the sheep and the cups to dry completely.
- 4. To play game, you'll need at least two people. Place the three decorated cups upside-down on a table. Hide the clay sheep under one of the cups and rearrange cup order. One person guesses which cup the lost sheep is under.



Magi Gift Bag

* * * * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Magi present the Infant Jesus with gifts / Matthew 2:11



Overview

The wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus. The children can use these gift bags when they give their own Christmas gifts.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- * Magi Gift Bag patterns, page 228
- ☼ poster board
- * purple paper bags
- * yellow, pink and brown card stock or construction paper
- * sequins
- * 15 mm moveable plastic eyes
- * craft glue
- * scissors
- * black and red markers
- ☆ clear tape
- * paper plates



Preparation

Make templates of the Magi Gift Bag patterns using poster board. Trace and cut crowns and gift boxes from yellow card stock or construction paper, Magi faces and hands from pink, and Magi beards from brown. You will need one crown, one gift box, one face, two hands and one beard for each gift bag. Set out sequins on paper plates.



What to Do

- 1. Say, When Jesus was born, men from a faraway land traveled to bring Him gifts. Some people called these men "kings." Other people called them "wise men" or "magi."
- 2. Distribute pre-cut beards, faces and crowns. Show how to use glue to layer the faces on top of the beards, and then the crowns on top of the faces.
- 3. Have the children position eyes on the faces and attach them with glue. They can use black markers to draw noses and red markers to draw mouths.
- 4. Hand out pre-cut gift boxes, which will become gift tags. Have the children use markers to write "To" and "From" on the tags, leaving spaces to fill in later. Let the children use sequins and glue to decorate the crowns and gift box tags.
- 5. Give each child a bag. Say, In Bible times, purple was a color of royalty. Only kings and leaders, like the Magi, wore purple. Instruct the children to lay the bags flat, with the folds on the bottom, then fold over 1½" of the bag tops toward the fronts.
- Each child should glue the face assembly to the folded flap. Have the children position the hands along the lower fronts of the bags. Tell them to apply glue to the hand palms only, leaving the thumbs free to hold the gift box tags.
- 7. Show how to apply glue to the tags' backs, tuck the tags under the thumbs and attach.
- 8. Be sure the children write their names on the backs of their bags. Say, The Magi brought gifts to Jesus. We honor Jesus by giving gifts to others at Christmas.



Dated 9/3/2010

Lesson 6

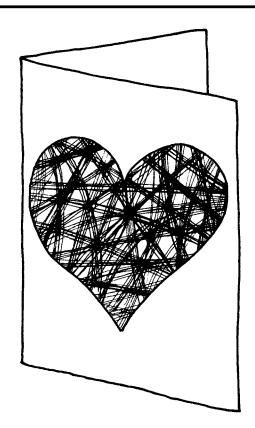
Getting Crafty

Marble Valentines

What Each Child Needs

shallow box (big enough to lay $8^{1/2} \times 11$ inch (21.5x28-cm) paper flat in the
bottom of the box)

8¹/₂ x 11-inch (21.5x28-cm) white paper 3 to 5 marbles acrylic paint (assorted colors) pink, red or black card stock pen, pencil or gel markers scissors glue stick



What Each Child Does

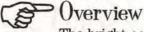
- 1. Lay a sheet of white paper flat in the bottom of the box. Put the marbles in the box and add a small squirt of three different colors of paint on the paper.
- 2. With an adult's help, gently tip the box so that the marbles roll to one side across the paint on the paper. Repeat this several times until the paper is covered in paint and you like the design you have created.
- 3. Take the paper out of the box and set it aside to dry. (Clean off the marbles if you are going to make another painting.)
- 4. Take a sheet of red, pink or black card stock and fold it in half to make a card. While your painting is drying, use a pen, pencil or gel markers to write a note to someone you know that you want to show love to. It can be a teacher, a family member or a friend.
- 5. When your paint is dry, cut out heart shapes from the painted paper. You can make one big heart or several small hearts—whatever you like! Use a glue stick to glue the hearts as desired onto the front of the card.



Miniature Poinsettia

**** ** * * * AGES 7-12

Bible Reference: The desert rejoices in the Savior / Isaiah 35:1-2



The bright colors of poinsettia leaves during the darkest weeks of the year are a reminder of the joy Christ brings to sinners everywhere.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

* Miniature Poinsettia patterns, pages 229-230

- * plastic lids from detergent or spray cans (optional)
- * red, green and vellow tissue paper * pencils
- * poster board
- * scissors

- ☆ penens

 ☆ craft glue
- * masking tape



Preparation

Make templates of the Miniature Poinsettia patterns using poster board. Use the templates to cut poinsettia leaves from red tissue paper, stems from green tissue paper and seeds from yellow tissue paper. You will need one red square, one green square and three yellow squares for each poinsettia. See diagrams on page 230 for the steps below.



What to Do

- Say, A poinsettia is a special plant that grows in the dry desert areas of Mexico.
 Its leaves change color in December, right around Christmas time. Let's make
 our own Miniature Poinsettias. Give each child a square of red tissue paper. Show
 how to fold the square in half to make a rectangle, in half again to make a square and a
 third time to make a rectangle once more.
- 2. Have the children position leaf patterns on top of their red tissues so the leaf points are on the unfolded edges of the rectangles (see Diagram 1). Let them outline the leaf points with pencils and trim away the excess tissue with scissors. Help the children unfold the red tissues and lay them flat (see Diagram 2).
- 3. Show how to gather the centers of the red tissues from the ends working in, pinching together the extra tissue below the petals (see Diagram 3). The leaves will swirl outward.
- 4. Distribute green tissue squares. Have the children coil the green "stalks" onto the poinsettia bases beneath the flowers, twist the remaining green tissue into stems and glue.
- 5. Let each child crunch three yellow tissue squares into poinsettia "seeds" and attach them to the centers of the flowers with glue.
- 6. A child can use a single Miniature Poinsettia to decorate gifts, bulletin boards or walls. Or children can assemble three or more poinsettias to make an arrangement in a laundry detergent or aerosol lid "flowerpot." Make sure they anchor the poinsettias in their pots with craft glue.
- 7. Have the children stick tape on the flowers or holders and write their names on the tape.
- 8. Say, Even in the dark days of winter, the poinsettia plant celebrates the birth of Christ with color and joy.

Lesson 47

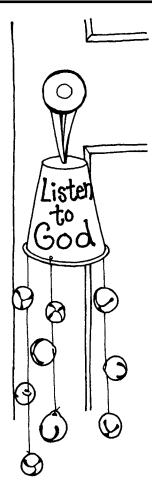
Getting Crafty

Musical Chimes

What Each Child Needs

16 ounce plastic cup permanent marker hole punch scissors ribbon

9 or more jingle bells in various sizes fishing line



What Each Child Does

- 1. Turn your cup upside down and write "Listen to God" on the side of the cup. Punch three evenly spaced holes around and just below the lip of the cup,
- 2. With an adult's help, use sharp scissors to carefully make two small holes in the bottom of the cup. Thread an 8- to 10-inch (20.5 to 25.5-cm) piece of ribbon through holes and tie ends together to make a hanger.
- 3. Tie three or more jingle bells onto an 18-inch (45.5-cm) piece of fishing line, spacing out the jingle bells on the line. Tie end of the line to the cup through one of the holes in the cup. (Hint: Ask a friend to hold up your cup while you attach the fishing line.) Repeat step two more times so that you have three lines of bells attached to your cup.
- 4. At home, hang your chimes somewhere where you will hear them. Every time you hear the sound of your chimes, let it be a reminder to listen to God.

Name Game

Bible Focus > Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7,15-23

Materials

Bibles.

Game Tip

Print "Vowel = Jump" and "Consonant = Squat" on a chalkboard or a large sheet of paper for students to refer to during the game.



Lead the Game

- God created us to know Him and love each other. One way to care for others is to learn their names. Let's play a fun game with everyone's name.
- 2. Group students into teams of six to eight students each. Teams line up in single-file lines leaving at least 4 feet (1.2 m) between each team.
- 3. In our game today, each person will take a turn to call out to his or her team the letters of his or her name.

 When a vowel (A, E, I, O or U) is said, team members jump up in the air. When a consonant (any of the other letters) is said, team members squat down. Let's practice with my first name. Call out the letters of your first name; all students jump up and squat down according to the letters called.
- 4. At your signal, the first student on each team begins calling out the letters of his or her first name while the other students on the team jump up or squat down according to the letter called. When the first student is done, the second team member calls out the letters of his or her name with teammates responding as above. Each team continues the process as quickly as possible, sitting down as soon as all members of the team have spelled out their names. Ask a volunteer from the first team to finish to answer one of the Discussion Questions below. Students form new teams and play again as time allows.

- 1. What are some ways we can get to know God? (Read the Bible. Listen to older people who love God talk about Him. Ask your parents, pastor or teacher questions about God.)
- 2. What are some of the things you already know about God? Volunteers respond.
- 3. Why should we show love to other people? (To show God's love. Jesus tells us that loving God and loving others are the most important things to do.) What are some ways to show love to other people?



No Room at the Inn

**** * * * * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Luke 2:7, Mark 10:13-16

(I) Overview

Jesus knew rejection even before He was born, but He makes room for all children in His kingdom.



What You Need

☆ table

ℜ Bible



Preparation

Set the table in the center of the room. Place the remaining chairs and furniture along the walls. Place a marker at Luke 2:7 and Mark 10:13-16 in your Bible.



Presentation

1. Designate two volunteers to be Mary and Joseph, and one volunteer to be the innkeeper. Tell the innkeeper to stand next to the table. Explain that his or her job is to let all the other children into the "inn" except for Mary and Joseph.

 Assemble the children in the hallway or at one end of the room. Say, The Roman leaders in Palestine took a census. What is a census? (a count of how many people live in a certain area)

3. Say, Everyone traveled to his or her hometown in order to be counted. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Many other people traveled to Bethlehem, too. Have the children form a line, with Mary and Joseph at the end.

4. Say, We're going to travel to Bethlehem for the census. Have the children at the front of the line lead the way around the room, into the hall and into other parts of your church, if desired, and then back into the classroom to the table.

5. Say, When you reach the "inn," ask the innkeeper for a room. Have the children approach the innkeeper one at a time and seek shelter. When the innkeeper lets them in, the children can crawl under the table. The area under the table will get crowded quickly.

6. When Mary and Joseph ask the innkeeper for entry, the innkeeper can say, **There's no room at the inn**.

7. Have the children come out from under the table and sit around it. Read Luke 2:7. Ask, How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when there was no room at the inn? (lonely; afraid; left out) Say, Jesus knows how it feels to be rejected. But He doesn't want you to feel that way.

8. Read Mark 10:13-16. Say, Jesus' arms are open to you. There is always room for you in the Kingdom of God. Let's make a Jesus Welcome Circle. Have the children stand in a circle, each placing an arm around the shoulders of those on either side. Say, On the count of three, squeeze the shoulders of the people next to you and say, "Welcome!" Have the children squeeze and shout several times.

9. Say, Let's pray together. Have the children bow their heads. Dear Lord, We are sorry that there was no room for You at the inn. We welcome You into our hearts right now. And we are thankful that You always make room for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Overflowing Love

Bible Focus > 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Materials

Bibles, dried beans, measuring cup, two of each of the following: large plastic bowls, spoons, large paper cups, shallow baking pans or boxes.

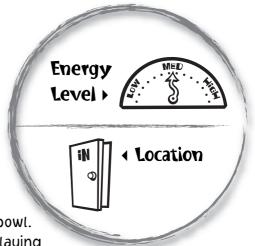
Preparation

Pour at least three cups of beans into each plastic bowl. Place plastic bowls and spoons on one side of the playing area. Put paper cups in shallow pans or boxes and place them on the opposite side of the playing area.

Lead the Game

- Being kind means doing good things for others without expecting anything in return. Let's play a game about a Bible verse that tells us how God helps us to be kind.
- 2. Divide class into two teams. Teams line up in single-file lines next to spoons. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12 aloud. What does this verse ask God to do? ("Make your love increase and overflow.") You'll know your love is overflowing when you show love and kindness to others without even thinking about what they might give you in return.
- 3. In this game, see how long it takes to make your team's cup overflow with beans. At your signal, the first student on each team takes a spoonful of beans, walks quickly to his or her team's cup, drops in the beans, returns to his or her team and hands the spoon to the next player. Any spilled beans need to be picked up. Next student in line repeats action. Relay continues until both teams have made their cups overflow with beans, and the beans spill into the pan or box. Repeat as time allows, asking the Discussion Questions below between rounds.

- 1. When are some times it's easy to show kindness to others? (When others have been kind to us.) When might it be hard? (When we're angry.)
- 2. What can we do when we don't feel like being kind? (Ask God's help. Remember God's kindness to us.)
- 3. What are some ways you could let kindness overflow with your family? Your friends at school? Someone you dislike? Students respond. What good things might happen?



RaymaBranch Rass

Bible Focus > Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

Materials

Bibles, a chair for each student, small branch from a tree or bush for every six to eight students, garden clippers.

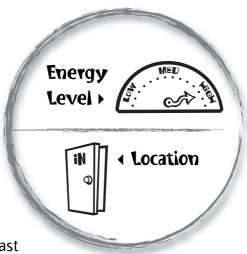
Preparation

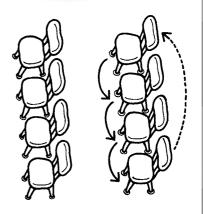
Set the chairs in lines of four to eight, creating at least two lines of chairs as shown in the sketch. Trim off any sharp twigs from branches.

Lead the Game

- 1. We can't help but praise Jesus because of whom He is and what He came to do! When Jesus entered Jerusalem the week before He died, people praised Him by waving palm branches in the air. Let's play a game with branches to remember a way Jesus was praised!
- **2.** Group students into teams of four to eight. Assign each team a line of chairs. Students sit on chairs.
- 3. Give a branch to the student sitting in the first chair on each team. At your signal, the student passes the branch down the row. When the branch reaches the last student in the row, he or she carries the branch and runs to the first chair in the row. While student is running, all the other team members move down one chair, leaving the first chair empty for the running student to sit on. After he or she is seated, student passes branch to the next student and branch is passed down the row again. Process is continued until all students have returned to their original chairs.
- **4.** A volunteer from the first team to finish the relay answers one of the questions below. Mix up teams and play game again if time allows.

- 1. What are some of the reasons we want to praise Jesus? (He is God's Son. He was willing to die on the cross to pay the punishment for all people's sins. He rose from the dead. He loves us all. He taught us the best way to live.)
- 2. What are some ways we can praise Jesus? (Sing songs to Him. When we pray, tell Him why we love Him or what we are thankful for. Tell others how wonderful He is.)
- 3. What is your favorite way to praise Jesus? Volunteers respond.





Paym-Branch Rickup

Bible Focus > Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

Materials

Bibles, green construction paper, scissors or paper cutter, markers.

Preparation

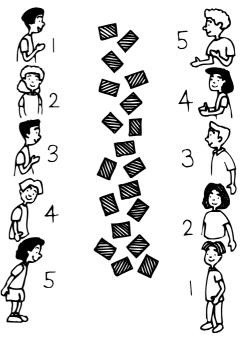
Cut construction paper into small squares, making at least 10 squares for each student.

Lead the Game

- When Jesus was entering Jerusalem, people gave Him praise by covering the ground with branches from palm trees. We're going to play a game and give praise to Jesus, too.
- 2. Give each student 10 squares of paper and a marker. Students number squares 1 to 10 and then randomly place squares, numbered side down, in center of playing area.
- **3.** Divide students into two teams. Teams line up shoulder-to-shoulder on opposite sides of the playing area. Assign numbers to students as in the game Steal the Bacon (see sketch).
- from each team have five seconds to collect as many green squares as possible. Call "stop" when time is up; students return to teams with the squares they collected. Volunteer(s) from team who collected the square with the highest number tells a reason to praise Jesus.
- **5.** To play another round, volunteers return squares to playing area, numbered side down. Play as many rounds as time allows.

- 1. Instead of laying palm branches on the ground, how might we show praise to an important person today? (Putting down a red carpet where that person is going to walk. Clapping for a person.)
- 2. What are some ways we can give praise to Jesus today? (Sing songs to Him. Pray to Him and tell Him what we praise Him for. Tell other people how great He is.)
- 3. What are some reasons Jesus is so great?





Raper-Airplane fun

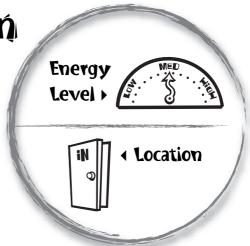
Bible Focus > Luke 6:36

Materials

Bibles, paper, markers.

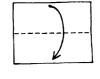
Preparation

Practice making a paper airplane following sketches below. Print "share food with friend" on a sheet of paper and then fold paper to make airplane.



Lead the Game

1. Fly prepared airplane to a student. Student unfolds airplane and reads aloud what is written on it. To share food with a friend is something we can do during lunch at school or when a friend comes to our house to play. What is a way you might share food that is not expected? (Share food with a homeless person or cook a meal for a needy family.) Student writes idea on paper airplane, refolds it and flies it back to you. Discuss the idea of showing mercy to others in unexpected ways, asking the discussion questions below.







2. Each student writes on separate papers two or three situations in which they could show mercy to other people (someone got hurt on the playground, parent had a hard day at work, kid is sitting all alone in the lunch room, etc.). Students make paper airplanes from papers on which they wrote.



3. Students form two teams. Teams stand against opposite walls of the room. Volunteer from each team throws one airplane to the opposite team. Team unfolds airplane and reads situation aloud and then works together to think of a way to show mercy in that same situation. Team writes idea on airplane, refolds it and flies plane back. Continue with new volunteers from each team as time permits, discussing situations and responses.

- 1. How does Luke 6:36 tell us we should act? (Merciful.) What does it mean to be merciful? (To show kindness or love beyond what is expected.)
- 2. How can we show mercy in an unexpected way at school? In our neighborhood? To people living in other countries?
- 3. What are examples of showing mercy and helping someone who is hurting on the outside? (Get help for someone if they are injured.) On the inside? (Choose the new kid at school for your baseball team if he or she is lonely.)



Paper Glip Heavenly Host

*** * * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Angels praise God / Luke 2:13-14



Overview

The children will make angels out of butterfly-style paper clips.



Helpers: 1

one for every 5-6 children.



What You Need

- * butterfly-style paper clips
- ☼ ½" wide satin ribbon
- * silver pony beads
- * ruler
- * scissors



Preparation

Measure and cut satin ribbon in lengths of 9", 11" and 13". You will need one length of ribbon for each angel.



What to Do

- 1. Give each child a butterfly-style paper clip and a length of satin ribbon. Show how to hold the paper clip so its tips (the angel's "wings") are pointing up. Demonstrate how to thread satin ribbon through the center of the clip in between the "wings."
- 2. Each child should match the ribbon ends together and string them through a silver pony bead. Have the children push the pony beads all the way down the ribbons to the clips. They will see how the bead becomes the angel's "head."
- Help the children tie the ribbon ends together in knots to secure, and to trim the ribbon ends, if needed.
- 4. Let each child make three angels, if desired, using a different length of ribbon for each one. Say, An angel announced Jesus' birth to shepherds on a hillside. Then a large group of angels appeared and praised God. They are called the "heavenly host."
- Show how to hang the Paper Clip Heavenly Host in a window or on a Christmas tree.The different ribbon lengths will ensure that the angels will not overshadow each other.





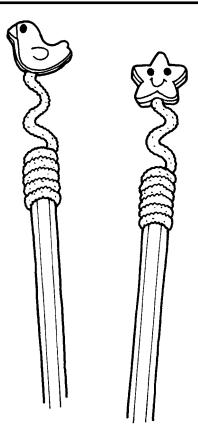
Lesson 36

Getting Crafty

$\stackrel{\smile}{\textbf{Pencil Toppers}}$

What Each Child Needs

variety of small wooden shapes acrylic paint in various colors fine-tipped paintbrushes glue
2 new pencils chenille wire in various colors scissors



What Each Child Does

- 1. Choose two small wooden shapes and paint them. (Optional: Paint the back of the shapes.) Set aside to dry.
- 2. Apply a small layer of glue around the metal part of the eraser on the pencil. Wrap one end of a chenille wire several times tightly around the glued area. Extend the rest of the chenille wire beyond the end of the eraser and twist in a spiral shape.) Trim the chenille wire to the desired length.
- 3. Apply a small amount of glue to the back of the painted wooden shape and attach to the end of the chenille wire. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the second pencil.
- 4. Keep one pencil topper for yourself and give one to a friend.

Dated 9/3/2010

Lesson 12

Getting Crafty

Personal Size White Boards



What Each Child Needs

5x7-inch (12.5x18-cm) wooden picture frame with plastic instead of glass (available at craft stores)

decorating items (stickers, markers, glitter glue, etc.)

sheet of white paper

scissors

thin-tip dry erase marker

What Each Child Does

- 1. Disassemble the picture frame, setting aside the back and clear plastic.
- 2. Decorate wooden frame with markers, glitter glue, stickers, etc.
- 3. Cut a piece of white paper 5x7-inches (12.5x18-cm) to fit into the frame. As you reassemble the frame, make sure that the white paper is visible through the clear plastic.
- 4. Use the dry erase marker to write a Bible verse you want to remember on the plastic surface. It will wipe away with a napkin!

Energy

Level >

◆ Location

Practice, Practice!

Bible Focus > Daniel 6

Materials

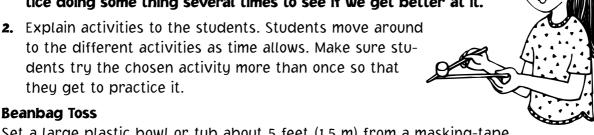
Bibles, masking tape, materials for one or more of the activities below.

Preparation

Set up one or more of the activities below.

Lead the Game

- 1. Daniel prayed to God three times a day. Talking to God is so important that He wants us to pray every day so that praying becomes a habit. The more we pray, the more we get to know God and the ways in which we can love and obey Him. Let's practice doing some thing several times to see if we get better at it.
- 2. Explain activities to the students. Students move around to the different activities as time allows. Make sure students try the chosen activity more than once so that they get to practice it.



Set a large plastic bowl or tub about 5 feet (1.5 m) from a masking-tape line. Students stand behind line, face away from tub and toss beanbag over shoulder back toward the tub.

Ball Bounce

Place a trash can about 8 feet (2.4 m) away from a masking-tape line. Students stand behind line and throw the ball to bounce it into the trash can. The ball must bounce at least once before it enters the trash can.

Marshmallow Move

Set an open bag of marshmallows and a pair of chopsticks 4 feet (1.2 m) from a plastic bowl. Students use chopsticks to pick up a marshmallow and carry it to the plastic bowl without touching marshmallow with their hands.

- 1. Which activity was the hardest? The easiest?
- 2. How did the activities become easier the more you practiced them?
- 3. What would help you remember to pray every day? (A reminder from your parents. Making a sign to help you remember. An alarm clock ringing at the time you want to pray.)



Let me speak your praise. You have taught me your demands.

Psalm 119:171

Children will learn to praise God for His Word, His laws, and His guidance as they decorate Scripture Praise Cards and a make a decorative pocket in which to hold them.



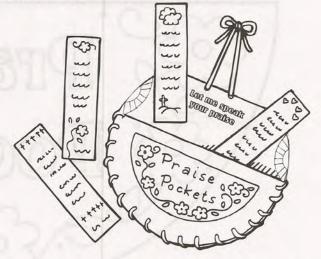
Materials Needed

- 1 plain white 8" paper plate per student
- Praise Pocket patterns (page 6)
- · Colorful card stock or construction paper
- · Crayons, paint, markers, etc.
- Scissors
- Glue
- · Paper hole punch
- Two 24–30" pieces of yarn per student
- Praise Card patterns (pages 7–9)



Directions

- 1. Cut one third of the paper plate off horizontally.
- 2. Copy and cut out the Praise Pocket patterns (page 6) for each student.
- 3. Decorate the Praise Pocket patterns with markers, paint, or crayons as desired.
- 4. Glue the front pattern to the center of the smaller portion of the paper plate. Glue the inside back pattern to the top of the larger portion of the plate. This larger portion will form the back of the pocket.
- 5. Put both paper plates together, edges touching with the bottoms of the plates facing outward. Glue to hold in place.
- 6. Paper punch holes around the rounded edge of the front pocket, making sure the punch goes through both plates.



- 7. Thread one length of yarn through the top hole on one side of the paper plates and tie in a knot.
- 8. Continue "lacing" up the Praise Pocket by looping thread through each hole on the plates. Tie and cut off the extra yarn after the last hole has been threaded.
- 9. Punch a hole on both sides of the back of the pocket to create a hanger.
- Thread the remaining piece of yarn through these top two holes and tie in a bow for hanging.
- 11. Copy, color, and cut out Praise Card patterns (pages 7–9) and place in the pocket.



Praise Points

As children decorate the cards, review the Scripture verses and discuss how each verse is a different statement in praise of God's Word. What are some worthless things that we sometimes give our attention to? How is God's Word like a light to us?



Praise Prayers

Thank You, Lord, for Your laws. They are good for us and give us happy lives. Amen.





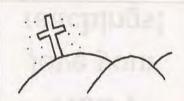
Keep me
from looking
at worthless
things. Let
me live by
your word.



Psalm 119:37



Lord, your word is everlasting. It continues forever in heaven.



Psalm 119:89

Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my way.

Psalm 119:105



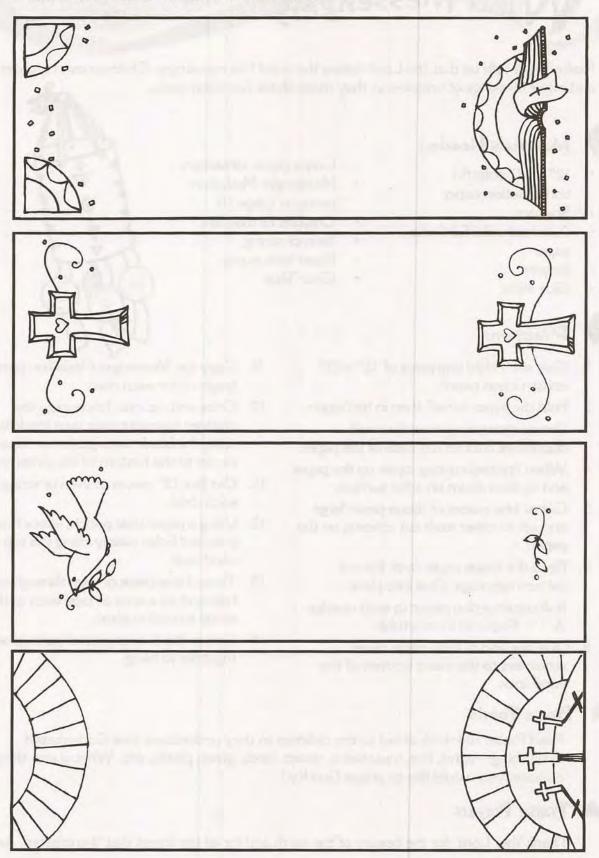
B B B

I have taken your words to heart so I would not sin against you.

B B B

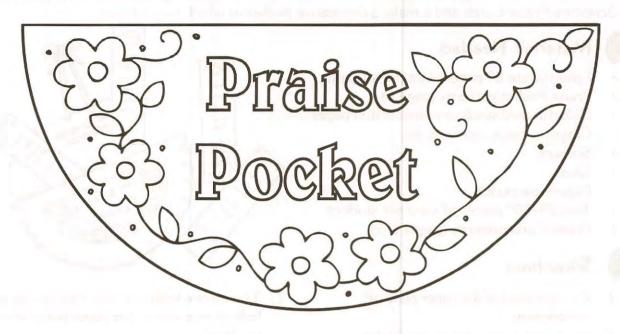
Psalm 119:11

Make Your Own Praise Card Patterns

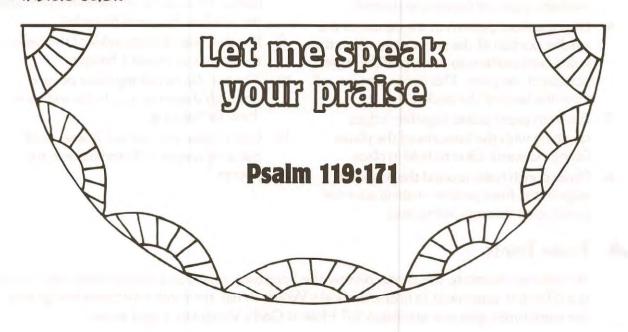


Praise Pocket Patterns

front



inside back





Your rules give me pleasure.

They give me good advice.



Psalm 119:24

How I
love your
teachings!

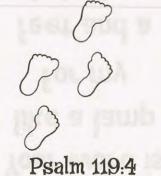
I think about
them all
day long.



Psalm 119:97

500

Lord, you gave your orders to be followed completely.

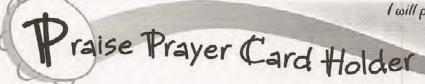


分分分分分分

Your words are true from the start. And all your laws will be fair forever.

分分分分分分

Psalm 119:160



I will pray to the Lord. And he will answer me . . .

Paalm 3:4

This decorative craft holds Praise Prayer cards with Scriptures from the Psalms that children can use every day.



Materials Needed

- Scissors
- Small (5") cardboard tube (one tube makes two holders)
- Prayer Card Patterns (page 39)
- Blank Prayer Card & Tube Pattern (page 40)
- · Construction paper or card stock
- · Crayons or markers
- Glue sticks
- Clip-style clothespin for each child





Directions

- 1. Cut cardboard tube in half (about 2 ½").
- Copy the Prayer Card patterns (page 39) and Blank Prayer Card & Tube patterns (page 40) onto card stock or construction paper.
- 3. Color, decorate, and cut out the patterns.
- 4. Glue Tube pattern around the outside of the cardboard tube.
- 5. With the clip end facing upward, glue clothespin on the side of the tube.
- 6. Choose a prayer to clip in the clothespin. Store the other prayers inside of the tube.
- 7. Have children make their own prayer cards to include in the holder.
- Encourage children to choose a new prayer card each day to lead them in thanking and praising God.



Praise Points

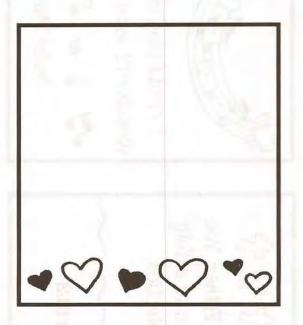
Read aloud to the children the prayers found on the prayer cards for this craft. Talk about how God hears all of our prayers. Encourage children to write their own prayers on the blank cards to include in their Prayer Holders, as daily reminders that God hears and answers prayers.



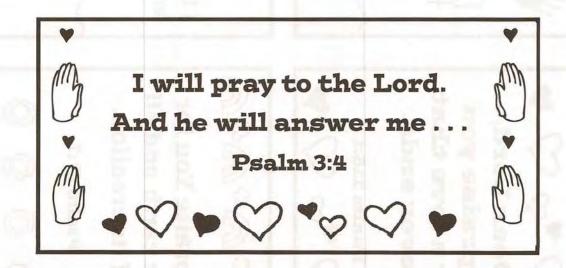
Praise Prayers

Thank You, Lord, for hearing and answering our prayers. Help us remember to give You praise every day. Amen.

Blank Prayer Card & Tube Patterns





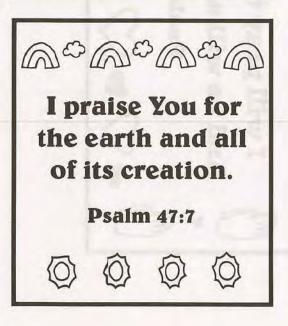


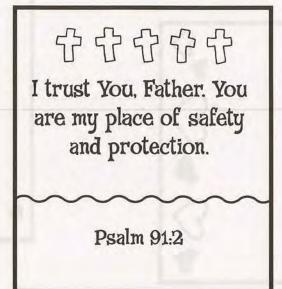
39















I praise the Lord because he guides me.

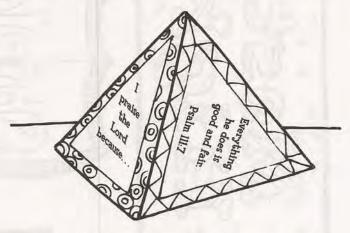
Psalm 16:7

No matter how you turn this Praise Pyramid, words of praise for God's power, guidance and fairness will remind children of many reasons to praise God.



Materials Needed

- Praise Pyramid patterns (page 29–30)
- · White or light-colored card stock
- Scissors
- · Crayons, markers, etc.
- · Clear tape



Directions

- Copy Praise Pyramid pattern (page 29) onto card stock for each child and cut out.
- 2. Lay the pattern flat and have children decorate each panel of the pyramid.
- 3. Turn pattern over. Fold and crease tabs in on the dotted line.
- Begin by folding the two-tabbed panel over from the left in a 90 degree angle.

- 5. Fold the remaining panels inward to meet the left tabs.
- 6. Tape the seams of the pyramid together.
- 7. Copy the Make Your Own Praise
 Pyramid pattern (page 30) and cut out.
 Have children make their own pyramids
 with personal praise prayers.



Praise Points

Demonstrate how to rotate the pyramid to reveal each of the Scriptures. Encourage children to use their Praise Pyramids during their personal prayer or devotional time.

Encourage the children to share times in their lives, or think of examples from the Bible, when God has guided, been fair, and has shown His power and amazing works.

Review the three Scriptures included on the Praise Pyramids with the children.

- Say to God, "Your works are amazing! Your power is great." Psalm 66:3
- · Everything he does is good and fair. All his orders can be trusted. Psalm 111:7
- I praise the Lord because he guides me. Psalm 16:7

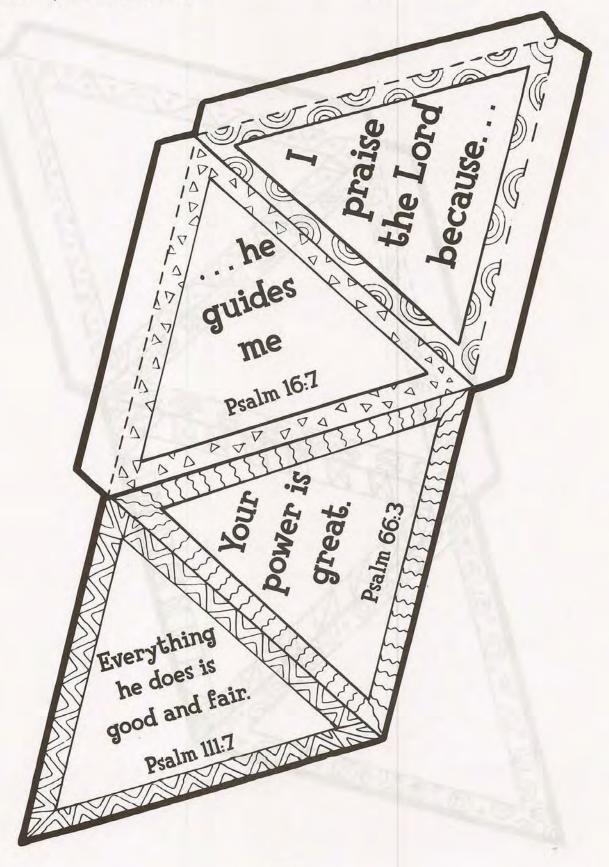


Praise Prayers

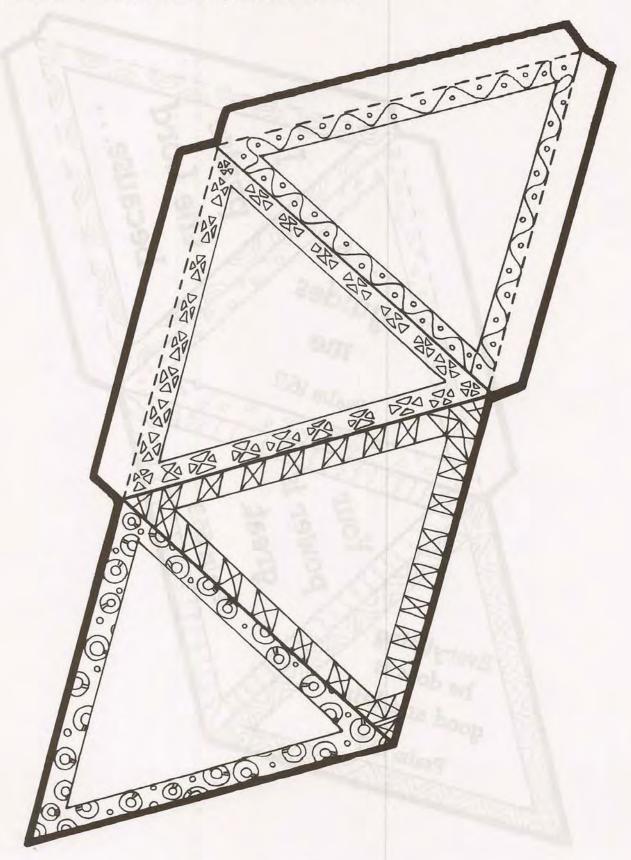
I praise You, God, because everything You do is good and fair. Thank You for Your amazing works, great power, and for guiding me today and every day. Amen.



Praise Pyramid Pattern



Make Your Own Praise Pyramid Pattern



Prayer Hop

Bible Focus > Matthew 6:9-13

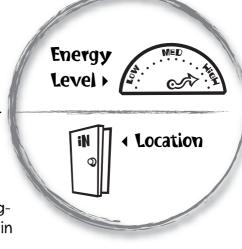
Materials

Bibles, index cards, marker, masking tape, four chairs.

Preparation

Divide the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) into 10 phrases. Print each phrase on a separate index card. Make a duplicate set of cards. Make a maskingtape line on one side of the classroom. Place chairs in two rows of two in center of the playing area,

one row for each team. Place five cards on each chair, using one set for each team.





Lead the Game

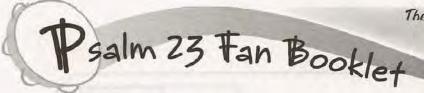
- 1. Jesus taught us how important it is to pray to God. Let's play a game to help us remember what Jesus said in the prayer He prayed as an example for us.
- 2. Divide class into two teams of five students each. Teams line up behind maskingtape line. At your signal, first student in each line hops to each chair in his or her line, picking up top card on each stack. Student then returns to tag next student in line. Continue until all cards have been collected.
- 3. When team has collected all its cards, team members put the cards in order, referring to Matthew 6:9-13 in their Bibles as needed. First team to finish reads prayer aloud. Repeat relay as time permits.

Obtion

Bring a snack for the class. Before playing the game, draw a small star on one of the cards. Student who collects that card serves a snack to all students at the end of the game.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What are some things Jesus prayed about? What did Jesus ask His Father in heaven to do?
- 2. What are some things you can talk to God about? (Problems at school. Family members I'm thankful for. Things I need help with.)
- 3. What are some things you can thank and praise God for? What are some things you need God to help you with?



The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need.

Psalm 23:1

Psalm 23 is one of the most well-known psalms, praising God for being a good shepherd to His people. This fan booklet will encourage children to memorize this beautiful, comforting Psalm one verse at a time.



Materials Needed

- Psalm 23 Verse, Cover, and Praise Prayer Card patterns (pages 54–57)
- · White or light colored card stock
- · Crayons, markers, or pencils
- Scissors
- · Paper hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn
- · Paper brads





Directions

- Copy the Psalm 23 Verse patterns (pages 54–56) and the Cover and Praise Prayer Card patterns (page 57) onto white or light colored card stock for each child.
- Color, decorate, and cut out each card pattern.
- Encourage the children to write their own reflection or short prayer on the Praise Prayer Card to include in their booklet.
- Punch a hole in each card where indicated.

- 5. Stack cards in order according to the Scripture, including the front and back cover and the Praise Prayer Card.
- Make sure the holes at the bottom are lined up. Thread a piece of ribbon or yarn through all of the holes.
- 7. Use a paper brad in the hole to affix all the cards together.
- 8. Tie the yarn or ribbon into a knot or bow.



Praise Points

As the children work on this craft, discuss what a shepherd does (watches over sheep, leads them to water, searches for them when they get lost, protects them from wolves, etc.).

How is God like a shepherd? Review Psalm 23 with the children—stop to point out the ways the Psalm compares God to a shepherd.

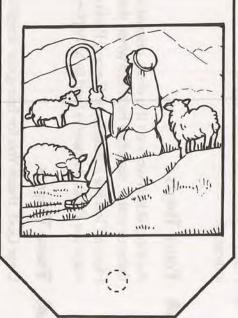


Praise Prayers

Dear God, thank You for being our shepherd and giving us everything we need. Amen.

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd.
I have everything I need.



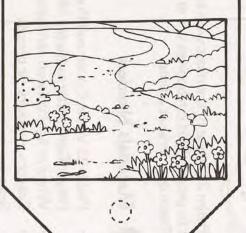
Psalm 23:2

He gives me rest in green pastures.
He leads me to calm water.

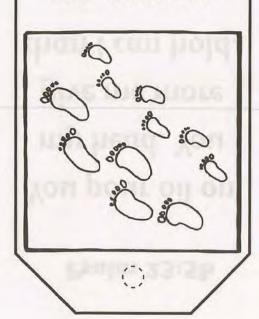


Psalm 23:3

He gives me new strength.
For the good of his name, he leads me on paths that are right.

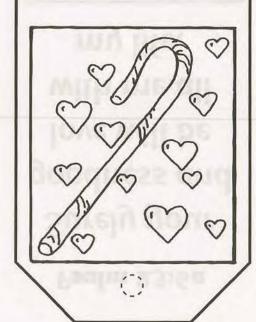


Even if I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid because you are with me.



Psalm 23:4b

Your rod and your walking stick comfort me.



Psalm 23:5a

You prepare a meal for me in front of my enemies.



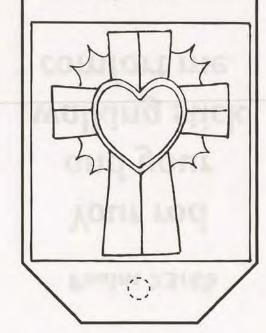
CD-204000 · Shout to the Lord!

You pour oil on my head. You give me more than I can hold.



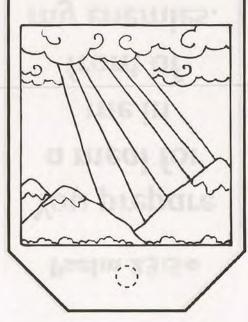
Psalm 23:6a

Surely your goodness and love will be with me all my life.

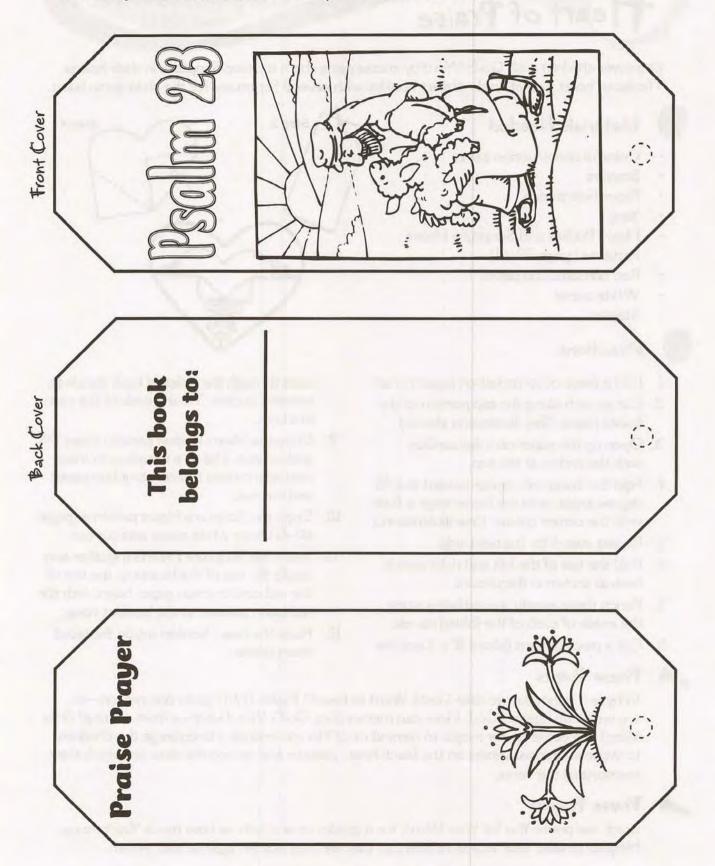


Psalm 23:6b

And I will live in the house of the Lord forever.



Psalm 23 Covers & Praise Prayer Card Patterns



Rympkin Praise

Bible Focus > Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

Materials

Bibles, four to eight pumpkins of any size for every 10 students, black permanent markers.

Preparation

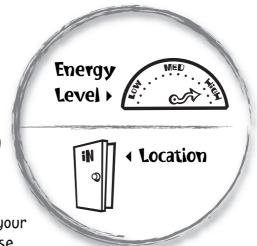
Arrange pumpkins to create an obstacle course in your playing area (see sketch). Create one obstacle course for every 10 students. Place a marker next to the last pumpkin in each course.

Lead the Game

- 1. Thanksgiving time reminds us to give thanks to God for His care for us. Let's play a game to thank God for the great things He has given us.
- 2. Students line up in a single-file line at the beginning of the obstacle course. Demonstrate how to complete the obstacle course (which order and direction to run around each pumpkin, whether to circle around each pumpkin or just pass by it. etc.). When you reach the last pumpkin in your course, use the marker to write or draw on the pumpkin something for which you are thankful. What is something that you are thankful for? Print volunteer's response on the pumpkin as an example.
- 3. At your signal, first student in line begins obstacle course. When student has finished course and written on pumpkin, he or she tags the next student in line who begins obstacle course. Continue until each student has had a turn. Then ask volunteers to tell their responses from the pumpkins.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What are some ways God cares for your family?
- 2. How can you show God that you are thankful for His love and care? (Name the things you are thankful for when you pray. Write God a thank-you prayer. Sing praise songs to Him.)
- 3. What is your favorite way to tell God thank you?



Quick-Slow Switch

Bible Focus > James 1:19; 3:3-12

Materials

Bibles, masking tape.

Preparation

On the floor, use masking tape to form three large squares.

Level > Location

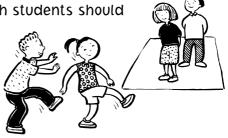
Lead the Game

- 1. Being careful about what we say shows self-control and helps us be better friends to others. James 1:14 tells us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Let's practice being quick and slow in our game today.
- **2.** Ask a volunteer to be "It." Form three groups from remaining students. Each group stands in a separate square.
- **3.** Call out either "Quick" or "Slow" and a description such as "kids wearing green" or "kids with brown hair." Students who fit that description move at the called speed to a new square, while "It" moves at same speed to tag students before they reach a new square. Any student who is tagged outside a square becomes "It" also.
- **4.** Continue play, periodically calling out "Quick switch" or "Slow switch," at which time all students must move to a new square at the designated speed. When only a few students have not been tagged, begin a new round of the game with a new "It."

Options

1. Play fast or slow music to indicate the speed at which students should move each time you call out a new description.

2. To challenge older students, review James 1:19 and then say "Listen" to indicate quick movement and "Speak" to indicate slow-motion during the game.



Discussion Questions

- 1. When might it be hard to show self-control when you talk to others? (When you're angry. When you feel like saying something unkind. When you don't like what someone is saying.)
- 2. What can you do when you need help showing self-control in your speech? (Follow James 1:19 and be quick to listen and slow to speak. Pray and ask God for His help. Count to 10 before you speak when you feel upset. Walk away before you say something you shouldn't say.)
- 3. How would your (school) be a better place if kids were careful about what they say?



Reindeer Gandy Gane

*** * * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: God strengthens us / Psalm 18:32-33



Overview

The children will decorate candy canes to resemble reindeer, and learn that God gives us strength to get through difficult times.



Helpers: 1

one for every 5-6 children



What You Need

- ★ 6" wrapped candy canes
- * brown chenille wire
- ☆ 7 mm moveable plastic eyes
- ★ 10 mm red pompons
- ¾ 1/2"-wide red satin ribbon
- * scissors
- * craft glue
- * ruler or tape measure
- * masking tape



Preparation

Cut chenille wire into 6" and 3" lengths. Cut red satin ribbon into 10" lengths. You will need one 6" length of brown chenille wire, two 3" lengths of brown chenille wire and one 10" red satin ribbon for each reindeer.



- Give each child a candy cane and a set of pre-cut chenille wire. Show how to lay the
 candy cane on the work surface, slip the 6" chenille wire length underneath the curve of
 the cane, bend it in half and twist the center of the wire around the cane to make the
 reindeer's antler shafts.
- The children should twist 3" chenille wire lengths around each of the shafts to add limbs to the antlers. Let them use craft glue to secure the antler assemblies to the candy canes.
- Show where to attach moveable plastic eyes and red pompons to the candy canes to make eyes and noses.
- 4. Let older children tie red satin ribbon bows around the reindeer's "necks" and trim the ends, if desired. Younger children will need help tying bows.
- 5. As the children are working, ask, Where do reindeer live? Allow the children to respond. Say, Reindeer move around on mountains, in snow and ice. God made reindeer strong so that they can survive in difficult conditions. We are like reindeer God gives us strength when life gets difficult.
- Allow the Reindeer Candy Canes to dry. Have the children write their names on masking tape and stick the tape on their candy canes.



Resurrection Toss

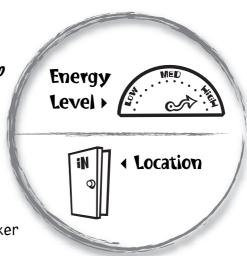
Bible Focus > Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

Materials

Bibles, paper plates, markers.

Preparation

Print the letters from the sentence "Jesus is alive," printing one letter on each paper plate. Make one set for every 12 students. Use a different-color marker each time you print the sentence.



Lead the Game

- 1. God's promise of salvation came true in Jesus' death and resurrection. Let's play a game where we are reminded of Jesus' resurrection.
- 2. Divide class into teams of no more than 12. Each team lines up single file at one side of the playing area. Give each student a paper plate written in his or her team's color. (If teams are small some students may have more than one paper plate.)



- **3.** Students take turns throwing the paper plates like Frisbees. Then, at your signal, first student in each line runs to collect one of his or her team's paper plates. Next students in line repeat process.
- **4.** When all of the paper plates have been collected, teams put them in order to read "Jesus is alive."

Options

- 1. If you have a small playing area, challenge students to skip or hop (or another way of movement) to collect the plates and return to line.
- 2. Students retrieve the plates in order. The first team to complete the sentence gives an example of how we know Jesus is alive.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What are some other ways to complete the sentence "Jesus is . . . "?
- 2. What are some ways we can show Jesus we are thankful for the wonderful news that He died to take the punishment for our sins and that He is alive today? (Sing praise songs to Him. Invite a friend to an Easter service or event at church.)
- 3. How does your family celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Eastertime?

Ring Toss

Bible Focus > Isaiah 9:1-7; Micah 5:2-4

Materials

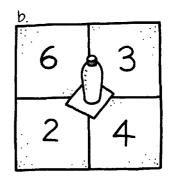
Bibles; paper plates; scissors; measuring stick; stapler; butcher paper; marker; filled, small plastic water bottle; scratch paper; pencils.

Preparation

Cut the center section out of two paper plates, leaving at least a ring 1-inch (2.5-cm) wide. Staple the plates together, one on top of the other, to create a sturdy ring (see sketch a). On a 3x3-foot (.4x.4-m) square of butcher paper, draw and number sections and place water bottle as shown in sketch b.



1. The prophets Isaiah and Micah told people about God's promise to send a Savior. The season when people get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the promised Savior, is called Advent. Let's play a game with things that will remind us of Advent and help us think about getting ready



◆ Location

Energy Level >

- 2. Students line up approximately 4 feet (1.2 m) from prepared paper. Give the paper-plate ring to the first student in line.
- 3. At your signal, the first student tosses the ring at the bottle. Student determines points based on where ring lands, retrieves ring and gives it to next student in line. (Note: A ring that circles the bottle scores 10 points.) Next student repeats action. Students keep track of points on scratch paper. Student with the highest score when you call stop answers one of the Discussion Questions below. Repeat play as time allows.

Discussion Questions

to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

- 1. What do you do to get ready for school? To go on a trip? To celebrate Christmas?
- 2. What do you and your family do to get ready to celebrate Christmas? Which of those celebrations especially remind you of Jesus' birth?
- **3.** How can you get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth? (Thank God that He sent Jesus. Sing songs to worship God. Prepare gifts for others to celebrate Jesus' birth.)



These decorated rocks will remind children that God is the "Rock of Our Salvation." Larger rocks can serve as decorations, smaller rocks could be carried in a pocket or book bag as a reminder of God's presence.



Materials Needed

- Newspaper to cover work area
- Paint shirts to cover clothing
- · Rocks large enough to paint. River stones are great for this project!
- Paint (acrylic paints work best), paint markers, glitter glue, etc.
- Thin, pointed brushes
- Paper cups for water
- Pieces of felt, white glue, and scissors (optional)



who saves us. Psalm 95:1



Directions

- 1. Find river stones or have children bring in their own medium-sized rocks.
- 2. Spread newspaper on work surface before beginning. Provide children with paint shirts to cover clothing.
- 3. Lead the children in deciding what they will paint on their rocks to remind them to praise God for His love, goodness, faithfulness, etc. They may choose to
- write words on their stones or paint a sunset, trees, or other scenes that remind them of God's greatness.
- 4. When decorating is completed, let rocks dry completely before handling.
- 5. If desired, cut pieces of felt to fit the bottoms of the rocks. Glue into place so that the rocks won't mar surfaces.



Praise Points

Engage children in a discussion about rocks.

- · What are some things we might do with a big rock? They are sturdy, strong, and can be used as a foundation for a house. They offer protection if we hide behind them. We can lean or sit on rocks for rest.
- How is God like a rock?



Praise Prayers

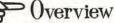
Thank You, Lord, for being a solid rock in our lives. Thank You that You are our place of protection and rest. Amen.



Rock Trivet

**** ** * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Jesus is our Rock / Matthew 7:24-27



This trivet made from ceramic tile is a good reminder to build our lives on Jesus Christ.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- ★ 6" square cork tiles (found at hardware and craft stores)
- ★ 6" square plain ceramic tiles
- * assorted small or broken ceramic tile pieces
- ★ jumbo craft sticks
- * spray paint
- ☼ craft glue
- * rulers
- * newspapers
- * pre-mixed tile grout
- * pencils
- ★ smocks (men's long-sleeved shirts work well)
- ★ Holiday Heart Gift Tag, page 201
- * Rock Trivet Gift Tag, page 205



Preparation

Spread newspapers on your work surface. Paint jumbo craft sticks with spray paint. You will need four pre-painted craft sticks and a set of gift tags for each trivet. Cover the children's work area with newspapers.



- Have the children wear smocks for this activity. Give each child a 6" cork tile and a 6" ceramic tile. Have each child use an unpainted craft stick to spread glue over one side of a cork tile, then show how to align the ceramic tile on top of the cork and press it down to create a trivet base.
- Give each child four pre-painted craft sticks. Let each child apply glue to one side of each stick, center the sticks along the trivet's sides and press to attach them. Allow the glue to dry.
- 3. Have the children use pencils and rulers to sketch 6" squares on the newspaper work surface for arranging ceramic tile pieces in patterns. Remind the children to leave small spaces (1/8") in between the tile pieces.
- 4. Show how to use an unpainted craft stick to scoop tile grout onto the prepared trivet base. The children can spread the grout evenly across the tiles.
- Tell the children to transfer the tile pieces from their pre-arranged patterns onto the grouted trivet bases. Allow the grout to dry.
- 6. As the children work, say, Tile and grout start as crushed rock, or sand. They are strong and hard. You can set hot dishes on this trivet, and the trivet will protect the table. Jesus is our Rock. When we build our lives on Jesus, we have security and protection.
- 7. Have the children make gift tags to attach to their Rock Trivets.



Dated 9/3/2010

Lesson 20

Getting Crafty

Scratchy Paintings

What Each Child Needs

crayons
81/2 x 11-inch (21.5x28-cm)
sheet of cardstock
dish soap
black paint
plastic cup

newspaper paint brush toothpick



What Each Child Does

- 1. Color the entire sheet of cardstock. Press down hard while you are coloring. Use lots of colors in any kind of desired pattern.
- 2. With an adult's help, mix a few drops of dish soap with black paint in a plastic cup. Paint mixture over entire sheet of colored stock paper. Make sure that sheet is completely covered, but not so thick that it won't dry.
- 3. Set painting aside to dry. (Note: You may wish to complete lesson on previous page while paintings dry.)
- 4. When painting is dry, use the pointy tip of a toothpick to scratch black paint away and write Proverbs 19:20 on the cardstock. (Optional: Choose one or two key words of the verse to write.) You may also use the toothpick to scratch designs around the edges of the verse.



Secret Pass=Off

Bible Focus > Octs 3:1-16

Materials

Bibles, marbles, paper clips or other small objects.

Lead the Game

- 1. In the name of Jesus, Peter healed a man who couldn't walk since his birth. Jesus helps us share what we have to help other people. Let's play a game in which we are secretly trying to give something away.
- 2. Choose at least one volunteer to become a "watcher." One watcher for every six or seven students will be needed. Watchers close eyes while you guietly give marbles or other small objects to no more than half of remaining students.
- 3. All students put hands behind backs and begin walking around the room, passing objects to each other while keeping hands behind backs. Watchers open eyes and try to detect who are holding the objects. To increase challenge, all students should pretend to pass objects.
- **4.** Call time after a minute or so. Watchers name students they think are holding objects. If their guesses are correct, students holding objects give them to the Watchers. If their guesses are incorrect, begin a new round of play. After the second round, choose new Watchers whether or not all objects have been collected. Play as many rounds as time allows.



◆ Location

Energy Level >

Discussion Questions

- 1. Was it easier to be a watcher or a secret giver in this game?
- 2. Why does Jesus tell us it is important to give to each other? (Giving or helping others show how we love them. We show our love for God by helping others.)
- 3. Besides money, what else does Jesus help us give to others? (Being a friend to someone who is lonely. Helping someone who can't do something on their own.)



Sheep Lollipop

* * * * * * AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: We are His sheep / John 10:14-16



The children will decorate lollipops to look like sheep as reminders that we are Jesus' sheep and He is the Good Shepherd.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- * poster board
- ★ Sheep Lollipop patterns, page 233
- * round lollipops
- * white muslin or sheeting
- * white and pink felt
- * rubber bands
- ★ ½"-wide black satin ribbon
- ★ 6-7 mm movable plastic eyes
- ☆ cotton balls
- ₩ ruler
- * scissors
- ☼ craft glue
- * pinking shears
- * masking tape



Preparation

Make templates of the Sheep Lollipop patterns. Trace and cut out sheep's ears from white felt. Trace and cut out sheep's ear linings and nose from pink felt. Measure 6" squares of white muslin or sheeting. Cut out squares with pinking shears. Measure and cut 8" lengths of black satin ribbon for sheep's neck collars. You will need one square of white muslin or sheeting, one set of ears and ear linings, one nose and one neck collar for each sheep.



- 1. Give each child a lollipop and a square of white fabric. Each child should position a lollipop "head" in the center of a square, then draw up the corners to a point. Show how to wrap a rubber band around the base of the lollipop to secure the fabric.
- 2. Show how to position and glue the sheep ear linings to the center of the ears. Point out where to glue the ear assemblies onto the backs of the sheep heads.
- 3. Have the children pinch off pea-sized pieces of cotton from the cotton balls. Show how to roll the cotton pieces in between index fingers and thumbs to make the sheep "wool." The children should use glue to cover the sheep's heads with wool.
- 4. Let the children attach movable plastic eyes and felt noses to their sheep faces with glue.
- 5. Help the children tie black satin ribbons into bows around the sheep's necks, covering the rubber bands, trimming the ribbon ends if desired.
- 6. Say, Jesus says that we are His sheep. He is our Good Shepherd.
- Allow the Sheep Lollipops to dry. Have the children write their names on masking tape and stick the tape on their lollipops.





Sheep on the Hillside

*** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: Shepherds watch their flocks / Luke 2:8



Overview

The children will use candy cane "shepherd staffs" to guide their flocks to safety.



Helpers: 1

one person to give instructions, distribute staffs and flocks of sheep, and award prizes



What You Need

- * large, individually-wrapped candy canes (about 6" long)
- ☆ cotton balls
- * masking tape
- * prizes



Preparation

Use masking tape to mark two parallel lanes in your play area, each about 18" wide and 8 feet long. Use masking tape to mark a start line and a finish line for each lane.



- Give each child a candy cane. Say, Shepherds use staffs to guide their sheep to
 water and pastures. Sometimes sheep stray from the group. Then they are in
 danger of being attacked by other animals or injured on the rocky hillsides.
 The shepherd rescues a sheep by hooking it with the curved end of the staff
 and pulling it to safety.
- Explain that the object of the game is for each "shepherd" to guide his or her "sheep" from the danger of the start line to the safety of the finish line. Shepherds will use their candy canes as staffs.
- 3. Divide the children into two teams. Have the teams line up behind the start line.
- 4. Place a pile of cotton balls at each team's start line (same number of balls in each). Tell the children that these are the "flocks." Say, You are going to watch your flocks of sheep and keep them safe, just like the shepherds on the hillside of Bethlehem did on the night Jesus was born.
- 5. At your signal, the first participant in each line should use his or her staff to free a "sheep" from the pile, then prod the sheep down the lane to the finish line. Remind the sheepherds that they cannot use their fingers to touch the sheep only their staffs and that they should gently nudge their sheep to the finish line, not throw or push them.
- The first shepherd to get his or her sheep to safety wins the round.
- Teams can continue play until all sheep are safely with the rest of the flock at the finish line.
- 8. Each participant should receive a prize.



Shepherd Relay

Bible Focus > Luke 2:1-20; 1 John 4:9

Materials

Bibles, one shepherd costume (towels, bathrobes, fabric lengths, sandals, walking sticks, etc.) for each group of six to eight students, large paper bags.

Energy Level > Continue of the location

Preparation

Place the materials for each costume in a separate paper bag at one end of an open playing area.

Lead the Game

- 1. The birth of God's Son, Jesus, the Savior, is reason for the whole world to celebrate! Let's play a game to dress up as some of the people who were among the first to celebrate Jesus' birth the shepherds!
- 2. Using the materials from one paper bag, demonstrate how to dress as a shepherd. When you are completely dressed up, hold the walking stick and call out, "Jesus the Savior is born today!" Return materials to bag.
- in single-file lines across the playing area from paper bags. At your signal, the first student on each team runs to his or her team's bag, dresses up in shepherd clothes, holds up the walking stick and calls out, "Jesus the Savior is born today!" Student puts clothes back in bag and returns to his or her team. The next student in line repeats the action. Students continue taking turns until all students have had a turn. A volunteer from the first team to finish answers one of the Discussion Questions below. Play again as time allows.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why should the whole world celebrate Jesus' birth? (He came as the Savior for all people. God showed His love for the whole world when He sent Jesus.)
- 2. What are some ways you've seen or heard the Christmas story?
- 3. What are some ways you, your family or your church tell other people that Jesus has been born?



Shepherd Treat Holder

**** AGES 7-12

Bible Reference: Jesus is the Good Shepherd / John 10:11



Overview

The children will make a treat holder that represents a shepherd.



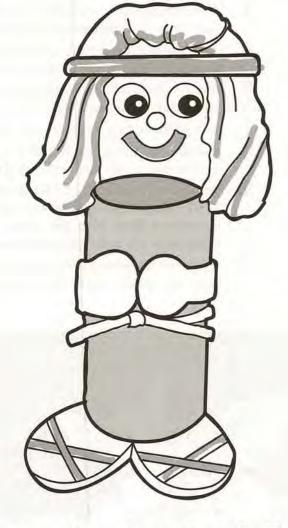
Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- ☼ poster board
- * Shepherd Treat Holder patterns, page 234
- ☼ toilet tissue tubes
- ☆ fabric scraps
- ₩ light brown craft foam
- * light brown felt
- * pink felt scraps
- ★ natural-colored raffia
- ★ jumbo craft sticks
- ★ 15-16 mm movable plastic eyes
- ☼ ½"-wide black satin ribbon
- ☆ red yarn
- ☆ craft glue
- * scissors
- * pinking shears
- ☼ pencil
- * candy canes





Preparation

Make templates of the Shepherd Treat Holder patterns. Trace and cut out the shepherds' heads and feet from light brown craft foam. Trace and cut out the shepherds' arms from light brown felt. Trace the patterns for the shepherds' robes and headdresses onto fabric scraps. Cut out the robe parts with regular scissors and the headdress parts with pinking shears. Trace and cut out the shepherds' noses from pink felt. Measure and cut 15" lengths of raffia for the shepherds' belts. Measure and cut 2" lengths of raffia for the shepherds' sandal ties. Measure and cut 8" lengths of black satin ribbon for the shepherds' headbands. You will need one head, one set of feet, one set of arms, one robe, one headdress, one nose, one belt, one headband and four sandal ties for each Shepherd Treat Holder.



What to Do

1. Give each child a cardboard toilet tissue tube and shepherd's robe. Tell the children to cover the tubes with craft glue and attach the robes to make the shepherds' bodies.

continued on next page...

Lesson 7

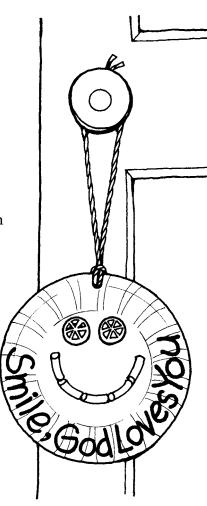
Getting Crafty

Smiley Face Door Hanger

What Each Child Needs

dry pasta in assorted colors and shapes newspaper black acrylic paint paintbrush 12-inch (30.5-cm) yellow paper plate black marker single hole punch 18-inch (45.5-cm) piece of black ribbon or

18-inch (45.5-cm) piece of black ribbon or yarn scissors glue



What Each Child Does

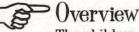
- 1. Decide which pasta shapes you want to use to create eyes and a mouth. Then set pasta shapes on newspaper and use the black paint to paint the pasta. (Optional: Instead of painting pasta, leave pasta its original assorted color.) Set it aside to dry.
- 2. With the black marker, write "Smile, God Loves You" around the edge of the paper plate. Punch one hole in the top of the plate. Cut and tie an 18-inch (45.5-cm) piece of ribbon or yarn through the hole to create a loop.
- 3. Glue the pasta into place and allow it to dry completely before hanging plate on a doorknob.



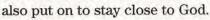
Snowflake Fleece Scarf

**** AGES 7-12

Bible Reference: Put on love / Colossians 3:12-14



The children will make winter scarves from polar fleece as reminders of what we should





Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- * polar fleece, 60" wide
- * snowflake patterns, page 236
- * white felt
- * poster board
- * yardstick
- ☆ ruler
- * scissors
- * fabric glue
- * safety pins
- ★ Holiday Heart Gift Tag, page 201
- ★ Snowflake Fleece Scarf Gift Tag, page 207

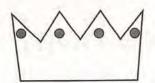


Preparation

Measure and cut 9" widths of polar fleece. You will need one 9" x 60" piece of fleece for each scarf. Make templates of the snowflake patterns. On white felt, trace and cut out six snowflakes for each scarf that a younger child will make. Older children can trace and cut their own snowflakes. Provide one set of gift tags for each child.



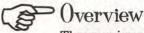
- 1. Give each child a pre-cut piece of fleece. The children should use scissors to fringe both ends of their fleece with ½"-wide and 6" deep cuts.
- 2. Demonstrate how to curl the fringe: grasp one piece at a time, twist until it is completely coiled, pull it away from the scarf to stretch the fabric, and let go. As it is released, the fringe curls into a spiral. The children can continue twisting and stretching each piece until all of their fringes are curled.
- 3. Older children can use white felt and patterns to cut out snowflakes.
- 4. Show the children how to arrange snowflakes on the scarves and attach them with fabric glue.
- 5. Ask, Why do we wear scarves in the winter? Allow the children to respond. Say, Yes, we put on scarves to keep warm. In the same way, the Bible says we should put on forgiveness, compassion, patience, kindness and love. They help us keep close to the warmth of God.
- Allow the scarves to dry.
- Have the children make gift cards and use safety pins to attach them to the scarves.



Spicy Scented Goasters

*** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: We are the aroma of Christ / 2 Corinthians 2:15



These spice-scented coasters are a reminder that we are the aroma of Christ.



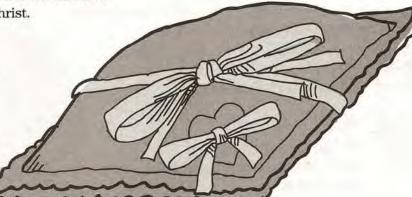
Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- * Spicy Scented Coaster patterns, page 240
- * poster board
- ☆ Christmas fabric
- ★ ground cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and allspice
- * muslin ★ ½"-wide satin ribbon
- ☼ measuring spoons
- * pinking shears
- * fabric glue
- * safety pins





- * pencils
- ※ bowls
- * scissors
- * rulers
- ★ Holiday Heart Gift Tag, page 201
- * Spicy Scented Coasters Gift Tag, page 207



Preparation

Make templates of the Spicy Scented Coaster patterns using poster board. Trace the coaster pattern onto Christmas fabric and cut it out with pinking shears. Trace the lining pouch square pattern onto muslin and cut it out with pinking shears. Trace the lining pouch square pattern from felt and cut it out with scissors. Trace and cut out the heart patterns from felt. Cut 10" lengths of satin ribbon. You will need two squares of Christmas fabric, two muslin lining pouch squares, one felt square, one set of hearts, one length of satin ribbon and one set of gift tags for each coaster.



What to Do

- 1. Have the children mix the spices. In a bowl, they should measure 2 tablespoons of ground cinnamon with two teaspoons each of nutmeg, ground cloves and allspice. They should mix the spices thoroughly.
- 2. Give each child two squares of muslin lining pouch. Have each child lay one square on a work surface. Help each child measure 1 tablespoon of mixed spices and pour it carefully in the center of his or her muslin square. Say, The three wise men brought baby Jesus special gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Frankincense and myrrh were expensive spices in Bible times. They were used as perfumes and in oils.
- Show how to squeeze a bead of fabric glue around the edges of the muslin square. Each

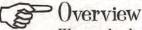
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Spread the News

* * * * * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Luke 2:8-18



We can look at the shepherds as a model for sharing Christ. They heard the Good News from the angels, sought out and found Jesus for themselves and then told everyone what they had discovered.



What You Need

- 常 newspaper (front page)
- ☼ print copy of an e-mail
- * play telephone or cell phone
- ☆ Christmas card
- * Best News Newspaper, page 253
- * crayons or markers
- ☼ Bible



Preparation

Reproduce the Best News Newspaper for each child. Place a marker at Luke 2:8-18 in your Bible.



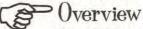
Presentation

- 1. Set out the newspaper front page, the copy of the e-mail, the phone and the Christmas card. Ask, Can you tell me what these things are? Let the children name the items.
- Ask, What do we do with them? (read about the news; receive messages using the
 computer; talk to family and friends; send greetings and information) Say, Yes, all of
 these tools help us communicate and share news with our family and friends.
- 3. Ask, Did people in Bible times use these same kinds of tools to share news with each other? (No, there were no telephones; computers weren't invented yet; maybe they sent cards) Say, The most common way they communicated was by telling other people their news in person. Let's see how they did that. Read Luke 2:8-18.
- 4. Ask, What happened to the shepherds? (they were watching their sheep when the angels came and announced Jesus' birth; the shepherds decided to go see if there really was a new baby; they found the baby; they told everyone about the baby)
- 5 Say, Yes, the shepherds heard about the Savior. They went to find Him. Then they told everyone the Good News! The shepherds heard, saw and told.
- 6. Ask, What are some ways you can tell others about baby Jesus? (talk with them; send them Christmas cards; invite them to church; show them love) Say, Those are all good ways to share the news.
- 7. Say, Here's another way. Distribute the Best News Newspapers. Say, You can make your own newspaper to announce Jesus' birth. Let the children write a news article or draw a picture of the shepherds and their story.
- 8. Say, Give your newspapers to people you know so they can hear the best news of all God sent us a Savior: baby Jesus. Ask each child to tell you the name of the person who will receive his or her newspaper.
- 9. Say, Let's pray. Have the children bow their heads. Say, God, thank You for this wonderful news. You sent a Savior! The shepherds heard it, saw it and told about it. Help us to do that, too. In Jesus' name, amen.

Star of Bethlehem Pencil Topper

**** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: The star leads the wise men to Jesus / Matthew 2:2



The children will make stars as reminders that

God wants everyone to find Christ.



Helpers: 1

one for every 3-4 children



What You Need

- ☼ poster board
- ☼ Star of Bethlehem pattern, page 233
- * metallic, foil or glitter pencils
- ☆ foil or metallic gift wrap
- * 1-ounce chip or snack bags
- ☼ spring-type clothespins
- ★ sequins and rhinestones
- * pencil
- ☆ glitter glue
- ₩ craft glue
- ★ scissors
- * clear tape
- * masking tape



Preparation

Make a template of the Star of Bethlehem pattern. Trace and cut stars from foil or metallic gift wrap. You will need two stars for each child. Slit open a chip bag along the back and bottom seams and trim the bag's edges. Lay it flat. Clean the inside of the bag. Allow the bag to dry. Trim the edges. You will need one chip bag per child.



- Have each child lay one foil star face down on a work surface. Give each child a foil, metallic or glitter pencil. Show how to place the pencils' eraser ends in the centers of the stars. Let the children use clear tape to attach their pencil ends to the centers of the stars.
- 2. Give each child another pencil and a clean, flattened chip bag. Demonstrate how to roll the bag around the pencil, shiny side out, to fashion a small tube. The children can then remove the pencils from the centers of their tubes. Let each child fringe one end of the shiny tube. This becomes the star's "tail."
- 3. Have the children use clear tape to attach the un-fringed ends of their stars' tails to the centers of the foil stars, on top of the pencils' erasers. The fringed ends will extend out the sides of the stars to resemble "shooting sparks."
- 4. Each child should glue a second foil star on top of the first one. Let the children use spring-type clothespins to clamp the star arms together to dry.
- 5. When the glue is dry, remove the clothespins. Allow the children to decorate their stars with glitter glue, sequins and rhinestones.
- 6. Say, The Star of Bethlehem led the wise men to baby Jesus. God wants us to find Jesus, know Him and worship Him, too.
- Have the children write their names on masking tape and stick the tape on their pencil toppers. Allow the decorated pencils to dry.

Stick Together Relay

Bible Focus > Colossians 3:15

Materials

Bibles, balloons.

Preparation

Inflate one balloon for each team of five students.

Lead the Game

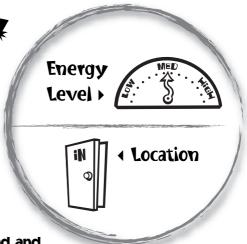
- 1. Faithfulness to others means being a friend in good and bad times. Let's practice faithfulness by sticking with each other in our game today.
- 2. Divide students into teams of five. Teams line up on one side of the classroom. Give the first student in each line an inflated balloon.
- 3. At your signal, the first student in each line taps the balloon up into the air as he or she moves to the other side of the playing area and back. The second student in line then taps the balloon across the playing area and back while holding the wrist of the first student. Game continues until the whole team is holding wrists and moving across the playing area and back as the last student taps the balloon.
- 4. As teams complete the relay, they sit down. A volunteer from the last team to finish answers one of the Discussion Questions below (or chooses a student from one of the other teams to answer a question). Continue the discussion, asking the remaining questions.

Options

- 1. Bounce a basketball, kick a tennis ball or carry a Ping-Pong ball on a spoon instead of tapping a balloon across the room.
- 2. Younger students complete relay in pairs, instead of whole team holding hands.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How does this game show us what faithfulness is? (Faithfulness is sticking with someone or something, no matter what.)
- 2. Read Proverbs 17:17 aloud. According to Proverbs 17:17, what does a faithful friend do? Would that be hard or easy? Why?
- 3. Why might a kid your age have a hard time continuing to be a faithful friend to someone? (When that person moves away. When he or she stops being nice. When we find new friends.) What can we do to remember to be faithful friends, even when it's hard? (Ask God's help. Remember the words of Proverbs 17:17.)





I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.

Psalm: 139:14

God made each of us unique—from our noses to our toes, from our handprints to the way we like our pizza! Children will enjoy celebrating their uniqueness with this sunny handprint craft. The display will remind them to shine for God and to praise Him for making them unique!



Materials Needed

- · Newspaper to cover work area
- · Paint shirts to cover clothing
- Washable yellow tempera paint or yellow markers
- · 2 plain white 8" paper plates per child
- White construction paper or card stock (4 per child)
- Sunshine Scripture pattern (page 13)
- · Crayons, markers, etc.
- Scissors
- · Glue
- · Yarn (about 12" for each child)
- · Paper hole punch



Directions

- 1. Cover work area with newspaper and provide children with paint shirts to wear.
- Paint or color the front of the one of paper plates yellow. Let dry completely.
- 3. Spread yellow paint on the additional paper plate for each child.
- Using four pieces of white construction paper or card stock, make handprints from the yellow paint onto the paper.
- 5. Place each hand, palm down, in the yellow paint, then carefully press palms down onto the white paper, creating eight handprints in all. Let dry completely.



- 6. Copy the Sunshine Scripture pattern (page 13) for each child.
- 7. Cut out, color, and decorate the pattern.
- 8. Glue the pattern to the center of the front of the yellow-painted paper plate.
- 9. When handprints are dry, have the children cut out each handprint.
- Glue each handprint around the back of the paper plate, overlapping if needed, to create a "sun pattern."
- 11. Punch two holes at the top of the plate.
 Thread 12" of yarn through the holes and tie in a loop for hanging.



Praise Points

As the children create their Sunshine Hands craft, ask them about themselves. What are they good at? What do they like to do? Encourage the children to share their interests and talents, and discuss how unique each child is.

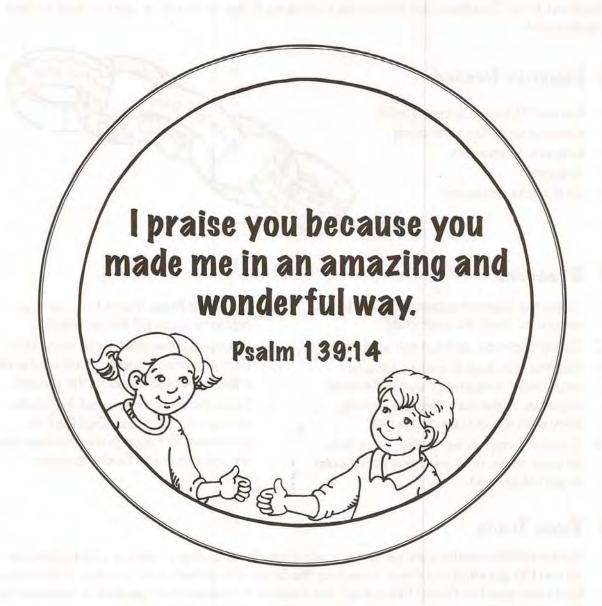


Praise Prayers

Thank You, Lord, that You made us each in an amazing and wonderful way. Help us to appreciate our own special gifts and also the special gifts of others. Amen.



Sunshine Scripture Pattern



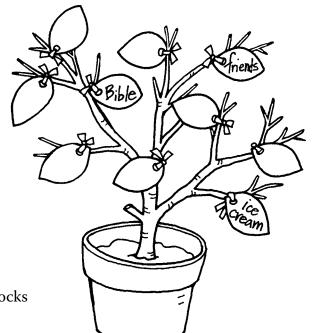
Lesson 46

Getting Crafty

Thanksgiving Tree

What Each Child Needs

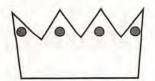
small clay pot
packing tape
plaster of paris
mixing bowl
water
small tree branch with leaves removed
markers or pens
green construction paper
green ribbon
scissors
hole punch
optional—16 ounce plastic cup, small rocks



What Each Child Does

and dirt, paint and paintbrushes

- 1. Place a piece of packing tape on the inside bottom of the pot to cover any hole(s). (Optional: Instead of a clay pot, use a 16 ounce plastic cup.) With an adult's help, mix plaster of paris with water, according to directions on package to fill the pot ³/₄ full. (Optional: Instead of plaster of paris, use small rocks and dirt to prop up your branch.)
- 2. Have an adult help you pour plaster into clay pot and let sit for one or two minutes until slightly firm. Push the branch into center of pot. The branch should be able to stand on its own. If not, let the plaster dry for a few more minutes. Once the branch is standing, set pot aside.
- 3. Draw and cut 10 (or desired amount) leaf shapes from green construction paper. Punch a hole into one end of each leaf.
- 4. On several leaves, write things that you are thankful for. Keep extra leaves handy so that you may add to your tree as you think of more things to thank God for.) Then tie leaves to the branch with green ribbon to create a Thanksgiving tree. (Optional: For an added splash of color, paint your pot with craft paints.)



The Gall from King Herod

*** AGES 3-12

Bible Reference: King Herod summons the Wise Men / Matthew 2:7-8



Overview

This beanbag toss game shows how King Herod sent for the wise men so he could find out more about Jesus, the baby King.



Helpers: 2

one person to explain the rules and hand out beanbags

one person to retrieve beanbags and award prizes



What You Need

- \$\pi\$ 3 Gingerbread Magi Men
 (page 68) or 3 beanbags
- ☆ large cardboard box
- brown grocery-size paper sacks or brown mailing paper
- ★ clear or brown packaging tape
- ★ compass
- ☆ pencil
- ₩ glitter
- ☼ craft glue
- * black marker
- ₩ ruler
- ☆ scissors
- ☆ masking tape





Preparation

Tape the bottom of the box to secure it. Open one top flap. Use the compass and pencil to draw a semi-circle on the flap, creating a palace "dome." Cut away the excess. Fold the remaining top flaps into the box and tape them. Use tape and paper sacks or mailing paper to cover the outside of the box, including the dome. Decorate the front by using the ruler and pencil to outline a crossbar and front columns. Go over the pencil with black marker. Fill in the columns, crossbar and dome with craft glue and glitter. Set King Herod's Palace in your play area. With masking tape, mark two tossing lines: one closer to the palace for younger children, and one farther away for older children. Note: Wipe up stray glitter immediately so that it does not pose a safety risk to very young children.



- 1. Have each child stand behind a line. Say, King Herod was a Roman leader in Israel. He heard that wise men were in Jerusalem. They knew where to find the new baby King, Jesus. So Herod sent for the three wise men. They went to see him.
- 2. Explain that the object of the game is to toss all three wise men (or beanbags) into Herod's palace for a "visit." Let the player toss the wise men into the palace.
- 3. Once the wise men have "visited" the palace, say, The wise men discovered that King Herod wanted to harm Jesus. They decided they would not tell Herod where to find Jesus. God used the wise men to protect baby Jesus. God protects you, too.
- 4. Each child should receive a prize.





The Gensus in Bethlehem

**** ** * * * * AGES 3-6

Bible Reference: Joseph and Mary register in Bethlehem / Luke 2:1-5



Overview

This variation of "Duck, Duck, Goose" shows how Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the Roman census.



Helpers: 1

one person to give instructions and award prizes



What You Need

* prizes



Preparation

None.



- 1. Have the children form a line. Say, At the time Jesus was to be born, the Roman rulers decided to take a
 - census in Israel. What is a census? Allow the children to respond. Say, A census is a counting of all the people.
- 2. Say, The rulers said that everyone had to go to his or her hometown to register. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem. So Joseph and Mary had to travel from where they were living, in Nazareth, to Bethlehem.
- 3. Have the children walk in a line around the room, into the hallway, into other rooms if possible, and back to the original starting point.
- 4. Have the children sit on the floor or sit on chairs in a circle. Say, Once Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they had to register and be counted. Explain that each child will have a turn as a "census counter."
- 5. Have the first census counter stand and walk around the outside of the circle, tapping each player on the head and counting aloud while walking. The census counter can continue counting heads as long as desired. When the census counter taps the last person he or she wants to count in the census, the census counter should say, "People in Bethlehem!"
- The last person tapped by the counter should stand up and race the counter around the circle. Whichever player reaches the vacated slot first is "safe." The unseated player becomes the census counter.
- 7. Continue play until everyone has had the chance to be the census counter.
- 8. Each child should receive a prize.



Lesson 51

Getting Crafty

The Greatest Gift

What Each Child Needs

markers

1-inch (2.5-cm) wooden bead

large empty matchbox

Easter grass or raffia

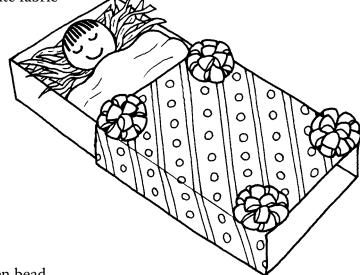
4-inch (10-cm) square of white fabric

wrapping paper

scissors

craft glue

bows or ribbons



What Each Child Does

- 1. Draw a face on the wooden bead.
- 2. Slide off outside portion of matchbox. Fill matchbox with Easter grass or raffia. Tuck the white fabric in and around the sides of the matchbox to look like a blanket.
- 3. Glue the wooden bead at the top edge of the blanket to represent the face of baby Jesus. Slide back on the outside portion of the matchbox.
- 4. Cut a piece of wrapping paper the same width as the box. Make sure paper is long enough to wrap around matchbox. Glue wrapping paper around the matchbox. Do not glue wrapping paper around ends of matchbox. (Matchbox must be able to open and close.) Add ribbons or bows for decoration.
- 5. Keep your project under your Christmas tree as a reminder that the greatest gift to us is Jesus!



The Light of the World

**** ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12



Overview

Jesus, the Light of the World, shines through believers.



What You Need

- ☼ instructions and materials for Luminaries for the Light of the World, page 56
- * candle and candle holder
- ☆ flashlight
- * string of miniature tree lights
- ☆ camping lantern
- ★ matches
- * black paper or black trash bags
- ☼ clear tape
- ★ Bible





Preparation

Make a sample Luminary for the Light of the World. If you plan to have the children make their own Luminaries, have the materials ready. Darken the classroom by covering the windows with black construction paper or trash bags and clear tape. Set your chair near an electrical outlet. Assemble the candle and candleholder, flashlight, camping lantern, sample Luminary and matches next to your seat. Place a string of miniature tree lights next to the electrical outlet. Place markers at Matthew 5:14-16 and John 8:12 in your Bible.



Presentation

- 1. Have the children sit in chairs or on the floor in a semi-circle around you.
- 2. Read John 8:12. Say, **The room is going to get dark**. Close the blinds, shut the door and turn off the lights. Children who are afraid of the dark can move closer to you.
- 3. As the children get accustomed to the darkness, ask, What do you notice about being in the dark? (it is difficult to see; I can't do anything; I'm scared)
- 4. Light the Luminary candle. Say, The candle in this luminary represents Jesus. He is the Light of the World. The luminary itself represents people. Notice that when the candle is inside the luminary, the light shines through. When we invite Jesus the Light into our hearts, He shines through us.
- 5. Use the matches to light the candle in the candleholder. Ask, Does this lit candle make the room seem different? (yes, I can see a few more things; there is more light; the candle makes shadows)
- 6. Have a volunteer turn on the flashlight and leave it on. Ask, **Does the flashlight help?** (yes, some; when the beam points at something, I can see it)
- 7. Ask a volunteer near the electrical outlet to plug in the string of miniature tree lights.

continued on next page...

As the volunteer works, illuminate the outlet with the candle or flashlight. Ask, **What do these do?** (they are dots of light; we can share the light by unwinding the string)

- 8. Hand the camp lantern to a volunteer at the back of the group. Have the volunteer turn on the lantern and hold it high. Ask, **Now what do you notice?** (the lantern is powerful; the light spreads)
- 9. Read Matthew 5:14-16. Say, Each of these kinds of light adds brightness to the room in different ways. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." He uses His light in each of us to light up the world in different ways.
- 10. Say, Let's pray together. Have the children bow their heads. Dear Lord, You are the Light of the world. Please come into our hearts right now. We want Your love to shine through us. In Jesus' name, amen.
- 11. Turn on the room's lights. Extinguish the candles, and turn off the flashlight and lantern. Unplug the tree lights.
- 12. If time allows, let the children make their own Luminaries for the Light of the World.





The Mitten Tree

**** ** * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Give to the least of these / Matthew 25:31-40



Overview

A Christmas tree in a central location is the collection point for donated hats, mittens, gloves, socks and scarves.



Helpers: 2

two people to work together to set up tree, solicit and pack up donations, and deliver them to the receiving charity



What You Need

- * Christmas tree
- ★ boxes
- ☼ poster board
- * markers
- * The Mitten Tree flyer, page 188



Preparation

Set up a Christmas tree in a central location. The tree should be undecorated. Contact local charities to find one in need of winter wear: ask if they need winter wear for their clients, and if so, the particular kinds or sizes of winter wear they can use. Determine a starting and ending date for collecting donations. If you schedule the project early in the season, people in need will receive the winter accessories before the weather gets too cold. Use poster board and markers to make a sign that reads, "The Mitten Tree." Be sure to include a list of needed accessories, the starting and ending collection dates of the project, and Matthew 25:40 on the poster. Or, reproduce The Mitten Tree flyer and fill in the appropriate information. Hang the poster or flyer near The Mitten Tree.



- About two weeks before your collection project begins, distribute a list of needed accessories to your church newsletter, bulletin, Sunday school classes, youth group and clubs.
- 2. Visit church classes and groups personally. Say, Our church family wants to give Jesus a special birthday gift this Christmas. Jesus said that when we show mercy to a person in need, it is as if we are doing it for Him. Describe the charity and its needs. Share the starting and ending dates of your collection project. Encourage people to participate by bringing donations to your facility and placing them on The Mitten Tree.
- 3. As part of a Birthday Celebration for Jesus program, you can have children and families make Jingle Bell Gloves (page 96) and Snowflake Fleece Scarves (page 105) to place on The Mitten Tree.
- Consider asking guests to your Birthday Celebration for Jesus to bring donations for The Mitten Tree.
- At the conclusion of the collection period, remove the donated items from The Mitten Tree and pack them in boxes.
- Deliver the items to the charity.



Toe Service

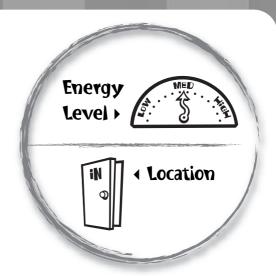
Bible Focus > John 15:13

Materials

Bibles, index cards, marker.

Preparation

Print the words of John 15:13 on index cards, one word per card. Make one set of verse cards for every eight to 10 students.



Lead the Game

- 1. One of the ways Jesus showed His love just before He suffered and died to take the punishment for our sins was to wash His disciples' feet. Washing feet was something a servant would usually do. Let's play a game that uses our feet!
- 2. Group students in teams of eight to 10. Each team lines up single-file on one side of playing area. Students remove shoes and socks. Place a mixed-up set of verse cards across the playing area from each team.
- 3. At your signal, the first student from each team skips across playing area to cards, picks up one card and places it in between his or her first two toes. Student walks back to team with card held between toes. If card falls before he or she returns to the team, student must stop to replace card. Next student in line repeat action until all cards have been collected. Students on each team work together to order verse cards. First team finished reads verse aloud. Students check verse in Bible.

Option

If your class has fewer than 16 students, all students act as one team and race against the clock.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Jesus showed us His love and laid down His life for us by dying on the cross. How might we do what John 15:13 says and show love to our friends? (Help them even when we don't feel like it. Be friendly even if they aren't being very friendly to us. Think of a caring thing you can do and do it.)
- 2. What can we do to thank Jesus for laying down His life for us? (Accept His offer to take the punishment for our sins and believe in His death and forgiveness.)

Verse Bowl

Bible Focus > 1 Corinthians 13:7

Materials

Bibles, Post-it Notes, marker, 10 empty plastic soda or water bottles, pencils, tennis ball.

Preparation

Print the words and reference of 1 Corinthians 13:7 on Post-it Notes, one word on each note. Stick each note on a plastic bottle. Also print the words and reference of 1 Corinthians 13:7 on a sheet of paper. Photocopy one verse paper for each student. Set plastic bottles in a bowling-pin formation on one side of the playing area.



- 1. God's patience with us shows us how to be patient with others. Let's play a game to find out a little more about patience.
- 2. Give each student a verse paper and a pencil. Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud. Students line up about 7 feet (2.1 m) from the verse bottles.
- 3. The first student in line rolls the tennis ball at the bottles. Student takes verse paper and pencil over to bottles and reads words on the knocked-over bottles. Student crosses off those words on the verse paper, returns bottles to original positions and goes to the end of the line. Next student in line repeats action. Play continues until all students have crossed off all words on their papers. The students who finish first may assist the other students by reading words on bottles and setting them back in place.

Discussion Questions

- 1. When did you have to be patient in this game? (Waiting for your turn. Waiting for others to finish crossing off words.) Which word in our verse is most like the word "patience"? ("Perseveres.") Perseverance means continuing to do something even when it is hard and patience means waiting without complaining.
- **2.** How does God show patience toward us? (He forgives us when we're sorry. He takes care of us, even when we don't thank Him.)
- 3. When are some times you can be patient with your family? With your classmates?

Lesson 28

Getting Crafty

Verse Pouch

What Each Child Needs

Bible

4x12-inch (10x30.5-cm) piece of craft foam

hole punch

tape

1 yard (.9 m) length of yarn craft foam scraps or shapes index card marker

What Each Child Does

- 1. Fold the piece of craft foam in half. Punch holes every 1/2-inch (1.3-cm) down both sides of the folded craft foam. Do not punch hole in the top of the craft foam or on the folded edge.
- 2. Wrap a small piece of tape around the tip of one end of the yarn to make it easier to thread through the punched holes. Thread yarn through the holes on one side of the pouch. Tie off the ends. Repeat step on the other side of the pouch. Use remainder of yarn to tie a strap from one side of pouch to the other side.
- 3. Glue craft foam scraps or pre-cut designs as decorations on the front of pouch.
- 4. Write Philippians 2:3 on the index card and put it inside the pouch. (Optional: Provide additional index cards on which children can write other verses to keep in the pouch.)

Watch Your Back!

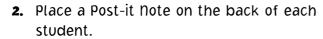
Bible Focus > acts 12:1-17; Colossians 4:2

Materials

Bibles, large Post-it Notes.

Lead the Game

1. God provided an angel to free Peter from prison. God always answers our prayers, though sometimes He does it in ways we don't expect. That's why Colossians 4:2 tells us we need to be watching for the ways He answers. Let's play a game in which we need to be watchful, too!



3. At your signal, students begin trying to grab Post-it Notes from each other. Students may not hold onto or touch their own Post-it Notes in defense. They must watch out for anyone who is trying to grab their notes as they attempt to grab other students' notes.

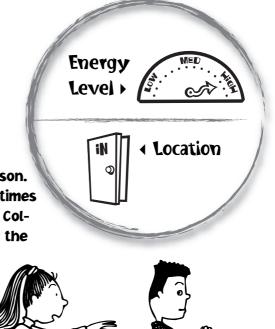
4. When a student's note is grabbed, that student must surrender any other notes he or she has collected and then move to the side of the playing area. Grabbing continues until only one student has his or her original note (and everyone else's notes) or time is called. Redistribute Post-it Notes and play again as time allows.

Option

Instead of Post-it Notes, play game with long, narrow fabric strips that students tuck into their clothes.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What did you watch for while you played this game? What happened if you didn't
- 2. Because we know God always answers prayer, what should we do after we pray for something? (Be watching for how God is going to answer our prayer. Not worry about things we have prayed about, but trust God to take care of them.)
- 3. What kinds of things should we talk to God about when we pray? (Things we are thankful for Reasons we love Him. Problems we or other people are having and need His help with.)





Why a Baby?

* * * * * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Isaiah 9:6-7, John 1:14



God became incarnate as a baby in an ordinary family, rather than as a temporal king, military leader or priest.



What You Need

- ★ instructions and materials for King's Crowns, page 70
- instructions and materials for The King's Cupcakes, page 137
- play helmet, sword, shield or other military apparel
- * white sheet or blanket
- *2 yards each of red, blue and purple ribbon
- * doll wrapped in a blanket
- ★ 3 sheets of construction paper
- * markers
- ※ Bible





Preparation

Make a sample King's Crown. If you plan to have the children make The King's Cupcakes, have the materials ready. Braid together red, blue and purple ribbon. Knot the braid at each end. On the first piece of construction paper, write "Special Leader #1," on the second piece of paper write "Special Leader #2," and on the third piece of paper write, "Special Leader #3." Set the doll wrapped in a blanket out of view. Place markers at Isaiah 9:6-7 and John 1:14 in your Bible.



Presentation

- Ask three volunteers to portray a king, a military leader and a priest. The king should wear the King's Crown. The military leader should wear the helmet and carry the sword and shield. The priest should wear the white sheet or blanket as a robe and the braided ribbon tied as a belt.
- 2. Have the three volunteers stand in a row in front of the group. Place the sheet of paper marked "Special Leader #1" in front of the king. Place the sheet of paper marked "Special Leader #2" in front of the military leader. Place the sheet of paper marked "Special Leader #3" in front of the priest.
- Say, Before Jesus was born, God told His people that He was sending them
 a very special leader. Here are three examples of leaders from Bible times.
 Let's talk about each of them before you decide which kind of leader God
 would send.

continued on next page...

- 4. Have the king step forward. Say, Maybe God would send a king. Describe a king. (rich; powerful; he sits on a throne; he wears a crown; people obey him; he rules over a kingdom)
- 5. Have the king step back and the military leader step forward. Say, Maybe God would send a military leader. Describe a military leader. (he fights in wars; he is strong; troops do what he says; he is respected)
- 6. Have the military leader step back and the priest step forward. Say, **Maybe God** would send a priest or religious leader. Describe a priest. (he works in the temple; he has an important job; he has influence)
- 7. Have the priest step back. Say, Let's find out what kind of special leader you think God would send. Have the children vote for one of the volunteers standing in front of them. Tally the results.
- 8. Say, God left some clues in the Bible describing this special leader. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Let the children explain what the passage says about the special leader. Say, Yes, it sounds like this leader would be very responsible, successful and good.
- 9. Say, [Number] of you think God would send a king, [number] of you think He would send a military leader, and [number] of you think He would send a priest. Take out the baby in a blanket. Say, But God did something different. He sent a baby from a very ordinary family to be the special leader.
- 10. Read John 1:14. Ask, Why would God send an ordinary baby? (He wanted to become one of us; He knew people might trust an ordinary person more easily than a powerful person)
- 11. Ask, But how could an ordinary baby become a special leader? (because baby Jesus was God; Jesus was God's Son; God worked through Jesus; God can do anything)
- 12. Say, This ordinary baby's name was Jesus. He was the special leader God sent. He grew into a man. He is strong and powerful. He rules the Kingdom of God. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Yet we can relate to Him. We can talk to Him anytime. God became human like us because He loves us so much.
- 13. Say, Let's pray together. Have the children bow their heads. Say, Dear God, thank You for sending us a special leader baby Jesus. Thank You, Jesus, that You became one of us. In Jesus' name, amen.
- 14. If time allows, have the children make The King's Cupcakes. Lead them in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.





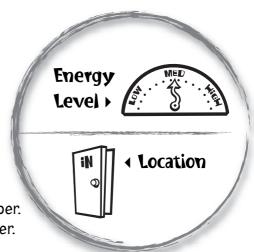
Bible Focus > acts 1:8

Materials

Bibles, large sheet of paper, marker, masking tape, soft ball, large container.

Preparation

Draw a line down the center of a large sheet of paper. Print "Team 1" on one side and "Team 2" on the other. Display in classroom.



Team 2

Wi

Lead the Game

- 1. Jesus' disciples witnessed, or saw, the miracles Jesus did. The miracles showed everyone Jesus is God's Son. So when the disciples went out and "witnessed," they were telling others about Jesus. Divide class into two teams. Play a basketball-type game similar to H-O-R-S-E. Teams take turns attempting to toss ball into a container. Each time ball lands in container, team writes a letter of the word "witness" on its side of the paper.
- 2. When one team completes the word, a volunteer from that team answers one of the discussion questions below.
- **3.** The first team to finish tells a situation when they could tell others about God and share His love.

Option

Divide the group into teams by a new method for each round. Try one or more of the following: Students line up in alphabetical order according to the first letter of first names. Divide line evenly. Students group themselves by a color on their clothes or the kind of shoes they are wearing. Combine groups to make two even teams. Students line up in order of the last digit of their phone numbers. Divide the line into teams.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why do you want to be part of God's family? (Tell your own reasons for becoming a Christian before asking students to tell reasons. Also be careful to not push students who are not comfortable answering the question.)
- 2. Read Acts 1:8 aloud. What does God give us to be able to witness Jesus to others? (The Holy Spirit).
- 3. What are some ways you can tell others about Jesus?



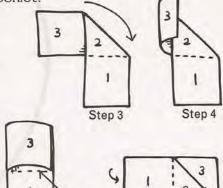
God's work in our lives is amazing. Encourage children to praise God's wonderful works in each other—His creations—with this Works of Wonder booklet.



Materials Needed

- Scissors
- 12" x 18" sheets of construction paper
- Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Wonder Booklet and Scripture
 Shape patterns (pages 63–64)
- · Crayons or markers







Step 5

Glue here

Step 6

Directions

- Cut construction paper into 5" x 15" rectangles.
- Create three 5" panels (lengthwise) by making small pencil marks to indicate where to fold the paper.
- Fold the middle or second panel over at a 45 degree angle, aligning the edge of the second panel with the pencil mark. (See diagram.)
- 4. Fold the third panel over the second panel. (See diagram.)
- Glue the third panel along the fold to close the pocket. It should now resemble a two-panel card with an angled pocket. (See diagram.)

- 6. Fold over first panel to form the Works of Wonder Booklet holder. (See diagram.)
- Copy and cut out the Wonder Booklet patterns (page 63) for each child. Glue the two pieces together where indicated. Fold accordion-style along the dotted lines.
- Copy the Works of Wonder Scripture and Shape patterns (page 64) for each child. Cut out and color as desired.
- Glue the Scripture to the front of the booklet holder. Glue the shapes to the card to decorate as desired.
- 10. See Praise Points for suggestions on how to use the Works of Wonder Booklet.



Praise Points

To use the Works of Wonder Booklets:

- · Instruct the children to write their names on the line "I praise God for."
- Next, have the children pass their Works of Wonder booklets around the room so that each child can write something wonderful in the space provided about the booklet owner.
- Continue passing around all the booklets until each child has had the chance to write something for everyone in the class. Return booklets to their owners.



Praise Prayers

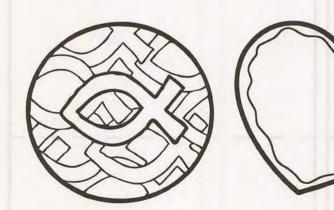
Lord, we praise You for Your amazing works in our lives and in all of creation. Help us to always see your wonderful work in ourselves and in each other. Amen.

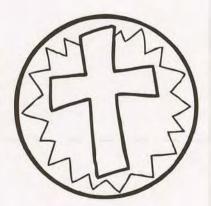
Wonder Booklet Patterns

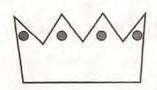
I PRAISE GOD FOR	glue here

Scripture and Shape Patterns









Worship the King

**** * * * * ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Psalm 95:6, Matthew 2:9-11



The wise men's visit to the Christ Child demonstrates different ways to worship.



What You Need

- * chairs
- 常 rug or mat



Preparation

Spread a rug or mat on the floor in the lesson area. Place markers at Psalm 95:6 and Matthew 2:9-11 in your Bible. (In preparation, you might want to read more than one translation of Matthew 2:11, noting that some versions

render "they bowed down" as "they fell down.")



Presentation

 Assemble the children. Ask, In church, do we worship God standing, sitting, kneeling or lying down? The children can respond according to your denomination's practices.

 Review the parts of your regular church service, pointing out when the congregation stands, kneels and sits. For example, you might stand for singing, kneel for prayer and sit to hear Scripture reading.

3. Read Psalm 95:6. Say, This passage teaches about worship. What does it tell us to do? (bow down, kneel) Ask, How does bowing our heads or bowing down show worship? (it demonstrates that you are listening; it shows respect) Ask, How does kneeling show worship? (it shows humility; it is an act of reverence)

4. Read Matthew 2:9-11. Say, In Bible times, "to bow down" meant more than bowing your head or bowing from the waist. When the wise men "bowed down" to baby Jesus, they fell to the ground and extended their hands and arms in front of them. Have the children practice lying prostrate on the rug or mat.

5. Ask, How does falling down show worship? (it shows complete surrender) Ask, Why did the wise men show such respect and surrender to a tiny baby? Allow the children to respond. Say, Yes, they recognized that Jesus was a gift from God. When we worship God, we acknowledge how strong and mighty He is. He is our Creator, our Redeemer and our Savior.

6. Say, Let's worship God just like the wise men did. Have the children stand, then bow their heads, kneel and lie prostrate. Say, Let's pray together. You can bow your head, kneel or lie down. Give the children a moment to situate themselves. Say, God, we worship You this day. We honor and respect You, we reverence You and we surrender ourselves to You. You are King! In Jesus' name, amen.



Wrapping Gifts with Jesus

*********** ALL AGES

Bible Reference: Romans 6:23



Wrapping a gift demonstrates important elements of God's free gift to us: eternal life in Christ Jesus.



What You Need

- * boxes
- ☆ gift wrap
- * ribbon
- ☆ gift tags
- * scissors
- ☆ clear tape
- ★ pen or pencil
- ★ Bible



Preparation

Place a marker at Romans 6:23 in your Bible.



Presentation

- 1. Say, Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Why did God sent Jesus to the earth? (to show us how to live; to give us a new chance; to be with us)
- 2. Say, There's another important reason. God loves us so much that He wants us to live with Him forever. Read Romans 6:23b. Say, God gives us the gift of eternal life in Jesus. But sometimes it's hard to remember Jesus when we get so excited about receiving lots of presents. Let's wrap this gift a special way to remind us about God's gift to us: eternal life in Jesus. Set the box in front of you.
- 3. Say, The first thing we need to do is wrap the box. Cut a piece of gift wrap and cover the box. Say, The paper covers the box to hide what is inside. When we admit we have made mistakes and need Jesus, His blood covers our sin.
- 4. Say, We need to seal and secure the box. Tape the paper and tie a ribbon around the box. Say, The tape and the ribbon seal and secure the box. When we decide to believe in Jesus, He secures our salvation with the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Say, We need to label this box. Fill out a gift tag and tape it on the box. Say, This gift is for [child's name]. When we decide to follow Jesus, He begins a relationship with us. We can have Him as our friend forever.
- 6. Ask, Can Jesus give us the gift of eternal life if we don't take it? (I'm not sure; the gift is still there) Say, Jesus offers us the gift of eternal life, but we must accept it. Give the recipient the gift.
- 7. Say, Wrapping gifts reminds us of the steps to receive God's gift of eternal life.
 All He asks is that we receive this free gift.
- 8. Say, Let's pray together. Have the children bow their heads. Say, God, thank You for Your free gift in Christ Jesus eternal life. Help us to remember as we wrap our gifts that You cover our sins, You seal us and You want a personal relationship with us. We receive this gift. In Jesus' name, amen.
- 9. Say, Now when you wrap gifts, you can celebrate Jesus' gift to you: eternal life. If time allows, have the children each wrap a box. Let them share the steps as they work.



Making eyeglass cases for the elderly.

Service Project

This is a great project to do for a group of residents at a nursing home. It is also something that could be done on Grandparent's Day at school or for a gift for any holiday.

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

What you Need:

Old, wide men's neckties (1 per student)

Glue

Self-adhesive, hook and loop Velcro dots (2 per case)

Paper to write a note explaining how to use the gift

Sharp scissors

Chalk

Clips or clothespins

Preparation:

A week or so before you plan to make these, ask children to bring in old neckties that are no longer being use. The wider the better! You can also check at thrift stores or garage sales. Make sure that you wash or clean anything you bring in.

If you have time, make a case yourself so that you have something to show the children. This will also help you to see how long it might take your particular group to complete the project.

What to do:

Start by having the kids close their eyes. Then ask them with their eyes still closed, to tell you what you are wearing, what color your eyes are, if you are wearing glasses, etc.

Then have them open their eyes and look at you for 10 seconds. Ask them to close their eyes again and do this all over. Ask if it was easier to notice specific things the 2nd time.

Then ask if this is how we sometimes overlook the needs of others. Read 1 Peter 4:10

Tell the children that we all have needs and that God knows every single one! He knows everything we need and want. We can serve others if we are aware of others needs too. God has blessed us with so much and He's given each child the ability to serve someone else. Today we are going to serve some older people who wear glasses. They need their glasses to see what's going on around them, so we are going to amke cases to protect their glasses. We will use both our eyes and our hearts to serve others!

The project:

- 1) Place the tie on a desk. Measure 12 inches from the pointed, wider end. Mark it with a piece of chalk, drawing a line across the fabric.
- 2)Cut along your line.
- 3) Look at your tie and remove any tags that are visible. If the inside seam is unraveling, carefully glue it together.
- 4) Glue the cut end together. Secure with a clip or clothespin if necessary.
- 5)Place one Velcro dot on the inside tip of the tie. Fold over the tip and place another dot where the tip meets the fabric.
- 6) Make a card explaining how to use the case and wishing the recipient a Happy Birthday, Merry Christmas, or Good Day.

More Than Warmth

Service Activity

Make a quilt for a child in need from Sudan.

More than Warmth is a no -profit organization started by Judith Meeker, a teacher in the United States to help children learn about other cultures and to share peace and friendship through non-violent means. More than 11,000 students of all ages have participated. The students color pretty designs and pictures on squares of muslin material. These are then sent to a group of quilters who make the squares into blanket, which is sent to a child in need. We have picked the country of **Sudan** to send our blanket to. This will allow coordinators to talk about the country, its culture, people, etc. to help the children have an idea of where their blanket is going.

<u>Scripture Reference</u>: Romans 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

What you Need:

Uchita Marvey Markers (Fabric Markers)

1 - 2 yards of muslin , depending on how many squares you make pen and paper to write a letter

<u>Preparation</u>:

Cut the muslin into 11 1/2 inch squares before the party. Determine how many squares you will need for your class. You will need 12 squares for one quilt. Make as many quilts as you would like! You can give each child a square or have 2-3 children work on one square.

Do a little research about the country of Sudan. Show the children where it is on a map and tell them how it is different from the United States. We will be sending the quilts to a woman named Nella. She lives in Khartoum in North Sudan. She distribute the quilts to mainly refugees from South Sudan that have lived in North Sudan for many years because of the civil war in the

South. There should be a referendum vote in early 2011 for the South to be independent, if that happens many people will go back to their homeland in the South. She hopes to visit Juba, in South Sudan and will distribute quilts and clothes there.

What to do:

- 1) Begin by telling the children what they will be doing and who will receive the quilts. Tell them about Sudan and show them where it is on a big map in the classroom.
- 1) Next, have the children draw a design on paper. Encourage them to keep their drawing free from references to war, political agendas or religion, so that the message of peace and friendship is clear. You can suggest happy, positive images such as hearts, rainbows, flowers, etc. Remember that these could be going to people who have not heard the Good News yet. The Idea of peace and friendship is something they could understand.
- 2) Use the fabric markers to color in the designs and pictures on the muslin.
- 3) After they have finished coloring the blocks, have each child write a letter to the child who will receive the quilt. They can talk about where they live, what the weather is like here, their families, how much fun it was to make the quilt, etc. You could remind them that the children who receive these quilts most likely will not know what a computer, Nintendo Ds, Webkinz, Silly bands, etc. are. Without frightening the children, let them know that the children in Sudan have very little in the way of material possessions. As was noted above, most live in refugee camps.
- 4)You can pray over the quilt squares as a class if you want before packaging them up to send.
- 5) If there is a parent who quilts, feel free to quilt the squares. For more information about that, contact Judith Meeker (see below).

Although quilts will be hand carried to children, tax deductable contributions to help ship the quilts to US designations would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please contact:

More Than Warmth
Judith Biondo Meeker
info@morethanwarmth.org
Fax 615-712-6241

Ship quilts/ squares/ packets of letters to:

More than Warmth
110 Fifth Rd.
Summertown, TN 38483

For pictures of the quilts and more information, please see the website.

Adopt a Missionary Family

Service Project

Do you know a missionary that is serving God in another country? Or maybe someone serving right here in the United States. Many churches financially support missionaries all over the world. These people are bringing God's Word to those who have not heard. It is often a difficult and challenging life as they serve God. Just like us, these people need love and encouragement as they serve.

Your class can "adopt" a missionary or family and write letters encouraging them in their work. This can be done throughout the year, not just at holidays. The class can develop a relationship with the missionary and also start to develop a world view of all of God's people.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:18-20 (the Great Commission)

What you Need:

A missionary or missionary family contact information!! If you don't know someone personally that would be good for your class, check with your church to see who they support. Or poll the parents of the students of your class and see if they know anyone. Let your child's teacher know what you are planning and get the "okay" from him or her before you start.

Preparation:

Before presenting this to the class, get in touch with the person (or persons) you have chosen to adopt and let them know what you are doing. You could ask them to send a list of birthdates, prayer requests, special needs, little luxuries they can't get where they are, etc. You will be amazed at the simple things that make a difference.

For instance, we knew missionaries in Russia that loved to receive chocolate chips for making cookies. This was a special treat, as the tiny grocery store that they used in Siberia did not carry this "luxury." The missionaries made chocolate chip cookies and shared them with the people who had never had these before. (can

you even imagine?!!) It made them feel very special and brought a touch of home to the missionaries.

Ask God to open your heart to the possibilities and get ready to be blown away!

What to do:

Talk to the children about what it means to be a missionary. Tell them that God calls all of us to share His love and His Word with others. Some people He specifically calls to go to another land and tell the people there about Him. It's not easy sometimes but He provides what they need to do His work. We can walk with these people and strengthen them with words of encouragement, small gifts, and especially prayers.

Tell them what you know about the missionary and where he or she lives.

The sky's the limit with what you do next! A few ideas...

You could have the children write letters to get to know their missionary. If you know some of the special requests or needs of the missionary, bring along a few items to show the kids that you will send them with their letters. (books, videos, chocolate chips, whatever it may be)

When they have finished writing their letters, review them and then have the children help you pack a small box to send.

You could pray over the package and for the missionaries.

Before each holiday, you could do something special for your missionary family. You may have to plan several weeks in advance as mailing to some remote areas takes time.

The children may have ideas too for their next party or time to communicate.

If you get a picture of the missionary, ask the teacher if you can put it up in the room to remind the children to pray.

Candy Treats

Service Project

Making small bags of treats for people in poor countries.

Matthew 25 Ministries serves the needs of poor people all over the world. They provide food, clothing, personal care items, school supplies, materials to build homes and many other essential items. They often send supplies in bulk, but also have room for smaller packages too. In this service project, we are simply providing a "sweet treat" to people who don't often get treats. They are happy just to receive enough to get by. Many have never received a special treat just because someone wanted to bless them. Just as our Father blesses us, this is an opportunity to do the same for someone else.

Scripture reference: Romans 12:10

What you need:

ziplock snack bags

large bags of <u>hard</u> candy (no chocolate) these can be found at Costco or Sam's

Strips of colored paper (optional)

<u>Preparation</u>:

Cut brightly colored strips of paper to fit inside the snack bags.

Decide how many bags you want each child to make and how much candy you will need. (6 pieces of candy per bag.)

What to do:

First ask the children if they like treats. Let them talk about treats and what their favorite is. Ask them when they get a treat. Ask them if they ever get a treat just because someone loves them and wants to do something nice for them. How does that make them feel. Special? Give all of the children a piece of hard candy.

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Then ask them what it would be like if they never got a treat.

Tell them there are probably people in the world that have never had a little treat like they just did. Some people are just too poor to afford treats.

Ask them if they'd like to give those people a treat and tell them that's what their service project is all about.

Project:

Distribute the bags and candy to the children.

Have the children put 6 pieces of candy in each bag (preferably different kinds).

After they have filled all of the bags, ask them to write a short note to place in the bag, such as: "You are special! Enjoy!"

"A special treat for a special person!" or whatever they would like to write.

Collect all of the bags and deliver them to Matthew 25 Ministries. They are open 9-4pm Mon through Fr and 9-noon on Sat. Call to make sure someone will be there.

11060 Kenwood Road

Blue Ash, Ohio 45242

513-793-6256

Postcards

Service Project

Create bundles of postcards to give as gifts.

This is a service project that could be done for any number of people. (elderly, grandparents, servicemen, missionaries, etc) If you have "adopted" a group of people to serve throughout the year, this would be a great way to communicate with them. In this project you will simply help the children to make postcards to give to someone. We suggest that each child make 4 - 5 postcards and then tie them together with a brightly colored piece of ribbon or yarn.

Scripture Reference: John 13:34-35

what you need:

poster board or card stock in light or bright colors (often can be found in stock room at school or from teachers)

3 feet of ribbon or yarn per child

paper cutter

markers or colored pencils

Individual tags to attach to the bundles (can be handmade from scraps of card stock - punch a hole in top so you can tie it to package) - optional

stamps for each postcard (optional)

Preparation:

Cut card stock or poster board into blocks that are 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches.

Cut enough so that each child will have 4-5 cards

What to do:

Ask the children if they enjoy getting gifts. Then ask if they enjoy giving gifts. Talk about why they like to give gifts. Does it make them feel good to see someone smile and get excited as they open a gift? Do they enjoy doing things for others? Does God give all of us gifts? Does He want us to imitate His behavior and in doing so, show His love to others? Well that's what this project is about. Read the Scripture reference and see if the children can apply it to your project.

Project:

- 1) Pass out 4-5 postcard to each child. Have them decorate one side only with markers or colored pencils.
- 3) If you plan to put stamps on each postcard, have the children do this after they have colored them.
- 4) Help the children bundle up their postcards and tie with ribbon or yarn.
- 5) The children can write a short note or make a tag to attach to the bundle for the person they made the cards for.
- 6) Deliver to whatever group or people you have chosen to serve.

Bird Feeders

Service Project

Make bird feeders or bird houses and deliver to a nursing home or assisted living center to put outside of the residents windows.

Many older people living in nursing homes or assisted living centers have little to do during the day. They may not be well enough to walk around or participate in activities, so they sit in a chair by the window. Wouldn't it be great if they had a group of birds to watch on a daily basis? It would give them something to look forward to and keep them interested while sitting in the chair. This can easily be done by making bird feeders or bird houses. Maybe your class could actually go to the nursing home and fill the feeders from time to time and have a visit with the residents. This could be done after school too, with all or a few of the class.

Scripture Reference: Acts 20:35

What you Need:

Materials for bird houses or bird feeders - you can either buy them already made or make your own. A few suggestions follow:

This bird feeder won't last long, but it is so easy to make, you can always have another one made all ready to replace it when it wears out!

MILK CARTON BIRD = FEEDER

- Small milk carton (the kind at school)
- non-toxic poster paints
- stapler and staples
- hole punch=20
- yarn or string
- 1. Wash and thoroughly dry the milk carton.
- 2. Cut a small section from the carton and then staple the top opening closed.



- 3. Paint the container, if desired. Let it dry. (Note: I like to paint my feeders in streaks of tan, gray and brown to resemble tree bark. Then, on the bottom, I paint on dark and light green leaves. When you stand underneath the hanging bird feeder, it really blends in with the canopy of leaves above it!)
- 4. Poke a hole in the middle of the = top of the carton, and thread a piece of yarn or string through it to use as a hanger. (The string should be long enough for the feeder to hang where the branches don't rub against, but not so long that the feeder hangs too far away from the tree's leaf cover. Birds like to feel they have a hiding place to fly into quickly!)
- 5. Add birdseed and hang the feeder. (Since the small milk carton feeders are just the right size for the tiny birds such as finches, wrens, etc., you might want to use thistle seed. It is the finch's favorite food! Garden supply stores carry a sterile thistle seed just for bird feeding which is guaranteed not to sprout all over your yard).

Or try one of these:

- Punch holes on either side of a plastic pop bottle, stick a twig all the way through with its ends sticking out for perches and poking more holes nearby for the birds to pull the seeds out. Then hang the bottle by tying a string around its neck. (Finches really like these!)
- Coat a pine cone with peanut butter, roll it in birdseed, and hang it from a tree branch;
- Stick a piece of bread, a doughnut, or half of an orange, on a twiggy branch of the tree (the Orioles will LOVE the orange!)

There are many other ways to make bird feeders. Use your imagination or follow directions you have used in the past.

Preparation:

Check with a local nursing home or assisted living center and see if they would like to have the bird feeders and/or bird houses. Ask how many they would accept and then plan to get your supplies accordingly.

What to do:

Tell the children what they will be making and who will be receiving them. Maybe they have a relative that would also like a bird feeder/house.

When you are all through creating beautiful masterpieces, bring them to the nursing home. Ask if you can return to fill the feeders and meet the recipients. The children just may make some great new friends!

Birthday Bags for Shelters

Service Project

Make birthday kits for children living in homeless shelters.

Believe it or not, there are many families living in homeless shelter - right here in Cincinnati and the areas surrounding. These families struggle just to have a place to sleep. They do not have extra money to provide their children with a birthday party or even a cake. In this project, we will be assembling bags with all of the things necessary for a child to have a party - cake mix, icing, candles, balloons, streamers, a birthday gift, etc. These will be delivered to a homeless shelter for families to make a child feel special on their birthday. this project could be done on a teacher's birthday and donated to the shelter in the teacher's name.

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 13:2

What you need:

several large birthday bags or decorated brown paper bags

Cake mix

canned icing

candles

Birthday signs, streamers, balloons, etc. (Use your imagination!)

A wrapped birthday gift

Preparation:

This is something you could collect for over time. Ask your teacher if you could talk about this several weeks before the teacher's birthday. Have the children bring in some of the items each week - perhaps they could buy an item with their own money, or ask their parent to pick up an item when they grocery shop. Maybe they could bring in several of the items on their birthday. Calculate how

many bags you plan to make and then gather supplies. Call a local shelter that houses families and let them know what you would like to do.

What to do:

This is one project that all kids relate to, since they all like to have birthday parties! Talk with your teacher first to see how she thinks the children will react to hearing about children living in shelters. Use your discretion and the teacher's thoughts in deciding whether to proceed. If you decide to continue....

Talk a bit about birthday and what makes them special with the children. What is there favorite part of the birthday - the cake and candles? the singing? the gifts? the people? feeling special? All of it?

Explain who you are making the bags for and ask the kids how they think the recipients will feel. Can they imagine the surprise for a child who is not expecting anything on his or her birthday? Talk about this a bit and then read the Bible verse.

Fill the bags with the items and mark the bag in some way with a tag that identifies who the bag is for - preschool girl, toddler boy, elementary school child, etc.

When you are all done, ask the children to pray over the bags and for the children that will receive them. (Have a few tissues ready for yourself when you hear the sweet prayers of your children!)

Call the shelter that you have identified and then deliver the bags.

Foot Soaks

Service Project

Making a personal bag of foot soak for the teachers and all of the staff at the school. This could also be made for parents as a gift or thank-you.

Scripture reference: John 13:14-17

What you need:

Large box of Epsom salts

Essential oil of lemon, mint or lavendar

Plastic spoons

snack bags (self-sealing)

Copies of the Care Card below

Preparation:

Have a list of all of the staff that you plan to make foot soaks for.

Make copies of the Care Card

What to do:

Ask the children to list ways that Jesus served others. If no one mentions it, talk about what Jesus did with the disciples at the Last Supper. Then read the scripture verse. Was Jesus trying to teach us about serving others by washing the disciples' feet? Can we serve others that way too? Remind the children that the people who will receive these gifts help to teach them and make the school a special place for them to learn about Jesus every day. We can serve and thank them in a similar way to how Jesus served His disciples - by giving them a special foot soak!

Project:

Have each child pick a staff member to serve.

Give them a care card (Kris Odom can provide an example) to personalize and color.

Give each child one snack bag. Have them put 3 spoonfuls of Epsom salts and a few drops of essential oil into the bag. Seal and then staple a care card to the bag.

If you have time, have the children write a thank you note and then allow them to deliver their gift!

Ronald McDonald House

Service Project

Pack a snack bag or sack breakfast for the families of children hospitalized at Children's Hospital and staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

This project involves packing bags of snacks or breakfast foods for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their sick child is receiving care at the hospital. Some families live there for several months at a time while their children are undergoing treatment. Many don't have the time, money or energy to make a quick meal before going back to the hospital or to doctor's appointments. So these bags of food not only give them much-needed energy and a meal, but they also relieve some of the pressure of having to deal with all the things that go along with caring for a sick child. The receiving families see this as a wonderful gift.

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:10

What you need to know before starting: (this information was taken directly from their website. It is important to follow their directions carefully as we do not want to put anyone at risk.)

For the safety of our House children and parents, anyone in your group who is coughing, feverish, has a runny nose or has been exposed to a contagious disease should not handle food going into the sacks. Some children are in isolation or have immune-suppressed bodies and cannot fight even the simplest cold.

- Prepare at least 25 bags with at least 2 items in each. Brown/white paper lunch sacks are preferred.
- Unless you are doing the baking at Ronald McDonald House, please, do not include homemade items in sacks.
- Please pack **non-perishable** healthy foods. A treat is fine, as long as it is the 'extra' rather than the meal.
- We always appreciate donations of fresh fruit or vegetables, but please do
 not include this in the bags. Make this a separate donation.

- Items must be individually packaged for immediate consumption. No multiple serve packages or anything that requires heating/refrigeration.
- Include any plastic ware required (i.e. a spoon with a fruit cup) to make it easier for the families.
- Napkins or hand wipes are greatly appreciated.
- Please label each sack as to its contents and the date packed.
- Please label any sack that has items containing nuts.

The following foods are suggested by the staff at Ronald McDonald:

Breakfast/Lunch

- Small boxes of cereal
- Pop Tarts
- Microwavable soups/stews
- Granola or cereal bars, muffins
- Apples, oranges, grapefruits, bananas
- Meal or energy bars
- · Bottle of water
- · Shelf stable juices

Snacks

- Pudding or fruit cups
- Cheese or peanut butter crackers/granola bars
- Fruit snacks
- Small bags of baked chips, pretzels, popcorn
- Nuts or raisins
- Bottle of water
- Individual sized containers of dip

The children could decorate the bags as long as the labels are clearly visible.

If you have any questions about this project feel free to get in touch with:

Lisa Davis, Meals and Activities Coordinator

513-636-2760 or Idavis@RMHouse.org

Snack bags

Service Project

Make snack bags for children living in homeless shelters.

Believe it or not, there are many families living in homeless shelter - right here in Cincinnati and the areas surrounding. These families struggle just to have a place to sleep. They do not have extra money to provide their children with snacks or even food sometimes. They rely on the kindness of strangers to provide food to the shelters and then to them. Often times this does not include a snack for after school or before bed. In this project, we will be assembling snack bags for the children (and maybe their parents too).

<u>Scripture reference</u>: Matthew 25:35-36

What you need:

brown lunch bags

markers

stickers, glitter, things to decorate the bags with

juice bags and/or water bottles

individually packaged healthy snacks (raisins, nuts, etc)

fruit (apples, oranges) if okay with the shelter

small toys (optional)

<u>Preparation</u>:

Check with your classroom teacher to see what she thinks about telling the children they will be serving homeless children. Get an okay from him or her before you proceed. Be ready to answer questions (with the teacher too) about homelessness, as many kids will not know this problem exists.

Contact a shelter in the area that serves families and ask them if you can bring snack bags. Check to see if there are any restrictions and whether you can put fresh fruit in the bags. (The shelter may prefer that you bring this separately bagged.)

You will need to collect all of the items above and be ready to assemble bags. If you are doing this at a party, you could suggest that the people signed up to bring treats for the children bring some of the snacks for the kids at the shelter. Instead of juice bags for the class, bring a pitcher of Kool Aid or water. Simplify the kids snacks for the party and concentrate on the snacks for the shelter. You could even talk about this with the children as you are making the snack bags for the shelter. Pray about this and see what God would have you do in your own classroom.

What to Do:

Explain your project to the children. Read the Bible verse. Ask them what they think that means. Are they helping God's children?

Pass out lunch bags and decorate all of them.

Pack the snacks

Call the shelter and deliver the bags! You may even hear of another need that the class can fill for the shelter at their next party!

Window Washing

Service Project

Serving the staff and teachers of the school by washing their car windows.

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:10

What you need:

Window cleaner - 1 bottle per 3 children

(Or you can make this by mixing 1 part white vinegar with 3 parts water. Pour into a spray bottle and use!)

Paper towels

Newspaper and the special Care Card below

Preparation:

Check first with Mrs. Breitholle to see if this project is okay with her. Pick an area of parked cars that will be there for the day. The area in front of the playground is blocked off during the day so you wouldn't have to be concerned about cars coming and going.

Make sure you have enough supplies.

Make multiple copies of the Care Card.

What to do:

Read the Bible verse and ask the children how it applies to this project. What should the attitude of their hearts be?

Divide the children into groups of 3 -

One child to spray the cleaner

One child to wipe with paper towels

One child to shine with the newspaper

Let the kids take turns in each role.

When the car windows are all sparkly and bright, place a Care card under the windshield wiper.

Your windows are Clean, and what a view;

Jesus' love and forgiveness makes us sparkle like new!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Baskets of I.i.f.e.

Service Project

Making Easter baskets or collecting items to donate to Baskets of life.

See attached brochure about Baskets of I.i.f.e.

Scripture reference: Romans 12:10

What you need:

Donated Easter basket items-

Grass, baskets (at least the size to hold a grapefruit), slightly used toys/trinkets and stuffed animals, candy, etc.

Preparation:

Contact Dawn (founder of Baskets of I.i.f.e.) to see when/where to pick up. You can have the kids pack the baskets or prepare all the items to be donated.

What to do:

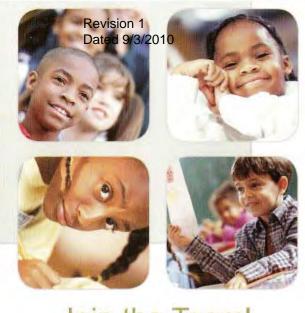
First ask the children if they like Easter baskets. Let them talk about what their favorite is—maybe even their favorite item to receive in their Easter basket.

Talk about the importance of Easter as believers in Christ....without Easter, Christmas would be just another birthday!

Talk about where their baskets will be going (see attached brochure- orphanages, children's shelters, etc. in the <u>Cincinnati</u> area).

Project:

You may either assemble a basket or organize the items to be donated. The kids may also write "Happy Easter" cards to accompany their baskets (first names only on the card). Pray over the baskets.



Join the Team!

Baskets of l.i.f.e. can always use compassionate and caring volunteers who want to make a difference in a precious child's life.

Won't you please consider giving to B.o.l.? One hundred percent of all cash donations goes directly toward items in the kids' baskets

To donate or for additional information, please contact:

Baskets of l.i.f.e.

c/o Dawn Godfrey

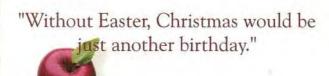
236 Wyndham Dr.

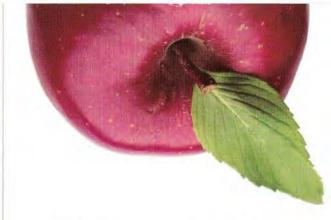
Maineville, OH 45039

513-697-8261

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Baskets of l.i.f.e. 236 Wyndham Dr. Maineville OH 45039 513-697-8261





Baskets of l.i.f.e. (little inspirations for Easter)









Inspiring kide one basket at a time



Our Mission

Baskets of l.i.f.e. provides Easter baskets overflowing with toys, candy, stuffed animals, books and more to homeless, abused, neglected, orphaned, or fostered children in Cincinnati and its surrounding areas.

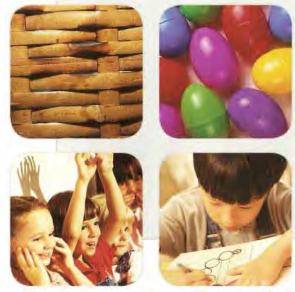
Why We Do What We Do

It is awesome that so many charities make it a point to give to the needy at Christmastime, but Easter is often overlooked. B.o.l. strives to share the joy and love that Easter brings through the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

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Baskets of l.i.f.e. was conceived one Easter when 2-year-old Lauren, daughter of B.o.l. founder Dawn Godfrey, rapidly rummaged through the contents of her Easter basket. She glanced at a beautiful stuffed velvet rabbit, then tossed it aside as she practically dove into the candy. Godfrey could hardly believe the lack of interest and appreciation. She knew that costly bunny could bring joy to someone less fortunate. Lauren never did show interest in the bunny, so her mother vowed to find it a new home. After hitting after-Easter sales and accumulating hundreds of pounds of goodies, Baskets of l.i.f.e. hopped into existence.





Giving to the Grateful

The first year's baskets were sparsely filled with some candy, a toy or two and a stuffed animal, but you would never know it from the reactions of those grateful children.

One child was hugging his basket and refused to let it go, crunchy cellophane and all.

Another, living in an emergency respite home for abused and neglected children, was overjoyed to find in his basket a small toy glider, something he said he had always wanted. This inexpensive trinket meant so much to this 9-vear-old boy.