

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Festivals are Fun!

YE1W · Teacher Edition

Beginners · Year 1: Life of Christ

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

Passover

MEMORY VERSE

“...When I see the blood, I will pass over you.” - Exodus 12:13

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Tell why God wanted Pharaoh to let His people go.
2. Explain what the Israelites had to do to protect themselves from the death angel.
3. State why we call this festival the Passover.

TOPICS & THEMES

Aaron
Angel, Death
Blood
Egypt
Firstborn
God's protection
Holy Days
Jesus, Death of
Moses
Obedience
Passover
Pharaoh
Plagues
Redemption
Slaves

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance & memory verse charts, stars, music player and CD or tape, umbrella, bandage, picture of a car seat belt, padlock, picture of a traffic light

PREPARATION

One of the basic needs of young children is the need for safety and security. Their physical needs are provided primarily by parents, along with protection from things that could harm them. When teaching children in the Beginner age group, it is important that we use concrete examples to show how God cares for us. From Bible stories, such as Moses and the children of Israel, they are made aware of how God protects His children.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did God want Pharaoh to let His people go?
2. Did Pharaoh do what God said?
3. What happened to the Egyptian's water?
4. What did the Egyptians find in their beds?
5. What was so strange about God making it dark?
6. Who passed over when he saw the blood above the door?
7. Why do we celebrate Passover?

SONG

Song: "Praise Him, Praise Him" is on page 76 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for protecting the Israelites that Passover night. Ask Him to help the children remember how God took care of the Israelites and that He takes care of them when they obey.

Bread of Life

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus said. . . I am the bread of life.” - John 6:35

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain why the Israelites ate flat bread.
2. Tell how long the Days of Unleavened Bread last.
3. Give the name by which we call the flat bread - unleavened.
4. State that Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”

TOPICS & THEMES

Bread of Life
Days of Unleavened
Bread
Eating Unleavened
Bread
Egypt, Coming Out
Eternal Life
Holy Days
Jesus, Death of
Jesus, Savior
Leavening
Offering
Unleavened

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students’ and teacher’s books, music player and CD or Tape, magazine pictures of food, construction paper, glue, corn tortillas, food items for the “Activity”

PREPARATION

Children in the Beginner age group learn best by doing. Provide materials they can touch, smell, see and even taste. Use lesson-related objects and activities to relate Scripture truths to the

child's life. These activities can be arts and crafts, games and home living.

For the opening object lesson, cut several pictures out of magazines of food items (fruit, candy, ice cream, cookies, cake, hamburgers, pizza, chicken, etc.). Glue each picture onto a piece of construction paper to give it stability.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Ask the review questions while the children are eating their “feast” for the Activity.

1. Why did the Israelites eat flat bread instead of fluffy bread like a roll?
2. What do we call the flat bread?
3. How many days did the Israelites celebrate this feast?
4. What are some things we do to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread?
5. What did Jesus say that reminds us of why we eat unleavened bread?

SONG

“God Is So Good” is on page 87 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for leading the Israelites out of Egypt, and for the food He provides for them – especially the flat bread to help them remember.

Let's Celebrate!

MEMORY VERSE

“... I will pour out my Holy Spirit on all people.” - Acts 2:17 (NIRV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. State that we celebrate Pentecost 50 days after the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
2. Explain that Israelites brought an offering of bread to the feast of Pentecost.
3. Tell that God sent His Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

TOPICS & THEMES

Counting

Gratitude

Harvest

Holy Days

Holy Spirit

Offering

Pentecost

Two Loaves

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, music player and CD or tape, bib type apron, magazine pictures, construction paper, scissors, glue, Contact paper, Ziplock bags, Life Saver candies or other small objects, two small loaves of bread (hoagie sandwich type buns will do), party whistles and balloons - one for each student

PREPARATION

Children are often reminded to say “please” and “thank you.” We need to help children understand that gratitude comes from their hearts not just from their lips. Encourage the children to think of and name some things for which they can be thankful. Emphasize that they should be thankful for small and large things. Point out that the gift of God's Spirit is a very big thing for which we should be thankful.

The Feast of Pentecost is a spring harvest festival. It pictures a time when those who have God's Spirit, the firstfruits, will be harvested when Christ returns to this earth.

Make or purchase a bib style apron having multiple large pockets (This apron can be used for future lessons as well as this one). Place the following items in different pockets. In the first one place a Ziplock bag containing 50 small items, like Cheerios or Life Saver candies. In the second pocket place two small loaves of bread (hoagie type sandwich buns will work), in another pocket place a party whistle, and in the last pocket put a balloon.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Israelites celebrate Pentecost? (God said to because it is a harvest festival)
2. When did they celebrate Pentecost? (Fifty days from the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.)
3. What did the Israelites bring as an offering? (Two loaves of fluffy bread.)
4. After Jesus went to be with His Father, what did God send on Pentecost to help His people? (His Holy Spirit.)

SONG

"This Is The Day" is in The Group Songbook that the Intermediates and Senior Teens use.

CLOSING PRAYER

Have the children hold hands and stand in a circle with their heads bowed. Ask each one to name something for which they are thankful. Lead them in a prayer thanking God for Pentecost and for sending His Holy Spirit.

Blow the Trumpet!

MEMORY VERSE

“Shout out loud . . . Raise your voice like a trumpet.” - Isaiah 58:1 (NIRV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Name some of the uses for the trumpet.
2. State that a trumpet makes a very loud sound.
3. Tell that their Friend, Jesus, will one day come back to earth with the sound of a trumpet.

TOPICS & THEMES

Feast of Trumpets

Holy Day

Jesus, Return of

New Moon

Obedience

Trumpets

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, music player and CD or tapes, trumpet (if possible), yellow construction paper, crayons, stapler or tape, stickers

PREPARATION

Listening is a skill which is developed through practice. For some children, listening is hard work. Help these children learn to listen by using visuals and storytelling techniques which also show your love of God's Word.

The trumpet was used in the Old Testament to gain the people's attention when an important announcement was to be made, when they were going to battle, on important occasions, and as a warning. The sound of the trumpet was a call to listen.

If possible, have someone come to your class to demonstrate what a modern day trumpet looks and sounds like.

Before you come to class, make a cone shaped trumpet out of yellow construction paper, or have a real trumpet available to use.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

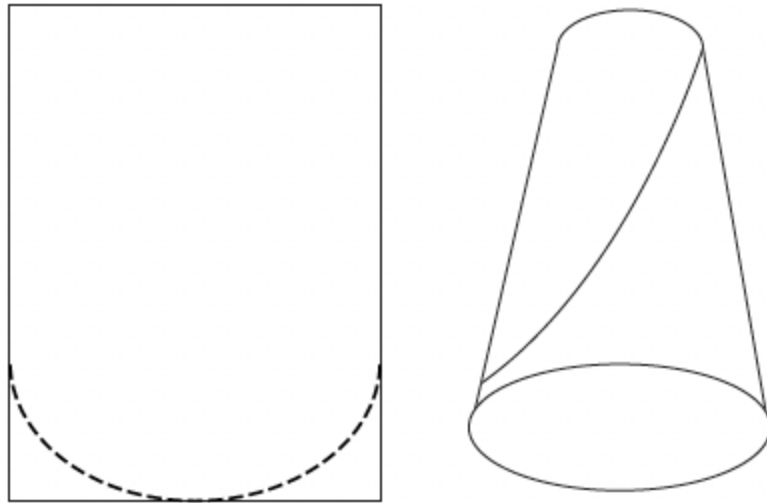
1. What are three things that a trumpet sound told the people?
2. When do we celebrate the Feast of Trumpets?
3. One day everyone will hear a loud trumpet sound. What will that trumpet tell us?
4. What are some things we do to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets?

SONG

“This Is The Day” is in The Group Songbook that the Intermediates and Senior Teens use.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Blow your trumpet.) Tell the children it is time to bow their heads and pray. Thank God for all the different things the trumpet tells us. Thank Him for the Feast of Trumpets that reminds us that one day Jesus will return to earth.



Made Right

MEMORY VERSE

“... Blessed are those whose sins are taken away.” Romans 4:7 (NIrV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Define atonement as making things right with God.
2. Explain that on the Day of Atonement the High Priest made an atonement for all the people in their country.
3. State that the second goat was taken far, far away like our sins are.

TOPICS & THEMES

Atonement

Atonement, Day of

Fasting

Forgiveness

Goats

High Priest

Holy Days

Holy of Holies

Jesus, Death of

Priestly Garments

Reconciliation

Sin

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, music player and CD or tapes, white shirt, construction paper, paper fasteners, scissors, crayons, Ken doll, white fabric, boxes, gold foil, lampstand, 2 small toy goats, and a small toy bull, 12 tiny unleavened bread cakes, paper brads

PREPARATION

“Moral educators without the Bible have a constant dilemma. There is no ultimate standard. . . But the Christian teacher. . . can teach what God says. . . From the Bible stories, children can

learn to see the right things and the wrong things people do. They can begin to learn the word sin. Sin is doing the things God does not want you to do, or it is not doing the things God wants you to do” (Teaching Kindergartners, by Ruth Beechick).

It is important that even the young child learns how their sins can be forgiven and their relationship be Made Right with the Creator of the universe. Hebrews chapter 9 tells us that Christ, our high priest, entered the presence of the Father, not with the blood of bulls and goats, but with His own precious blood. He presented His sacrifice as the price to set us free from sin forever. We no longer offer an animal sacrifice yearly as atonement for our sins. Jesus died once for all! One difference in Passover and Atonement is Passover represents Christ dying as a sacrifice for our individual sins and Atonement is communal forgiveness.

A visual representation will make it easier and improve understanding of this ceremony. Before class, make a simple Temple model out of a cardboard box, cover the inside with gold foil paper, divide off the Holy of Holies with a curtain, add the lampstand, make the altar, altar of incense, and table from small boxes covered with gold foil (see the diagram in the NIV Study Bible, pages 124, 125.). Dress a Ken doll completely in white for him to represent the High Priest.

Before you come to class, make enough copies of the animal circle and the question circle (See the pattern page) for each student to have one. You will need to cut the opening for the students, and have a brad for each child.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why do we celebrate the Day of Atonement?
2. What color clothes did the High Priest wear on the Day of Atonement?
3. How many goats were used on the Day of Atonement?
4. Why was one goat taken far, far away into the wilderness?

SONG

“Happy All The Time” is on page 40 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Form a circle and have the children hold hands while you say a prayer of thanksgiving for the forgiveness of sins.

Just Passing Through

MEMORY VERSE

“Celebrate my Feast of Booths for seven days each year.” - Leviticus 23:41 (NirV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain that nothing in this world lasts forever.
2. Tell that they are Just Passing Through and will live with Jesus forever in His Kingdom.
3. State that God told them to celebrate the Feast for seven days.

TOPICS & THEMES

Booth

Egypt

Eternal Life

Feast of Tabernacles

God's Kingdom

God's Plan

Holy Days

Loving God

Moses

Obedience

Slaves

Tabernacling

Wandering

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, songbook, music player and CD or tapes, suitcase, picture of a tree or plant, plate, magazine pictures, brick, "Story Apron"

PREPARATION

Young children are not adept at visualizing things with which they are not familiar. Pictures and activities help them extend life experiences. As children "play" the story, pretend to be a tree, walking in place, use facial expressions, they are sensing through their bodies. The activity in

conjunction with pictures help develop internal images in the minds of the children. Learning depends largely upon visual and auditory senses.

To help these children sense what it was like to go to the wilderness and to the Feast, have them participate in the indicated activities in today's story.

Each year YEA publishes special Feast of Tabernacles books for each age group containing five or six lessons designed to be taught daily during the Feast. These books are available from CEM and must be ordered in advance of the Feast.

Before you come to class, cut the following pictures out of magazines and place in the pockets of your "Story Apron": car, train, camper, airplane, tent, tree or plant. You will also need a brick and a plate.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Wear your "Story Apron" (See lesson 3). Take items or pictures out of the pockets as you ask the following questions:

1. (Brick) What did the Israelites do in Egypt?
2. How did the Egyptians treat God's people?
3. What did Pharaoh say when Moses told him to let God's people go?
4. (Plate) What would happen if I dropped this plate?
5. (Picture of a tree or a small plant) What happens to a tree or plant when it gets old?
6. (Pictures of car, camper, train, bus, airplane) How did God's people travel? (Walk in place.)
7. (Picture of tent) Where did they live in the wilderness?
8. When you go to the Feast, where will you stay? (Allow each child to tell where he will stay.)
9. Why does God want us to leave our nice home and stay in a tent, motel, or condo?

SONG

"This Is The Day" is in The Group Songbook that the Intermediates and Senior Teens use.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for the Feast that reminds us that this life and everything in this world won't last, but God's Kingdom will soon come, and it will last forever. Thank God for the place Jesus is preparing for us so that we can live with our Friend Jesus forever.

The Greatest Day

MEMORY VERSE

“I saw the Holy City. . . coming down out of heaven. . .” - Revelation 21:2 (NIV Kids Devotional Bible)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Tell that God will send a new heaven and new earth from heaven.
2. Explain that at that time, there will be no more crying, tears, pain, skinned knees or broken arms.
3. State that to be in this new Holy City, they must love and obey God.
4. Explain that the Last Great Day is the next day after the Feast of Tabernacles ends.

TOPICS & THEMES

Eighth Day
Eternal Life
God’s Kingdom
Holy Days
Jerusalem
Loving God
Millennium
New Heavens, New
Earth
Obedience

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, students’ and teacher’s books, cut out pictures, blue crayon or marker, poster board, double stick Scotch Tape, doll bride or picture of a bride, red and blue handkerchief

PREPARATION

When teaching little children, combine the new, old, and unexpected. Don’t let a technique drive the presentation, rather let the technique improve the lesson. Techniques should improve recall

in the child's mind. YEA goals are much greater than entertaining or even educating children for the moment; our goals are the salvation of our kids – eternal goals.

Before class color a large poster board light blue and attach it low enough to the wall that the children can easily add pictures to it. Draw the following on the appropriate color: stars, sun, moon, birds, bees, snow flakes, clouds, rain drops. Cut out and number them one through eight on the back. Put a piece of double stick tape on the back of each one.

Parents want education before entertainment and kids want entertainment before education. The number one element in reaching kids is humor – it has to be entertainment at a level that will keep your class interested in the story. Some time might be well spent for a teacher to watch Nickelodeon cartoons. Notice what kids laugh at – not what you laugh at.

Make each character come alive in your lessons. Portray characters with their biblical attitude, personality, sensibilities, and sense of humor. But make it accurate and real.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Take all of the pictures off the sky and put them in a basket. Shake it and dump the pictures on the floor in front of the children. Tell the kids they are to pick up one or more picture (depending on the size of the class), when you say “go.” Say “go” and watch the scramble. Ask each person the question number that coordinates with the number on the back of their picture. If you have more than eight students, make up more questions. If you have fewer than eight, let them pick up more than one and ask all of the questions.

1. Name one thing you see in the sky.
2. What is The Greatest Day called?
3. Who comes to live with us when the new city of Jerusalem comes down?
4. When do we celebrate the Last Great Day?
5. Will there be a new heaven?
6. Will there be a new earth?
7. In the new city of Jerusalem, will there be any crying or pain?
8. What must you do to be in that city?

SONG

“Happy All The Time” is found on page 40 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer thanking God for such a wonderful plan that is shown in His feast days. Thank God for each child in the room and single them out by name as you talk to God about them.

Right or Wrong?

MEMORY VERSE

“Don’t add anything to my commands . . .” - Deuteronomy 12:32 (NIrV Kid’s Devotional Bible)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain that God has days that He wants us to celebrate.
2. Explain that God wants us to worship Him like He tells us to in the Bible.
3. State that we shouldn’t say bad things about people who keep Easter.
4. Tell that Jesus was not resurrected on Easter Sunday.

TOPICS & THEMES

Holidays, Easter

Holy Days

Resurrection

Obedience

Worship God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students’ and teacher’s books, songbook, CD or cassette tape, music player, red construction paper, glue, glitter, puppet face, paper lunch bag

PREPARATION

It’s easy to take our classroom for granted and overlook how drab or uninteresting it can be. Children are very influenced by their environment. Even though you’re teaching little children, ugly shag carpets and dingy walls have an undesirable effect on those little tots and your classes. Take a good look at your room and see what you can do to make it colorful, exciting, and a warm friendly place for children to learn about God. If your church owns its building, you may want to consider getting permission to break out the drop cloths, stir up the bright colored paints, and stroke the walls with child-friendly scenery or designs. Try making it a real learning classroom.

To treat your class sometime, you might take them to Chick-fil-A. This business was established by Truett Cathy, a Christian. He has teamed up with Tommy Nelson publisher to give away nearly four million Veggie Tales books in their Chick-fil-A Kids Meals. You may want to check in advance to ensure this is the time of the year for this promotional.

Before class, copy the heart on separate sheets of red construction paper (see pattern page). Also, copy and enlarge the puppet (see pattern page) to fit onto a paper lunch bag. Color the puppet , and glue the two pieces to the lunch bag.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Pass the puppet, Greely, to the student who is asked the question, and allow him to let Greely answer it.

1. What colors did God make people?
2. How many holy days do we celebrate?
3. Can we worship God any way we want to, or do we have to worship Him like He tells us to in the Bible?
4. Who hid Easter eggs in the grass?
5. Does God like that?
6. Should we say bad things about people who hide or find Easter eggs?

SONG

“Jesus Loves the Little Children” is on page 56 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in prayer thanking God for giving us seven holy days that teach us about Him. Ask Him to help us not to say bad thing to our friends who keep Easter.

God's Costume

MEMORY VERSE

“Be not afraid of their terror. . .” - 1 Peter 3:14b

OBJECTIVES

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

1. State that Halloween is not a day God wants us to celebrate.
2. Tell that there are scary, ugly and evil things connected to Halloween.
3. Explain that God made the world beautiful and didn't put ugly, scary things in it.

TOPICS & THEMES

Creation

Evil

Fear

God's Kingdom

God's Omniscience

Holidays, Halloween

Jesus Sets Example

Obedience

Sin

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, songbook, CD or cassette tap, music player, all kinds of interesting junk such as pieces of fuzzy fabric, buttons, shiny fabric, candy canes, old cards, keys, lunch bags, cord, feathers, braid, rick-rack, shells, old earrings, chains, small rocks, etc., construction paper, glue

PREPARATION

When the Kingdom of Israel was divided, “Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month” (1 Kings 12:31-32). In other words, Jeroboam changed the Feast of Tabernacles from the 15th of the seventh month to the 15th of the eighth month and corrupted the worship of God. Since Halloween usually falls just about a month after the Feast of

Tabernacles, one wonders if Jeroboam started what became Halloween. Read the chapter for yourself. This led to the downfall and destruction of Jeroboam's kingdom. It's not up to us to change God's appointed times nor how He tells us to worship Him.

The message in Halloween is so evil. It is one of an evil spirit world, of death, and darkness. Churches are trying to clean it up by "Redeeming The Day. Rather than avoiding Halloween, transform it . . ." (Group Magazine September/October 1997). There is no way that we can "transform" the evil spirit world. We can avoid it and all it stands for. Children should be taught from the earliest age not to participate in extortion (trick or treating), not to give any day or time of their life to demons and evil spirits. God has so many beautiful, wholesome things for them to learn and enjoy. Help your class to understand this.

Before class, make enough happy faces out of yellow construction paper and glue a popsicle stick to each one. On the back side, make a sad face. Make enough for every student to have one.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Have the children sit on the floor in a circle. Roll a ball to the child who will answer the questions. They can then roll it to the next child to answer the question. Make sure every child gets to answer a question. If the ones below are not enough, repeat them.

1. Does God want us to celebrate Halloween?
2. Does Halloween have beautiful or scary things connected with it?
3. Did Jesus trick or treat?
4. Does Jesus want you to dress up in ugly Halloween costumes?
5. Does God think evil is fun?

SONG

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" is on page 23 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead in prayer thanking God for making such a beautiful world, for keeping us safe and happy. Ask Him to help the children to understand how evil Halloween is and how wonderful and beautiful He is.

God's Gift

MEMORY VERSE

“Every good and perfect gift is from God. . .” - James 1:17 (NIV Kids Devotional Bible)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain that Santa Claus is a fable and not a real person.
2. That he does not bring gifts down chimneys.
3. That God gives us every thing we have.

TOPICS & THEMES

Christmas

God's Love

God's Provision

Holidays, Christmas

Holy Days

Loving God

Obedience

Truth

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, CD or cassette tape, music player, songbook, balloons, markers, gifts, boxes, gift wrapping paper, thimble, marshmallow

PREPARATION

If the children in your class don't go to mother's day out or to a day care, they may not yet have experienced major problems with Christmas. The Christmas season is probably the most difficult of the pagan days our nation celebrates to help little children through. Most of their friends will likely be celebrating Christmas. It has an emotional appeal and physical beauty about it that is difficult for adults to resist, let alone children. Stores appeal to all of the senses and make keeping Christmas seem attractive to gullible customers.

The chronology of John the Baptist's time as High Priest to the time when Jesus was born, leads one to conclude that Christ could not have been born on December 25th, rather in the autumn—

probably at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. Long before the birth of Christ, pagans held a feast to Baal in Egypt and Syria. “The celebrants retired into certain inner shrines, from which at midnight they issued with a loud cry, ‘The Virgin has brought forth! The light is waxing!’ The Egyptians even represented the newborn sun by the image of an infant which on his birthday, the winter solstice, they brought forth and exhibited to his worshipers. The Virgin who thus conceived and bore a son on the twenty-fifth of December was the great Oriental goddess, whom the Semites called the Heavenly Virgin or simply the Heavenly Goddess” (The Golden Bough, p. 358, abridge edition).

It is important to start early teaching children that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift, not that some mythical character of pagan origins is their provider. The Bible tells us not to use pagan traditions in our worship of Him (Deuteronomy 12:4,30-32).

“The Christmas festival is the Christian revision of the Roman day of the winter solstice. The fathers of the 2nd and 3rd centuries such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Piphanius, contended that Christmas was a copy of a pagan celebration. . .” Encyclopaedia Britannica). Lead the little children to understand how much better it is to celebrate God’s Holy Days.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Can you tell me who Santa Claus is?
2. Is he real or just a fable?
3. Can he come down a chimney and bring gifts to you?
4. Who gives you everything?

SONG

“God is So Good” is on page 98 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in prayer thanking God for giving us every good and perfect gift. Ask Him to help us to always remember to thank Him for the good things He does.