

CHILDREN'S CLUB CURRICULUM

36 LESSONS

<u>Lesson #</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Scripture Reference</u>
1	Creation of the World	Genesis 1:1 - 2:3
2	Creation of Man	Genesis 1:26 – 2:25
3	Sin and Judgment	Genesis 3:1-24
4	Noah and the Ark	Genesis 6:9 – 9:17
5	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9
6	God's Promise to Abraham	Genesis 12-15
7	Sacrifice of Isaac	Genesis 22:1-19
8	Birth of Moses	Exodus 1:8 – 2:10
9	Passover	Exodus 12
10	Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13:17 – 14:31
11	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:1 – 20:21
12	Tabernacle and Sacrifices	Exodus 25-40; Leviticus 1-7
13	Jericho Falls	Joshua 5:13 – 6:27
14	Naomi and Ruth	Ruth 1-4
15	David and Goliath	I Samuel 17
16	David Becomes King	II Samuel 5:1-12
17	The Suffering Servant	Isaiah 53
18	Jonah	Jonah 1-4
19	The Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3
20	Daniel and The Lions Den	Daniel 6
21	Esther	Esther 2, 3-5, 7:1

22	Job	Job 1, 2, 42
23	Jesus' Birth	Luke 2:1-7
24	Baptism	Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34
25	Jesus Heals and Forgives	Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26
26	Nicodemus	John 3:1-21
27	Calming of the Sea	Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
28	Jesus Heals a Wild Man	Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39
29	Lazarus Raised from Dead	John 11:1-46
30	Abraham, Lazarus and the Rich Man	Luke 16
31	Last Supper/Gethsemane	Matthew 26:17-56; Mark 14:12-52; Luke 22:7-54; John 12:1-30, 16:1-12
32	The Trial of Jesus	Matthew 27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22:66 – 23:25; John 18:13, 19-24, 28, 19:6
33	The Crucifixion	Matthew 27:31-56; Mark 15:20-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19: 17-32
34	The Resurrection	Matthew 27:57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42 Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-12 Mark 26:1-8; John 20:1-18
35	Jesus Appears	Luke 24:13-35, 36-50; Matthew 28:16- 20; John 20:19-29
36	DRAWING THE NET	

LESSON 1

“Creation Of The World”

Long, long ago there was no world at all. There was no sun to shine, no stars to twinkle, no moonbeams to play through the night shadows. But even then there was God; for He has always been the same unchanging God even before time began.

Then, at the beginning of time, God made the world. At first water covered everything, and darkness was everywhere. What a strange, unfriendly world this must have been! But God planned to make it beautiful, so He said, “Let there be light.” He called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. This was the first day of time.

On the second day God made the beautiful blue sky and placed clouds in it to carry rain that would water the earth. He called the sky Heaven.

The third day God said, “Let the waters gather together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” He called the waters Seas and the dry land Earth. The whole earth was bare- no grass, flowers or trees. So God caused a carpet of grass to grow and beautiful flowers to spring up from the earth. He made the trees and plants. God knew His work was good.

But God had more plans for His world. On the fourth day He made the sun, the moon and the stars. The sun was to rule the day and the moon, the night.

Next, God began to create living creatures. He made all kinds of fish to swim in the seas and birds of every description to fly in the sky. The fifth day passed and the world had become a better place.

So in the first five days of the world, God had shown that He was a master painter and creator. He had painted the beauty of the sunrise and the sunset, created life to live in His world and set the beautiful heavens above for all to see. God loved everything that He had created with His own hands. But God was not yet finished with His creation!

KEY VERSE:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

LESSON 1

“Creation of the World”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who made the world in which we live? GOD
2. What did God make on the first day? DAY AND NIGHT
3. What did God make on the second day? THE SKIES
4. What did God make on the third day? DRY LAND, PLANTS AND TREES
5. What did God make on the fourth day? SUN, MOON AND STARS
6. What did God make on the fifth day? FISH AND BIRDS
7. Was God finished with creating the world after 5 days? NO

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. BASEBALL REVIEW GAME

Use traditional American baseball format and the kids desire to learn to play American baseball to help them memorize the key verse. Before they can try to hit the ball and run the bases, they must say the key verse (from memory if possible).

2. THE SUN IS SHINING

One child is the sun and the others are stars in the sky. The “sun” turns his back on the others signifying that it is night. The stars are free to move during the night. But when the “sun” says, “The sun is shining, day begins,” the “stars” must freeze. The “sun” tries to catch the “stars” moving. If he catches someone moving, they must “fall to the earth.” To restart the game and make it night again, everyone repeats the key verse together and the game is repeated.

3. WHICH DAY?

Using 5 cards (each card has a number on it, numbers 1-5), have one child hold up a card so that everyone can see the number except himself. Children start acting out what was created on that day of creation. The “holder” then tries to figure out which day of creation he is looking at.

SNACK IDEA: Decorated Star Cookies

LESSON 2

“Creation of Man”

It was on the sixth day of creation that God said, “Let the earth have living creatures.” Living things appeared in the woods, on the plains, in the air and sea.

Still this was a strange world, for there were no people in it. There was not a home anywhere- not a man, woman, or little child. What a very strange world indeed! But God had not yet finished creating His wonderful world. He planned to have people live on the earth, enjoy its beauty and take care of it. They would know who had made all these things. More than that, they would be able to love and worship God.

So God made the first man. Out of the dust of the earth He made the body, then He breathed into that body the breath of life. Man became a living soul. God gave to man a special part of life that no other living creature had- a soul that would never die.

God called the first man Adam. Adam was to name the birds and animals. It was his work to rule over all other living creatures.

Now Adam needed a helper. God said, “It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helpmeet.” God made Adam a wife, and Adam loved her deeply. He called his wife Eve.

God loved Adam and Eve. He created them so that He could love them and they could love Him.

When the sixth day ended God had made the world and placed everything in it just as He had planned. He saw that it was very good and He was pleased. On the seventh day, God rested.

KEY VERSE:

“And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27

LESSON 2

“Creation of Man”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How many days did God work when He created the world and everything in it?
SIX
2. What did God think about everything that He had made?
GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD
3. What did God give to man that the other living creatures did not have? A SOUL
THAT WOULD NEVER DIE
4. How did God spend the seventh day of creation? HE RESTED
5. What were the names of the first people God created? ADAM AND EVE
6. Why did God create Adam and Eve? SO THAT HE COULD LOVE THEM
AND THEY COULD LOVE HIM

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. PLAY-DO CREATIONS

Given a time limit, see who can make the most interesting creation from Play-Do.

2. GOD MADE THE ANIMALS

Leader calls out the name of an animal. All the children begin acting like that animal. Leader selects the best “actor.” The winner then selects the next animal name and the game continues.

3. VELCRO-DART BOARD GAME

Divide into 2 teams. After saying the key verse from memory, each player gets an opportunity to throw the balls at the board. Points are totaled and the team with the most points wins.

SNACK IDEA: Gingerbread Men or Animal Crackers (cookies)

LESSON 3

“Sin and Judgment”

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden, a beautiful garden that God created for them to live in. God had given them good things to enjoy. He walked and talked with them in the cool evenings.

In this garden, God planted a wonderful tree called the tree of life. Whoever ate fruit from this tree would live forever. But there was another tree in the garden which was not so good. It was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He said, “If you eat from this tree you will die!”

One day a serpent asked Eve, “Why do you not eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? You will not die if you eat this fruit. God knows that if you eat fruit from this tree you will become as wise as God and you will know good and evil.”

Eve looked at the fruit and she wanted to taste it. She wanted to be wise like God. She picked the fruit, ate it, and then gave some to Adam. He also ate the fruit.

At once, Adam and Eve knew they had disobeyed God. They became very afraid. They didn’t want to see God because they knew He would know what they had done. So, they hid from God.

When God called Adam, Adam answered that he had been afraid and hidden from God. God said, “Why should you be afraid?” He knew they had eaten the forbidden fruit. Adam and Eve explained that the serpent had tempted them and they had eaten the fruit.

God’s heart was full of pain because the people whom He had created had disobeyed Him. Because of their disobedience (or sin), they could no longer live with Him, walking and talking with Him every day. Because they had disobeyed, they would have to be separated from God.

God sent them out into the world, outside the Garden of Eden. God told them that now they would have pain and trouble in their lives and at the end of their lives, they would die and become dust again.

Adam and Eve lived with difficulties in the world. They hoped that one day God would send a Savior to make men free from sin and death.

KEY VERSE:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

LESSON 3
“Sin and Judgment”
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where did Adam and Eve live? GARDEN OF EDEN
2. In what form did the tempter appear to Eve? SERPENT
3. What rules did God give Adam and Eve? NOT TO EAT THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL
4. Why were Adam and Eve afraid to see God after they ate the fruit? THEY KNEW THEY HAD DISOBEYED GOD
5. What punishment did God give to Adam and Eve? LEAVE THE GARDEN, LIVE WITH PAIN AND TROUBLE, DEATH
6. After they left the garden, what did Adam and Eve hope for? A SAVIOR TO MAKE THE WORLD FREE FROM SIN AND DEATH

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. MATCHING APPLES

Have a poster board with paper apples attached to it. Each apple has a number on it. On the back of each apple is a sin from the following list (two apples for each sin). The children call out two numbers and see if they happened to get the two apples that list the same sin. If they get a match, they get a prize. If not, the apples are left on the board and the next player tries to find a match. The game concludes when all the apples have been matched. Help the children understand that they look like just apples, but represent the bad things that we do that displease God. List: disobedience, dishonesty, stealing, murder, cheating, etc.

2. YOUR CHOICE

Have several situations written on cards. Let one child come forward and select a situation card. Then let one child play the “snake” and one play “God” and give the first child advice in the situation. Then the child should decide what is best to do. Let all the other children then decide if the first child made a good decision or not. Explain that life is full of these choices, just like Adam and Eve and had.

3. BEACH BALL TOSS

Memorize the key verse by tossing the beach ball to each other. Stand or sit in a circle and gently toss the beach ball. The first person with the ball says the first word of the verse. He tosses it to someone else who says the second word, and the game progresses. It is possible to start with the verse displayed, but then later take away the verse and try it totally from memory.

SNACK IDEA: Apples or Assorted Fruits

LESSON 4

“Noah and the Ark”

After Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, many years passed, and there were more and more people in the world. Most of them were very wicked, and God was sorry that He had made man. Finally God decided the only way to get rid of sin and wickedness in the world was to cover the earth with a great flood.

Then, God remembered Noah. Even though many people were wicked, Noah tried to do right. He taught His sons to do right, also. This made God very happy.

God talked to Noah, and told him about His plan to destroy the world. He promised Noah and his family that they would not be destroyed with the wicked people.

God told Noah, “Build an ark. When it is finished you and your wife and your sons and their wives may go into the ark. You will live there until the flood is over.

God decided to save two of each living thing. They would also stay in the ark during the flood.

Noah believed God, so he began building the ark. God told Noah how it should be build. While the people did their wicked deeds, Noah and his sons made the ark as God had said. It looked like a three-story houseboat!

The people laughed at Noah and his sons. They must have thought Noah and his sons were crazy. Where was the water for their boat?

Again and again Noah warned the people to repent of their sins or they would be destroyed in the flood. None of them believed him.

When everything was ready, God told Noah to take into the ark his wife, his three sons, and their wives. Then God made two of every kind of animal, bird and creeping thing to go into the ark. When all were inside, God shut the door.

After a few days the rain began to fall. Water poured down from the clouds! Soon the tiny streams were raging, and the rivers were overflowing their banks. People left their homes and rushed to the hills for safety. Animals tried to find shelter. The water rose higher and higher. The people knew Noah had told the truth.

It rained for forty days and nights. Only Noah and his family were safe.

The boat floated for more than six months. Finally, one day it stood still on top of a mountain.

Noah opened a window and sent out a dove. The dove returned because she could not find a place to build her nest. A week later, Noah sent the dove out again. She stayed longer this time. When evening came, she flew back, bringing a green olive leaf in her mouth. Now Noah and his family knew that the land was becoming green and

beautiful. The next week when Noah sent out the dove, she flew away and never came back.

Now Noah decided it was time to look out upon the earth. How glad he must have been to see dry land again! They had been inside the ark for more than a year!

God told Noah that it was time for him and his family to leave the ark. He opened the door, and they stepped out on dry land. All the animals, birds and creeping things came out also.

As soon as Noah left the ark, he built an altar and made an offering to God. God accepted the offering and was pleased with Noah and his family.

God promised that he would never again send another flood to destroy every living creature. God said, "As long as the earth remains there will be summer and winter, springtime and autumn, and day and night." To remind men of his promise God made the rainbow in the sky.

KEY VERSE:

"We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

LESSON 4

“Noah and the Ark”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did God plan to destroy the people of the world? **THEY WERE WICKED**
2. Why did God select Noah to build the ark? **HE TRIED TO DO RIGHT**
3. How many of each animal did Noah put on the ark? **TWO**
4. What did the people say about Noah when he built the ark? **THEY LAUGHED**
5. How long did it rain? **40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS**
6. How did Noah know it was time to leave the ark? **HE SENT A DOVE AND IT DID NOT RETURN**
7. What did Noah and his sons build to honor God? **ALTAR**
8. What did God create to remind men of his promise not to flood the earth again? **RAINBOW**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. CHARADES

Have slips of paper with the names of animals on them. One at a time, the children come to the front of the group, select a slip of paper, and imitate that animal. Whoever correctly guesses the name of the animal, becomes the next “actor”.

2. RAINBOW CRAFT PROJECT

Give each child a piece of cardboard or heavy paper with the outline of a rainbow already drawn. Each child will take eggshells and glue tiny pieces in place across the rainbow. Then using paints, they will paint their rainbow. Either have the key verse already on the paper, or have them write it.

3. READING RAINBOW

Prepare cards with one word of the key verse per card. Prepare multiple sets and try to use a different color for each word of the verse so that it resembles a rainbow. The goal is for the children to put the cards in order, possibly racing other teams. This can be done multiple times.

SNACK IDEA: Animal Crackers, Blue Jello Cups or Gummy Animals

LESSON 5

“The Tower of Babel”

After Noah and his sons left the ark, they built homes and began to have children. Soon, there were many people living in the world, but they all lived in one small area.

The people decided to build a city and make a tall tower that reached up to the heavens. They thought that the tower would help them stay close together and not be scattered over the earth. They also thought that they would become famous and that if the tower reached the heavens, they would be like God.

They all began to work on the tower. Some made bricks, others mixed mortar, some carried the materials to the worksite and still others actually worked to build the city and the tower.

God saw what the people were doing and was not pleased. He knew that if they built the tower to the heavens that it would cause people to become more sinful. They were beginning to think more and more about themselves and what they could do rather than about God, who had given them life. God did not want them to forget about Him and start worshipping the things they had made, so He decided to stop their work.

Now until this time, everyone in the world spoke one language. God decided to stop their work by creating different languages. When this happened, families could not understand their neighbors and workmen could not understand those working with them. The work had to stop. People began to move closer to other people who spoke the same language as they spoke and they eventually began to move from the area so they didn't have to listen to the different languages. Soon, the city and the tower were abandoned.

KEY VERSE:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37

LESSON 5

“The Tower of Babel”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did the people plan to build a city and a great tower? **THEY DID NOT WANT TO BECOME SCATTERED AND THEY WANTED TO BE FAMOUS**
2. Who worked on the tower? **EVERYONE**
3. What did God think about their work? **HE WAS DISPLEASED**
4. Why was God displeased with them? **THEY HONORED THEMSELVES AND NOT GOD**
5. What did God do to the people? **HE MADE THEM SPEAK IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES**
6. Why did many people move away and stop working on the tower? **THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. A SONG IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

Learn the song “God’s Not Dead” in multiple languages. See the lyrics attached. Note that they are written in phonetics, regardless of language.

2. BUILDING BLOCKS TO MEMORY

Make building blocks out of milk containers or other boxes. Print one word of the key verse on each carton. Try to have several sets if possible. Have a race to see which group can assemble a tower by putting the verse in the correct order. This can be repeated as desired. Following each time, have everyone read the verse from the towers.

3. FLYING RINGS

Using either a store bought game or a homemade one, play a game of “ring toss.” Have the children say the key verse and then give them a chance to toss the rings. You may keep score or simply have fun. You may also play in teams or as individuals.

SNACK IDEA: Crackers with Peanut Butter/Butter/Etc. to make towers

LESSON 6

“God’s Promise to Abraham”

The people who moved away from Babel forgot God and became very sinful. Many people began to worship the things that God had created- the sun, the moon and the stars. Later people began to worship rivers, mountains and hills. They even made figures of wood and stone to worship.

Not far from Babel, people built another city. It was named Ur of the Chaldees. The people who lived there were called Chaldeans. They worshipped the moon (Ur in their language) and named their city to honor this “god”.

Near the city of Ur lived a shepherd farmer named Terah. He had three sons- Abram, Nahor and Haran. Abram was the only person in the city who did not worship the moon. He believed in the one, true God.

One day, Terah decided to leave Ur and took all of his family and his servants with him. They traveled many days up the Euphrates River until they came to a place called Haran, where they settled. It was in Haran that Terah died. Not long after the death of his father, Abram heard God calling him. “Leave this land and your relatives and go to a land that I will show you. I will bless you and make you a great blessing. Through you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Abram, his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot and their servants left Haran as God had said. As they journeyed they saw beautiful land, valleys, mountains and rivers.

God again spoke to Abram and said, “This is the land that I will give to you and your children.” Abram built an altar there and worshiped God, thanking Him for this blessing.

Now this land was called Canaan. Abram decided not to live in a city, but to live where he could raise his cattle and sheep in the fields. As his herd grew larger, Abram became rich. He knew that God was blessing him because he had obeyed and done what God had told him to do. God later changed his name from Abram to Abraham because of his obedience.

KEY VERSE:

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul!” Psalm 23:1-3

LESSON 6

“God’s Promise to Abraham”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did the people of Chaldea name their city Ur? TO HONOR THEIR GOD, WHOM THEY CALLED UR
2. How was Abram different from his friends and neighbors? HE WORSHIPED ONLY THE ONE, TRUE GOD
3. Who left Ur of Chaldea? TERAH AND HIS FAMILY AND SERVANTS
4. What land did God promise to give to Abram and to his children? THE LAND OF CANAAN
5. What did Abram do to honor God when God told him that He was giving him this land? BUILT AN ALTAR AND WORSHIPED
6. What city did Abram move to in Canaan? NONE, TO THE FIELDS
7. What happened to Abram after he moved to Canaan? HE BECAME RICH

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. MAP SEARCH

Have each of the children locate a place on the map that they would like to live and tell the group why they would like to live in that location. Give everyone a chance. Remind them that Abram moved where God wanted, not where he wanted, but that it turned out to be great.

2. BIBLE BOWLING

Using a small set of bowling pins, divide the group into two teams. Have each player say the key verse before they take their turn. Total all the pins knocked down by a given team to determine the winners.

3. MUSICAL CHAIRS

Play a game of musical chairs with one chair having a “star” on it. Whoever sits in that chair at the end of each round must say the key verse. Use the parallel that Abram moved from place to place, but God’ Word applied to his life wherever he lived.

SNACK IDEA: Dirt Pudding (or Pudding Cups with Cooking Crumbs on Top)

LESSON 7

“Sacrifice of Isaac”

Many years ago in Israel, lived a man who believed in God. His name was Abraham. Abraham had a son, whom he loved more than anything in the world.

One day God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. Of course, Abraham was very sad because he loved his son very much, but Abraham understood that God is truth and we must obey God. Abraham decided to sacrifice his son like God asked. Abraham didn't understand why God wanted this to be done, but he believed in God and wanted to obey Him.

Abraham and Isaac, his son, went on a journey. Isaac didn't know why they were going. When they arrived at the place where Abraham decided to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham told Isaac to prepare to make a sacrifice to God. Isaac asked, “Where is the lamb?” Abraham answered that God would provide it.

When all was ready, Abraham took his own son and put him on the altar of sacrifice. When Abraham raised the knife, an angel of God stopped the hand of Abraham and God said, “Abraham, you have much faith. Do not kill your son.”

Then, Abraham and Isaac saw a lamb near the place where they were. They took the lamb and gave it as a sacrifice to God. God had provided the lamb!

Abraham believed in God and believed what God said every moment. Even when Abraham didn't understand, he believed God every time God spoke and did what God asked him to do. This is faith.

KEY VERSE:

“We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

LESSON 7

“Sacrifice of Isaac”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did God ask Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice? TO TEST ABRAHAM'S LOVE AND OBEDIENCE
2. Was it easy for Abraham to decide to sacrifice Isaac? NO
3. What did Abraham decide to do? OBEY GOD, SACRIFICE ISAAC
4. Who prepared the place where the sacrifice would occur? ISAAC
5. What question did Isaac ask Abraham about the sacrifice? WHERE IS THE LAMB?
6. What stopped Abraham from killing his son? AN ANGEL OF GOD STOPPED HIS HAND
7. What did God provide for them to sacrifice? A LAMB

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. DIFFICULT DECISIONS

Divide the group into teams and have them sit together where they can easily discuss their decisions together. Read the problems of life one at a time and let the groups try to decide what the best decision would be to resolve the problem. After they have given their answers, read the scriptures that are outlined on the “Difficult Decisions” worksheet.

2. MUSICAL CHAIRS

Have the chairs placed in a circle with a star on one chair. As the music plays, the children walk around the circle. When the music stops, the person who sits in the chair with the star must then read the memory verse.

3. MAKE YOUR OWN LAMB

Have all the craft materials needed to let the children make a lamb to take home as a reminder of the story. Some ideas would be cotton, paints, ribbon, colors, etc.

SNACK IDEA: Gigantic Cookies (Topped with Cream and M&Ms)

LESSON 8

“Birth of Moses”

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt, and Pharaoh worried that they were becoming too powerful. He decided that all the baby boys must be thrown into the Nile River.

When Moses was born, his mother hid him from the soldiers for three months, until he was too old to hide. She gathered bulrushes that grew near the river, and wove a basket. She plastered the basket with pitch to keep the water out, and made a soft bed in the bottom.

After the basket was ready, she put the baby in the basket and carried the basket to the river. She placed the basket among the tall reeds at the water’s edge and returned home. Moses’ sister, Miriam, played along the riverbank and watched the basket.

Soon, Pharaoh’s daughter and her maids came to the river to bathe. When the princess saw the basket floating among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

When they opened the basket, they were very surprised to see a baby! The baby was crying, and the princess lifted him lovingly.

The princess knew this was an Israelite child, and she also knew her father’s cruel command. She decided to take this baby and raise it as her own child.

When Miriam heard the princess, she ran to the princess and offered to find an Israelite woman to nurse the baby. The princess was glad to hire an Israelite woman.

Miriam ran home and quickly brought her mother. How happy and thankful they were to carry the baby back home. They were no longer afraid of the soldiers, because everyone knew this baby had been adopted by Pharaoh’s daughter.

When the baby was old enough to leave his mother, he was taken to live with the princess at Pharaoh’s palace. The princess called him Moses, which means “drawn out”, because she had drawn him out of the water.

Moses was given a royal education, and one day he would be a great leader!

KEY VERSE:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans to prosper you, not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

LESSON 8

“Birth of Moses”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What were the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob called? ISRAELITES
2. How did the new Pharaoh treat them, after they had become strong in Egypt? HE MADE SLAVES OF THEM
3. Why Did Pharaoh command that all the boy babies should be thrown into the river Nile? HE THOUGHT THEY WERE BECOMING TOO POWERFUL
4. What did Moses’ mother do with her baby when she could no longer hide him? SHE PLACED HIM IN A BASKET ON THE RIVER NILE
5. What did the princess decide to do when she found the baby Moses? SHE DECIDED TO TAKE HIM FOR HER OWN SON
6. Whom did she hire to be his nurse? HIS MOTHER

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. BASKET IN THE WATER
Use a small basket to pass around the circle of children. Play music while the basket is passed. When the music stops, whoever is holding the basket must then recite the key verse or read it if they don’t know it from memory yet.
2. BLOWN BY THE WIND
Using cardboard, make a small racing lane with two sides. Give each team a ping-pong ball and have them try to blow their ball to the end of their lane. When the first person succeeds, the ball is taken back to the beginning and the next person tries. The game is over when the last person on the team blows the ball across the finish line. Point out that it was God who took Moses into the arms of Pharaoh’s daughter.
3. KEY VERSE- WORD FOR WORD
Write the key verse on a poster or dry erase board. Have everyone read the verse together. Next, erase one of the words and ask for a volunteer to read the verse. Give them some candy for trying. Continue erasing words until the children are saying the verse from memory. Buy lots of candy!

SNACK IDEA: Ice Cream with Blue Sprinkles

LESSON 9

“Passover”

When Moses grew up, he became a great leader. The Israelites believed that God had sent Moses to help them. They obeyed him as a man of God. For many years they had been slaves, but now God had decided it was time for them to leave Egypt.

Moses said, “Tonight at midnight, God will send an angel through the land. The angel will enter every house that does not have blood on the door. The oldest child in that home will die.”

Moses told the Israelites to kill a lamb for each family and sprinkle their doorframes with blood. They were to roast the lamb and cook vegetables with it for a midnight supper. Moses said, “When the death angel passes over the land, you must be dressed and ready to start on your journey. Eat your supper standing around the table.”

Every household in Goshen was very busy. Every man, woman and child was excited. Every father killed a lamb and sprinkled blood on the doorframe of his house. Every mother prepared vegetables to cook for the midnight supper.

The midnight supper was called the “Passover” because the angel passed over the houses of those who obeyed the command God gave Moses. To remind them of this night when God saved them from death, God commanded the Israelites to eat such a supper each year at this time.

Now the Egyptians had not sprinkled blood on their doorframes or prepared a midnight meal. Every one of them had gone to bed as usual, expecting to sleep all night. But at midnight all were awakened, even Pharaoh. He hurried to the bedside of his oldest son and found him dead.

Pharaoh and the Egyptians decided that they wanted the Israelites to leave the land quickly. Like a great army, 600,000 men with their wives and children marched out of Egypt. They also took their flocks and herds with them.

KEY VERSE:

“The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”
II Thessalonians 3:3

LESSON 9

“Passover”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who did the Israelites believe had sent Moses to help them? **GOD**
2. What did the Israelites eat at their midnight supper? **ROAST LAMB AND VEGETABLES**
3. What happened at the houses that did not have blood on the doorframe? **THE OLDEST CHILD DIED WHEN THE DEATH ANGEL ENTERED THE HOUSE**
4. Why did the death angel pass over the houses with blood on the doorframe? **THE BLOOD SHOWED THAT THESE PEOPLE OBEYED THE COMMAND GOD GAVE MOSES**
5. What happened to Pharaoh’s oldest son? **HE DIED**
6. What did Pharaoh want the Israelites to do? **LEAVE THE LAND QUICKLY**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. OVER AND UNDER

Divide the children into two teams. Give each team a tennis ball. Standing in a straight line, one behind the other, label the children “Hebrew-Egyptian-Hebrew-Egyptian, etc.”. All of the Hebrews pass the tennis ball over their heads, while the Egyptians pass the ball through the legs. The relay begins. When the ball goes to the last person in line, they move to the front and start it over again. This continues until the original first person in line returns to the front and the game ends.

2. MEMORY VERSE GAME

Give the children a moment to study the key verse. As they are ready, give them a chance to say the verse and then take a turn at the game. Have baskets with various point totals on them and a small ball. Let them try to toss the ball into one of the baskets. Keep track of the points of every individual. You may choose to award a winner or maybe not. The game can be repeated and the points added to for each round.

3. GO HOME!

Select one child to be the person that is going to leave for home. Let them put on some really large clothing. Have balloons all over the floor that will need to be packed. The only place to pack them is in the clothing. Have the children take turns putting the balloons inside the large clothing until all are safely tucked away. The game can be repeated as long as children want to take turns being the one “stuffed.”

SNACK IDEA: Vegetable Sticks and Dip

LESSON 10

“Crossing the Red Sea”

Moses and his brother, Aaron, led the people out of Egypt. God went with them, and He chose the way. In the daytime he was in a great cloud that moved slowly before the people. At night the cloud became a pillar of fire, and God watched over them while they rested. When the Israelites saw the pillar, they knew that God was leading them.

When the people left Egypt, God led them to the Red Sea. They planned to rest there. Suddenly, they saw Pharaoh’s army coming after them.

The Israelites were very scared, because they could not swim across the Red Sea, and they could not fight against Pharaoh’s army. At first they blamed Moses, and asked him, “Why did you bring us out here in the wilderness to die? We would rather have been slaves in Egypt than to die here.” But Moses was not to blame, because he had only followed the cloud.

When Moses asked God to help them, the Lord told Moses to quiet the people. They were crying in fear.

Moses told the people, “Fear not. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. After today, you will never again see the Egyptians.”

The cloud moved backward and stopped between their camp and Pharaoh’s army. To the Israelites the cloud was a pillar of fire and lighted their camp, but to the Egyptians the cloud was all darkness.

God said to Moses, “Tell the people to go forward. Lift your rod over the Red Sea, and divide it.”

Moses obeyed, and God sent a strong wind. The wind swept a wide path through the waters and dried the ground. On each side of this path the waters rose like a high wall until every one of the Israelites and all their cattle had crossed to the other side.

When the cloud lifted, Pharaoh and his army saw the Israelites walking through the sea on dry land. The Egyptians rushed after them, but they had trouble. The horses began to sink in the sand, and the chariot wheels came off. They could not go back, and the walls of water fell down and the whole army drowned.

At last the Israelites were free. God saved them from their enemies. The people sang and rejoiced, and thanked God for saving them.

KEY VERSE:

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

LESSON 10
"Crossing the Red Sea"
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Israelites make their first camp? ALONG THE SHORE OF THE RED SEA
2. Why were the Israelites frightened when they saw Pharaoh's army coming after them? THEY SAW NO WAY TO ESCAPE
3. Whom did they blame for this trouble? MOSES
4. How did God answer Moses' prayer? HE MADE A WAY THROUGH THE RED SEA
5. What happened to the Egyptians? THEY DROWNED

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. FINDING A WAY
Use three shoeboxes and fill them with three different things (for example: cooked pasta in one box, small pieces of hot dog in another, and popcorn in the final box). Explain that they cannot see what is in the box, but they must try to find a way to decide what is inside each box. Have them write down their guesses and then give prizes to those that guess all three things. Be sure to have some "wipes" to clean hands afterwards. Explain that the children of Israel couldn't see what was coming either.
2. WHO'S THE LEADER?
The children sit in a circle and one child is selected to be the leader. The leader is blindfolded (or his eyes are closed so that he cannot see) and then another child is selected to be his helper. The helper begins to make motions and noises with all the children doing exactly what the helper does. They know who to watch to imitate, but the leader doesn't know and they try to keep it a secret from him. The leader then removes the blindfold and begins to watch what goes on in the circle and tries to identify the helper.
3. CROSSING THE RED SEA
The children are divided into teams. The first person on each team takes a card containing the first word of the memory verse to the other side of the red sea (maybe something red placed on the floor). The second person then takes the second word. When all the words have been taken to the other side, they must read the verse together in unison to win the game. The game may be played multiple times by changing the method the children use to take the words across (for example: walking on their knees, crawling like babies, crab walking, etc.)

SNACK IDEA: Red Jello Cups with Whipped Cream

LESSON 11

“The Ten Commandments”

After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they began to wander in the wilderness and settled near Mount Sinai. One day a great cloud covered the top of the mountain and the people became afraid. Moses taught the people about God and they began to worship Him rather than be afraid of Him.

God told Moses to come up onto the mountain because He wanted to give him some laws that would help the people to live better in the world. Moses left the encampment and began his journey on the mountain, talking with God and receiving the new commandments.

Being human, Moses was unable to look at God, so God told Moses to hide in the crevice of the rock with his back to the light. When God walked by, Moses would be able to see God’s reflection and know that He was there.

When the time came for God to give Moses the commandments, God carved the words into the stone of the mountain. There were 10 of these commandments.

1. You shall have no other Gods before me.
2. You shall not make any graven image to worship.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet.

When Moses came down from the mountain, the people had forgotten about what he was doing and had grown tired of waiting. They had made idols and begun worshipping them. It was like a big party! Moses became so angry that he threw the stone tablets down and broke them.

Moses went back upon the mountain and stayed for 40 days as God taught him how to lead the people. God again carved the commandments into stone. This time, the people patiently waited for Moses to return. When he came down from the mountain, Moses’ face glowed with a strange light, so bright that the people couldn’t look at it. The people understood that Moses’ face reflected the glory of God because he had been with God. The people began trying to understand the new commandments and to live by them every day.

KEY VERSE:

“If you love Me, you will obey what I command.” John 14:15

LESSON 11
“The Ten Commandments”
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What do we call the words which God gave to the people? 10
COMMANDMENTS
2. On what mountain did God give Moses the 10 commandments? MOUNT SINAI
3. On what kind of tablets did God write the commandments? TABLETS OF
STONE
4. Where did Moses hide to see God’s reflection? CREVICE OF THE ROCK
5. What did Moses do when he saw the people worshipping an idol as he returned
from the mountain? HE THREW THE TABLETS AND BROKE THEM
6. How long did God teach Moses on the mountain? 40 DAYS
7. What was different about Moses when he returned? HIS FACE GLOWED
8. What were the 10 commandments? NO OTHER GODS, NO IDOLS, NAME OF
THE LORD NOT IN VAIN, KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY, HONOR YOUR
PARENTS, SHOULD NOT KILL, LIE, STEAL, COMMIT ADULTERY OR
COVET.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. THE 10 HIDDEN COMMANDMENTS
Using a poster board, have two cards for each commandment hidden behind
sheets of paper. The children must find the two matching cards. The game
begins when the first person or team picks two numbered sheets. If they find
the matching cards, they may try again. If not, the other team or another
individual tries to find a match. The game proceeds until all the
commandments are found.
2. THE BROKEN TABLETS
Have multiple puzzles of the tablets that contained the 10 commandments.
Have races to see who can put the puzzles together the fastest. The winning
person or team then reads the 10 commandments. The game can be repeated
as needed.
3. TEN COMMANDMENTS RACE
Children are divided into teams and race to see who can fill in the Ten
Commandments on their tablets first. Following game, review the key verse.

SNACK IDEA: Dessert in the form of a mountain (cake, candy, or otherwise)

LESSON 12

“Tabernacle and Sacrifices”

God wanted the children of Israel to know that He lived in their camp. He wanted them to build a special place where they could always worship Him. This place would be called the tabernacle. God would be here in the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. He wanted them to worship Him only, because He is the only true God.

God told Moses, “Have all the people who are willing to give an offering.” God explained that each person could give something for the tabernacle. The things needed for the tabernacle were gold, silver, brass, bright-colored cloth, animal skins, oil, and precious stones. God showed Moses how to build the tabernacle.

When the people heard about God’s plan, they were very glad. They offered cheerfully to give the best of everything to help build a place where they could worship the Lord.

God chose two wise men, Bez’aleel and Aho’liah, to teach others how to carve, engrave, weave and embroider. Together they made everything for the tabernacle.

The people lived in tents, which could be moved easily as they journeyed toward Canaan. God told Moses to build the tabernacle like a tent, so it could be moved when the people broke camp. He told Moses how the furniture should be made, and where it should be placed.

After two years, the tabernacle was finished, and God told Moses to set it up in the middle of camp. Next He told Moses to call the people together before the door of the tabernacle. Before everyone Moses anointed Aaron and his sons with oil and put on them the priestly robes, because God had chosen them to be priests, and to do his work in the court and in the tabernacle. He also chose the tribe of Levi to work with Aaron and to do as he said.

Before this time, anyone who wanted to worship God built an altar, burned his offering upon it, and called on the Lord to forgive his sins. They did this because God required a sacrifice to pay for their sins. Now Moses told the people, “Whenever you want to worship God and have Him forgive your sins, bring your sacrifice to the priests at the tabernacle. The priests will offer the sacrifices before the Lord, and God will accept them.”

After Aaron became high priest, he offered a lamb on the altar of burnt offering as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. He did not put any fire on the altar, but God sent fire to burn up the lamb.

When the people saw this, they shouted for joy and fell on their faces. They know God was pleased with their offering. Starting that day, every morning and every evening the priests offered sacrifices for sin upon the altar of burnt offering. By these sacrifices God reminded the people that sin is an awful thing.

The tabernacle was divided into two rooms. The first room opened into the courts, and was called the “holy place”. The second room was called the “holy of holies”.

The holy place had three pieces of furniture: a table, a golden candlestick, and a small altar. The holy of holies contained only the Ark of the Covenant. This ark was a box or chest covered inside and outside with gold. The lid was called the “mercy seat”. The stone tablets where God had written the Ten Commandments were inside the Ark of the Covenant.

When the tabernacle was set up in the middle of the camp, God moved the cloud above it and filled it with His Glory. Every day the cloud rested upon the tabernacle, and every night a cloud of fire was there. When the people saw these things, they know that God was living among them.

KEY VERSE:

“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:2-3

LESSON 12
“Tabernacle and Sacrifices”
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did the people feel when they learned that God wanted to live in their camp?
THEY WERE GLAD
2. In which part of the camp did God tell Moses to set up the tabernacle? IN THE MIDDLE
3. How did the people help build the tabernacle? THEY GAVE GIFTS AND WORK
4. From which of the twelve tribes did God choose men to care for the tabernacle?
LEVI
5. Into how many rooms was the tabernacle divided? TWO
6. What was the first room called? THE HOLY PLACE
7. What was the second room called? THE HOLY OF HOLIES
8. In what room were the two stone tablets containing the words of the Ten Commandments? IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES
9. Whom did God choose to be high priest? AARON
10. What work did God give to Aaron’s sons? THEY WERE PRIESTS
11. Who lighted the first fire on the altar of burnt offering? GOD
12. How many sacrifices for sin did the priests offer every day on the great altar?
TWO

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. WHO’S THERE?

A leader sits in a chair in the center of the kids. The children are allowed to ask one question each (and it must be answered with yes or no) in order to find out who the person in the chair is. The leader answers each question but can say no more than the yes or no answer. At the end, whoever correctly guesses wins a prize. People to have might include: Aaron, Moses, Man from the tribe of Levi, Bez’aleel, and a Lamb.

2. COLORFUL PHRASES

The children are divided into teams. Each team receives all the phrases which are a part of the key verse. Each child colors a segment, then the team tries to put them in order. The first team to color the letters, put them in order and read the verse wins. A follow-up activity is to have the teams jumble their verse and trade with another team and then race to put them back in order.

3. LEARN A NEW SONG

The children of Israel sang songs when they worshipped God. Together as a group, learn a new song together. If you have time, incorporate motions or parts. Try to use something that is very worshipful and making a song of Thanks that could be sung by the group at the Thanksgiving Party.

4. LAMB IN THE FIRE

Make bowling pins that resemble flames by wrapping them in red and yellow tissue paper or napkins. After saying the Key Verse, the children can throw one or more lams into the flames and see how many of the pins can be knocked down. You may play the game in teams or individually.

SNACK IDEA: Block Cookies with Frosting (Can make “Gingerbread House” look-a-likes)

LESSON 13

“Jericho Falls”

In the land of Canaan, there was a large and powerful city called Jericho. The children of Israel knew that if they were going to live in the land, they would have to defeat the people of Jericho, but the Israelites were very afraid. The people of Jericho knew that soon the children of Israel would attack them, so they locked the city gate and prepared for battle.

The leader of Israel after the death of Moses was Joshua. He was trying to decide what to do when he saw an unusual soldier walking near Jericho. The soldier told Joshua that he was the captain of the army of the Lord. The soldier gave Joshua God’s instructions for how the children of Israel were to attack Jericho. It was a very unusual plan!

For six days, the children of Israel marched around the city of Jericho. Soldiers marched first, followed by seven priests blowing trumpets and finally, the children of Israel, not saying a word, only listening to the sound of the trumpets. It was a rather strange way to have a battle.

Then, on the seventh day the children of Israel marched around Jericho seven times. After the seventh time, the priests loudly blew the trumpets again and the people began to shout with all their might. Immediately the city wall began to tremble and fall to the ground.

In the city was a kind woman named Rahab. She had protected some of the children of Israel when they were almost caught in Jericho several weeks before. Because she had helped them, they allowed her to live in order to repay her kindness to them. All the other people in the city of Jericho died after the wall crumbled.

All the people in the land of Canaan began to hear about what had happened at Jericho. They knew that the children of Israel were strong and mighty because God was fighting with them. They thought, “we can defeat the children of Israel, but who can defeat such a great and mighty God?”

The children of Israel bowed down and worshipped God. They knew that God had fought the battle, not they themselves.

KEY VERSE:

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”

I Peter 5:6

LESSON 13
"Jericho Falls"
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Whom did Joshua meet outside the city of Jericho? THE CAPTAIN OF THE LORD'S ARMY
2. How many days did the Israelites march around the city before the wall came down? SEVEN
3. How many times did they march around the city each day? The seventh day? ONCE, SEVEN ON THE LAST DAY
4. What did they do when they had marched around the city for the last time? THE BLEW THE TRUMPETS AND SHOUTED WITH A LOUD VOICE
5. Whom did the Israelites save from the city of Jericho? RAHAB
6. What did the people of Canaan think when they heard about Jericho? THAT GOD WAS HELPING THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL
7. What did the Israelites do after the wall fell down? THEY WORSHIPPED GOD

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. MAKE TRUMPETS OUT OF PAPER
Using simple paper and other items, have the children make their very own trumpets to remind them of God's power. This can be as simple or as complicated as you desire, utilizing your own creativity and that of the children.
2. BIBLE BOWLING
Using bowling pins and a ball, have each child read the key verse and then take a turn bowling. Points can be kept if you desire. You can do this game individually or in teams. After one or two rotations, you may decide to play a round or two having the children try to recite the key verse from memory.
3. THIS REMINDS ME...
Using a set of cards (each card containing a character from the Bible that we have already studied in this storying year), have each child come forward one at a time. They select a card, then try to remember what they can about that character. They must decide if that character fully trusted in what God said to do. The rest of the children serve as a jury to decide if the child correctly assesses the character.

SNACK IDEA: Angel Cookies

LESSON 14

“Naomi and Ruth”

One day many years ago lived a young woman. Her name was Ruth. Ruth fell in love with a young man and married him. After several years, her husband died. Finding herself without a husband, Ruth decided to live with her mother-in-law so that she could help her. Her mother-in-law's name was Naomi.

Ruth and Naomi moved to the place where Naomi was born. There, of course, they needed to find work so that they would have money to buy food and other goods. Because Naomi was already very old, Ruth decided that it would be better if she worked to support them both and let Naomi stay at home and rest. Ruth knew that work would be difficult for Naomi.

Ruth found a place to work. She decided to work in the fields and gather the grains that others left behind. She worked very hard every day. Then one day, the rich man who owned the field saw Ruth. His name was Boaz and he was a member of her husband's family. He saw that Ruth worked very hard and heard that she worked to support her mother-in-law. He also learned that her husband had died. Boaz decided to help Ruth and told her that she could take all the grain that she wanted, even the very best of the grain.

At this time, if a woman's husband died it was very bad for the wife. Many people thought that if a husband died, it was because his wife had been a bad wife. If she was able to remarry, then everything would be fine, but it was very difficult to find someone to marry a woman whose first husband had died.

But, Boaz fell in love with Ruth. He decided to help her even more. He didn't worry about himself, but only thought about Ruth and what was best for her. Later, they married. In the end, everything was good for Ruth because someone really loved her, wanted to help her meet her needs, didn't worry when he found out that her first husband died and married her.

Why did Boaz do all of this? Because he so loved Ruth!

KEY VERSE:

“Greater love has no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

LESSON 14
“Naomi and Ruth”
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Naomi and Ruth leave the land where they first lived? THEIR HUSBANDS DIED
2. Where did they move? TO THE LAND WHERE NAOMI WAS BORN
3. Why did Ruth decide to work alone? TO HELP NAOMI, WHO WAS OLD
4. What rich man showed kindness to Ruth? BOAZ
5. Why was it hard for a widow to find a new husband? PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT IF HER HUSBAND DIED, THE WOMAN HAD BEEN A BAD WIFE
6. What finally happened to Ruth and Boaz? THEY MARRIED

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU’LL SMILE
One person becomes the leader. The leader then chooses someone and says to them, “If you love me, you’ll smile!” That person says “I love you, but I just can’t smile,” and they try not to smile. If the person doesn’t smile, the leader goes to another person and repeats the process. If the person does smile, then that person becomes the leader.
2. BEACH BALL TOSS
Using a beach ball, toss the ball from person to person with each person saying one word from the key verse in order. You may need to display the key verse at first, but should be able to then take it away and continue the game totally from memory.
3. HEART CRAFT
Give each child a heart shaped greeting card. Have them write the key verse on the inside and then decorate the outside of the card as they choose. If the card is made from heavier card stock, it should be possible for them to stand it up in their room when they return home.

SNACK IDEA: Heart Shaped Cookies

LESSON 15

“David and Goliath”

One day the Philistine army marched into Israel to fight King Saul and his soldiers. They pitched their tents on one mountain. The Israelites camped on the opposite mountain.

However, the battle between the armies did not begin immediately. Instead, the Philistines sent one of their soldiers, a giant, to challenge Saul’s men. He said, “Why should your whole army fight? I am a Philistine. Choose one man to fight with me. If I kill him, you will be our servants. If he kills me, we will be your servants.”

When the men of Israel saw the great giant and heard his bellowing voice, they were afraid. No one wanted to fight him. Goliath was nearly twice as large as the ordinary man. Even King Saul, who was much taller than any of his men, looked small beside the mighty giant.

Every morning and every evening Goliath called to the Israelite soldiers. Every morning and every evening the men of Israel trembled when they saw the giant and heard his mighty voice. After forty days, no one would fight with him.

Meanwhile, a young boy named David was at home caring for his father’s sheep. Three of his brothers were in Saul’s army, and their father wanted to know how they were getting along. He called David from the field and told him, “Take this corn and these loaves of bread to your brothers, and give these cheeses to their captain. Find out how your brothers are getting along. Then come back and tell me.”

Early the next morning David went to the camp of Israel. When he arrived, the soldiers were standing in line for battle. At once David ran to find his brothers. As he talked to them he noticed how anxiously the soldiers watched the Philistine camp. Their faces grew pale in fear.

David wondered what was happening. Suddenly he saw the great giant Goliath and heard his thunderous shouts. He saw Saul’s soldiers run like frightened sheep.

When David talked with the men, they told him about Goliath. They said, “If a man kills Goliath, the king will give him riches and let him marry his daughter. King Saul has even promised to pay the debts owed by the man’s family.” Even with such a reward no one would fight with the giant.

David said, “Why should this wicked Philistine bother us? I will go out and kill him.”

The soldiers were surprised when they heard David speak! They told him again how terrible Goliath was, but David did not back down. The men ran to tell King Saul.

When David was brought to the king, Saul said, “You cannot fight against this Philistine. You are just a youth, and he has fought in many battles.”

David told the king, “I take care of my father’s sheep. I have fought a lion and a bear, and I killed them. The Lord who helps me protect my sheep will help me defeat this Philistine.”

When Saul heard this, he said, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

Since David was wearing the clothes of a shepherd, Saul ordered that his own armor be given to the youth. However, David could not move in the heavy armor.

He told Saul, “I cannot wear these.” He took off the armor and put on his own clothes. Then he went to meet Goliath.

At the brook he selected five smooth stones, and put them in his shepherd’s bag. Taking out his sling, he walked toward the giant.

Goliath was surprised when he saw David coming toward him without a weapon. He said, “Am I a dog that you come to fight me with a stick?”

David did not turn back. Instead he called out, “You come against me with a sword and a spear and a shield, but I come against you in the name of the Lord God of hosts. You have defied the Lord, and today the Lord will deliver you into my hand. Then all the earth will know there is a Lord God in Israel. And all those who watch will know that the Lord does not give victory with the sword and spear. The Lord will help us win this battle.”

The giant in his armor moved slowly toward David. David took a stone out of his bag and ran toward Goliath. David put the stone in his sling and threw it. The stone hit the giant on the forehead and he fell to the earth with a great thud.

The Philistines knew God was against them, and they ran. Saul’s army chased after them. The men of Israel rejoiced, because they knew God had delivered them from their strong enemies.

KEY VERSE:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

LESSON 15
“David and Goliath”
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. To what nation did the giant Goliath belong? HE WAS A PHILISTINE
2. What did Goliath ask the army of Israel? TO SEND OUT ONE OF THEIR SOLDIERS TO FIGHT HIM
3. On what two occasions had God given wonderful strength to David? WHEN HE KILLED A LION AND A BEAR
4. Why did David leave the sheep and visit the camp of Israel? HIS FATHER SENT HIM TO LEARN OF HIS BROTHERS’ WELFARE
5. How did David show his courage and his faith in God when he heard the giant defy the army of Israel? HE SAID THAT HE WOULD KILL THE GIANT
6. How did David kill the giant? HE THREW A STONE WITH HIS SLINGSHOT

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **THROWING THE STONES**
Have various baskets with point totals on them. Let the children each throw three soft round balls and see if they can “hit the target” like David did. Keep track of the points for each child. This activity may also be played in teams.
2. **PIN THE STONE ON THE GIANT**
Have a large cutout of a giant that can be placed on the wall. One at a time, blindfold the children and have them say the key verse. Then give the child a paper “stone” and have them try to tape it on the poster of the giant in the place where they think it would kill him. Let each child have a turn.
3. **PAINT A STONE**
Locate small round stones and give one to each child. Allow the children to paint the stones and mark them in some way to help them remember the key verse.

SNACK IDEA: Cream Cheese Balls

LESSON 16

“David Becomes King”

David and his family lived in Hebron. After King Saul and the leaders of his army died, the other leaders of Israel sent a message to David: “We are your brothers, and we know that God had chosen you to be our ruler.” They made him king over all the land.

David wanted to make Jerusalem the chief city in Israel. First he drove out the Jebusites, a strange group of people who had lived around Jerusalem for many years. He built his royal palace on Mount Zion.

The Philistines were still ruling in many places throughout the land of Israel. Because they knew David would make trouble for them, they gathered their armies and came near Jerusalem to fight against David.

David asked God, “Shall I march against the Philistines? Will You go with me?” And God said, “Go.”

David obeyed the Lord, and his soldiers won a great victory over the Philistines. Their enemies ran off in such a hurry that they left their idols behind. David and his men gathered the idols and burned them.

Soon the Philistines returned for another battle. Again David prayed. God told him, “Do not rush into battle, but station your forces under the mulberry trees. When you hear the wind in the tops of the trees, that will be your signal to go into battle.

David did exactly as the Lord commanded, and God helped him drive all the Philistines out of the land. Never again did they come back to bother Israel while David was king.

KEY VERSE:

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.” Proverbs 3:6

LESSON 16

“David Becomes King”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where did David and his family live? HEBRON
2. What message did the leaders of Israel send to David? THEY WANTED HIM TO BE THEIR KING
3. Why did the men ask David to be their king? THEY KNEW THAT GOD HAD CHOSEN DAVID TO BE THEIR KING
4. What city did David want to make the chief city of Israel? JERUSALEM
5. What group of people did David drive out of the city? THE JEBUSITES
6. What did the Philistines do when they heard that David was the king? THEY GATHERED THEIR ARMIES TO FIGHT AGAINST DAVID
7. What happened to the Philistines? THEY WERE DEFEATED, AND RAN AWAY SO QUICKLY THAT THEY LEFT THEIR IDOLS
8. What did the Israelites do with the idols? THEY BURNED THEM
9. Did the Philistines return to Jerusalem? YES
10. How did David know when it was time to fight the Philistines? HE HEARD THE WIND IN THE TOPS OF THE TREES
11. What happened when the Philistines wanted to fight again? THEY WERE DEFEATED, AND NEVER AGAIN BOTHERED ISRAEL

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. FINDING THE TREASURE

Divide the children into four groups. Make a game board with four different paths, each leading to Heaven at the end of the path. Place numbers along the path of steps. Each team may draw a number to see how far they can move. When they hit the numbers they must answer a question before they can move on. The questions come from all the stories that we have done so far in club. Explain that it is the truths in these stories that lead us to God!

2. **KING FOR A DAY**

Give each child an opportunity to become king. They should tell what one thing they would do as king. Remind the children that David tried to do only what God wanted him to do.

3. **KEY VERSE- BY THE NUMBERS**

Let each child draw a number. The children should then stand in the order of the numbers that they drew. Review the key verse and have each child say the word that they represent and by doing so, they read the verse. Gradually work into doing it from memory.

SNACK IDEA: Giant Cookies with Green Icing and Candy (Trees with Fruit)

LESSON 17

“The Suffering Servant”

Many years ago, there lived a man named Isaiah. Isaiah was born with a special purpose for his life. He was chosen by God to be a prophet and speak the words of God to the people of the world. This was sometimes a great task and sometimes a very difficult task.

How did Isaiah come to be a prophet? When he was a young boy, he had a dream. He saw God, sitting on His throne. In his dream, he was amazed by the power and glory of God. God told Isaiah that He needed someone to go and help Him with the work but no one wanted to help. Isaiah replied, “I will go.” From that day on, Isaiah spoke the words of God to the people.

Isaiah lived under four different kings of Israel. All four were very bad men and often Isaiah had to tell them things from God that made them very angry. But he was never afraid, because he knew that God would protect him.

One day, Isaiah had to tell King Hezekiah that he was going to die! Hezekiah believed Isaiah’s words, but cried out to God for mercy. God heard Hezekiah’s cry and sent Isaiah again to tell him that God would allow him to live for 15 more years. Hezekiah didn’t believe this message and asked Isaiah for a sign. In order to show him that Isaiah was telling the truth, Isaiah asked God to make the shadows in the courtyard move backward. God heard Isaiah’s prayer and Hezekiah believed everything that Isaiah had told him.

Isaiah also saw the children of Israel be punished a great deal because of the wicked kings. He knew that they longed for someone to help them. He prayed to God and asked Him to send a helper to Israel. God told Isaiah to tell the people that one day soon a helper would come. He also told Isaiah that the helper would come but the people would not welcome him to earth. Because the people of earth are sinful, they would eventually kill him. But even as he died, he would free the people from their sin and help them find peace and true life.

Isaiah told the people that they were like sheep, who didn’t know which way to go. They were destined to be killed on the altar of sacrifice. But God was sending another lamb to take their place and become the sacrifice for all. Just like Abraham and Isaac had been provided a lamb, God would provide a lamb for all the people of the earth.

People listened to Isaiah, but no helper came. Isaiah never worried however. He knew that God would one day do everything He promised.

KEY VERSE:

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”
John 10:11

LESSON 17
"The Suffering Servant"
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was Isaiah's special purpose for life? HE WAS A PROPHET
2. How did Isaiah become a prophet? HE HAD A DREAM AND TOLD GOD HE WOULD SERVE HIM
3. How many kings of Israel did Isaiah live under? FOUR
4. Was Isaiah afraid of the kings? NO
5. What did Isaiah tell King Hezekiah? THAT HE WAS GOING TO DIE
6. What did Isaiah ask God to do to convince King Hezekiah that he was telling the truth? MOVE THE SHADOWS BACKWARD
7. What did Isaiah ask God to send to Israel? A HELPER
8. What did God say that the people would do to the helper? KILL HIM
9. What animals did Isaiah say that the people were like? SHEEP

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. WEATHER FORECAST
Give the children a piece of paper and a pencil. Have them write down a forecast for the next meeting day of the club. Have them tell the temperature, about the wind, the sky, etc. They should make it as detailed as they can. Review these at the beginning of the next week to see how they did. Today, talk about how difficult it is to predict what will be in the future and remember that Isaiah was never wrong.
2. FINDING THE SHEPHERD
Blindfold all the children and have them stand in a tight clump. Tell them that the only sense they have is HEARING. They will have to listen carefully for the shepherd and see if they can find him. Let one leader become the shepherd and make a very soft sound until someone finds him. The game can be replayed as many times as you want.
3. LITTLE LAMB
Have several little lambs with one word of the memory verse on the back of each. The race is to see who can put the verse in order first. You can do this with multiple sets of cards, as individuals or as teams.

SNACK IDEA: Marshmallows (Iced with Faces)- Lambs

LESSON 18

“Jonah”

Jonah was a prophet of God. One day God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach to the people. He wanted Jonah to warn the people to turn from their wickedness.

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. The people there worshipped idols. They did not know about the true God, and each year they became more wicked. He decided, “I’ll not go to Nineveh. I’ll take a ship going in the opposite direction, and maybe I can get far enough away from God that He will not remind me to go and preach to the wicked Ninevites.

Down by the seaside Jonah found a ship ready to set sail. He paid his fare and climbed aboard. Jonah felt relieved to be going somewhere else instead of Nineveh. He went down into the ship and soon fell asleep.

When the ship got out to sea, a great storm arose. The sailors were afraid. They asked their gods to calm the storm, but the winds continued to blow. To lighten the ship they threw all the cargo overboard, but it did not help.

Finally, the captain remembered Jonah. He found Jonah lying in the boat asleep. He shook Jonah, and said, “Get up! Call on God. If God doesn’t save us, we shall all die.”

Jonah did not want to call on God to help. He knew he had run away from the work God wanted him to do.

The sailors decided that someone on the ship was to blame for the storm. They decided to cast lots to find out who was responsible. They did this, and the lot fell on Jonah.

At once the sailors gathered around Jonah and wanted to know why he was on the ship. Jonah told them he was a prophet of God, but he had run away because he did not want to preach to the people of Nineveh.

Jonah said, “Throw me overboard and the storm will end.” The sailors tried to row toward the land, but it was no use. Finally they picked Jonah up and threw him into the water. Then the waves grew quiet, and the storm was over.

When Jonah fell into the water, he was swallowed by a great fish. For three days and three nights Jonah lived inside the fish.

While he was inside the fish, Jonah prayed to God. He told God that he was sorry he had disobeyed, and he would go to Nineveh and preach to the people.

The Lord heard Jonah’s prayer, and He caused the fish to spit Jonah out on the shore. Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people they would suffer because they had sinned against God.

The people became very frightened. The king left his throne and took off his rich robes. He dressed in sackcloth and ashes to show how sorry he was for his sins. The people repented and prayed that God would have mercy and spare their lives.

When Jonah finished preaching, he went outside the city walls and waited for God to destroy Nineveh. Although he had obeyed God and warned the people about their sins, he did not want them to repent.

Jonah waited for forty days, but no fire fell. Because the people repented, God did not destroy the city. Jonah was very unhappy. He even prayed to die!

That night God caused a gourd vine to grow up to protect Jonah from the sun. The next night a worm attacked the vine, and it died. Again Jonah wished he were dead.

God said, "You cared about this plant, and you were sorry when it died. Should you not care more about the people of Nineveh?"

At last Jonah understood that God loves all people.

KEY VERSE:

"We love, because He first loved us." I John 4:19

LESSON 18

“Jonah”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did God wish to send a prophet to Nineveh? TO WARN THE PEOPLE TO TURN FROM THEIR WICKEDNESS
2. Whom did God chose to go to Nineveh? JONAH
3. Why did Jonah try to run away from God? HE DID NOT WANT TO PREACH TO THE NINEVITES
4. What happened while Jonah was on the ship? GOD SENT A GREAT STORM
5. What did the sailors do to Jonah? THEY THREW HIM OVERBOARD, AND HE WAS SWALLOWED BY A GREAT FISH
6. How was Jonah’s life spared? GOD HEARD HIS CRY FOR MERCY AND GAVE HIM A SECOND CHANCE
7. What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard Johan’s words? THEY REPENTED
8. How did Jonah feel when the people repented? HE WAS DISAPPOINTED
9. What lesson did Jonah finally learn? GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. GO FISH
Using a magnetic fishing pole, let the children fish to select a number. Have a series of cards with numbers on one side and a surprise on the other. The surprises should be a mixture of things such as free piece of candy, tell something you remember about Jonah, go and tell someone in the room that you are glad that they are your friend, etc.
2. PAINT YOUR OWN WHALE
Using watercolors, let each child glue egg shells onto a pre-drawn figure of a whale and then paint it like they want. Have them write the key verse at the bottom of the page.
3. WHAT’S INSIDE YOUR HEART?
Have many hearts on the wall. One at a time, the children may come forward to select a heart. First they must say the key verse, the select one of the hearts. They are to read what is one the back of the heart and then try to find the match. If they find the match, they may

remove those hearts from the wall, but if they don't find the match, the hearts remain on the wall. The game continues until all the hearts are matched. The words on the back of the hearts should be people that we love. Make sure God is on two of the hearts!

SNACK IDEA: Whale Cupcakes

LESSON 19

“The Fiery Furnace”

The most powerful king in the world was King Nebuchadnezzar. All the people of the world were afraid of him. He was so powerful that he could do anything he wanted.

One day he decided to build a tall, golden statue and have all the people worship it. Nebuchadnezzar gathered all the people together and told them to worship his idol when they heard the trumpets playing. As the music began, people bowed down from fear- all but three brave young men. Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego believed in the God of Creation and refused to disobey His commandments and worship the idol.

Nebuchadnezzar was angry. He thought that maybe the young men didn't understand his command, so he offered them another opportunity. The three men told the King that they didn't need a second chance. “We worship only the God of Creation and will never worship this idol.”

Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he ordered Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego to be thrown into a fiery furnace. Since they had defied his order in front of many people, he even ordered the fire to be made seven times hotter than normal. The three brave men did not fear. They knew they were only doing what God had commanded for them to do.

The soldiers bound Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego and threw them into the fiery furnace. It was so hot that the soldiers were killed by the intense heat. Nebuchadnezzar thought his problem was over, but when he looked into the furnace, he saw them walking around. They were alive! Not only that, but there was a fourth man in the furnace who looked like a Son of God. How could this be?

Nebuchadnezzar called Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego and the three young men walked out of the fire, not a single hair on their heads was singed. The king understood that God had saved their lives and that these three men really did worship the one true God.

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered that all the people should worship the God of Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego. The idol was torn down and Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego became advisors to the king. Because of the bravery and faith of three young men, many people were now able to worship the one true God.

KEY VERSE:

“For who is God, besides the Lord? And who is a rock, besides our God? God is my strong fortress.” 2 Samuel 22:32-33a

LESSON 19
"The Fiery Furnace"
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar decide to build? A TALL, GOLD IDOL
2. What did he order the people to do with the idol? TO WORSHIP THE IDOL WHEN THEY HEARD THE TRUMPETS PLAYING.
3. Did everyone bow down? EVERYONE, EXCEPT SHADRACK, MESHACK AND ABEDNEGO
4. How did the king punish the three men? HE ORDERED THEM TO BE THROWN INTO A FIERY FURNACE
5. How hot was the furnace? SEVEN TIMES HOTTER THAN NORMAL
6. What happened to the soldiers who threw them into the furnace? THEY WERE KILLED
7. How many men did Nebuchadnezzar see in the furnace? FOUR
8. What did the king say after Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego came out of the fire? THAT ALL THE PEOPLE SHOULD WORSHIP THE GOD OF SHADRACK, MESHACK AND ABEDNEGO, THE ONE TRUE GOD

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. TRUTH IN THE FLAMES
Using the words from the key verse, make a small card for each word. On one side of the card, print the words from the verse and on the other, number each card (in random order) and use a picture of a flame. Display the cards with the number side up. The children can select a number and try to find the first word of the key verse. Once they find the first word, they can move to the second word, and so on until they have assembled the entire verse in order.
2. THROWN IN THE FIRE
Have a game board with the following words: Who? What? When? Where? Why? The player gets to toss a bean bag onto the board. They must then tell something from the story that answers that question. For example: Who? King Nebuchadnezzar; What? Fiery Furnace; etc. This game may be played individually or in teams.

3. **BIBLE BOWLING**

Each child is given the opportunity to read the verse and then bowl. Score is kept either by child individually or as a team. The second time each child must say the key verse from memory.

SNACK IDEA: Giant Cookies with Red and Yellow Icing (like fire)

LESSON 20

“Daniel and the Lions Den”

Daniel was a wise man and King Darius, the new King of Babylon, trusted the advice Daniel gave to him. Even though Daniel was a Hebrew, King Darius selected him to be one of three presidents in the government. The other presidents and leaders did not like Daniel because he was a Hebrew and they decided to trick him and have him killed.

They asked King Darius to make a new law. For 30 days, no leader in the land could make requests of anyone but the King. They also asked him to have anyone who broke the law thrown into the lions' den. The leaders knew that Daniel constantly made requests of his God through prayer and this would result in his death.

Daniel heard about the new law, but decided to pray every day, as he had always done. As he was praying, the evil leaders found Daniel and took him to the King. When they told the King what Daniel had done, the King ordered that he be thrown into the lions' den. But because the King trusted Daniel, he was very sad and told Daniel that he was sure the “the God you serve so faithfully will save you from the lions.” Daniel was put in the lions' den and everyone went home for the night.

The King, not able to sleep because of his worry over Daniel, got up early and hurried to the lions' den to check on Daniel. He called out to Daniel, in order to see if Daniel was still alive. From deep in the pit, Daniel answered, “An angel of God came and protected me from the lions.”

The King was overjoyed! His servants released Daniel from the den. The King then ordered all the leaders who had plotted against Daniel thrown into the lions' den. The King Darius wrote letters to the people of every nation. He told the people that God had saved Daniel from the lions, that this was indeed the living God and that all men should worship the God of Daniel.

KEY VERSE:

“You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.” Psalm 32:7

LESSON 20

“Daniel and the Lions Den”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why didn't the other leaders like Daniel? HE WAS A HEBREW
2. What did the leaders decide to do? TO TRICK DANIEL AND KILL HIM
3. What new law did they ask King Darius to make? THAT FOR 30 DAYS, NO LEADER IN THE LAND COULD MAKE REQUESTS OF ANYONE BUT THE KING.
4. What was the punishment for breaking the law? BE THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN
5. Did Daniel decide to follow the new law? NO
6. What did King Darius say to Daniel about the lions' den? THAT HE WAS SURE THAT “THE GOD YOU SERVE SO FAITHFULLY WILL SAVE YOU FROM THE LIONS.”
7. Who saved Daniel from the lions? AN ANGEL OF GOD
8. What three things did King Darius do?
 1. HE RELEASED DANIEL
 2. HE ORDERED ALL THE LEADERS WHO HAD PLOTTED AGAINST DANIEL THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN
 3. HE WROTE LETTERS TO THE PEOPLE OF EVERY NATION
9. What did the King write to the people? HE TOLD THEM THAT GOD HAD SAVED DANIEL, THAT HE WAS THE LIVING GOD AND THAT ALL MEN SHOULD WORSHIP THE GOD OF DANIEL.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. LIONS IN TODAY'S WORLD

Make a set of cut out lions. Laminate them so that they can easily be written on. Have the children think of things in today's world that are dangerous for children or that can harm children. Examples might include drugs, guns, etc. Tape all the lions onto the wall so that they are easily seen. Then display the key verse posters and remind the children that God is here to protect us if we will listen to Him and obey His Word.

2. **MAKE YOUR OWN LION**

Give the children a copied outline of a lion head. Allow them to paint the lion using either markers, crayons or water colors. Use yellow cotton balls to make the hair on the lion. Print the key verse on the bottom of the page so the children will have something to remind them that God will help them face their lions.

3. **RING TOSS WITH LIONS**

Gather together several stuffed animal lions. Place them on the floor. Allow the children to read the key verse and then see how many lions they can encircle with small rings or hoops as they toss them. Keep playing until some are able to play the game by reciting the verse from memory.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies in the form of Lions

LESSON 21

“Esther”

When Esther was a little girl, both her parents died. She lived with her cousin Mordecai, and became like a daughter to him. Esther and Mordecai were both Jews, but Mordecai worked in the household of King Ahasuerus.

One day the king became angry with Queen Vashti, and decided she was no longer the queen. He decided to choose another beautiful queen. Mordecai knew that Esther was very beautiful, and he believed she would make a good queen. When the young women came from all parts of the kingdom, Mordecai sent Esther. He advised her, “Don’t tell anyone that we are related or that you are a Jew.”

The king took a long time to decide which young woman was to be the queen. When Esther was brought to him, he knew at once that she was the one he wanted to become queen. Throughout the kingdom people knew that Esther was the new queen.

One day Mordecai overheard two men plotting to kill the king. He sent word to Esther, and she sent a messenger to the king. The king investigated, and found that the report was true. At his order the two men were put to death. A record was written of how Mordecai had saved the king’s life.

At the royal palace was a man named Haman. He was in charge of all the princes, and the king commanded the servants to bow to this proud man.

When this man passed through the gates, all the servants bowed except Mordecai. He refused to bow before any man and give him the honor that belonged to God. Haman became very angry, and decided to have all the Jews killed. He convinced the king to send letters to every part of the kingdom, announcing that all the Jews would be killed on a certain day.

Mordecai heard the law, and knew that Haman was responsible for it. He also knew that if the law was carried out, even Queen Esther would be killed.

Esther knew something was wrong, so she sent a messenger to find out what was wrong with Mordecai. Mordecai told the messenger about the new law, and said that Esther must go to the king and plead for her people. However, Esther was afraid to take such a risk, because anyone who went to the king without being called could be killed.

Mordecai sent this message, “Who knows? Perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this!”

Esther was still afraid, but she wanted to help her people. She dressed in her most beautiful robes and went to see the king. He was surprised when she was standing before his throne, and knew she would not have come without an important reason. “What is your request, Queen Esther?”, he asked.

Esther did not tell the king about her sorrow, but instead invited the king and Haman to a special dinner. The king agreed to come, and a messenger was sent to invite Haman.

That night the king could not sleep, so he asked his servant to bring him the book of records. He read about Mordecai's warning earlier concerning the two men who were plotting to kill the king. He asked his servants what type of reward Mordecai received, and they told him that Mordecai had not received a reward. About that time, Haman arrived at the palace. He entered the king's court proudly. The king asked him, "What shall be done for the man the king wants to honor?" Haman, thinking he was the man, told the king many honors to give to the man. When Haman was finished, the king agreed, and sent Haman to bestow these honors on Mordecai.

Haman was so angry, that he forgot about the invitation to have dinner with the king and queen. A messenger was sent to bring Haman to the palace.

After the dinner, the king again asked Esther what she wanted. She told the king that her people were about to be killed. The king wanted to know who would do such a thing, and Esther said, "The man is Haman."

Haman became very frightened, and did not know what to do. He had never guessed that Esther was a Jew, or that Mordecai was her cousin.

The king became very angry. He called his servants and said, "Hang Haman on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai."

After Haman's death, the king decreed that the Jews should not be killed. Queen Esther had saved the lives of her people.

KEY VERSE:

"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me." Psalm 138:8

LESSON 21

“Esther”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In whose home did Esther, the Jewess, grow up? IN THE HOME OF MORDECAI, HER COUSIN
2. Who sent Esther to the king’s palace? MORDECAI
3. What did the king do when Esther was brought before him? HE CHOSE HER TO BECOME THE NEW QUEEN
4. How did Mordecai save the king’s life? HE WARNED THE KING OF A SECRET PLOT TO KILL HIM
5. Why did Haman become displeased with Mordecai? BECAUSE MORDECAI WOULD NOT BOW TO HONOR HAMAN WHEN HE PASSED
6. How did Haman finally plan to get revenge on Mordecai? HE PLANNED TO HAVE ALL THE JEWISH PEOPLE DESTROYED
7. From whom did Queen Esther learn about Haman’s plot? FROM A MESSENGER WHOM SHE SENT TO TALK WITH MORDECAI
8. What did Mordecai tell Esther to do? TO GO TO THE KING AND PLEAD FOR HER LIFE AND THE LIVES OF HER PEOPLE
9. Why did the king plan to honor Mordecai? BECAUSE MORDECAI HAD SAVED THE KING’S LIFE
10. Whom did Haman think the king planned to honor? HAMAN
11. Who was hanged on the gallows that Haman had built for Mordecai? HAMAN

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. HANGMAN

Using the names of people, places and things in the story, allow the children to play a game of “Hangman” by displaying blanks for the letters of the given word. If they guess the appropriate letter, the letter is filled in. If they guess an incorrect letter, one element of the man is drawn. The game proceeds until the word is guessed or until the man is completely drawn.

2. **BEACH BALL MEMORY GAME**

The children softly toss the beach ball to each other saying a word from the key verse. Begin slowly, allowing them to look at the Key Verse Poster if necessary. Gradually get faster and faster until they have completely memorized the verse.

3. **VELCRO BALL TOSS**

Using one of the velcro toss games, have the children say the Key Verse and then toss the ball. The game may be played as individuals or as teams. Keep track of the points and award prizes at the end of the game.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies in the form of Crowns (to be decorated by the children with candy for jewels)

LESSON 22

“Job”

In a country called Uz lived a very rich man named Job. He had seven sons, three daughters, many servants and thousands of cattle. Everyone knew Job. Not only was he rich, but Job wanted to please God. He worshipped God and knew that only God could forgive his sins. He very deeply loved God. God also loved Job and blessed him.

One day Satan complained to God about Job. He said that Job only served God because God blessed him. If he were to have trouble, Job would turn away from God. God knew this was wrong and so He allowed Satan to send troubles into Job's life.

One day a messenger came to Job with bad news. “Mean men came to the fields today and stole all the cattle and killed all your servants. Only I escaped.” Before the servant could finish telling Job what had happened, another servant brought more bad news. “Lightning has killed all your sheep and servants. Only I escaped to tell you about it.” Then another servant came and said that while Job's children were celebrating together a great wind blew the house down. They were all killed.” When Job had heard all of this bad news, he tore his clothes and fell down on his face. But he did not turn away from God.

Then Satan sent even more troubles to Job. Satan wanted to make life so miserable that Job would blame God for his suffering. Job became very sick and soon ugly sores broke out all over his body. Even Job's wife wished he were dead, but Job still did not turn away from God.

In those days many people believed that troubles were sent from God as a punishment for sins. Three of Job's friends came to comfort him and see what his problem was. They sat with him for several days without saying a single word. Finally, they told Job that they thought he was hiding his sin from them, but God knew his sin and was punishing him. Still, Job did not turn away from God.

Then God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind and told him that He was angry with these three friends for they had not rightly spoken of God. When Job heard this, he prayed for his three friends. This showed God that Job was indeed a servant of God.

God sent Job many blessings to show His love. Every year Job grew richer until he had twice as much as before the troubles began. God again gave him seven sons and three daughters. He also gave him health, happiness and honor. Even to this day, Job is remembered as a man who would not let any kind of trouble or sorrow turn him away from God.

KEY VERSE:

“I count all things as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” Philippians 3:8

LESSON 22

“Job”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How rich was Job? VERY RICH. HE HAD SEVEN SONS, THREE DAUGHTERS, MANY SERVANTS AND THOUSANDS OF CATTLE.
2. For what reason did Satan say that Job served God? ONLY BECAUSE GOD HAS BLESSED HIM.
3. Did God allow Satan to send troubles into Job’s life? YES
4. What did Job do when he heard all of the bad news? HE TORE HIS CLOTHES AND FELL DOWN ON HIS FACE. BUT HE DID NOT TURN AWAY FROM GOD.
5. What did Satan do next? JOB BECAME VERY SICK AND SOON UGLY SORES BROKE OUT ALL OVER HIS BODY.
6. What did Job’s friends say? THEY THOUGHT JOB WAS HIDING HIS SIN FROM THEM, BUT GOD KNEW HIS SIN AND WAS PUNISHING HIM.
7. What did Job do when he heard that God was angry with his friends? HE PRAYED FOR THEM
8. How did God bless Job? JOB GREW RICHER UNTIL HE HAD TWICE AS MUCH AS BEFORE THE TROUBLES BEGAN. HE GAVE HIM SEVEN SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS. HE ALSO GAVE HIM HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND HONOR.
9. How is Job remembered? AS A MAN WHO WOULD NOT LET ANY KIND OF TROUBLE OR SORROW TURN HIM AWAY FROM GOD.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!
Divide the children into groups. Have them design a newspaper story about the life of Job. Have them decorate paper to be the newspaper and write their story, complete with pictures, etc. Make sure you have all the supplies to be able to do the task.
2. GOING BACKWARDS
Using the Velcro Ball Toss Games that have points listed on them, have each child begin with a set sum of money (such as 500 rubles). Each time they land on a sum, they must pay the leader that amount. Play until all the money is gone. The last person with money wins.

Ask the children how it feels to lose everything. How do they think Job must have felt?

3. RING TOSS

Have the children say the key verse and then toss the rings. Keep track of the points they receive. After one or two rounds, see if they can then say the verse from memory as they play. Remind them that these points are like the blessings of God. Though Job lost everything, God rewarded him with more than he had before.

SNACK IDEA: Happy Face Cupcakes

LESSON 23

“Jesus’ Birth”

The Roman Emperor (Caesar Augustus) had commanded everyone to register (enroll) in the town or city where their family originated. Joseph and Mary were going to Bethlehem, because they were from the family of David.

They traveled many days. Mary rode on a donkey, and Joseph walked beside her. When they reached Bethlehem, the city was crowded. The journey from Nazareth was difficult. Mary was very tired and wanted a place to rest, because she was going to have a baby. However, there was no room in the inn. The only place available was the stable of the inn.

That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths called swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

Shepherds were watching their flocks that night near Bethlehem. Suddenly the angel of the Lord came near, and there was a great light. The shepherds were very frightened!

The angel said, “Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly there were many angels. They praised God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Then the angels returned to heaven, the light faded, and the night became dark again.

The shepherds said, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us.” They left their flocks, and hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby. They knelt before the manger, and worshipped the baby, who lay quietly sleeping on the hay.

KEY VERSE: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

LESSON 23

“Jesus’ Birth”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Joseph and Mary journey to Bethlehem? **THEY HAD TO REGISTER IN BETHLEHEM, BECAUSE THEY WERE IN THE FAMILY OF DAVID**
2. How did they travel to Bethlehem? **MARY RODE ON A DONKEY, AND JOSEPH WALKED ALONG BESIDE THEM**
3. Where did they find lodging when they came to Bethlehem? **IN THE STABLE OF THE INN**
4. What happened that night in the stable? **BABY JESUS WAS BORN**
5. Who heard the message from the angels? **SHEPHERDS IN A FIELD**
6. Where did the shepherds go after they had heard the angels? **TO BETHLEHEM**
7. What did the shepherds find when they arrived at the stable? **THEY FOUND MARY, JOSEPH, AND THE BABY**
8. What did the shepherds do? **THEY KNELT BEFORE THE MANGER, AND WORSHIPPED THE BABY**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **NATIVITY BINGO**
Using Bingo cards made from pictures of people and things involved in the nativity of Christ, play a traditional BINGO game. Have the children explain why each picture is included as part of the game. Have prizes for the first to complete a row and the first to complete a card!
2. **SILENT NIGHT**
Teach the song Silent Night in several languages. Begin with Russian and English, but maybe branch out to sing it in German and other languages. Have word posters prepared to help the children. You might even want to do them in Russian phonetics.
3. **BEAUTIFUL PICTURES**
Give each child a picture of the manger to color. Have the key verse written on the paper with the picture. You might want to use glitter, sparkles, macaroni or other objects to glue onto the pictures to make them very special. Collect the pictures (names on back) for future use.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies in the form of Angels

LESSON 24

“Baptism”

Jesus was thirty years old when he left Nazareth and went to the Jordan River where John preached and baptized the people. When John saw Jesus in the crowd he called out, “This is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one who is greater than I.”

But Jesus had not come to be introduced to the people; he wanted to be baptized. John said, “Why have you come to be baptized? You are much greater than I.” John felt unworthy to baptize the Son of God.

Jesus answered, “I must be baptized because it is God’s plan. Baptize me now.” And John took Jesus in to the river and baptized him there.

When the two were coming out of the water, a strange thing happened. The heavens opened and the Spirit of God in the form of a dove came down upon Jesus. A voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”

KEY VERSE: “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
John 1:29

LESSON 24

“Baptism”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How old was Jesus when he went to the Jordan River? THIRTY YEARS OLD
2. Why did Jesus go to the river? TO BE BAPTIZED
3. Why did Jesus ask John to baptize him? HE KNEW GOD WANTED HIM TO RECEIVE JOHN’S BAPTISM
4. Why didn’t John want to baptize Jesus? HE FELT UNWORTHY TO BAPTIZE HIM
5. What happened when John baptized Jesus? THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAME IN THE FORM OF A DOVE AND ALIGHTED ON JESUS’ HEAD
6. Why did God send this sign? SO THE PEOPLE WOULD KNOW THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD
7. What did the voice from heaven say? THIS IS MY BELOVED SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. SIGNS
Make several traffic signs that the children will recognize. Ask them what each one of them means and what they are supposed to do when they see it. Explain that baptism is such a sign in the life of a Christian. It tells the world that we have decided to believe in God and live our lives like He wants.
2. MAKE A WATERCOLOR PICTURE OF JESUS’ BAPTISM
Give each child a piece of blank paper, watercolors, a brush and a pencil. Have them do an illustration of the baptism of Jesus. Collect the pictures (names on back) for future use.
3. BIBLE BOWLING
Cover bowling pins with blue paper to resemble water. Have each child say the key verse and then bowl. You may play individually or in teams. Keep track of points. Try to move the children to where they are saying the verse from memory.

SNACK IDEA: Blue Jello Cups

LESSON 25

“Jesus Heals and Forgives”

Wherever Jesus went, crowds followed him. They gathered around him in the streets and in the homes where he stayed. Some of these people were friends; others were curious to hear him speak and see him do miracles; others wanted to find fault with him.

One day, while Jesus was in Capernaum, many people came to the house where he was staying. So many people came, that the house was full.

Four men brought their crippled friend to Jesus. They carried him on a mat, because he could not walk. When they arrived at the house, they could not go inside, because the house was already full.

There were some stairs outside the house. The men carried their friend up the stairs to the roof. Laying down the bed, they began to lift the tiles out of the roof. Soon they had made a hole in the roof, and could see Jesus preaching below. They tied ropes to the sick man’s bed and lowered him very carefully into the room.

The people wondered what Jesus would do. They were very surprised when Jesus said, “Son, be of good cheer, for your sins are forgiven!”

The people were surprised, because Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven.” They knew God could forgive sins, but they did not know that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus knew their thoughts and said, “Why do you think evil of me in your hearts? Is it easier to tell the man that his sins are forgiven, or to tell him to stand up and walk? But that you may know that I have power on earth to forgive sins too”--- Jesus said to the man---“Arise, take up your bed, and return to your own house.”

Immediately the man’s strength returned. He stood up, rolled up his bed, and lifted it onto his shoulders. The people were so surprised that they made way for him as he walked through the room and into the street to join his happy friends.

The people did not know what to think. Some were afraid; they were all amazed. They praised God for what they saw that day.

KEY VERSE:

“My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

LESSON 25

“Jesus Heals and Forgives”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What strange thing happened while Jesus was teaching in a house in Capernaum one day? **A CRIPPLED MAN WAS LOWERED INTO THE PRESENCE OF JESUS THROUGH A HOLE IN THE ROOF**
2. Why had the four men brought their crippled friend to Jesus in this strange way? **THE HOUSE WAS FULL, AND THEY COULD NOT GET TO JESUS**
3. How did Jesus encourage the poor man’s faith? **HE SAID, “SON, BE OF GOOD CHEER, FOR YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN**
4. What did the people think, when they heard Jesus tell the man that his sins were forgiven? **THEY WERE SURPRISED**
5. Since Jesus knew the people were surprised that he forgave the man’s sins, what did he tell the man to do? **TO STAND UP AND WALK**
6. What did the man do? **HE STOOD UP, ROLLED UP HIS BED, PUT IT ON HIS SHOULDERS, AND WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE**
7. After the man was healed, what did the other people do? **THEY PRAISED GOD**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **JESUS- PENCIL DRAWING**
Give each child a printed outline of the name JESUS on paper. Have them take a pencil and draw inside the letters scenes that they know about Jesus and His activities. Or they may choose to draw the picture of this story behind the letters and then fill in the letters with a pattern of their own choosing. Collect the pictures (names on back) for future use.
2. **MEMORY VERSE GAME**
Form two teams. Have each team stand in a line. The first person tells the second person the key verse. They add one word that they think describes Jesus. For example, HEALER. The second person then tells the third person the verse, the word given by the first person and adds a word of their own. The game continues until the last person tells the first person the verse and all the words.
3. **ILLUSTRATION USING S’MORES**
Use the snack to show the healing power of God. Use one cookie to represent us. Maybe we are sick like the man in the story or maybe we are just sick with sin like the people in the Bible stories we have been studying. Show this by putting the chocolate sauce on it. Use another

cookie to show the purity of Jesus by putting marshmallow crème on it. Jesus knows all, can do all and loves all. So when Jesus came to earth, He came so that He could be our healer, our Savior. He took something ugly and dirty and made it beautiful. Put the cookies together and taste it. It tastes wonderful, just the like the feeling of having Jesus forgive your sins and heal your life!

SNACK IDEA: S'Mores (cookies with chocolate sauce on one side and marshmallow crème on the other)

LESSON 26

“Nicodemus”

Many people began to hear the teachings of Jesus. Some of the people immediately believed all that He said. Others decided that Jesus must be an evil man because He claimed to have been sent by God to the world. One group of religious leaders, the Pharisees, believed like this. They began to hate Jesus.

But one of the Pharisees wanted to hear more of what Jesus was teaching so that he could better understand. His name was Nicodemus. Late one night, Nicodemus went to the place where Jesus was staying and talked with Him.

“I have seen the miracles You do. Surely, God is with You!” said Nicodemus. He wanted to know how a man could truly become a Christian. Jesus said, “Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.” But Nicodemus didn’t understand how a grown man could be born again. Jesus didn’t mean that a man should be born again in bodily form, but in his heart. We should let the Spirit of God be born in our hearts.

To help Nicodemus understand, Jesus talked about the wind. No one can see the wind, but we know it is there. We can feel it even though we can’t see it. The same is true of our hearts when the Spirit of God is born there. We can’t see the Spirit of God, but we can feel it.

Nicodemus thought about Jesus’ words. He understood that if a person’s heart was changed, born again, then the Spirit of God would live in that person’s heart and others would see God through the life of that person. The person would have a new life!

Jesus explained that being “reborn” is definitely about life- eternal life. Very tenderly, Jesus explained to Nicodemus that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

KEY VERSE:

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

LESSON 26
“Nicodemus”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Did everyone immediately believe all that Jesus said? NO
2. Who were the Pharisees? A GROUP OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO THOUGHT JESUS WAS AN EVIL MAN BECAUSE HE SAID THAT GOD SENT HIM TO THE WORLD.
3. Who wanted to hear more of what Jesus was teaching? NICODEMUS
4. How did Nicodemus know that Jesus was telling the truth? HE SAID, “I HAVE SEEN THE MIRACLES THAT YOU DO. SURELY GOD IS WITH YOU!”
5. What did Jesus say when Nicodemus asked how a man could truly become a Christian? “UNLESS A MAN IS BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”
6. What did Jesus mean? THAT WE SHOULD LET THE SPIRIT OF GOD BE BORN IN OUR HEARTS
7. What did God do to show how much He loved the world? “GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. THE INVISIBLE WIND
Make a two track raceway out of a box. Have two lightweight balls and a straw for each child. Have them blow the ball to the finish line. The second person then takes the ball, run to the starting end and blows the ball to the finish line. This is repeated until all the players have had an opportunity. Remind the children that we can't see the air blowing, but it is powerful enough to move the ball just like the Spirit of God is unseen, yet powerful enough to change a life.
2. A HEART OF MANY COLORS
Using pre-cut heart shapes of cardboard, let the children glue smaller hearts of various colors onto the cardboard. They should overlap the hearts. Finally, hang a banner from the bottom of the hearts with the key verse and put a loop of string on the top of the heart so that it can be hung in the children's rooms to remind them of God's love.

3. **BIBLE VERSE MEMORY GAME**

Put the words of the key verse on a series of hearts (one per heart). Have multiple sets of the verse. Individually or in teams, have the children put the verse in order. Have prizes for the one, or team, that correctly puts the verse in order the fastest. The game may be repeated multiple times.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies in the shape of hearts

LESSON 27

“Calming of the Sea”

One day Jesus taught the people all day long near the Sea of Galilee. That evening, He was very tired and said to His disciples, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the sea so we can rest.” They got into the boat and began their journey.

When they were far from shore, a storm appeared. Great waves crashed against the boat. The disciples became greatly afraid and feared that they would die before they could reach the land. Even the disciples who were skilled seamen couldn’t help get the boat to the shore.

Jesus was so tired from teaching that He had fallen asleep. Even though the disciples were afraid, they did not want to wake Jesus. When they finally thought that the boat was about to sink, they ran to Jesus and cried out, “Master, please help us! We are surely going to die!” Jesus opened His eyes and looked at their frightened faces. He asked, “Why are you so afraid? Don’t you have faith?”

As the disciples watched, Jesus stood up and spoke to the wind and the sea, “Peace, be still.” At the sound of His voice, the storm ended. The sea became quiet and calm. The disciples were so amazed! They asked one another, “What kind of man is He that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” Truly, He is the Son of God!

KEY VERSE:

“What kind of man is He that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” Mark 4:41

LESSON 27

“Calming of the Sea”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jesus tired? HE TAUGHT PEOPLE ALL DAY LONG
2. What did He say to the disciples? “LET’S CROSS OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA SO WE CAN REST.”
3. What happened when they were in the boat? A STORM APPEARED
4. Where was Jesus during the storm? ASLEEP IN THE BOAT
5. What did Jesus say when they woke Him? “WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID? DON’T YOU HAVE FAITH?”
6. What did Jesus say to the wind and the sea? “PEACE, BE STILL.”
7. What happened then? THE SEA BECAME QUIET AND CALM
8. What did the disciples think? THEY ASKED ONE ANOTHER, “WHAT KING OF MAN IS HE THAT EVEN THE WIND AND THE SEA OBEY HIM?” TRULY HE IS THE SON OF GOD!

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. GAME- “TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA”
Using review questions from the last few stories, do a review game on the life of Jesus to this point. Make a game board where the players must move their boat from the shore to a point on the opposite side of the sea. The first team to arrive on the opposite shore wins.
2. WAVES OF THE SEA
Using a large blue sheet or piece of cloth, place a beach ball in the center and place the children around the edges of the sheet. The children can then move the sheet to make the ball move. When the ball falls off the sheet, everyone must read the key verse together. The game should be played until all know the key verse from memory.
3. MAKE YOUR OWN BOAT
Allow the children to make a boat using paper, craft sticks, or other craft items. You might have the necessary items to allow them to put a name on their boat, give it a flag, etc.

SNACK IDEA: Giant cookies with blue icing

LESSON 28

“Jesus Heals a Wild Man”

After the storm was stilled, Jesus and his disciples went ashore in the country of the Gadarenes. Near by was a cemetery where a wild man lived. No chains were strong enough to hold him. Night and day he wandered in this lonely place, crying and cutting himself with stones.

From a distance the wild man saw Jesus. At once he ran, fell at Jesus’ feet and worshiped him. The evil spirits that troubled him as with one voice called out to Jesus, “What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the most high God? I beg you, do not torment me.”

Jesus knew the man could never be well so long as he was filled with evil spirits. Jesus said, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit.” Then he asked the man, “What is your name?”

The evil spirit replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.”

On a mountainside near by was a herd of two thousand hogs with the servants who took care of the animals. The evil spirits said to Jesus, “Send us in to the hogs.”

“Go,” Jesus answered.

At once the great herd ran down the mountainside, plunged into the sea, and all the hogs were drowned. How frightened the servants were when they saw this! Away they ran to the city to tell what had happened.

Soon a crowd of curious people gathered. They were much surprised to see the wild man sitting at Jesus’ feet, wearing clothes, and acting perfectly well. A peaceful look was on his face, and he had the right use of his mind again.

The people were afraid. What kind of man was Jesus? A whole herd of hogs had been drowned on account of him. What if he did more things like that in their country? They did not even think of bringing their sick for him to heal. Instead they begged him to go away and leave them alone.

Jesus and his disciples returned to their boat, and the man who had been healed followed. He wanted to go with them, but Jesus said, “Go back to your home and tell your friends what great things the Lord has done for you.”

Gladly the man obeyed. From city to city he went, telling people about the wonderful power of Jesus.

KEY VERSE:

“Go back to your home and tell your friends what great things the Lord has done for you.” Mark 5:19

LESSON 28

“Jesus Heals a Wild Man”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who met Jesus and the disciples when the ship came to land at the other side of the sea? A WILD MAN IN WHOM EVIL SPIRITS LIVED
2. Where did the wild man live? IN A CEMETERY
3. What was the name of the evil spirit? LEGION
4. Where did Jesus send the evil spirits? INTO A HERD OF HOGS
5. What did the hogs do next? THEY RAN DOWN THE HILLSIDE, PLUNGED INTO THE SEA, AND WERE DROWNED
6. What did the servants do? THEY RAN INTO TOWN TO TELL THE PEOPLE WHAT HAPPENED
7. What did the people from the town do? THEY BECAME FRIGHTED, AND ASKED JESUS TO GO AWAY AND LEAVE THEM ALONE
8. What did Jesus tell the man to do next? TO TELL HIS FRIENDS WHAT JESUS HAD DONE FOR HIM
9. Did the man obey Jesus? YES

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. THE LITTLE PIGS
Print each word of the key verse on a small picture of a pig. Divide the children into teams and give each team a set of pigs. Have them race to see which team can put the verse in order first.
2. NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!
Give each child a piece of paper. Have markers, pencils, crayons, etc. on hand. Ask each child to write a special announcement that the man in the story might have written to tell all his friends what had happened to him. The children can use words, pictures, etc. to tell the story of what happened to the man.
3. TESTIMONY
If time allows, have one worker give a brief testimony of what God has done in his or her life. Just like God told the man in the story to tell everyone how his life had been changed, we are supposed to do the same.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies and Drinks

LESSON 29

“Lazarus Raised from the Dead”

Mary, her sister Martha, and her brother Lazarus lived in Bethany, near Jerusalem. Lazarus became very sick. His sisters sent a message to Jesus about Lazarus' illness.

Jesus heard the news and said, “His illness will not end in death, but will show God's glory.” Two days after he heard from Mary and Martha, he told his disciples that he wanted to go to see his friends.

When Jesus and his disciples got to Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Martha heard Jesus was coming, and she ran to meet him. When she saw Jesus she said, “Lord, had you been here, my brother would not have died, but I believe that God will do whatever you ask.”

“If you believe in me you will live, even if you die; in fact, you will always live and never die. Do you believe me?” Jesus asked.

“Yes, I do, Lord,” said Martha. “I believe that you are the Messiah and God's Son.” Then Martha went to tell Mary that Jesus had arrived, and Mary quickly got up and went to see him. Her friends followed her because they wished to comfort her.

When Mary found Jesus, she fell down in front of him. “If you had been here, Lord, Lazarus my brother would still be alive!”

Jesus saw Mary's tears and his heart ached for her. He wept with her. Together they went to Lazarus' tomb. Jesus said, “Take the stone away.”

“Lord, the odor will be terrible if we move the stone now,” Martha said.

“I told you that if you believed, you would see God's glory.” At that, Martha allowed the stone to be removed.

Jesus said in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out of the grave!” Then Lazarus came out, his body still wrapped in strips of linen.

They took the grave clothes off him. Many of the people who saw this miracle believed in Jesus.

KEY VERSE:

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me shall live even if he dies.”
John 11:25

LESSON 29

“Lazarus Raised from the Dead”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What message did Mary and Martha of Bethany sent to Jesus? **THAT THEIR BROTHER, LAZARUS, WAS ILL**
2. Why did Jesus not go at once to help his dear friends? **HE SAID, “HIS ILLNESS WILL SHOW GOD’S GLORY”**
3. Who ran to meet Jesus? **MARTHA**
4. How many days had Lazarus been in the grave before Jesus came to Bethany? **FOUR DAYS**
5. Why had many friends come to the grave with Martha and Mary? **THEY WERE TRYING TO COMFORT THE SORROWING SISTERS**
6. What happened when Jesus told Lazarus to come out of the grave? **LAZARUS CAME OUT, HIS BODY STILL WRAPPED IN STRIPS OF LINEN**
7. What happened to many people who saw this miracle? **THEY BELIEVED IN JESUS**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **BIBLE BOWLING**
Have each child read the key verse and then bowl. Keep score to see who wins. This can be played as individuals or as teams. Try to move the children to the point that they can do the verse from memory.
2. **KEY VERSE- WORD BY WORD**
Put each word of the key verse on a card. Give each child a card. At the appointed time, the children must move to stand in order so that the verse can be read in order. If possible, do this with two teams, racing one another to put the verse in order the fastest.
3. **GAME- “LAZARUS, COME OUT”**
Have the children stand in a circle. One child is place in the center of the circle. He is Lazarus. Lazarus calls on one of the children in the circle. If that child can say the key verse from memory, then they say “Lazarus, come out” and Lazarus comes out of the circle and changes places with that child. That child then becomes Lazarus and calls on the next player. This game should be played following the other two activities to make sure that the children have had ample time to memorize the key verse before play begins.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies and Drinks

LESSON 30

“Abraham, Lazarus and the Rich Man”

Lazarus was a very poor man. Every day he begged for bread and water. He was also a wonderful man and believed in God with all his heart.

One day Lazarus saw a rich man, laughing and talking with his friends. Lazarus begged this rich man to give him the crumbs from his table. The rich man refused and wouldn't even give Lazarus a cup of water.

After several years, Lazarus and the rich man both died. Lazarus went to Heaven, but the rich man went to Hell. This rich man was very hot and wanted desperately to have something to drink. Then he saw Lazarus in Heaven with Abraham and asked him to give him a small cup of water. Lazarus said that he wanted to help the man, but was not able to do so.

The rich man remembered his brothers who were still living on the earth. He did not want them to come to this place. He said to Abraham, “Please send Lazarus back to my father's house. He must warn my five brothers about this dreadful place.”

Abraham answered, “They have the words of Moses and the prophets. Let them obey those words.”

The rich man knew that his brothers would never do that. He pleaded, “No, but if someone were to be sent from the dead, they would repent.”

Finally Abraham said, “If they will not pay any attention to the words in God's book, they would not pay any attention to one who rose from the dead.”

The rich man truly wished that he had helped Lazarus and other people and most importantly, that he had believed in God. Unfortunately, he understood it all too late.

KEY VERSE:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

LESSON 30

“Abraham, Lazarus and the Rich Man”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who was Lazarus? HE WAS A BEGGAR
2. What did Lazarus want the rich man to do? TO GIVE HIM THE CRUMBS FROM HIS TABLE
3. Would the rich man do what Lazarus wanted? NO
4. Where did Lazarus and the rich man go after they died? LAZARUS WENT TO HEAVEN, BUT THE RICH MAN WENT TO HELL
5. Why did the rich man want Lazarus to help him? HE WAS IN TORMENT, AND HE WANTED LAZARUS TO GIVE HIM A DRINK OF WATER
6. Was Lazarus able to help the rich man? NO
7. Why did the rich man want Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers? HE WANTED LAZARUS TO WARN HIS BROTHERS ABOUT THE AWFUL PLACE
8. Did Abraham agree to do this? NO
9. What did Abraham tell the rich man? THAT HIS BROTHERS HAD THE WORDS OF MOSES AND THE PROPHETS TO WARN THEM. IF THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN TO GOD’S WORDS, THEN THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN TO SOMEONE WHO HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. HOT POTATO
Using a random object such as a ball, toy or stuffed animal, have the children pass it around the circle while music plays. When the music plays, whoever is holding the object must recite the key verse.
2. THE BEST GIFT
Have a small gift box or bag. Give the present to one of the children. That person must then tell about the best gift they have ever received. They can then choose someone in the room to be next. The game continues until everyone has taken a turn. End the game by asking the question, “What gift did the rich man want more than any other?”

3. **WORDS OF LIFE**

Have a picture of a Bible. Using a marker, have the children write words on the Bible that they remember from the Bible that would be considered words of life. They can share stories of life, verses they know, or simply small phrases or words.

SNACK IDEA: Rich Man's Cookies (Chocolate Chip with Chocolate Icing)

LESSON 31

“Last Supper/Gethsemane”

Jesus wanted to share the Passover meal with His disciples. He told them to “Go into the city, and there you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him. When he goes into his house, ask him, ‘Where is the room where Jesus is to eat the Passover meal with His disciples?’” Two of the disciples left to do as He said. The man led them to an upstairs room, where the two prepared for the Passover.

When evening came, Jesus and the other disciples joined the two. They felt very sad when Jesus told them that this would be the last meal they would eat together. Would Jesus really be taken from them? It seemed impossible to think that anyone would ever kill Jesus.

Jesus wanted to teach the disciples about His Kingdom because He knew that they didn’t fully understand. He got up from the table, took off His outer coat and tied a towel around His waist. Taking a basin of water, He began to wash their feet. He said, “I have given you an example that you should do to each other as I have done to you.” Jesus wanted them to understand that His followers are to be servants, not masters. “By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Having finished with the washing of the feet, Jesus said, “One of you will betray me.” Each of the disciples began to ask, “Is it me?” Judas immediately left the room and they all knew of whom Jesus had spoken.

After they had eaten dinner, Jesus took some bread, offered thanks to God, broke the bread into pieces and gave it to the disciples. “Take this bread and eat it, for it is My body which is broken for you.” Then He took a cup. After He offered thanks to God, He passed it to them saying, “Drink this, for it is my blood, which is shed for you.” The disciples did not understand that this was a picture of what was to come in the days ahead.

After they sang a hymn together, Jesus left to go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While Jesus prayed, the disciples fell asleep. He twice tried to wake them, but they did not understand the importance of the time. Knowing all that was to happen, Jesus prayed for strength and mercy.

Finally, He woke the disciples and told them that the time had come. Soon, they saw a group of men coming toward them. Judas walked to Jesus, kissed Him on the cheek to show the other men that this was Jesus, and the soldiers seized Him and led Him away. Sad, confused and alone, the disciples hid in the darkness, not knowing what to do.

KEY VERSE:

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

LESSON 31

“Last Supper/Gethsemane”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did the disciples know where to find the room for the Passover Meal?
JESUS TOLD THEM, “GO INTO THE CITY, AND THERE YOU WILL MEET A MAN CARRYING A PITCHER OF WATER. FOLLOW HIM. WHEN HE GOES INTO HIS HOUSE, ASK HIM, ‘WHERE IS THE ROOM?’”
2. Why did the disciples become sad when they arrived? JESUS TOLD THEM THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST MEAL THEY WOULD EAT TOGETHER.
3. What did Jesus do in order to teach the disciples about His kingdom? HE WASHED THEIR FEET
4. Which disciple left the room in order to betray Jesus? JUDAS
5. What did Jesus say the bread represented? HIS BODY, BROKEN FOR YOU
6. What did Jesus say the cup represented? HIS BLOOD, SHED FOR YOU
7. Where did the disciples go after they sang a hymn? THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
8. What did the disciples do while Jesus prayed? THEY FELL ASLEEP
9. How did Judas show which man was Jesus? HE KISSED HIM ON THE CHEEK
10. What did the disciples do when Jesus was taken away? THEY HID IN THE DARKNESS

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS
Make several sets of footprints. On each footprint, print one of the words of the key verse. Have the children then put the verse in the correct order.
2. BASKETBALL: KEY VERSE GAME
Allow the children to take turns shooting baskets after they have correctly read the key verse. The game may be played several times, moving to having the children say the verse from memory.

3. GAME: "WHAT HAPPENED?"

Print cards containing phrases describing the events that took place in the story. For example: Jesus washed their feet, they ate bread and wine, Jesus prayed in the garden, etc. Make several sets. Divide the children into teams and have them race to put the cards in the correct order. You might want to have prizes to give to the children for completing the task.

SNACK IDEA: Bread and Juice (like the Lord's Supper)

LESSON 32

“The Trial of Jesus”

Jesus was arrested and taken from Gethsemane, followed by an angry crowd. The disciples fled in fear, deserting him. He was taken first to Caiaphas, the high priest. Many came and accused him falsely, but no evidence could be found against Jesus.

Finally two people stepped forward and said, “We heard this man say that he would tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days.”

“What do you say to this, Jesus?” asked Caiaphas. When the Lord remained silent, Caiaphas ordered him, “Tell me under oath—are you, or are you not the Messiah, the Son of God?”

“Yes, I am who you say. Someday you will see me sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One, coming down from Heaven through the clouds.”

“This is blasphemy!” Caiaphas shouted. “He is worthy of death. Take him to the Roman governor, Pilate to be sentenced.”

When Jesus was brought before Pilate, Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“Yes, just as you say,” Jesus told him.

Now Pilate’s wife was greatly troubled about Jesus, for that night she had dreamed about him. She pleaded with her husband to set Jesus free, saying, “He is a just man, not worthy of death.”

It was Pilate’s custom each year to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd at the time of the Passover Feast. At that time Pilate had a notorious prisoner named Barabbas in custody. When the crowd gathered, Pilate said, “I will release one of these men. Which one shall it be—Barabbas, or Jesus, who is called the Christ?”

“Barabbas!” the crowd shouted.

“What shall I do with Jesus?” Pilate asked them.

“Crucify him!” the people said.

Pilate saw that he could not change their minds, so he washed his hands in a bowl of water before the crowd. “This man’s blood is on your hands, not mine,” Pilate said. Then Pilate released Barabbas, but had Jesus flogged and gave him over to the soldiers to be crucified. So the trial came to an end.

KEY VERSE:

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

LESSON 32

“The Trial”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where was Jesus arrested? GETHSEMANE
2. Where was Jesus taken first? TO CAIAPHAS, THE HIGH PRIEST
3. What did Jesus tell Caiaphas? THAT HE WAS THE SON OF GOD, AND ONE DAY HE WOULD SEE JESUS SITTING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN THROUGH THE CLOUDS
4. What did Caiaphas say? THAT JESUS SPOKE BLASPHEMY
5. Where did Caiaphas send Jesus? TO THE ROMAN GOVERNOR, PILATE
6. What did Pilate ask Jesus? ARE YOU THE KING OF THE JEWS?
7. What did Jesus answer? YES, JUST AS YOU SAY
8. Who urged Pilate to set Jesus free? PILATE’S WIFE
9. Whom did the Jews ask to have released instead of Jesus? BARABBAS
10. What did Pilate do? HE WASHED HIS HANDS AND TOLD THE CROWD THAT JESUS’ BLOOD WAS ON THEIR HANDS
11. What did Pilate do with Jesus? HE HAD HIM FLOGGED AND GAVE HIM TO THE SOLDIERS TO BE CRUCIFIED

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **WHO ARE YOU?**
Select one player to begin the game. That player selects a card from a stack of “identities”. The player must then answer questions as the other children try to figure out who the person is portraying. Identities should come from the life of Christ in the stories the children have already learned. End by having them all decide what they could say about Jesus.
2. **BE THE JUDGE**
Have a list of crimes. Take volunteers from the group or simply pass them out to the children. One by one have the children reveal their crimes. As a group, have the children decide what punishment should be given for that crime. End the game with the crime- sin against God. See what the children say and then remind them that Jesus received the guilty verdict for all of us. What was His punishment?

3. **LAWYER'S DREAM**

Divide the children into two groups. Assign one the task of being the lawyers to defend Jesus in His trial. The other group are the prosecutors. Give both groups time to write down some point for their cases. Then, let the trial begin.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies

LESSON 33

“The Crucifixion”

Roman soldiers took Jesus and put a crown of thorns upon His head. They began to mock Him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on Him and hit Him. Jesus didn’t say a single word. They gave Jesus a wooden cross and told Him to carry it to the place where He was to be crucified.

As Jesus carried the cross, many people watched. Some were enemies and some were friends, who wanted to help Him but couldn’t. After all that had happened to Him, Jesus was not able to carry the cross very far and finally fell to the ground. When the soldiers saw that Jesus was not able to carry the cross any further, they called a stranger from the crowd to carry the cross for Him.

The soldiers took Jesus to a hill called Calvary. There, they nailed His hands and feet to the wooden cross, raised the cross into the air and firmly planted it in the ground, leaving Him to hang there until He died. They placed a sign above His head that said, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” The soldiers took His clothes and cast lots among themselves for them. As Jesus hung on the cross, He prayed. The people heard Him say, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Two thieves also were crucified that day, one on each side of Jesus. One of the thieves made fun of Jesus, but the other said, “We deserve to die, but this man has done no wrong.” The thief then looked at Jesus and said, “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “Today you shall be with Me in paradise.”

Though it was noon, the sky became dark. For three hours the earth was completely dark. Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “It is finished! Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.” Then Jesus bowed His head and died. A Roman soldier, standing near the cross the entire time of the crucifixion, looked at the other soldiers and said, “Truly this man was the Son of God.”

KEY VERSE:

“Truly this man was the Son of God.” Matthew 27:54

LESSON 33

“The Crucifixion”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did the soldiers put on Jesus’ head? A CROWN OF THORNS
2. What did Jesus do when they spat on Him and hit Him? HE DIDN’T SAY
A SINGLE WORD
3. Who helped Jesus carry the cross? A STRANGER FROM THE CROWD
4. Where did the soldiers crucify Jesus? A HILL CALLED CALVARY
5. What did Jesus pray while He was on the cross? “FATHER, FORGIVE THEM,
FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.”
6. What did the two thieves say about Jesus? ONE OF THE THIEVES MADE
FUN OF JESUS, BUT THE OTHER SAID, “WE DESERVE TO DIE, BUT
HIS MAN HAS DONE NO WRONG.”
7. What did Jesus tell him? “TODAY YOU SHALL BE WITH ME IN
PARADISE.”
8. What happened during the last three hours of Jesus’ life? THOUGH IT WAS
NOON, THE SKY BECAME DARK.
9. What did the Roman soldier who guarded Jesus say? “TRULY THIS MAN
WAS THE SON OF GOD!”

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. PAINTING- “THE PASSION OF CHRIST”
Have the children paint pictures of Jesus on the cross. You may want to give them a pre-printed outline or may choose to let them do an original drawing. Have the key verse printed on the sheet.
2. SEVEN LAST WORDS
Tell the children that Jesus actually said seven things from the cross. Have them make a list of things they remember from the story and others that they think He might have said. Then give them a list of the seven last words. You may choose to let them find them in the Bible. They are:
 - a. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
Luke 23:34
 - b. “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in
paradise.” Luke 23:43
 - c. “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
Matthew 27:46

- d. "Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!"
John 19:26-27
- e. "I thirst."
John 19:28
- f. "It is Finished."
John 19:30
- g. "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit."
Luke 23:46

3. WHY?

Ask the children why it was necessary for Jesus to die. Let them honestly answer the question. Help them remember the sin in the garden and what happened to Adam and Eve. Lead them to remember about the sacrifices that had to be made for sin in the Old Testament. Try to help them understand that if people were going to be able to live in Heaven, there had to be a sacrifice to pay for their sin. Jesus was that sacrifice! Then help them to remember scripture that we have memorized by having them read the key verse posters for John 3:16 and Matthew 27:54.

SNACK IDEA: Heart Shaped Cookies

LESSON 34

“The Resurrection”

After the crucifixion a rich man named Joseph came boldly to Pilate and asked to take the body of Jesus and bury it. Joseph loved Jesus. With Pilate’s permission Joseph and Nicodemus went to Calvary, took Jesus’ body down from the cross, and wrapped it in fine linen with the sweet spices and perfumes that Nicodemus had brought. Then they laid it in a new grave that Joseph had bought for himself. The grave was cut out of a large rock and opened into a garden.

Jesus’ enemies were afraid that his grave might be disturbed by his friends. Hurrying to Pilate they said, “Sir, we remember that Jesus said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Order the grave made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come at night, steal him away, and say to the people, ‘He is risen from the dead.’”

Pilate answered, “You have a guard. Go and make the grave as secure as you can.”

They went and made the grave sure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

The women who had watched Joseph and Nicodemus lay Jesus’ body away longed to show their love for him. After sunset the next day, when the Sabbath was ended, the women prepared sweet perfumes and planned to go early in the morning to anoint the body of Jesus.

But the eleven sorrowing disciples hid themselves. They had forgotten that Jesus had said he would rise again on the third day. Nothing seemed left for them now.

The hours dragged slowly for the Roman soldiers who guarded Jesus’ grave. No one had come. Perhaps they laughed at the Jews for being afraid.

As dawn came the ground began to tremble. Another earthquake had come. The frightened soldiers saw a mighty angel come down, roll the stone from the grave and sit on it. The angel’s face was like lightning, and his garments were as white as snow. The soldiers fell to the ground, trembling and helpless, and lay there as if they were dead.

Just after sunrise on the first day of the week, the women went to Jesus’ tomb with the spices they had made ready. “Who will roll away the stone for us?” they wondered. Their broken hearts could only hope there would be a way to properly care for the body of their beloved friend.

When they arrived at the tomb, they were amazed to find the heavy stone rolled away! As they looked into the tomb, they saw an angel in a white robe. “Do not be afraid,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus, the man from Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen. Look! He is no longer in the tomb. Go and tell his disciples, ‘Jesus is alive. You will see him again, just as he promised!’”

The women ran from the place, filled with joy, yet trembling with excitement and fear. The good news seemed too wonderful to be true. Still, they believed and hurried to tell the disciples and other friends.

The disciples could not believe the glad message. Peter and John ran to see for themselves. When they came to the tomb, they found no one, but they saw the grave clothes that Joseph had wrapped around Jesus' body. Peter and John were sure now that Jesus was alive once more.

KEY VERSE:

“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.” Matthew 28:6

LESSON 34

“The Resurrection”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who asked permission of Pilate to take the body of Jesus from the cross? A RICH MAN NAMED JOSEPH
2. Who helped Joseph remove Jesus' body from the cross and prepare it for burial? NICODEMUS
3. Where was the body of Jesus buried? IN JOSEPH'S NEW TOMB IN A GARDEN
4. Why did Pilate station Roman soldiers about the tomb? TO GUARD THE PLACE, SO THAT THE DISCIPLES COULD NOT COME AND STEAL THE BODY OF JESUS
5. What did the women do after the Sabbath was ended? THEY PREPARED SWEET PERFUMES AND PLANNED TO GO EARLY THE NEXT MORNING TO ANOINT THE BODY OF JESUS
6. What happened at dawn? THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE
7. What happened to the stone? AN ANGEL CAME DOWN, ROLLED THE STONE FROM THE GRAVE, AND SAT ON IT
8. What did the soldiers do? THEY FELL TO THE GROUND, TREMBLING AND HELPLESS, AND LAY THERE AS IF THEY WERE DEAD
9. Who went to the tomb just after sunrise? THE WOMEN WHO HAD MADE SPICES
10. What did they see when they looked in the tomb? AN ANGEL IN A WHITE ROBE
11. What did the angel say? DO NOT BE AFRAID. YOU ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS, THE MAN FROM NAZARETH, WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN LOOK! HE IS NO LONGER IN THE TOMB GO AND TELL HIS DISCIPLES. YOU WILL SEE HIM AGAIN, JUST AS HE PROMISED!
12. What message did the women hasten to bring to the disciples? THE GLAD NEWS THAT JESUS HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD
13. When Peter and John arrived at the tomb, what did they find? THE GRAVE CLOTHES THAT JOSEPH HAD WRAPPED AROUND JESUS' BODY

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. COLORS OF THE RESURRECTION

Have the children color a picture of the resurrection. Encourage them to use as many colors as they can and still be true to nature. Explain that on the day of Jesus' resurrection, all creation rejoiced!

2. HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SAY IT?

Divide the children into teams of two to four children. Tell them that we are going to pretend that we are the women who saw the angel and learned that Jesus is alive! What short phrase can they use to tell the good news? They cannot use a phrase that has already been given. Have a piece of paper where you can write down the different ways to say "the good news" as the children play the game. Play until they can no longer think of phrases or until you get tired!

3. GOOD NEWS BRACELETS

Give each child a strip of leather or plastic twine, cut to fit their arm like a bracelet. Then give each child a set of beads in the following colors: Black, Red, White, Blue, Green and Yellow. Using the Explanation Sheets, explain the meaning of each color bead and let the children place the beads on the bracelet. When all the beads are placed on the twine, tie it together and place it on the arm of each child. Then give each child a copy of the explanation sheet and tell them that just as you have given them the good news, they can now use the bracelet to share the good news with others.

SNACK IDEA: Smiley Face Cookies

LESSON 35

“Jesus Appears”

Mary Magdalene had not stayed in the garden long enough to hear the angel's message. Now she returned, longing to find where her Lord had been taken. Entering the garden again, she stood by the empty grave and wept. Then she stooped down, looked into the grave, and saw two angels. One was sitting at the head and another at the foot where Jesus' body had been.

They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She replied, “Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid him.” Then turning around she saw Jesus himself standing near. But tears blinded her eyes, and she did not know him.

He, too, asked, “Why do you weep?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried away my Lord, tell me where you have laid him.”

Then Jesus said, “Mary!” and she knew his voice. What glad joy filled Mary's heart! She fell at his feet and cried, “Master!”

Jesus said, “Go at once and tell my friends that I will ascend to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

Later on that day, along the road leading to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem, two men walked slowly, with bowed heads. As they talked about Jesus' trial and crucifixion and about the women's message that morning, a stranger joined them. He asked, “What are you talking about so earnestly? Why are you sad?”

One of the men asked, “Don't you know what has been happening?”

“What things?” the stranger wanted to know.

They answered, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a great prophet in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and rulers condemned him to death and crucified him. We believed he was the Christ.

“This is the third day since it happened and this morning some women of our company astonished us. They had gone early to the tomb, but they did not find Jesus' body. But they saw angels who said, ‘He is risen.’ Some of us hurried to the grave and found it empty, but we did not see the angels or our risen Lord.”

The stranger talked to them about the Christ. He showed them by the Scriptures that Christ would have to suffer these very things and rise again the third day if he would really be the Savior.

When they came to Emmaus, the two said, “Stay with us, for it is almost evening.” So the stranger went with them. When they sat down to eat he took bread, blessed it, and gave it to them. At once they knew he was Jesus, the risen Lord. Then he disappeared. How happy they were! They hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. When they reached the room where the disciples were, they went in and closed the door. As the two told how Jesus had walked and talked with them, Jesus appeared in their midst.

“Peace be unto you,” he said.

But the disciples did not feel peace and quiet in their hearts. They were frightened.

Jesus said to them, “Why are you so troubled? Why do you have such thoughts in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, and you will see that it is I

The disciples looked at his hands and feet. It really was the Lord. They were so amazed that they didn’t know what to do.

How the disciples rejoiced at their visit with Jesus! Thomas had not been with them, so joyfully they told him, “We have seen the Lord.”

But Thomas answered, “Unless I place my finger in the print of the nails in his hands and place my hand on his side, I will not believe.”

Eight days passed. Again the disciples were together in a room, and the doors were shut. This time Thomas was with them. As suddenly as before, Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be to you!”

While the disciples marveled at Jesus’ strange coming, he spoke to Thomas, “Put your finger in my hands and place your hand on my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

Falling to his knees Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus told Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you believe. Blessed are those who believe even though they have not seen me.

KEY VERSE:

“Put your finger in my hands and place your hand on my side. Do not doubt but believe.” John 20:27

LESSON 35

“Jesus Appears”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. To whom did Jesus first appear after he had risen from the dead? TO MARY MAGDALENE
2. Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was? THE GARDENER
3. What were Jesus’ two friends talking about as they walked toward Emmaus? THEY DISCUSSED THE TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS, AND THE REPORT OF HIS RESURRECTION
4. How did these two men finally recognize Jesus? WHEN THEY ATE SUPPER, JESUS TOOK BREAD, BLESSED IT, AND GAVE IT TO THEM
5. Why did the two friends hurry back to Jerusalem? THEY NOW BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS ALIVE AND WANTED TO TELL THE OTHERS
6. What did the disciples think when Jesus appeared to them? THEY WERE FRIGHTENED
7. Who was not with the disciples when they saw Jesus? THOMAS
8. Did he believe that they had seen Jesus? NO
9. What did he say? UNLESS I PLACE MY FINGER IN THE PRINT OF THE NAILS IN HIS HANDS AND PLACE MY HAND ON HIS SIDE, I WILL NOT BELIEVE
10. Did Jesus appear to Thomas? YES
11. What did Thomas say to Jesus? MY LORD AND MY GOD
12. What did Jesus say to Thomas? BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, YOU BELIEVE. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NOT SEEN ME

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Use the Life of Christ game board and the review questions to review the entire life of Jesus. Try to make sure the children understand each of the concepts behind the questions and stories. Divide the children into teams and play in such a way that each team gets the opportunity to answer a question and then all move at one time to the next place on the game board for their particular color. The goal is to show that all

the different roads all lead to Christ and everyone wins who follows Him!

2. PICK A GAME

Have two or three games (basketball, bowling, or fishing, etc.) available for the children to select. Have each child tell you something that Jesus did during His life. If they can do this, then allow them to select a game and give it a try. If they are successful at the game of their choice, give them a special piece of candy. Have other candy there to reward them for trying if they are not successful, but did tell something about Jesus.

3. SPECIAL INVITATIONS

Give each child a special invitation to next week's club, the last club meeting of this current series. Explain that they can bring friends and that we will be watching a movie about the life of Jesus made especially for Children.

SNACK IDEA: Cookies

LESSON 36

“Drawing the Net”

Show the “Jesus Film for Children”.

Allow plenty of time for children to ask questions. Leaders will need to make a judgment call on the appropriateness of allowing the children to ask Jesus into their hearts. In many cases, this will be a natural conclusion to the year of storying and the film. In other cases, it would be very inappropriate. Use your best judgment and allow the Lord to guide the decision.

At the conclusion, have special refreshments and give each child a special certificate. You may even want to present special gifts to the children.

SPECIAL NOTE: You will want to provide adequate information about future meetings of the club, if you plan to continue working in this place. Make sure that the children are aware of future opportunities, etc.