

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Home, Sweet Home

YE2B · Teacher Edition

Primaries · Year 1: Life of Christ

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

The Stray Sheep Comes Home

MEMORY VERSE

“All we, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6a).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Tell how helpless sheep really are.
2. Explain that we are like sheep and need someone to take care of us.
3. State that Jesus is our Shepherd.
4. Recite the memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bible study

God's Love

God's Protection

God's Provision

Holy Spirit

Jesus, His Ministry

Good Shepherd

Sheep

Shepherd

Sin

PREPARATION

The theme for this book is Home Sweet Home. In keeping with that theme, we are assigning John 14:1-6, in addition to the weekly verses, to be committed to memory. The older children and those who are more advanced will be able to memorize all six verses. The younger children may only be able to memorize verses one, two and three. We suggest that you award those who have worked diligently at memorizing with a small gift at the end of these ten lessons.

Each part of this lesson, from the nursery rhyme to the activity, is designed to emphasize that we are like sheep in need of a shepherd. Be sure to allow each child to recite the memory verse; it too reinforces the theme of this lesson.

Since our theme is Home Sweet Home, you may want to make your attendance and memory verse charts in the shape of a house. On a large sheet of poster board, cut out the simple shape of a house. Divide the house (excluding the roof) into ten squares for each child. Each Sabbath the child is in attendance and/or recites the memory verse correctly, allow him or her to place a sticker in the appropriate square. Use the roof area to designate whether it is a memory verse chart or an attendance chart.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Each time a child misbehaves is an opportunity to help them grow more Christ-like. This lesson about the lost sheep teaches children how precious they are to God. Even when they stray away from Him and His teaching, God's loving Good Shepherd seeks them and brings them back into His fold. It is important for the children to learn that there are consequences for leaving the protection of the Shepherd. Like the lost sheep, we too are in danger of losing our way or of being attacked by the enemy, Satan, when we wander off in our own direction.

Since most of our children have not been raised around farm animals, make this lesson fun as well as informative. Ask them if they have ever seen a real sheep at close range—perhaps at a fair or in a petting zoo. As you ask the following questions, draw a sheep on newsprint, using the descriptions the children give. You should come up with some funny and unusual-looking sheep. Ask: Does a sheep have a large head or small? Does it have a long or short, fat or skinny neck? Is the sheep's body fat or skinny, short or long? Does it have a smooth coat or curly? Are the sheep's legs long or short, fat or skinny? Does it have a tail? What does it look like? Does a sheep have large eyes or small eyes? Does it have a big mouth or small?

The parable of the lost sheep is a wonderful picture of the relationship between the Lord and His children. We, as sheep, are in need of someone to lead us, someone to protect us, and someone who is willing to lay down His life for us. Our Good Shepherd does just that! He has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit as our guide through the trials and wildernesses of life. Many terms used in Scripture describe the Lord as our protector. He is our shield (Psalm 33:20); He is our fortress (Psalm 22:2); He is our high tower and refuge (Psalm 22:3). Just as the shepherd in the parable was willing to risk his own life in the wilderness to find the one lost sheep, so our Good Shepherd was willing to lay down His life for us (John 10:14-15). Jesus says of Himself, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Parables are word pictures, designed to reveal to us the true image of God and His love for men. Jesus used parables to teach these principles because they began with something the people already knew and progressed to the unknown. Since many in Jesus' day were shepherds, He knew that they could readily identify and understand the imagery. When teaching children, it is always best to begin your lesson with something the children know and understand—like a sheep. You may then work your way to the characteristics of sheep and shepherds.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

For variety, make a game of your review questions. Draw an outline of a sheep on newsprint or poster board. Make six tails out of construction paper, numbering them from one to six. Attach a small piece of double stick tape on the back of each tail. Blindfold the children one at a time and have them choose a tail. When they pin the tail on the sheep, ask them the question corresponding to the number on the tail. (You may want to make up additional questions if your class is large.)

1. In our nursery rhyme we learn something about sheep. What do they like to do?
2. Can you think of several reasons why sheep need a shepherd?
3. What ways does a shepherd show that he loves his sheep?
4. How are we like sheep?
5. Who is our Shepherd? How does He show that He loves us?
6. Who is happy when a sinner comes home to our Good Shepherd?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

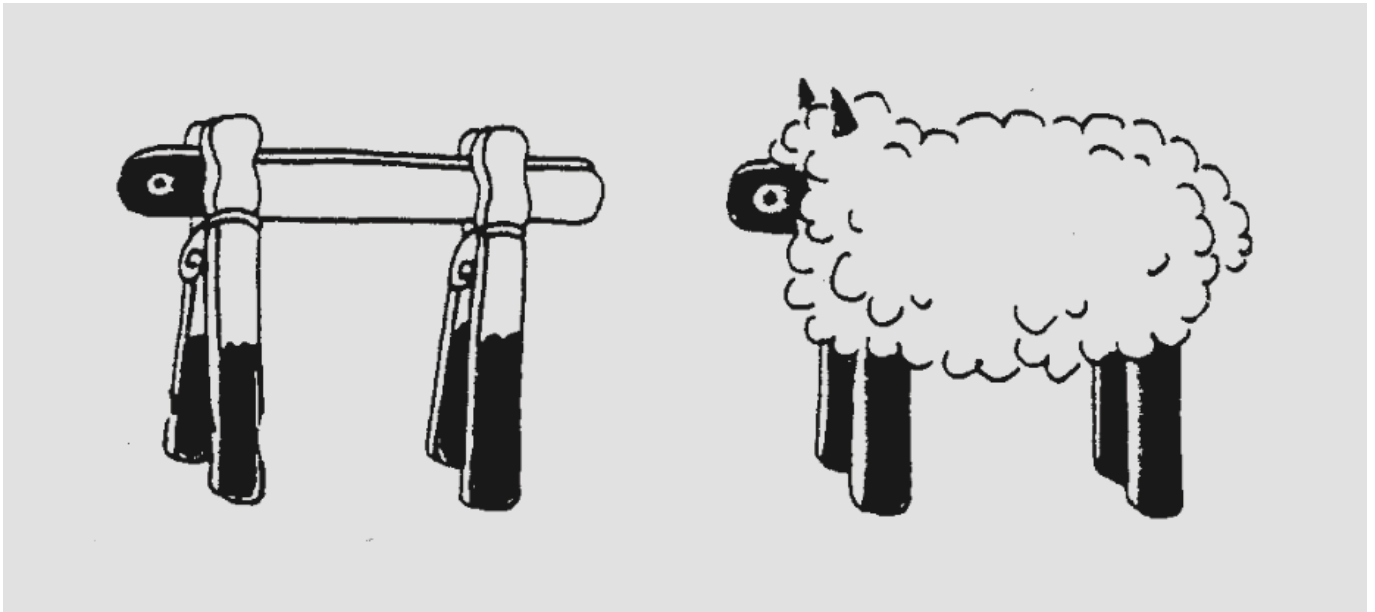
Each child will need one craft stick, two clip-style clothespins, cotton balls and tiny craft eyes. Paint or color one end of the craft stick black—this will be the sheep’s head. Glue on the eyes. Paint or color the ends of the clothespins black—these will be the legs. Clip the clothespins onto the craft stick. Glue cotton balls onto the clothespins and craft stick to form the sheep’s body.

SONG

“The Lord is My Shepherd” is on page 81 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

The teacher or assistant may lead in prayer, confessing that we are all like sheep, and thanking God for giving us a Good Shepherd.



There's No Place Like Home

MEMORY VERSE

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain how the story of Oscar relates to the prodigal son's story.
2. Discuss from the stories how sin has consequences.
3. Tell why the father welcomed the son back home, even though the son had done wrong.
4. Recite the memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Eternal Life

Forgiveness

God's love

Parables

Prodigal Son

Repentance

Sin

PREPARATION

Jesus chose the storytelling method to teach godly principles. He would begin with an idea that was familiar to those He was teaching, and then proceed to the primary point He wanted to get across. In this lesson we begin with something most children are familiar with—a cat. Anyone who has been around cats knows how independent they are, not unlike the younger son in our Bible lesson. Bringing a child's stuffed cat to class might help children remember the story of Oscar.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin today's lesson by introducing children to the stuffed cat. Ask them if they remember the cat from their lesson. Once you have discussed that story and the children understand why Oscar left home (because he thought the grass would be greener on the other side), and they remember

what happened to him as a result, you will be ready to begin your discussion of the story of the son who left home.

Remembering the name of the family cat in our story is not as important as remembering that he realized that he made a bad mistake in leaving home. Ask the children to list as many similarities between Oscar and the son as they can think of. You may need to stimulate their thinking by asking questions like: Were Oscar and the son happy with things at home? What did Oscar do? What did the young man do? How did Oscar feel when he first left home? Did the young man have fun when he first left home? What happened to Oscar to change his mind about leaving home? What happened to the young man? When Oscar returned home, how did his family treat him? When the young man's father saw him coming, what did he do?

Primary-age children do not yet know about inheritances, so you may want to take time to explain that when a person dies, all the money, property, and wealth that he owned is passed along to his living relatives. Many people make a will that tells who will get what. The father in our lesson intended to divide the inheritance between his two sons. But, instead of waiting until his father died, the younger son demanded that his father give him his portion immediately.

Ask: Why do you think the young man wanted to leave home? How do you think the father felt when the son made his demands? Do you think the father was angry?

While the young man had money, everyone was his friend. The Bible tells us he “squandered his estate with loose living.” This probably means that he paid for wild parties for his friends and bought their alcohol. But when his money was gone, all of his friends deserted him. Ask: Why do you think all his friends left him? (Explain that they were not really his friends, they just wanted to be with him so he would buy them things.)

After the young man wasted all of his money and all of his friends were gone, he realized he was in trouble. Ask: Where did the young man have to sleep and eat? Explain that pigs are considered to be unclean animals. We are told that we should not eat any meat that comes from a pig—like ham, pork chops, or bacon. For a young Jewish man to have to sleep and eat with pigs was one of the worse things that could happen to him. He had hit rock bottom!

When we choose to deliberately turn away from God, His laws, and our families, there are sure to be consequences. This young man made a foolish mistake. When he realized how low he had gone, he was sorry. But he knew there was a way out of his mess. Ask: Who did the young man turn to for help? Do you think he really was sorry? How did his father show that he had forgiven him?

Our Heavenly Father is preparing an inheritance for us. Someday we will get to spend eternity with Him. We cannot even imagine the wonderful things He has in store for us. But sometimes we don't want to wait for those wonderful things. We want it all now! Some people lie and cheat,

others steal. Even boys and girls do things that they shouldn't do. Our Heavenly Father is like the young man's father; He is waiting and looking for us to come back to Him. When we realize we have made a mistake and we are sorry for what we have done, He is waiting to receive us with open arms. He forgives us!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How many ways can you think of that Oscar was like the boy who left his father's house?
2. When we leave our Heavenly Father, and His teachings, what happens?
3. Why do you think the young man's father welcomed him back home?
4. Can you think of a time when you did something wrong and were forgiven?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

To make a ring with pipe cleaner and "pony" beads, cut pipe cleaners into 4 inch lengths. Give each child one piece of the chenille wire and six or seven "pony" beads. String the beads onto the chenille. Adjust the wire to fit the child's finger by twisting the two ends together.

SONG

"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever" is on page 17 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

The teacher or assistant may lead in prayer, thanking God that He will accept us even when we have done wrong.

Happiness Is

MEMORY VERSE

“Happy are the people whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 144:15)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Give the reason the animals and bees seem to be happy.
3. Discuss some of the things we must do in order to be happy.
4. Explain that God wants us to be happy.

TOPICS & THEMES

Beatitudes

Blessings

Gentleness

God’s Soldiers

Holy Conduct

Parables

Unforgiving Servant

Peace

Purity

Repentance

PREPARATION

Before class, you may want to decorate your room with bees. Copy the bee and beehive pattern page. Use yellow construction paper for the bees and tan for the hive. Make at least eight bees. Write one word (NEEDY, SORRY, GENTLE, DUDLY-DO-RIGHT, FORGIVING, PURE, PEACE-MAKER, GOD’S SOLDIER) on each bee, and tape them on the walls around your room as a reminder for children during the review part of your lesson. These same bees and hive may be used to play the game in the activity section of this lesson.

Using two strips of masking tape, mark a winding path on the floor. (You may also make the path by using two lengths of rope.) Make two columns on a piece of newsprint. In one column,

write bad things to do: Hit, Yell, Pout, Steal, Lie, Cheat on a test, Make fun of new kid, etc. In the other column, write good things: Hug, Forgive, Offer to share, Ask permission, Tell the truth, Study, Include new kid in games, etc. (Mix up the words on your lists so children can match them later in the lesson.)

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Helping children become familiar with the Word of God is part of a teacher's mission. But equally important is helping students put Bible truths to work in their own lives. This lesson deals with eight different attitudes that, if developed in our lives, will bring happiness. To impress them on the minds of Primaries, it will be necessary to give them real life examples. The purpose is to teach children that happiness comes as a result of loving and obeying God. Note: please differentiate between a temporary happiness (i.e. I'm happy Mom made fried chicken for supper) with the deep happiness (contentment and peace) that comes from obeying God.

Since a child's attention span parallels his age and this lesson teaches some concepts difficult for Primaries to grasp, it will be necessary to keep the lesson moving. It can be broken into eight mini-lessons, with opportunities for the children to interact and physically be involved with each part.

*Bee Needy! Pair children and blindfold one of the partners. One pair at a time, have the child without the blindfold lead the blindfolded child through the path. Ask the blindfolded children: Could you have followed this path without someone to lead you? (If someone says yes, let them try it alone.) There are some things we cannot do alone. We need help! Ask: Why do you think Jesus had to come to earth to die? Did He die because He did something wrong? Why do we need Him?

*Bee Sorry! Ask: When you do something wrong, like disobeying your mom, what usually happens? (Children may give examples like, getting a spanking, being sent to their room, etc.) Ask: What do you think would happen if you told your mother you were sorry you disobeyed, and that you won't do it again? Would she would be as angry if she knew you were truly sorry? Explain that God wants us to be sorry for our sins, to tell Him we were wrong, and we will not do the same thing again. Ask: What will God do when we say we are sorry? Will He hate us? Romans 5:8 tells us God showed His love to us even while we were still sinning. He wants us to do what is right. Even though there are consequences for not doing what is right, God loves us even when we do wrong.

*Bee Gentle! For his seventh birthday, Mark got a battery-operated helicopter. He warned his sister to stay away from his new toy. Lori ran into the kitchen and didn't notice the helicopter. Crunch! She accidentally stepped on it and broke it. Ask: What would you do if this happened to you? Would you get mad? How do you think Lori felt? Jesus tells us we are to be gentle and kind.

Ask: Would it be kind for Mark to hit his sister? The kind thing would be to let her know he wasn't mad.

*Bee Dudley-Do-Right! List examples of right and wrong things. One at a time, have children draw a line matching a bad thing with a good one. (Help them make the right choices.) Explain that God wants us to always try to do right things.

*Bee Forgiving! In today's lesson we read about a man who refused to forgive his servant who owed him some money. Ask: What do you think will happen when this man needs to be forgiven? Would you want to forgive someone who refused to forgive you? The important lesson is that there are times when we all need to be forgiven. If we want to be forgiven, we need to be forgiving!

*Bee Pure! Children are often led astray by wrong influences. They follow the crowd. It is important to teach them to think pure thoughts (Philippians 4:8). By teaching them what is right and what is wrong, we will be helping them to make right decisions. We are told not to blindly follow those who do wrong (1 Timothy 5:22).

*Bee a Peacemaker! Ask: If Superman saw two men fighting, what would he would do? And Batman is always ready to help. We call these men superheroes. Their job is to keep peace—to make sure things are done right. Ask: If you were Peacemaker Superhero what things would you do? If someone wanted to fight with you, what would superhero Peacemaker do? God wants His children to be peacemakers, so put on your cape!

*Bee God's Soldiers! Soldiers are well disciplined and well trained. They are not afraid to defend what is good. If people attack you and make fun of you for being good, God will reward you in His Kingdom—a home with Him Forever!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does God say will make us happy?
2. What should we do when we realize we have done something wrong?
3. When someone does something wrong to us, how should we treat them?
4. When people make fun of us for being good, should we feel sorry for ourselves? Why?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Use the bees and hive used as wall decorations to play "Place the Bee in the Hive," similar to "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Place a small amount of double stick tape on each bee. Blindfold one child at a time and give him a bee. Tell him to try to place the bee in the hive. A small award may be given to the child who comes closest to the hive.

SONG

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead in prayer, thanking God for the lessons of the “bees.” Ask God to help the children have the right kinds of attitudes.

Keep the Lights On

MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” (Psalm 27:1).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Explain how Jesus and the Bible are like a light.
3. Tell how they can be a light to others.
4. Discuss why we are not supposed to hide our light.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bible Study

God’s Protection

Jesus, His Ministry

Light

Light

Loving God

Loving Others

Obedience

Sharing the Gospel

PREPARATION

Collect enough small baby food jars so that each child will have one. You might ask mothers who have babies to save these for you. Make sure that the jars are washed and dry.

Before class, enlarge and photocopy the following memory verse onto colorful paper, using the pictures to represent the words in italics. Cut the verse into four sections, with one for the reference. Begin by placing the words and pictures in the right order. Have the children read the verse. Then have the children close their eyes as you mix up the words. Allow the children to

place them in the proper order. This will help refresh their memory, and will indelibly imprint it in their hearts and minds.

Bring a jar candle or votive candle and a small basket to illustrate to the children that when the basket covers the candle, you cannot see the light. (Be careful with the lighted candle around children.)

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Since we have never seen God or Jesus, the Bible uses many word pictures to help describe them to us. Jesus is referred to as “the bread of life” because we cannot live without His sustenance. He is called the “living water” because we know that without water we will die. He is described as the “door” because He is the only way into the Kingdom of God. Today’s lesson calls the Lord a “light.” Ask: When it is dark, how do you find your way to your bedroom? Tell them to close their eyes tightly and walk to the far end of the room. When they reach the end of the room, they may open their eyes. Now ask them to walk back with their eyes open. Ask: Which was easier: walking in the light with your eyes open or in the dark with your eyes closed?

A light is used to help us see our way. Jesus was sent here to show us the way to the Father. His life was our example. If we follow the way that He shows us, we will know how we are to live.

Psalms 119:105 calls the Bible a lamp and a light. In Bible times there was no electricity. There were no street lights to show the people how to get home at night. There were no electric lights in the houses. People used oil lamps. They would have to light the oil much like we light our candles. Ask: What do you think the people would do if they didn’t have a lamp? The lamp was a necessary part of every home. In the same way, our Bible should be an important part of our lives and homes. In it we have God’s instructions for living. In it we find comfort and encouragement. Ask: According to your memory verse, is there anyone you should be afraid of? Why not? Without the Bible to tell us this, we would not know about God’s salvation.

Finally, Matthew 5:14-16 calls us “the light of the world.” God has given each of us a job—being the light who shows others the way of salvation. We should live our lives in such a way that people know that we are God’s children. We should set a good example for others to follow. And, when they are in trouble or in need, they know that we will be able to help them because we have God’s Word as our guide. We should never be ashamed for others to know that we serve the Lord. That would be like hiding our light under a basket.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what way is Jesus like a light?
2. How is the Bible like a flashlight or a lamp on a dark night?

3. What kind of lights did they have in Bible times?
4. Why does the Bible call us “the light of the world”? How can we light the way for others?
5. When we are ashamed to let others know we are God’s children, what are we like?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Spread a sheet of newsprint on a table. This will protect your table and allow for easier clean up. Give each child a baby food jar and a paint brush. Paint white craft glue all over the outside of the jar (leave bottom dry). Liberally sprinkle glitter over the glue, making sure that all sides are covered. (Avoid getting glitter on the floor.) Allow jars to dry thoroughly. Place a small “tea light” candle inside. When the candle is lit it will give off a beautiful light and remind them that the Lord is our light, that we are a light, and that the Bible is our light.

SONG

“This Little Light of Mine” is on page 49 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask one of the older children to lead in prayer, thanking God for the Bible being a light and for Jesus showing us the way to the Father. Ask God to help them be a light to others.

A Wise Builder

MEMORY VERSE

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Tell that sometimes Jesus used stories to help us understand His Word better.
2. Understand that it is important that we obey God’s words, not just listen to them.
3. Explain why the man who built his house on sand was not wise.
4. Discuss how the Bible, God’s Word, is like the foundation of the house on the rock.
5. Recite the memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bible Study

God’s Love

God’s Provision

Jesus, His Ministry

Obedience

Prayer

Sermon on the Mount

Wise Man/Foolish Man

PREPARATION

Children love to build things. They build castles and towers out of blocks. They build forts out of snow. They build playhouses with cardboard boxes. They build sandcastles on the beach. In this lesson we want to take their limited knowledge of building and expand on it. Our aim is to teach them how to build a godly life.

In keeping with the theme of this book, Home Sweet Home, you may want to bring magazine pictures of different types of houses to show the children.

Before class, place about three inches of play sand into a plastic tub and moisten it with water. Provide children with different sized plastic cups for building a sand castle. Spread newspapers

on the floor to prevent the sand from being scattered. Build a small sand castle in the tub as an example for children to build their own later in the lesson.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Have the children look at the pictures of the different types of houses. Ask them to find one that looks most like their own. Point out that there are many different kinds of houses. Some are large and some are small. But what matters most is how well the house is built.

Your children may already be familiar with the song about the wise and foolish builders. They will be able to visualize the house built on sand when the rains came down. Teaching them the concept that our life is like a house will be more difficult. Jesus often used parables in teaching the people. He began with something they understood, and went on to teach them principles that were more difficult to understand. We used the story of the Three Little Pigs to introduce this lesson because most children are familiar with it.

Ask: Why do you think the wolf was able to blow the straw house down? Why did the brick house not fall down? Explain that it is not only important what you use to build the house with, but also where you build the house. In today's lesson, one man had his house built on sand, and one built his on a solid rock foundation. Ask: Why do you think the house on sand fell down when the rain came? You can demonstrate with your sand castle how sand moves when it gets wet. Pour a small amount of water over the sand castle to simulate the rain. Explain that it is not a good idea to build on sand.

The wise man who built his house on the rock was very careful about its foundation. Ask: Why do you think his house didn't fall when the rains and wind came? Explain that the rock doesn't move when it gets wet as sand does. Anything that is built on a rock foundation will be strong.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus used this story to teach us that we should obey God's Word, not just listen to it? Explain that God gives us instructions in His Word that tell us how we should live. When we obey His instructions, it makes us strong. Ask: What part of the house is the Bible like? God's Word never changes. It is something we can count on. When He says that we should obey our parents, He doesn't mean sometimes. He says it is better to obey than to give gifts (1 Samuel 15:22).

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Allow the children to build sand castles. Depending on the size of your class, you may need more than one tub of sand. Provide different sized plastic cups for the children to build with. The sand should be moist in order to hold together. The castles may be shown to the parents when they pick up the children.

SONG

“Wise Man and the Foolish Man” is on page 96 of the Kids Classics Collection.

Add this verse to the ones in the songbook: Verse 3

So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ.

So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ.

So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ,

And the blessings will come down.

The blessings will come down

as the prayers go up.

The blessings will come down

as the prayers go up.

The blessings will come down

as the prayers go up,

So build your life on the Lord

CLOSING PRAYER

Have one of the older children lead in prayer, thanking God for giving us His Word, and asking Him to help us to obey it.

Jesus Calms the Storm

MEMORY VERSE

“I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me” (Psalm 120:1 NIV).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Tell that Jesus cares about all of our troubles.
2. State that He doesn't want us to be afraid.
3. Discuss that God has given Jesus power over everything.
4. Tell that Jesus will hear and answer our prayers.
5. Recite the memory verse.

TOPICS & THEMES

Faith (Belief)

Fear

God's Love

God's Protection

God's Provision

Jesus, God the Son

Jesus, His Miracles

Jesus Calms the Storm

Prayer

Sea of Galilee

PREPARATION

As you teach this lesson, take advantage of the action in the story to capture the children's attention. Be dramatic and enthusiastic in your description of the storm. Involve the children in rowing the boat, bailing water out of the boat, making waves make the sounds of thunder.

Children often have many fears. Some are afraid of the dark, others of being in a strange place. Some children are afraid of strangers, and others may be afraid of monsters. Reassure them that it is good to be cautious, but that God is able to take care of them even when they are in a frightening situation.

Lead the children to remember thunderstorms they have experienced. Give them opportunities to discuss their fears. Emphasize the fact that Jesus knows and cares when we are afraid; that He wants us to call on Him for help (Hebrews 4:15-16).

You will need a large bed sheet (blue would be good) to represent the Sea of Galilee, and a small plastic boat to be used when you retell the story.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Often our attitudes and feelings about our Heavenly Father are developed from the actions of our earthly fathers. If our earthly fathers are impatient, we expect our Heavenly Father to be impatient. If our earthly fathers don't have time to listen to us, we mistakenly believe that our Heavenly Father will be too busy to hear our prayers. In this lesson we want to stress to the children that everything in our lives is important to God. They can go to Him in prayer when they are afraid, and He will hear their prayers and answer them.

Seat the children on the floor in a circle. Ask them if any of them has ever been in a bad storm. Ask: What does the wind sound like? Have them make the sound of rain by patting on their legs with their hands. Say: Let's start with it sprinkling. (Have children gently pat their legs, slowly.) Now it is raining harder. (Have them pat harder and faster.) What was that? (Clap your hands loudly.) It is thunder.

Ask: When Jesus and His disciples were in the boat in the storm, what were the disciples afraid of? These were big, strong fishermen. They were used to being in storms. This must have been an unusual storm to make them afraid.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus was asleep? Why was He not afraid of the storm? God had given Jesus power and authority over the winds and the waves. He knew that they were safe in God's hands. God knew exactly where they were.

Retell the Bible story. Lay the sheet flat on the floor and have all the children spread the sheet out until it makes a smooth surface. Place the plastic boat in the center of the sheet. Say: Let's pretend that this is the boat that Jesus and His disciples were in. They were sailing along smoothly for a while. Then the wind started to blow. (Have children blow with their mouths, while they gently wave the sheet up and down.) The storm is getting worse. Our boat is in trouble. (Move the sheet more violently, tossing the boat from side to side.) What should we do? What will Jesus do?

Ask: When Pete and Jimmy were caught in the storm up on the rocks, what did they do? How did the prayer make them feel? Do you think God heard their prayer?

Ask each child to think of a time when they were afraid. Do you think Jesus cares about the things that make us afraid? Tell them that God doesn't always get rid of the things that scare us,

but He will help us not to be afraid.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The disciples wondered what kind of man Jesus was. Can you tell them?
2. When we are afraid, what is the best thing for us to do?
3. What does our Heavenly Father do when we pray to Him?
4. Is there anything too hard for God to do?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Recreate the storm, using the sheet and plastic boat. Remember to start off with small movements of the sheet to represent small waves. As the movements become more pronounced, the waves will grow higher and the little boat will toss about. Some of the children may want to view the storm from “under the water.” They may lie on the floor under the sheet and watch the boat. Tell them they shouldn’t stay under too long, they must swim out.

SONG

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask if anyone would like to talk to God about something that scares them. Remember to thank God for loving them and answering their prayers.

Come to God's House

MEMORY VERSE

“My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations” (Mark 11:17 NIV).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Discuss what Jesus found in the Temple that made Him angry.
2. Tell what activities they do in church and Sabbath School.
3. Explain that Jesus will be there with us when we gather to worship Him.
4. Give examples of how we should behave in God's house.
5. Recite the memory verse

TOPICS & THEMES

Holy Conduct

Holy of Holies

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus - Without Sin

Passover

Sabbath

Temple

Temple, Cleansing of

Worship God

PREPARATION

Before class, cut out pictures of sheep, cows and birds from magazines or coloring books. Adhere to a flannel board by attaching a small strip of double stick tape or sandpaper to the back. Also have pictures of someone praying, a Bible, and children singing (find at a Bible bookstore). The pictures will be used to list things that should and shouldn't be in church.

Read the Students' and Teacher's lessons early in the week to give time for thoughts to connect. By studying every Scripture in the lesson, you will likely find additional information to enhance your lesson. “The enormous profits from the market booths inside the Temple area went to

enrich the family of the high priest. Jesus burned with indignation at such a perversion of the uses of God's House" (Hailey's Bible Handbook, page 444).

Ahead of time, prepare a market stall using a cardboard box, to be used for acting out the story. Make a few sheep and goats out of cardboard and glue on supports so that they will stand up. Cut out several paper doves from white paper. A card table or folding table can be used for the moneychanger's table.

It may be frustrating for the teacher to have hassles that come from spilled glue, broken crayons, and twisted tape. Be patient with these little people and you'll find the rewards are worth it. Watch the eager faces of your students as they become totally absorbed in their activities. Look upon craft projects as wonderful teaching tools as well as being fun.

For today's craft, cut out an outline of a church building from card stock. You will also need a shoebox. Cut the bottom off, leaving a half inch border. Tape a piece of wire screen to the bottom of the box to cover the opening.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, ask: If you came to church today and found sheep in the hallway and birds and cows in your classroom, what would you think? (Place animal and bird pictures on flannel board.) Would you wonder if you were in the right place? What if there was a man sitting at the door with a box who told you that you must have a certain kind of coin for the offering. How would you feel if you had to buy the coin from the man? Do you think it is okay to sell things in a church?

Begin to act out the story, using the props you prepared, voice inflection, suspense, and drama. You may want to include the children as merchants and moneychangers. The teacher or assistant will act out the scene. Come in as though you are entering the Temple. Shout: "Get out of here!" Knock over the table and market stall. Push the animals out of the way, and throw the paper doves up and away from you. Shout: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Explain that animals were used as sacrifices at the Passover feast, but were not to be bought and sold on Temple grounds. When Jesus saw the moneychangers cheating people, He became angry. Ask: What did He do? The Temple and our church are called whose house? When we come to Sabbath services, who else is here?

Ask the children to list things that do not belong in church. Include animals and birds you have pictured. If they have difficulty, ask leading questions, such as: If you are coloring, should you fight over the crayons? Should you run down the halls? If the teacher is telling the story, should you be talking to someone else? Write the list on newsprint, allowing the children to add to it.

Now, list things that do belong in church. Place pictures of the Bible, someone praying, and singing children on the flannel board. Ask: When we pray, who are we talking to? Can you think of some things that you would say to God? Why do you think we sing songs in church? Is singing something like our prayers? Singing is an easy way for children to retain what they have learned. It is like prayer, in that it gives us an opportunity to praise and thank God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Learning is part of our worship experience. Encourage kids to learn the memory verse each week. Go the extra mile to make learning fun for the children. Pictures and activities such as role playing will make the lesson come alive, and help them remember it. Each part of your class should be geared to helping children learn and worship.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Use an animal puppet, such as a sheep, cow, or bird to ask the questions:

1. How did Sandy feel about going to church?
2. What things did she take with her?
3. Why was Jesus angry when He went to the Temple?
4. When you are at Sabbath services, how should you behave?
5. Who is with us when we go to church?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Cover a table with newspaper. Give each child a smock (old shirt) to protect their clothing and a sheet of light colored construction paper. Place church building outline on construction paper. Hold a screen above the paper. Dip a toothbrush in tempera paint and rub the brush over the screen. When the paper is covered with paint specks, remove the outline. Allow paint to dry.

SONG

Our Church Song (sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”)

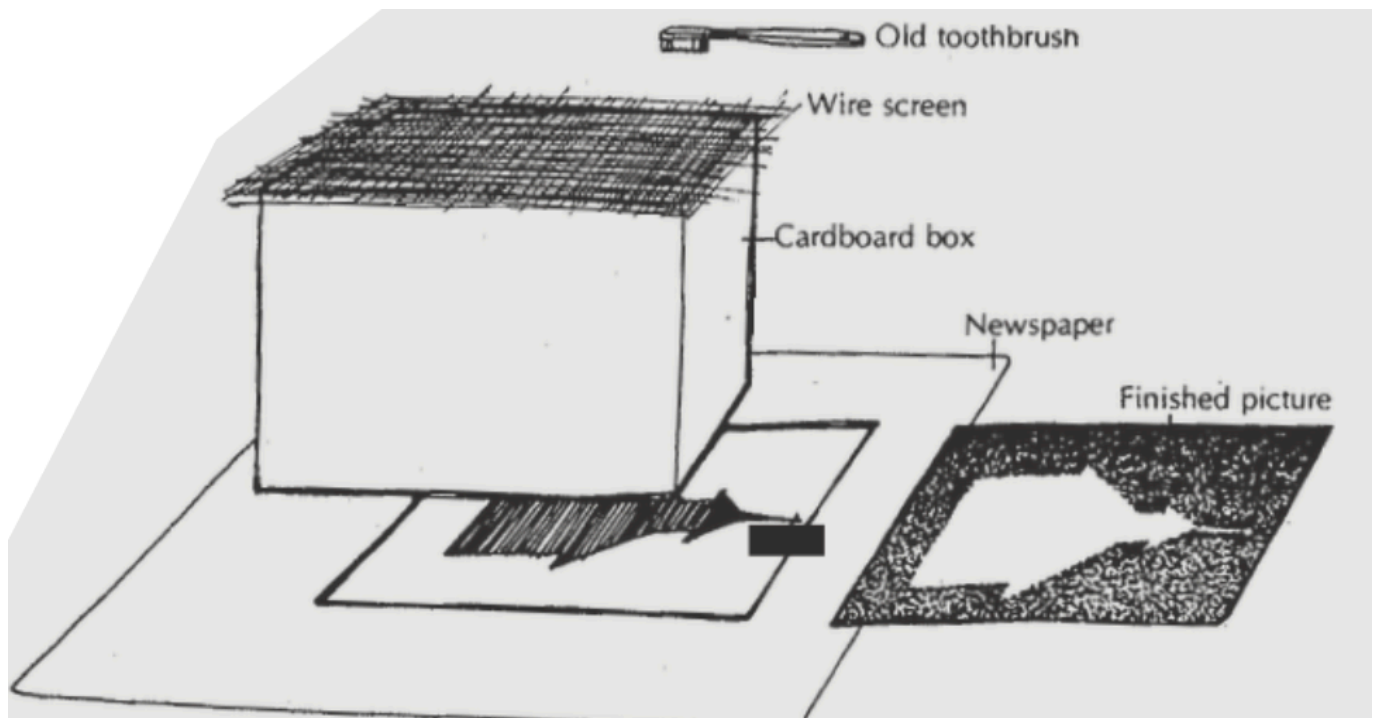
We pray, we sing at our church.

Learning is the key to life. We are happy when we go. Jesus loves to see us there. We pray, we sing at our church.

Jesus shows the way to go.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask a child to lead in prayer, thanking God for their church and asking God to help them listen and learn their lesson, and learn how to behave in church.



A Hole in the Roof

MEMORY VERSE

“I the Messiah, have the authority on earth to forgive sins” (Mark 2:10 TLB).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Give two reasons why the man was unable to go to see Jesus.
2. Tell how the crippled man finally got to see Jesus.
3. Explain why some people were angry when Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven.
4. State that God has given Jesus power to forgive sins.

TOPICS & THEMES

Capernaum

Forgiveness

Healing

Jesus, His Miracles

Healing

Jesus, Son of God

Sin

PREPARATION

To make a model Bible-time house, cut a paper grocery bag in half, using the flat bottom half for the house. Cut a 2” strip from the remaining half of the bag. Accordion-fold the strip to make stairs. Tape the stairs to one side of the house. Using a marker or crayon, draw windows and a door on the house. See Activity Time for more instructions.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Primary-aged children are curious and enjoy learning new things. In this lesson they will be introduced to Bible-time houses. Since children retain more when their senses of sight and touch are stimulated, use visual aids to help children comprehend, remember, and apply the principles being taught. Allowing children to build their own models of a Bible-time house will bring this story to life.

As you greet the children, ask them about their own houses. Ask: Do you live in a ranch-style house or a two-story? Does your house have a porch? Do you have stairs? Is it a big house or a small house? Show them the Bible-time house model. Explain that the stairs led to the roof where the people would sit on cool evenings. It was used like our porches are used.

Ask children if they have ever been sick and had to stay in bed. Ask: Can you imagine what it would be like to have to lie in bed all of the time? You couldn't go out and play with your friends. You couldn't go to school with other children. If you wanted to go anywhere, you would have to be carried.

Explain that the man in today's story was not able to walk. He needed to see Jesus because Jesus could heal him, but he couldn't get there by himself. His friends were determined to get him some help. They were willing to try anything—even making a hole in the roof! This man was very fortunate to have such good friends.

Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven instead of saying that he was healed. Explain that there are many people who can help make you well. Ask: If you are sick, who could help you get better? (God, doctor, nurse, mother, etc.) Explain that Jesus was beaten so that we can be healed and He died so that our sins would be forgiven. We need to ask God for forgiveness. God has given Jesus the authority to heal us and to forgive our sins. Jesus wanted everyone to know that He was God's Son, and only He had power to forgive sins.

Primary-aged children are beginning to understand what sin is, though they may not yet comprehend that they are sinners. As you talk about Jesus forgiving the crippled man's sins, ask the children to name some things that are sinful. Explain that when we don't obey God's law it makes God unhappy and that is sin. Help them to see that even children can make God unhappy by disobeying parents, by fighting with siblings, and by disobeying God's commandments. Emphasize how important it was that Jesus forgave the crippled man's sins and that He forgives our sins.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why was the man in our lesson unable to go to see Jesus?
2. How did his friends help him?
3. How did they get into the house where Jesus was teaching?
4. Why were some of the people angry when Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven?
5. Why was Jesus able to forgive the man's sins?
6. Who do you think needs to have his sins forgiven?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

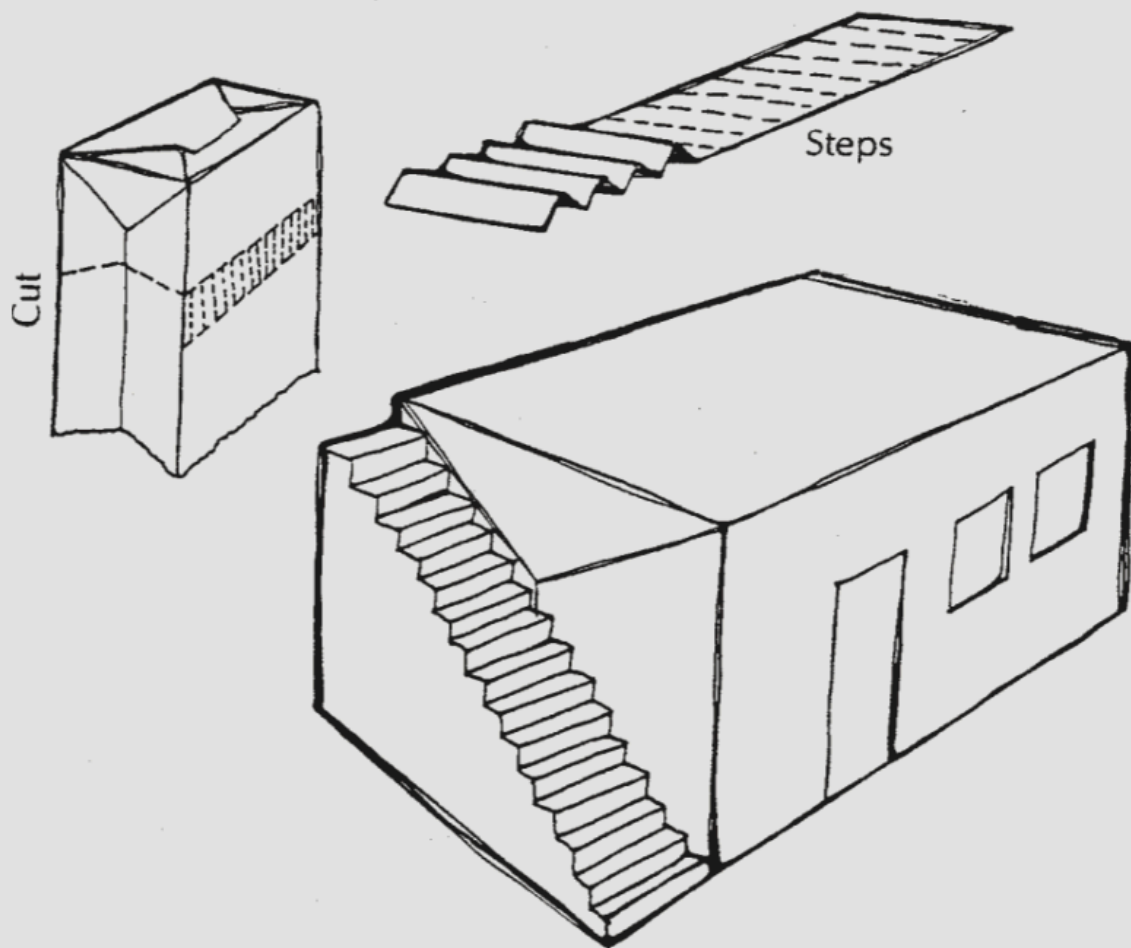
The children will make their own Bible-time house to take home. For this activity you will need enough paper lunch bags for each child to have one. Cut the bag in half, using the flat bottom half for the house. Have the children draw windows and a door on the bag with markers or crayons. Cut a strip of paper from the top half of the bag to make stairs. Show children how to fold the strip accordion-style. Tape the stairs to one side of the house leading from the bottom to the roof.

SONG

“Isn’t He Wonderful” is on page 42 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask one of the children to lead in prayer, thanking God for being there when they are sick, and for forgiving their sins.



Dinner with Sinners

MEMORY VERSE

“I have come to get sinners to turn away from their sins” (Luke 5:32 NIrV).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. State what it means to be righteous.
2. Tell that repentance means to be sorry for doing wrong and to turn from it.
3. Explain that even children do things that make God unhappy.
4. Discuss that sin is like a sickness, and Jesus forgives and makes us well again.

TOPICS & THEMES

Coveting

Disciples, Calling of

Forgiveness

God’s Love

Jesus, His Ministry

Loving others

Matthew (Levi)

Repentance

Sin

Stealing

Tax collectors

Ten Commandments

PREPARATION

Primary-aged children know when they have done something to upset their parents. Depending on the maturity level of the child, they are beginning to learn what things are right and what things are wrong. They will be able to understand that there are some things that make God unhappy, but may not have reached the level where they can recognize that they are sinners. Explain that the Bible teaches that all of us are sinners—even children. We all do things sometimes that make God unhappy. This is the reason Jesus came to earth to die. He came to pay the penalty for our sins. Just as a doctor is called to make a sick person well, so we must call

on Jesus to make us “well” from our sins. When we tell Him we are sorry for doing wrong, He will forgive us.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Children between six and eight years of age are people pleasers. They love and need approval from the adults in their lives. Help them see that when they sin, they lose the approval of others. Their parents may become angry or punish them. Their friends will not want to be around them. They may even be embarrassed and want to hide, like Adam and Eve. Emphasize that the solution is confession—admitting that you did wrong, and repentance—a change of mind and behavior. Parents and friends will give you a second chance, but God gives you a fresh, clean start!

Sin Separates - Ask: Do you know the first thing Adam and Eve did after they sinned in the Garden of Eden? The first thing they did was to hide. They knew God’s instructions were not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. Because of their disobedience, they hid themselves when they heard God’s voice. They no longer had the same relationship with Him. Ask: When you do something wrong, how do your parents feel? Because they are unhappy, you are uncomfortable being around them. When you sin, you don’t feel as close to your Heavenly Father (Matthew 7:21-23).

It was because of Matthew’s sin of thievery that the Pharisees were critical of Jesus dining with him. They thought that Jesus should have nothing to do with sinful men. Ask: Whom did Jesus say needed to repent? “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32).

Proverbs 16:28 tells us that friendships are often destroyed because of gossip. Telling bad things about someone else is destructive. God’s plan is for us to be kind to one another. The Pharisees who spoke evil against Matthew were as guilty of sin as Matthew was for taking money.

Sin Must Be Confessed - A person who truly confesses sin does not merely say he is sorry. Ask: If someone was sorry for doing wrong, but he did the same thing over again, would you believe he was really sorry? True confession is realized by acknowledging wrong (Psalm 51:1-3), and turning from it (Psalm 51:10; Proverbs 28:13). Confession may also require restitution to be made (Numbers 5:6-7). The story in the Student’s book was designed to help children understand that when they steal something, they not only need to confess it, but should return what was stolen. Ask: Why did Paula returned the Barbie doll she had stolen?

Sin Can Be Forgiven - God hates sin! Jesus had to die because of our sins. God is also merciful. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, which is death. Dying on the stake made it possible for our sins to be forgiven (Psalm 32:1-5). Have an older student read 1 John 1:9. Ask: What does Jesus promise to do if we confess our sins? Not only are our sins forgiven, we are made clean again. Ask: If you scribble on paper with a pencil, then try to erase it, what happens? (You can still see

traces of the marks.) God doesn't just erase our sins, He gives us a whole new page—nice and clean!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. We all know that sin is breaking God's commandments or doing bad things. What do you think it means to be righteous?
2. When a person is really sorry for his sins, what should he do?
3. Who sins? Do mothers and fathers sin? Do children sin?
4. When you are sick, who should you talk to? When you sin, who should you talk to?
5. What does God do when we tell Him that we have sinned and are sorry?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

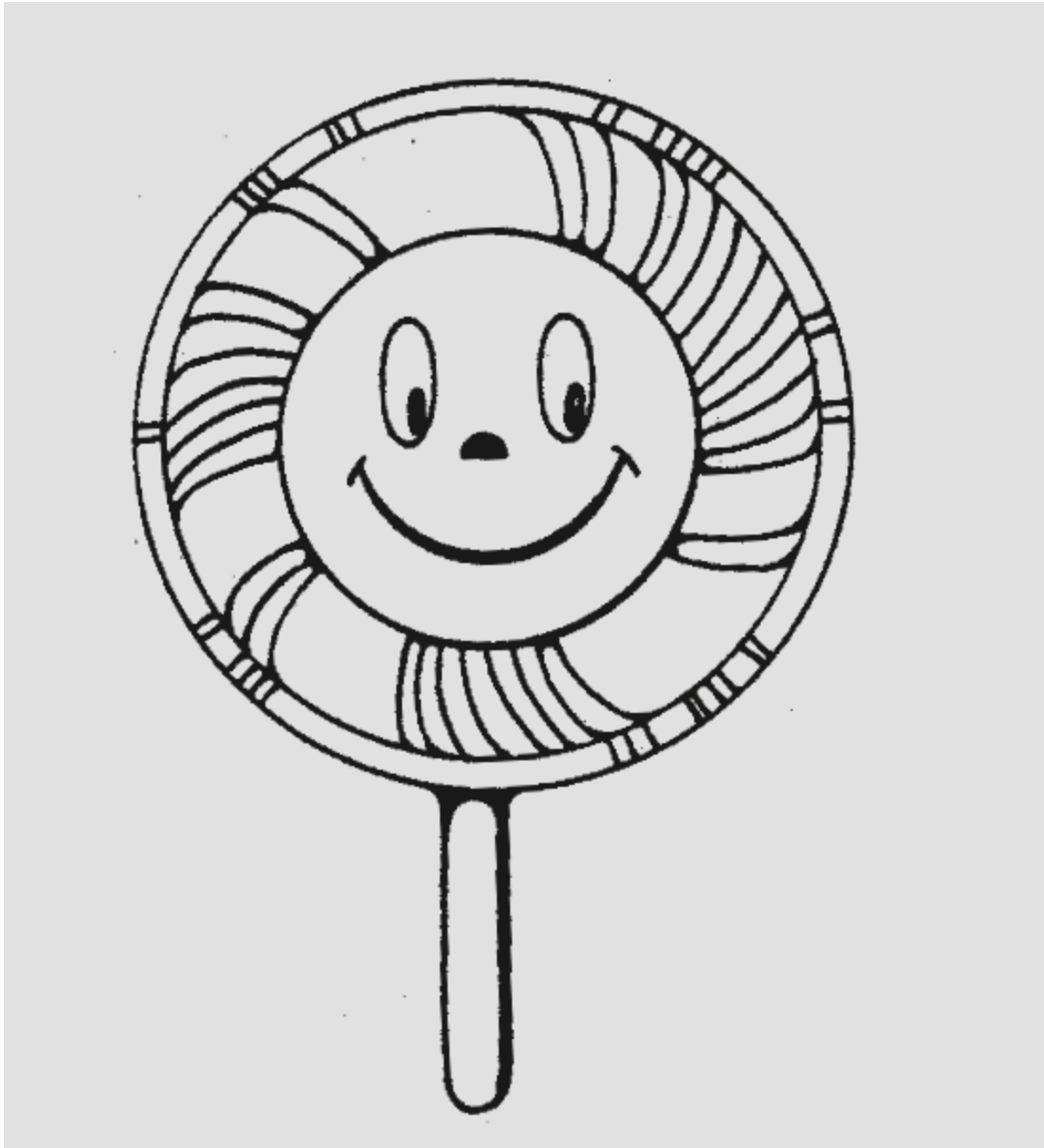
This activity can be used to help the children remember the memory verse. The happy face represents the righteous; the sad face represents the sinner. Help children draw faces on the backs of two paper plates. On one, draw a happy face; on the other, draw a sad face. Staple or tape the two plates together with the insides facing each other. They may add "hair" by gluing pieces of yarn to both sides of the plate. Tape or glue a large craft stick (tongue depressor) at the bottom of the two plates as a handle.

SONG

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

CLOSING PRAYER

The teacher may lead in prayer, thanking God for His love and forgiveness. Remember to ask Him to help us do things that will be pleasing to Him.



A Father's Faith

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify Capernaum as a busy city by the Sea of Galilee.
2. Understand why Jairus was so upset.
3. Explain why Jairus wanted to get to Jesus.
4. State what Jesus said when the servant told Jairus that his daughter was dead.
5. Know that Jesus wants us to believe and trust in Him.

TOPICS & THEMES

Capernaum

Faith (Belief)

Fear

God's Love

God's Protection

Jairus

Jesus, His Miracles

Healing

Prayer

Resurrection

PREPARATION

Primaries are eager learners, and the right kinds of questions can stimulate their discovery skills. Bring a map of the Holy Land to class large enough for the children to read.

This is the last lesson in this book. The extra memory assignment for this book was John 14:1-6. Some of the older children may have learned all six verses, and the younger children the first three verses. Award each a small gift for their diligent work and for loving Jesus enough to learn these verses.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Using your map, ask one of the older children to point to the Sea of Galilee. Then ask another child to find the city of Capernaum. Explain that it is on the northwestern shore of the Sea. Since the city was located on the Sea of Galilee, ask: What do you think the people of Capernaum did

for a living? (Many of the men were fishermen.) Do you remember what some of Jesus' disciples were doing when He called them to follow Him? (Some were fishing.) Explain that Jesus and the disciples spent much time in and around Capernaum and were well-known in the city.

Personal application is the key to bringing home abstract concepts. The right sequence of questions will lead children to their own discovery of the truth. Ask: Why do you think there were so many people gathered around Jesus? Did they just love Jesus because of what He could do for them?

Ask: When someone in your family is sick, what usually happens? (They may give such answers as: call a minister to pray for them, call the doctor, give them medicine, take their temperature, put them to bed, take them to the hospital, etc.) Explain that Jairus did some of these same things for his daughter. But, when they failed to help her, he did the most important thing—he talked to Jesus. Help children understand that Jesus wants us to talk to Him when we are worried or afraid. Ask: What does the memory verse say we are to do when we are worried or afraid? (“Be not afraid, only believe.”) What do you think Jesus wants us to believe about Him? (That He loves us. That He cares about us when we are afraid or sick. That He can take care of us and heal us. That He answers our prayers.)

On his way to Jairus' house, Jesus stopped to heal a very sick woman. It was then that the servant told Jairus that his daughter was dead. Ask: How do you think Jairus must have felt? What did Jesus tell him?

We serve a Savior who is able to do all things. He was there when everything was created. He knew that He had the power to bring the girl back to life. Jesus was not worried, and He didn't want Jairus to worry either. Ask: When we know Jesus is with us, is there any reason for us to be afraid?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jairus wanted to see Jesus?
2. When the servant told Jairus that his daughter was dead, what did Jesus say?
3. Why was Jesus able to make the girl well?
4. What does Jesus want us to believe about Him?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Stronger Than Anything Game

This game will reinforce the memory verse and emphasize God's power. Ask: What are some things that are scary for you? What do you do when you're scared? The teacher begins the game by being "it" and the children are to keep away from her. If she tags a child, he/ she must "freeze" like a statue until another person tags them and says, "Be not afraid, only believe." Then the child may continue to play.

Play the game for a few minutes, then choose one of the children to be "it." Remember to say, "Be not afraid, only believe," to unfreeze someone.

At the end of the game, remind children that God is more powerful than anything. There is no need for them to be frozen with fear!

SONG

"Standin' In The Need Of Prayer" is on page 53 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask one of the children to lead in prayer, thanking God for His love and help when we are in trouble.

Home Sweet Home

Color the picture while you think of some nice things about your home.

