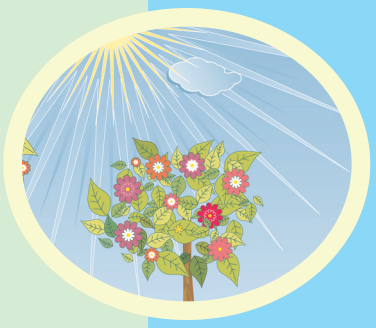


Kindergarten

Teacher's Guide & Student Workbook

My Bible Friends



"What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?"

(Mat 12:11)

Year 2 Book 3

This kindergarten Teacher's Guide is dedicated to
those who serve God in the children's ministry.
May God continue to grant you
wisdom and strength to impact the future generations.

Teacher's Inspiration



Pure Grace and Mercy

Grace means getting what you don't deserve. We don't deserve God's amazing grace, but He gives it to us because He loves us so very much. The ultimate grace gift is salvation because there is nothing any of us can do to earn it.

Mercy means not getting what you deserve. We all deserve death because that is the penalty for going against God. But Jesus came to die in our place and and gave us life! That's pure mercy.

Think of God's amazing grace and mercy each day, you will soon discover how involved God wants to be in the day-to-day circumstances of your life.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)



My Bible Friends

Welcome to the world of four- and five-year-olds. This year will be an exciting one as your young students are exposed to their first formal teachings from the Bible. Your students will come to you with a variety of backgrounds, both culturally and linguistically, along with how much experience they have had with church and the words of God.

Your students will learn in a variety of ways including visually, kinesthetically, and aurally. This means that it will be very important to use pictures and hands on experiences as you tell the story in order to meet the individual needs of all the students in the classroom. Visuals are good reminders as you review prior lessons and connect them to future ones. Hands on activities will help the students to internalize the lessons and make them more meaningful. It is also vital to ask students to share what they have learned. By letting your students retell the information they have heard, you will be able to see what they really understood, and what might need to be revisited in the future.

Take the time to be involved and get to know your individual students. Try to keep them excited, involved, and focused. As you plan the lesson, it is important to remember to let them have the opportunity to move around or change activities every five to ten minutes since their attention span is only about four to five minutes long. They can come up to the board and point to an answer, give you a thumbs up or thumbs down, whisper their answer to their neighbor, or stand up to answer a question. This can help keep them on task and involved throughout the hour.

This book is designed to be teacher friendly, and each lesson follows the same structure. It is very important to read and review the lesson you will be teaching at least one week ahead of time in order for you to prepare the materials you will need. Vocabulary development will be a key step to each lesson at this young age, and it would be very beneficial to prepare visuals to go with each new vocabulary word. They can be posted up for the students to review each week. Also, if there are many characters to the story, you might consider preparing visuals for each one so that it is easier for the students to follow along. The last thing you will need to consider is which activities will be best for your group of students. Each lesson contains several for you to choose from. Some of your students will be able to draw on their own, but most will need a lot of help. They will likely work well on activities they can trace, color, cut, or glue.

Remember that all students develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. So be patient, persevere, and have fun as you teach. In the end it will be a wonderful experience for everyone.

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All Scriptures are quoted from NKJV

Welcome to this exciting opportunity to reach four- and five-year-olds with the wonderful news of God's love. This quarter's lessons focus on some of God's great workers.



In **unit one**, they will learn about Job, Micaiah, and several kings of Judah. They will see how these people of God rediscovered their faith through the events in their lives. As they learn these stories, they can be encouraged to put their faith into action.

In **unit two**, they will learn about Daniel and his friends. They will hear about how they stood up for God despite their circumstances through familiar stories like "Daniel and the Lion's Den," and the "Writing on the Wall." The children should be encouraged to imitate Daniel and his friends and stand up for what they believe in.

Unit three allows the students to see the determined faith of characters like Nehemiah, Ezra, and Esther. They will also learn important teachings about obedience to God through the story of Jonah. In their own lives, the students should be reminded to pray to God to understand His will and to do what pleases Him.

As you teach this unit, let the theme of each lesson shine through. Make the stories come alive so the children can fully understand and appreciate their teachings. They depend on us, the teacher, to interpret the stories for them. Invite them to learn about God, to share God's love with others, and to grow ever stronger in their faith. We hope you will enjoy growing with the Kindergarten class as you teach them more about the word of God. Enjoy this new quarter and experience the good news with all the wonder and awe of four- and five-year-olds!

Your Teaching Procedures

1

Hymnal Worship (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: To help the children praise God through hymnal worship.

Procedure: Always start a session in the name of our Lord Jesus. The teacher or assistants will then lead the children in simple hymns, or action rhymes.

2

In-Class Worship (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: To let the children hear a Bible story and respond to its teachings.

Procedure: Say a short prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. The Bible story may be told to the class as a whole by one teacher, or the class may be broken up into smaller groups with a teacher for each group. There are 3 steps in the In-Class Worship Procedure. They are:

1) **Bible Story**
2) **Check for Understanding**
3) **Life Application Story**

Do not forget to explain the key vocabulary words which are listed in each lesson.

3

Bible Learning Activity (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: Helping your students become familiar with the word of God is part of a teacher's mission, but an equally important part of the job is helping the students put the word of God to work in their own lives. The activities have been planned to encourage your students to act upon what they have learned.

Procedure: Let the students work on the Student Activities. (If the activities require group involvement or cutting and pasting, be sure to have assistant teachers.) We have come up with a variety of activities as well as optional ones. Please see what suits your students' needs. End the activity with a concluding prayer.

Meet your Life Application Families

Praise and thank God that each lesson contains a Life Application Story to enhance the objective of the Bible story. We sincerely wish that you go through these family backgrounds before sharing them with the class. Enjoy sharing these stories with your loving kindergartners!

1

The Hayes Family

The Hayes family is comprised of Pastor Hayes, his wife, and their daughters Cathy and Rachel. Cathy is six and Rachel is four. Being typical sisters, Cathy and Rachel get into arguments sometimes and those are the times they remember to rely on God to work out their problems.

2

The Lewis Family

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have two children named Julie and Tommy. Julie is eight and Tommy is six. Mr. Lewis is often away from home due to his job, so most of the time it is just Mrs. Lewis and the two children at home, at church, etc.

3

The Lopez Family

The Lopez family came to believe through a great miracle. Ricky, the oldest son, was dying from a chronic disease, but Jesus healed him. Through this, the whole family was brought to Jesus. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Lopez and Ricky, there is the youngest son named Juan. Ricky is nine and Juan is six.

4

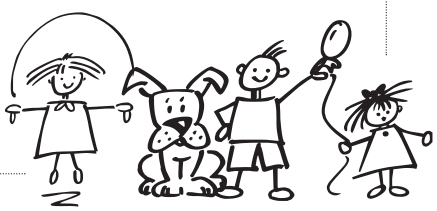
The Lim Family

The Lim family is a relatively large family, comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Lim and their four children. Nicole, who is seventeen, is the oldest. Lisa, who is thirteen, is in junior high. Benjamin is nine years old and in the fourth grade. Susie is the youngest, at five years old. The Lim family converted from Buddhism some time ago. Nicole and Lisa might remember their former lives, but Benjamin and Susie pretty much grew up in the church.

5

The Marsh Family

The Marsh family are long-time believers in Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have two children who were baptized as babies. Michelle is seven and John is five. Both children have grown up in the church and have at least a fundamental knowledge of the truth.





Understanding Your Students

Kindergarten Stage (4-5 year olds)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
Body	
1. Fast development, non-stop activity **2.** Big muscles begin to develop (need to stretch hands and feet) **3.** Small muscles are developing **4.** Vocal cords are developed	Provide activities that involve physical movements Vary activities so the students do not need to sit for too long at one time Include more coloring and crafts involving cutting and pasting Begin to teach songs that are a little longer and add some hymnal related activities
Mind	
5. Attention span is very limited **6.** Limited vocabulary **7.** Active imagination, cannot discern between fiction or real-life stories **8.** Limited understanding toward time & space **9.** Cannot understand abstract explanations **10.** Like to listen to stories **11.** Can repeat biblical terms but unable to understand the meaning **12.** Like to ask questions, strong sense of curiosity	Limit story-telling time between 5 and 8 minutes Use simple words with pictures during lessons Hold the Bible when telling Bible stories, relate that the word of God is real and is different from folk tales, legends, or fairy tales When describing time & space, use words such as "today," "tomorrow," "a long time ago," "a place far away," etc. Do not use abstract ways of speaking Tell more edifying stories using pictures and actions Do not assume that the children understand the terms that they use Check for understanding by asking, "What does _____ mean?" Give simple answers to questions asked
Mood	
13. Mood swings tends to occur: students might get angry suddenly; however, they often forget after a few minutes **14.** The adult's mood will set the tone; rules must be posted and explained **15.** Children are afraid of scary stories	Let the students try to resolve their own problems If there are situations of anger, teach methods of resolving problems Do not emphasize the horror sections of a story, & do not teach children by trying to scare them Teachers need to be gentle but firm
Social Skills	
16. Begin to search for likable friends **17.** Often quarrel and fight during play time **18.** Strong sense of self, often use "I" or "me" in speech	Encourage the children to play with everyone, not just a few friends Teachers need to be calm & fair when dealing with student problems Remind students to share, and to show love toward others; teachers must be fair
Spirituality	
19. Understand Jesus' love through the love from adults **20.** Faith towards God is expressed through faith in adults **21.** Can learn to know God through worship **22.** Have a certain level of understanding towards good & evil	Teachers need to show love when dealing with students Arrange a suitable level of worship; teach appropriate behavior during worship hours in the chapel Teachers need to teach the truth on repentance and how to ask God for forgiveness of sins

Memory Verses For This Quarter



March, April, May

(NKJV)

1. "You shall fear the Lord your God." (Deut 6:13)
2. "I, the Lord, speak the truth." (Isa 45:19)
3. "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)
4. "Come before Him with joyful songs." (Ps 100:2)
5. "Lead me in Your truth and teach me." (Ps 25:5)
6. "Glorify God in your body." (1 Cor 6:22)
7. "Because He is your Lord, worship Him." (Ps 45:11)
8. "We ought to obey God." (Acts 5:29)
9. "Pray to the Lord." (Jer 29:7)
10. You shall do what is good and right." (Deut 6:18)
11. "Teach me Your way, O Lord." (Ps 27:11)
12. "All that the Lord has said we will do." (Ex 24:7)



Conveying Jesus Christ to Our Students

The following is a list of Bible truths kindergarteners are able to understand:

1. Praying is like talking to God. We can pray to Jesus anytime and anywhere.
2. Coming to church every Sabbath is to worship God. God loves us when we worship Him.
3. We can learn more about God when we come to church.
4. The Bible is a very special book. It is full of God's word. We love to hear God's word and obey what God tells us.
5. Jesus loves us when we share, obey and give what we have to Him and to others.
6. Jesus is God and He is the creator of all things–our planet and all the people.
7. Because of our wrong-doings (sin), Jesus died for us on the cross. But He promises us that He will come back again. He will take us back to heaven to be with Him.





"Of how much more value

then is a man than a sheep?

Therefore it is lawful to do

good on the Sabbath."

(Mat 12:12)

General Assembly of the

True Jesus Church in USA

HTTP://WWW.TJC.ORG

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Lesson 1

Job Fears God

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- foam or paper door hangers
- glitter markers
- washable markers
- scraps
- glue
- scissors

Scriptures

Job 1, 2, 42

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to fear and worship Him wholeheartedly even when bad things happen to us

Behavioral Objective(s)

To fear God and trust that He will take care of us; to do what is right even when things don't seem to go the way we want them to

Memory Verse

"You shall fear the Lord your God." (Deut 6:13)

Bible Knowledge

Job

Job lived in ancient times, possibly as a contemporary of Abraham. Some of the details in the book of Job that support this are: 1) Job's wealth is measured in livestock (1:3). 2) Job offered sacrifices to God himself, indicating the lack of a priesthood (1:5). 3) Job's life-span is consistent with that of the patriarchs (42:16).

The opening verse in the text indicates that Job lived in the land of Uz, though its exact location is unknown. Because Job 1:3 records that Job was the greatest of all the people of the East, it can be concluded that he lived east of the Jordan river, possibly near Edom.

In the first two chapters of Job, the events unfold quickly to present the context for the dialogue for the rest of the book. We also see a glimpse of the spiritual world.

God takes the initiative by pointing out that Job is a blameless, upright man who fears God and shuns evil. Satan points out all the blessings Job has received. He challenges God by stating that if Job lost everything he had, he would curse God to His face. God then gives Satan limited permission to test Job. Satan quickly destroys everything Job has, including his children and livestock. What is Job's reaction? Instead of cursing God, he worships Him.

While Job maintains his integrity, Satan holds onto his theory that all people are self-centered. This time, Satan asks for and receives permission from God to test Job by having access to his body. Job suffers terrible physical pain in the form of boils. Even Job's wife urges him to curse God and die. His three friends come to supposedly comfort him but instead accuse him of sinning. Yet throughout all this, Job still worships God.

Job was tested bitterly. With a life formerly filled with prestige and possessions, he was suddenly assaulted on every side, devastated, and stripped down to his foundation. But because Job's life was built around God, he endured. After the first test, the Scriptures say that Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing (1:22). After his wife rebuked him, he still did not sin through his words (2:10). Surely it was not easy, but Job did what was right. God Himself pronounced Job righteous and restored Job's losses by blessing him with twice as much as he had before (42:10-13).



Understanding Your Students

Children at this age will not be too worried that something awful might happen to them; at least not to the point that it might cause them stress. After all, in their world, everything is carefree. Their needs are met and if terrible things do happen to them, they often have family members to guide them through those tough times. However, this lesson does remind us that bad things can happen to good people, and that negative situations are not always punishments from God (e.g. a death in the family, natural disasters, famine). Therefore, we should all learn from Job's example in the story. The fact that Job honored, feared, and trusted God through good and bad is a key message that should be repeated to the students. Let us continuously remind them that he was restored in the end because of his fear and loyalty to God.

Encourage responses and reflections throughout the story-telling. Stop at critical points in the story and ask questions such as:

"How would you feel if you were Job?"

"What would you say if you were praying to God?"

"What would you say to Job if you were his friend?"

We should try our best to have the students verbally come to the conclusion that we should always trust and fear God, even when life situations are tough. God loves and cares for those who remain loyal to Him, and He will restore them when the trials are through.

It will also help the students to discuss real-life examples. For instance, what might they feel if their pet passed away unexpectedly? Or if their home were damaged in a wild fire? Or if someone they know got into an accident and is hurt? What could they say to God during these times? How can they show they are still faithful to God, no matter what? It is important to shield our students from unnecessary stress and pain. But when they do come upon difficult situations, we must also be honest and help them understand that God is always with them, even though it may not seem like it at the time. If they trust in Him, in the end they will be restored, just as Job was.



Vocabulary

Treasure
to value something highly

Messenger
a person who brings news

Terrible
very serious or bad

Suffer
to be in a lot of pain

Sores
spots on the body that hurt or itch; they are sometimes filled with water



Before You Teach

Job, a wealthy and upright man, suddenly lost all his possessions, his children, and his health. In a blink of an eye, the most respected man in his land became a worthless person. Job was attacked by Satan, and all that he had was taken away from him. He didn't understand why he was suffering, but it hurt.

Many times, unexpected and unwanted things may happen in our lives. Just like Job, we may feel a sense of loss and disappointment, and wonder why things happen the way they do. We may begin to ask God, "Why? Why would God allow His children to suffer?" We must remember that those who love God, or whom God loves, are not exempt from trouble. Although we may not be able to understand fully the pain we sometimes experience and the reasons for those sufferings, it can lead us to rediscover God. For Job, he finally learned that when nothing else was left, he had God, and that was more than enough. Through suffering, we learn that God is enough for our lives and our future. We must love God regardless of the blessings we receive or the sufferings that come upon us. Trials and tests are difficult, but the result is often a deeper relationship with God. With this in mind, let us stop and reflect on our journey of faith. As we think about Job's story of suffering and revival of faith, we should give thanks and all glory to our almighty God for all that He has done for us.



Bible Story

Boys and girls, can you think of something or someone that you love a lot? This can be a person, a toy, a pet, or even a book that you treasure. If you lost that person or thing, you would probably feel very sad. Raise your hand when you have something in mind to share with us (wait a few seconds for students to come up with something). Now, please turn to your neighbor and tell him or her what it is that you love and why you might feel sad or even angry if you lost it or didn't have it anymore. (Give students a minute or two to share with their neighbor. Bring them back to you by asking if anyone wants to share what their neighbor just told them. Listen to what they have to say and acknowledge their feelings of loss. Also be ready to share your own story if none of the students have anything to share.) Isn't it awful to lose something that you love and treasure dearly? Our Bible story today is about a man who lost everything he had, including the people he loved. Let's see how he acted after all the terrible things happened to him.

Job Has a Good Life

A long time ago, there was a man named Job. He was a very rich man. He owned 500 oxen, 500 donkeys, 7000 sheep, and 3000 camels. Back then, if a person owned a lot of animals, it meant he was very rich. Job was probably the richest man in the land. Job was a very happy man too because he had a big family. He had seven sons, three daughters, and many servants to take care of his family and his animals. Job was very kind to his people. He also worshiped God with all his heart. He did not forget about God, even if he was busy looking after his animals and family. He always obeyed God and God was very pleased with him. That's why God blessed him with even more animals and a good life.

Satan Wants to Destroy Job

Even though Job was happy and God was happy with him, there was someone who was not happy with Job. Do you know who that was? (Pause here to allow students to answer the question.) Yes, Satan. Satan didn't think that Job was really someone who loved God. Satan told God that Job was so good because God had taken such good care of Job and given him such a good life.

"If you take away everything Job has, he will not do what you want anymore," Satan told God. But God knew Job would always obey Him no matter what happened.

So God said to Satan, "All that Job has is in your power, but do not hurt him."

God told Satan that he could do whatever he wanted with Job's things. But he could not hurt Job.

Boys and girls, what do you think is going to happen next? What can Satan do to Job to make him turn away from God? (Allow time for students to predict the plot.) Do you think Job is going to be happy about what is going to happen to him?

Job Loses Everything

One day when Job was at his house, a messenger came to tell him that his 500 oxen and 500 donkeys had all been stolen. The servants who were looking after the animals were killed by the people who came to steal the oxen and donkeys. Then another messenger came to tell Job that lightning had struck the sheep and killed all 7,000 of them, as well as the servants who were watching them. While that messenger was speaking, another servant came to tell Job that his 3,000 camels had been stolen too, and those servants who were with the camels were killed. Finally, one more servant came running in to break the most terrible news to Job. He told Job that all his sons and daughters had been killed when a great wind struck the house they were in and it fell on top of them.

Poor Job! He heard a lot of sad news. One minute he had everything and the next minute he had nothing. Before the servants came to tell him anything, Job was the richest man in the land. But after hearing all the messengers, Job knew he had lost everything. Satan was sure that Job would leave God after all these bad things happened to him. That was Satan's plan. What do you think Job did after all these terrible things happened to him? (Allow time for students to share their answers.) Job was very sad that he had lost all his children and the animals at the same time. But he knew that everything happened for a reason. Even though he didn't understand it, Job did not blame God. He wasn't upset with God at all. Instead, he prayed to God and worshiped Him with all his heart.

Satan Asks God Again

Satan was not happy to see Job still worshiping God after losing everything he owned. Satan thought that Job would have stopped believing in God by now. He was wrong!

God said to Satan, "Do you see Job? Even after all that you have done to him, he still loves Me and worships Me."

Satan said to God, "That is because he only lost his things. But stretch out Your hand now, touch his bone and his flesh, and he will not love you anymore." Satan was telling God that Job still loved God because he only lost his things. His body was not hurt or in pain. Satan was sure that if Job was in a lot of pain, he would forget about God.

God told Satan, "Do what you want, but do not kill him."

So Satan gave Job terrible sores called boils. They were all over his body, from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He was covered in sores. They itched and hurt. He was hurting so much that his wife said to him, "Why don't you just blame this on God and forget about Him?"

Job's friends came to see him too and told him that he must have done something wrong. God was punishing him by letting him get so sick.

Job didn't really know why he was suffering, but he knew God cared for him and he told them, "God gave me everything and He can take everything away if He wants to. Even if I am in pain I will still worship Him!"

Job Does What Is Right

Satan was wrong. He thought he could get Job to turn away from God, to stop worshiping Him, by making him very sick. But Job chose to do what was right even when it was hard. God was very pleased with Job. After losing his animals, his children, and being very sick, God made Job better and blessed him with even more than he had before. Job was rich again. He had twice as many oxen, donkeys, sheep, and camels. Job was happy again too because God gave him seven more sons and three more daughters as well as many servants to take care of his family and animals. Job lived to be a very old man.

Boys and girls, some people might not love God anymore after all these terrible things happen to them because they think that God doesn't love them. But God loves us no matter what. Job knew God loved Him so he never left God, even when terrible things were happening to him. Satan wanted him to leave God but Job did what was right. Let's learn from Job, and try our best to do the right thing no matter how hard it is.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Did Job worship God?*** *(Yes, he did.)*
2. ***What did Satan do to Job the first time?*** *(Satan destroyed everything Job had including all his sons and daughters.)*
3. ***What did Job do when the messengers told him all the sad news?*** *(He was sad, but he still worshiped God with all his heart.)*
4. ***What did Satan do to Job the second time?*** *(Satan struck Job with boils all over his body.)*
5. ***What did Job's wife say to him?*** *(She told him to forget about God.)*
6. ***What did Job's friends say to him?*** *(They thought Job had sinned and God was punishing him.)*
6. ***What did Job do even when he was feeling horrible?*** *(He worshiped God. Job knew that God had given him everything and He could take everything away if He wanted to.)*
7. ***How did God bless Job later?*** *(God blessed Job with twice as many animals as before, and gave him ten more children. He also lived to an old age.)*



Life Application Story

Praying for Others

One Saturday afternoon after RE class, Julie went to find her parents in the chapel. She knew it was time to go home. As she walked to the chapel, she noticed her friend Joshua sitting on the stairway all by himself. He was staring at his shoes and twirling one of the shoelaces. He looked very sad.

Julie waved to him and said, "Hi Joshua, what's up? Are you okay?"

"Yes, I'm okay, I guess. But my grandpa isn't doing so well."

"What happened?" asked Julie.

"My grandpa is sick. An ambulance came to the house and took him to the hospital two days ago. He is still at the hospital. My parents don't know if he is going to get better soon," Joshua replied.

"Oh, no. I hope your grandpa is okay," Julie said, trying her best to comfort Joshua.

"I don't know what to do. Grandpa has had heart problems before," Joshua told Julie.

Julie walked onto the stairway and sat by Joshua.

"You know, Joshua, why didn't you say anything in class just now? We can pray for your grandpa together," Julie said.

"I don't know…I just didn't feel like saying anything. I know God loves us and takes good care of us. But why is it that my grandpa still got sick?" Joshua asked in a soft voice.

"Oh, Joshua, don't be sad. My parents always tell me to pray to God when things don't turn out the way I want them to or when I don't know what to do," Julie said. "Let's pray together for your grandpa."

Joshua looked up and nodded his head. "Can you pray with me?"

"No problem!" Julie said as she went with Joshua back to their classroom.

Their teacher, Mrs. Chen, was still in the classroom when they walked in. Julie told her about Joshua's grandpa and that they were going to pray together in the classroom. Mrs. Chen put her hand on Joshua's shoulder and said, "I'll pray with you too. Our almighty God will be able to help your grandpa and comfort your heart. Let's pray."

That afternoon, all three of them prayed for a long time. After the prayer, Mrs. Chen also asked some more church brothers and sisters to pray for Joshua's grandpa. Then they went home. Julie felt good that she had prayed with Joshua to ask God for help.

The next day, Julie called Joshua to see how he was doing. Joshua sounded much better this time.

He said, "You know what Julie? Our prayer really worked! My dad said that Grandpa would be all right. He just has to stay in the hospital two more days, and he can come home! Thank you for reminding me to pray and praying with me, Julie!"

"I am glad I prayed with you," Julie replied.

"And do you know what else happened? A lot of other people called my house to ask about my grandpa. At first, I didn't really want to talk about it but it feels really good when so many people care about our family," Joshua said happily.

"What Mrs. Chen said after our prayer was right. God really does care about us, no matter what is happening to us," Julie said.

"And from now on, I won't forget to pray to God, even when things aren't going so great."

Questions to Think About

1. ***What happened that made Joshua sad?*** *(Joshua's grandpa was sent to the hospital because of heart problems.)*
2. ***What did Julie encourage Joshua to do when he told her about his grandpa?*** *(Julie invited Joshua to pray to God.)*
3. ***What did Joshua say to Julie when she called him the next day?*** *(God listened to their prayer. Joshua's grandpa was better.)*
4. ***Have you ever prayed for others who needed God's help? Invite the students to share their experiences.*** *(Students' responses may vary.)*
5. ***What can we do when things are going well in our lives? What can we do when things are not going well in our lives?*** *(We can pray to God no matter what is happening. When things are going well, we can give thanks to God. When things are not going well, God will hear our prayer and give us peace.)*



Activity 1

What Did Job Lose?

Look at Job in the middle. Starting at Job, draw lines to the things he lost.



Activity 2

Who Is Fearing God?

Look at each picture. What should each child do to show he or she is fearing God? Circle the right answer.

Someone is invited to a party on Saturday.

1. *Fear God and go to church.*
2. *Forget God and go to the party.*

Halloween is coming up.

1. *Fear God and stay at home.*
2. *Forget God and go trick-or-treating.*

A student sees money on the table.

1. *Fear God and not take the money.*
2. *Forget God and keep the money.*



Activity 3

Memory Verse Door Hanger

Materials:

1. *foam or paper door hangers (can be purchased at craft stores, or teacher can make them out of heavy cardboard)*
2. *glitter markers*
3. *washable markers*
4. *scraps*
5. *glue*
6. *scissors*

Directions:

1. *Give each student one door hanger.*
2. *Help them write down the memory verse from today's lesson.*
3. *Allow the students to decorate the remaining space on the door hanger.*
4. *Encourage them to hang their work on their door to remind them to fear the Lord. Take a few moments to discuss in concrete terms what it means for them to fear God.*

Activity 1:1

What Did Job Lose?

Look at Job in the middle.
Starting from Job, draw lines to the things he lost.



Activity 1:2

Who Is Fearing God?

Look at each picture. What should each child do to show he or she is fearing God? Circle the right answer.



1. Fear God and go to church.
2. Forget God and go to the party.



1. Fear God and stay at home.
2. Forget God and go trick-or-treating.



1. Fear God and not take the money.
2. Forget God and keep the money.

Lesson 2

Micaiah Tells the Truth

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson

Scriptures

1 Kgs 22:1-37

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants His followers to be truthful and honest

Behavioral Objective(s)

To always tell the truth even when there are consequences

Memory Verse

"I, the Lord, speak the truth." (Isa 45:19)

Bible Knowledge

Micaiah and King Ahab

Micaiah was a prophet who predicted the death of King Ahab. Not much else is known about him outside of this incident.

Judah's King Jehoshaphat visited Ahab in Israel for treaty negotiations. Jehoshaphat was actually related to Ahab through the marriage of his son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter, Athaliah (2 Kgs 8:18, 27). When Ahab suggested joining forces to fight Ramoth in Gilead, Jehoshaphat had to agree. But he wanted to first ask the Lord's approval (1 Kgs 22:5). Ahab called on his staff of 400 false prophets who unanimously predicted victory. Dissatisfied, Jehoshaphat pressed Ahab to find a true prophet of the Lord. Ahab reluctantly suggested Micaiah who, he complained, always prophesied bad things whenever it concerned him. Jehoshaphat insisted that Micaiah be summoned.

At first, Micaiah was reluctant to oppose the formidable group and tell the truth. But under pressure, he revealed a vision he had had, in which Ahab's army was left leaderless. Micaiah also revealed a further vision: the Lord had arranged for Ahab's 400 prophets to falsely predict victory in order to secure Ahab's death in battle.

Upon hearing this, Ahab ordered Micaiah jailed until he returned victorious. As he was being arrested, Micaiah announced, "If you return alive, I am a false prophet!"

Although Ahab hated Micaiah, he did not want to take any chances concerning the prophecy. So Ahab entered the battle incognito, putting Jehoshaphat in his place at the head of the army. Benhadad had ordered his men to concentrate their attack on King Ahab. Mistaking King Jehoshaphat for Ahab, Benhadad's men charged him with their full force. As he was being attacked, Jehoshaphat cried out to the Lord. When Benhadad's men realized that it was not King Ahab, they abandoned the attack and searched elsewhere.

They never found him. However, Ahab was struck by a random arrow and mortally wounded (1 Kgs 22:34). He instructed his charioteer to take him home. That evening, Ahab died, leaving a trail of blood on his chariot. Later, dogs licked up his blood, as Elijah had prophesied.



Understanding Your Students

Four- and five-year-olds are just beginning to learn the Ten Commandments. Since the lesson deals with the ninth commandment, you may want to take some time to talk to your students about what is considered true and not true. You can get students thinking about it by saying something and having the students evaluate the statement. They can say "true" or "not true." Start with simple facts and move towards behavioral questions in this manner. Here are some examples:

- *Grass is blue. (Not true.)*
- *(Point at your ears) These are my ears. (True.)*
- *Mice are bigger than whales. (Not true.)*
- *We listen with our eyes. (Not true.)*
- *Milk comes from chickens. (Not true.)*
- *Take a cookie out and eat it. Then say, "I didn't eat the cookie." (Not true.)*
- *Drop a toy on the chair, and then say, "I left my toy on the chair." (True.)*

Help the students make the connection between saying something that is not true and telling lies. For example, in the second to the last statement, the teacher lied about eating a cookie. This would be a good opportunity to talk about some lies children might tell in order to not get into trouble (e.g. not admitting to drawing on the sofa, breaking a toy, making a mess, etc.). This can provide the students with the correct concept of what a lie is before moving into the actual lesson.

It is also important to touch upon the fact that telling the truth is both pleasing to God and to our conscience. When we tell a lie, even a small one, we tend to have to lie more in order to stay out of trouble. That makes both God and ourselves sad. But when we tell the truth, God is pleased and we can be happy too. Just as in the last statement, even though it doesn't seem like a big deal to admit that we left our toy on the chair, we are nevertheless telling the truth. Over time, it will be natural for us to want to speak what is true and stay away from all lies.



Vocabulary

Obey
to follow the rules; to listen to and do what others tell you to

False
not true

Prophet
a messenger of God; this person tells others about God's words

Courage
to be brave



Before You Teach

It is not easy to always tell the truth when we are under peer pressure. It is even harder when we know that people would rather hear lies than the truth. Prophet Micaiah encountered this difficult situation when he was brought to King Ahab to prophesy. He knew that the other 400 false prophets had told a lie to encourage King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat to go to war. Micaiah was faced with tremendous pressure to either speak what would be pleasant to people's ears, or to deliver the true message from God, which might not be what people wanted to hear.

Have we ever faced the same kind of peer pressure? When the pressure is on, are we brave enough to tell the truth? Take some time to reflect on our experiences and share that with the students. Even though they may not be able to grasp all the concepts, the most important thing is to teach them not to compromise when it comes to doing what is right in God's eyes. Encourage the students to always tell the truth even when they know there will be consequences by being honest and truthful. Remind them that it is one of God's Ten Commandments. Moreover, it is still important to tell the truth even if there are no consequences, or if it is just a "white lie" and for the person's own good. If we are teaching our students to always tell the truth, we can set the example by putting this into practice.



Bible Story

Boys and girls, do you remember the Ten Commandments that God gave His people? One of the commandments says that we should not lie. Does anyone know what it means to tell a lie? (Write down what they say on the board.) When people tell lies, they are not being honest, are they? Instead, they are saying things that are not true. How do you think God feels when we tell lies? God would feel very sad, because He doesn't want us to lie. He wants us to be honest and say what is true.

In today's story, we will meet a very special man called Micaiah. He was a prophet during the time of the kings. (To make the story more entertaining, the teacher may consider asking another teacher to come into class and pretend to be Micaiah to tell his story to the class. Or the teacher can put on a pre-made Micaiah mask and a cloak to pretend to be Micaiah. Invite the pretended "Micaiah" to come into the class. If the teacher is telling the story, he can step outside the classroom door to put on the mask, and come in again to be Micaiah. Have fun with this pretend play. Feel free to change your voice, too, to fit the character.)

Micaiah Is a Prophet

(Micaiah walks in the classroom to greet the students.)

Dear boys and girls, my name is Micaiah. I am so glad to be here today. I am here to tell you an amazing story that really happened to me. I am a prophet. That means I tell others what God wants them to know. Many people come to me to hear what God has to say. I tell them what will happen. And sometimes the people I talk to are very glad when I say what God tells me, but sometimes the people get very angry because they don't like what I say. Many different people come to me: people like you, older people, and sometimes very rich, important people like kings! It is really not an easy job to be a good prophet. The story I want to tell you today is about two kings who asked me to tell them what was going to happen if they went to war.

King Ahab Wants to See Micaiah

One time, there were two kings who were thinking about going to war. They were King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat. They wanted to fight with another king who lived in Aram so they could take his land. But before they got ready, they wanted to make sure that they would win. So they decided to ask some prophets. But these prophets were false prophets. That means they didn't listen to God or tell people what God wanted them to hear. They only told the people what they wanted to hear. King Ahab asked 400 of these false prophets to get together before him.

He asked them, "Should I go and fight or not?" These false prophets told the two kings, "Go. You will win the war."

That was just what King Ahab wanted to hear. He was ready to go and fight the battle. But the other king, King Jehoshaphat, still wasn't sure of what to do. He wanted to ask a true prophet of God-that was me.

So King Ahab asked me to come and tell them if they would win the war. King Ahab didn't like me at all because he didn't like what I said about him most of the time. I have to tell the truth even if it isn't what the king wants to hear. It's sad that people would get angry with me even when I tell them what God wants me to say.

This time, when King Ahab asked me to go see him, I knew everyone else had said that the two kings would win the battle. But God had told me that King Ahab would lose the battle, and even die in the war. It would have been much easier for me to lie like the other false prophets, and just tell King Ahab to go fight. Then no one would get mad at me. But I would not be telling the truth. I know God wants me to tell the truth all the time, even when it is very hard.

So I told the two kings, "You will lose this war. God has put a lying tongue in the mouths of these other prophets." I told them that the other 400 prophets told a big lie so that King Ahab would go to war and then be killed.

King Ahab Dies in Battle

King Ahab was very angry when he heard what I had said. One of his false prophets even slapped me on the cheek for saying those things. King Ahab ordered his soldiers to put me in jail until he came back from the war. But I knew I had done the right thing. I told the truth. I did not lie.

Do you know what happened when these two kings went together to fight? The enemy soldiers first saw King Jehoshaphat and thought he was King Ahab. So they chased after him to kill him. But they found out he was not the one they wanted to kill. So the enemy soldiers left King Jehoshaphat alone and searched for King Ahab. King Ahab was trying to be smart by dressing like a regular soldier. He did not wear any of the king's clothes. He thought no one would be able to tell he was the king that way. So the enemy soldiers searched and searched but they never found him. But do you remember what God told me to say? He said King Ahab would die during this battle. So as King Ahab fought, someone accidentally drew his bow and the arrow flew into the air and hit King Ahab. Later on, he died. What God had told me earlier all came true.

We Must Tell the Truth

Boys and girls, it was very hard to tell the truth. There were 400 other people who said that God told them the kings would win. I was the only one who told them that they would not win. I even said King Ahab would die. But I know that God is very proud of me for not lying, and doing the right thing even when everyone else was not. Telling the truth takes a lot of faith and courage. For example, if you accidentally broke something, would you have the courage to tell your parents? Or would you just clean things up and hide it from them? What if you broke your sister's toy? Would you have the courage to tell her you did it, even if she might get really mad? We must do the right thing by telling the truth, even when it is hard. In the end, God will bless us.

I've got to go back to being a good prophet now. Many people are waiting to talk to me. It was very nice meeting all of you. Bye-bye now!

(Step out the classroom to take off the mask and the cloak, and come back as a classroom teacher.)

Wow, what a treat for all of us to meet prophet Micaiah! We learned to be brave by telling the truth. Sometimes, there are consequences when we do something we are not supposed to. That means we may have a time-out, lose television or computer time, or have our favorite toy taken away for a while. But even then, we should still tell the truth because God wants us to be honest children.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Who is Micaiah and what does he do?*** *(Micaiah is a true prophet of God. He works and speaks for God.)*
2. ***Who were the two kings who wanted to fight against Aram?*** *(King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat.)*
3. ***What did the 400 false prophets tell the kings?*** *(They said the kings would win the battle, even though that was not the truth.)*
4. ***What did Micaiah tell King Ahab?*** *(Micaiah told him he would not win the war. King Ahab would even die in this battle.)*
5. ***What happened to Micaiah when King Ahab heard what he said?*** *(Micaiah was put in jail because King Ahab didn't like what he said.)*
6. ***Why did King Ahab dress like a regular soldier when he went to battle?*** *(He was afraid what Micaiah said would come true. He dressed like a soldier so that no one would know he was really a king.)*
7. ***What happened to King Ahab in the end?*** *(He died because an arrow hit him.)*
8. ***What does prophet Micaiah want us to learn from him?*** *(He wants us to always tell the truth even when we know that there might be consequences.)*
9. ***How do you think a person feels when he tells a lie?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*
10. ***How do you think a person feels when he tells the truth?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*



Life Application Story

The Giant

John was so excited he couldn't sit still. He had invited his friend, Eric, to come play at his house this afternoon. John was always excited when his friends came over for play dates. As John paced back and forth in the family room, he could smell something good coming from the kitchen. Mrs. Marsh was baking some cookies for them to enjoy. When the doorbell finally rang, John ran to the door and opened it.

"What took you so long?" John asked Eric. "I've got a lot of new toys I want to show you. Come on, they are in the family room. I have them all lined up."

Before Eric could even take his shoes off, John ran off to the family room to get things ready.

As Eric walked into the room, he said, "Wow, you do have a lot of new stuff."

After checking out the toys, they decided they were going to play with the soldiers. John and Eric had them lined up all around the room. Some soldiers were on the tables, some were on the ground, and some were even on the stairs. Then John had a great idea.

"I know!" John said. "Let's pretend that a big giant comes through the city, and we have to save the city."

"That sounds like a great idea," Eric replied, "but we don't have a giant."

"We can use my sister's doll. I know she has a pretty big one," John said. Without even asking, he ran upstairs to get the doll from Michelle's room. Michelle was at a swim class and John knew she wouldn't be home for a while. After grabbing the doll from his sister's bed, he ran back to the family room.

"Here's our new giant. Let's save our city," John said.

John and Eric were having lots of fun playing. As they pretended, sometimes they would throw the doll in the air. Other times, they would use the doll to knock down some of the soldiers.

Mrs. Marsh knew the two boys had been playing for a while and probably needed a snack. So she brought the cookies and some milk for them. As she walked into the room, she saw Michelle's doll flying towards her. Luckily, she ducked quickly and the food she was holding did not spill.

"Sorry, Mom," John said as he got up to pick up the doll.

Mrs. Marsh put down the tray of food on the coffee table.

"Isn't that Michelle's new doll? Did she tell you that it was okay for you to play with it?" Mrs. Marsh asked.

John didn't know what to say. He knew he hadn't asked his sister first and that was a rule his mom always talked about. He was supposed to ask before taking anything.

"Well, I did ask her yesterday after dinner to see if I could play with it," John said.

"Yes, I remember that. But I heard her say no. I am asking about today. Did you ask her today to see if you could play with her doll when she wasn't home?" Mrs. Marsh asked again.

John knew he couldn't lie.

"No, we were so excited about our soldier game that I just took it from her bed," came John's soft reply.

"I am proud of you for telling me the truth. But I don't think your sister would like that you just took her things," Mrs. Marsh said.

"I am sorry," John said.

"You will have to put the doll aside now and tell her what happened when she gets home later," Mrs. Marsh explained.

"But she's going to get mad at me and never let me play with any of her things again," protested John.

"That may be true. But it is still important to tell the truth. You could lie and just put the doll back on her bed. She might never find out. But I don't think that would make you feel good inside. And even if no one ever found out, God knows what happened. He told us to always be honest and truthful. That's what His followers do," Mrs. Marsh said.

"I know."

"Well, what did you learn from this?" asked Mrs. Marsh.

"I should always tell the truth, and I should ask before I take anything next time," John said.

"I am glad you learned a lesson. Besides, your sister may not get so mad that she would never let you touch any of her things. I am sure she would be happy that you are honest with what you did. I am

also sure that God is happy because you are telling the truth. And I am really happy that you had the courage to tell me the truth."

Mrs. Marsh put the doll on the book shelf.

"Now, how about we take a break and eat some of the yummy cookies?" Mrs. Marsh asked.

Questions to Think About:

1. ***What did John do without first asking?*** *(He took his sister's doll.)*
2. ***What did John say to his mom the first time she asked him about the doll?*** *(He told her he had asked his sister yesterday.)*
3. ***Was that really the truth?*** *(Not really. He just wanted to say something so that he would not get into trouble.)*
4. ***What did Mrs. Marsh say John needed to do when his sister got home?*** *(He had to tell her what he did, even if she might not let him play with her toys again.)*
5. ***Sometimes people lie because they don't want to get into trouble. Have you lied about something before?*** *(Give some ideas to encourage the students to share. E.g. drawing on the wall and saying some other kids did it, not admitting to breaking something or making a big mess, etc.)*
6. ***Why should we always tell the truth?*** *(Because God wants us to be honest and truthful at all times.)*



Activity 1

Micaiah Tells the Truth

Finish the sentences to each picture to review the story of Micaiah. Use the words in the word bank.

1. *Micaiah is a <u>prophet.</u>*
2. *Ahab and Jehoshaphat want to go to <u>war</u>.*
3. *Micaiah tells the <u>truth.</u>*
4. *King Ahab is <u>hurt</u> during battle.*



Activity 2

Who Is Telling the Truth?

What can each person say to tell the truth?

1. *I am sorry I broke the teddy bear.*
2. *I painted the wall, not my sister.*
3. *I wanted to use the computer. I should have asked first.*
4. *I only practiced a little bit. I should practice some more.*



Activity 3

Truth Game

Help the students understand what it means to tell the truth by playing a simple game. Provide each student with a piece of paper. Ask them to put their names on the top of the page. Then ask the students to think about one thing that is true about them ("I like to eat cookies") and have them draw that on the paper. Make sure that they are not sharing their answer with their friends at the table. When they are done, collect the papers. Then play a game by saying what is true about each person and having the students guess who the teacher is talking about. (E.g. "Someone likes to eat cookies. Who can it be?") When the students have had a chance to guess each person's answer, talk about how all those statements were true. God likes it when we tell the truth.

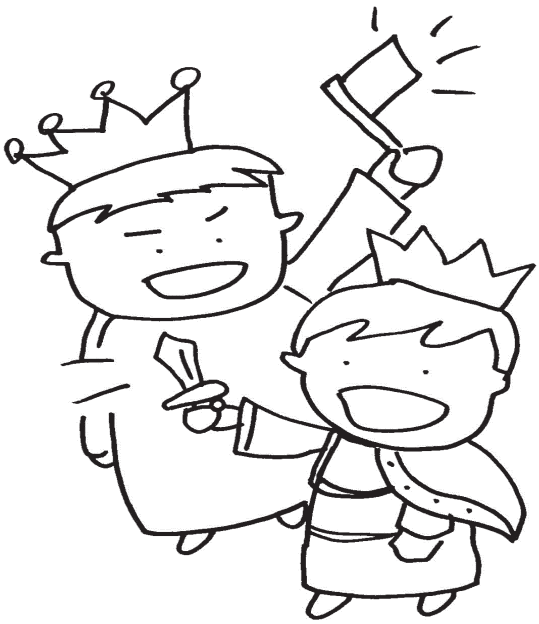
Activity 2:1

Micaiah Tells the Truth

war	truth
prophet	hurt



1. Micaiah is a p _ _ _ _ _ _.



2. Ahab and Jehoshaphat want to go to w _ _.



3. Micaiah tells the.t _ _ _ _.



4. King Ahab is h _ _ _ during battle.

Activity 2:2

Who Is Telling the Truth?

What can each person say to tell the truth?









Lesson 3

Joash and the People Bring Their Offerings to God

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- clear plastic cups
- tissue paper
- scissors
- craft glue
- paper plates
- cotton swabs or craft sticks
- construction paper
- markers or crayons

Scriptures

2 Chron 24:1-14

Bible Truth Objective(s)

We show love and honor to God when we offer our gifts to Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To offer to God on a regular and consistent basis

Memory Verse

"God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)

Bible Knowledge

Baal Worship

Rehoboam (930-913 BC), the first king of Judah, greatly increased Baal worship. Baal was a god of the Canaanites and was worshiped as a god of fertility. Many generations later, when Ahaziah became king (841 BC; he was king for only one year), he also zealously worshiped Baal. After Ahaziah's death, his evil mother Athaliah seized the throne and fanatically promoted Baal worship. Her followers even took treasures from God's temple and put them in a temple honoring Baal.

Athaliah massacred her own grandsons, including Ahaziah's sons, so they could not take the throne from her. But Jehosheba, a sister of Ahaziah, rescued the infant prince, Joash. Jehosheba and her husband Jehoiada, the high priest, hid Joash in the temple for about six years (2 Kgs 11:3).

King Joash

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada drew civil and military leaders of the nation into a pact to protect the rightful king (2 Chron 23:1-3). After Joash received the crown of David, the wicked queen Athaliah was overthrown and killed.

Joash ruled for forty years (835-796 BC). As long as his uncle Jehoiada lived, the young king remained faithful to God and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. At the end of his reign, however, he forgot about God and even killed the son of Jehoiada. In the end, Joash was assassinated (2 Chron 24:17-26).

Offerings

2 Kings 12:4 refers to money brought to the temple as dedicated gifts. This collection was derived from three kinds of offerings: money collected in the census (at the age of twenty, Israelite youths were required to register for military service and to make an offering of half a shekel), money given as part of a personal vow (these were promises an individual made to God beyond the required tithing; see Lev 27:1-1-25), and money brought voluntarily to the temple (a freewill offering; see Lev 22:18-23).

Apparently, the priests did not take this money out to repair the temple. Later, the priests agreed not to take any more money from the people but would still keep what had been given to them already as their due (2 Kgs 12:8).



Understanding Your Students

Most young children enjoy putting money in the offering box. Many of them will actually remind their parents that they need some money before class. So they understand the routine of offering and do so quite willingly. Unfortunately, they probably don't understand the meaning of offering very well. We need to explain to them that everything we have comes from God. They often see their parents buying food and clothing, and don't realize that it's God who ultimately provides for all of our needs.

We can also help them see concretely how the money that is offered is being used. Let them know how the money is used to help others who may be in need. Talk about how much supplies cost. Let the students know that they help pay for these items with their offering money. And most of all, let them know that offering makes God happy. It is a part of worship. In today's lesson, the people were moved to offer what they could to rebuild God's temple. Encourage the students with this example so that they may develop the habit of tithing.

If the class doesn't have an offering box or the current one is in need of repair, this would be an excellent time to create a new one. By involving the students, it can make the experience of tithing even more personal. After putting the offering box together, remind the students of the routine of offering (e.g. students walk into class single-file, put their money into the offering box, and sit down at their seats to wait for class to begin). Whatever the class routine is like, they should be reminded that offering to God is orderly and respectful.



Vocabulary

Prophet
a worker and messenger of God; he tells others what God wants them to hear

Repair
to fix something

Offer
to give something to another person

Tithe
to give a tenth (or a part) of our money to God



Before You Teach

In today's lesson, King Joash ordered the priests to repair the temple because it had fallen into disrepair over the years. When they failed to do so right away, Joash took matters into his own hands. He decided that the offering received from that point on would be used for temple repairs. So a chest, similar to that of our offering box today, was placed beside the altar in the temple so that the people could tithe. When the people realized their money would be used for temple repairs, they gave generously. In the end, the temple was restored.

We can learn a number of lessons from Joash. First, Joash understood that God's temple was an important place of worship. Even though Queen Athaliah was dead, the influence of her Baal worship could still be felt. People continued to offer sacrifices to idols at the high places (2 Kgs 12:3). In order to encourage the people to turn back to God, the temple needed to be repaired so that there would be a place to worship in.

But when Joash did not see the priests doing the needed work, he encouraged the people to offer what they could by placing a free-will offering box by the altar. That way, the priests would not be put into a financial bind. Joash took immediate action to solve the problem but was also sensitive to the needs of all the people involved.

Once enough money was collected, the jobs were divided accordingly so that each person could do what they were skilled at. The money due to each worker was also paid out in full. Thus, the people worked happily and did their best.

Joash knew it would take a lot of work to restore the temple. Instead of relying on someone else or just procrastinating, he took practical measures to ensure that the temple would be repaired. Through his actions, he demonstrated his willingness to offer his best to God and to put Him first, which are the real purposes behind tithing.



Bible Story

Giving and Receiving Gifts

Have you ever given or received a gift before? (Let students respond.) How does it make you feel when someone gives you a gift? It usually makes you feel special. When you give gifts to others, it shows that you like those people.

We often think of giving people presents on birthdays or special occasions. We do it because we love them and want to make them feel special. But did you know you can give gifts to God as well? Have you thought about how God feels when we give Him gifts? He feels special too. Giving gifts to God shows that we love Him. One of the ways we can give a gift to God is by offering money in church. Our Bible story today talks about some people who gave gifts to God.

In the last lesson, we learned about two kings who wanted to go to war. Do you remember their names? They were King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat. They wanted to ask God first to see if they would win. 400 false prophets told the kings they should go because they would definitely win. But King Jehoshaphat wasn't sure they were telling the truth. He wanted to ask a true prophet of God. So King Ahab asked Micaiah. Micaiah told the truth and said that they would lose, and King Ahab would die because of this battle. The kings did not listen and went to war anyway. In the end, King Ahab was shot by an arrow and died later that day. Micaiah told the truth even though it was hard. 400 other prophets said something else. It would have been easier to say the same thing as they did. It is hard to be different sometimes. But Micaiah knew he had to tell the truth no matter what. That is what God wants all of us to do. Today, the story continues with a different king. He was the great-grandson of King Jehoshaphat, and the king of Judah.

A Seven Year Old King

Have you ever heard of anyone who became king when he was only seven years old? (They will probably answer "No.") When we think of a king, we usually think of a grown-up, one who is old enough to make decisions.

But once there was a king who was only seven years old. His name was Joash. When he was still only a baby, he had a wicked grandmother, called Athaliah, who wanted to kill him. She wanted to kill him as well as all of his brothers so she could become queen. She did kill all of the brothers but God protected baby Joash. His aunt and uncle took him and hid him in God's temple. His uncle was the high priest. That means his job was to look after the people who came to worship God in the temple. So for the next seven years, Joash was kept safe in the temple, while his grandmother became the queen. She was not a good queen because she did not worship God. She told the people to worship idols instead. Joash's uncle, Jehoiada, knew it was bad for the people to keep following Queen Athaliah. So when Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada knew it was the right time to make Joash king.

One day, the high priest gathered many people in the land and told them that Joash, who was supposed to be the real king, was alive. The people were glad Joash was not dead. So they crowned him the king of Judah. When Athaliah found out, she was mad. But since the people knew they had the real king now, the soldiers took her and killed her.

After Joash was made king, he tried to do all the things God wanted him to do. Since he was so young, he listened to the grown-ups around him. But soon Joash grew up, and he still wanted to be a good, and wise king. Joash loved God very much.

Joash Repairs the Temple

One day King Joash noticed that the temple needed some repairs. The temple was the big building where everyone worshiped God. The temple was getting old and had not been properly looked after for many, many years. What parts of the temple might have needed repairs? (Allow students to brainstorm. This would be a good time to share a bit on what the temple looked like). Maybe the temple steps and the pillars were cracked and broken. The floor was probably also worn out from where many people had walked for over a hundred years. When Solomon built it over a hundred years ago, it was a beautiful building. Now, it was old and cracked. This was not the way the temple should look! Joash also saw that there were things missing inside the temple. The gold and silver pans and dishes were missing because his wicked grandmother had stolen them from God. Joash made up his mind: he was

going to fix the steps and the pillars; he was going to mend the floor; he was going to replace the things his wicked grandmother had stolen from God. He wanted to make the temple look like new again. God's house had to be looked after. Joash was going to make the temple a beautiful and safe place to worship God.

How was Joash going to do this? He knew that he needed a lot of people to help out because the temple was big and needed a lot of work.

Joash probably thought to himself, "We need people who are good at building and fixing things. We will need to pay builders to help fix the temple. We will need a lot of gold and silver to make new pans and dishes. There's a lot of work to do but I'm sure there will be people who will want to help out. There are lots of people who love God and who will want to offer their gifts to God."

Joash decided to ask the people to offer a gift to God. That way, Joash could pay for builders to fix the temple and make new pans and dishes.

Many People Bring Their Offerings

Joash commanded an offering box be placed at the temple. He had messengers tell the people to bring their gifts so that God's house could be fixed.

Soon people came from everywhere to put an offering in the big box. Some people were rich and put in a lot of money. Some people did not have as much money and they gave less. But everyone gave money to God because they loved God. God was happy with the offerings that the people had brought, whether it was a lot or a little. God was pleased with everyone because they gave their money happily. And do you know what? The people brought so many gifts that the box had to be emptied every day.

Soon there was enough money to fix everything. Joash and the high priest called the workers together. The workers brought their tools and got to work. They hammered and sawed. They cut and chiseled. Soon the steps and the pillars were fixed. The floor looked just like new again. With the leftover money, the workers made new pans and dishes that were used in God's house.

Now the temple was made beautiful again. The people were happy to come to worship God in a beautiful building. They were glad they brought their offerings to help. And God was happier still because He knew His people offered their gifts because they loved Him.

Today, we can be like the people during the time of King Joash. We can offer our money by giving tithes. That means we give a part of our money to God. If we don't have a lot of money, or any money, we can still offer gifts to God. We can offer our time and effort by cleaning the class and returning Bibles to the shelves. We can offer our prayers to God too. These are all beautiful gifts to God. These are all ways we can show God we love Him.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Who was the ruler of Judah when Joash was just a baby?*** *(His wicked grandmother.)*
2. ***Who kept Joash safe in the temple until he was old enough to become the king?*** *(His aunt and his uncle, who was also the high priest.)*
3. ***How old was Joash when he became king?*** *(He was seven years old.)*
4. ***What was old and needed repairs?*** *(The temple.)*
5. ***How did Joash collect the money that was needed to repair the temple?*** *(The people put money in an offering box by the temple.)*
6. ***What does offering money to God show?*** *(It shows we love Him.)*
7. ***Was there a little or a lot of money in the offering box?*** *(There was a lot of money.)*
8. ***After the people offered their money, what did King Joash do?*** *(He called workers to fix the temple.)*
9. ***What was the temple like after it was fixed?*** *(The temple was beautiful again and the people came to worship God.)*



Life Application Story

A Gift for God

It was Sunday afternoon, and Julie Lewis was at the supermarket with her mom. They were doing their regular weekend grocery shopping. But on this particular Sunday, Julie was especially excited. Her mom had promised that she could use the money she had saved up for a small toy. She looked around at the toy section for a long time. Her mom was down the aisle looking at the magazines. There were just so many things to choose from. There were toys of different colors. Some made sounds and some lighted up. It was a very hard decision to make.

As Julie was thinking about what to pick, someone tapped her on the shoulder. She turned around and expected to see her mom. But instead, it was Nicole.

"Hi Nicole, are you buying something?" asked Julie.

"Yes, we ran out of eggs and I came to get some. My mom wants to bake some cookies today," replied Nicole.

"I am trying to decide what to buy. My mom said I could spend my money on something from here," said Julie excitedly.

"Well, have you picked something out?"

"No, I can't decide," said Julie.

"Maybe I can help you. How much money do you have?" asked Nicole.

"I have ten dollars."

"Well, how about this glitter sticker set? It's five dollars," suggested Nicole.

"That means I will have five dollars left, right? What else should I buy?"

Nicole thought for a minute. "Well, you could pick something else out that is close to five dollars... or you could give a part of that money to God," said Nicole.

"Give it to God?" asked Julie.

"Yes, it is called tithing. That means we give a part of our money to God. It helps the church buy the things it needs so God's house can grow," explained Nicole.

"Oh, I do that at class time. But usually, my parents give me some money before class."

"That's also offering to God. But when you are willing to offer to God the money you saved up, it shows that you really care about Him. Usually when I save up money, I make sure I give some of it to God," said Nicole.

"Does that mean I need to give Him the rest of my five dollars?" asked Julie.

"No, when we give to God, it doesn't matter how much or how little. What matters is that when we give our money to God, we are happy about it. We don't feel sad that we gave our money or wished we had used it to buy a toy instead," Nicole said.

"Okay. I think I will give some of my money when I go to church next week. I want God to know that I care about Him and His house," said Julie.

Just as Julie finished saying that, Mrs. Lewis walked up.

"Hi Nicole. I thought it was you," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Hi Mrs. Lewis. I was just about to go and get some eggs. I will see you later," said Nicole as she headed to the dairy section.

"Well, what were you two talking about just now?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"We were talking about giving gifts to God," explained Julie.

"Oh, that's interesting."

"Yes, and I have decided to buy this sticker set, Mom," Julie said. "Then I will give some of what is left over to God as my gift."

"I am very proud of you for thinking about God. And I am sure God is happy you are thinking about Him too," Mrs. Lewis said as they walked to the checkout.

Questions to Think About

1. ***Have you given your money to God before?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*
2. ***How does it make you feel when you offer your money to God?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*
3. ***Why do we tithe or offer a part of our money to God?*** *(Allow students to share. We tithe because it is God's command. We also tithe because we want to show God we love Him and His house, the church. The church needs to buy many things (e.g. food, classroom supplies, Bibles, etc) and we give money to help the church grow.)*



Activity 1

King Joash Repairs the Temple

Put the pictures in order. Which one happened first?

1. *Joash is hidden as a baby.*
2. *Joash is crowned king when he is seven years old.*
3. *The people offer their money to repair the temple.*
4. *Joash repairs the temple with the help of the people.*



Activity 2

What Can We Offer?

Look at each picture. What are the people offering to God? Connect the picture to the right words.

1. *Money.*
2. *Best work.*
3. *Voices.*
4. *Prayer.*



Activity 3

Cups of Offerings

Materials:

1. *clear plastic cups*
2. *tissue paper, assorted colors*
3. *craft glue*
4. *scissors*
5. *paper plates*
6. *cotton swabs or small craft sticks*
7. *construction paper*
8. *markers or crayons*

Directions:

1. *Cut tissue paper into 1- to 2-inch squares.*
2. *Pour the glue onto several paper plates so that the students do not have to reach over.*
3. *Provide each student with a cotton swab or craft stick, and one clear plastic cup. Have them spread glue on the outside of their cups with the swab or stick.*
4. *Help them press the tissue scraps to the glue to create a stained-glass effect.*
5. *Set the cups aside for drying.*
6. *Provide each student with three strips of construction paper (one by four inch strips).*
7. *Brainstorm ways the students can offer to God (e.g. they can offer a prayer, they can try their best at school, they can offer tithe, they can offer time by reading the Bible, etc).*
8. *Help the students pick three and write and/or draw those offerings on the strips of paper.*
9. *Have the students fold their papers so that they will fit into their offering cup.*
10. *Ask students to take their cups home. They can draw a piece of paper out each week to remind them of the things they can offer to God.*

Activity 3:1

King Joash Repairs the Temple

Put the pictures in the right order. Which one happened first?



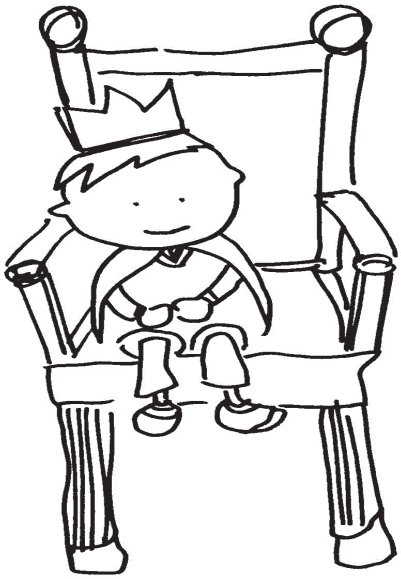
Joash is hidden as a baby.



Joash repairs the temple with the help of the people.



The people offer their money to repair the temple.



Joash is crowned king when he is seven years old.
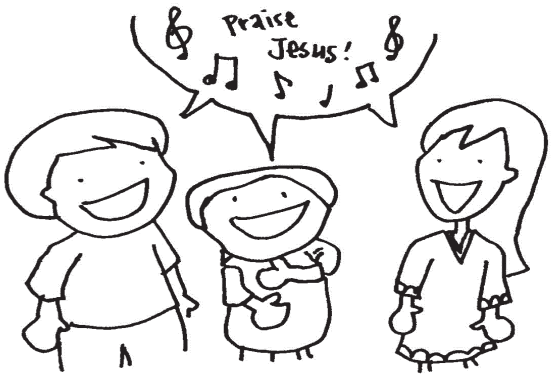
Activity 3:2

What Can We Offer?

Look at each picture. What are the people offering to God?
Connect the picture to the right words.









* BEST WORK

* MONEY

* PRAYER

* VOICES

Lesson 4

King Hezekiah Worships God Through Music

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- paper plates
- bells
- crayons and markers
- chenille wires
- glue or tape
- hole punch
- streamers

Scriptures

2 Chron 29:25-31

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God is pleased when we worship Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To recognize that we are worshiping God when we sing praises to Him

Memory Verse

"Come before Him with joyful songs." (Ps 100:2)

Bible Knowledge

Hezekiah

Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz. He succeeded his father as king of Judah (around 716 BC). Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old.

In the first month of the reign of King Hezekiah, he began the temple's restoration. He removed the idols that were housed in the temple and sanctified the temple vessels that had been desecrated during his father's reign. He also led the people in worship through instrumental and vocal music.

Hezekiah became very ill in 701 BC. The prophet Isaiah warned the king to prepare for his death but Hezekiah prayed to God instead. God listened to the king's prayer and extended his life fifteen more years. Hezekiah's miraculous recovery brought him much attention from surrounding countries (2 Chron 32:33).

Hezekiah died in 687 or 686 BC, and his son Manasseh took over the throne. Incidentally, the Book of Matthew lists Hezekiah in the genealogy of Jesus (Mt 1:9-10).

Music at the Temple

After Hezekiah restored the temple, the sacrifices were initiated with the sounds of music.

The priests played trumpets. These were short, straight instruments with a range of four or five notes. Their traditional use in Israel is described in Numbers 10:2-10.

The cymbals were similar to the instruments of the same name still used today. They were large, circular plates of brass or other metal that produced a clanging sound when struck together.

The stringed instruments were also called the nevel. This was a guitar-like zither or lute. It is described as having ten or twelve strings.

The harp was rectangular in shape, with two curved arms joined at the top by a crosspiece. The strings were usually the same length. It was frequently used to accompany singing.

After restoring the temple worship, Hezekiah invited the Israelites from the north to join in the celebration of the Passover at Jerusalem.



Understanding Your Students

We know that children grow up surrounded by music. In fact, today many parents expose their fetuses to certain types of music because it supposedly helps the brain to grow. Something about music makes learning fun and beneficial.

In church, music is a great way to help a child praise God. Before even learning how to read, our students can already be praising God through hymns. Explain that hymns are like prayers, and that they can praise God with hymns when they feel like talking to God. Little children truly enjoy singing. Although they may not understand all of the words, they can experience the power of worship through music. What we can do when we introduce a new song is to discuss the lyrics so that the message will be held in the hearts and minds of the children. Four- and five-year-olds love the familiar, so make a habit of reviewing previously learned hymns that they've enjoyed. We should also not shy away from using instruments along with the piano to create beautiful songs of worship in each class. Whenever possible, have a few pre-selected children's hymns that are lesson related to play before, during, or after each lesson. This is a wonderful way to help the students remember the story.

Although the children in kindergarten are still young, they may already be exposed to a lot of inappropriate music. They may also wonder why some songs aren't appropriate for church. Take this opportunity to explain to them that when we come to church to worship God, we need to bring in the correct worship attitude.



Vocabulary

Offering
a gift to God

Praise
to show or tell God we love Him; we can praise God with our words, or with songs and music

Instruments
objects that make music when played (e.g. trumpet, harp, cymbals)

Musicians
people who play instruments and make music



Before You Teach

"I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your Name, O Most High" (Ps 9:1).

This was a psalm of David. David was well known for his songs of praise. But what exactly is praise? Basically it is saying thank you to God for who He is. It is acknowledging the fact that He is the almighty God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. When we recognize who our God is, we cannot help but praise Him. How can we praise God?

Today's lesson focuses on music. Certainly we can sing to praise God. Many people have been moved to tears by the words of a hymn, demonstrating the power of music and praise. Of course, we can also praise God in our prayers. When we pray to Him we are able to accomplish several things: 1. We can take our minds off worldly things and meditate on the things of the heavenly kingdom; 2. We can ponder the greatness of our Lord Jesus; 3. We can give thanks to God for all that He has given to us freely; 4. We can draw closer to Him.

Praising God does not only involve lip service. To truly praise God is to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to Him. "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Heb 13:15). To praise God is a spiritual offering. Once we believe in God, our lives must be transformed. We should bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit and tell others about the wonderful news of Jesus Christ. When we do things that are pleasing to God, that is the "sacrifice of praise."

Bible Story

Singing to God

Have a selection of music on CD or cassette tape ready to play in class:

1. *Slow, sad music (e.g. The Doll's Funeral by Tchaikovsky);*
2. *Bouncy, joyous music (e.g. Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by Handel);*
3. *Solemn hymn music sung by a choir.*

Before we begin the Bible story today, there is a little treat for everyone. We're going to listen to some music. Close your eyes and think about how it makes you feel. [Play excerpt 1.] What did you feel when you heard the music? (Let students answer.) Use your face to show how it makes you feel. (Children should be making sad faces as you play more of the excerpt.) Okay, shake all your sadness away. (Have students shake their heads and hands.)

Let's listen to this next piece of music. [Play excerpt 2.] How do you feel now? (Let students answer.) Show how it makes you feel. (Allow students to get up and move around as the music continues.)

Let's listen to one last piece of music. [Play excerpt 3.] What does it make you think of? (Allow responses.) It makes you think of coming to church and worshiping God, right?

Music is special because it can make us feel a certain way. It can make us happy and it can make us sad. It can also make us want to draw closer to God, to pray to Him and to come to church. God wants us to use music when we worship Him, whether we are in church, at home, or anywhere else.

Do you know how the people in the Bible let God know that they loved Him? Some people liked to bring their offerings to show their love for God. Some people liked to read the word of God, which was written on big scrolls at that time. Some people liked to pray. They would say, "We love you, Lord!" And some people liked to sing. Today, we are going to learn about a king who loved to use music to show God how much he loved Him.

King Hezekiah Loves God

In our last lesson, we learned about King Joash. He became king when he was only seven years old. But with the help of his uncle, the high priest, he became a good king. One of the things he did when he grew up was repair the temple. He did it because he loved God. There were many kings in the Bible who loved God. Another king of Judah who loved God very much was King Hezekiah.

When Hezekiah became king he decided to fix and clean God's house because it had not been looked after properly for a long time. The king before him did not love God like he did. Many people had stopped coming to worship God at the temple. King Hezekiah wanted to change all of that because He loved God. He opened the doors of the temple and saw they needed to be repaired. King Hezekiah brought in a lot of people to help clean up God's house. There was a lot of work to be done and it took many days, but finally it was ready! At last, people could come to worship God in the temple. But before the people came, King Hezekiah wanted to praise God in a special way. He began to think of all the ways he could tell God how much he loved Him. He thought and thought. Then Hezekiah thought of a great idea! The people who came to the temple could praise God with music!

There were so many things King Hezekiah could use. He began to think.

"There will be singing of course," he thought, "and I know the priests have trumpets for special occasions. The priests were commanded to blow trumpets by God a long time ago. What else can I use? Harps make a beautiful noise. King David used to play the harp a long time ago, and God was very pleased with his music. Now we need something to make the music sound magnificent. Hmmm…I know what! Cymbals! That's what we'll use."

The People Play Different Instruments

The day came when the temple was fixed and ready to be used again. King Hezekiah got up early that morning. It was going to be a very special day. King Hezekiah invited the important people to the temple. King Hezekiah had thought hard about how to praise God. He got his musicians together and had them take their place in the temple. Priests with their trumpets stood together on one side. The people playing cymbals stood together and the harpists were together. The singers prepared their

throats for their first note. They were silent and ready. All their eyes were fixed on King Hezekiah. They were waiting for the right time to begin.

At last the signal came. King Hezekiah told the priests that it was time to start the worship and singing. The priests played their trumpets. Toot-ta-ta-toot. Hezekiah liked the way the trumpets sounded!

Some of the people played harps. Plink-plunk. Plink-plink-plunk. Plink-plink. Plink-plink-plunk. King Hezekiah liked the way the harps sounded!

Some of the people played cymbals. Clang-crash-bang! Clang-crash-bang! King Hezekiah liked the way the cymbals sounded!

Some of the people sang praises to God. They might have said, "Praise the Lord for He is good!" They sang together as a choir. They sang hymns that King Solomon's father, King David, had written. King Hezekiah liked the way the people sang praises to God. The music was so beautiful and grand.

The singers sang while the players played. Magnificent music filled the whole place while the people worshiped in the temple. The people who heard the music felt how awesome God was. They praised God for being so wonderful and for loving them. They praised God for giving them the temple so they could worship Him. They thanked God for His love and for giving them the gift of music.

In heaven, God probably looked down and saw what they were doing. He heard the music of His people and felt their hearts. He felt the praise and love they had for Him. He heard their music and was very pleased.

We Can Sing to God

Today, we can praise God with music and singing too. When we sing, it is a way to talk to God. We are using words put to music. God likes to hear our voices. So the next time we are singing hymns, let us remember to use our voices and sing to God.



Check For Understanding

1. ***How did the people in the Bible show love to God?*** *(They made offerings, they read the word of God on big scrolls, they prayed to God, they sang hymns, and they played musical instruments.)*
2. ***Who was the king who wanted to praise God with music?*** *(King Hezekiah of Judah.)*
3. ***There was another king who lived a long time before King Hezekiah who used music to praise God. Who was he?*** *(King David.)*
4. ***What was the special occasion for King Hezekiah to praise God with music?*** *(The temple had just been fixed and cleaned, ready to be used again.)*
5. ***What kinds of instruments did they use to praise God in the temple?*** *(They used trumpets, harps, cymbals, and other stringed instruments.)*
6. ***Do you think God liked the way the people praised Him?*** *(Yes.)*
7. ***In our lesson today, we learned that different kinds of music can make you feel different inside. Music can make you feel happy, sad, angry, and even scared (e.g. music during movie scenes). How does God want us to feel when we are singing to Him?*** *(He wants us to be happy.)*
8. ***How can we use music to worship God?*** *(Allow students to share.)*



Life Application Story

Worship With Song

There was something special going on in Mrs. Marsh's kindergarten class today. Laid out on the table were all sorts of instruments. Today, the class was going to worship God through music! The students chatted amongst themselves. They were really excited.

"I wonder which instrument I will get to play?" they whispered to themselves.

When it was time to begin the class, Mrs. Marsh clapped her hands to settle the class down. When everybody had quieted down, Mrs. Marsh spoke to the class.

"When we worship God, we often think of praying and reading the Bible. Today, we're going to be worshiping God through music. I know that we usually sing hymns with the piano but we will do something a bit different in this lesson, and it requires you to pay attention to what I am saying to you."

Then Mrs. Marsh began to pass out all the instruments. She gave Michelle and Julie wooden blocks with sticks. The inside of the wooden blocks were carved out. When Michelle and Julie hit the blocks, they went, "Bok! Bok! Bok!"

"Let's wait until everyone has their instruments before we play them," Mrs. Marsh explained.

Mrs. Marsh gave John and Rachel silver triangles with silver sticks.

Juan got the tambourine. The tambourine is a small, thin drum. It has flat, silver disks all around it. When someone hits the tambourine, it goes, "Cling-a-ching! Cling-a-ching!"

Tommy got the maraca. The maraca is a stick with a wooden ball attached to it. Inside the wooden ball are usually small beans. When someone shakes the maraca, it goes, "Shik-a-shik-a, shik-a-shik-a!"

As soon as Mrs. Marsh handed out the last of the instruments, John and Rachel hit the triangles with the silver sticks, and they went, "Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling!"

"I know you are all excited. I am almost done taking out all the instruments," Mrs. Marsh explained.

"What could the last instrument be?" the children wondered.

Then Mrs. Marsh brought out her own instrument. It was in a large, black, and long box. It was a guitar.

As Mrs. Marsh put the guitar strap around her, she explained, "Music is a great way to praise and worship God. Many people in the Bible used music to show their love for God. Now that we all have instruments, let's pick a hymn to praise Jesus!"

Everybody agreed. They were excited about their new instruments. They couldn't wait to praise God! They picked the hymn "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

While they sang, everybody played their instruments. Mrs. Marsh signaled them when they should hit or shake their instruments. Michelle and Julie went "Bok! Bok! Bok!" on their wooden blocks. John and Rachel went "Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling!" on their triangles. Juan went "Cling-a-ching! Cling-a-ching!" on his tambourine. Tommy went "Shik-a-shik-a, shik-a-shik-a" on his maraca. While they were playing their instruments, they sang with their best and loudest voices. They were so happy to be worshiping God.

After they finished singing the hymn, John said, "Praising the Lord is a lot of fun!'

Juan said, "It sure is! Do you think Jesus liked the hymn we sang with the instruments?"

"I'm sure Jesus loved it, because you sang from your hearts," Mrs. Marsh replied. "Let's sing another one to praise our Lord!"

Questions to Think About

1. ***Have you played an instrument before to praise God?*** *(Allow students to share.)*
2. ***Why is singing to God the same as worshiping Him?*** *(When we sing, we are showing God we want to be close to Him and that we love Him.)*
3. ***When can we sing to God?*** *(We can sing anywhere. We can sing in class, in the chapel (at appropriate times), in the car, and at home.)*
4. ***How does God feel when we sing praises to Him?*** *(God is happy because we are singing about how much we love Him.)*
5. ***What is your favorite hymn or song to sing to God?*** *(Allow students to share. If time allows, sing some of those songs as part of the activities.)*



Activity 1

Hezekiah Worships God With Music

Can you find these instruments in the picture? Find a trumpet, a harp, cymbals, and a stringed instrument. Circle the instruments.



Activity 2

Singing With Tambourines

Materials:

1. *paper plates*
2. *bells*
3. *chenille wires*
4. *hole punch*
5 *streamers*
6. *markers or crayons*
7. *tape or glue*

Directions:

1. *Give each student two paper plates. Have them decorate the bottoms of each plate. Some ideas: the memory verse for today's lesson could be written on one of the plates, the students can draw musical notes, etc.*
2. *Have the students place their plates together with the bottoms facing the outside. Punch six holes around the edge of the plates.*
3. *Give each student six bells and six pieces of chenille wires ((three inches long).*
4. *Help the students lace one wire through the loop of a bell, then through one set of holes in the plates. Twist the ends of the wire together to secure the bell. Repeat with the remaining bells.*
5. *Provide students with four pieces of streamers (about six inches long) and have them glue them to the edges of the plates.*
6. *Be sure to sing some hymns using the tambourines the students have just made. Discuss how King Hezekiah, the priests and the singers might have worshiped God through music and celebrated with their instruments.*

Activity 4:1

Hezekiah Worships God With Music

Can you find these instruments in the picture? Circle the instruments.
Trumpet, harp, cymbals and **a stringed instrument.**



Lesson 5

The Lost Scroll

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson

Scriptures

2 Kgs 22:1-13; 23:1-3

Bible Truth Objective(s)

The word of God is our guide for daily living

Behavioral Objective(s)

Students should say with confidence that the Bible tells us how God wants us to live

Memory Verse

"Lead me in Your truth and teach me." (Ps 25:5)

Bible Knowledge

Josiah

Two of Judah's worst kings were Manasseh and his son Amon. They worshiped idols and did evil in the sight of the Lord. Amon was king for only two years before he was assassinated by his servants (2 Kgs 21:10-23). At the tender age of eight, Josiah succeeded his father Amon to the throne. His reign lasted for thirty-one years (2 Kgs 22:1).

Unlike his father, Josiah sought vigorous religious reform among his people, trying to eliminate idol worship that had crept time and again into the lives of the Israelites. 2 Chronicles 34:3-7 records how Josiah began to seek God when he was only sixteen, and how he initiated a religious purge when he was around twenty years old. The purge included the tearing down of the high places and the breaking of the altars to Baal.

At the age of twenty-six, Josiah began repairing the temple, which had deteriorated greatly. During the renovation of the temple, the priest Hilkiah came across a long forgotten copy of the law. Most scholars believe that this valuable section of the Bible included a prophecy like that in Deuteronomy chapter 5-26 or 12-26 and may have been a temple copy of the Pentateuch.

Hilkiah gave this scroll to Shaphan, the scribe who then read it to King Josiah. Once he heard the words of God, Josiah tore his clothes, a sign of grief and repentance. Josiah humbled himself before God and immediately asked Hilkiah to inquire of the Lord. He knew that his father and grandfather had not honored God, and was afraid the calamity described would fall upon the people. Because of Josiah's sincere heart, God assured him that the destruction would not happen during his lifetime (2 Kgs 22:20).

Josiah ordered all of Israel to hear these words from God. The reading affected the people, and a sweeping assault was begun upon idolatry in the nation.

The Bible does not record anything more about the life of Josiah until his death in battle. Although Josiah was only thirty-nine when he died, he was mourned throughout the land, and was remembered as one of Judah's greatest kings (2 Kgs 23:25).



Understanding Your Students

Your students are just beginning to learn how to read, so it will be helpful to provide them with an enthusiastic and nurturing attitude towards reading and the reading of the Bible. Whenever possible, have story pictures with short, easy-to-read captions below that explain the events in the Bible. You may wish to pick out sight words for the students to learn. These are high frequency words found in the Bible. The students can learn to read these words if they are presented to them on a regular basis. Some of these words include: God, Bible, Jesus, Holy Spirit, pray, save, and miracle. Post these important words around the room and review them every so often. Don't be discouraged if the students can't sound out the words. Many of them are still too young to use phonics. Although the students may not be able to really read them in the beginning, over time they will be able to learn how to say the words by just seeing them, if they are reviewed consistently.

Inform the students that there are plenty of age-appropriate story Bibles that they can read from. Bring in a variety of children's Bibles for the lessons so that the students are exposed to them. You may wish to set aside time for them to explore the picture stories, too. Young students make much better connections to the stories when they have a picture to look at. Some of the students may not own any of these picture books at home. If the church or class has the budget, set up a library whereby the students can take turns bringing a picture Bible home for a week to read. Then they can be encouraged to read the words of God with their family. Ensure that they are brought back to class in a timely fashion. This will also promote responsibility among the students.



Vocabulary

Treasure
something very special

Altar
a place where people offer sacrifices to God

Scroll
a piece of writing on long paper that was rolled up around two sticks



Before You Teach

We know that the Bible is God-inspired. "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet 1:21). Though its many chapters were penned by various writers, all were moved by the Spirit of God. We can trust that the words are reliable and authentic. Why did God leave us such a book?

2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration from God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." First, the Bible is the source of all truth. It gives us God's commands and reveals who He is. It helps us come to know our purpose in this world, which is to glorify our heavenly Father.

The Bible is also our road map. It can answer our questions about faith as well as address the more practical aspects of everyday life. It can give us wisdom and lead us on the path of righteousness. Without God-given wisdom, it is hard to live in this world and have a clear sense of who we are and what we stand for. God's words can help us understand what is right and what is wrong.

Finally, God left us His words so that our faith can be strengthened and lead us to ultimately do His holy work. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded His followers to preach to the ends of the world. Today, we have the same commission.

Let us allow the God-inspired words of the Bible to encourage us as we live our life and do His will.



Bible Story

The Bible Is a Treasure

Before class, hide some things that the students can search for around the room (e.g. a pretty pencil, a toy, some treats). Make sure there are enough items so that each student can find one treasure. Tell the students that there is treasure hidden in the room. Ask them some of the places they might look in if they lost something (under things, inside things, behind things, etc.) Don't tell them what the treasure is, but tell them to look for what they think the treasure is and return to their seats with it. When all the children have returned, talk about their chosen treasure. Talk about why they think what they found is a treasure to them.

God's words are also a very valuable treasure. Where do we find God's words and stories? In the Bible. All the stories that we hear about in class are from this book (hold up a Bible)! The Bible is a special gift to us from God. It is full of stories that help us know how God wants us to live.

These books all look different, don't they? (Bring in a variety of children's Bibles and Bible storybooks, especially those with large, colorful pictures. Encourage your students to leaf through them, commenting on any pictures they may recognize. Also include adult Bibles for your students to handle.) Some are big. Some are small. Some have pictures. But do you know what? They all say the same thing. They all tell us about God. They all have the same true stories inside. Do you have a Bible at home? (Allow students to respond.) The Bible is different from all the other books we read. It is a special book that God has given us to show us that He loves us. There is no other book like the Bible. Today, we are going to hear a story about someone who read the Bible and did something special after.

King Josiah Becomes the King

In our last lesson, we learned about a king who praised God with music. His name was Hezekiah. He cleaned the temple and told the people to come worship God with instruments and singing. It must have been a really happy time. But after King Hezekiah died, the next two kings did not love God at all. They did not take care of the temple and worshiped idols instead. They forgot all the rules that God had given them. But after these two kings died, the next king loved God very much. This king's name was Josiah. He became the king of Judah when he was only eight years old!

King Josiah Repairs the Temple

Even though Josiah was young, he loved God. He spent his early years learning about God. When he was around twenty years old, he took down all the altars to the idols. He wanted everybody to love God. When he was twenty-six years old, he wanted the people to come back to the temple to worship God. Because many people didn't come to worship God at the temple anymore, it became very dirty. When King Josiah saw how dirty and broken the temple was, this made him sad. He wanted to fix it. He wanted to clean it up and repair it, but he was going to need help. So King Josiah told everybody to bring money to buy wood and stone to repair the temple. The people would clean out the temple and make it beautiful again. When the people saw how much Josiah loved God, they were happy to offer their money. People came to repair the walls and the steps. Other workers came and cleaned out the temple.

A Scroll Is Found

One day, as the people were cleaning the temple, the priest found a very old book that had been lost for many years. It was not the same kind of book as we have today. It was rolled up around two sticks. It was called a scroll (bring a small scale model scroll to show the children). When the priest looked closely at it, he saw that there were words written on the scroll! He knew he had found something really special.

"What have I found?" the priest must have thought. He was very excited and the scroll was brought to King Josiah.

King Josiah had never seen this book. He must have been excited too. He asked his helper to read it to him. He listened very carefully. Can you guess what was written in this old book? (Allow students to respond.) As King Josiah listened, he knew it was God's word. It had rules in it-the rules God had given to His people a long time ago!

As the king listened to God's word, he knew that he and his people had not been obeying God's rules. This made King Josiah very sad. He was so sad that he cried. He knew God was sad because for

many years the people had not been following Him.

King Josiah Reads God's Words to the People

King Josiah knew what he had to do!

"I must read God's word to the people," he thought to himself. So the king called everyone to come to the beautiful temple. All the people, young and old, gathered at the temple. Then the people listened to God's word. They were so glad to hear the king read it to them.

When King Josiah finished reading the book, he and all the people made a promise to God. Do you know what they promised? They promised to obey God. They promised to do everything God told them to do. The king and the people were happy to obey because they knew it was the right thing to do. For many years, the other kings and people had forgotten about God and His commands. But now, after hearing God's words once again, they knew they wanted to do what made God happy. God was pleased that His people loved Him and wanted to follow His rules.

We Should Read God's Words

Today, we don't have to look at long pieces of paper wrapped around sticks to read God's words. We have the Bible. As we saw at the beginning of class, not all Bibles look the same. There are ones with just words in them. They are for grown-ups and good readers. Even though many of you cannot really read yet, you can still read the Bible. There are Bibles for children like you. They have a lot of pictures to help you understand the stories. They also have some simple sentences on each page so that you can read the story. We are not too young to learn the words of God. When we learn about God's stories, we will love God even more, just like King Josiah.



Check For Understanding

1. ***How old was Josiah when he became king?*** *(He was only eight years old.)*
2. ***When King Josiah saw how dirty and broken the temple was, how did he feel?*** *(He felt very sad.)*
3. ***How did he repair the temple?*** *(He asked the people to offer money so the workers could buy wood and stone to repair the temple.)*
4. ***While the people were repairing the temple, what did the priest find?*** *(He found an old book called a scroll.)*
5. ***While the scroll was being read to King Josiah, was he sad or happy?*** *(The king was sad because he knew the people were not following God's commands.)*
6. ***What did the king decide to do?*** *(He decided to ask the people to listen to God's word.)*
7. ***What did the people do after they heard God's word?*** *(They promised to obey God.)*
8. ***Do you read the Bible at home?*** *(Allow students to answer. If they do not, encourage them to, possibly by supplying them with children's Bibles they can borrow.)*



Life Application Story

A Very Special Book

Ding dong! The doorbell rang. Ben rushed down the stairs to open the door because he knew who it was. It was Josh, one of his best friends from school. Josh was going to church with his family today. He was going to learn about God.

"We're not going to leave for another ten minutes," Ben said. "Do you want to come to my room first? I still need to get ready for church!"

"Sure, "Josh said.

They went upstairs to Ben's room. Josh looked around. Ben had decorated his room with all his

favorite things. He walked over to the bookshelf and saw a lot of cards and models.

"Who made these?" Josh asked Ben.

Ben said, "Oh! Those are all the things I made at church during class. This is the poster we made last week about the lost sheep and this is a clay model we made about the Good Samaritan!"

"Wow! I don't know those stories but that's really neat!" Josh said.

Behind all these things that Ben had made were lots and lots of books. It was a huge bookcase filled with books.

"You sure do have a lot of books," Josh said. "Did you read all of them?'

"Well, I try to," Ben said. "But I still have a book that I haven't finished reading that is not in the bookcase."

"What book is that?" Josh asked.

"It's my Bible," Ben said. "I need to bring it to class at church. It's right by my bed because I read it every night."

Josh went to his bed and picked up the Bible. It was pretty heavy.

"Why do you read it every night?" Josh asked.

"Well, I like all the stories in it. All those stories that I told you about come from the Bible and every week at church we learn a new one. Some are exciting, some are hard, some are happy, and some are sad," Ben answered. "But they're all true. And the best thing about the Bible is that I learn what God wants me to do."

"Wow," Josh said, "do you think I could borrow your Bible sometime to read some of these stories?"

"Well, Josh, when we get to church you can join my class and listen to a story. I am sure you'll love it! I can ask my teacher if we can get you your own Bible to keep!" Ben answered.

"Thanks Ben! I'd really like that!" Josh said.

Just as Ben packed up, his mom called from downstairs.

"I guess it's time to go," Ben said.

"I'm ready," Josh replied as they headed downstairs.

Questions to Think About

1. ***What is the Bible all about?*** *(It contains the words of God.)*
2. ***Why should we always read the Bible?*** *(Allow students to share.)*



Activity 1

Josiah Reads the Words of God

Review the story by folding the page along the dotted lines into a booklet. The students can read along and color in the pictures.



Activity 2

The Bible is God's Words

Look at the picture. How many Bibles can you find? Circle them.



Activity 3

All About the Bible

Today's lesson is about the importance of God's words. Kindergartners may not know very much about the Bible. Share the following information with them about God's wonderful book so that they may be encouraged to learn more about His teachings. Feel free to add more questions and statements.

1. *Did you know the Bible begins with "In the beginning"?*
2. *Did you know Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan?*
3. *Did you know Noah sent a raven and a dove from the ark?*
4. *Beside preaching the good news, did you know Paul was also a tentmaker?*
5. *Did you know Solomon spent seven years build-*

ing the temple?

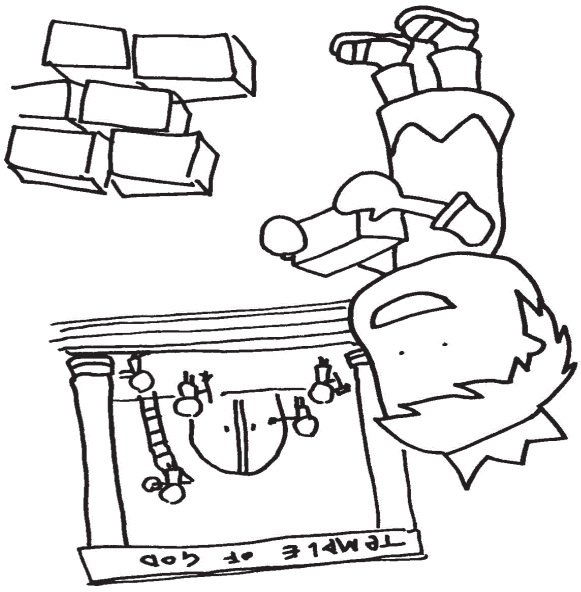
6. *Did you know there are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament?*
7. *Did you know that Jesus was born in a manger?*
8. *Did you know the fifth commandment says to honor your father and mother?*
9. *Did you know the last words spoken by Jesus before He died were, "It is finished"?*
10. *Did you know Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights when he received the Ten Commandments the second time?*

Activity 5:1

Josiah Reads the Words of God

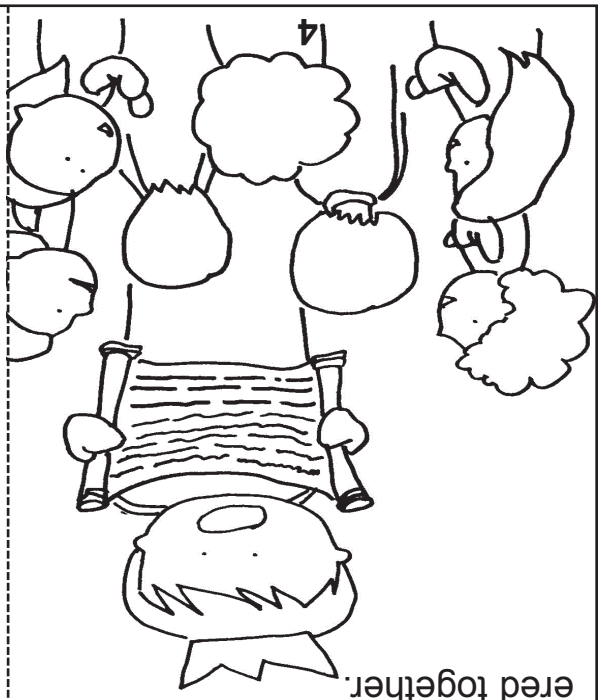
Review the story by folding the page along the dotted lines into a booklet .

1



King Josiah repairs the temple.

4



Josiah reads the words of God to all the Israelites who were gath-ered together.

The priest finds the scroll in the temple.



2

A servant tells Josiah what was found.



3

Activity 5:2

The Bible Is God's Words

Look at the picture. How many Bibles can you find? Circle them.



Lesson 6

Daniel and His Three Friends Care for Their Bodies

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- light snack foods (e.g. fresh fruit, vegetables and dip, chips, candy)

Scriptures

Dan 1

Bible Truth Objective(s)

We cannot eat any food that has been sacrificed to idols

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways we can take care of our bodies

Memory Verse

"Glorify God in your body." (1 Cor 6:22)

Bible Knowledge

Daniel and His Friends

Daniel, a young man of nobility, was taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar with the first group of captives in 606 BC. Daniel and his friends met the king's stiff requirements for the captured youths he wanted to prepare for service in his court (Dan 1:4).

Daniel had the opportunity to acquire the best possible secular education. The Babylonians had a knowledge of math and astronomy, as well as medicine. Chemistry and metallurgy were established sciences of Daniel's time; theology and philosophy would also have been a part of his education.

Daniel had his name changed from one that honored God ("God is my judge") to one that honored a Babylonian god. His new name was Belteshazzar ("Bel protect his life"). Perhaps the Babylonians thought they could force allegiance to Babylon by removing anything that had to do with Daniel's nationality and religion.

The food and wine assigned to the young men from the king's table (Dan 1:5) were probably very rich, luxurious, rare foods that only the wealthy could afford. But the problem with the king's food and wine was that they had all been involved in worship ceremonies to idols, and anyone who ate them was honoring the idols.

Daniel knew very well that God forbade His people to eat any food that had been sacrificed to idols. Daniel was gracious in his request to the official, and his suggestion for a test was reasonable. Seeing that this was a matter of principle with Daniel, the official agreed to the ten day test. Daniel and his friends ate vegetables and grain foods. They looked so good at the end of the test that they were allowed to continue their chosen diet. God blessed the work of these young Jewish men who loved Him; when finally they stood before the king, he found them to be outstanding youths, and they were given high rank in the kingdom.

Daniel served not only in the Babylonian empire but remained a high ranking official during the reigns of Cyrus (539-529 BC) and Darius I of Persia (522-486 BC). It is likely he would have been close to one hundred years old at that time. All his life, Daniel demonstrated great faith in God.



Understanding Your Students

In this lesson, Daniel and his friends refused to eat food that had been offered to idols. They knew they would defile their bodies if they ate the king's food. They asked for vegetables and water instead. And in the end, God protected them and made them stronger and healthier than all the others. But in this day and age, it is unlikely that the students will encounter those kinds of situations, where they may have to eat food that has been offered to idols. However, if there are truthseekers or a student whose family does not believe, it is still important to stress that it is against God's commands to eat food offered to idols.

It may be more relevant to our students today to focus on making healthy choices when eating. There are more and more fast food choices these days. It is common for children to eat out at McDonald's or Burger King once a week. Because the children love it, they don't realize that it is not the most healthy choice they can make. Instead of talking about fast food as bad food, introduce the idea that there are healthier foods they can enjoy. You can help the students by categorizing what items might fall into junk food (chips, candy, soda, fries), and what might be healthier options (chicken, vegetables, fruit, water). This way, they can have a mental picture of what is considered good-for-you food. It is not likely that the students will give up all junk food so do talk about eating all things in moderation.



Vocabulary

Idol
something we worship in place of God; someone or something that we think is more important than God

Chief
the head of all the people

Healthy
when we don't get sick very much, eat the right kinds of food, and exercise, then we will stay healthy



Before You Teach

"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor 6:19-20).

According to Paul, we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God. In fact, he says that our bodies belong to God. When Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross, and ultimately died for our sins, He bought each of us with His precious blood. So indeed, we belong to Him. But that does not mean we are a slave to God. Some people may view religion as having strict rules about what a person can do or cannot do. This is not true. God is not a dictator. He is our Father in heaven. When we believe and worship God, we will naturally want to do what pleases Him. It will not feel like a burden, but rather, we will be filled with joy.

Many people do not realize that even though they are free to do what they want with their bodies, they are actually enslaved by their fleshly desires. They are bound by the need to smoke, to watch television, to do ungodly things, etc. This is not really having freedom. True freedom comes from knowing God and being filled with His Spirit so that we are no longer bound by these desires. True freedom is wanting to put away our worldly desires and following our Lord Jesus.

How do we offer our bodies as living sacrifices? We must live according to God's standards. Because we are human, those standards often seem hard to reach. That is why God has given us His Holy Spirit. He does not expect us to walk alone in this world. He has promised to be with us every step of the way. But as Paul said in 1 Corinthians, it is our duty to do our best to glorify God daily, both in speech and action. Once we become His believers, we have no excuse not to do things according to God's way.



Bible Story

In the last lesson, we learned about a good king. He became king when he was only eight years old. Do you remember his name? He was called Josiah. He loved God very much and spent the early part of his life learning about God. When he was older, he decided to clean the temple so that the people could worship God there. While the people were cleaning, they found a scroll. A scroll was like a book. When it was read to King Josiah, the king knew that it was the words of God. This scroll had been lost for many years. Now that it was found, the king knew that the people had not been following God's commands for a long time. He gathered all the people and read them the words from the scroll. After the people heard the words, they promised that they would follow God's rules. King Josiah was happy the people wanted to follow God. It makes God happy too when we do things that please Him.

After King Josiah, there were more kings, but they were all bad kings. They did not love God or follow His commands. So God allowed a king from another country to come and capture the Israelites.

Daniel and His Friends Are Taken Away

The king was from a country called Babylon. At that time, it was a powerful country. This king of Babylon came with his big army and captured God's people. This king also took some young children and put them in his palace. Do you know why he did that? He wanted to teach them to serve him when they grew up.

So these children were taken from Israel and put into Babylon. The children probably didn't want to go to a new country but they didn't have a choice. The king picked them to go and they had to move. Among the children was someone named Daniel. Daniel had three close friends who were also with him. These four friends loved God very much. Even though they were forced to go to a different land, they did not forget God.

Once the children were settled in, the workers who looked after them began the training program. That means, the children had to go to special classes to learn all about this new country and how they could serve the king. It was hard work going to all these classes. They probably had to do homework too. The king wanted to make sure they had enough energy to learn so many new things, so he told the workers to give these children the best food. This fancy food was the same food the king ate. The king thought he was being good to them by sharing his best food.

Daniel and His Friends do not Eat the King's Food

The king's servants prepared a lot of good food every day. This food was very tasty, but it was not the food that God wanted Daniel and his friends to eat because it was food that had been offered to idols. Do you remember one of God's important commands about idols? We should never worship idols or eat any food offered to idols. What is the command again? (Have students repeat the answer.) Since Daniel and his friends loved God, they did not want to eat this food.

Daniel and his friends knew that it was wrong to eat the king's food. But they knew they still needed to eat. They went to talk to the chief worker. The chief was not happy when he heard that the four friends did not want to eat the king's food.

He said to them, "If you don't eat the king's food, then you will not be as healthy as the others. Then when the king sees that, I will be punished."

Daniel didn't want the chief to get into trouble. So he and his friends thought of a good idea.

Daniel said to the chief, "Please let us eat something else. Let us try it for ten days. Instead of eating the king's food, can we just have vegetables and water?"

"Vegetables and water?" thought the chief. He wasn't sure the king would like that. He was worried that the king would notice that Daniel and his three friends didn't look as healthy.

"Please, just do a test," Daniel said. "My friends and I will eat just vegetables and drink water for ten days. Then see how we are doing. If we look sick then we will do as you say."

The chief thought about Daniel's idea. Since it was for ten days, he agreed to Daniel's plan.

What do you think will happen to Daniel and his friends? Do you think Daniel and his three friends will be stronger and healthier than the other boys after ten days even though they aren't eating any of the king's food? Let's find out.

God Blesses Daniel and His Friends

So for ten days, Daniel and his friends ate only vegetables and drank water. Every day, they thanked God for the good food.

After ten days, the test was over and the chief looked at Daniel and his friends. He could not believe what he saw. They looked healthier and stronger than those who had been eating the king's special food. So the chief decided that he would not make Daniel and his friends eat the king's food. They could continue to eat the vegetables and drink only water.

God was very pleased with Daniel and his friends because they did not eat the king's food. So God blessed them by making them smarter and wiser than all the other young men.

Finally, the training and classes were over. The king asked to see all the young men. He wanted to pick the best people to help him. He talked to the people who were brought to him. And do you know what? He found that Daniel and his three friends were smarter than all the others. This is because God blessed them for obeying Him and His commands. So the king picked Daniel and his three friends to be his helpers.

Let's Keep Our Bodies Healthy

Today, we may not have to worry about eating food that has been offered to idols. But it is still important to keep our bodies healthy. That means we should exercise. It also means we shouldn't eat too much of some foods, like chips and candy. We should try to eat more fruits and vegetables because they are good for us. When our bodies are healthy, then we will have energy to work for God and pray to Him. God wants us to keep our bodies clean.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Who refused to eat the king's food?*** *(Daniel and his three friends.)*
2. ***Why didn't they eat the king's food?*** *(It had been sacrificed to idols, and they knew God wouldn't want them to eat this food.)*
3. ***What did Daniel ask the chief?*** *(He asked him to give them vegetables and water for ten days.)*
4. ***What happened after ten days?*** *(Daniel and his friends looked healthier than all the others.)*
5. ***Do you think God was happy with what they did?*** *(Yes. He blessed them by keeping them healthy and smart.)*
6. ***After the classes were over, who did the king pick to be his workers?*** *(Daniel and his three friends.)*
7. ***God wants us to keep our bodies healthy. How can we keep our bodies healthy?*** *(We should keep it clean by taking a bath, eating right, getting enough sleep, playing safely, exercising, etc.)*
8. ***What are some of the wrong ways to take care of our bodies?*** *(Eating junk food, staying up late, playing dangerously, not brushing our teeth, etc.)*
9. ***Why does God want us to grow up healthy and strong?*** *(God wants us to stay healthy and strong because He knows we need energy to do His work.)*



Life Application Story

Cookies or Carrots

It was a hot summer's day and Tommy and Julie had just come home from swimming.

"Boy, am I hungry! I could eat a horse!" Tommy said. "Can we get something to eat? Pleeeeeeease, Mom?"

Tommy and Julie swam for about an hour ear-

lier at the local swimming pool. Many of their friends had also gone. They had so much fun playing all sorts of water games. They didn't even realize how hungry they were until they were on their way home.

Mrs. Lewis, Tommy and Julie's mom, was cooking spaghetti for dinner.

"Spaghetti!" Julie shouted! "That's my favorite. When will it be ready?"

"Not for a while. There are some carrots in the refrigerator if you want something eat," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Carrots?" Tommy said. "Can't we have some of those chocolate chip cookies we bought last week instead?"

"Carrots would be a healthier choice," Mrs. Lewis said. "Plus, you had some cookies earlier today as a mid-morning snack. Besides, we're going to have dinner in about forty-five minutes."

"But I really want cookies instead. They were so delicious when I had them this morning," Tommy said once again, trying to change his mom's mind.

"It's okay to eat some cookies but when you have too many of them, they aren't good for you," Mrs. Lewis explained.

"Why?" asked Tommy.

"Well, for one thing, cookies have a lot of sugar in them. Too much sugar isn't good for our bodies. Actually, too much of anything isn't good for us," said Mrs. Lewis.

"Even carrots?" asked Julie.

"Even carrots, if you have a whole bag every day. It would probably make you sick. We want to eat a bit of everything that is good for us. For example, carrots have things in them that are better for our bodies than cookies, so we should eat some now and then," Mrs. Lewis explained. "Remember, we have to take care of our bodies by not eating too much junk food! You need to eat the right foods to help you grow up. How will you swim faster if you don't grow stronger?"

As Julie munched on some carrots, she said, "Actually, we learned about not eating too much junk food at school just last week."

"I remember teaching the older kids in church last week that our bodies are the temple of God," Mrs. Lewis said.

"What does that mean?" Tommy asked.

"It means that we should look after our bodies, just like we look after the church, because it is God's house!" Julie explained.

"That's right," Mrs. Lewis said. "God promised to live inside of us by giving us the Holy Spirit. But He will only live inside of us if our bodies are clean. So we should keep the temple of God clean and healthy, right?"

"Right," Tommy said. "So Julie, how about passing me some carrots?"

"Sounds great," Julie said.

Questions to Think About

1. ***Why did Mrs. Lewis suggest that Tommy and Julie have carrots before dinner instead of cookies?*** *(Carrots are healthier than cookies.)*
2. ***How should we take care of our bodies, since it is the temple of God?*** *(Allow students to share. Some possibilities: exercising, eating healthy foods, reading the Bible, sleeping early at night.)*
3. ***What are healthy foods and what are considered junk food?*** *(Allow students to answer. The teacher can create a chart to help the students visualize the two groups.)*



Activity 1

Healthy Vegetables

Daniel and his friends ate only vegetables. Can you name the vegetables in the picture that are good for us? Color the vegetables. Add your own vegetables at the bottom of the page.



Activity 2

Keeping Our Bodies Healthy

What can we do to keep our bodies healthy? Fill in the blanks with the words from the word bank.

1. *We can eat healthy foods.*
2. *We can brush our teeth morning and night.*
3. *We can go to sleep early.*
4. *We don't eat junk food or stay up late.*



Activity 3

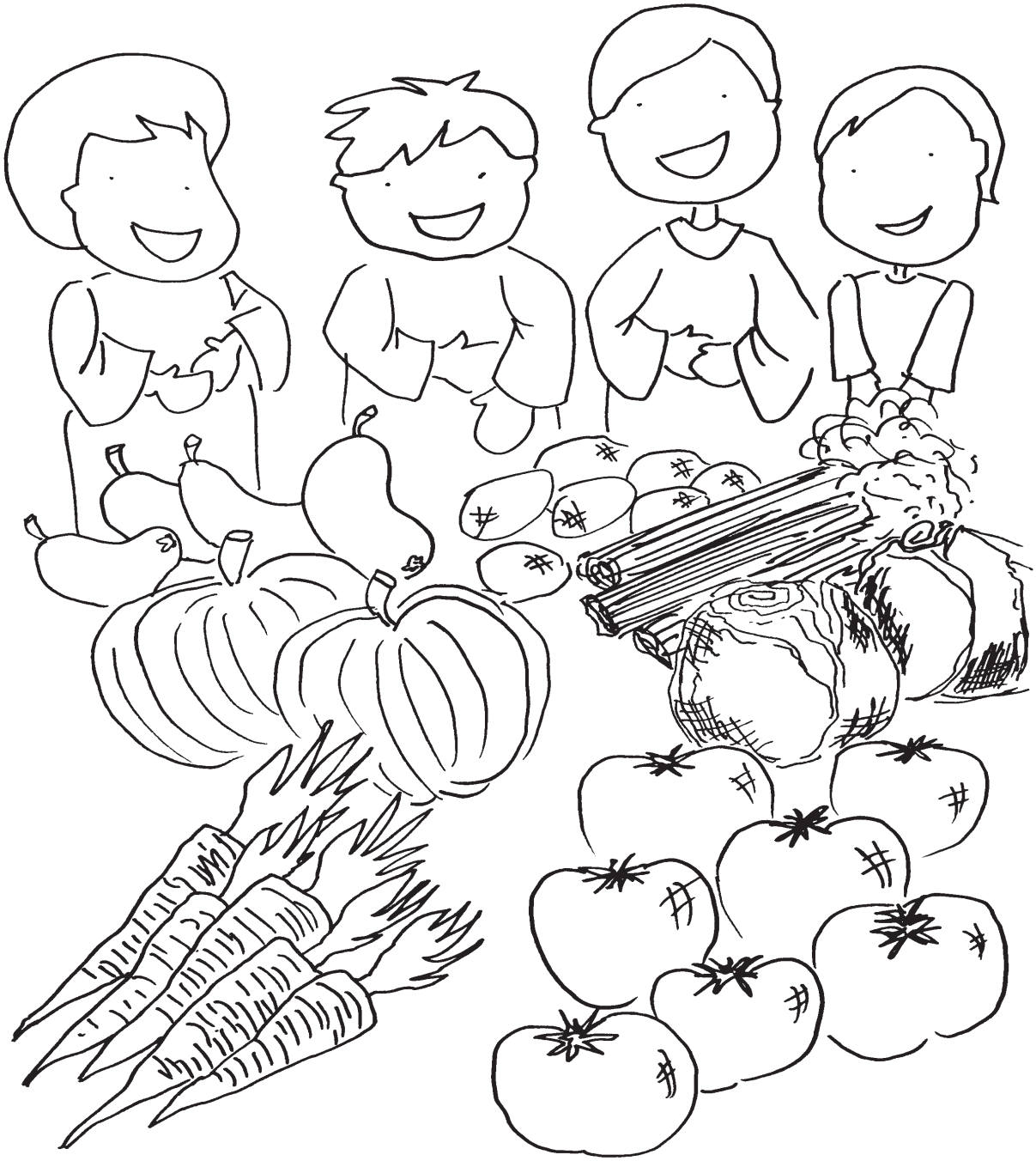
Making Healthy Eating Choices

Today's lesson talks about not defiling our bodies because our bodies are a temple of God. In the two previous activities, we talked about some good choices to make to keep our bodies healthy. To make the objective even more clear to the students, provide some foods for them to snack on after the lesson. Provide both healthy foods (e.g. vegetables and dip, fresh cut fruit, milk) as well as foods considered to be junk food (e.g. chips, candy, soda). When the students are able to see the variety, they will learn to discern for themselves and make healthy choices.

Activity 6:1

Healthy Vegetables

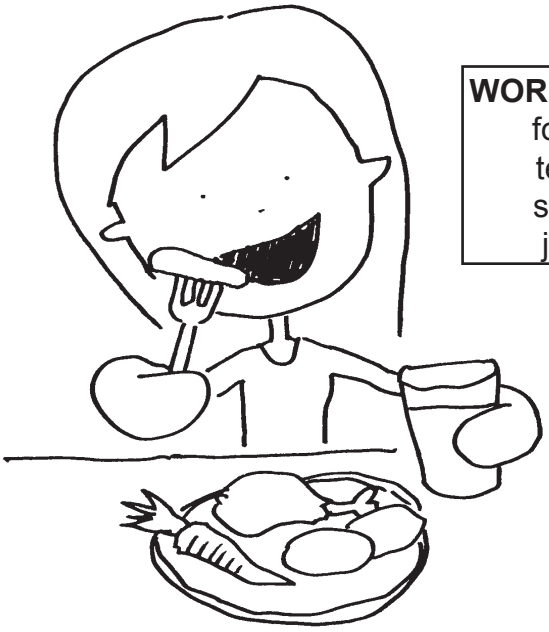
Daniel and his friends ate only vegetables. Can you name the vegetables in the picture that are good for us? Color the vegetables. Add your own vegetables at the bottom of the page.



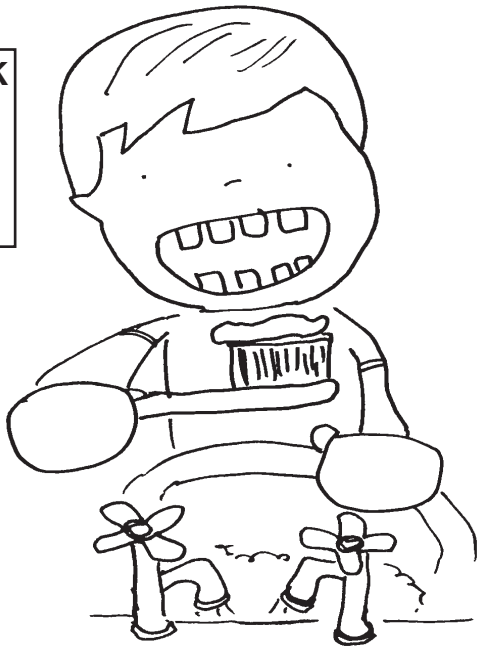
Activity 6:2

Keeping Our Bodies Healthy

What can we do to keep our bodies healthy? Fill in the blanks.



WORD BANK
foods
teeth
sleep
junk



We can eat healthy f _ _ _ _.

We can brush our t _ _ _ _ morning and night.





We can go to s _ _ _ _ early.

We don't eat j _ _ _ food or stay up late.

Lesson 7

The Golden Statue

Overview

Scriptures

Dan 3

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to worship Him and not any other person or thing

Behavioral Objective(s)

To make good choices that show we worship no one else but God

Memory Verse

"Because He is your Lord, worship Him." (Ps 45:11)

Materials You'll Need

- children's plastic hangers (one per student)
- mobile patterns
- string or yarn
- scissors
- hole punch
- markers or crayons

Bible Knowledge

King Nebuchadnezzar

Nebuchadnezzar was one of the greatest kings of Babylon (602-562 BC). In addition to his many military conquests, he was also noteworthy for building the city of Babylon. One of the wonders of the ancient world (the Hanging Gardens of Babylon) was housed in the palace Nebuchadnezzar built.

People of ancient times had no problem at all with worshiping their own gods and the gods of their conquerors. They could not see the fault in worshiping more gods to be on the safe side. However, when King Nebuchadnezzar set up his colossal statue in Daniel chapter 3 and demanded that everyone worship it, it may have been more of a political act than a religious one.

The gold ninety by nine foot statue stood in the Plain of Dura, about six miles southeast of the city of Babylon. The purpose of the music was not to produce a pleasing sound, but rather to serve as a signal that it was time to worship the image.

Daniel's Friends

Shadrach (Hananiah, meaning "The Lord shows grace"), Meshach (Mishael, meaning "Who is what God is?"), and Abednego (Azariah, meaning "The Lord helps") were Daniel's friends. They were deported to Babylon to be educated so they could serve the king. Men jealous of the three young Jewish officials reported them to the king for not worshiping the image.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego maintained their devotion to God by obeying the first of the Ten Commandments. The king was so furious that he commanded the furnace to be heated as hot as possible. Then they were tied up and thrown into the fire. The furnace was probably a lime kiln built against a hillside, with an opening at the bottom and an inclined walkway to another opening at the top. The men who threw the three friends in died from the intense heat.

King Nebuchadnezzar saw not three, but four men in the fire. Furthermore, they were not bound, but walked freely through the furnace. He called the three men out and examined them; far from being burned, their robes were not scorched, and they did not even bear the faintest scent of smoke. Upon seeing God's protection, Nebuchadnezzar praised God. Being a polytheist, it would not have been difficult for him to accept another god.



Understanding Your Students

Children might find it hard to relate this story to their own lives, so it will be useful to provide current day situations to teach them how we should stand up for God. Here are several child-related scenarios to discuss:

**At school, you and many of your classmates receive an invitation to attend your friend's birthday party. You really want to go because it's going to be held at "Celebration Station," which is a fun place with pizza, video games, go-carts, rides, and more. Many of your other friends will be there too. However, you notice that the date of the party lands on a Saturday afternoon, the Sabbath. You know that the Sabbath is God's day of rest and your day to go to church to worship Him. But you really don't want to miss the party. What will you do?*

**In your school lunchroom, you sit with the same group of children each day. Before you eat your lunch, you pray to thank God for the food He has provided for you. When you have finished praying, you realize that some of the kids in your lunch group have been giggling at you. Your feelings are hurt, and you're beginning to think about skipping the lunch prayers because you don't want them to make fun of you. What will you do?*

These are real situations the students may face. It's important to have them express their feelings so that we will clearly understand the questions or opinions they have. From their statements, we will know whether we should reinforce what they feel, or possibly guide them to a better understanding of standing up for our Lord.



Vocabulary

Statue
a person or thing that is made from stone or wood

Idol
something people worship; something people think is more important than God

Worship
to show God we love Him by going to church, reading the Bible, singing hymns, praying to Him, and following His commands



Before You Teach

We know very well the first Commandment of God: we shall have no other gods before God Himself. Deuteronomy 4:23-24 says, "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the Lord your God has forbidden you. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

God gave us the command to worship Him alone because He is a jealous God. When we think about being jealous, it conjures up negative images. We might think of a husband who doesn't like his wife talking to other men for a long time, or a friend who is very possessive of her relationships. But God's jealousy is not like our human emotion. He does not become jealous out of selfish needs. He is a jealous God because only God is perfectly righteous and holy. He has the right to be angry and jealous when we do not remain faithful to Him.

In the Old Testament, we see time and again how the Israelites disobeyed God. Instead of trusting in Him, they turned to idols and their own ways, thus arousing His righteous anger. The Israelites experienced God's wrath when He allowed Babylon to conquer and destroy Jerusalem. Although we know God is a loving and merciful God, there is no room for sin in His kingdom. If we do not heed His warnings and words, the consequences can be very severe.

Today, even if we have sinned, God gives us many opportunities to change because He is patient with us. However, we cannot continue to take God's grace and mercy for granted. We must recognize that God alone is our Lord, our Father. We need to remember to fear the Lord and live our lives so that in all things we do, we are glorifying His name. Let us pray for God's continued guidance and strength.



Bible Story

Daniel and His Friends Stick Together

Last week, we learned about four very special people. Does anyone remember who they were? They were Daniel and his three friends. And what made them so special? They refused to eat the king's food because it was offered to idols. This must have been very hard for Daniel and his friends since almost everyone else was eating the king's food. Can anyone remember what Daniel and his friends ate instead? They ate just vegetables and drank water! How many of you think you would be happy just eating vegetables and drinking water? Eating would not be as much fun without some of the foods and drinks we love, right? But the friends knew they had to follow God's commands, and they decided to stick to their plan together. And because they listened to God, in the end, the king chose Daniel and his friends to be his helpers in the palace.

It's very important to have friends, isn't it? Can everyone think of one reason why it's so wonderful to have friends? (Give students time to respond.) It's fun to play with them. They can also make you feel better when you are sad, and they can laugh with you when something funny happens. This week, we're going to keep learning about Daniel's friends. Their names are a little hard to learn, but we can all learn them together. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (write their names on the board). Can we all say these names together? (Practice saying the names with the students.)

The King Makes a New Statue

After Daniel and his friends were chosen to help the king, the king decided to do something special for himself. He made a giant golden statue. Now this was not just an little statue. It was humongous. Can you guess how large it was? The Bible says it was about ninety feet tall. Imagine a grown-up lying on the ground. Well, now imagine fifteen grown-ups lying on the ground, all lined up, head to toe. That's how tall this statue was. That was pretty tall. Why do you think the king wanted to build it?

The king wanted everyone to worship the statue. He even made a new law: whenever a person heard some special music being played, the person had to bow down and worship the golden statue. Everyone in the land had to do this or else he would be punished. Can anyone guess what the punishment was? It was a very painful punishment. Whoever did not worship the statue would be thrown into a fiery furnace, which is a big, hot oven. There is no way that anyone would be able to live after being thrown into that hot place.

Daniel's Friends Do Not Worship the Statue

When the people of the land heard the new law, they knew they had to obey. No one wanted to die in the fiery furnace. So whenever the people heard the horns, flutes, harps, pipes, and other instruments playing the special music, what do you think the people did? Yes, they bowed down to worship the golden statue.

But there were three people who did not want to bow down and worship the statue. Can anyone guess who these three people were? Yes, they were Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Even though they heard about the law, and the special music, they did not bow down and worship the statue. Why is that? They knew they should only worship the one true God and not some giant golden statue. So whenever the music played and everyone else bowed down to the statue, these three friends did not. They wanted to be strong for God and not worship anyone or anything else. In the beginning, no one noticed that the three friends did not bow down whenever the music played. There were just too many people in the land. But after some time, some of the king's helpers began to notice that these three men did not bow down to the statue.

They hurried to the king, and said, "O, King, you made a new law that everyone needs to bow down and worship the idol when they hear the music. If they do not, they will be thrown into the fiery furnace. There are three men who do not obey your law. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not bow down and worship the golden statue."

Daniel's Friends Stand up for God

Once the king heard that these three men were not following his law, he was very angry. He asked that the three friends be brought to him. So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought before the king.

The king said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, I will give you one more chance. When you hear the music, you must bow down and worship my golden statue. If you don't, you will be thrown into the fiery furnace right away."

The three friends could tell that the king was very angry, but they also knew what they were going to do.

The three friends said to the king, "We will not worship your statue because our God is powerful enough to protect us from the fire. Even if God does not save us, we want everyone to know that we will not worship this golden statue."

Their answer made the king even angrier. The king ordered the furnace to be made seven times hotter than usual. He also ordered some of his strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the fiery furnace.

God Protects Daniel's Friends

After the friends were thrown into the fire, the king expected to see them get burned by the fire. But instead, he was surprised by what he saw.

He quickly asked the people next to him, "Didn't we throw three men into the furnace? I see four men. And they are not tied up. They are walking around. And one of those men looks like he is the Son of God."

When the king saw that God was protecting these three friends, he knew that their God was the real one.

He went near the furnace and shouted out, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, come out! I know now that you worship the true God!"

Once the three friends came out, everyone was even more surprised. Not only were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's clothes not burned, they did not even smell like smoke! Then the king understood what a mighty God these three friends worshiped.

He said, "Praise God! He has saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire."

The king even made a new law. This new law said that no one could ever say anything bad against God because only He could keep Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego safe in the fiery furnace.

We Need to Worship God

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for God. That means even though it was hard because they might die, they still remained faithful. They knew that it was more important to worship God. And in the end, God saved them. Today, we also have to worship God, no matter what.



Check For Understanding

1. ***What did the king make?*** *(A gigantic golden statue.)*
2. ***What law did the king make?*** *(Everyone must bow down and worship the statue whenever the music played.)*
3. ***What were the names of Daniel's friends?*** *(Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.)*
4. ***Did they obey the king's law?*** *(No.)*
5. ***What happened to them?*** *(They were thrown into the fiery furnace.)*
6. ***Did they get burned?*** *(No.)*
7. ***Why not?*** *(God protected them because they worshiped God instead of the golden statue.)*
8. ***There are many different ways to worship God. What are they?*** *(We can pray to Him, sing about Him, give offerings to Him, learn about Him in church, etc.)*
9. ***There are some things that can keep us from worshiping God. What are they?*** *(We might want to stay at home and watch cartoons, go out somewhere to have fun on the Sabbath, etc.)*
10. ***How can we stand up for God today?*** *(Allow students to share. Talk about specific situations, like the ones presented in the Understanding Your Students section.)*



Life Application Story

Mighty Man

Mrs. Marsh came home one day from the store with a present for John. She knew that he had wanted it for months, and she was excited to surprise him. Holding the box behind her back, Mrs. Marsh walked up the stairs and went into John's room.

"John," Mrs. Marsh said, "look what I found at the store."

Mrs. Marsh put a shiny plastic box with a new action hero inside. John's eyes grew bigger as he realized what his mom had just given him.

"Mighty Man!" John shouted.

Mighty Man was John's favorite superhero, and every time John went to the toy store, he spent at least ten minutes looking at it. He did not think that he would ever get this toy; now that it was his, he couldn't wait to play with it.

"Oh, thank you, Mom!" John exclaimed as he gave her a big hug.

"You're welcome, but don't play it for too long," Mrs. Marsh said. "We are going to church tonight."

"Okay, Mom."

John decided that the first time he played with Mighty Man, everything had to be perfect. He took out all of his soldiers and put them around his room. He put some on the bed, he stood some on the table, he placed many on the floor in combat position, and he even stationed some on the arm of his chair! When John looked around, there were enough soldiers to create three small armies! Mighty Man, John decided, was going to be the leader of all his soldiers! For the next hour, John made Mighty Man whiz through the air, crawl through the jungle of his blankets, climb the wall of his dresser, and perform all sorts of amazing acts. But the bad guys Mighty Man was fighting were powerful too. Mighty Man had only destroyed one of the evil men. There were still three that Mighty Man had to defeat, and he had to do this before it was too late.

Suddenly, a knock on the door surprised John.

"John, it's almost time to go," Mrs. Marsh said.

"Oh, Mom, do we have to go now?" John asked. "I'm not done playing yet. Mighty Man still needs to defeat three evil enemies."

"I know it's a lot of fun playing with Mighty Man, but we have to spend time with God," Mrs. Marsh said.

"Can we stay at home tonight?" John asked. "Just tonight, please?"

"I don't know if I should have bought you Mighty Man, John. The reason your father and I decided to get you Mighty Man is because we thought that you'd be able to tell when it was time to play and when it wasn't. Right now, it is church time but you want to turn it into playing time," Mrs. Marsh said.

"It's just so exciting to get a new toy," John explained.

"I understand that, John, but you're old enough to tell what is more important–God or Mighty Man. That's a choice that you have to make," Mrs. Marsh replied.

John looked sadly at Mighty Man.

"I guess God is more important than Mighty Man," John said softly.

"God is certainly mightier than Mighty Man. Even though Mighty Man is fun to play with, it is a toy. The God we worship is real and living," Mrs. Marsh added.

"So I guess it makes sense to spend time with the "Mightiest Man" tonight. Do you get it, Mom?"

"That would make sense, John," Mrs. Marsh responded with a laugh.

"Okay, Mom," John said as he put down his toy. "I know Mighty Man is just a toy. I'm ready to stop playing tonight. Let's go to church."

And that was exactly what they did.

Questions to Think About

1. ***Why didn't John want to go to church?*** *(He wanted to stay home and play with his new toy.)*
2. ***When we think something is more important than Jesus Christ, what are we doing?*** *(Some suggestions: It is like worshiping an idol because we think that thing is more important. Some examples: going to a party on Saturday during the day, playing games instead of worshipping God, etc.)*
3. ***Why do we worship God?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*



Activity 1

David Does Many Things

Read the sentences. Circle the right picture that finishes each sentence.

1. *King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden STATUE or FLOWER.*
2. *King Nebuchadnezzar wanted the people to BOW DOWN or HUG the statue.*
3. *Daniel's THREE or ONE friends did not worship the statue.*
4. *King Nebuchadnezzar was HAPPY or ANGRY because Daniel's friends did not bow down to the statue.*
5. *Daniel's friends were thrown into the fiery POOL or FURNACE.*
6. *Who else was in the fiery furnace with the friends? (a LION or an ANGEL)*



Activity 2

What Will You Choose?

Look at the pictures. Color in the pictures you will choose to do.

1. *Will you go to a party on Saturday afternoon or will you go to church?*
2. *Will you eat without praying or will you say grace before your meals?*
3. *Will you pray before you go to sleep or will you just sleep because you are too tired?*



Activity 3

I Will Obey Mobile

Materials:

1. *children's plastic hangers (one per student)*
2. *mobile patterns*
3. *string or yarn*
4. *scissors*
5. *hole punch*
6. *markers or crayons*

Directions:

1. *Provide a copy of the mobile patterns to each student. Have them color the pictures.*
2. *Ask the students to cut out each pattern carefully, being sure to leave the words attached to the animal.*
3. *Help the students punch a hole near the top of each pattern.*
4. *Tie a string or piece of yarn (three to four inches long) to the hole on each pattern. Then tie the ends to a hanger to create a mobile.*
5. *Discuss the words on the mobile (obey, listen, and love) and how they encourage us to obey God and His commands.*
6. *Once the students have completed the activity, encourage them to bring their mobile home and hang it somewhere to remind them of the importance of obedience.*

Activity 7:1

Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace

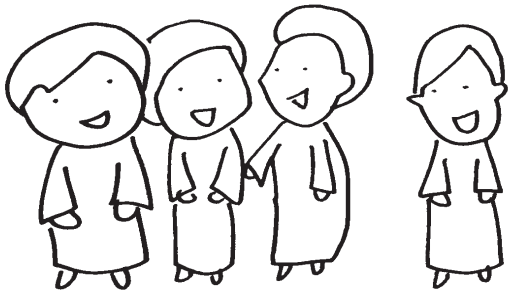
Read the sentences. Circle the right picture that finishes each sentence.



1. King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden _____.



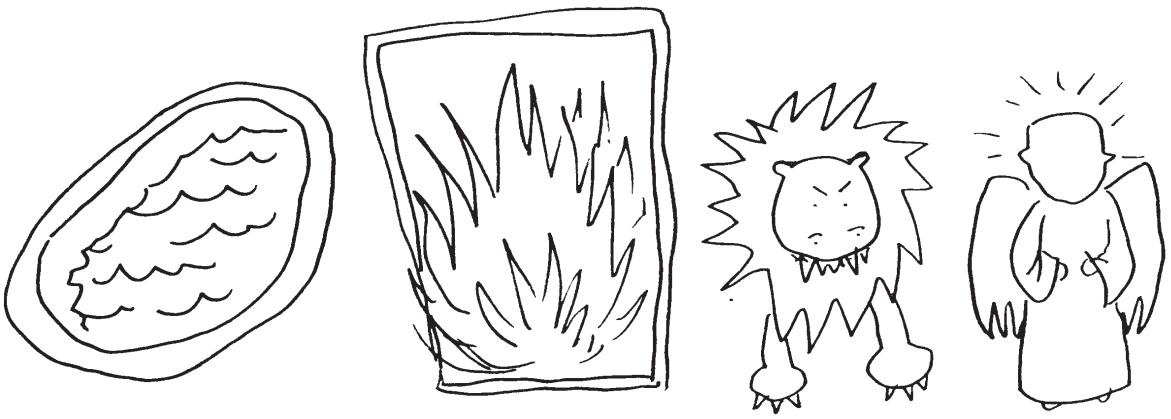
2. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted the people to _____ to the statue.



3. Daniel's _____ friends did not worship the statue.



4. King Nebuchadnezzar was _____ because Daniel's friends did not bow down to the statue.



5. Daniel's friends were thrown into the fiery _____.

6. Who else was in the fiery furnace with the friends?

Activity 7:2

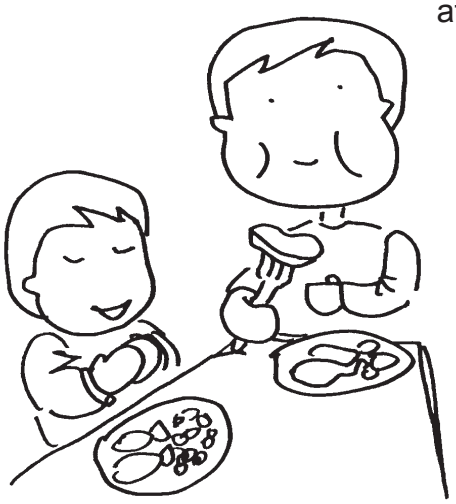
What Will You Choose?

Look at the pictures. Color in the pictures you will choose to do.





1. Will you go to a party on Saturday afternoon or will you go to church?





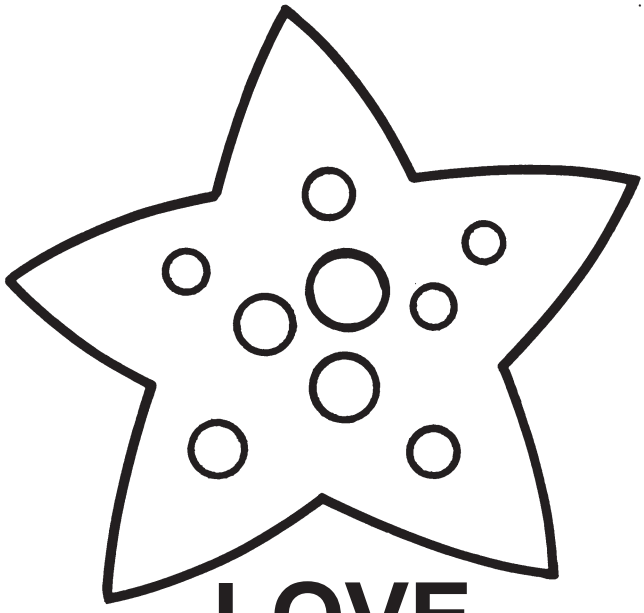
2. Will you eat without praying or will you say grace before your meals?



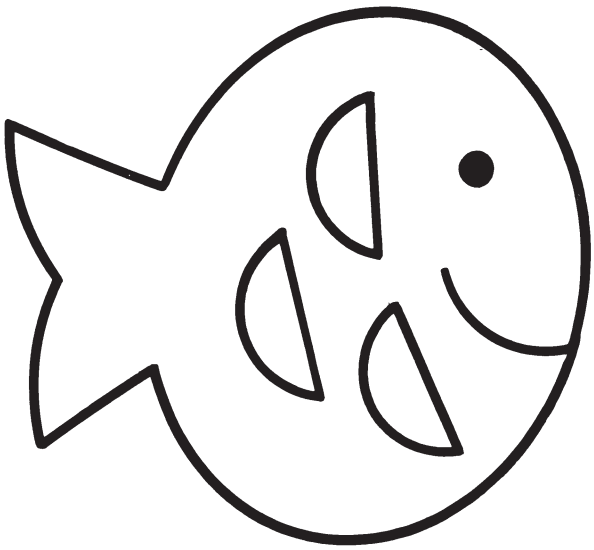


3. Will you pray before you go to sleep or will you just sleep because you are too tired?

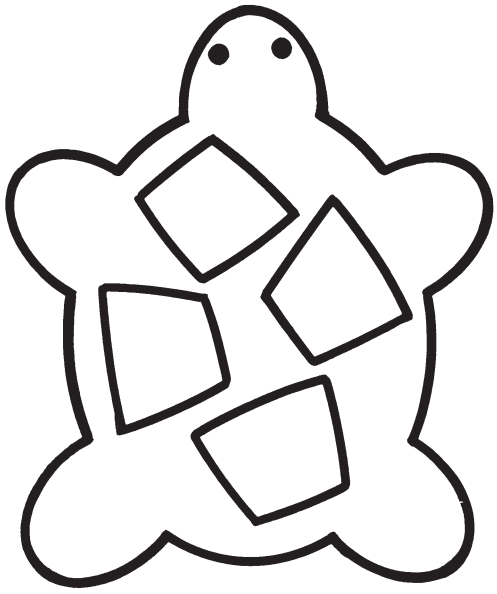
Mobile Patterns



LOVE



OBEY



LISTEN

Lesson 8

The Writing on the Wall

Overview

Scriptures

Dan 5:13-30

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to show respect to Him and to everything that belongs to Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways the students can show respect to God and His church

Memory Verse

"We ought to obey God." (Acts 5:29)

Materials You'll Need

- prayer poem
- markers
- poster board
- glue
- self-adhesive magnets
- scissors

Bible Knowledge

King Belshazzar

King Belshazzar was the ruler of Babylon when it was captured in 539 BC by the Medes and Persians. His name means "Bel, protect the king!" In the Bible, Belshazzar is called the son of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 5:22). However, ancient records indicate that Belshazzar was named by his father Nabonidus, who was the king of Babylon between 556 and 539 BC. It is possible that Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, and so the terms son and father would not be completely out of context.

Daniel

Daniel means "God is my judge." He was an Israelite of royal descent. He was taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in the third year of Jehoiakim, with various companions trained for the king's service (Dan 1:1-6; also see previous lesson). Daniel successfully occupied leading governmental posts under Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Darius.

The Writing on the Wall

King Belshazzar saw the words "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN" on the wall. The word MENE means numbered. God had numbered the days of Belshazzar's kingdom. The word was likely repeated for emphasis. TEKEL means weighed. God had weighed the king's heart. He disobeyed God and did not measure up to His standards. The most blatant example was when King Belshazzar used the sacred vessels from God's temple at the feast. He showed complete disregard for the true God. Even Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself before God. But Belshazzar did not care. UPHARSIN means divided. It is the plural of PERES (Dan 5:28). The same night of the feast, Belshazzar was killed and his kingdom was taken by the Medes and Persians.



Understanding Your Students

Children at this age are apt to do some inappropriate things. For example, they might jump on someone's sofa. They might take another child's toy. They might spit out food they don't like eating. While we expect children to do these things, it doesn't make them acceptable. However, some parents just brush off these behaviors. They reason that the children are just too young to really know what they are doing. Kindergartners may be young, but there are still many rules and etiquette they are able to learn and follow. There are no excuses for jumping on someone's sofa, grabbing a toy, or spitting food out in public.

In order for young children to learn these rules, they need to be taught consistently. Don't wait for the situations to arise to react. For example, at meal times at home, discuss what a child could do if he doesn't like the food he is eating. Talk about what the proper behaviors are when visiting a friend's house before the actual visit. If the child breaks the rules, there needs to be consequences. Otherwise, the rules will become void. If toys are a real issue, talk about which ones the child is comfortable sharing with friends so that when the time comes for the playdate, those toys can be shared.

Children are not too young to learn rules. They can also learn God's commands in a similar way. Discuss the commands and their everyday applications. That way, they won't be the TEN COMMANDMENTS, like they are ancient rules that can be forgotten. Talk about lying, observing the Sabbath, and honoring one's parents. These are commands that affect every child. When children are taught the rules, they will be able to follow them.



Vocabulary

Feast
to have a big meal, with a lot of food and drinks

Wisdom
to know right from wrong and what pleases God

Wise Men and Magicians
people who worked for the king; they gave the king advice

Proud
when someone thinks he is better than others



Before You Teach

Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his friends. It is hard to imagine such a large party. While we do not know the exact reasons for the occasion, we can be sure of one motivating factor: Belshazzar wanted to honor himself. He was the king of a vast kingdom, and what better way to tell the world than through feasting and drinking? He even made sure to show off God's gold and silver vessels from the temple. For a few hours, Belshazzar was definitely in the spotlight, honored and praised by all. But on that same night, his life was prematurely ended. Instead of giving honor to God, he honored himself.

Today, we need to be careful not to become proud or boastful. It is easy to attribute our success to our own efforts. We are the ones who are studying hard and working hard. Others may praise us for our dedication and work. Of course it is nice to feel good about ourselves. But when we begin to think highly of ourselves and our abilities, we begin to lose sight of God. Over time, we will believe that we are the ones who are getting the work done and forget God.

There are many Bible characters who never forgot about God, and honored Him throughout their lives. Daniel is an excellent example. When King Belshazzar offered to give Daniel expensive gifts and make him the third ruler of the kingdom, Daniel refused the honor. He wasn't showing disrespect to the king. He wanted to make sure that all glory was given to God, for it was God who gave him the wisdom to interpret dreams and signs. He pointed out to Belshazzar that the very reason his life was going to end was because he disobeyed God and His commands. He made it very clear that God was the real king, the one worthy of all honor and praise. Let us remember to always to live to glorify God and His holy name.



Bible Story

In the last lesson, we learned that King Nebuchadnezzar built a great big statue. He wanted people to bow down to it whenever special music was played. Everyone in the kingdom obeyed the king and bowed. But Daniel's three friends did not. They knew they could only worship God. So King Nebuchadnezzar threw them into a fiery furnace. That is like a very hot oven. The king was amazed by what he saw. Not only did the three friends not die in the fire, there was another person with them. He looked like an angel. When King Nebuchadnezzar saw this, he told the friends to come out. They walked out and they did not even smell like smoke. That is amazing. Only God could do something so great. After that, even King Nebuchadnezzar said that all the people in the land should worship the true God.

Today, we are going to learn about another king. But this king did not worship God.

King Belshazzar Uses God's Cups

When King Nebuchadnezzar was alive, he gave Daniel and his three friends important jobs to do in the kingdom. This was because he knew they worshiped the true God. And God blessed Daniel and his friends. He made them wise so that they could help the king.

But kings do not live forever. One day, King Nebuchadnezzar died, and his son, Belshazzar became the new king. Belshazzar wasn't Daniel's friend. He was proud and he didn't obey God. Belshazzar liked to do things his own way instead of God's way.

One night, Belshazzar was having a feast for more than a thousand of his friends. They ate delicious food and drank a lot of wine. All the people were having a great time. As King Belshazzar drank his wine, he suddenly came up with an idea. He remembered that his father had taken the gold cups that had been in God's temple in Jerusalem to Babylon. Belshazzar thought that now would be the perfect time to take the cups out and use them for the wine. The cups were probably very beautiful. He wanted all of his friends to see how wonderful these cups looked. So he told his servants to get the gold cups out.

Do you think this was a good idea? (Allow students to respond.) This was not a good idea. In fact, this was a bad idea. These cups weren't just regular cups, like the ones we use to drink water or juice. These were special cups used in God's temple. People were not allowed to just take them out and use them for drinking wine at a party. But King Belshazzar did not care. He didn't care about God or His temple. He only wanted to have a good time and show off the gold cups.

When the servants brought out the gold cups, Belshazzar told his friends to fill them with wine and drink from them. All of the king's friends were glad he had brought out the cups. They looked beautiful and they were happy to drink from them.

Strange Words Appear on the Wall

Belshazzar didn't care about obeying God. He only thought about himself and what he wanted. God knew the king had done something very wrong. God wanted to tell Belshazzar that he had disobeyed Him. As the king drank wine from a gold cup, he suddenly saw a hand appear. It just came out of the air, and the fingers wrote four words on the palace wall. King Belshazzar was very shocked and afraid. He had never seen anything like this before. He turned white and his knees shook. Where did the hand come from? There was no arm or body attached. And what did the strange words mean? He trembled with fear.

King Belshazzar called his wise men and magicians to come and look at the words. They were supposed to know a lot of things. But they couldn't explain the words. The king became more and more frightened. He even promised to make whoever could read the words rich and important. But no one knew what the words meant. Who could understand them?

When the queen heard what had happened, she told Belshazzar what to do.

"When Nebuchadnezzar was king, there was a man named Daniel who was his friend. Daniel was close to God, and God helped Daniel explain many difficult things. Daniel helped your father understand his dreams, and he made Daniel the chief of his wise men. If you call Daniel, he will tell you what the words mean," she said.

This sounded like a good plan to King

Belshazzar. Even though he didn't like Daniel, he really wanted to know what the words meant. So he called Daniel to the palace.

Daniel Explains the Words on the Wall

When Daniel arrived, the king said, "If you tell me what these strange words mean, I'll make you rich and you will be an important man."

Daniel shook his head.

"You can keep your gifts, O king. I will still read the writing and tell you what it means." Daniel didn't want the reward; he only wanted to worship God. Then Daniel looked carefully at the words. God gave Daniel wisdom to explain the words.

"O King, God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar great power and a mighty kingdom. When he became proud, God punished him. Then Nebuchadnezzar realized that God is the true ruler of everything, and he was sorry. He decided to worship and obey the Lord. You knew this. But did you worship and obey the Lord? No, you did not! You became proud, and you disobeyed God by drinking from the cups of God's temple. So God sent a hand to write on the wall to tell you a message."

The words on the wall said "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin."

Daniel continued to speak. "These words mean you will no longer be king because God has decided to end your kingdom. God will give it to the Medes and the Persians."

It was awful news and the king didn't like God's message. But he kept his promise and dressed Daniel in special clothes and put a gold chain around his neck. Daniel didn't care about this. He knew that Belshazzar's kingdom was going to be destroyed.

King Belshazzar Is Killed

Do you know what happened next? The Bible tells us that on that very night, Persian soldiers came into the city of Babylon. They killed Belshazzar and his guests, and the Persian King Darius sat on Belshazzar's throne. God's words came true. And do you know what happened to Daniel? Daniel became a friend of the Persian ruler. Even though he was old now, Daniel once again became one of the most important men in all the land.

Belshazzar was foolish not to obey God. He used the gold cups for his own fun. But Daniel was wise. Daniel knew it was right to obey God. Even though Daniel served different kings (Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Darius) and was one of the most important men in the kingdom, he remembered God and continued to worship Him. This was why God blessed Daniel.

God will bless us too when we obey Him. We need to treat God and His things with respect. We need to obey His words and commands. Then God will be with us and we will be with Him.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Who became king when Nebuchadnezzar died?*** *(Belshazzar.)*
2. ***What did King Belshazzar do at the feast that made God very unhappy?*** *(He took the gold cups from God's temple and drank wine from them.)*
3. ***Why was that such a bad thing to do?*** *(They weren't ordinary cups; people were not supposed to drink or eat from them.)*
4. ***What suddenly happened while the king and his friends were eating and drinking?*** *(A hand appeared and wrote words on the wall.)*
5. ***Who explained the meaning of the words to the king?*** *(Daniel.)*
6. ***Why was Daniel able to explain the meaning of the words?*** *(God gave him wisdom to understand the words.)*
7. ***What did Daniel tell the king?*** *(He told the king that God had decided to end his kingdom and give it to another because he did not obey God.)*
8. ***What happened to King Belshazzar?*** *(He was killed that very night.)*
9. ***How should we treat God and His church?*** *(We need to obey God and respect His*

things.)

10. ***What are some things in the church we need to respect?*** *(We need to take care of the Bibles and hymn books, we need to be quiet during service time, we need to walk in the chapel, etc.)*



Life Application Story

Respecting God and His Church

One Sabbath morning, Lisa brought a friend to church. It was the first time Brittany had ever gone to a church. Lisa was excited because she had asked her friend many times and finally, Brittany was able to come. Lisa was hoping she could stay for junior class later on.

They arrived a little bit early, so the two girls sat at the back pew, chatting to themselves. All of a sudden, Jen came zooming past them and ran all the way to the front of the chapel. Then in a flash, she ran all the way back to the doors. As Jen was about to run again, Lisa stopped her.

"Jen, what are you doing?" Lisa asked.

"I am trying to hide from John," Jen answered. "We're playing hide and seek."

"First of all, we are not supposed to play hide and seek in the chapel. And you know you are not supposed to run. That is not respecting God and His church," Lisa explained.

"What is not respecting?" asked Jen.

"That means we don't care about what God thinks. Do you think God would like you to run around His church?" asked Lisa.

"No, but we are just playing. Kindergarten class hasn't started yet."

"I know, but it is not okay to run around. There are rules to follow in God's church," Lisa said once more.

"Okay, I will go and do something else," Jen replied as she walked out of the chapel.

"She is just a little kid," Brittany told Lisa. "She just wanted to have fun with her friends."

"I know, but my parents always told me that it is important to respect God. When I was younger I got into trouble for throwing around my Bible, playing tag in church, and talking during service. My parents said that when I do those things, it tells God that I don't really care about Him or His church," Lisa explained.

"I guess you are right. I just never thought of church like that," Brittany answered. "Maybe we should just stop talking now. I don't want God to be upset."

Lisa laughed.

"Well, we are pretty quiet and service hasn't started yet, so it's okay. Once we start singing, and praying, then we need to listen to the speaker."

"Thanks for telling me all these things," Brittany said.

"Oh, that reminds me. I need to tell you about the way we pray too," Lisa said. Then Lisa began to tell her friend all about praying in tongue.

Questions to Think About

1. ***How can we show respect to God in the church and outside of the church?*** *(Allow students to respond.)*
2. ***Why is it important to respect God and His church?*** *(We want to show God we love Him and care about Him. When we care about something, we will try our best.)*



Activity 1

The Writing On the Wall

Look at the pictures. Which one happened first? Put them in the right order.



Activity 2

Respecting God's House

What are the people doing to show they are respecting God's house, the church? Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences. Which ones can you do? Talk about the action words that are used in this worksheet. Demonstrate how each should

look and sound to help the students put them into action. Also discuss what it means to show respect.

1. *We use quiet voices in church.*
2. *We sit on chapel pews.*
3. *We walk in the church.*
4. *We greet other brothers and sisters.*



Activity 3

We Will Obey

Materials:

1. *picture pattern*
2. *construction paper*
3. *markers or crayons*
4. *glue*
5. *scissors*

Directions:

1. *Provide a copy of the picture to each student.*
2. *Have them color in the picture. Talk about the importance of the memory verse as they color.*
3. *Glue the picture onto a piece of construction paper to make it more sturdy.*
4. *Hang their work in the room or encourage the students to bring their work home to display.*

Activity 8:1

The Writing On the Wall

Look at the pictures. Which one happened first? Put them in the right order.



King dies that night. ☐



The king has a feast and uses the cups from the temple. ☐



Daniel explains the writing. ☐



The king sees fingers drawing words on the wall ☐

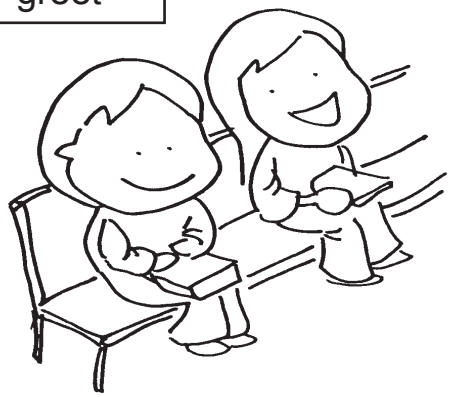
Activity 8:2

Respecting God's House

What are the people doing to show they are respecting God's house, the church? Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences. Which ones can you do?

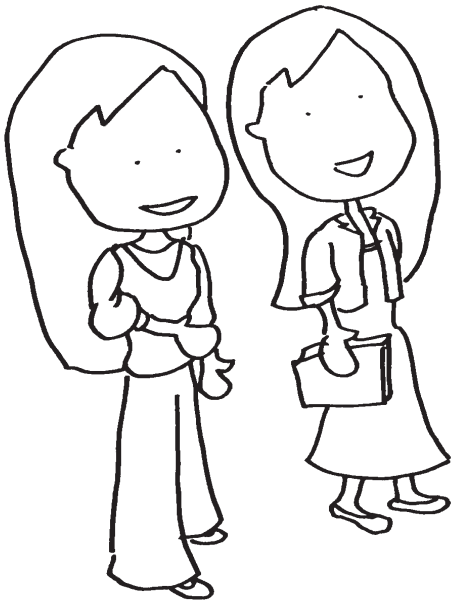


quiet
sit
walk
greet



1. We use q _ _ _ _ voices in church.

2. We s_ _ on chapel pews.

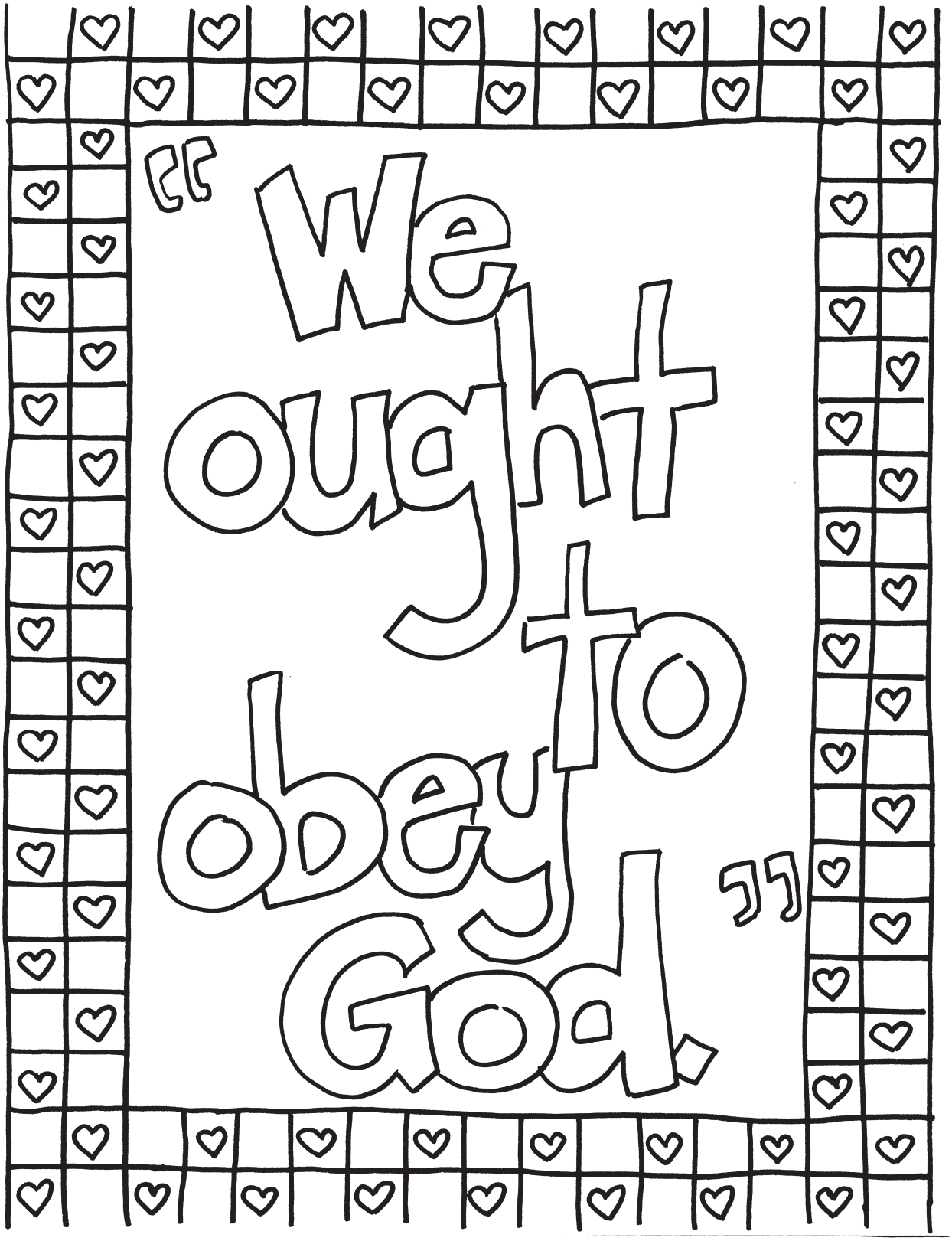




3. We w _ _ _ in the church.

4. We g _ _ _ _ other brothers and sisters.

Activity 8:3



Lesson 9

Daniel Prays to God Three Times a Day

Overview

Scriptures

Dan 6:1-23

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to draw closer to Him through daily prayer

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify the different times and places where the students can pray to God throughout the day

Memory Verse

"Pray to the Lord." (Jer 29:7)

Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson

Bible Knowledge

Daniel's Service

Daniel was brought to Babylon during the first deportation (605 BC). He served the Babylonians during their supremacy. When they were conquered by the Medes and Persians, King Darius took the kingdom (Dan 5:31, 6:1). The Medes and Persians was the second of the series of four kingdoms that King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed about (Dan 2).

After King Darius took over, Daniel still held a high position. He would have been around eighty years old. But he was so effective at his job and so honest that even his jealous enemies could not find any fault with him. They realized their only hope in bringing down Daniel was to catch him doing something related to his faith in God that conflicted with the law of the land.

It was common in those days to deify kings and worship them. Daniel's enemies went to the king, and urged him to make a new law that no one should pray to anyone except the king for thirty days. If a person disobeyed this law, he would be thrown into a den of lions. The Aramaic word for den means "pit," which indicated that it was underground. It is important to note that once a royal decree was issued, it could not be revoked, not even by the king (see also Est 8). It is possible that the kings did not want the people to think they had made faulty decrees by negating them.

Daniel knew about the new decree, but he continued to pray three times a day. He prayed in his upstairs room, facing Jerusalem toward the west. Daniel's enemies went in a group and witnessed him praying, after which they immediately told the king. Darius realized that he had been tricked. He did not want to lose his most efficient and loyal official. He worked all day to save Daniel, but he could not find another way around the law he had put into place.

Darius spent a miserable night without food, sleep, or entertainment. Early in the morning, he ran out to check on his friend. Hoping against hope, Darius called out to Daniel. He was overjoyed when Daniel assured him that God had saved him. King Darius then commanded that the men who had accused Daniel, and their families, be thrown into the lion's den. Entire families were killed because the Persians (and the Hebrews, see example of Achan in Josh 7) considered guilt a collective responsibility.



Understanding Your Students

Young children have very short attention spans. They can only stay focused for several minutes at a time. Therefore, it is difficult for them to pray for more than a few minutes (though they should still be encouraged to pray with the congregation when the opportunity arises so they can learn to model what the grown-ups are doing). Since the aim of today's lesson is to allow the students to understand that they can pray to God at any time of the day, they can also be taught that small increments can add up to a lot of communication with God.

Talk about the various times throughout the day when they can pray to God. For example, they can pray to God when they get up to thank Him for a good night's sleep. They can thank God at breakfast for their food. They can pray to God in the car before their mom or dad takes them to school, to ask God to guide their day. Then at lunch, they can say grace before their meal. After coming home from school, they can thank God for bringing them safely home. When it is time for dinner, they can be in charge of saying the thanksgiving prayer for the whole family. And at night, they can pray to God to thank Him for taking care of everyone. When we break down the day into smaller parts, they can see that there are many opportunities for them to talk to God.

Our students will learn from our actions as much as they will learn from our words. In addition to talking about when and how to pray, teach them to pray to God by praying with them in each class. Offer prayers of thanks, prayers for guidance, prayers for those in need, and prayers of repentance. That way, they can see the many ways they can talk to God. We can also share our experiences with the power of prayer. Someday, they may find themselves in similar situations and they will recall how their own teacher handled them.



Vocabulary

Jealous
being unhappy or even angry because you think someone is better than you

Evil
bad and mean

Lion's Den
a cave or a hole in the ground where lions were kept

Law
a rule



Before You Teach

We often tell others that prayer is the answer to all of our needs. And while it may sound like a cliche, there are many wonderful examples in the Bible of those who turned to God in prayer.

Hannah, in her despair, prayed to God for a child of her own. A year later, her son Samuel was born. After the defeat at Ai, Joshua fell to the ground and prayed to God in humility because he couldn't understand why the Israelites had lost the battle. God answered the prayer by revealing the deeds of Achan. When Hezekiah was sick, he prayed to God to heal him. God promised to extend his life another fifteen years. In the New Testament, Jesus prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane because He could not bear the bitterness of His impending death alone.

In these examples, the people prayed to God for different reasons. Some prayed for healing. Another prayed for understanding. And Jesus prayed just because He needed to be with God. But everyone prayed to God because they realized they had no better reliance. They could not depend on others for answers. Complaining about their problems would not have helped. Only God could help them in their time of need. These people also demonstrated great trust in God's mercy and grace. Although they could not know how God would answer their pleas, they prayed with humility and sincerity. God did answer all of their requests, but only according to His will.

Today, no matter what we are facing, we can turn to God for answers, too. When we pray with the correct attitude, God will hear us and be our guide.



Bible Story

King Darius Is the New King

Last week, we learned about King Belshazzar. He held a party for his friends. During the party, the king asked that the cups from God's temple be brought out. He wanted his friends to drink wine from these cups. Was this a good idea? No, because these were special cups used in the temple to worship God. But King Belshazzar did not care about God and used them in his party. After a while, the king and all his friends saw something strange. They saw a hand appear in the air and the fingers wrote some words on the wall. When the king saw this, he stopped drinking and partying. He was scared because he didn't know what was going on. He called his wise men to tell him what the words meant, but they could not. Then the queen told the king that Daniel might be able to tell what the words meant. So the king called Daniel into the palace. Daniel told the king that the words meant he would not be king for much longer, and another kingdom would take over Babylon because he did not love God. Did Daniel say what was right? Yes, that same night, King Belshazzar was killed and a new person became the king. His name was King Darius. He was the leader of a kingdom called the Medes and Persians.

Daniel Helps King Darius

King Darius was a powerful king. He was ruler over many people. Because his kingdom was so large, he needed a lot of helpers. One of King Darius' helpers was Daniel. Remember that Daniel was very young when he was taken away from his home to live in a new country, but he did not forget God and he continued to be His good follower. He had helped King Nebuchadnezzar and King Belshazzar. Now, he helped King Darius. King Darius liked Daniel very much because he did his job better than the other men. The king wanted to put him in charge of the whole kingdom. The other people who served the king did not like this plan. They wanted to be in charge instead. So they became jealous of Daniel. These men wanted to find a way to make Daniel look bad before the king so that the king would not like Daniel anymore. Then Daniel couldn't be in charge. But no matter how hard they tried, they could not find anything wrong with Daniel. He always did what was right.

The evil men thought to themselves and finally came up with an idea. They knew that Daniel prayed to God every day. So they decided to make a new law that said that people can only pray to King Darius for thirty days. If someone did not follow this new rule, then he would be thrown into the lion's den. That means the person would die because the lions would eat him up.

The men who thought of this plan went to the king and told him, "O, King Darius, most excellent and great ruler, our country is more and more powerful because of you! All the people in this kingdom shall come and worship you! Please make a new law that from now on, the people can only pray to you for thirty days. Anyone who prays to other gods will be punished and thrown into the lion's den."

King Darius liked this new law. He thought it made him important. So he signed the papers and this became the new rule in the land. And no one could change this law. All the people became afraid: they did not want to be the lions' food! So they did not dare to pray to anyone else but King Darius.

Daniel Still Prays to God

Daniel knew about this new law. He knew the law said that he had to pray to King Darius and no one else. If he didn't, he would be thrown into the lion's den. But Daniel knew it was not the right thing to do. He knew that it would be wrong to pray to King Darius, who was only a man. He knew he could only pray to God. So Daniel still prayed to God every day. Actually, he prayed three times a day. Like he always did, Daniel opened his window and knelt down to pray to God. He prayed to God in the morning, at noon, and at night every day. He was brave.

The evil men saw Daniel praying to God. They probably thought to themselves, "Aha! We caught him! He is praying to his God." So they hurried off to tell the king.

They said to the king, "Isn't there a new law that says everyone has to pray to you, King Darius? If not, they will be thrown into the lion's den?"

The king answered them, "Yes, this is true."

Then they said to the king, "We saw Daniel

praying to his God. He did not obey the law because the law says that everyone should only pray to you. He must be thrown into the lion's den."

Now King Darius liked Daniel. He knew that Daniel was a good person and he did not want him to be hurt. But since he had made the law and it could not be changed, he ordered the soldiers to capture Daniel.

God Protects Daniel

Even though the king was sad, he knew he had to follow his law. So Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. The lion's den was probably a big hole that was dug in the ground. The lions would already be in the big hole, hungry and waiting for food to be thrown to them. After Daniel was thrown in, a large rock was rolled over the opening. That way, Daniel could not climb out and try to escape. What do you think happened to Daniel? Will he be okay?

The king spent the whole night thinking about Daniel. He didn't want Daniel to be eaten by the lions. He was sad he had made this new law. He waited and waited the entire night. He wanted to see what had happened to Daniel.

The next day, very early in the morning, King Darius ran out of his palace and hurried to the lion's den. He cried out sadly, "Daniel, Daniel! Has your God saved you?"

The king waited, hoping to hear Daniel's voice. Then Daniel called out, "O King, live forever! My God took care of me, and He protected me from the lions because I didn't do anything wrong. He sent angels to shut the lions' mouths and they could not hurt me."

King Darius was very happy to hear Daniel's voice.

He said to his soldiers, "Bring Daniel out of the den!"

Daniel was lifted up out of the lion's den. He was not bitten anywhere by the hungry animals because he did what was right before God. He prayed to God every day and did not stop because of the new law.

When the king found out that the evil men did this on purpose to harm Daniel, he punished them by throwing them into the lion's den. Because they did wrong things, they were probably eaten very quickly by the hungry lions. Then, the king made a new law. It said that everyone should love and pray to Daniel's God because He is the living God who saved Daniel from the lions.

We learned today that Daniel prayed to God every day. He knew it was important to thank God, ask Him for help, and talk to Him like a friend. He did not stop praying to God, even though there was a new law saying he couldn't. And in the end he was saved. We should learn from Daniel and pray to God every day when we can. God will protect us and help us just as He helped Daniel.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Why did the evil men want to hurt Daniel?*** *(They didn't want the king to like Daniel more and give him more important jobs.)*
2. ***What did the new law say?*** *(For thirty days, the people could only pray to King Darius. If they didn't, they would be thrown into the lion's den.)*
3. ***What did Daniel do every day?*** *(He prayed to God three times a day.)*
4. ***Did Daniel pray to the king?*** *(No.)*
5. ***What happened to Daniel when he continued to pray to God?*** *(He was thrown into the lion's den.)*
6. ***Did the lions hurt Daniel?*** *(No. God sent angels to shut the lions' mouths so that Daniel would not be hurt.)*
7. ***What new law did the king make after Daniel came out of the lion's den?*** *(Everyone should love Daniel's God and pray to Him because He is the living God.)*
8. ***The Bible says Daniel prayed three times a day. Maybe he prayed in the morning, before he ate, or at bedtime. When do you pray to God?*** *(Allow students to answer. Encourage them to find time to pray to God each day.)*



Life Application Story

The Paper Telephone

One sunny afternoon, Susie Lim rode her bike over to Cathy Hayes' house. Susie's mom, Mrs. Lim, was riding behind her. Mrs. Lim needed to talk to Pastor Hayes about something. While she was waiting for her mom, Susie planned on asking Cathy if she wanted to play with her.

Once they reached the house, Susie put her bike down, and ran to ring the doorbell. Ding dong!

Cathy looked out the window and saw that it was Susie. She opened the door with a big smile.

"Hi, Mrs. Lim. Hi, Susie," said Cathy. Then she called out, "Dad, Mrs. Lim is here!"

Mrs. Lim made her way into the house and found Pastor Hayes in the kitchen.

Susie turned to Cathy and asked, "Do you want to play?"

"Sure, let's go to my room," Cathy said as she shut the front door.

So Susie and Cathy went to Cathy's room. Cathy had just gotten new coloring books, and they thought that it would be fun to color together. As Cathy got her crayons out, Susie saw something taped on the wall. It was a huge paper telephone. Above it was a sign with words that said, "Don't forget to call!"

"Wow, where'd you get the big telephone?" asked Susie.

"I drew it myself and cut it out," Cathy said as she took out all her crayons from a glitter box. "Then I taped it on my wall."

"What's it for?" Susie asked her friend.

"Well, my family has family Bible study nights. Last week, my dad talked about how we should pray to God every day. But sometimes, I forget. So we came up with this idea. Now when I see this huge telephone, I won't forget to pray to God, like I am calling Him."

"That's cool. I wish I had a telephone like that."

"Well, we could make one now," suggested Cathy.

"Okay, thanks Cathy," said Susie with a big smile.

Time went by quickly as the two girls drew, colored and cut. Finally, the telephone was finished.

"Now I have one for myself!" grinned Susie.

"You can tape it up at home to remind you to pray to God every day," said Cathy.

"Thanks. When I see the telephone, I will remember to pray to God. But sometimes I don't know what to say to Him," said Susie.

"Well, my parents tell me that I can tell God what happens at school, and thank Him for everything He gives me," explained Cathy.

"That's right," Pastor Hayes said, as he walked into the room.

"Dad, I didn't even hear you," said Cathy.

"Well, you two were so into the drawing and talking that you didn't even know I was here. I came to tell Susie that it is time for her to go home. Mrs. Lim and I are finished talking about our grown-up things," Pastor Hayes explained.

Susie got up and grabbed her paper telephone.

"That sure is a big telephone," Pastor Hayes said, "and it will definitely remind you to pray to God."

"When can I pray to God, Pastor Hayes?" asked Susie.

"Anytime we want to. We can pray when we are happy, or when we're sad. We can thank Him for our food. We can also ask God for help. He will listen to us if we pray to Him," said Pastor Hayes.

"And don't forget that we can pray to God when we want to say, 'Sorry, God,' for the bad things we have done," Cathy added.

"You are right," Pastor Hayes said.

"I won't forget to pray to God now," said Susie as she headed to the front door with her paper telephone.

Questions to Think About

1. ***Why did Cathy have a huge paper phone on the wall?*** *(To remind her to pray to God.)*
2. ***What can we pray to God about?*** *(We can pray to give thanks, to ask for help, or because we are happy and want to share good news.)*
3. ***When can we pray?*** *(Anytime and anywhere.)*
4. ***Why should we always pray to Jesus?*** *(God is our friend. He wants to hear our voices. When we pray to Him, He will listen and be with us.)*
5. ***How should we begin our prayers? How can we end our prayers?*** *(Allow students to answer; "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," and "Amen.")*



Activity 1

Daniel Prays to God

Review the story of Daniel by reading the sentences with the help of the rebuses.

King Darius had a helper. His name was Daniel. He loved God very much and prayed three times a day. King Darius had other helpers. They did not like Daniel. They tricked King Darius and made him write a law. Daniel was trapped and he was thrown into a lion's den. But God saved Daniel and he was not eaten. King Darius was happy and praised God.



Activity 2

Where Can We Pray?

Where are some places we can pray to God? Spell the word pray in each sentence to learn about where we can pray to God.

1. *We can pray at school before lunch.*
2. *We can pray at church.*
3. *We can pray at home.*
4. *We can pray in the car.*



Activity 3

Daniel Prays

Sing the following song with the students to remind them of how Daniel prayed to God each day. (Sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb.")

Daniel prayed to God each day,
God each day, God each day;
Daniel prayed to God each day;
He always prayed each day.

I will pray to God each day,
God each day, God each day;
I will pray to God each day;
I'll always pray each day.

Activity 9:1

Daniel Prays to God

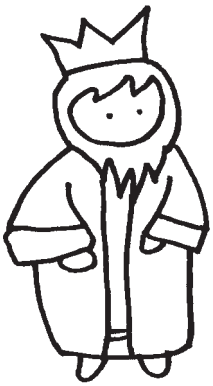
Review the story with the help of the rebuses below.



had a helper. His name was  . He loved God very much and

King Darius

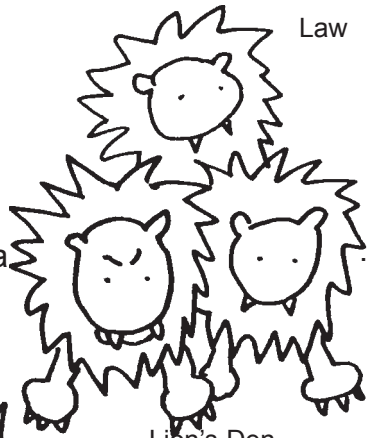
Daniel

prayed three times a day.  had other  . They did

Helpers

not like  . They tricked  and made him write a  .

Law

 was trapped and he was thrown into a  . But God

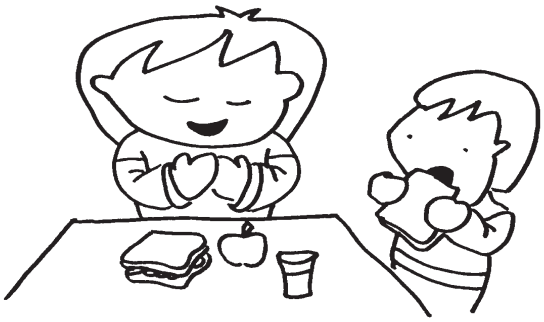
Lion's Den

saved  and he was not eaten.  was happy and praised God.

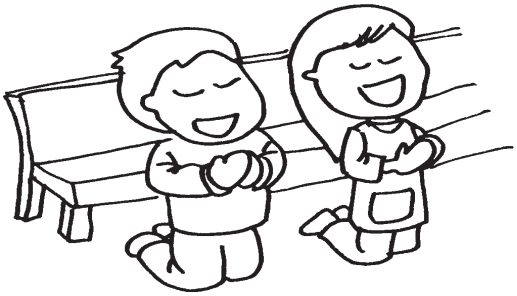
Activity 9:2

Where Can We Pray?

Where are some places we can pray to God? Spell the word **pray** in each sentence and learn about where we can pray.



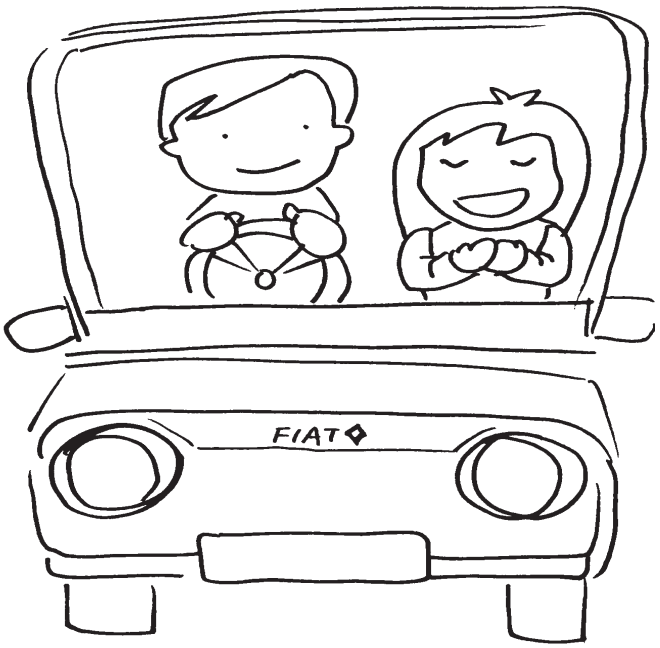
1. We can _ _ _ _ at school before lunch.



2. We can _ _ _ _ at church.



3. We can _ _ _ _ at home.



4. We can _ _ _ _ in the car.

Lesson 10

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- heavy cardboard (six by six inch squares)
- pencil
- markers
- scissors

Scriptures

Neh 1-4, 6:15-19, 8:1-11

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God helps His people accomplish His will

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways we can obey God

Memory Verse

"You shall do what is good and right." (Deut 6:18)

Bible Knowledge

Ezra and Nehemiah

Ezra and Nehemiah were actually one book in the ancient Hebrew and Greek Old Testament (Ezra's story is continued in Nehemiah, chapters 8-10). Ezra returned to Jerusalem in 458 BC. He was a part of the second group of exiles who chose to return to Israel. He worked with the people for many years before Nehemiah came in 445 BC to repair the walls.

Ezra was a priest and scribe. His reason for going to Jerusalem was to "seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10).

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the Persian king Artaxerxes (465-424 BC). On receiving news of the desolate state of Jerusalem, he obtained permission to go to his own country, and was appointed governor. Under the grace of God, he was commissioned by the king to rebuild the walls and make it a fortified city. But the work had enemies. Sanballat and others used weapons of scorn and ridicule against this project. Nehemiah replied to their taunts by reminding them that the workers trusted God for the success of their work. Nehemiah also divided the Jews (re-builders) from the non-Jews (mockers) by reminding them that they had no legal right, no property rights, and no jurisdiction in the city. Then the enemies plotted to attack Jerusalem. With Arabs to the south, Ammonites to the east, Ashdodites to the west, and Samaritans to the north, Jerusalem was isolated. Nehemiah and the people prayed to God, and Nehemiah posted a twenty-four hour guard. The rumored attack never came; Nehemiah credited God with frustrating the enemies' plans. Miraculously, the people were able to rebuild the wall in fifty-two days.

After the city walls were rebuilt, on the first day of the seventh month, the people gathered in a public square, asking Ezra to bring the Book of Law and read it to them. United in purpose, they gathered in a place where everyone could come. Had they gathered in the temple, only the men could have attended. They had built a high, wooden platform for the occasion. Ezra praised God and the people lifted their hands, a gesture of prayer in the ancient Near East. The people said, "Amen! Amen!" Then, as an indication of their worship and reverence for God, they lowered their faces.

The people stood respectfully as Ezra read God's

words for several hours. The Levites helped by explaining exactly what was read. The people responded by crying and weeping for their sins. Ezra, Nehemiah, and the other leaders said, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep." They told the people to go home and feast with choice foods and sweet drinks, and give food to those in need.



Understanding Your Students

Young children are eager to help. This stems from their desire to please grown-ups and to have fun. Unfortunately, many adults assume that young children will cause more problems by helping than not. As a result, they are often brushed aside. It is common to hear phrases like, "You can help when you get older," or "You are too young." It is true that some chores are too difficult or even dangerous for kindergartners. But they should be given opportunities to help out when they can. This can build up a sense of responsibility and pride in them.

There are many things that young children are capable of doing. At home, they can set the table or help clear the table after meals. They can also wipe the table top if a parent rinses out a cloth for them first.

At church, they should be helping to clean up the room after each lesson. They are not too young to put things away, pick up garbage, or wipe the board. When these jobs become constant and a part of their lives, the students will begin to understand the value of helping. Of course, it is important for parents and teachers to positively reinforce their work. Be specific about their contribution so that their work is not trivialized. By saying something like, "You did a great job putting the Bibles away. They are neat and orderly. You are God's wonderful helper," it can help to strengthen their faith and their continued desire to help.



Vocabulary

Enemy
someone who does not like you, and may even want to hurt you

Encourage
to say things to support someone

Scroll
the words of God written on long pieces of leather or parchment, which are then rolled up between two sticks

Scribe
someone who wrote down the words of God, studied the words of God, and taught other people about them



Before You Teach

Nehemiah and Ezra were two of God's faithful workers. Even though they lived in exile, they both felt a deep connection to God and His people.

When Nehemiah heard about the condition of the walls in Jerusalem, he wept. Moreover, he did not just sit around and mourn. He took proactive steps in solving the problem. First, he prayed to God. Then when the opportunity arose, he asked the king for permission to go to Jerusalem. Once there, he surveyed the walls and began the work. When there was opposition to the rebuilding from surrounding nations, Nehemiah encouraged the Israelites by praying with them and setting up guards to watch the work. As a result of his actions, the walls were rebuilt in fifty-two days.

Ezra was also a man of action. His purpose for going to Jerusalem was to "seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10). Therefore, he was not only interested learning God's laws for himself. He taught the people the laws of God. During the public reading of the words, he made sure Levites explained to the people what the laws meant. This helped to revive the faith of the Israelites, as they wept after hearing about all their sins.

Both Nehemiah and Ezra contributed greatly to the faith of the Israelites at that time. They got things done and helped the Israelites become committed to God once again.

Bible Story

Nehemiah Wants to Return to Jerusalem

Last week, we learned about Daniel and how he stood up for God. Even though he wasn't allowed to pray to God, he still prayed three times a day. He was thrown into the lion's den but he was not hurt at all. God sent angels to shut the mouths of the lions. Daniel never forgot about God and God protected him.

Today we are going to learn about two other people who also loved God. They lived after the time of Daniel. Their names were Nehemiah and Ezra.

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king of Persia. That means he served the king and made sure the food and drink the king had was clean and good to eat. Ezra was a priest and a scribe. That means he served God and taught people about God's laws and commands. Both of these people did not live in Israel. Remember how some of the Israelites were taken to Babylon, including Daniel when he was just a young boy? Nehemiah and Ezra also grew up in this land that was far away from their real home. But even though they grew up in a land that was far away from Israel, they loved God.

The king in that land at the time was a good king. He knew that the Israelites had been taken from their land many, many years ago. So he let some of the Israelites who wanted to return to their land go. Many Israelites packed their things and returned to Jerusalem. They were glad to be back after all these years.

One day, Nehemiah heard some bad news about some of the Israelites who had returned to Jerusalem. Nehemiah heard that the wall that went around Jerusalem and protected the city was broken in many places. The gates of the city had been burned down. The city of Jerusalem was very strong and great before, but not anymore. Because the Israelites were brought to another country a long time ago, no one took care of the great city at home. So the walls of Jerusalem had been crumbling and falling for years and years. The Israelites wanted to fix the walls of Jerusalem because it was the holy city of God.

Nehemiah became very sad when he heard this. He prayed to God. He asked God to let him go back to Jerusalem to help rebuild the city. But since he was the cupbearer to the king and had an important job, the king might not let him go. This was why Nehemiah prayed so hard to God. He asked God for help so that the king would let him go to Jerusalem.

Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem

One day, when Nehemiah was bringing wine to the king, the king saw that he looked very sad. He asked Nehemiah why he looked sad. Nehemiah told the king that he was sad because he had heard some bad news about Jerusalem. He asked the king to allow him to return and repair the city. The king said "Yes," and Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem.

When Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem, the first thing he did was to rebuild the city wall. The wall had been broken by enemies who came into the city. Nehemiah knew that the wall protected the city, so it had to be rebuilt for the city to be safe again. Nehemiah told the people what had to be done. Then the people all said, "Let's start!"

Nehemiah Trusts God

Some of Israel's enemies saw Nehemiah and the Israelites rebuilding the wall. They came and laughed at them. They told Nehemiah that they would never be able to rebuild the wall. Nehemiah encouraged the people of Israel to trust in God, and not to worry about their enemies.

Their enemies didn't want the Israelites to rebuild the wall because then the city would be protected and the people would be safe. So the enemies planned to attack Nehemiah and the people. They wanted to destroy the work that had been done. Some of the Israelites became sad when they heard about their enemies' plans. They felt that they could never finish rebuilding the wall. Again, Nehemiah encouraged them and told them to trust in God. He told them that God would protect them from their enemies. Nehemiah also prayed to God for help. Then he divided the Israelites into two groups. One group worked on the wall while the other group stood guard day and night to protect everyone and the wall. God heard Nehemiah's prayer and the enemies could not attack the Israelites.

The Wall Is Completed

The Israelites worked hard every day to finish

the wall. It was a hard job to fix the broken walls. But the people knew God was watching over them. Do you know how long it took to rebuild the whole wall? It took fifty-two days. That is about two months. That is fast because it is very hard to lift the bricks and make the wall stay up. Do you know why the people were able to rebuild the wall so quickly? God listened to Nehemiah's prayers. God never let anything happen to the wall or to His people while they were rebuilding. When the wall was completed, Nehemiah's enemies realized that God had protected His people.

During the whole time of rebuilding, Nehemiah never stopped trusting in God. He never stopped encouraging his people to depend on God to help them. Nehemiah knew that whatever the enemies planned, God was much greater and He would protect His people.

Ezra Reads God's Words to the People

After the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, everyone was very happy and they gathered together by the gate of the city. Now that Nehemiah had helped to rebuild the wall, it was Ezra's turn to do God's work. Remember that Ezra was a priest and scribe. That means he read, wrote, and studied the words of God. He was also a teacher. He studied the words of God very hard, and God gave him wisdom. Ezra wanted to read God's words to all the people. Many people had not heard the words of God for a long time and had forgotten about them. Ezra knew that it was important to remind the people again about how great and wonderful God's words were. So he asked workers to build a big wooden stand for him. They built a tall one and put it in an open area by the gate. Now, when Ezra stood on this stand, everyone in the city would be able to see him and hear him very well.

So everyone gathered together in the open area. All the people who were old enough to understand came to listen to the laws of God. Ezra stood on the stand and he opened the scrolls. Everyone paid attention. Ezra said, "Thanks be to God, our Lord!"

The people said, "Amen! Amen!" and they lifted up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and showed their respect to God with their faces to the ground. When Ezra started to read the words of God with a loud and clear voice, the people listened very carefully to him. As Ezra read the words, some of the helpers helped Ezra by holding the scrolls. Other helpers tried to help the people understand what was written in the scrolls; they read the rules and explained to the people what these laws of God meant.

The People Cry

After hearing and understanding the words of God, the people started to cry. They felt sad because they had not heard God's words for a long time and they knew they had not been doing things the way God wanted them to. They cried because they did not obey the laws. The people understood now that God loved them very much, and He wanted all of them to keep His laws.

When Ezra saw the people crying, he said to them, "Now, do not feel sad. This day is holy to the Lord your God. Go home, eat good food, and be happy, because today is a happy day."

Ezra wanted the people to know that they should feel sorry for the wrong things they did. They should say sorry to God and ask Him for forgiveness. Then in the future they should do what the laws of God tell them to do. But now, instead of being sad, they should be happy because they knew what to do.

So the people went home. They told God how sorry they were for all the wrong things that they had done. They decided to obey God's laws from then on. Everyone was happy after that and they ate good food with their friends and families. They promised God that they would remember to keep the laws that Ezra had read to them.

Let's Follow Nehemiah and Ezra's Examples

In today's lesson, we learned about two people who really loved God. One was Nehemiah. He went to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls so that the Israelites would be protected from their enemies. Nehemiah told the people to trust God to help them and they rebuilt the wall in fifty-two days. Then Ezra read the words of God to the people. He wanted them to know what God wanted them to do. The people were glad Nehemiah and Ezra helped them.

Nehemiah taught the people to trust God, and Ezra taught the people the words of God. Today, we should also trust God like Nehemiah did and read the words of God like Ezra did. Then God will be with us and help us at all times.



Check For Understanding

1. ***What was Nehemiah's job?*** *(He was the cupbearer.)*
2. ***What did Nehemiah want to do when he returned to Jerusalem?*** *(He wanted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.)*
3. ***What problems did Nehemiah and the Israelites face?*** *(Enemies tried to stop them from finishing their work.)*
4. ***What did Nehemiah and the Israelites do?*** *(They prayed to God to help them.)*
5. ***Did the Israelites give up?*** *(No.)*
6. ***How did Nehemiah encourage the Israelites?*** *(He told them that God would protect them and help them. He told them not to worry about their enemies, but trust in God.)*
7. ***How long did it take the Israelites to rebuild the wall?*** *(Fifty-two days.)*
8. ***Who helped the people learn God's words?*** *(Ezra and his helpers.)*
9. ***Who was Ezra?*** *(Ezra was a priest and scribe. He taught people about God's words and rules.)*
10. ***What happened when the people heard God's words?*** *(They cried because they knew they had not been following God's words.)*
11. ***What did the people promise to do after they heard God's words?*** *(They would obey God's commands.)*
12. ***How can we show God we are doing what he wants us to do?*** *(We can come to church on Saturdays, listen to Bible stories at church and at home, obey our parents and teachers, etc.)*
13. ***How can we be good helpers like Nehemiah and Ezra?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*



Life Application Story

A Good Helper

Benjamin got up early one Sunday morning. He went to the kitchen and found his sister Susie waiting for breakfast at the table.

"Good morning, Mom. Where's Nicole and Lisa?" Ben asked.

"Nicole is at a morning swim class. Lisa is sick and sleeping," answered Mrs. Lim.

"Oh, can I do something to help?" asked Ben.

"Well, it is nice of you to ask. You can take the clean clothes out of the dryer and put them in that basket," Mrs. Lim said, pointing to the basket. Just then the phone rang. Ben ran to answer it. He asked who was calling and then told his mom. Mrs. Lim came to the phone as she put Susie's breakfast on the table.

After the clothes were taken out, Ben helped to fold them. After Mrs. Lim hung up the phone, she said, "Thanks for folding them. I didn't even have to ask."

"I know you are busy, Mom," replied Ben.

"Well, how about I fix you some breakfast then?" offered Mrs. Lim.

"Okay," said Ben, as he continued to fold the clothes.

After breakfast, Ben helped clean the table and dry the dishes. Susie was playing in the family room.

"You know Ben," said Mrs. Lim as she put away the plates, "you are being a wonderful helper this morning."

"Thanks, Mom," said Ben with a big smile.

"You are becoming a big boy on the outside and on the inside," said Mrs. Lim.

Just then, Susie poked her head into the kitchen doorway.

"Mom, you promised you would read me a Bible story this morning."

"Well, I am a little bit busy. But I will read it to you like I promised, okay?" said Mrs. Lim.

"I can read to her, Mom," said Ben. "Then you

can finish your work."

"Ben, you are an angel," Mrs. Lim said.

"Ben's an angel?" asked Susie.

Mrs. Lim laughed. "Well, he's not a real angel. What I meant is that he is so helpful this morning. It's like God sent him to help me because I am very busy today."

"Oh," said Susie as she skipped back to the family room.

Mrs. Lim continued to say to Ben, "You know, Ben, God loves good helpers. I am sure He sees how helpful you have been this morning. Thank you."

"You are welcome, Mom," Ben said as he walked to the family room.

Ben felt proud to be a good helper, to his mom and to God.

Questions to Think About

1. ***How did Ben help his mom?*** *(He took out the clothes from the dryer, folded the clothes, answered the phone, cleaned the table, dried the dishes, and offered to read to Susie.)*
2. ***How can you be a good helper of God?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*
3. ***How does it make you feel when you help someone?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*



Activity 1

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Cross out the ones that did not happen.

1. *Nehemiah helped the people rebuild the wall.*
2. *Ezra read the words of God to the people.*
3. *Everyone fought with each other. (This did not happen.)*
4. *The people cried when they heard the words of God because they knew they had not obeyed God's word.*
5. *Enemies came to mock the Israelites as they rebuilt the wall.*
6. *Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king.*



Activity 2

How Can We Obey?

Look at the pictures. How can the people obey God?

1. *What can you ask for before taking it?*
2. *How can you listen to your parents?*
3. *How can you listen to your teachers?*
4. *What can you share with your friends?*
5. *When can you say "please" and "thank you"?*
6. *Why do you go to church?*



Activity 3

Doing What is Good and Right Puzzle

Materials:

1. *heavy cardboard (six by six inch squares)*
2. *markers*
3. *pencil*
4. *scissors*

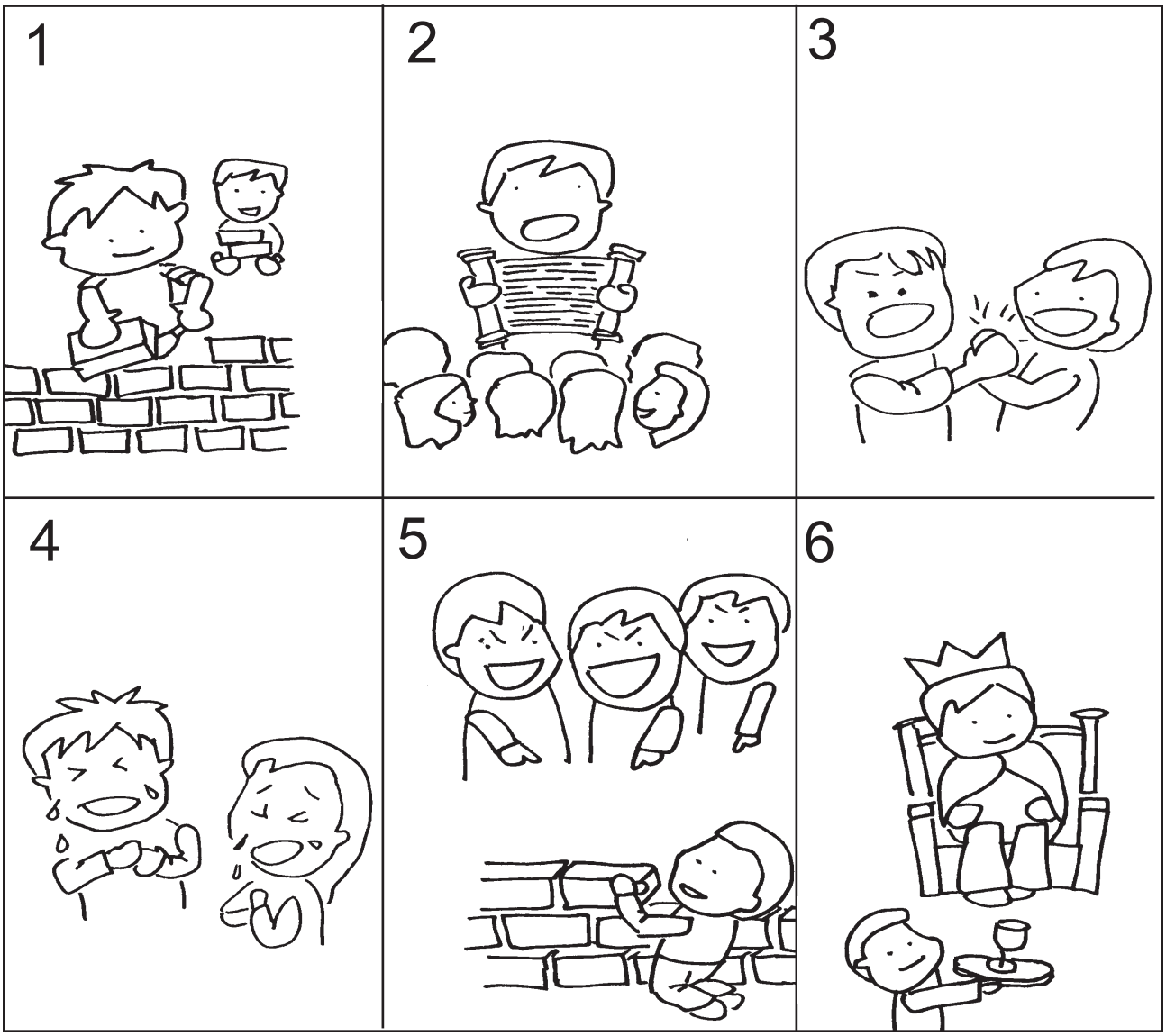
Directions:

1. *Provide each student with a square board.*
2. *Help them write today's memory verse near the top of the board.*
3. *Have them draw a picture under the verse that shows how they are doing what is right and good.*
4. *Have them color in the picture.*
5. *Help the students cut the picture into six or seven interlocking pieces like a jigsaw puzzle. (Teacher may want to draw lines on the back in pencil before students begin cutting.)*

Activity 10:1

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls

Look at the pictures. Which ones happened in the story? Which ones did not? Cross out the ones that did not happen in the story.



1. Nehemiah helped the people rebuild the wall.
2. Ezra read the words of God to the people.
3. Everyone fought with each other.
4. The people cried when they heard the words of God because they knew they had not obeyed God's word.
5. Enemies came to mock the Israelites as they rebuilt the wall.
6. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king.

Activity 10:2

How Can We Obey?

Look at the pictures. How can the people obey God?

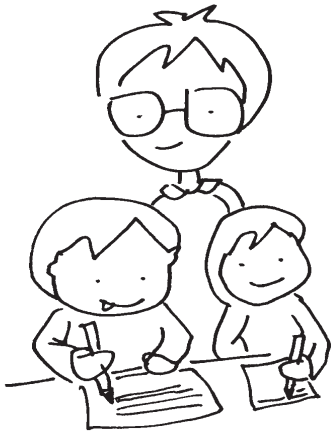
1. What can you ask for before taking it?

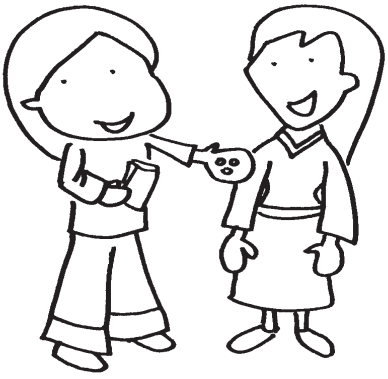


2. How can you listen to your parents?



3. How can you listen to your teachers?





4. What can you share with your friends?



5. When can you say “please” and “thank you”?



6. Why do you go to church?

Lesson 11

Esther Helps God's People

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson

Scriptures

Est. 1-8

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God has a plan for each of us; God will answer prayers when we call upon Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify things children can do to prepare themselves for God's plans

Memory Verse

"Teach me Your way, O Lord." (Ps 27:11)

Bible Knowledge

King Xerxes

Xerxes ruled the 127 provinces of Persia between 486-465 BC. He is also known as Ahasuerus. He was the son of Darius the Great and grandson of Cyrus the Great. When he called his wife, Queen Vashti, to join a banquet he was throwing for the nobles and officials, she refused and was deposed. Before he could find a new queen, Xerxes left to fight the battles of Thermopalyae and Salamia (480 BC), in which he lost bitterly. The story of Esther occurred before the events recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah.

Esther

Esther was a Jewish orphan who had been raised by her godly cousin, Mordecai. She was beautiful and Xerxes favored her. He made Esther the queen of Persia in the seventh year of his reign. Despite being crowned queen, Esther still obeyed Mordecai and did not reveal her ethnicity.

Several years after Esther became queen, Haman rose to power. As per the king's command, all the officials had to pay honor to Haman. Only Mordecai refused to bow down to him. This made Haman furious. He plotted to kill all the Jews in the land. This constituted all of the Jews in the province of Persia as well as Jerusalem. Probably millions of people throughout the Persian empire faced death because of Haman's pride.

In her fifth year as queen of Persia, Esther asked all the Jews in the city to fast and pray for her for three days. As the law then stood, if anyone went to the king without first being summoned, he would be killed unless the king held out his scepter. Esther knew that in order to save her people, she had to rely in God. On the third day of the fast, Esther wore her finest clothes and stood before the king. He held out his scepter for her. He knew something was important enough to Esther for her to take such a risk to come to him. Instead of revealing the real reason, she invited him and Haman to two banquets. At the second feast, she asked that her people be spared.

The law of the Persians could not be changed, but Mordecai and Esther were able to have the king write an edict allowing the Jews to assemble and protect themselves. They could kill their attackers and plunder their goods should they be attacked on the basis of Haman's decree.



Understanding Your Students

Young children are often afraid of things like the dark or monsters hiding in the closet. This is normal for children in this age group. Rather than brushing aside their fears, we need to acknowledge that they are genuine and common. We can help them overcome their fears with some practical steps.

For example, a dark room can be brightened with a night light that the child picks out. The child can also be rewarded with a prize for being brave over a specified period of time. For monsters, they can hug a stuffed animal to sleep or put a toy superhero near their bed to ward off any scary things.

Teachers can share that Esther was also scared of doing something. She was afraid to see the king. But after talking to Mordecai, she decided to pray to God and then try her best. These are steps we can teach our students too, to strengthen their faith. No matter where they are or what they are doing, they can pray to God about their fears. They can also find a grown-up to talk about their problem. They will feel much better after and have some good ideas they can try to overcome their fears.

It is important to teach children to work out their fears because it is a part of life. Even adults have things they are afraid of. If they can be taught to trust God in all things, they will be one step closer to overcoming their fears.



Vocabulary

Jew
an Israelite

Banquet
a big dinner party

Golden Scepter
a stick the king held to show his power



Before You Teach

In today's story, Esther was afraid to go to the king at first. She was scared that she might be put to death. This is a normal response for most people in her situation. It is one thing to take a risk, but it is something else to lose one's life. Yet in the end, she put her life on the line for her people. What happened to cause such a change in attitude? We can find the answer in her dialog with Mordecai.

After learning of the plight of her people, Esther sent a message to Mordecai, explaining her reasons for not wanting to see the king. Then Mordecai responded by saying, "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Est 4:13-14).

These were brutally harsh words for Esther to hear. Basically she was being accused of being selfish. But instead of becoming angry or hurt, what Mordecai said actually strengthened her faith.

Esther realized that even if she did not approach the king, she could very well still die with the rest of the Jews. After all, she had been hiding her true identity for years. She had no idea how the king would react, even if Haman was the bad one. Mordecai also reminded her that God's plans will always be accomplished. If it was God's intent to save His people, they would be saved. The last and most striking comment Mordecai made was probably what gave Esther the courage to go before the king. He asked her to think about why she became the queen. She was a Jew, a foreigner. Yet somehow, she was picked to become the queen of Persia. She might have realized that God had prepared her for this very moment in history. Once she summoned her courage, she asked the people of the land to pray and fast with her. She knew it was important to trust in God and not on her own power or beauty.

Today, we may be faced with difficult situations, where the way is not clear-cut. We can learn from Esther's example. We can take time out to examine our faith and ultimately put our reliance in God.



Bible Story

In our last lesson, we learned about two people who loved God very much. They did things to help God's people in Jerusalem. Their names were Nehemiah and Ezra. Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to help rebuild the city walls. Even though there were enemies who tried to stop their work, Nehemiah prayed to God and the people kept rebuilding the walls. They completed the work in fifty-two days because they trusted in God. After the walls were rebuilt, Ezra read the words of God out loud to the people. When the people heard God's laws, they cried because they knew they had not been following God's commands. They promised to change and do things according to God's way. Nehemiah and Ezra were two wonderful helpers.

Today, we are going to learn about another person who helped God's people. Her name was Esther.

Esther Becomes Queen

Esther was a young Jewish girl, and she was very beautiful. Just like Daniel, Nehemiah, and Ezra, she lived in Persia. Her parents died when she was very young. Isn't it sad that she didn't have parents to take care of her? But she was not left alone. Her older cousin Mordecai looked after her and he taught her about God. So even though she grew up in a land far away from God's chosen land, she knew about God.

After Esther grew up, the king of Persia was called King Xerxes. One day, he invited many people to a grand banquet. It was like a huge dinner party, with a lot of food and drinks. The king was so happy at this party that he asked his queen to come out so that everyone could see how beautiful she was. But the queen did not want to listen to the king. She decided not to go to the banquet. The king was angry with her because she didn't listen to him. So he told everyone that she was not the queen anymore. Since there was no queen, the king had to find a new queen.

After some time had passed, the king's servants brought many beautiful young women to the palace. Esther was also brought to the palace because she was beautiful. Her cousin Mordecai was worried. Esther was Jewish, but the people at the palace were not Jewish. Mordecai told Esther not to tell anyone that she was Jewish. He wanted to make sure she would be safe. Esther obeyed her cousin and did not say anything.

After the king looked at the women, he decided that Esther was the most beautiful one of all. He made Esther his new queen. Esther was probably happy that she could become the queen. Even though Esther was the new queen, she did not forget what Mordecai told her. She did not tell anyone that she was a Jew.

Mordecai Saves the King

One time, after Esther became the queen, Mordecai sat inside the king's gate. He heard two people talking. They did not like the king and wanted to kill him. Mordecai told Esther right away. Then Esther went and told the king. After the king found out that it was true, the two people were killed. To thank Mordecai for saving his life, the king let Mordecai wear the royal robes and ride on the royal horse around the city. The king wanted everyone to know that Mordecai had saved him.

Haman Wants to Kill All the Jews

The king had many people who served him. One of the people he put in charge was called Haman. Haman did many of the important jobs. After a while, Haman became proud. He thought that since the king liked him so much and gave him important things to do, he wanted everyone to bow down to him whenever they saw him. Most people were afraid of Haman and bowed down to him. But one person did not do that. That person was Mordecai. Mordecai knew that he could not bow down to anyone except for God. Haman became very angry. He thought he was an important person so everyone should listen to him. He wanted to do something to punish Mordecai. After thinking about it, he came up with a plan.

Haman knew that Mordecai was a Jew. He told the king that the Jews were bad. He said they did not follow the king's rules. But this was not true. Haman just said these terrible things because he wanted to get Mordecai into trouble. When the king heard Haman, he believed Haman and became angry. The king ordered all the Jews to be killed. Haman helped the king pick a date when all of God's people would be killed.

Mordecai Asks Esther to Help God's People

Mordecai and all the Jews cried when they

heard this news. What were they going to do? They didn't want to die. They didn't do anything wrong. So Mordecai went to the palace to ask Esther for help. When Esther heard the news, she was scared. She didn't know how to help. The only thing she could do was go and talk to the king. Maybe if she told him she was a Jew, he would not want to kill God's people any more. But there was a special rule about seeing the king. No one was allowed to see the king, even the queen, unless he ordered that person to come before him. Anyone who came to see the king without his command was killed.

Esther wanted to help but she didn't want the king to get mad at her for going to see him. She was scared and didn't know what to do. Mordecai told Esther to be brave for her people. He told her that maybe God let Esther become the queen just for this reason–to save her people.

Esther Goes to See the King

After listening to Mordecai's words, Esther knew he was right. She was scared but she would trust God. Maybe God made her the queen so that she could help her people now. So she asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews who lived in the city to fast and pray for three days and nights. She and her maids would do the same thing in the palace. She knew she had to ask God for help first before going to see the king. On the third day, she would go and see the king. She knew that the king might kill her for going to see him without his command, but she was willing to do it for God's people.

On the third day, Esther prepared herself to go before the king. She dressed in her royal robes and went to the king's throne. Her heart was probably beating fast. What would the king do when he saw her? When the king saw Esther, she looked so beautiful that he raised his golden scepter. When the king raised his golden scepter, it meant that the person could see the king. He was not going to kill Esther.

Then Esther went before the king. She had a plan. She invited the king and Haman to a banquet that she had prepared. The king agreed to come and Haman was very happy. He thought Esther invited him because he was such an important man.

The king and Haman came to Esther's banquet. After they ate, the king asked Esther what she wanted. He was willing to give her anything she wanted. Esther asked the king to come back the next day to another banquet. She also asked Haman to come. The king said that they would come again.

The next day, the king and Haman went to the banquet. As they were eating, the king asked Esther again what she wanted. This time, Esther knew it was the right time to tell the king about Haman and his plan to kill the Jews. Esther begged the king for her life and the life of her people.

"Please don't kill me and my people," Esther said to the king.

The king was very surprised that Esther was Jewish. Then he became angry that someone wanted all the Jews to be dead.

"Who is the man who dares to do this?" asked the king.

Esther pointed to Haman. Haman became scared. He had tricked the king and now the king found out. The king was angry. He ordered that Haman and his entire family be killed. He also gave new orders so that the Jews did not have to be killed.

Esther was brave. Even though she was scared in the beginning to go and see the king, she trusted in God and prayed to Him for help. In the end, she helped God's people. They did not have to die.

Sometimes, there are things that are hard for us too and we may be scared. But we can learn from Esther to trust in God. He always has His good plans. He will always help us according to His will. Let's remember to trust God and pray to Him for help.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Why was the king angry with the first queen?*** *(She disobeyed the king by not going to the banquet.)*
2. ***Why didn't Esther tell anyone she was Jewish?*** *(Mordecai asked her not to tell anyone because the people at the king's palace were not Jewish.)*
3. ***How did Mordecai save the king's life?*** *(He*

heard some people planning to kill the king and told Esther about this. Then Esther went and told the king.)

4. ***How did the king reward Mordecai?*** *(He let Mordecai put on his royal robes and ride his royal horse around the city.)*
5. ***Why did Haman want to kill all the Jews?*** *(He was angry with Mordecai for not bowing down to him.)*
6. ***Why was Esther afraid to go before the king?*** *(Anyone who came before the king without an order from him was killed.)*
7. ***How did Esther find the courage to do something so dangerous?*** *(God gave her courage after she fasted and prayed for three days.)*
8. ***What happened when the king saw Esther?*** *(She looked so beautiful that he did not kill her.)*
9. ***What happened to Haman at the second banquet?*** *(The king found out about his trick and had him killed.)*
10. ***What did we learn about God's plans for His people?*** *(We learned that God has plans for each of us. He may use us when we do not expect it, just like He used Esther to save her people.)*



Life Application Story

Glad to Help

Julie was at home one rainy afternoon. She was feeling a little sad because she couldn't go outside to play. She had planned to have a tea party with her stuffed animals in the yard. She sighed and looked out the window. As she was about to go into the kitchen, she noticed her neighbor Mrs. Benton getting out of her car next door. She was holding an umbrella and trying to take out two big bags. All of a sudden, Julie thought of going out.

"Mom, I am going out to help Mrs. Benton," called Julie as she put on her raincoat and shoes.

"Hi, Mrs. Benton," Julie said as she ran up to the car. "Let me carry those bags for you."

"Thank you so much, Julie. I was trying to figure out how to hold the umbrella and the groceries," Mrs. Benton said. Mrs. Benton shut the car door and walked next to Julie. Mrs. Benton walked slowly, especially on rainy or cold days, because her bones hurt. Soon, they were inside the house. Julie put down the groceries.

"Thank you very much, Julie," Mrs. Benton said again. "My bones hurt a lot less because I didn't have to carry those bags."

"You're welcome," Julie said. "Do you want me to help you put the groceries away?" Julie often helped her grandma put away groceries.

"That would be great," Mrs. Benton said.

They went to the kitchen, and soon all the groceries were put away.

"I finished putting away the groceries twice as fast with your help," Mrs. Benton said.

Then Mrs. Benton made two cups of hot chocolate.

"This should warm us up on such a cold and rainy day," Mrs. Benton said.

"Thanks. I was actually a little sad it was raining because I couldn't go out to play. But now I am glad I am having hot chocolate," Julie said.

"It's funny how God works sometimes. I was wondering how to bring all the groceries into the house with all this rain. Then you showed up. God always has His plans. If you had been playing in your backyard, then you couldn't have helped me today, right?" said Mrs. Benton.

"I guess not. Maybe God made it rain so that I could help you out," Julie said as she licked the last drop from her mug.

Just then, the doorbell rang.

"It must be your mother, Julie. Let's go and tell her how much you helped me today," said Mrs. Benton

Questions to Think About:

1. ***How did Julie help Mrs. Benton?*** *(She brought her groceries into the house and put them away.)*

2. ***Do you know what kinds of plans God has for you?*** *(Students will probably answer no. Share that even though we don't know, we need to do our best at everything so that when God needs to use us, we will be ready (e.g. playing the piano, studying, reading the Bible, etc.))*



Activity 1

Queen Esther Saves Her People

Review the story by filling in the blanks with words from the word bank.

1. *Esther is the queen.*
2 *Esther prays for her people.*
3. *Esther prepares a big banquet for the king.*
4. *Haman is taken away and hanged.*



Activity 2

When I Grow Up

What can you do for God when you grow up? How can you get ready now?

1. *I can practice my piano.*
2 *I can do my homework.*
3. *I can read my Bible.*
4. *I can exercise and stay healthy.*



Activity 3

Look At Who God Can Use

Have the students sit in a semi-circle in their chairs. Ask the students a variety of questions (see below). If the students think that they can do the action being said, then they can raise their hand. The teacher can call on one of the students. Then the student needs to stand up and say, "I can ___ so that God can use me one day." Feel free to add more questions.

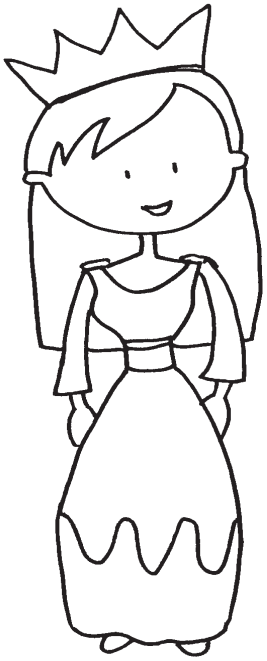
Questions:

1. *Who can practice piano every day?*
2. *Who can eat healthy foods every day?*
3. *Who can do his homework?*
4. *Who can read the Bible at home?*
5. *Who can pray to God?*
6. *Who can help his parents?*
7. *Who can help his teachers?*
8. *Who can go to bed early?*
9. *Who can work hard at school?*
10. *Who can help to keep the class clean?*

Activity 11:1

Queen Esther Saves Her People

Review the story by filling in the blanks with words from the word bank.



Esther p _ _ _ _ for her people.

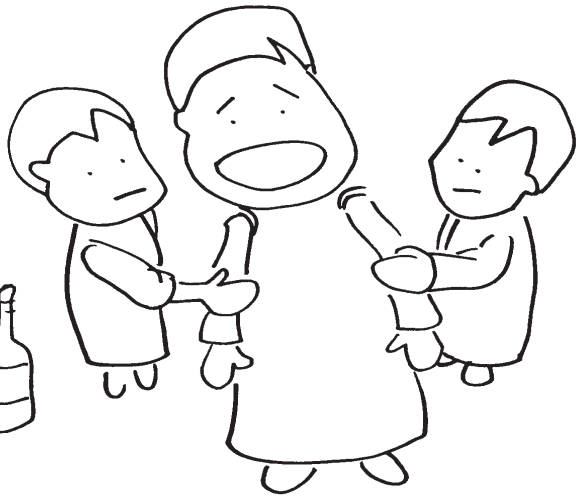


King	Queen	Prays	Haman

Esther is the q _ _ _ _.



Esther prepares a big banquet for the k _ _ _.



H _ _ _ _ is taken away and hanged.

Activity 11:2

When I Grow Up

What can you do for God when you grow up?
How can you get ready now?

I can practice my
p _ _ _ _.





I can do my h _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.



I can read my B _ _ _ _.



I can exercise and stay h _ _ _ _ _ _.

Lesson 12

Jonah and the Big Fish

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- craft sticks
- construction paper
- glue
- scissors
- markers or crayons
- Jonah pattern
- blue and white tissue paper
- small resealable plastic bags
- twist ties
- black permanent marker

Scriptures

Jonah 1-3

Bible Truth Objective(s)

We cannot hide anything from God

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify things children may hide from God; to discuss ways to obey God

Memory Verse

"All that the Lord has said we will do." (Ex 24:7)

Bible Knowledge

Jonah

Jonah is a Hebrew name, meaning "dove." Jonah was a prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel, in the eighth century BC. He came from Gath Hepher, a Zebulunite town, located in the vicinity of Nazareth. He predicted the territorial expansion achieved by Jeroboam at the expense of Syria (2 Kgs 14:25)

It is believed that the events of the book took place sometime between 780 and 750 BC. During this time, Nineveh was one of the great city-states of Assyria, and Israel's most bitter enemy. It was also widely known that the people of Nineveh worshiped many gods and were cruel to victims of warfare.

The first chapter relates that Jonah was told to go to Nineveh and protest against its wickedness. However, Jonah believed that God's mercy was reserved only for His people and he refused to go. Instead he took a ship in the opposite direction. Even though he was a prophet of God, it is interesting to note that he thought he could hide from Him. Jonah bought a ticket to Tarshish. The location of this city is uncertain, but many think it could be on the southeast coast of Spain. At the time, this would have been the most distant place known to the Israelites. After Jonah got on the ship, a storm arose, and even the experienced sailors became afraid. They cast lots to find out the will of the gods. When the lot fell on Jonah, the sailors questioned him and eventually threw Jonah overboard. A great fish swallowed the prophet.

Chapter two gives the text of Jonah's prayer, or rather a psalm of thanksgiving, from inside the fish's belly. After Jonah repented, the fish vomited Jonah onto the shore.

Chapter three shows Jonah going to Nineveh after all. His preaching of doom led the citizens to repent of their evil ways.

In chapter four, we find Jonah angry at their repentance and subsequent escape from destruction. This was the very reason he had not wanted to come to preach in the first place. He didn't think they deserved to be spared. Then through the growth and death of the plant, God taught Jonah that he must have compassion for all men. If Jonah could take pity on a plant, then he could understand why God would have pity on human beings.



Understanding Your Students

The Book of Jonah has some difficult lessons for young children to understand. For example, they may not understand the significance of Jonah's entrusted mission or the repentance of the Nineveh people. However, they can still learn a very important lesson from Jonah's actions. God told Jonah to do something, but he went against God and tried to hide. As a result, Jonah had to suffer severe consequences. He was singled out as the guilty party on the ship and subsequently thrown into the waters. Then he had to spend three days and three nights in the belly of a large fish. It was during this time that he repented. He realized that he had to follow God's orders. He could not run away from God.

Sometimes young children try to hide things from their parents or their teachers because they don't want to get into trouble. They may have drawn on the wall or sofa. They may have broken something. They may have pushed a friend on the playground. To avoid the consequences, they don't speak up or, even worse, blame someone else or lie about it. But they should learn that, like Jonah, they can never really hide from anything. Eventually someone finds out and they will still need to face the consequences. Also remind the students that even if no one ever found out, God always knows what happened. We cannot hide anything from Him. Jonah tried to run away and hide in a ship but God knew what he was doing. Teach the students to be honest. In the end, they will feel good about owning up to what they did.



Vocabulary

Prophet
a messenger of God; he tells people what God wants them to hear

Calm
peaceful and quiet

Obey
to follow the rules



Before You Teach

When Jonah was called to preach to Nineveh, he balked at the idea and chose to flee in the opposite direction. We all know it was wrong of Jonah to disobey God's orders, but let's think for a minute why Jonah reacted the way he did.

Nineveh, though a great city at the time, was well known for its sins. Jonah, being a prophet of God, didn't understand why God would want to save such sinners. Jonah didn't think the people deserved to be saved. In fact, he wanted them to be destroyed. God's salvation was for His people, the Israelites. Jonah probably justified his actions based on these assumptions.

We may view Jonah's actions as a bit extreme. But sometimes, we do the same thing. We may judge a person based on our beliefs, or we may hold a grudge because someone hurt us in the past. Although we may not do anything about it, we become angry or we may even wish for something terrible to happen to that person. We find it very difficult to let go.

God teaches us to be filled with compassion. Even though the people of Nineveh did not deserve to be saved according to the standards of Jonah, God showed mercy because God is a God of grace. If God saved people based on their merits, then not very many in the world would go to heaven. Really, none of us deserve to receive God's salvation; yet God gives it to us freely. Who are we, then, to judge others?

To stop the cycle of hurt and blame, we must first be ready to face our problem. Admitting that we have issues with anger is often the hardest step to take. Then we must learn to forgive. True forgiveness is not just lip-service. Just saying "I'm sorry," will not take away the ill-feelings within us. We need to pray to God to open our hearts so that we may be filled with His goodness. When we are filled with God's Spirit, then it will lead us onto the path of salvation.



Bible Story

In the last lesson, we learned about a brave woman. Her name was Esther and she was a Jew living in a land called Persia. Esther did not have parents while she was growing up because they had died. Her cousin Mordecai raised her, and he taught her about God. One day, the king of Persia picked her to be the queen. She did not tell him that she was a Jew because Mordecai told her to keep it a secret.

After Esther became the queen, a high official called Haman wanted everyone to bow down to him. He thought he was a very important man. Everyone did bow down, except for Mordecai. Haman got so angry that he came up with a plan to kill all the Jews. Mordecai told Esther to help her people. In the beginning she was afraid. Then she prayed to God for three days and got the courage to talk to the king. The king was angry at Haman and had him killed. Esther had saved her people.

Today, we are going to learn about a person who was God's special worker. He was a prophet and his name was Jonah.

Jonah Does Not Want to go to Nineveh

Do you remember what a prophet did? A prophet was a messenger of God. He told people what God wanted them to hear. One time, God had a special job for Jonah. He told Jonah to go to a town called Nineveh. God wanted Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh to stop being bad and to start obeying God.

When Jonah heard what God wanted him to do, he was not happy. He didn't like the people in Nineveh. Everyone knew they were bad. Why should he go and tell them to change? He thought to himself, "No, I won't go!" And he didn't. Instead, he got on a ship and sailed in the other direction, away from Nineveh. He was trying to run away from what God wanted him to do.

A Great Storm

Do you think Jonah can run away from God? Of course not. God is almighty. He knows everything. He knows what we are thinking and doing. We cannot hide from Him. God knew that Jonah was on a ship going away from Nineveh. So after the ship sailed off, God made a big storm on the sea. The wind started to blow. The rain fell. The ship rocked and tossed in the big waves. Everyone on the boat was afraid, except for Jonah. He was sleeping.

The others woke Jonah up and asked him if he knew why there was such a terrible storm. Right away, Jonah knew that God was not happy with him. That was why there was a storm.

"I am Jonah, and I fear the God of heaven," answered Jonah.

Jonah told the people that it was God who made this big storm. He told them that he was trying to run away from God.

"Tell us how we can make the sea calm again," the people said.

They wanted the storm to stop so that there wouldn't be any more big waves. Jonah did not want the rest of the people on the ship to be hurt because of him. So he told the sailors to throw him into the sea. The people didn't want to do that. They knew if they threw Jonah into the sea, then he would definitely die. So they tried very hard to row the ship back to shore. But the wind and the waves were too strong. Then they decided to listen to Jonah and throw him into the water.

After they threw Jonah into the water, an amazing thing happened. The storm stopped and the sea was calm again. The people on the ship knew that there really was a God. But what about Jonah? Remember God knows everything that we are doing. God knew that Jonah was in the water. He did not want him to die. So God sent a big fish to come and swallow Jonah whole. It was probably scary to be swallowed by a giant fish but God did this to save Jonah. Now, he would be safe inside the belly of the fish. He would not drown in the raging water.

Jonah stayed inside the big fish for three days and three nights. He was not hurt, but he was afraid. He knew that all these things were happening to him because he did not listen to God in the first place. So he prayed to God. He told God he would obey and go to Nineveh. Then God made the big fish swim near dry land and spit Jonah out. Jonah was glad to be on land again. He was safe on the shore.

Jonah Obeys God

Once again, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah was ready to go. He did not think

about running away. He learned that he could never hide from God. So Jonah went straight to Nineveh. He told everyone there to obey God. If they didn't they would be destroyed.

"In forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed," Jonah said as he walked around the city.

Jonah was telling the people if they didn't change their bad habits, then God would destroy the city in forty days.

When the people in Nineveh heard Jonah's words, they were sorry for the wrong things they had done. They asked God to forgive them. Even the king prayed to God and asked Him to forgive them. God heard their prayers and forgave them. He decided not to destroy the city. The people were saved.

In today's lesson, Jonah thought he could run away from God. He didn't want to do what God asked him to so he got on a ship that sailed far away. But he learned that he could not hide. God knew where he was, and what he was doing and thinking. In the end, Jonah learned that it was best to obey God. Today, we need to obey God too. We need to follow His commands and do the things He wants us to, even if they are hard. We cannot run away. Let's always remember to pray to God so that He can help us obey His words.



Check For Understanding

1. ***Where did God ask Jonah to go?*** *(He asked him to go to Nineveh.)*
2. ***Why did God want Jonah to go there?*** *(The people there didn't obey God. God wanted to give them a chance to change.)*
3. ***Did Jonah obey God?*** *(No, he ran away.)*
4. ***What happened to the ship that Jonah was on?*** *(It was rocked and tossed in a storm.)*
5. ***What did Jonah tell the people on the boat to do?*** *(He told them to throw him into the sea.)*
6. ***What happened when Jonah was in the sea?*** *(He was swallowed by a big fish.)*
7. ***What did Jonah do inside the fish?*** *(He prayed and asked God to forgive him.)*
8. ***How long was he in the fish for?*** *(Three days and nights.)*
9. ***After the big fish spat Jonah out, did he run away again or did he go to Nineveh?*** *(He obeyed God and went to Nineveh.)*
10. ***Do you think obeying God is the best thing to do?*** *(Yes.)*
11. ***Sometimes it is hard to obey, because we want to do something else, like watch television instead of do homework. But God wants us to obey Him at all times. We will be blessed if we obey God. How can we obey God?*** *(Allow students to answer.)*



Life Application Story

Homework or Video Game Magazine?

Juan was sitting at the kitchen table. He was getting ready to do his homework. He stared at the pages. He had two math sheets and one spelling list.

"It shouldn't take me too long," thought Juan. He picked up his pencil and began to do his math problems.

As he was working, his mom, Mrs. Lopez came into the kitchen and put a stack of mail on the table. Juan turned his head for a moment and saw that his new game magazine had arrived. He had been waiting for it to come for weeks. Now it was finally here. He put down his pencil and grabbed the magazine from the pile of mail.

"Wow, it talks about the game I really like, Mom," Juan said excitedly.

"Hold on, Juan. I thought you were supposed to be doing your homework. You can look at the magazine after you are finished," Mrs. Lopez said.

"Okay, Mom. I know I am supposed to finish my work before I can have free time," Juan said as he put the magazine down.

"Thanks for remembering the rule. I am going to plant two of these flowers out in the back. I will be back in a few minutes. You need to keep working," Mrs. Lopez said.

"Okay," replied Juan.

Juan worked on ten math problems. They were easy addition questions. Then he started to think about the game magazine.

"It won't hurt to take a short break," Juan thought.

He put his pencil down and opened the magazine. He was reading about his favorite game when he heard a sound coming from the backyard. He quickly closed the magazine and pretended to be working on his math. As he wrote a number down, his mom came inside the house.

"How's the math going?" she asked.

"It's going well," Juan replied. His heart was beating kind of fast. He was glad his mom didn't catch him reading. He had promised her that he would save it for after his homework. As he tried to concentrate on his second math sheet, he heard his mom go out one more time.

"I am going to water the plants, okay?" Mrs. Lopez said loudly as she turned on the water hose.

"Yeah, sure," Juan replied.

He got through the second page in less than two minutes.

"Boy, it sure helps to concentrate," Juan thought to himself.

As he took out his spelling list, he realized he didn't have the lined paper to write the words on. He looked around the pile of papers on the table to see if it had slipped out of his homework binder. As he went through the stack, his fingers touched the game magazine. Then, as if out of his own control, he opened it and began to flip through the pages again. This time, he was so glued to the page that he was looking at, he didn't even know his mom had come back inside.

"You finished all of your work?" Mrs. Lopez asked.

Juan closed the magazine quickly. His heart was beating fast again. He felt kind of hot.

"Umms, no. Not exactly. I was looking for my lined paper to write my spelling words," Juan explained.

"But I see that you are reading, not looking for paper."

"I don't know what happened, Mom. I didn't really want to open it again, but it's like I had to," Juan said.

"Well, you know the rules. Homework first, and play time after," Mrs. Lopez explained. "I know it is hard to choose sometimes between something you really want to do and the things you have to finish. I am sure reading your magazine is more fun to you than doing homework, but there are rules you need to follow. It's like obeying God's commands. Sometimes, it is hard but we need to follow them because they are good for us."

"I know," Juan said. "I am going to put this magazine on the counter away from here so I can concentrate."

"That's a good plan," Mrs. Lopez said. "And here is a piece of paper for your spelling."

"Thanks, Mom."

Questions to Think About

1. ***What did Juan want to do instead of his homework?*** *(He wanted to read his new game magazine.)*
2. ***What do you have a hard time doing, even though you know you need to do it?*** *(Allow students to share. Some suggestions: homework, practicing piano, cleaning up the room, etc.)*



Activity 1

Jonah and the Big Fish

Color in the picture. Then cut out the squares. Put the puzzle together and glue the pieces onto a piece of construction paper.



Activity 2

Can We Hide From God?

Materials:

1. *construction paper*
2. *craft sticks*
3. *glue*
4. *markers or crayons*
5. *scissors*

Directions:

1. *Help each student draw two circles. They should be large enough to glue to the craft stick without flopping over.*
2. *On one of the circles, help the students write the word "yes". On the other, write the word "no."*
3. *The students can decorate the remaining space.*
4. *Help them glue the circles to the craft stick so that when they hold up the stick, one side will have the word "yes" and the other will have the word "no."*
5. *Ask the students the following questions. After they hear the questions, they need to hold up their sign and answer "yes" or "no." Be sure to take time to discuss the significance of each question.*

   "Can we draw on the wall and tell others we did not do it?"
   "Can we break a toy and just put the toy away without telling anyone?"
   "When we do something wrong, can we just run to our room and hide?"
   "Does God know everything we do?"
   "Does God want us to obey?"
   "Does God want us to be honest?"



Activity 3

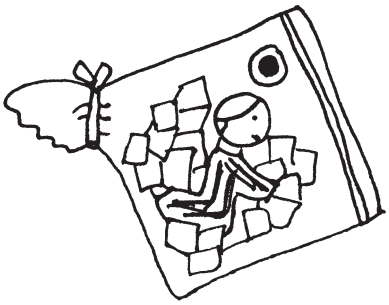
Jonah Obeys

Materials:

1. *Jonah pattern*
2. *blue and white tissue paper*
3. *small resealable plastic sandwich bags*
4. *twist ties*
5. *scissors*
6. *black permanent marker*

Directions:

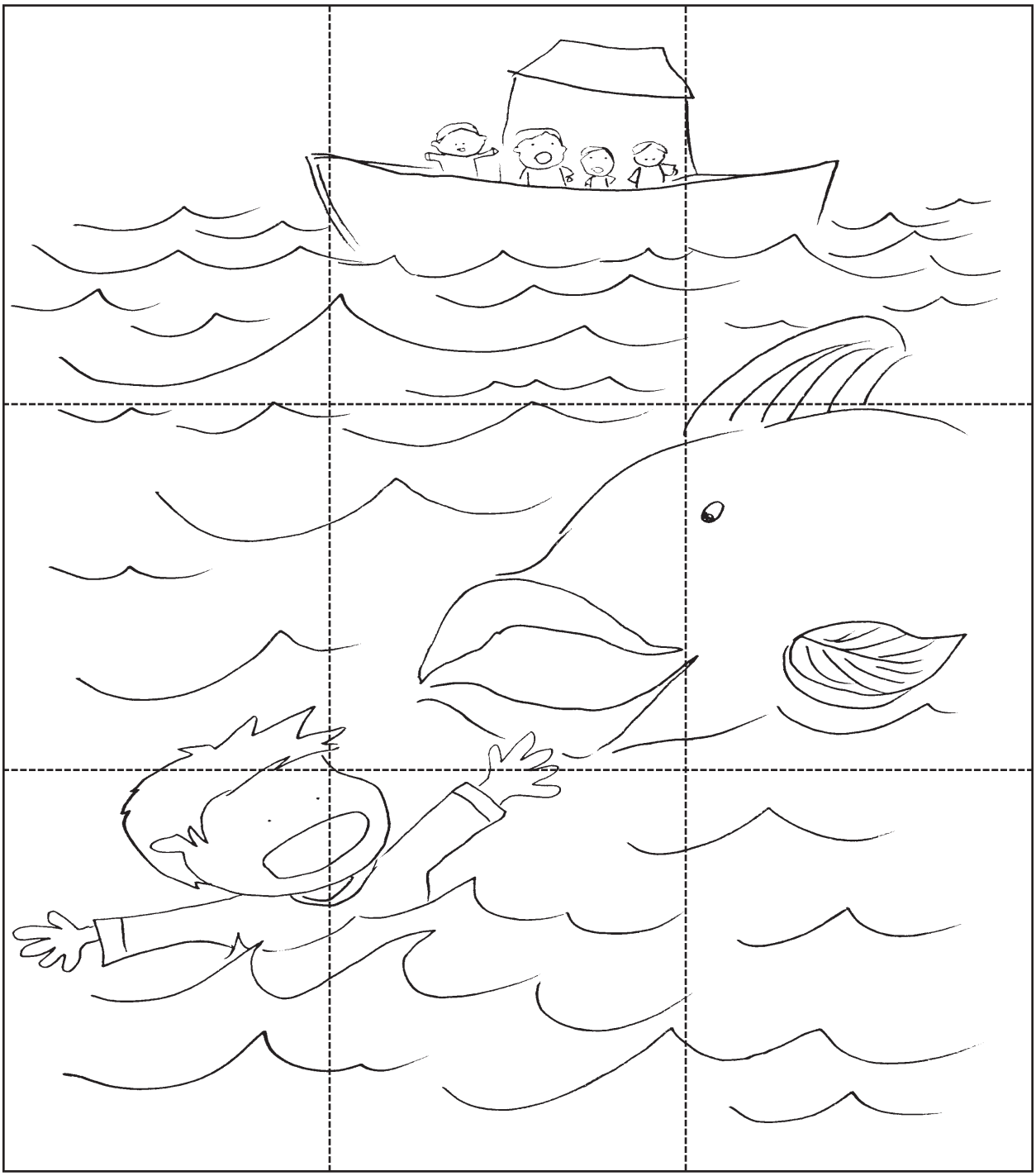
1. *Provide each student with a copy of the Jonah pattern. The students can color it in, and then cut out the pattern.*
2. *Cut the tissue paper into small squares.*
3. *Have students place a small handful of tissue paper squares into the plastic resealable bag. Also place Jonah into the bag. Then seal the bag.*
4. *Lay the bag on the table and flatten it out. Position the bag so that it forms a diamond shape.*
5. *At one corner away from the sealed end, place a twist tie around the bag so that it forms a tail. Spread out the tail.*
6. *Using the black permanent marker, draw an eye near the sealed edge of the bag to create a fish.*
7. *As the students are working on their activity, talk about how Jonah disobeyed God. In today's lesson, we learned that Jonah tried to run away from God. But in the end, he realized that he could not. When he disobeyed God, God let a big fish swallow Jonah. While he was in the fish, Jonah thought about what he did and understood that he had disobeyed God. Let this activity remind the students that Jonah prayed to God for forgiveness and learned to obey.*



Activity 12:1

Jonah and the Big Fish

Color in the picture. Then cut out the squares. Put the puzzle together and glue the pieces onto a piece of construction paper.



Jonah Pattern









Lesson 13

Review



Who Am I?

1. *All my animals and children were killed. Then I got sores all over my body. (Job.)*
2. *I told the truth to King Ahab. I said he would die in battle. (Micaiah, the prophet.)*
3. *My uncle saved me from my grandmother and hid me in the temple. I became the king when I was only seven years old. I repaired the temple. (Joash.)*
4. *I wanted to worship God with music and instruments. (Hezekiah.)*
5. *I became king when I was eight years old. (Josiah.)*
6. *We refused to eat the king's food. (Daniel and his friends.)*
7. *We did not worship the golden statue and we were thrown into the fiery furnace. (Daniel's three friends.)*
8. *I told King Belshazzar what the writing on the wall meant. (Daniel.)*
9. *I helped the Israelites rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah.)*
10. *I read the word of God to the people after the wall in Jerusalem was rebuilt. (Ezra.)*
11. *I was a queen. I asked the people to fast and pray with me so that I could go and see the king. (Esther.)*
12. *I didn't listen to God and tried to run away. I lived inside the belly of a large fish for three days and three nights. (Jonah.)*

Short Answers

1. *What did Job do after he lost everything and became very sick? (He still worshiped God. In the end, God gave back to him everything that he had lost.)*
2. *What were some things the good kings of Judah did for God? (Joash repaired the temple. Hezekiah worshiped God with music. Josiah read the words of God to the people so that they would follow God's commands again.)*
3. *Why did Daniel and his friends only want to eat vegetables and drink water? (They knew they could not eat the king's food, which had been offered to idols. In the end, they were still healthier than the other youths.)*
4. *What happened to Daniel's three friends after they were thrown into the fiery furnace? (God sent an angel to save them. They were not burned and they did not even smell like smoke.)*
5. *How many times did Daniel pray to God each day? How many times do you pray to God each day? (Daniel prayed three times.)*
6. *What did Nehemiah do when enemies wanted to stop the Israelites from rebuilding the wall? (He prayed to God and encouraged the people to trust God. In the end, they rebuilt the wall in fifty-two days.)*
7. *Why did the people cry after they heard Ezra read and explain the words of God? (They knew they had not been following God's commands for many years. They wanted to change.)*
8. *Why did Haman want to kill all the Jews in the land? (He was mad that Mordecai did not bow down to him.)*
9. *Why did Jonah run away from God's commands? (He didn't want to help the people in Nineveh. He didn't want them to be saved.)*
10. *Why were the people of Nineveh saved in the end? (They asked God to forgive them and God had mercy and love for them.)*

Memory Game

Make copies of the playing pieces on the following page (two sets per pair of students). The teacher may wish to glue them onto cardboard to make them more sturdy. Pair up the students and see which person can make the most matches when the cards are placed face down. Take opportunities to review the lessons as the students play.

Activity

Memory Game Cards

Copy the pictures so that there are pairs of each. Have students play the memory game by placing the cards face down and seeing how many matches they can make.

