

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Up, Up, and Away

YE1A · Teacher Edition

Beginners · Year 1: Life of Christ

Christian Educational Ministries — a faithful digital edition of the printed program

A Special Baby is Born

MEMORY VERSE

“Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

Name the town where Jesus was born.

Recite the names of Jesus’ earthly parents.

State that the birth of Jesus was one of the greatest events that has ever happened.

Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Angels

Bethlehem

Feast of Tabernacles

Fulfillment of Prophecy

Jesus, Birth of

Mary and Joseph

Shepherds

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, gold and silver stars, unbreakable nativity scene, crayons, simple toys, blocks and clay, white lunch-size paper bags, cotton balls, glue, white construction paper, songbook, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

Arrive early enough to set up the room with a table that has toys, blocks and clay on it, and small chairs arranged in a semicircle in a different area of the room.

Before class, either buy or make attendance and memory verse charts, write each child’s name on them, and dates at the top. If you elect to make the attendance and memory verse charts, draw lines down from each date and across from each name to form squares. Tack the charts on the wall low enough for the children to reach.

As the children arrive, greet them warmly, calling each one by name. Give each child a silver star to put by his name on the attendance chart. Then have them go to the table to play with the toys and other children. Encourage children to shape their clay to form a sheep or a star. As they play, ask questions that will lead into the lesson such as: Do you know who Jesus is? Did you know that Jesus was once a little baby? Did you know that His birth was so special that God put a very bright star in the sky?

Allow time after children arrive for them to play with the toys and clay until they reach their comfort level in class. Then let them recite their memory verse. Praise them for knowing it and give them a gold star to put by their name on the memory verse chart.

Now say, “One, two three, it’s listening time for you and me.” Move the children to small chairs if they are available, or have them sit on the floor in a semicircle. Make sure that you sit at their eye level as you teach the lesson. Remember that the attention span of three to five year old children is very short. To captivate and hold their interest they must be involved each step of the way.

Children are great mirrors of your attitude and enthusiasm. The lesson should be so familiar that you can tell it with enthusiasm, vocal variety, gestures, and drama. Before you begin, give each child one or more pieces (depending on the size of the class) of the nativity scene and ask them to hold their piece until you ask for it. As you go over the narrative, ask for each piece as needed.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Use the nativity figures to help the children remember and answer the review questions.

What was the name of the city where Jesus was born?

What are the names of Jesus’ earthly parents? (Hold up figures of Mary and Joseph.)

How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? (Hold up the figure of donkey.)

Who was out in the field watching sheep?

What was the most important thing that happened?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

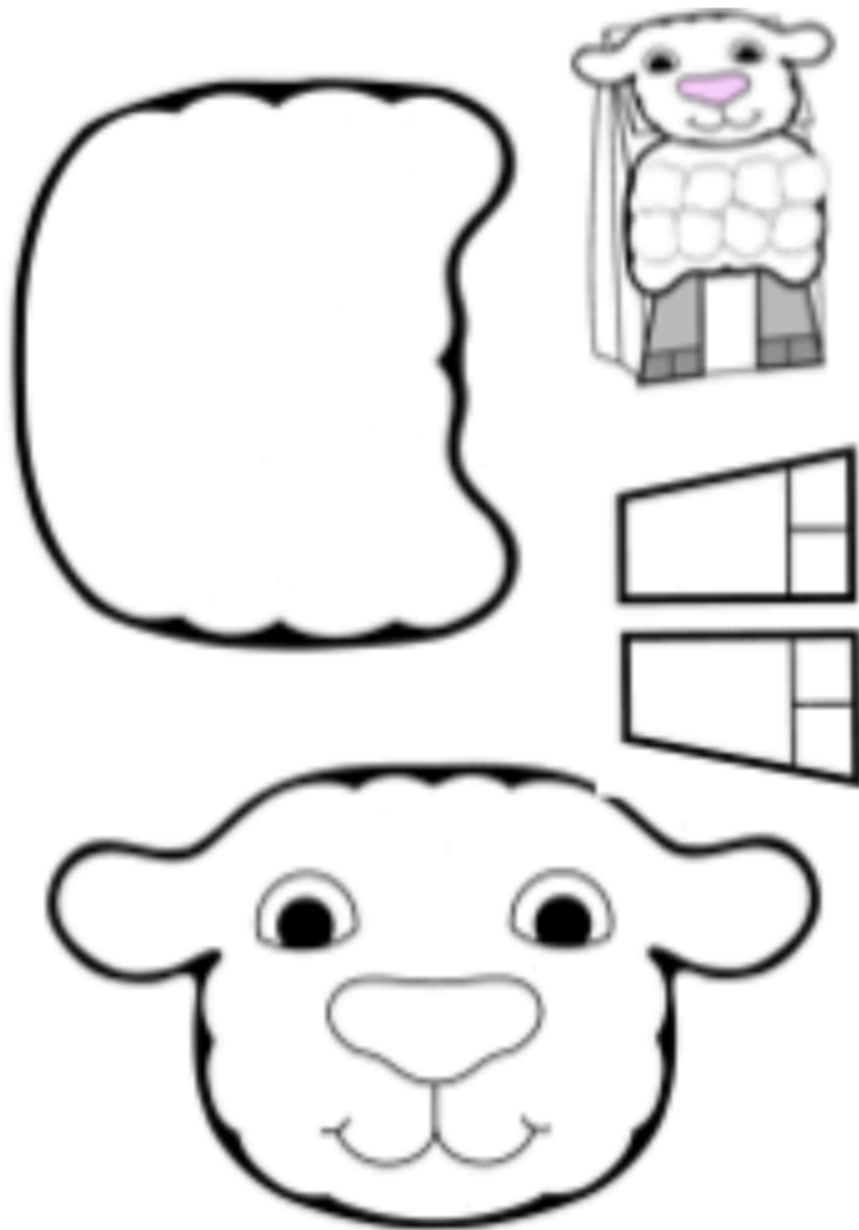
Enlarge and duplicate the sheep patterns onto white construction paper for each child. Help the children to cut out the pieces. Allow them to glue the pieces onto a white lunch-size paper bag (as shown in the picture). They can color the nose and legs of their sheep. Finally, have them glue cotton balls to the body of their sheep.

SONG

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” is on page 61 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, Thank you for giving us Jesus to be our Savior. He is our best Friend and the greatest gift of all. Help us to please Him. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.



Jesus Visits the Temple 2 min. read

MEMORY VERSE

“So Jesus grew both tall and wise” (Luke 2:40).

OBJECTIVES

1. Name the town where Jesus and His family went to keep the Passover.
2. Tell that Jesus studied the Bible because He wanted to obey His Heavenly Father.
3. Explain that they should never go anywhere without telling their parents where they are.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bible Study

Holy Days, Passover

Honor Your Father and Mother

Jesus, Childhood of

Jesus Sets Example

Jesus - Without Sin

Ten Commandments

Honor Your Father and

Mother

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's book, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, craft sticks, glue, paper, crayons, songbook, CD player, CD, toys and clay

PREPARATION

Children rarely exceed our expectations. Creating the right kinds of expectations in children can be done with subtle and overt concepts often repeated. Let the children know what you expect of them. Children should be expected to learn their memory verse, to pray, to obey God, and to be good in class.

Preschoolers need to feel loved, appreciated, and important. Initially, they gain their self-worth from their families. As their world expands, the attitudes of their teacher and friends can have an impact on whether they feel happy or dissatisfied about themselves. The teacher who shows that

each student is important to her also conveys the idea that the child is important to God. This can be done by emphasizing something the child does well and mentioning each child's name in your prayer.

It is important that no child gets the idea from this lesson that he can leave his parents without letting them know where he is. This could be very dangerous in this day and age.

After each child has said his memory verse and put a star by his name, say, "One, two, three, it's listening time for you and me." Invite them to sit in a semicircle and hear a story about their Friend, Jesus.

Before class, write the memory verse on enough strips of paper for each child to have one. Make a scroll to be used in telling the story by following the directions in the activity section of the lesson.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

After each question has been answered, have the children participate in the action.

1. Where did Jesus go with Mary and Joseph when He was 12 years old? Jerusalem. (Walk around the room, and come back to be seated.)
2. What did Mary and Joseph do when they noticed Jesus was not with them? Searched for Him. (Cup hands around eyes, looking from side to side.)
3. Where did they find Jesus? In the Temple. Whose house is the Temple? God's house. (Point up.)
4. Did Jesus ever disobey His parents? No. (Shake heads from side to side.)
5. Who knew where Jesus was? His Heavenly Father, God. (Point up.)

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give two craft sticks and a strip of paper with the memory verse written on it to each child. Let them glue a stick to each end of the paper. To make a scroll, help them roll the paper from each end meeting in the middle. Explain to them that this is the way the Bible looked when Jesus

SONG

"The B-I-B-L-E" is on page 18 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father, Thank you for the Passover, for the Bible, and for my mom and dad. Help me be like Jesus and obey my parents, and learn the Bible. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Jesus is Baptized

MEMORY VERSE

“This is my beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Repeat the name of Jesus’ cousin.
2. Describe how John baptized Jesus.
3. Tell that God was happy when Jesus was baptized.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Baptism

God’s Voice

Holy Spirit

Jesus Sets Example

John the Baptist

Jordan River

Obedience

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, crayons, a doll about the size of “G.I. Joe,” plastic tub and water or a flannel board and figures, white construction paper, white crepe paper streamers, paper reinforcements, glue, string, modeling dough, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

Preschoolers are too young to comprehend the significance of baptism. But biblical truths and traditions need to be introduced early and built on as the child grows. Baptism should be a part of their earliest memories. Create expectation that they will be baptized when they are old enough to come to repentance. Ask your minister to keep you informed about upcoming baptisms. Take your class to see them so the children can become familiar with this beautiful ordinance.

If you don't use a flannel board to tell this lesson, use a doll to demonstrate baptism. Before class, pour enough water into a plastic tub to cover the doll. Show the children how Jesus was placed under the water in baptism and raised up again.

Enlarge and duplicate the dove pattern onto white construction paper so that each child will have one. You will probably need to cut out the doves, especially for the younger children. Also make enough small doves for the review section so that each child will be able to answer a question. Cut white crepe paper streamers into 12 inch pieces. You will need three pieces for each child in class.

As children arrive, call each one by name and tell them how glad you are that they came to Sabbath School today. Show them to the table and ask them to make a bird out of modeling dough. While they are busy working, ask them if they have ever seen anyone being baptized. Allow them to tell about it. After every- one has arrived, recited their memory verse, and put their stars on their charts, say, "One, two, three, it's listening time for you and me." Seat the children in a semicircle, either in chairs or on the floor.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Place the small numbered doves on the table. Allow each child to choose one. Ask the following questions which correspond to the numbers on the doves. If the child holding the numbered dove does not know the answer, allow someone else to answer. If your class is larger than eight, repeat the numbering.

1. What was the name of Jesus' cousin?
2. Who did John baptize?
3. How was Jesus baptized?
4. Why was Jesus baptized?
5. What came down out of the sky and landed on Jesus?
6. Whose voice did the people hear coming from heaven?
7. When you get older, should you be baptized?
8. Have you ever seen anyone baptized?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child a dove that has been cut out, a piece of string and three white streamers. Allow the children to glue the streamers to the tail of the dove. Using a hole punch, allow them to punch a hole in the head of the dove. Reinforce the hole with a paper reinforcement. Thread the string through the hole and tie it. Allow the children to "fly" their doves by holding the string.

SONG

Sing the following verse to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me” on page 6 of the Kids Classics Collection. Jesus loves me, He will stay Close beside me all the day. He will wash away my sin. Let His little child come in. (Chorus)

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father, Thank you that Jesus obeyed you and was baptized. I want to obey you too. Help me to be good. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.



In God's House

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalm 122:1).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Tell how Jesus made the greedy men leave the Temple.
2. Name at least one right behavior they should do at church (in God's house).
3. Name at least one wrong behavior they should not do at church.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Anger, Jesus

Fulfillment of Prophecy

Holy Conduct

Jesus, Without Sin

Temple

Temple, Cleansing

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, pictures of animals, modeling dough, crayons, can with coins in it, rope, animal puppet, songbook, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

This lesson gives an opportunity to teach appropriate behavior at Sabbath worship service. God has standards of conduct, and we displease Him if we cross these boundaries. There are some things we should not do in God's house. There is a time and place for everything. But, inside the building where Sabbath worship services are conducted is not the place for running and playing.

Since animals are a part of this lesson, let your students tell about pets they have or their friends have. Ask them questions like: Who feeds your pet? What is your pet's name? What kinds of things does your pet do? Allow them to shape an animal out of the modeling dough.

Place a few coins inside a can with a plastic lid. This will be used to make the sound of the money changers.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Use an animal hand puppet to ask the questions. Practice using the puppet before class.

1. What did Jesus find when He went to the Temple in Jerusalem?
2. What did He do to the animals that were there?
3. What did Jesus do to the greedy men who sold the animals?
4. Can you tell some things that you should not do in God's house?
5. Name some good things that you can do in God's house?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Enlarge and copy two sets of pictures below onto light colored construction paper. Cut them apart, forming 18 individual cards. Turn all of the cards face down on the table. Mix them up. Now, allow one child at a time to turn over two of the cards. If the cards match, they can be removed. If they do not, turn them back over and go to the next child, repeating the procedure until all the cards have been matched. Remember to point out which items belong in God's house and which do not.

SONG

"Come and Go With Me" is on page 83 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father, We love you and our Friend Jesus. We want to please you. Help us always remember to do good things in your house. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Food For Everyone

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus took the loaves and fishes. . . and gave thanks to God” (John 6:11).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe the food that Jesus used to feed the crowd.
2. Explain that feeding the crowd was a miracle.
3. Tell the importance of sharing what we have with others.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bread/loaves

Fish

Giving Thanks to God

God’s Provision

Helping Others

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus, His Miracles

Feeding of 5000

Sacrifice and Offerings to God

Stewardship

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, small basket, loaf of French bread, jelly or peanut butter, paper towels, table knife, fish-shaped crackers, something to drink, small paper cups, crayons, songbook, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

A preschooler’s concept of love is limited to personal experiences. They are hands-on little people who learn from what they taste, smell, see, and hear. They learn from the parent or teacher who shows love in ways that appeal to their senses.

Giving big hugs or taking care of a skinned knee means a lot to a young child. God's love is shown to a child through your acts of kindness. These acts of kindness can include mentioning how much absent students are missed before the prayer. You can also show your love while working with short attention spans.

The idea of sharing is not within the cognitive skills of many young preschoolers. They simply understand that they must give away something that they have. Or, they may demand that someone else gives something to them. Today's lesson shows a young boy giving his lunch to Jesus so that others may have something to eat, too. The little boy was being kind and generous. He wanted to please Jesus and help others. These are concepts preschoolers can grasp.

Place a napkin inside a small basket. Lay a loaf of French bread inside the basket, along with enough fish-shaped crackers for each child to have two.

Enlarge and duplicate the fish and bread pattern onto colored construction paper. (Tan for the bread, green for the fish.) You will need five loaves and two fish. Cut out the shapes and place them in a small basket.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where did the people follow Jesus to when He went to spend time alone with His disciples?
2. Were there a few people or many people?
3. Why didn't the disciples go to the store to buy food?
4. Who gave Jesus his lunch?
5. What was in the little boy's lunch? (Have children count the five loaves and two fish.)
6. What did Jesus do with the lunch?
7. How much was left over?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

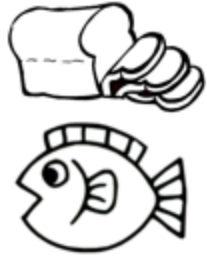
Place a paper towel in front of each child. Tell them to bow their heads and fold their hands. Ask the blessing for the food they are about to eat. Break the bread into pieces so that each child will have some. (This will illustrate Jesus breaking the bread.) Spread a little jam or peanut butter on each piece of bread. Tell the children you are going to share your lunch with them. Pass the basket of bread and allow each child to take out a piece. Give each child two fish-shaped crackers and something to drink. This might be a good time to start a food drive to help needy people in your community or church. The children could help with collecting canned goods to share with someone else.

SONG

“My God is So Big” is on page 14 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for our Friend, Jesus. Thank you for the little boy who shared his food with the hungry people. Thank you for the food we are about to eat. Please bless this food. Help us to always share what we have with others. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.



Jesus Walks on Water

MEMORY VERSE

“O you of little faith” (Matthew 14:31).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Tell that Jesus has power over the wind and the waves.
2. Describe how Peter walked on water.
3. Explain that God will help us when we are afraid or need help, if we ask Him.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Disciples

Peter

Faith

Fear

God’s Omnipotence

God’s Protection

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus, His Miracles

Walking on Water

Peter

Sea of Galilee

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, music CD, CD player, CD of thunderstorm, flannel board and pictures or picture depicting this story, large cardboard box, white, blue, gray and tan construction paper, glue, brown spray paint

PREPARATION

As you give children stars for the charts, explain that the stars show how thankful you are that they loved Jesus enough to come to Sabbath School and learn their memory verse. This is an

important concept to move rewards from the extrinsic to the intrinsic.

Telling the story is far more powerful and effective than reading the script. Children are used to many visuals and drama from TV, video games, amusement parks, movies, etc. Visual aids are imperative in holding kids' attention and effectively teaching the lesson. You can purchase a flannel board and story figures from your Christian bookstore. Play the CD of the thunderstorm for sound effects as you tell the story and put the pieces on the flannel board. This story has suspense, so make use of vocal variety and drama.

Be sure that the children understand that they cannot walk on water without a miracle. They should not try this at home or anywhere else!

It's important to teach our children that God takes care of us. However, God doesn't always keep bad things from happening to us. If we are not honest with this truth, we can undermine a child's faith in God.

Before class, obtain a large cardboard box (possibly a refrigerator box) to be used as a boat. Spray paint the box brown, and allow the paint to thoroughly dry. Cut several circles the size of a paper plate out of white construction paper for "portholes." Cut an "anchor" out of gray construction paper. Cut a "steering wheel" out of tan construction paper, and "waves" out of blue construction paper (enough to go the length of your box).

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Have the children sit on the floor around a small tub with water and a plastic boat in it. Have one child push the boat across the water to another child. The child the boat comes to can answer the question, then push the boat to another child.

1. Where were the disciples when the storm came up?
2. Who did they see walking on the water?
3. Who wanted to walk out on the water to Jesus?
4. When Peter was afraid and began to sink, what did he do?
5. Did Jesus help Peter when he cried out for help?
6. Who will help you when you are afraid?
7. What do you have to do to get Jesus to help you when you are afraid or in trouble?
8. Why do you think the storm stopped when Jesus got into the boat?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Have the children help decorate their boat by first attaching the "anchor," then glue on circles for "portholes," add the "steering wheel," and glue "waves" to the outside of your boat along the

bottom. Children can then take turns riding in the boat across the “Sea of Galilee.” Enact the story by having one of the children pretend to be Peter.

SONG

“Peter, James and John In A Sailboat” is on page 12 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father, We thank you that you and our Friend, Jesus, are always ready to help us. When we are afraid or in trouble we can pray and you will help us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

The Best Day of the Week

MEMORY VERSE

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain that the Sabbath is a special day of rest.
2. Tell that Jesus wants us to do good on the Sabbath.
3. State that Jesus wants us to prepare for the Sabbath.
4. Tell how Jesus healed a man’s hand on the Sabbath.

TOPICS & THEMES

Creation

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus, His Miracles

Healing

Sabbath

Sabbath Conduct

Sabbath Preparation

Ten Commandments

Sabbath

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, crayons, 18” square piece of cloth, rubber band, buttons, ribbon, red and black markers, yarn, cotton balls, yellow paper plates, green crepe-paper streamers, glue, scissors, hole punch, sunflower seeds, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

Before class, make a simple puppet by using an 18 inch square of cloth. Stuff the very center with cotton balls to make its head. Put a rubber band around the neck, leaving it loose enough to insert your index finger into the head. Tie a ribbon around the neck making a bow in front. Sew

two small buttons on the face for eyes, and one for the nose. Draw eyebrows with a black marker and make lips with a red marker.

Add yarn on the head to make hair. Cut two slits in the cloth at the sides for your thumb and second finger, which will look like arms. This puppet can become an old friend you can use in many classes to help focus attention on the lesson.

The Sabbath should never be a drudgery. It is a wonderful gift, and we have the responsibility to keep it holy. This lesson is designed to help children look forward to the Sabbath and think of it as the best day of the week. Make it special by being prepared, and by doing good for others.

When all the children have arrived, introduce them to your little “friend,” Samantha. Go around the room and have each child tell Samantha his or her name. Move your finger up and down slowly, to make Samantha nod after each name. Move Samantha’s face close to your ear, as if whispering. Say: “Samantha says she really likes all of you. She is glad to be here today.” Put Samantha back up to your ear. Say: “Samantha says it is time for us to hear our Bible story about the best day of the week.”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Help the children remember the Sabbath by doing the following motions:

1. The Sabbath is a special day of rest. (Bend your head toward your shoulder with hands together by your face.)
2. How can we help Mommy prepare for the Sabbath? (Act as if you’re sweeping with a broom.)
3. How can I do good on the Sabbath? (Shrug your shoulders.)
4. I can take a meal to someone who is sick. (Hold your hands like you are carrying a tray.)
5. The Sabbath is a special day of rest. (Bend your head toward your shoulders with your hands together by your face.)
6. The Sabbath is the best day of the week. (Clap.)

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

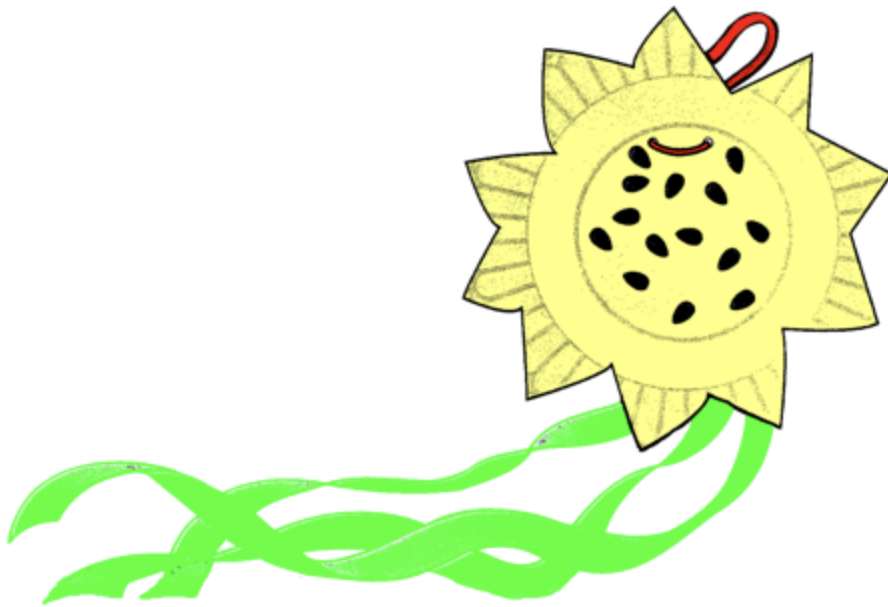
Help children make sunflower wind dancers (see diagram). Give each child a yellow paper plate. (Or, have children color one yellow.) Help them cut triangles out of the edge of the plate to form petals. Give each child three 20" strips of green crepe-paper streamers and some sunflower seeds. Allow them to glue the streamers to the edge of the paper plate, and the seeds to the middle of the plate. Punch two holes at the top of the plate and thread a piece of yarn to make a handle. They can take these wind dancers to someone who is sick to help cheer them.

SONG

“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” is on page 21 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for giving us such a wonderful day. You rested after creating the earth, the trees, the animals, and the birds. You want us to rest, too. Help us to do good on the Sabbath. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.



The Blind Man Can See

MEMORY VERSE

“I was blind, and now I see” (John 9:25).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe how Jesus made the blind man see.
2. Repeat that Jesus has power to heal the sick today.
3. State what they should do when they are sick.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Blindness

Faith

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus, His Miracles

Healing

Obedience

Physical Infirmities -

Blindness

Pool of Siloam

Poverty/Beggars

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, modeling clay, a small jar of mud, bottle of aspirin or Tylenol, thermometer, cough medicine, band-aid, “pin the tail on the donkey” game and blindfold, songbook, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

Creativity, variety, and making learning fun are essential in keeping the attention of this age group. At the same time, they are more comfortable if a similar routine is followed each week so they will know what to expect. It is good to establish areas where certain activities take place.

Play, learning, activity, and eating areas should all be designated. Some of these may take place in the same area if your space is limited.

Preschoolers don't yet understand that God provides for their needs. They assume that their parents or someone will always be there to take care of them. This week's lesson is one more step in helping them to learn that God loves them and can heal them when they are sick because God is all powerful. Sometimes, however, God doesn't heal. Sometimes God does allow people to have long-term illnesses, like asthma. The children need to know that isn't a sign that God doesn't love them. Trusting God even through an illness is very pleasing to Him.

As the children arrive, involve them in a game of "pin the tail on the donkey." Ask: Can you see anything with the blindfold on? Explain that this is what it is like to be blind—you can't see.

You will need a small jar of ordinary mud. Place a small amount of dirt in your jar and add a little water to make a mud paste.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Repetition is a good way to learn and review the lesson. Say each statement slowly and have kids repeat after you, doing the same things that you do. This could be repeated several times.

1. The blind man could not see. (Put your hands over your eyes.)
2. He couldn't see the trees or the grass. (Reach up and then bend down.)
3. Jesus healed the blind man. (Put your hands over your eyes and take hands off.)
4. Now he can see the sun shine. (Make a big circle by putting your fingertips together.)
5. Now he can see the squirrel climb the tree. (Make climbing motion with your hands.)
6. Jesus is our very best friend. (Hug yourself.)

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child a piece of modeling clay. Ask them to make something that the blind man could see after Jesus healed his eyes.

SONG

"O Be Careful Little Eyes" is on page 39 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank you for helping the blind man. Thank you that you can heal me when I am sick. Help me to always believe and obey you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Jesus Loves Me!

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said: Let the little children come unto me” (Matthew 19:14).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe what happened when some mothers brought their children to Jesus.
2. State that they are important to Jesus.
3. Explain what happens at the “Blessing of the Children” ceremony.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Blessing Children

Faith

God’s Kingdom

Jesus and Children

Jesus, His Ministry

Prayer

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, dolls, crayons, butcher’s paper, songbook, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

It would be good to schedule this lesson for either the week before or after the “Blessing of the Children” ceremony. It provides an opportunity to explain this ceremony to your class. Church traditions should be introduced early to children in an easy-to-understand way. Most of the children in your class may have been blessed at one of the annual services. If not, they are still young enough to be a part of the next service. If you are in doubt about whether a child has been blessed, check with the parents and suggest that they be. The teacher should look for

opportunities to relate to parents. You may learn things to pray about and ways to better meet the needs of your students.

Before class, cut enough pieces of butcher's paper for each child in your class to have a piece approximately four feet long. This should be large enough to trace the body of the tallest child in your class.

You may want to call the parents of the girls in your class and ask them to let the girls bring their dolls to class to use for acting out this lesson.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Let the children act out the story. The boys could be the disciples who object to mothers bringing their children to Jesus. The girls could be the mothers with their babies (dolls to represent the children being blessed).

1. What did the disciples say when the mothers brought their children to Jesus?
2. Did Jesus send the children away?
3. What did Jesus do with the children?
4. Why did Jesus bless the children?
5. Why does Jesus want to bless you?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Have each child lie down on a piece of butcher's paper. Trace around the child's body. Have the children color their own outline. Tell them to make the hair the same color as their hair, their eyes the same color. Have them look at the color of their clothes and color their picture the same color. They can take their picture home and tell their mommies and daddies that Jesus loves the little children.

SONG

"Jesus Loves the Little Ones" is on page 42 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father, Thank you for giving me such a wonderful Friend like Jesus. Thank you that He loves me. Thank you that you hear my prayers. Help me do things to please you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

The Man in the Tree

MEMORY VERSE

“Salvation has come to your house” (Luke 19:9).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Name at least two facts about Zacchaeus.
2. Explain that they shouldn't give up easily if they want something that is good for them.
3. Tell how Zacchaeus was able to see Jesus.
4. Recite their memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Forgiveness

Jericho

Jesus, His Ministry

Perseverance

Repentance

Sycamore Tree

Tax collectors

Zacchaeus

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, butcher's paper, brown paint or crayons, green finger paint, styrofoam plates, old shirts to protect children's clothing, flannel board and figures, songbook, CD, CD player, prizes

PREPARATION

These comprehensive lessons are designed to get one idea across each week. The Scripture, memory verse, review, activity, song, and prayer are all intended to drive home this point in different ways. All of these steps have their importance in the learning process. It would be a mistake to leave out a step such as the song. Words set to music are learned and retained far better than the spoken word. Include action or hand motions with as many of the songs as you can.

The more you work with young children, the more you will realize that it is important to be realistic with your expectations. The ability to comprehend and perform certain skills will differ from child to child. Allow time to help the slower or reluctant children. Give them much encouragement.

Your class will love this story because they can relate to a man who was so short that he couldn't see over the heads of tall people. The use of a flannel board and figures will help make this lesson come alive. Flannel boards can be purchased at your local Christian bookstore.

Try doing the activity first—you can use it as a prop. Before class, make a tree trunk with branches about five feet tall on butcher's paper. Color or paint the tree brown. The children will make the leaves with their hand prints. You can then hang the tree on the wall of your classroom.

Since this is the last lesson in this unit, you may want to award a small prize to each child who has quoted all ten memory verses.

Things like Bible coloring books and crayons can be purchased at your local Christian bookstore or dollar stores.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How big was Zacchaeus?
2. What kind of work did Zacchaeus do?
3. Who did Zacchaeus want to see?
4. What did he do to see over the heads of the people?
5. What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Lay the butcher's paper on which you have drawn the tree on the floor. Each child will need an old shirt to protect his clothing. Pour a small amount of green finger paint into a styrofoam plate. Help each child make "hand print leaves" for the tree by dipping the palm of his hand into the paint. Let children place their "leaves" on the tree branches. If your class is small, each child should be allowed to make several "leaves." Hang the tree on the wall, being careful not to smear the paint.

SONG

"Zacchaeus" is on page 29 of the Kids Classics Collection. Be sure to do the motions.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you that you love me. Thank you that you forgave Zacchaeus.
Please forgive me when I do bad things. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

