CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

A Bible lesson plan and ministry guide for children.



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INTRODUCTION

The inspiration for these lessons came from watching our teachers faithfully teach the children in the meal centers each week in the Philippines. The teachers were very faithful and loved the children very much. They always engaged well with the kids singing fun songs and doing the best they could do.

But, as I observed week after week, two problems became clear to me. First, I noticed that they didn't have access to enough lessons. Sometimes they would just do a review of the previous week. Other times they would tell a short story from memory. There was no real plan as to what was being taught.

The second problem I observed was that when they did have a written lesson, it was often on an old piece of wrinkled paper. The meal centers are in small villages, under bridges, in dirty basketball courts and in small yards. One of them is even at a dump. The weather is also a factor because they ride tricycles and jeepneys to reach the centers. They desperately needed materials that were fit for the environment they were working in. They needed something that would resist the dirt, the rain, and travel conditions.

Those two problems became my challenge. I wanted to provide the teachers with solid, Biblical lessons that addressed what I thought the kids needed to be learning. And I wanted to package it in a way that would stand up to the abuse. The result of that challenge is this sturdy book of Sunday School lessons.

At first, I thought these lessons would only be applicable for the meal centers where the average age is eight years old. I didn't think they would be sufficient for the older teenagers that we minister to through our weekly street ministry. However, my wife April reminded me that, although these teenagers are older, most of them haven't had a steady education. In fact, many of them have no education at all. In other words, they are older, but their understanding level is much lower than their age. Therefore, these lessons are also perfect for the street ministry. Thanks, April, for that insight!

I truly believe these lessons will be valuable for any setting. Children's church, Sunday School, feeding programs, street ministry, VBS and any other use you can think of. As God provides, we will make these lessons and guide available for free to churches and ministries in developing nations. It is my prayer that these lessons are used for the glory of God and the betterment of children worldwide.

Travis Sharpe
President, Unsheltered International USA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very thankful for the people who worked hard to make this project come together in a short amount of time. They are listed below in no certain order.

Alyssa Jackson and April Sharpe worked with me from beginning to end. They did everything from brainstorming the topics to writing the lessons and helping put the actual books together. Without their valuable input and tireless work, this project would not have been completed.

Alyssa was my right-hand person for the project and April ensured that the lessons were applicable to the children in our meal centers. Both of you did great!

Frank Merano and Hunter Sharpe did most of the laminating and hole punching. They had fun working together and I appreciate their labor. Thanks, guys!

Lana Byrd took the initiative to locate many of the pictures that are used. She bought the material for us and had children to do the coloring. Credit goes to Gospel Light for the colored pictures. Thank you, Lana, for your time and effort.

Pastor Antonio Ner and his wife Merliza were doing feeding center ministries long before Unsheltered International ever partnered with them. They taught us how the feeding program/meal center ministry should operate and why it's so important.

Every meal center that is part of our sponsorship program in the Bacolod/Talisay area, is operated under their leadership through Crossroads Community Baptist Church. Thank you Pastor and Mrs. Ner for your unwavering love of children and your tireless labor.

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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON PLAN

These lessons have been prepared with much thought and prayer. The lessons, format, and packaging of this material was specifically designed to meet the needs of the children's feeding program of Unsheltered International. The lessons were written for children groups where the average age is eight years old.

The lessons are laminated and compiled in this binder so that they can be easily removed. Keep the lesson book in a clean, safe place and only take the needed lesson with you to the meal center. This will ensure that the material will last a long time and you don't have to carry the entire book with you. As soon as you return home, replace the lesson so it is not lost or misplaced.

THE MONTHLY SUBJECTS

The lessons are divided by month. Each month has a specific subject and all the lessons for the month revolve around that one subject. For example, the month of January is about creation. All the lessons for January are about different aspects of creation. The monthly subjects were prayerfully chosen based upon the needs of the children and what we want to instill in them at a young age.

There are five lessons for each month. This is because some months have five weeks and we wanted to be sure you never lacked a lesson. When a certain month only has four weeks, don't worry about the fifth lesson. Just teach lessons 1-4. February only has four lessons because there are never five weeks in that month.

At the bottom, left side of every lesson, you will find the month and the lesson number. For example, if it says "July- Lesson 2", that means you should teach that lesson on the second week of July. The lesson numbers coincide with the weeks of the month.

Hopefully, after you teach all the lessons about the subject for a month, the children will understand that subject. After you finish the entire year, simply start over and teach the same lessons again. Remember, these lessons were prepared with thoughtfulness and prayer so they need to be taught to the same children year after year.

THE FORMAT

Every lesson is formatted the exact same way. The lesson title is at the top of the page and the Bible text for that lesson is just below it. The lesson is written out in paragraph form. Below each lesson is three questions. These questions are about the lesson and they are intended to be used at the end of the lesson for discussion.

After the questions is the monthly memory verse. There is only one memory verse per month. The same memory verse is used on every lesson for the month. So, each week of the month, you help the children to memorize that one verse. The verse coincides with the monthly subject. The monthly memory verse is also printed on a separate sheet by itself. Take the memory verse sheet with you so that you can show it to the children as they are memorizing it.

TEACHING THE LESSONS

You should study the lesson several days before you teach it. Please don't teach the lessons unprepared! Announce the title of the lesson and then read the Bible verses that are under the title. Those verses are the Biblical foundation for the lesson and it is important that the children hear you read the verses from the Bible. Some of the lessons have an entire chapter for the Biblical basis. You don't need to read the entire chapter, just pick a few key verses and read those.

There is an introduction page for every month. These pages are located before the first lesson of each month. Please take time to read through the introduction for each lesson as you are preparing. There are some extra instructions for each individual lesson and we tell you exactly what point to make as you teach.

The lessons are written so that you can simply read them to the children. However, we suggest that you study the lesson and the verses so that you can also add your own comments to the story as you teach. Remember to speak loud and clear as you read and teach. You should be excited and read with emotion! You will need to work hard to keep the attention of the children and it is your job to make the lesson fun and interesting for them.

When you finish teaching the lesson, you then proceed to the questions. You should ask the questions one at a time. Tell the children to raise their hand if they want to answer. You can even give a prize, such as a piece of candy to the children who answer correctly. Spend a couple of minutes on every question and use this time to further teach them about the subject.

After you are done with the questions, spend a few minutes helping them work on the memory verse. There is only one verse per month because we want them to remember the verse and be blessed by it. Show them the verse on the separate page as you help them memorize it.

MOST OF ALL

Most of all, pray for the lesson and the children. Ask God to bless you and to give you wisdom and power as you teach the children. If he will bless, each week will be a great success and the children will gain a good Biblical foundation for their faith.

JANUARY- CREATION

Memory verse: Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

The topic this month is creation. We want to teach the children about the world and how it was created. We will also be talking about the creation of man. It is important to teach that God made everything. We did not evolve from monkeys and we did not get here any other way!

LESSON 1, GOD WAS ALWAYS HERE

In this lesson, we want to teach that God existed before creation. God is not a created being; he is the one and only eternal God who always was God and always will be God.

LESSON 2, CREATION DAYS 1-3

In this lesson, we want to teach what happened on days 1-3 of the creation. It is important to teach this so that the children will have a solid foundation about what the Bible says about how and when the earth was created.

LESSON 3, CREATION DAYS 4-7

In this lesson, we want to teach what happened on days 4-7 of the creation. It is important to teach this so that the children will have a solid foundation about what the Bible says about how and when the earth was created.

LESSON 4, WHO MADE US

This is an extremely important lesson that teaches about the creation of the first man, Adam. If we know and believe that God made us, we will respect him as our maker. Human life depends upon God because he is the one who breathed the breath of life into the first man.

LESSON 5, CREATION REVIEW

This lesson is a review of all the days of creation.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT CREATION

Genesis 1:2 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Nehemiah 9:6 Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Psalm 102:25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

COLOSSIANS 1:16

GOD WAS ALWAYS HERE

Genesis 1:1

Today we will learn about how God existed long before the earth or anything else was ever created. We know that God was here before the earth because he created it! The earth has not always been here. The earth was created by God for us to live in. God has always existed. No one had to create God!

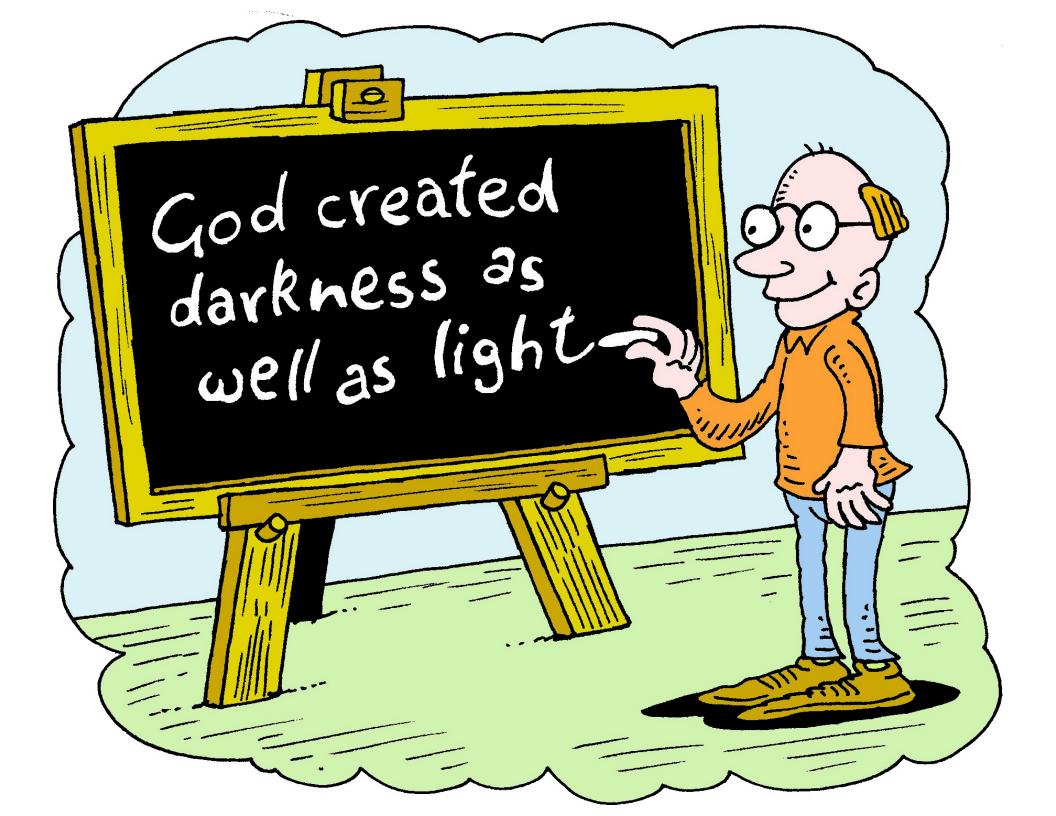
When the Bible says "Let us create" in the book of Genesis, it is God the Father talking to God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Together, they make up the Holy Trinity and they had no beginning and they will have no ending.

The Bible says in the book of Revelation that God is the beginning and the end. This tells us that God has always existed and that he always will exist. This is hard to think about, but it is true! God really has always been here. Even before the earth was created by him. It should give us great confidence to know that the God who loves us and created us has always existed and is the most powerful force in the whole world!

Questions:

- 1. Who created the Earth?
- 2. What is the name for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit?
- 3. In Revelation, God is the beginning and the what?





CREATION DAYS 1-3

Genesis 1:1-13

Have you ever wondered how everything that is here on the earth got here? Have you wondered how long it would take someone to create everything? The answer is found in the book of Genesis in chapter one. That's where it tells us that God is the creator of everything. God created the earth and everything in it in only seven days. Today we will talk about the first three days.

On the first day, God said "let there be light." God is so powerful that when he spoke, the darkness became light. God called the light, day, and he called the darkness, night. God saw what he had done and said it was good.

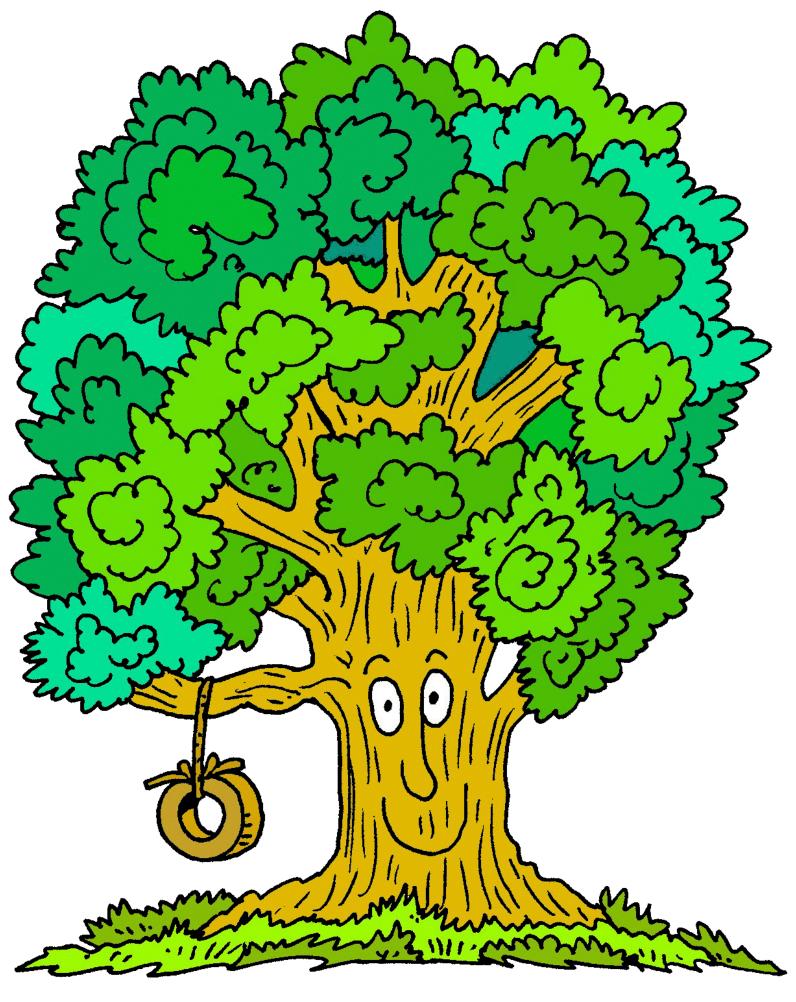
On the second day God made the sky. God had not made the sun, moon, or stars yet. The sky is where he would put those when he made them. God called the sky heaven. It is so amazing to know that when we look up to the sky, it was made by God.

The third day of creation was awesome. This is when God made dry land and the oceans. On this same day God also made grass, all of the plants and trees. This is the day that banana trees, strawberry bushes and apple trees were created. God created all of these things for people to enjoy and to have food to eat. God was so wise that he did not need help from anyone. God was able to create all of these things from nothing! Wow, God has a great imagination!

Questions:

- 1. What did God create on day one?
- 2. What did God create on day two?
- 3. What did God create on day three?





My Father made trees

CREATION DAYS 4-7

Genesis 1:14-2:3

Today the lesson is about days 4-7 of the creation. These were very exciting days and we are going to learn about what God created during this time. The fourth day is when God made the sun, moon, and the stars. After God saw what was done, he said it was good. Oh, how beautiful God made our world!

On day five, God created the fish in the sea and the birds to fly in the air. God created all the animals of the sea. Every whale, shark, and fish was created by God. Every bird of the air, God created.

The sixth day of creation was extra special. This is when God created the animals that live on the land. Cattle, lions, elephants, bears, monkeys, and all others. Even the little bugs of the earth were made by God. God saw what he had created and said it was good.

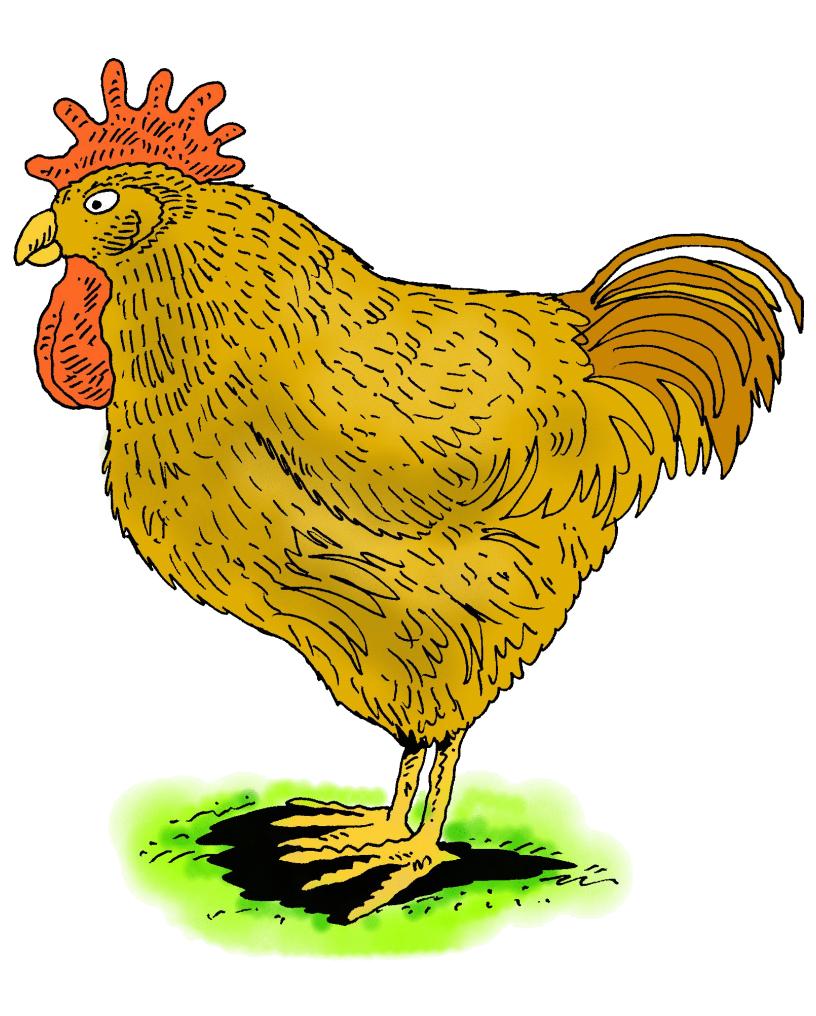
Day six is also the day that God created Man! But there was something very special about the man God created. The Bible tells us that God created man after his own image. He even breathed the breath of life into Adam's soul. When God saw that Adam was lonely, he made a woman to be his wife. After God saw everything he had created, he said it was good.

On the seventh day, God looked over everything that he made and said it was good. He created a wonderful place with wonderful plants and animals. After this, God rested. His creation was complete.

Questions:

- 1. What did God create on day four?
- 2. What did God create on day five?
- 3. What did God create on day six?
- 4. What did God do on day seven?





WHO MADE US?

Genesis 2:7-25

Have you ever wondered where humans come from? Did we come from monkeys like some people believe? Today we will look in the Bible and find the answer!

The Bible is God's Word and it tells us how humanity began. Long ago, God made the very first man and called him Adam. God made Adam out of the dust of the earth. After Adam was formed, God breathed the breath of life into him and Adam came to life. God put Adam in a beautiful garden called Eden.

When God saw that Adam was lonely, he said "it is not good for man to be alone." God brought all the animals to Adam and Adam gave them all names. He must have been very clever to do so! But among all the animals, there was no suitable partner for Adam.

Next, God made Adam fall into a deep, deep sleep. While he was sleeping, God removed one of his ribs and formed the first woman from his rib. The woman God made was exactly right to be a partner for Adam. Adam was very pleased with the woman and called her name Eve because she was the mother of all things living. She became his wife.

In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had perfect happiness obeying God. God was their provider, Lord and friend. Eventually, they had children and that is where all other people in the world came from!

Questions:

- 1. What did God use to make Adam?
- 2. How did God make Eve?
- 3. What brought Adam and Eve perfect happiness?





CREATION REVIEW

Genesis 1 and 2

As we review the creation, we are reminded that it was God who made everything. God did not have any help or need any assistance. He did it all by himself. One reason we worship God is because he is responsible for creating us and giving us everything we need in life. God has done what no one else could do for us.

God made the light and darkness. He called the light day and he called the darkness night. God simply spoke and it appeared! On the second day, God made the sky and called it the heavens. On day three, God created the dry land and the oceans. Day four is when he made the sun, moon and stars. On day five God created the fish and the birds.

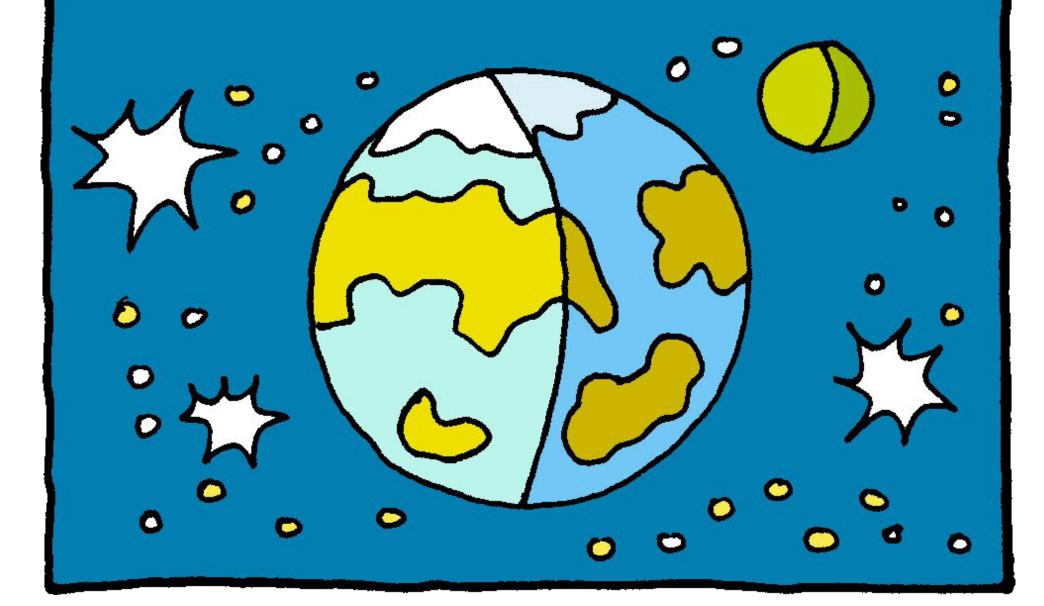
On day six, God created the animals and then he created man. God made males and females so that the animals and man could reproduce. It is very important for us to know that God created things in a certain way because that is how he wanted it to be. We should rejoice at what God has done because it was all good!

Questions:

- 1. Who helped God in creation?
- 2. What day did God make the animals?
- 3. Why did God make things in a certain way?



EVERY ASPECT OF THIS WORLD DISPLAYS GOD'S WISDOM



FEBRUARY-LOVE

Memory verse: Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

The theme this month is love. Love is extremely important and learning about true love will help the children know the difference between real and fake love. Many people claim to love but we will learn what real love is. Real love is not what we say, it is what we do and how we act.

LESSON 1, GOD IS LOVE

This lesson is intended to show that the love of God is very different than the love of man. God's love is the greatest of all. What makes God's love so great? God is love. It is his nature and his character to be love. People can show love, but God is love. Every ounce of love that there has ever been has come from God.

LESSON 2, THE GOOD SAMARITAN

In this lesson, we want to teach about loving your neighbor. We learn that your neighbor is anyone who you encounter. It is always good and right to love your neighbor. You should make it clear that the Priest and Levite did not love because they did not stop to help. This story proves that if we really love someone, we will show them by being kind.

LESSON 3, JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

In this lesson, we want to teach that Jesus thinks that children are just as important as adults. Just because you are a child does not mean Jesus does not love you. Jesus was impressed with the simple faith that the children possessed.

LESSON 4, THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

This lesson is the one that shows that Jesus had the greatest love of anyone. Jesus proved his love when he died on the cross and paid the penalty for our sins. No one has even loved anyone as much as Jesus loved us.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT LOVE

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Psalm 31:23 O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Ephesians 3:17-19 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

PROVERBS 10:12

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:8-16

These verses are wonderful because they tell us about who God is and what he is like. They tell us that God is love.

As people, we can love other people. We can love our mom and dad. We can love our brothers and sisters. We can love our friends and classmates. When we love people, it means that we don't hate them and that we are kind to them and respect them. Love is not just something that we say, it is what we do.

But sometimes it is difficult for us to love. And sometimes there are people who we don't love at all. That is because we are humans and we have been affected by sin. Sin causes us to make mistakes and sin makes it hard for us to be loving and kind.

The good news is that God has not been affected by sin like we have. When Jesus lived here on the earth he never sinned, not even one time. This makes him holy. Because God is holy and has never been guilty of sin, he has no problem loving everyone. It is the nature of God to love. He does not have to try hard because he is love. Every good thing and every act of love comes from God because he is the source of all love!

When we find it difficult to love someone, we need to pray and ask God to help us to be more like he is. God can give us the strength and ability that we need to love others like he loves them. With the help of God, we can love all people and we can tell them about the great love that God has for them.

Questions:

- 1. Why is it sometimes hard for us to love?
- 2. Was Jesus affected by sin?
- 3. Where does love come from?





THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

Jesus told a story to a young lawyer about who we should love and have compassion for. It is called the parable of the good Samaritan.

There was a Jewish man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. During his travels, he was attacked and robbed by thieves that left him on the side of the road, almost dead. After the robbers beat the man, they took everything he had, even his clothes.

A priest and a Levite came by, but even though they saw that the man was bleeding and hurt very badly, they did not stop to help him. They just continued on their way.

Then a Samaritan man came by and saw him. Most Jewish people did not like Samaritan people. But the Samaritan man stopped to help anyway because he loved all people. He kneeled next to the man and put medicine and bandages on his wounds. Then he put the hurt man on his donkey and brought him to an inn and took care of him all night. The Samaritan man was the only one who had compassion.

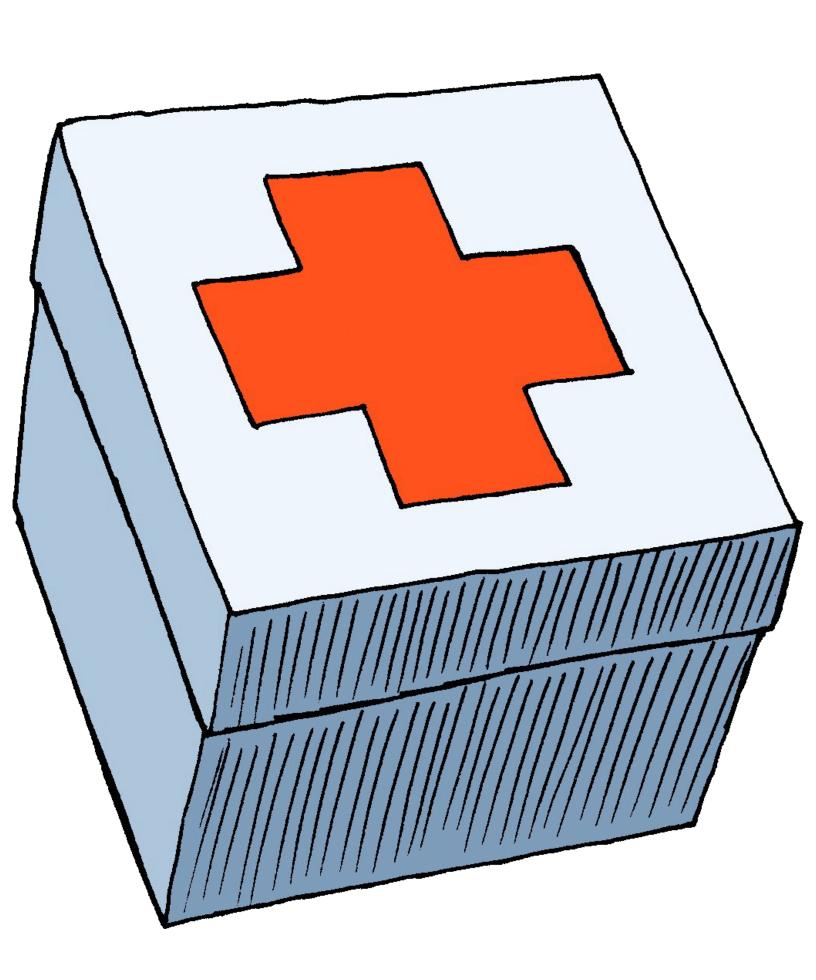
When the story was over, Jesus asked the lawyer who he thought was a good neighbor to the hurt man? The lawyer said it would be the Samaritan because he stopped to help the hurt man and took care of him. He was right!

Jesus then told the lawyer to go and love people the same way that the Samaritan man did. A neighbor is anyone who is in need and we can show love by helping them and having mercy on them.

Questions:

- 1. Who is our neighbor?
- 2. Why did the Good Samaritan help the hurt man?
- 3. How can we help our neighbors?





JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Matthew 18:1-4; 19:13-15

One day the apostles were arguing among themselves about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of God. Some of the apostles wanted to be better than the others. But Jesus did not like how they were thinking so he told them a story about a little child.

Jesus looked at a little child and then at the apostles. Jesus told the apostles, unless you change how you think and become like this little child, you will never get into God's kingdom. The greatest person in God's kingdom is like this child. This is because a child is not arguing and trying to become the greatest of all. They simply believe in Jesus.

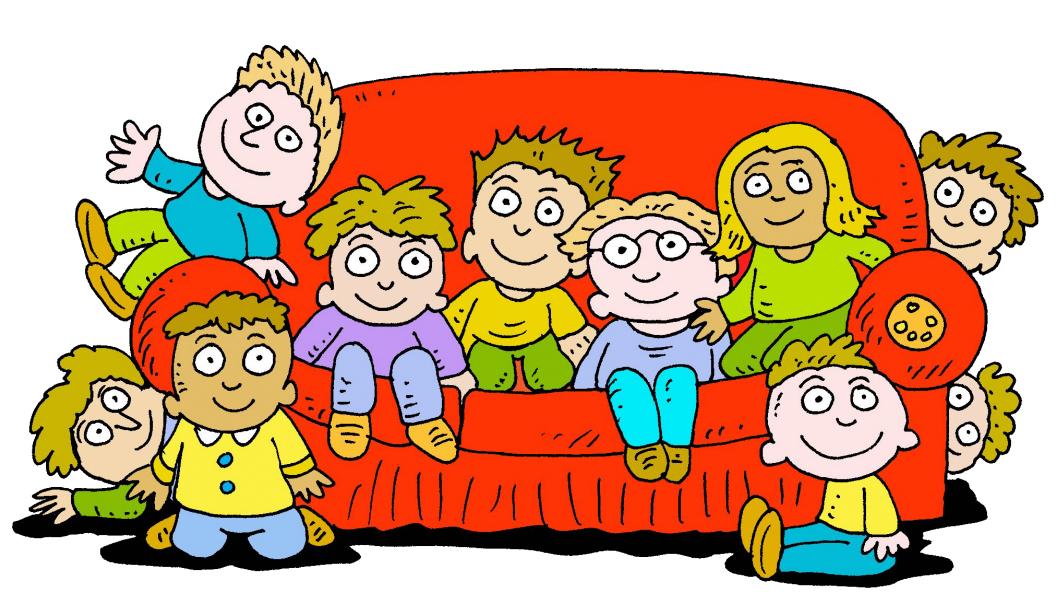
A few months later, some people where bringing their children to see Jesus so he could pray for them. The apostles tried to stop them because they thought the children were not important. But Jesus told them to let the children come to him because he knew they had real faith. Children are willing to learn and do what God commands. Jesus put his hands on these children and blessed them. Children were important to Jesus.

The great thing about these stories is that they prove how much Jesus loves children. Even though children are little and not yet adults, Jesus still loves them. God does not love people because of what they can do for him, he loves people because he is a loving God who wants everyone to know him. He especially desires that all children would believe in him and trust in him to be their Savior and Lord.

Questions:

- 1. What were the apostles arguing about?
- 2. Did Jesus let the children talk to him?
- 3. Why does God love people?





THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

Matthew 27:32-56

There are many people who have shown love to others. Sometimes people will give gifts or even help someone else to show how much they love them. But there is one person who has the greatest love of all and who proved his love in a very special way.

Of course, that person is Jesus. He proved that he loved everyone in the world by laying down his life so that everyone else could live. People have a big problem that is called sin. Every person that has ever been born is a sinner. The bad thing about this is that because we are sinners, we are separated from God.

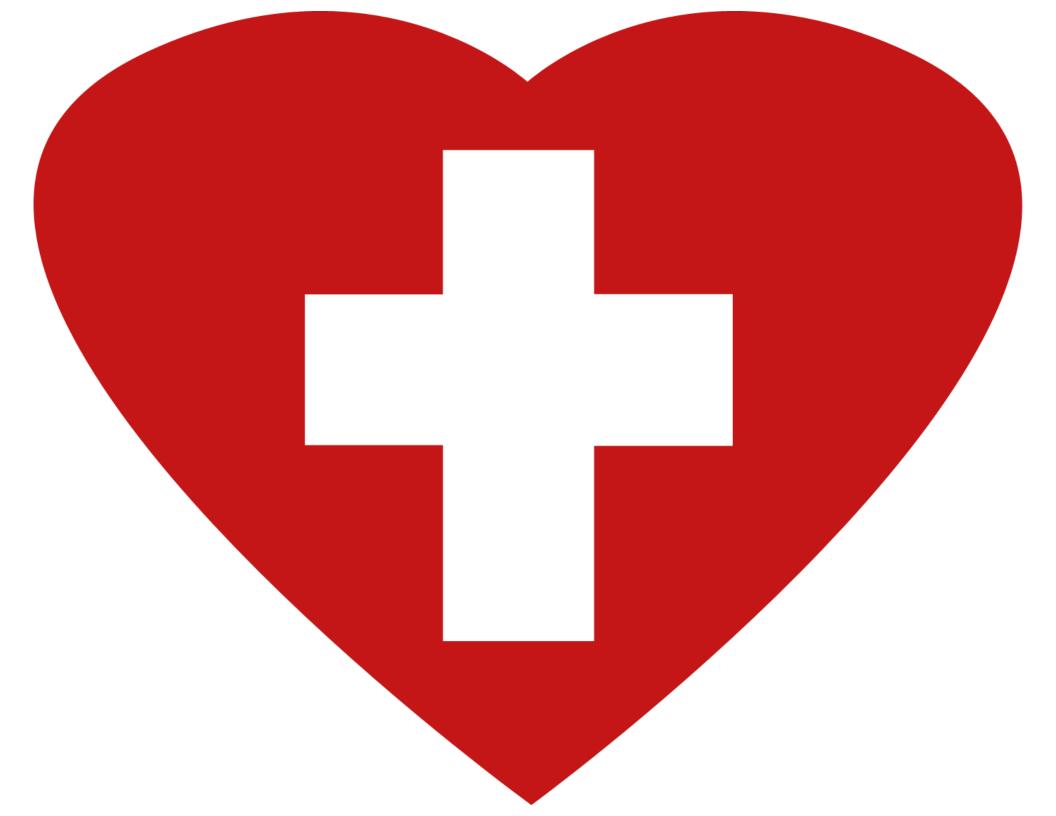
God did not like this so he asked his only son Jesus to come to the earth and save the people from their sins. But the only way he could save them from their sins was if he would be willing to be punished instead of them. Jesus loved us so much that he told his father that he would die so that we did not have to. He would pay the penalty of our sins.

So even though Jesus never sinned, he allowed himself to be crucified on a wooden cross and suffer and pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world. He died and three days later, he rose again from the dead and now Jesus lives in Heaven forever with his father. By rising from the grave, Jesus conquered death. There has never been any love greater than this.

Questions:

- 1. How did Jesus prove his love for people?
- 2. What was the only way that Jesus could save people from their sins?
- 3. Has anyone ever loved people more than Jesus did?





MARCH- OBEDIENCE

Memory verse: Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch over your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

This month is all about obedience. Of course, this subject needs to be taught to all children. We have put together lessons that cover many angles of obedience. For example, Lesson 3 is about people who disobeyed their leaders. Lesson 1 is about Jonah and what happened when he disobeyed God. Throughout this month, you should help the children understand that everyone has someone to obey. We obey God first, and then those people in our lives who are our leaders.

LESSON 1, JONAH AND THE WHALE

The point of this lesson is to learn the importance of obeying God. Because Jonah disobeyed God, he was thrown overboard and swallowed by the whale. He could have avoided all of that if he simply did what God told him to do.

LESSON 2, OBEY YOUR PARENTS

In this lesson, you will teach that God commands us to obey our parents. Obeying parents is not something that we can do if we feel like it or when we want to. God says to obey our parents all the time. Teach them that by obeying their parents, they are obeying God.

LESSON 3, A GOLDEN CALF

The children of Israel got tired of following Moses and they rebelled by building a golden calf to worship. This was exactly what Moses told them not to do. Use the example of their disobedience to teach the children that God wants us to obey our leaders.

Even adults must obey their leaders. Pastors, bosses, police and many other people are leaders and we are commanded to obey them.

LESSON 4, JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

This is one of the greatest examples of obedience in all the Bible. Jesus knew that if he went to the cross to die for the sins of the world, he would be in great pain. He knew that he would have to suffer and bleed and that it would hurt.

But because Jesus was committed to being obedient to his father, he followed through and gave his life on Calvary. If Jesus obeyed, we should also.

LESSON 5, PHILLIP GOES TO THE DESERT

This is another lesson about obeying God. When God called Phillip to go to the desert it was kind of a strange command. There was only one person there for Phillip to minister to. Instead of arguing with God like Jonah did, Phillip simply obeyed and went. Our lives will be much better if we will just obey God the first time he asks us to do something.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT OBEDIENCE

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Genesis 6:22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he. Genesis 6:22

Joshua 11:15 As the Lord commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command *Joshua*, and so did *Joshua*; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses.

Acts 26:19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Matthew 4:19-20 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 9:9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

Matthew 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

HEBREWS 13:17

Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

JONAH AND THE WHALE

Jonah 1:1-3:10

Jonah was a preacher. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people there about God. Nineveh was a very wicked place. Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh.

Jonah disobeyed God. Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah went in the opposite direction. Jonah got on a ship. God was upset that Jonah disobeyed. God sent a big storm on the sea. The men on the ship were afraid the ship would come apart and sink.

Jonah knew that it was the Lord causing the rough seas and winds. Jonah knew that he disobeyed God. The men on the ship threw Jonah overboard. As soon as Jonah was off the ship, the winds and waves stopped and the sea was calm.

Then God sent a whale to swallow Jonah! Can you imagine how scared Jonah must have been? Surely Jonah thought that he would die. Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to God and asked God to forgive him for his disobedience. Jonah asked God to give him another chance.

Do you know what happened next? The whale vomited and Jonah came out of the belly of the whale! Just think about how bad Jonah must have smelled!

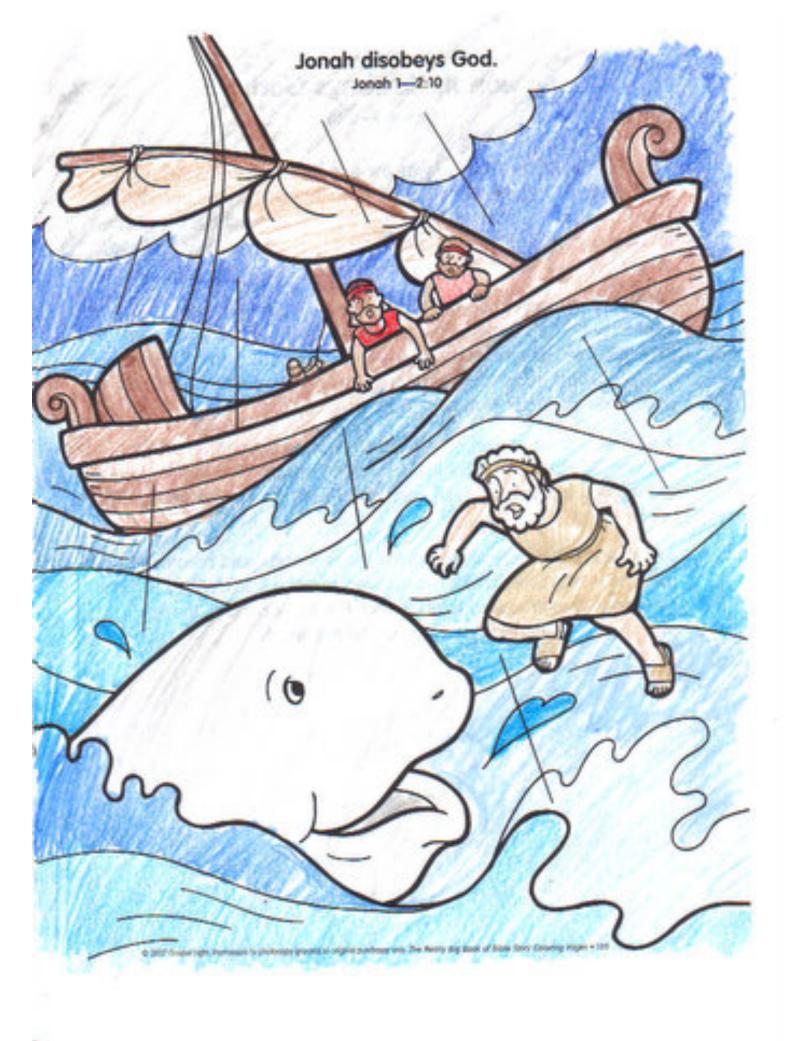
God gave Jonah another chance. Jonah would obey God. Jonah went to Nineveh, and told them about God. The people of Nineveh listened to Jonah, and asked God to forgive them. God forgave the people of Nineveh.

Questions:

- 1. Why did Jonah disobey God?
- 2. What happened after Jonah was thrown from the ship?
- 3. How many days was Jonah in the belly of the whale?

Memory verse: Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch over your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.





OBEY YOUR PARENTS

Ephesians 6:1-3

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6: 1-3 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

The Bible gives us some commandments. A commandment is a law from God. A few examples of commandments are: Thou Shall Not Kill, Thou Shall Not Steal, Thou Shall Not Worship Any Other gods, and Honor thy father and thy mother.

In Ephesians 6:2 the Bible tells us to obey our parents and to honor them. That is a commandment from the Lord. The commandment to obey our father and mother, and to honor them is written 8 times in the Bible! God is very serious about honoring and obeying your parents. The very exciting part about this commandment is that God promises that when we obey our parents, and honor them, we will have long life.

The longer we live the more time we can share with our family. The longer we live the more time we can serve the Lord. Wow! That is such a wonderful promise.

Questions:

- 1. What does Ephesians 6:1 say?
- 2. We should not only obey our parents, but also what?
- 3. What will the Lord give to us if we honor and obey our parents?





A GOLDEN CALF

Exodus 32:1-6

One of God's first leaders was a man named Moses. Moses was a good leader and God chose him to be the person who would go to Pharaoh and demand that the children of Israel would be made free. Moses is also the man that God gave his law to. He had a very important job and it was very important that the children of Israel followed Moses and obeyed him. The problem was that sometimes they would be disobedient and not follow Moses.

When God gave Moses the ten commandments, he called Moses up to the top of a mountain so that he could be alone with God. Moses was there for forty days. Before he left to go up the mountain, he gave instructions to the children of Israel. Aaron was an assistant to Moses and he was supposed to be in charge while Moses was gone.

While Moses was gone, all the people got tired of waiting. They demanded that Aaron make them a god out of gold so they could worship it. Aaron collected all their jewelry and melted it down and made a golden calf. The people began to worship the golden image instead of worshiping God. When Moses returned, everyone was in trouble because they disobeyed him and he was the leader that God appointed. This story teaches us that God wants us to obey our leaders.

Questions:

- 1. What did God give to Moses?
- 2. How long was Moses on top of the mountain with God?
- 3. What does this story teach us?





JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

Matthew 26:36-46

The greatest example of obedience in all the Bible is Jesus obeying his heavenly father. Jesus was different from everyone else because he did not have an earthly father. His father was God who lived in heaven and Jesus always did the things that pleased him.

But obeying his heavenly father was not always easy for Jesus because he had a very special mission to accomplish. This mission would hurt bad. Jesus was sent to die on a cross and take away the sins of the world. He would be the Savior but he would have to suffer and die.

Just a few days before his death, Jesus went to a garden and prayed to his heavenly father. He took some of his disciples with him but they fell asleep. While Jesus was alone, praying to his father, he asked if there was any other way to be the Savior without going to the cross and dying. But there was no other way. There in the garden, with great tears, Jesus prayed and told his father that he would be obedient and go to the cross. Because Jesus obeyed, salvation is now available for everyone. He obeyed even when he knew it would hurt.

Questions:

- 1. What is the greatest example of obedience in the Bible?
- 2. Was it easy for Jesus to obey his heavenly father?
- 3. What happened because Jesus obeyed?





PHILIP GOES TO THE DESERT

Acts 8:26-40

An Angel of the Lord told Philip, a preacher, to walk on a certain road in the desert. Philip obeyed God, and did what the angel said. As he walked, Philip saw a man riding in a chariot. This man worked for the Queen of Ethiopia. He was reading a scroll with words from the Bible written on it.

God told Philip to go to the chariot of the man, and stay with it. Philip had to run to catch up with the chariot. Philip heard the man reading words from the Bible.

Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian man said, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" The man invited Philip to ride with him in the chariot.

Philip explained that the words the man was reading was about Jesus. Philip told the man that Jesus died and came back to life again so people who believe in Jesus can live forever with him. The man believed in his heart that everything Philip was saying was true. The man repented of his sins and became a follower of Jesus.

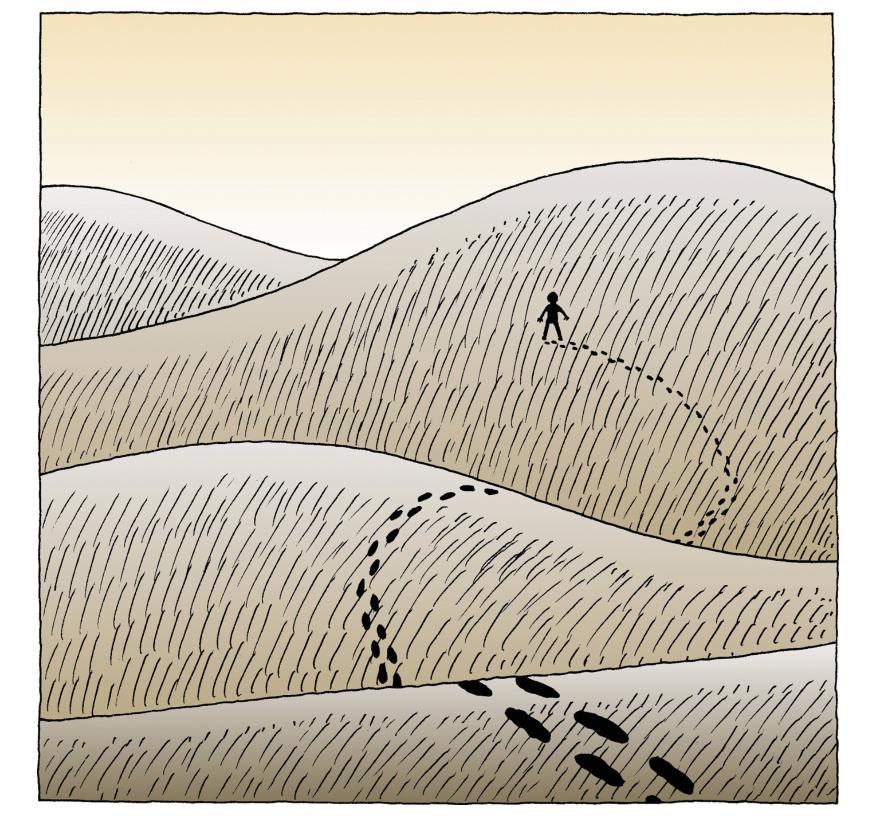
When they came to some water, the man stopped the chariot. He asked Philip to baptize him, so he did.

Then Philip disappeared! God took Philip to another place. The Ethiopian man went back home happy because he knew Jesus as his Savior.

Questions:

- 1. How did Philip obey God?
- 2. Why did Philip run?
- 3. Why was the Ethiopian man happy?





APRIL- SALVATION

Memory verse: Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This month our subject is Salvation. This will be one of the most important subjects that you will teach so be sure to pray and study the lessons before you teach them.

Our goal this month is to teach the children why we need to be saved and how to be saved. Remember, if a person has everything they want in this life, but they never get saved, they will lose it all and spend eternity in hell where they are punished for their sins.

On the other hand, a person can be very poor and not have any good things in this life, but if they are saved they can have the joy of the Lord and go to heaven when they die. This makes the topic of salvation very, very important.

LESSON 1, THE FALL OF MAN

In this lesson, the goal is to teach how we became sinners. We do not become sinners because we commit sins, we sin because we are sinners. We are born with a sinful nature and therefore our spirit is dead. We want to stress that everyone in the world is a sinner and that we all need to be saved. There are no people who can go to heaven if they are not saved by trusting in Jesus.

LESSON 2, JESUS IS THE SAVIOR

In this lesson, we want to teach that there is only one Savior and his name is Jesus. Jesus is the only Savior because he is the only one who satisfied the wrath of God and was punished for the sins of the whole world. The way he did this was by dying on the cross and rising from the dead three days later.

LESSON 3, THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

This lesson is about the sinful woman that Jesus met at Jacob's well. She was a Samaritan and Jesus was a Jewish man. Everyone knew that the Jews didn't like the Samaritans. But Jesus was different from all the other Jews. He was the Savior and he loved every person. It does not matter where you are from or who you are, Jesus loves you. The goal of this lesson is to teach that Salvation is for everyone. Jesus will save anyone who will trust in him by faith.

LESSON 4, GOD SAVES NOAH

Noah was one of the greatest characters in the Bible. There was a time when God decided to destroy everything in the earth, including all the people. God instructed Noah to build a large boat that was called an ark. Because Noah obeyed God, and built the ark, he and his family were saved from the flood. Use this lesson to teach that if we will obey God and be saved, we too can escape God's judgment.

LESSON 5, SAUL GETS SAVED

The goal of this lesson is to show how that Saul got saved and how his life changed because of it. When God saves a person, there should be a real difference in their life because now their sins are forgiven and they are free from the bondage and shame of sin. You will want to stress that salvation makes us a new person.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT SALVATION

Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God *is* my salvation; *I* will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah *is* my strength and my song; he also *is* become my salvation.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8 or by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

ROMANS 10:13

For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

THE FALL OF MAN

Genesis 3

The very first man was named Adam and the Bible tells us that God made Adam in his own image. Because Adam was a man, he was very different from everything else God created. All the animals and birds and fish were made very good by God. But God gave something to Adam that none of the animals or plants had. God gave Adam a spirit.

The spirit that God gave to Adam made it possible for him to know who God was. It also made it possible for Adam and God to be friends. God made a wife for Adam and her name was Eve. One day, Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent. God had already told Adam and Eve that they could have anything in the garden that they wanted except for the tree that was in the very middle.

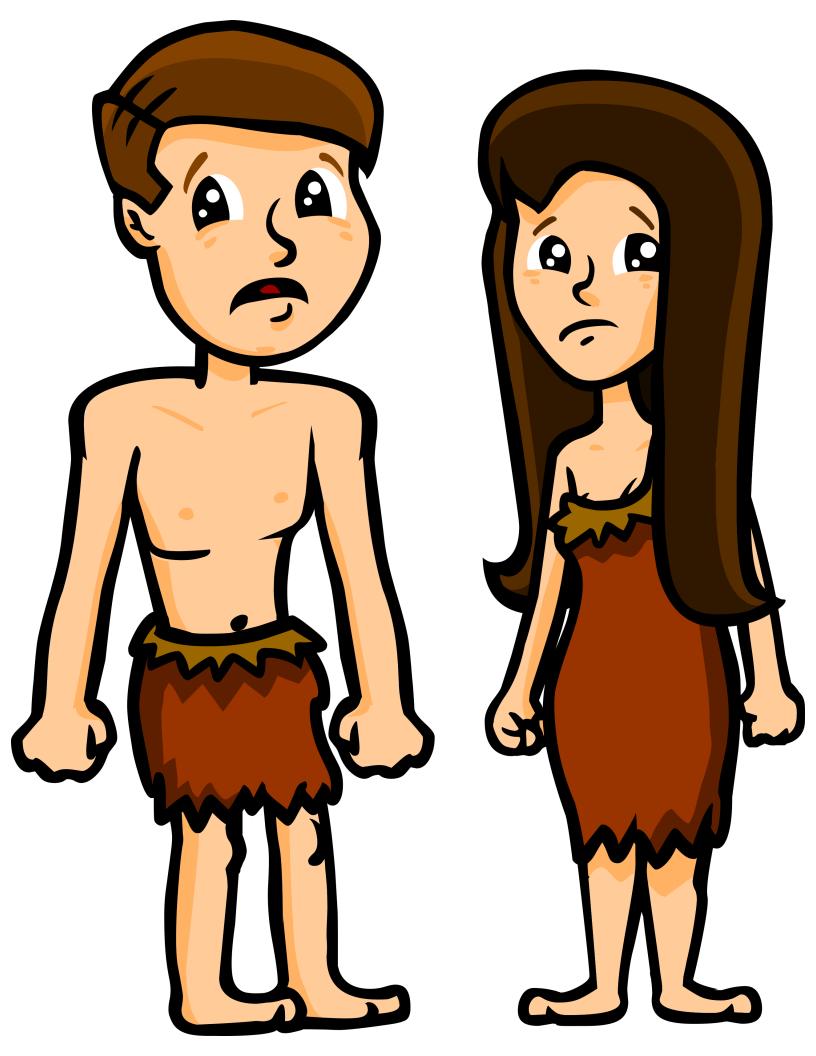
Satan deceived Eve and she disobeyed God by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree. After she did it, Adam also disobeyed God. As soon as they did this sin, the spirit within them died. They were now separated from God. God punished them by making them leave the beautiful garden. Thankfully, God still loved Adam and Eve so he covered their sins with a coat of animal skin.

After this, God made a rule that every other person who would be born, would be born with a spirit that was dead because of sin. The sin of Adam was passed down to all other people in the whole world. This means that every person in the world needs God's help. We all need to be forgiven by God so that the spirit inside of us can be made alive again like Adam's was. Everyone is in trouble because of sin, but God loved us enough to send his Son Jesus Christ to take away our sins.

Questions:

- 1. What part of Adam died when he sinned?
- 2. Who was affected because of Adam's sin?
- 3. Who did God send to take away our sins?





JESUS IS THE SAVIOR

John 3:16

The Bible teaches us that because of the sin of Adam and Eve, all other people were born as sinners. The verse that tells us this is Romans 5:12, Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Because of our sins, we are all separated from God when we are born. The bad thing is that there is nothing that we can do to fix this problem by ourselves. No matter how good we are or how much we try not to do bad things, we are still sinners. Everyone is born like this. All boys and girls. All people in every country in the world. We are all guilty of being sinners because we are humans.

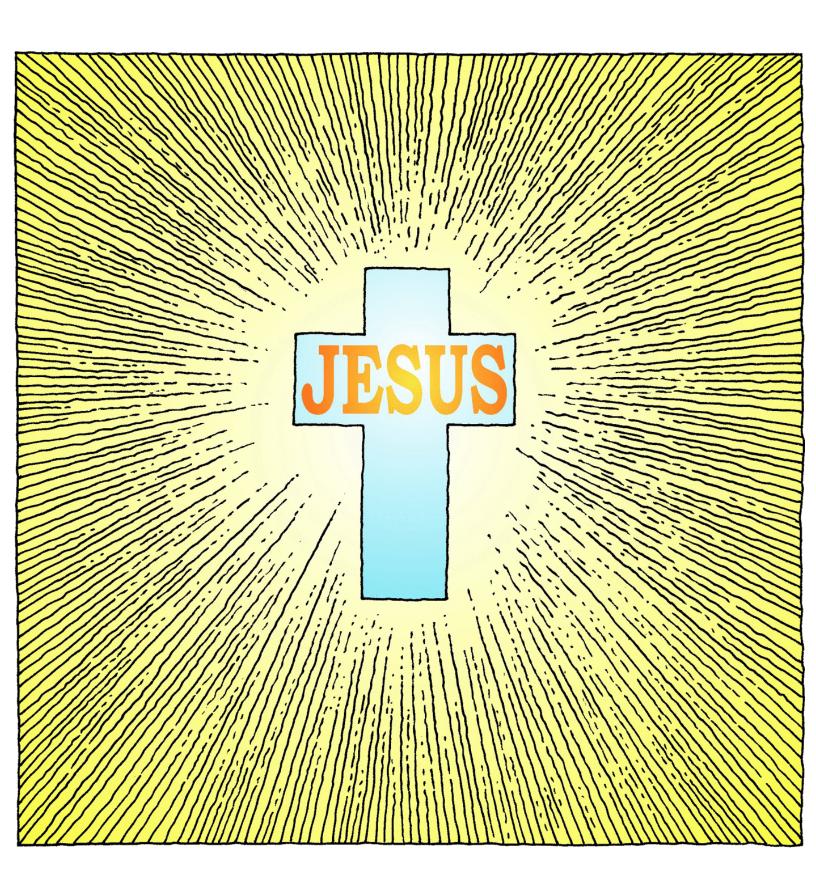
The good news is that God loved us so much that he made it possible for our sinfulness to be forgiven. But because God is righteous, the sins still had to be punished. That's when God decided to send his Son Jesus to the earth. Jesus was alive with God already. Actually, Jesus has always been alive because he and God are the same. The virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus when he came to the earth so this made it possible for Jesus to be sinless.

Jesus never committed any sins. He was perfect. Because Jesus loved people, he died on the cross and took the punishment that all of the sinful people deserved. After Jesus died and was buried, he rose from the grave on the third day! He won the battle with death. Thankfully, this made God happy and everyone who will trust in Jesus to be their personal Savior can be forgiven of their sins and have a relationship with God. Jesus is the Savior for the whole world and we need to trust in what he did on the cross to forgive our sins.

Questions:

- 1. Can we fix our sin problem by ourselves?
- 2. How many sins did Jesus commit?
- 3. How can we be forgiven of our sins?





THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:4-30

One day Jesus and his disciples were on a journey. Jesus decided that he needed to go to a city in Samaria. This was a little odd because Jesus was Jewish and most Jews did not like the people in Samaria.

Jesus was very tired because he and his friends had been traveling all morning. They were all hot because it was the middle of the day and the sun was shining bright. He found a well that a man named Jacob had built many years before. Jesus sat down and rested at the well.

While Jesus was resting, a woman from Samaria came to the well to get a bucket of water. When Jesus saw her, he asked her to get him some water out of the well. The woman was shocked because he talked to her. She asked him why he would talk to her since most Jews did not like the people from Samaria.

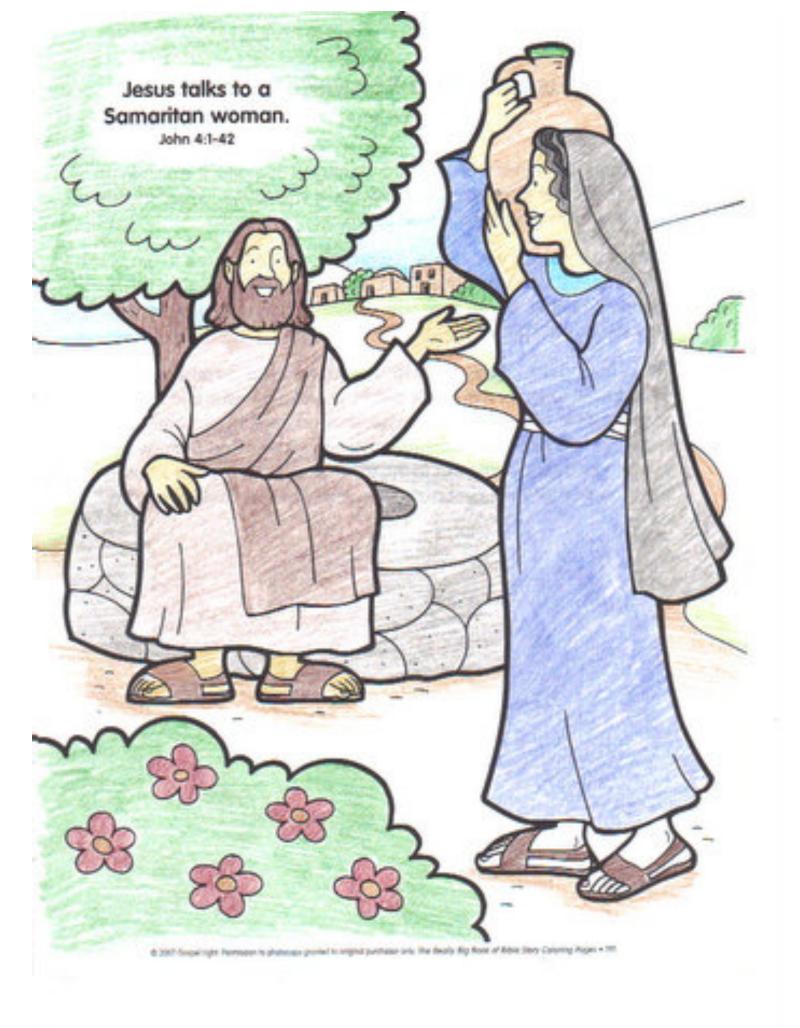
Jesus said to the woman that if she knew who Jesus was, then she would ask him for living water. The woman was very confused because she thought Jesus was talking about the water in the well. That's when Jesus told her that he could give her living water. She was still confused so Jesus explained that he could change her heart if she would believe in him. If she would believe in him, it would be like a well of water inside her heart that would never run dry!

The woman was honest and told Jesus about her sins. Jesus forgave her because she was honest and told him about her sins. He taught her that anyone who will believe in Jesus can be saved. She was so excited to be a new believer that she ran and told all her friends and they also believed in Jesus.

Questions:

- 1. Who has the living water?
- 2. Did Jesus like or dislike the woman from Samaria?
- 3. Who will Jesus save?





GOD SAVES NOAH

Genesis 6:8

In the Bible, there is a story about a man named Noah. Noah was a very good man who trusted in God and obeyed what God told him to do. Because he was obedient, he was given a very special assignment. God had a plan to make the earth new again. He was going to cause it to rain for a long time and the rain would cause a flood. The flood waters would destroy everything that was alive.

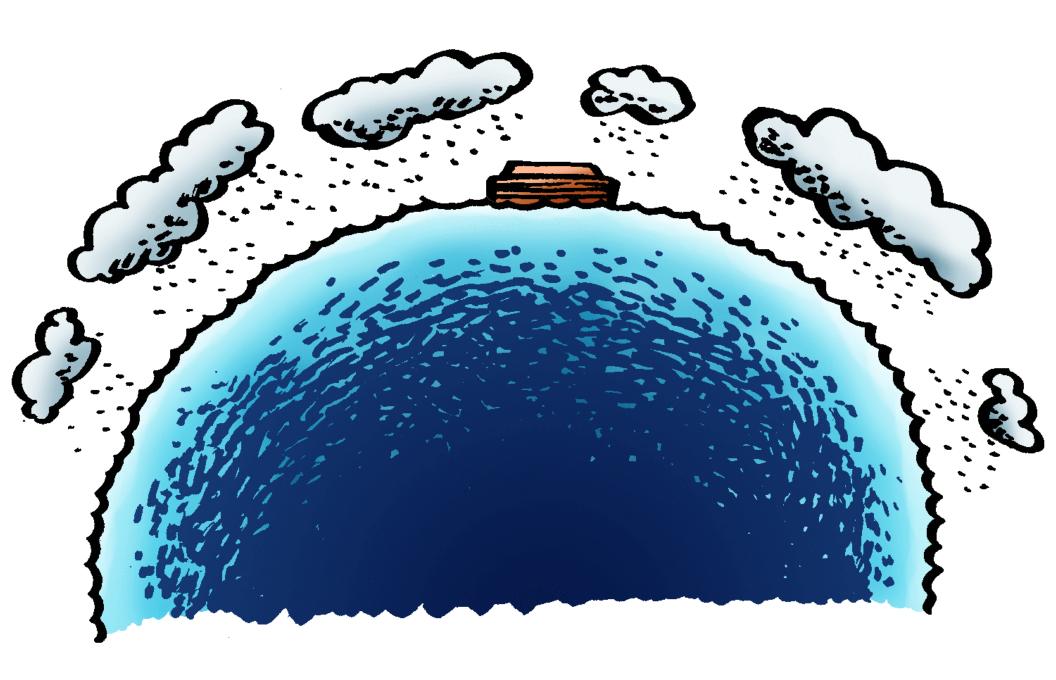
To make this plan work, God needed someone who he could trust to build a big boat. The boat was called an ark. God chose Noah because of his obedience. He gave Noah very specific plans and told him to build the ark. The amazing thing is that Noah was 600 years old. Also, it had never rained on the earth. Because it had never rained, Noah had to build the ark by faith. When he was finished building, he brought in two of every kind of animals and birds. He also brought his family into the ark. It began to rain and the ark began to float.

Just like God had promised; the earth was flooded and everything died because of the waters. Noah and his family were saved from the water because they had faith. This story teaches us that we need to obey God and believe what he tells us. Believing what God says is called faith. The only way for people to be saved from eternal punishment is to believe in Jesus Christ like the Bible tells us to. When we believe in Jesus to be our Savior, we can have a relationship with God and be safe from his judgment.

Questions:

- 1. Why was Noah given a very special assignment?
- 2. How old was Noah when he built the ark?
- 3. What is the only way for us to be saved from eternal punishment?





SAUL GETS SAVED

Acts 9

The Bible tells us about a man named Paul. He was a great apostle and missionary who planted churches, preached in many different cities and wrote 13 books of the Bible. But before he did these great things, he was a very different man who had a different name. His name was Saul and he hated Christians. He was a very smart man who had a good education. The bad thing was that he spent his time persecuting Christians, even killing some.

But God loved Saul and wanted him to be forgiven of all the bad things that he did. God had a wonderful plan for Saul's life but the first thing that had to happen was that he needed to realize that he was doing the wrong things. One day while he was traveling, God came to Saul and revealed himself to him. He asked Saul why he was doing all the bad things. Saul was amazed that God would talk to him.

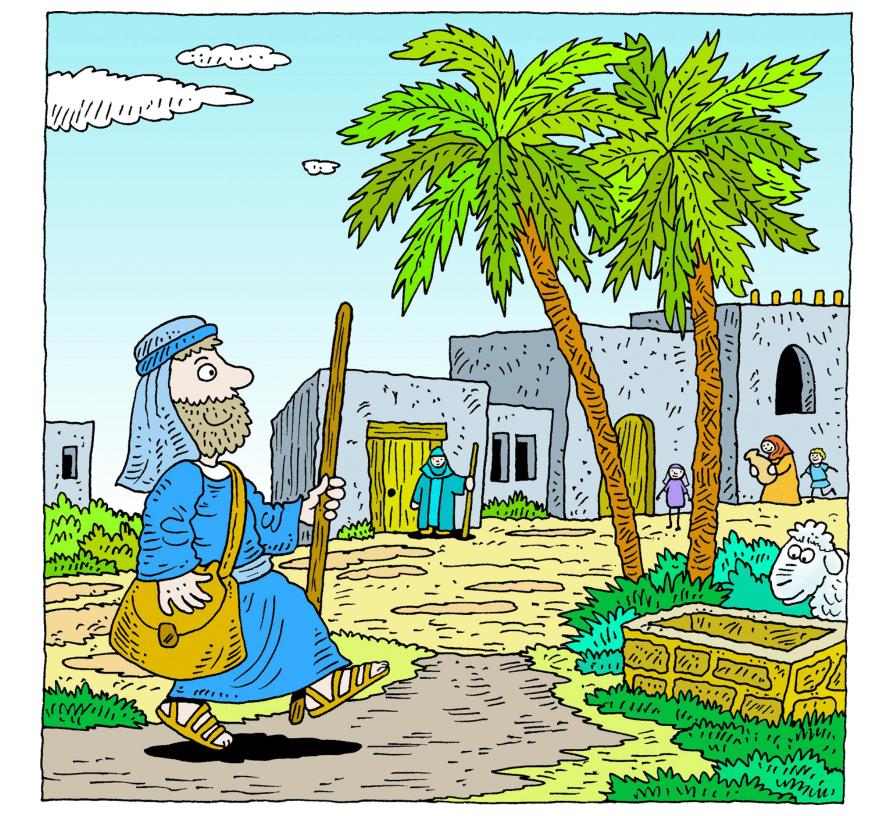
That day, Saul realized he was going in the wrong direction. He got down on his knees and asked God what he should do. He was led to a man named Ananias who told him more about God. Saul believed in God and was baptized. God changed his name to Paul and he began to go everywhere telling people about how God loved him and had forgiven him of all the bad things he had done.

Just like God forgave Saul, you and I can also be forgiven of our sins and have a brandnew life.

Questions:

- 1. Who revealed himself to Saul?
- 2. What did Saul realize the day that he got saved?
- 3. What can we have after God forgives our sins?





MAY-FAITH

Memory verse: Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him

The month of May is all about faith. The memory verse reminds us that to please God we must have faith. Faith is required by God. He wants us to believe in him and walk every day by faith.

LESSON 1, FAITH IS THE WAY TO GOD

The Bible teaches us that to know God, we must come to him by faith alone. In this lesson, you will be telling the children that the only way to God is by faith in his son Jesus Christ. There are no shortcuts and everyone must come the same way, by faith. Money cannot buy access to God. Only faith works.

LESSON 2, FAITH CAN GROW

This lesson is about how our faith can grow. God expects us to grow in every area of our lives. Faith is no different. We should believe God more and more and exercise our faith in him more and more. Ask the children if their faith is growing!

LESSON 3, FAITH FOR SALVATION

There is no other way to be saved except for trusting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. And trusting in Jesus must be by faith. We have never seen Jesus with our eyes or heard him speak with our ears. But when we read about him in the Bible, and believe in him, that is called faith. Teach the children that to be saved they must come to Jesus by believing that he is the Savior and he rose for the grave.

LESSON 4, NEHEMIAH BUILDS BY FAITH

Nehemiah is a great example of faith because he wanted to build the wall around Jerusalem and he began with nothing. He simply believed that God would provide everything he needed to get the job done. Because he believed, God provided everything.

LESSON 5, CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED BY FAITH

A centurion was a commander in the army who oversaw 100 men. The centurion was a man who had authority. The point of this story is that even though the centurion was a man of great authority, he still humbled himself and believed that Jesus would heal his servant. Because he had faith, Jesus was willing to help him.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT FAITH

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

John 6:28-29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

James 1:5-6 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

HEBREWS 11:6

FAITH IS THE WAY TO GOD

Luke 19:1-10

There once was a man named Zacchaeus. He had a lot of money, but he got it by being dishonest. One day Jesus was passing through Jericho and Zacchaeus wanted to see him. Because Zacchaeus was a very short man, he ran to a big sycamore tree and climbed up in it so that he could see Jesus.

When Jesus came to the place where the tree was, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus. Jesus then told him to come down from the tree because he wanted to go stay in his house. Zacchaeus came quickly down the tree and received Jesus joyfully. In that moment, Zacchaeus accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

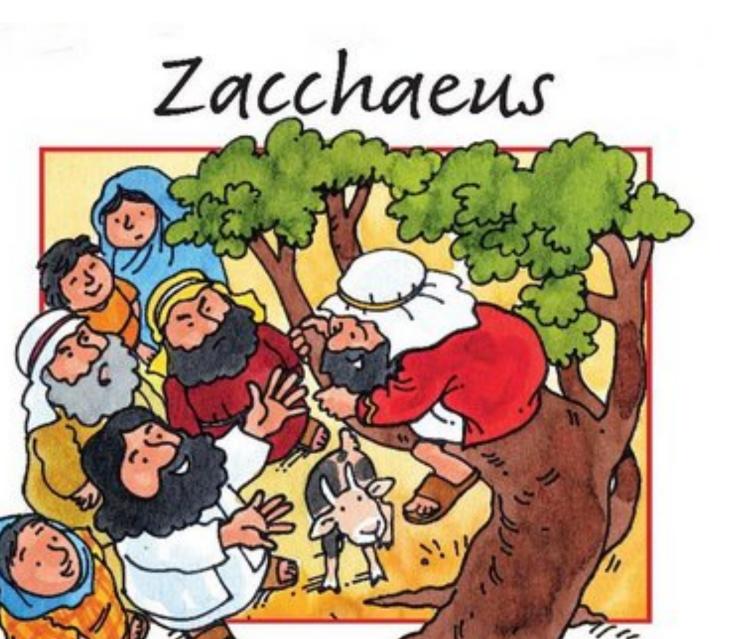
The people in the crowd began to talk about how Zacchaeus was a sinner. But Jesus loved him and wanted him to believe and have faith. Immediately after Zacchaeus started believing in Jesus, he realized he needed to change the way he lived. By receiving Jesus, Zacchaeus started changing.

Jesus, the son of God, came to this earth and died for everyone so that sinners can be saved like Zacchaeus was. The only way to God is by faith in Jesus Christ. To have faith, one must receive and believe in Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says, "that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Questions:

- 1. Why did Zacchaeus climb into the tree?
- 2. What happened when Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree?
- 3. What happened after Zacchaeus received Jesus?





FAITH CAN GROW

Matthew 14:25-33

In this story, Jesus told all the disciples to get into a boat and to go to the other side of the sea. Once Jesus sent a crowd away, he went to pray. While he was praying, the boat that the disciples were in was at the middle of the sea being tossed from side to side by waves, and the wind was going crazy.

Jesus went to them walking on top of the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water they thought he was ghost and they were afraid. When Jesus heard them crying, he said, "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." That is when Peter showed great faith in Jesus.

Peter said, if it be you Jesus, tell me to come unto you on the water. And Jesus said, come. Peter came down from the boat and began to walk on the water just like Jesus did. But when Peter saw the wind going crazy, he took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink. He cried to Jesus saying, save me. Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. Then he said, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" What that means is, God asked Peter why did he doubt that God would not keep him from sinking.

Sometimes we will be scared like Peter was. But after this happened, Peter's faith grew. We can grow our faith by talking to God through prayer, by reading the Bible, and by trusting God for the things we need. When you face bad times, be like Peter and trust Jesus.

Questions:

- 1. Which disciple asked Jesus if he could come to Him by walking on water?
- 2. What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus?
- 3. How can you grow your faith in Jesus?





FAITH FOR SALVATION

Ephesians 2:8-9

Mark, a three-year-old boy went down to the seacoast to fly a kite. Never having flown a kite before, Mark had some doubt. His father told him that all was well, and that the kite would go up into the air and fly. Mark believed his father. As Mark unrolled the string, and watched the kite go up, he said, "I knew it would fly, Daddy. You said it would." Mark had faith.

Faith simply means to believe. The Bible talks about faith for salvation. Faith for salvation means that we believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the grave. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts and save us from our sins, we have faith for salvation.

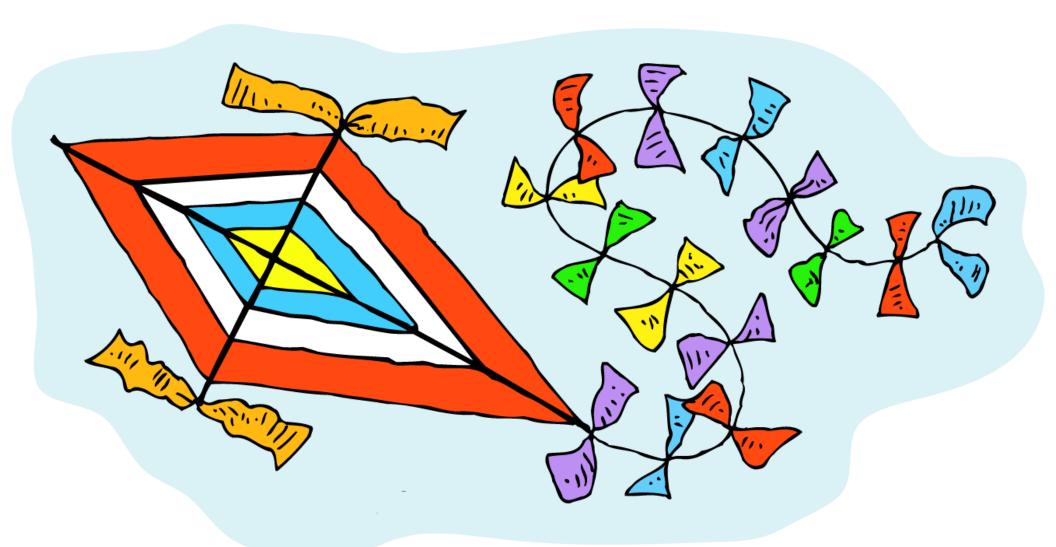
Ephesians 2: 8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

What we do will not get us to heaven. Being a good person is not enough to save us from hell. We must pray, and ask Jesus to save us. We must have faith that when we ask Jesus to save us; that he will. God always keeps his promises and when we trust him with simple faith he will save us. Just like the little boy believed when his father told him his kite would fly, we can believe what God says about being saved.

Questions:

- 1. Did the little boy have faith?
- 2. Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- 3. Do you have faith to be saved?





NEHEMIAH BUILDS BY FAITH

Nehemiah 2:11-4:23

Nehemiah was a special helper of the king. One day, the brother of Nehemiah came from far away for a visit, and brought news from the city where Nehemiah was from. The walls of the city used to be tall and strong, but now they are broken. The city is not safe.

Nehemiah was so sad. So, Nehemiah prayed to God, and asked God to make a way for the walls to be rebuilt.

When the king saw, that Nehemiah was sad; he asked Nehemiah, "Why are you so sad?" Nehemiah said, "I am sad because the wall around my city is broken down, and my city is in danger of attack."

The king said, "You may go and help the people rebuild the wall. I will even pay for all the materials. Just return here to your job in my kingdom when you are done."

Nehemiah was so happy! God had answered is prayer! Nehemiah showed great faith. He went back to his city, and all the people worked together to get the walls rebuilt. It was a very difficult job and many people thought he could not do the job. But, Nehemiah trusted God to help him and he became successful. He was able to rebuild the wall and prove his enemies wrong.

Questions:

- 1. Why was Nehemiah sad?
- 2. Did Nehemiah pray about the wall?
- 3. Did Nehemiah have faith?





CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED BY FAITH

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:2-10

During the time that Jesus was on earth, he and his disciples traveled Israel healing the sick and telling people about God, who is the father of Jesus. One of the places that Jesus and his disciples visited was called Capernaum.

In Capernaum, there lived a Roman centurion. The centurion had a servant who he loved very much, but his servant had become very sick and was now dying. When the centurion heard that Jesus was in Capernaum, he sent men to ask Jesus to come and heal his beloved servant.

The men found Jesus and started to bring him to the centurion's house. When they were almost there, the centurion sent friends to stop them saying, "Do not trouble yourself, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. I myself am not worthy to go to you; but speak the word only and my servant shall be healed." Jesus was amazed and said, "I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." When the centurion's friends returned to the house they saw that the servant had been healed! They found out that he had been healed in the same exact hour that Jesus had spoken.

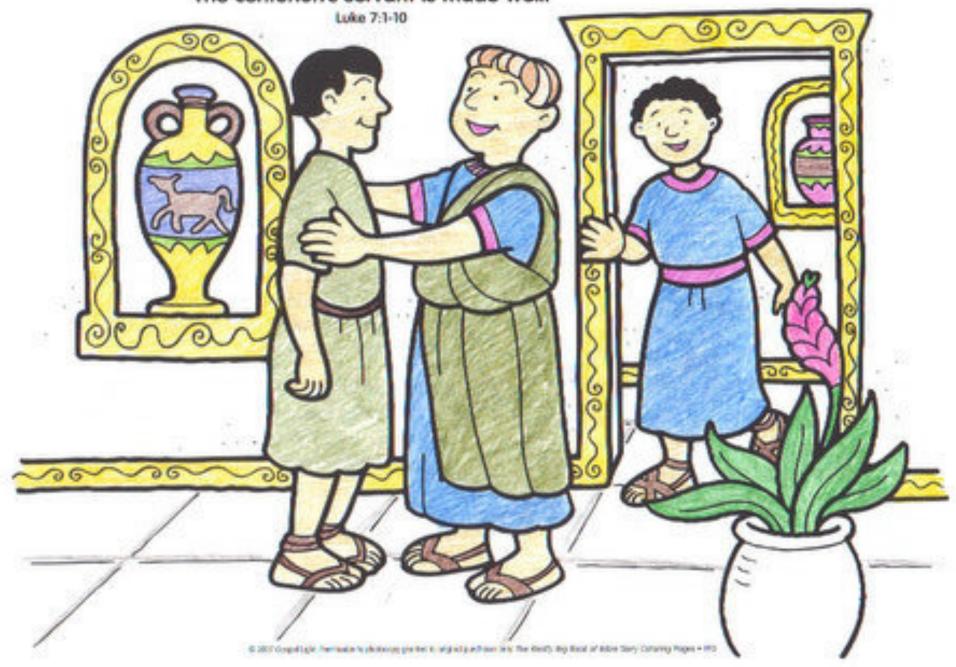
Because the centurion had great faith, Jesus answered his prayer that his servant would be healed. He had so much faith that he didn't even have to see Jesus and he knew that all Jesus had to do was speak. We cannot see Jesus, but we can have faith that he is always there and will always answer our prayers. We should believe in him and have great faith like the centurion.

Questions:

- 1. What did Jesus and his disciples do as they traveled Israel?
- 2. How did Jesus heal the centurion's servant?
- 3. What kind of faith did Jesus say the centurion had?



The centurion's servant is made well.



JUNE- WORSHIP

Memory verse: John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The theme this month is worship. Worship is important because God is holy and he deserves to be worshiped. God also desires to be worshiped. When we worship God with a pure heart, he is very happy with us because our hearts are focused upon him and his holiness.

LESSON 1, PAUL AND SILAS WORSHIP IN JAIL

The point of this lesson is to teach that we can worship God at any time and in any place. You do not have to be in a church to worship God. We can worship during all times and at all places. Paul and Silas even worshiped God by singing and praying when they were in jail.

LESSON 2, JOB WORSHIPPED GOD

Job is a great example of when to worship God. He lost everything he owned, even his children. But the first thing that Job did was to pray and worship God. Job teaches us that when life gets real hard, we can still worship and praise God because God always loves us and God never changes.

LESSON 3, NO FALSE WORSHIP

The point of this lesson is to teach the children what false worship is. The king tried to make Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego worship him because he was the king. But they knew that they were only supposed to worship God. They refused to worship the king and God protected them and rewarded them for their faithfulness.

LESSON 4, MARY AND THE ALABASTER BOX

Mary loved Jesus so much that she was overwhelmed with him. She brought the most expensive thing she had and gave it to Jesus. This was her special way to worship and it teaches us that Jesus is worthy of the very best that we have. When we spend time worshiping Jesus, it is time well spent because Jesus is worthy. Teach the children that we should give our best effort as we worship God.

LESSON 5, HOW TO WORSHIP

This lesson is about how to worship God. The good news is that there is not a right or wrong way to worship. There is no special list or formula to follow. People worship God in many ways. What John 4:24 teaches us is that people who worship God must worship him in spirit and in truth. That simply means that we need to be saved to truly worship God. If the spirit within us has never been re-born, we cannot truly worship God the way he wants us to.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT WORSHIP

1 Chronicles 16:29 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Psalm 96:9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Luke 24:52-53 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Psalm 84:4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Exodus 34:8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

Revelation 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

- **1 Samuel 1:28** Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.
- **2 Chronicles 7:3** And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

JOHN 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

PAUL AND SILAS WORSHIP IN JAIL

Acts 16

Paul and Silas were missionaries. One day they traveled to a placed called Philippi. When they got there, they met Lydia, who was searching for truth. They told Lydia about Jesus and she believed.

Then a young woman who was possessed with a demon, started to follow Paul and Silas. She cried very loudly and shouted things. Paul then turned to her and commanded the demon to come out. It did. After this, the young woman's masters were upset. The masters complained unto the rulers. Paul and Silas were then beaten and put in Prison.

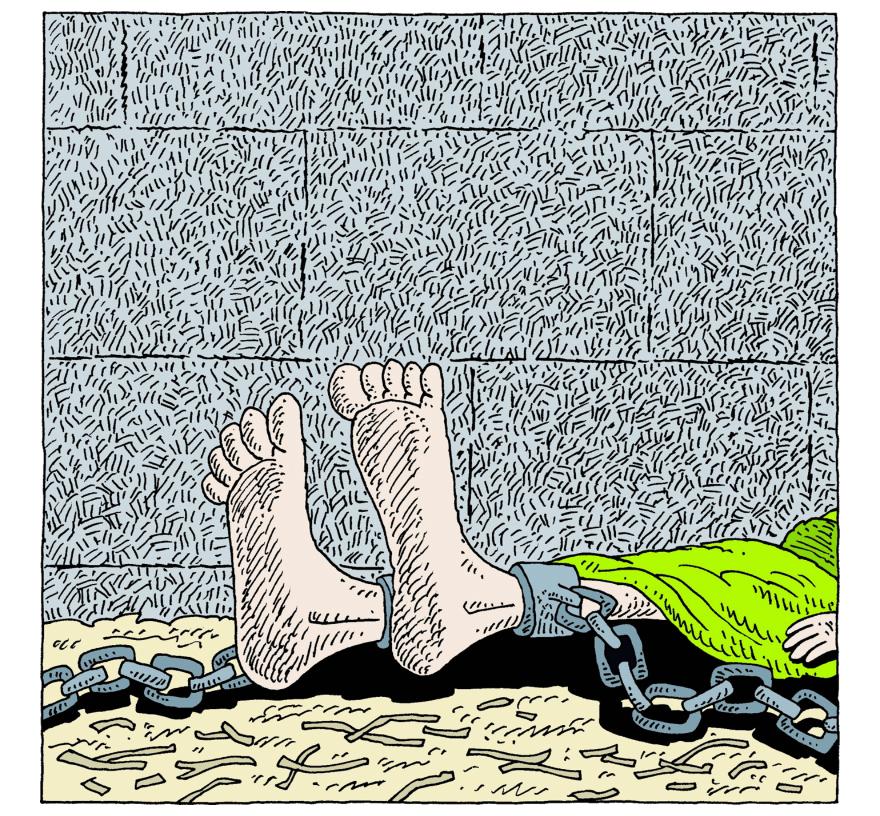
Everyone expected Paul and Silas to be mad and upset because they were in prison. But instead of being mad, they prayed and sang praises to God. All the other prisoners heard them. While they were worshipping God, there was a great earthquake and all the prison doors were opened. The prison guard was scared because he thought the prisoners had escaped. Paul cried out and told the guard not to harm himself because no one had escaped.

The guard ran in to the prison and fell before Paul and Silas. He asked, "What must I do to be saved." Paul and Silas said, "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." The guard and his family all heard the Word, believed the Word, and all were baptized. That morning, Paul and Silas were released from Prison.

Questions:

- 1. Where did Paul and Silas Worship?
- 2. What happened when Paul and Silas worshipped?
- 3. What happened to the Guard?





JOB WORSHIPPED GOD

Job 1:20-22

The story of Job is one of the most remarkable stories in the Bible. Job was a man who feared God and always stayed away from evil. He was also a rich man who had lots of land, lots of cattle and a large family. His life was very good and God had confidence in him.

One day, Satan talked to God and said that Job only loved God because he was good to Job. Satan accused Job of loving all his blessings more than God himself. God knew these accusations were false so he allowed Satan to take away all of Job's possessions. In one day, Job lost his cattle, his home and all his children. He even lost his health because he became extremely sick with sores all over his body. The only thing Job had left was his wife.

Satan expected Job to hate God after he lost everything. But Job knew his possessions were not the most important things in life. He knew that knowing God was the most important thing. So, Job fell down and began to worship God. He told God that when he was born, he had nothing, and if he had nothing when he died, that would be okay. Job teaches us that we should worship God always, not just when everything is going good. Job was faithful in his worship.

Questions:

- 1. Why did Satan say that Job loved God?
- 2. What did Satan expect Job to do after he lost everything?
- 3. What does the story of Job teach us about worship?





NO FALSE WORSHIP

Daniel 3:1-28

The Bible tells us about a wicked king of Babylon named Nebuchadnezzar. The King made a giant statue of himself out of gold and made a law that every time music was played, anyone who would not bow down and worship the statue of the King would be thrown into the fiery furnace.

There were 3 young men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that followed God. They knew that the Bible says not to worship any other gods. They refused to worship the idol of the King! The King was very angry! The King asked, "Why will you not bow to me? Who is your God, that he would deliver you out of my hands?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the King and said "The God we serve is able to deliver us out of the fiery furnace, but if not; O King, we will not serve your god, or worship your golden image."

The King became even more angry, and commanded his strongest soldiers to throw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fiery furnace! THEN, something wonderful happened! The King looked down into the fiery furnace, and said "Did not we throw 3 men into the fire? We're not the 3 men tied up? But I see 4 men! They are loose, and one looks like the Son of God!"

The King commanded the fiery furnace to be opened! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire, and they were not burned! The King said "Surely, the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is the one true God! Because he delivered them from the fiery furnace!"

Questions:

- 1. Who was the statue of?
- 2. What was the idol made of?
- 3. After the young men came out of the fire, what did the King say?





MARY AND THE ALABASTER BOX

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8

Jesus and some of his friends were having dinner at the house of Simon. A woman named Mary came into the room holding a box of very expensive perfume. She broke the box and poured the perfume on the head and feet of Jesus. Mary was crying and worshipping Jesus. She cried so much that her tears ran on the feet of Jesus. Mary used her hair to wipe the feet of Jesus and the wonderful smell filled the house.

Some of the people were not happy. "Why did this woman waste this expensive perfume?" They asked, "She could have sold it and given the money to the poor?"

Jesus said for them to leave Mary alone. He was very happy with what she did because he knew that it was the way that Mary wanted to worship him. Jesus said, "You can always give to the poor, but I will not always be here with you like this."

Mary loved Jesus so much that she was overwhelmed with him. She brought the most expensive thing she had and gave it to Jesus. This was her special way to worship and it teaches us that Jesus is worthy of the very best that we have. When we spend time worshiping Jesus, it is time well spent because Jesus is worthy.

Questions:

- 1. What was in the box?
- 2. Were all the people happy that Mary broke the box of perfume?
- 3. What did Jesus know about Mary?





HOW TO WORSHIP

John 4:24

This month we have been talking about worship. Worship is when we honor and praise someone or something. It is when we adore or show reverence to something. The Bible teaches us that the only person we should worship is God. There is no other person or thing that is worthy of our worship. God is worthy because he is the creator of everything, including us.

John 4:24 tells us that God is a Spirit and people who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. This verse teaches us that to worship God, we need to be saved. Only saved people have a spirit that is alive and that can communicate with God. It also tells us that when we worship, we need to worship in truth. This means that we should worship God with all our heart, keeping no secrets from him.

There is not a right way or a wrong way to worship God. If we are saved and worshipping God with a pure heart, he will accept our worship. We can pray, sing songs, read the Bible and glorify God with our mouth and with our bodies. These are ways to worship God and God is looking for people who will worship him and adore him because he is their creator and Lord. Will you be one of those people?

Questions:

- 1. Who should we worship?
- 2. What do we need to be to worship God?
- 3. What kind of heart does God want us to have when we worship him?





JULY- PRAYER

Memory verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

This month is all about prayer. The ability to pray to God is one of the greatest gifts God has given to us. Through prayer we can communicate with him and tell him our burdens and ask for his help. If we fail to pray, we will not have the peace of God and the power of God that we could have.

Try your best to teach the children that prayer is very important and that even though they are young, God wants to hear their prayers!

LESSON 1, PRAYER IS TALKING TO GOD

In this lesson, we teach what prayer is. Prayer is talking to God. There are no secret formulas when it comes to praying. We can talk to God just like we talk to a friend. To pray, we should just be honest with God and tell him how we feel and what is on our heart. You need to emphasize that anyone can pray.

LESSON 2, DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN

This lesson is about the power of prayer. Teach the children that there is much power in prayer! Because of Daniels prayer, not even the lions could harm him. Prayer can do wonderful and mighty things. Not because of our ability to pray good, but because the God we pray to is all powerful and nothing is too hard for him.

LESSON 3, P.R.A.Y.

For this lesson, we use the letters of the word pray to teach how to pray. Praying is a simple act of communicating with God and this will give a simple guide for prayer.

LESSON 4, PRAYERS FREE PETER

The goal of this lesson is to teach the children to pray for other people. When Peter's friends gathered together to pray for him, God heard their prayers and Peter could escape from prison. Teach them to pray for their friends and family and even strangers. One of the greatest things we can do for someone is to pray for them.

LESSON 5, THE LORD IS MY ROCK

This lessons teaches us that we can pray for ourselves. It is based on David's prayer in Psalm 18:2. David recognized God as his rock, his fortress, his deliverer and his strength. If God is all those things for us, why would we not pray to him constantly? We can pray when we are scared or lonely. We can pray when we feel weak and tired. We can pray when we don't understand. Through prayer, we can find the help, comfort and guidance we need in our life.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT PRAYER

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Psalm 65:2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

Job 34:28 So that they cause the cry of the poor to come unto him, and he heareth the cry of the afflicted.

Proverbs 15:29 The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Psalm 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

JULY MEMORY VERSE

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

PRAYER IS TALKING TO GOD

Philippians 4:6

How many of you have a Best Friend? You probably talk to your best friend every day. You tell your friend about the fun things that you did. You tell your friend about that scary thing that happened. When you are sad you talk to your best friend and they help to make you feel better. You love spending time with your friend.

That is exactly what it is like when we pray to God! We can talk to God every day. We can talk to God about the fun things we do. We can talk to God about the scary things that happen to us. When we are sad, we can tell God about it, and ask him to help us. God loves us, and he loves it when we talk to him. God will be our Best Friend. We can talk to God about anything.

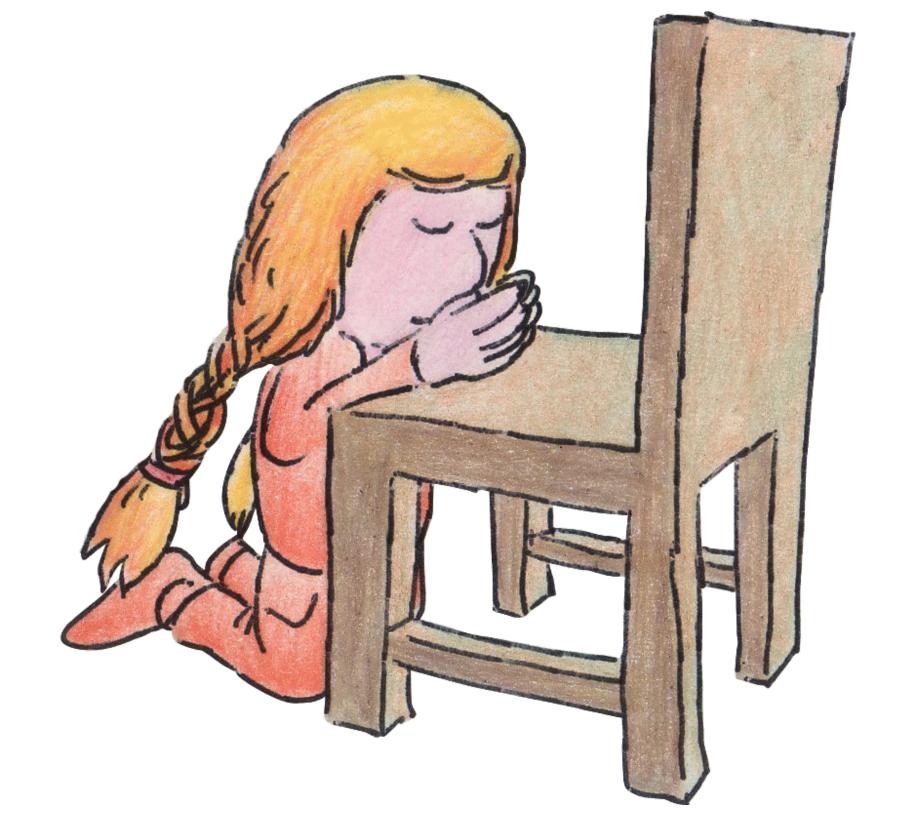
Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God

God wants us to be thankful for what we have. God also tells us that if we need anything to ask him. What a great privilege it is to have a God who is also our close friend. Praying is not complicated or hard. Praying is simply a matter of talking to God like he is our best friend.

Questions:

- 1. What is prayer?
- 2. Do we always have to ask God for something?
- 3. What can we talk to God about?





DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN

Daniel 6

The Bible tells us about a man who prayed to God. His name was Daniel. Daniel was a very wise and Godly man. The king knew that the hand of God was on Daniel. King Darius put Daniel on his advisory board, and preferred the advice of Daniel over anyone else. This made the other men on the board very jealous, and they hated Daniel. The other men came up with a plan to have Daniel killed.

The men tricked the King into making a law that if any man prayed to God, instead of the King for 30 days, then they would be thrown into the lion's den. The men knew that Daniel prayed to the Lord every day. Daniel knew that his prayers to God is what made him so wise. The men broke into the house of Daniel and caught him praying. Then, they took him before the king.

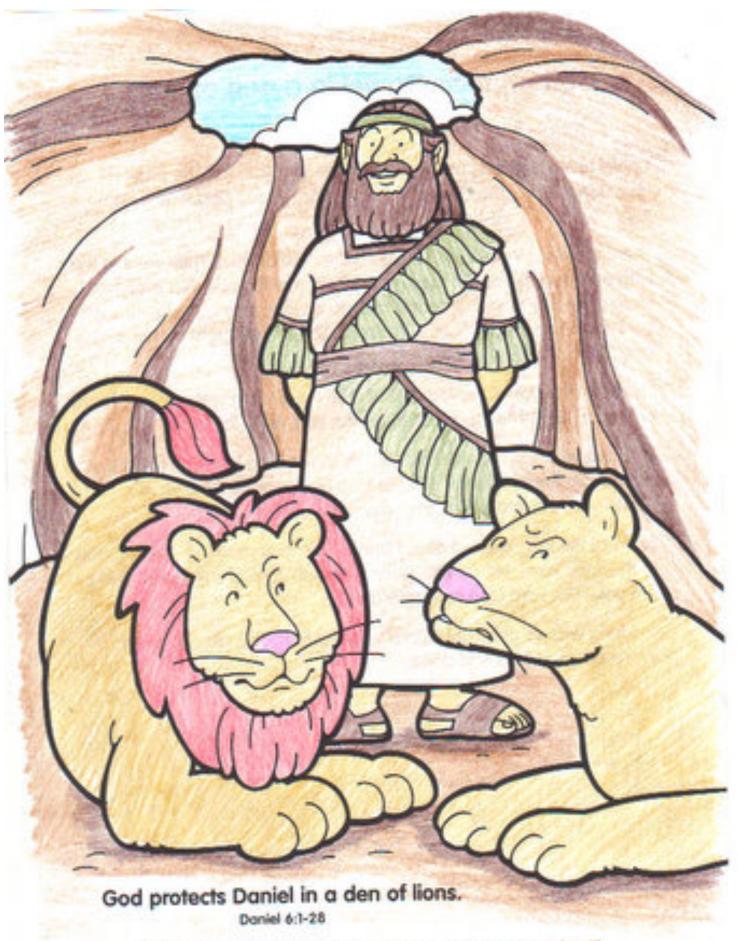
The king knew he had been tricked, but he could not take back the law. In Daniel 6:16 the king said to Daniel, "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." Then Daniel was thrown into the lion's den! Can you imagine how afraid Daniel must have been? Daniel and the king prayed. Daniel trusted in the Lord, and an angel of the Lord came and shut the mouths of all the lions! God kept Daniel safe all night! The next morning the king ran to the Lion's Den, and called out to Daniel. Daniel answered and told the king that he was OK, and he told the king how an angel shut the mouths of the lions.

Daniel was brought out of the lion's den, and there was not even a scratch on Daniel! The Bible tells us that he was unharmed. Then the king declared no one would pray to him, but that everyone should honor God as the one true God.

Questions:

- 1. How often did Daniel pray?
- 2. What made Daniel so wise?
- 3. How powerful was Daniel's prayer?





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P. R. A. Y.

- **P** Praise
- **R** Repent
- A- Ask
- **Y** Yield

In today's lesson, we will talk about how to pray. We will use the word PRAY to help us. Each letter will represent a model to follow as we pray.

P is for PRAISE. The first step is to praise God. 1 Chronicles 29:13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. Praise God for God is Good. Praise God for God is Mighty. Praise God for God is Holy.

R is for REPENT. *Ezekiel 18:30b Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions* (sins). Repent means to stop doing the sinful things and to do the opposite. For example, if you are guilty of lying, when you repent of that, you should not lie any more.

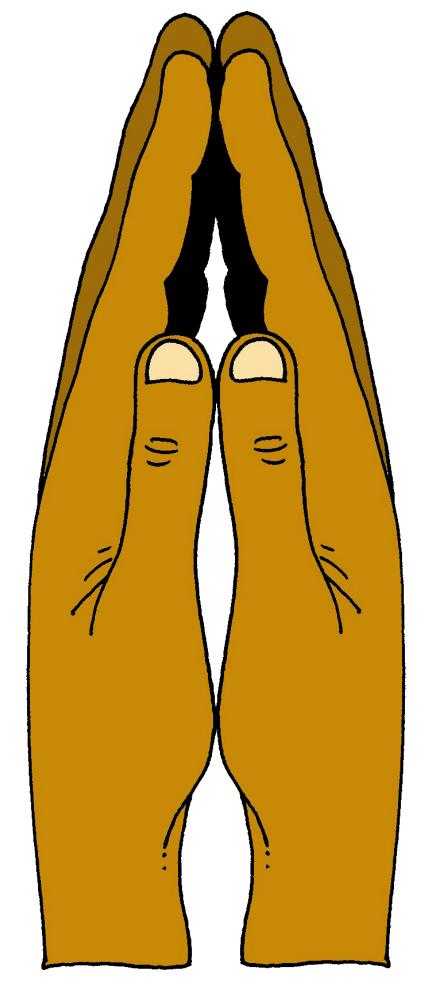
A is for ASK. Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. This is the time to ask God for the things that are on your heart. Ask God to save lost loved ones, or heal a sick family member. Ask God to give you wisdom and strength.

Y is for YIELD. 2 Chronicles 30:8b *but yield yourselves unto the Lord*. Yield is another way of saying- STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN. This is the time in prayer when we should all listen to what God tells us, and then do it.

Questions: Review the letters and what they stand for

- 1. What does the P stand for?
- 2. What does the R stand for?
- 3. What does the A stand for?
- 4. What does the Y stand for?





Pray about it

PRAYERS FREE PETER

Acts 12

During the times after Jesus had returned to Heaven, a wicked king named Herod persecuted the Christians and even had the apostle James, John's brother, put to death. When he saw that the Jews were not upset about it, he had Peter arrested and put in prison. King Herod wanted to make sure that Peter did not escape, so he put many guards in the prison to guard him. It would seem there would be no way for Peter to leave the prison.

While Peter was in prison, the church was praying that God would take care of him. They wanted Peter to be back with them again.

The night before Peter's trial, he was sleeping in the prison chained between the two guards when someone woke him up. It was an angel! The angel told Peter to get up and get dressed. The chains immediately fell off Peter. Peter followed the angel past all the guards and out of the prison. When they came to the locked gates, the gates just opened all on their own. Peter followed the angel out of the city and to the end of a street. All this time Peter thought he must be having a vision. Then, as quickly as he appeared, the angel vanished.

Then Peter looked around he realized that this was no vision. He really was outside the city! God had sent an angel to save him. Peter quickly made his way to the home of one of the Christians, Mary. He knew that other Christians liked to meet there.

A servant girl named Rhoda opened the door and she couldn't believe what she was seeing! When Rhoda told the others that Peter was at the door, they didn't believe her. They thought she was seeing things that weren't there. But when they went and checked, they saw that Rhoda was right! God had answered their prayers! Peter was out of prison!

Questions:

- 1. Who put Peter into prison?
- 2. What was the church doing while Peter was in prison?
- 3. Who showed Peter the way out of the prison?





THE LORD IS MY ROCK

Psalm 18:1-3

In our last lessons, we learned about praying for others, and others praying for us. But have we ever prayed for ourselves? In Psalm 18, David prayed for himself. He said, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

David's life was not an easy life. From the time of his youth when he was hunted by Saul as a common criminal, to the years at the end of his life when he saw the rebellions of his own sons who wanted to take the kingdom away from him. David lived a life of constant conflict and sadness. David was not a perfect man, and suffered very much for his sins.

But we do see one part of the life of David which is shown in Psalm 18; David was a man after God's own heart; he never forgot his first love! Rather than cry out in bitterness over the hateful treatment of King Saul, David turned all his love and trust to the Lord, his Rock, Fortress, and Deliverer. David knew better than to trust in himself, the men of this earth, or the things of the world. It was only God he trusted as his Buckler (shield), the Horn of his Salvation, and his High Tower.

David gives a message that he cannot do anything without God. Can we also pray like David did? Can we pray to God that He is our Rock, our Fortress, our Deliverer and most especially as our God? Yes, we can! We can ask God to help us no matter what our problem is. God is always listening and he is willing to help us.

Questions:

- 1. Who was David praying for in Psalm 18?
- 2. Did David become bitter with God when his life was hard?
- 3. What was one of the names David used to describe God in his prayer?





AUGUST-SIN

Memory verse: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The subject we will discuss this month is sin. Sin is the breaking of God's laws. The memory verse tells us that the wages of sin is death. The word wages simply means "something earned." Because we are all sinners, we have earned spiritual and eternal death. The good news is that Jesus came to deliver us from this death. Through him, we can have our sins forgiven and escape death.

It is important for the children to understand that sin is real and it can harm us greatly. God always punishes sin. Help them to understand that the subject of sin is very important to God. It was so important that he sent his only begotten son to take away the sins of the world.

LESSON 1, THE FIRST SIN

This lesson is based from Isaiah 14:12-15. In these verses, we find out where sin originated. The very first sin was pride and it was committed by an angel named Lucifer. Lucifer wanted to be like God. In fact, he thought he was better than God. It was Lucifer who was cast out of heaven. Hell was made for Lucifer and the angels that followed him. He became Satan, the Devil. He is the one who tricked Eve in the garden of Eden.

LESSON 2, ADAM AND EVE'S SIN

This lesson teaches us about the first sin committed by humans. Lucifer was an angel and not a human. But Adam and Eve were the first humans to commit sin. The bad thing about their sin is that because Adam was the first man ever created, every person born after him also became sinners. You can find that in Romans 5:12. You should teach the children that because of Adams sin, every other person is automatically a sinner when they are born.

LESSON 3, SIN CANNOT BE HIDDEN

This lesson is based on the story of a man named Achan. The story is found in Joshua chapter 7. You need to study chapters 6 and 7 but when you teach the children you can just read chapter 7, verses 20-21. The point that you need to make here is that we cannot hide our sin from God. God knows everything that we do. He knows every sin that we commit. The worst thing that he did was attempt to hide his sin. This should teach us to always confess our sins to God because he already knows about it.

LESSON 4, JESUS NEVER SINNED

The key verse for this lesson is 1 Peter 2:22. We want to teach that Jesus was holy and he never gave in to sin. The holiness of Jesus is very important because if he was not holy, he could not have been our Savior. Do your best to communicate that Jesus was the holy, sinless son of God.

LESSON 5, DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

The Biblical basis for this lesson is found in 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12. The point that we want you to make here is about the result of sin. Sin always has a negative result. King David should have never sinned with Bathsheba. But because he did, their baby died. They also experienced great pain in their life as a result. This story is about two adults committing the sin of adultery together. It is an adult topic but the children need to understand that this is a sin and it has consequences.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT SIN

- **1 John 5:17** All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.
- **Psalm 53:3** Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
- Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- **1 John 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- **Romans 7:11** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.
- **Proverbs 8:36** But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.
- **Romans 6:12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- 1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST SIN

Isaiah 14:12-15

When most people are asked what the first sin was, the say it was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden. It is true that this was the first human sin, but Adam and Eve did not commit the very first sin.

The very first sin was committed by Satan. Before Satan was cast out of heaven, he was a beautiful angel of light. He was one of the most beautiful angels that God ever created. Angels are not people; they are created beings that God made to serve him and to worship him.

Before the sin, Satan's name was Lucifer. But he developed a bad problem. He began to believe that he was just as good as God was. He became very prideful and he wanted to be like God. He did not want to serve God anymore. He wanted to have everything that God had. The problem was that he was not God. He was a created being.

Because God knows everything, he knew what Lucifer was thinking and he punished him. He made a place for him called hell. Then, he cast him out of heaven and into hell. Satan was able to have some special powers and that's how he appeared to Eve as a snake in the garden. He was mad and upset about being cast out of heaven so he tricked Eve into sinning. So, the very first sin was pride and it was in Satan.

Questions:

- 1. Who committed the very first sin?
- 2. What did Lucifer begin to believe?
- 3. What was the very first sin?





ADAM AND EVE'S SIN

Genesis 3

God made everything! God made the first man and his name was Adam. He lived in the garden of Eden with his wife, Eve. They were perfectly happy obeying God and enjoying his presence until one day the devil appeared in the form of a serpent and began talking to Eve.

"Did God tell you not to eat of every tree?" the serpent asked. Eve told him that they could eat the fruit from every tree except for the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. She also told the devil that God said if they did eat from that tree that they would die. Then, the devil told Eve that she could disobey God and not die.

Eve wanted that fruit so she disobeyed God and ate it. Next, she gave it to Adam and he also ate it. Adam should have said "no, I will not disobey God's word." Eating the fruit that God had forbidden was a sin. It was the first sin that the first man committed. After they sinned, they realized that they were naked and they hid from God.

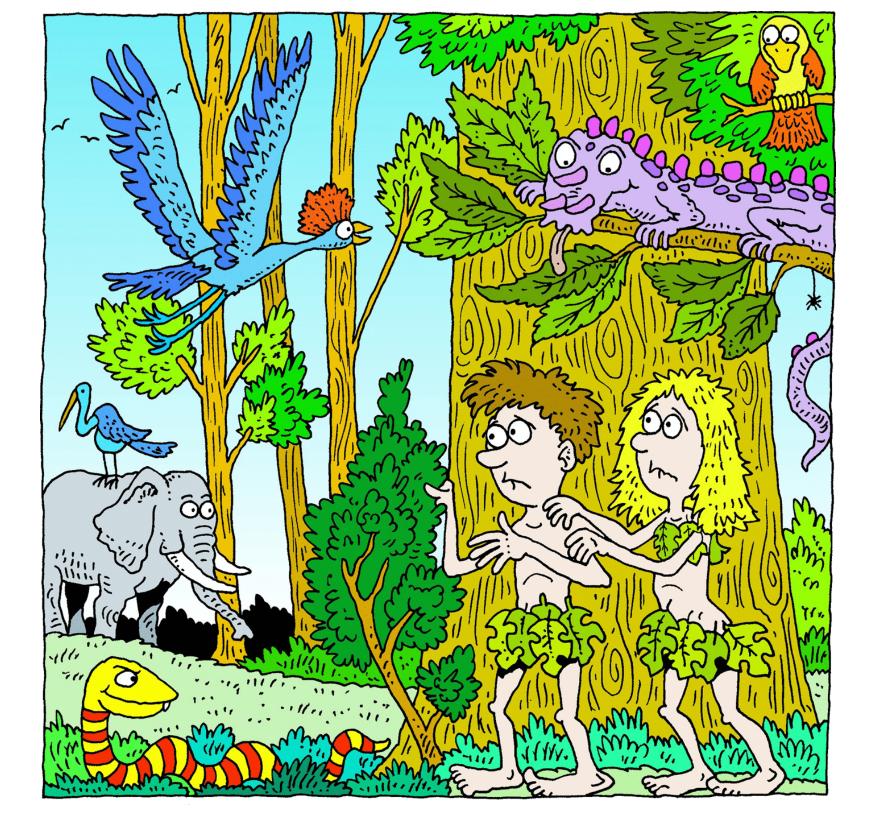
In the cool of the evening God came to the Garden. God knew what Adam and Eve had done. When God asked them about it, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. God said that the serpent would be cursed and that the woman would now have pain when she had children. God also cursed the earth and made thorns grow. Now, Adam had to sweat and work hard just to grow his daily food.

The worst thing that happened is that Adam and Eve had to leave the garden because of their sin. Sin separated them from God. Every person that was born after Adam was automatically a sinner. Thankfully, God rescued Adam and Eve from their sin. Today, God will also rescue any sinner who asks God to save them.

Questions:

- 1. How did Adam and Eve sin?
- 2. What was the worst part about their sin?
- 3. Who rescued Adam and Eve?





SIN CANNOT BE HIDDEN

Joshua 7

The children of Israel, led by Joshua, had just defeated the city of Jericho. They had strict instructions from God not to take anything from the city and to give the gold, brass and iron unto the Lord. God said if anyone disobeyed His rules the whole camp of Israel would be cursed.

Everyone obeyed God except for one man named Achan. He took a nice set of clothing along with some gold and silver and he hid them in his tent. He disobeyed God and thought that nobody would find out.

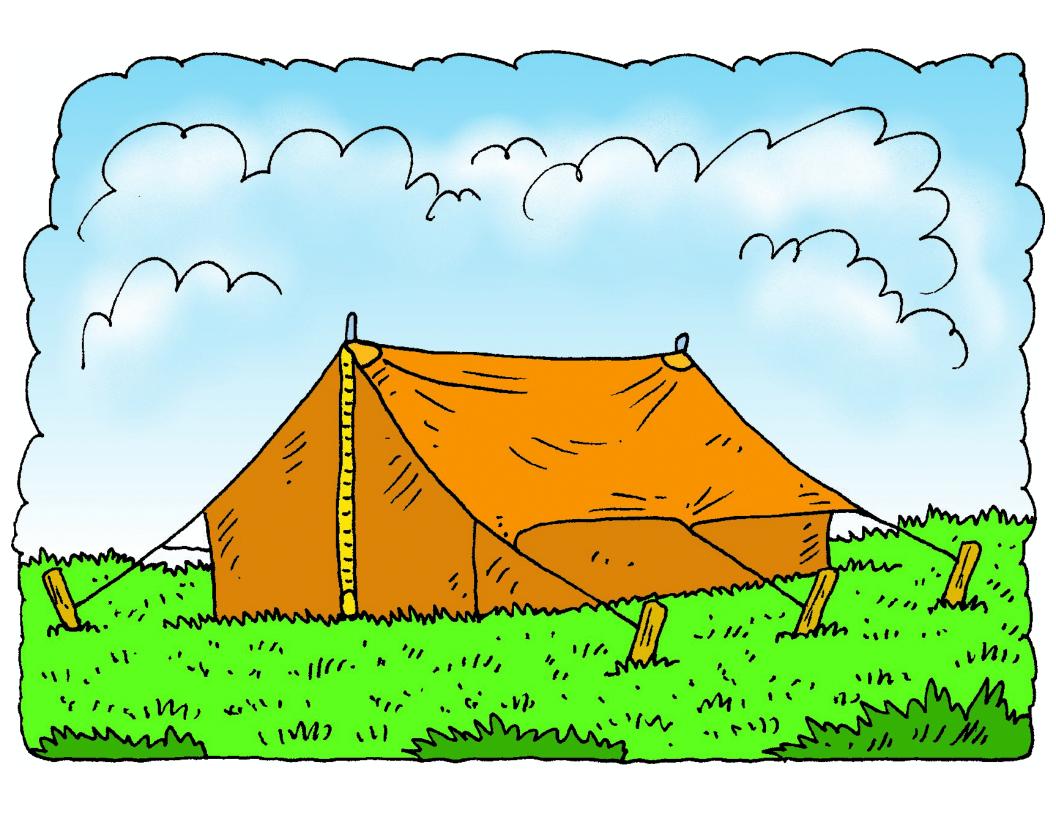
The children of Israel had to fight another city called Ai. It was a small city and they should have won the battle, but because of Achan's sin, the Israelite army was chased back and 36 men died. Joshua was heartbroken over the loss and asked God why he didn't help them win. God told Joshua that there was sin in the camp and in the morning God would show Joshua who had disobeyed.

The next morning each tribe was brought before Joshua. God picked out Achan and he confessed to taking the clothes, silver and gold and hiding them in his tent. The soldiers searched his tent and found all the stolen things. Because of his disobedience to God, Achan and his family were stoned to death. After their punishment God's anger was turned away from the Children of Israel!

Questions:

- 1. Were the children of Israel supposed to take anything from Jericho?
- 2. Who disobeyed God?
- 3. What happened because of the sin in the camp?





JESUS NEVER SINNED

1 Peter 2:22-25

This month we are talking about sin. Sin is the breaking of God's laws. For example, because God said not to lie, if we tell a lie, we are breaking God's law and it is sin. If we don't love our neighbor that is also a sin because God told us to love our neighbors. There are many things that a person can do that are sinful.

Jesus was a person just like you and me. He was born and lived here on the earth for about 33 years. He had a body with arms and legs and hands and feet just like all of us. He got hungry and he got tired. He would get hot and cold. He was a real person. The Bible even tells us that one time Jesus got angry because people were doing bad things in the temple.

But there was one big difference between Jesus and all other people. He never sinned. He never told a lie. He never said bad words. He never hated his neighbor. He was not a thief and he was not a robber. Jesus was perfect in every single way. He is the only person that ever lived who pleased God every single day of his life. Jesus was holy.

The fact that Jesus was sinless and holy is very important. God wanted to forgive everyone's sins but he needed a perfect sacrifice. He had to have someone who was holy that could become the savior. Jesus was that person. Because he was holy and sinless, he could be the sacrifice and be our Savior. That is why Jesus is the only one who can forgive all our sins.

Questions:

- 1. What is sin?
- 2. What is the big difference between Jesus and everyone else?
- 3. Why is Jesus able to be our Savior?





When Jesus is tempted, He obeys God's Word.

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1-13

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

2 Samuel 11

King David was a good king chosen by God to lead the children of Israel. He was a man after God's own heart, but he was still human and sometimes made very bad choices. The Israelite army was out fighting a battle and instead of being with his army, King David stayed home.

One night he walked onto his rooftop and saw a beautiful woman taking a bath on her rooftop. King David asked around about her and found out that she was married to Uriah, one of his soldiers. King David didn't care that she was married, he sent for her and she came over to his house anyway and they sinned together.

A little while later Bathsheba had someone go and tell King David that she was now pregnant with his child. King David could not let anyone find out about his awful mistake, so he sent for her husband to come home from battle. King David had come up with a plan to trick Uriah into thinking it was his baby, but Uriah did not do as King David had hoped.

There was only one way to fix this problem now, Uriah must die. King David sent Uriah back to battle with a note for Joab, the captain. The note said to put Uriah in the front line of the fight and then have everyone else back away so he would be killed. Uriah died in battle because of King David's sin. Bathsheba mourned for her dead husband and then became the wife of King David.

Questions:

- 1. Where should King David have been instead of on his roof?
- 2. Who did he see from his rooftop?
- 3. What happened to Uriah?





SEPTEMBER- FORGIVENESS

Memory verse: 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Forgiveness is one of the very best things about being a Christian. It is forgiveness that allows us to know Jesus as our Savior and to become a Christian. Everyone needs to be forgiven and everyone needs to forgive. This month we will have lessons that cover this subject of forgiveness.

LESSON 1, JOSEPH FORGAVE HIS BROTHERS

This story is one of the best examples of forgiveness in the Bible. The brothers of Joseph hated him and treated him very badly. They even wanted to kill him! Years later, when they thought Joseph was dead, they were confronted with him. Joseph could have gotten even. He could have had them killed. But Joseph was kind and godly in his character. Joseph forgave his brothers and set the example for us that we can forgive anyone for anything. The point of this story is that we can forgive others when they have wronged us. You can read the entire story in Geneses 42:1-45:28

LESSON 2, THE PRODIGAL SON

This lesson is about asking for forgiveness. The prodigal son came to a place in his life where he knew that he needed to go home and ask his father to forgive him. He even rehearsed what he was going to say when he got home. The great news was that before he could say anything, his father ran to him and forgave him. His father knew what was in his heart when he came back home. Teach the children that they need to go to the person they have offended and ask for their forgiveness.

LESSON 3, THE BEST FORGIVENESS

This lesson is about the best forgiveness of all, when God saves us and washes away our sins. There is no greater joy than to know that you were a guilty sinner but God loved you and forgave you of everything you ever did wrong. You need to teach that being forgiven by God is the first forgiveness that we all need to experience.

LESSON 4, GOD TELLS US TO FORGIVE

This lesson teaches us that we need to be willing to forgive repeatedly. Peter wanted to limit how many times he would forgive. But Jesus told him to forgive someone as many times as they asked. Even if someone does the same bad thing many times, when they ask sincerely for forgiveness, it is the Christians duty to grant them forgiveness. Teach the kids that even if they don't want to forgive, they have an obligation because Jesus requires it.

LESSON 5, FORGIVING YOUR ENEMIES

Sometimes forgiveness is not easy. When someone is your enemy, it is not easy to forgive them. But Jesus taught his disciples to forgive even their enemies. In Acts chapter 7, Steven was being killed by his enemies but with amazing love, he looked at them and forgave them. If Steven can forgive the people who killed him, we can forgive anyone who is our enemy also.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Luke 17:4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Psalm 130:4 But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Leviticus 5:10 And he shall offer the second for a burnt offering, according to the manner: and the priest shall make an atonement for him for his sin which he hath sinned, and it shall be forgiven him.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph was a young man who was hated by his brothers. They were jealous because their father loved Joseph the most. One day the brothers sold Joseph into slavery, and they told their father that Joseph was dead.

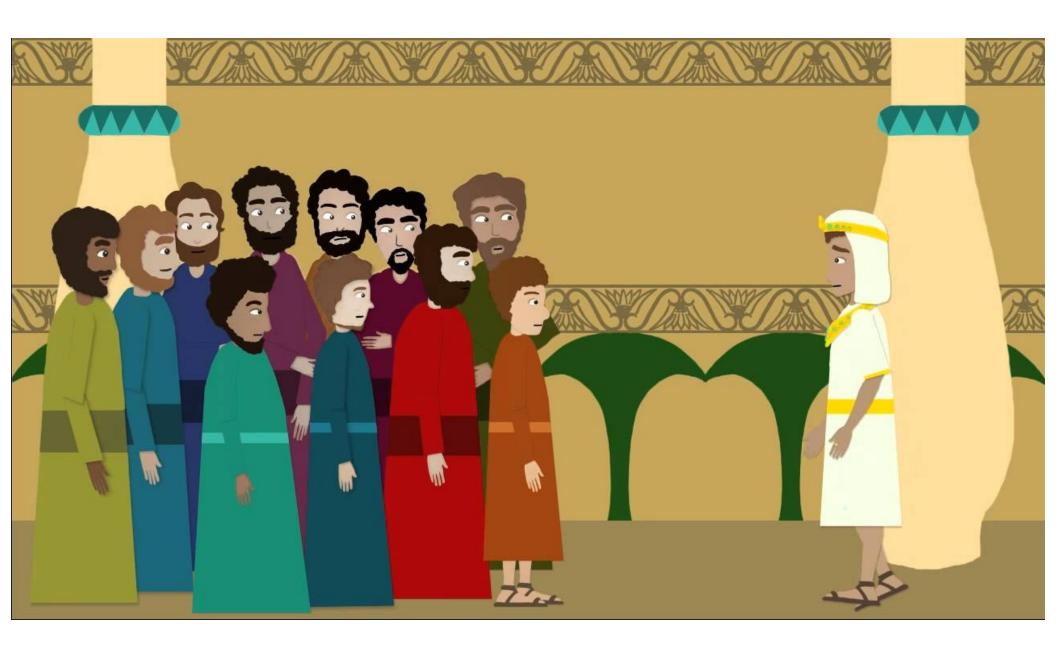
Joseph served as a slave for many years in the country of Egypt, but God was always with Joseph. Joseph was freed from slavery, and began to serve the Pharaoh as the second in command. Joseph was placed in charge of making sure the people of Egypt had enough food.

There was a famine and the brothers of Joseph came to buy food. They did not recognize Joseph when they were buying the food from him because it had been many years since they saw him. Joseph told them that he was not angry with them anymore. He told his brothers that they meant it to be evil when they sold him into slavery, but God meant it for good. If Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery, than you can forgive those people who hurt you. Jesus wants us to forgive and no matter how bad the sin is, we can still forgive.

Questions:

- 1. Why did the brothers sell Joseph into slavery?
- 2. What country did Joseph serve in?
- 3. Did Joseph forgive his brothers?





THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-24

In the Bible, Jesus tells a story about a young man who went to his father one day and asked for his inheritance. This made the father sad, but the father gave him the money that he would have received when the father died.

The young man went to the city and spent all his money on wicked things. The son became so poor that he slept in a yard with pigs. The son even chewed on the husk of corn that were meant for the pigs because he was so hungry. He was called a prodigal because he went away from his father.

But he remembered that at the house of his father, even the servants had more than enough food. The son decided that he would go home and ask his father to forgive him.

As he journeyed back home, while he was still far away, the father recognized him. The father ran to the son! The son said to the father, "Father, I am sorry. Please forgive me! I am no longer worthy to be your son, but I will be a servant in your household." The father hugged and kissed his son! The father was so happy that his son had returned home.

Can you imagine how the son must have felt? Just a little while before, the son was eating and sleeping with pigs. Now, after coming back to his father and asking for forgiveness, he was the Guest of Honor at a feast!

Questions:

- 1. What did the son spend all his money on?
- 2. Where did the son end up when the money was all gone?
- 3. What happened when the son asked for forgiveness?



Jesus tells about a patient father. Luke 15:11-32



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THE BEST FORGIVENESS

Luke 19:1-10

One day Jesus entered the city of Jericho. People were lining the streets hoping to get a glimpse of Jesus. One of the people in the crowd was so short that he couldn't see above all the people in the crowd. It was Zacchaeus. He wanted to see Jesus, so he climbed into a sycamore tree and waited for Jesus to pass by.

As Jesus traveled through the streets of Jericho, he came to the place where Zacchaeus sat up in the tree. Jesus stopped, looked up in the tree, and he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down, for I am going to your house today."

The people in the crowd were shocked! Zacchaeus was one of the most hated men in all of Jericho. Zacchaeus was a little man with a great big problem! He was a thief and a cheater! Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector and he had become very rich because he cheated people by collecting more taxes than they owed and keeping it for himself. The people could not believe that Jesus would go to the home of a man like that!

Zacchaeus knew that he had cheated people and when he and Jesus arrived at his house, Zacchaeus confessed and said that he was sorry for what he had done. Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "I am going to give half of all that I own to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Because Zacchaeus was sorry for what he had done and confessed his sin, Jesus forgave him and said, "Today salvation has come to this house." Zacchaeus was a little man with a big problem -- sin! But he met Jesus and his life was changed. It does not matter what sins you have committed, when you meet Jesus, he will forgive you and change your life too!

Questions:

- 1. Who was the short man who wanted to see Jesus?
- 2. What was Zacchaeus' big problem?
- 3. Can Jesus forgive you if you have sinned?





GOD TELLS US TO FORGIVE

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus said we are to forgive others "seventy times seven" in response to Peter's question, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

In the book of Matthew, Jesus tells a parable of the unforgiving servant to teach his disciples that forgiveness should be the same amount as you would want to be forgiven. The first servant had been forgiven of all his debt, and he then should have forgiven all the people that were in debt to him. In the same way, a child of God, by faith through Christ, has had all their sins forgiven. Therefore, when someone offends us or sins against us, we should be willing to forgive them from a heart of thanks for the grace to which we ourselves were in debt.

Jesus isn't telling us to forgive other people 490 times, or 70 times, or 77 times. He's telling us that we should always forgive others when they have sinned against us. God in Heaven has forgiven all of us from our sins.

When Jesus Christ told Peter that he needed to forgive seventy times seven, he was telling Peter to be willing to forgive until the end of the world! This is how our Heavenly Father will treat each of us when we forgive others from the bottom of our heart.

Questions:

- 1. How many times does Jesus tell us to forgive?
- 2. In what book of the Bible did Jesus tell the parable of the unforgiving servant?
- 3. Why should we forgive everyone who sins against us?



Lord, How Many Times Should I Forgive My Brother?



FORGIVING YOUR ENEMIES

Acts 6:8-7:60

The Bible tells us about a preacher named Stephen. The Bible tells us that Stephen was full of Faith and Power! Stephen studied the scriptures and prayed every day. The Lord was with Stephen, and the Lord used Stephen and his preaching to bring many people to the saving knowledge of the gospel of Christ.

One day when Stephen was preaching, some people accused Stephen of blasphemy. Blasphemy is when someone speaks against God. Stephen was not doing that. He was preaching the gospel, and telling people how to get saved. Yet, some of the people were angry at Stephen for what he was preaching, and continued to accuse him of blasphemy. They began throwing big rocks at Stephen, and Stephen kept preaching. The accusers of Stephen continued to throw more and more rocks!

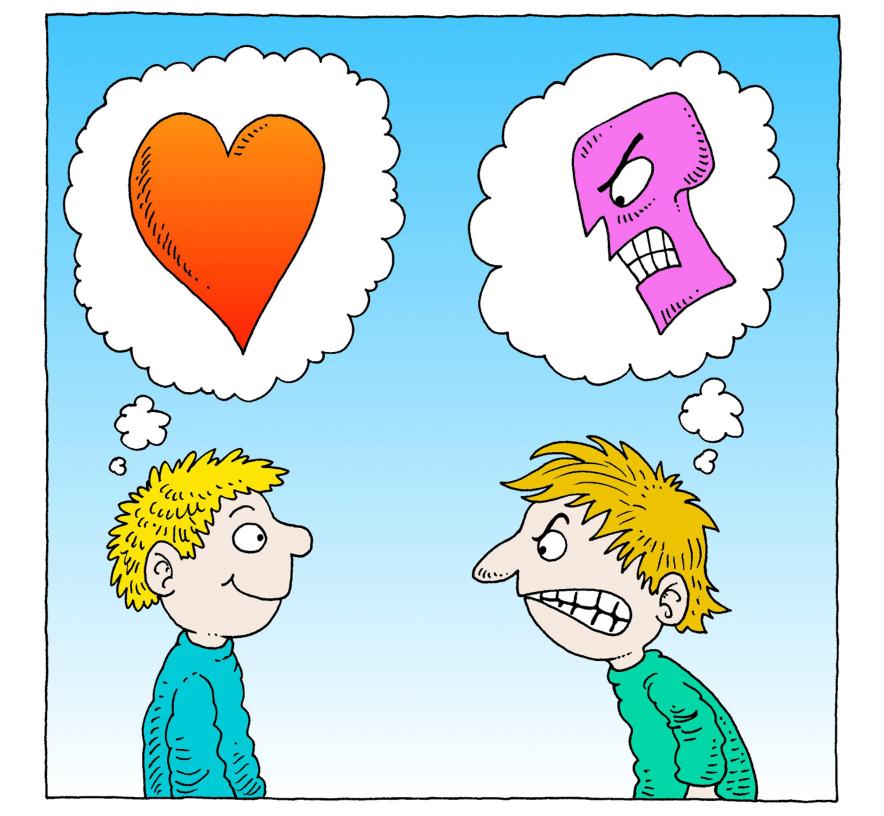
The Bible says that the clouds rolled back, and Stephen looked up into heaven. Do you know what Stephen saw? Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God! Stephen was so excited by what he had seen that he told the people. This made the people even more angry. They were furious. More and more people began throwing big rocks at Stephen. The people were trying to kill Stephen!

Do you know what Stephen did? He forgave the people. Stephen knew that he was going to die. He prayed and asked God not to hold the people accountable for his death.

Questions:

- 1. How did Stephen become full of Faith and Power?
- 2. Why was Stephen preaching to the people?
- 3. What did Stephen see when the clouds were rolled back?





OCTOBER- FEAR

Memory verse: 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

This month is about fear. Fear is something that we all struggle with from time to time. But the memory verse teaches us that fear does not come from God. God gives us power, love and a sound mind. That is everything we need to overcome fear in our lives.

LESSON 1, HOW TO FIGHT FEAR

This lesson is about fighting fear in our lives. As we read and study the memory verse, we will learn that God has given us everything we need to fight fear. Let the children know that they can overcome any fear they have with God on their side. There is nothing in life that is bigger or more powerful than God. God's power, love and ability give us what we need for life.

LESSON 2, JESUS CALMS THE SEA

The story of Jesus calming the sea is one of the best stories in the Bible. The disciples were in a boat in the middle of the sea of Galilee when a storm arose. They were afraid that the boat would sink and they would drown. They found Jesus asleep inside the boat. The fact that Jesus was sleeping through the storm tells us that he was not afraid or worried. He knew everything was going to be okay. When Jesus got up, he rebuked the wind and the waves and the storm was over. This story teaches us that Jesus is the answer to all our fears.

LESSON 3, JOSHUA HAS COURAGE

This lesson is about Joshua becoming the leader of the children of Israel. After Moses died, God appointed Joshua to be in charge. Joshua could have been scared because the assignment was very hard. But instead of being scared, he asked God for help and became one of the best leaders that there has ever been. Joshua teaches us that the opposite of fear is courage.

LESSON 4, FAITH OVERCOMES FEAR

There is one thing that overcomes fear in our lives and that is faith. Having faith in God and his abilities is the way to overcome fear. God always honors faith. The heroes in Hebrews chapter 11 all lived by faith and did great things by faith. This lesson tells us that if we are going to beat fear, we must have faith in God.

LESSON 5, GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

For a Christian, God is always with us. We are never alone no matter what kind of situations we are faced with. This great fact, the presence of God in our lives, should give us confidence always. If God is greater than anything, and he never leaves us, then there should be nothing that can cause us to fear. Teach the children that at the times they are the most fearful, they can remember that God is right there with them.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT FEAR

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Proverbs 3:24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Psalm 118:6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalm 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Psalm 14:5 There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.

Joshua 10:25 And *Joshua* said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

Psalm 27:3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

HOW TO FIGHT FEAR

2 Timothy 1:7

God has given us many things. He gave us plants like trees and flowers. The bananas, strawberries, apples and all other delicious fruits and vegetables we enjoy come from God. God also gave us animals like cows and chickens and pigs.

Everything that we need to live has been given to us by God because he loves us so much! But there is something that God did not give us. The Bible says that God did not give us the spirit of fear. If God does not give the spirit of fear, where does it come from?

Fear comes from Satan, our flesh, and our minds. Sometimes, when we are afraid, it is just a spirit that is attacking us. We need to remember that the spirit of fear is not from God and therefore we don't have to listen to our fears.

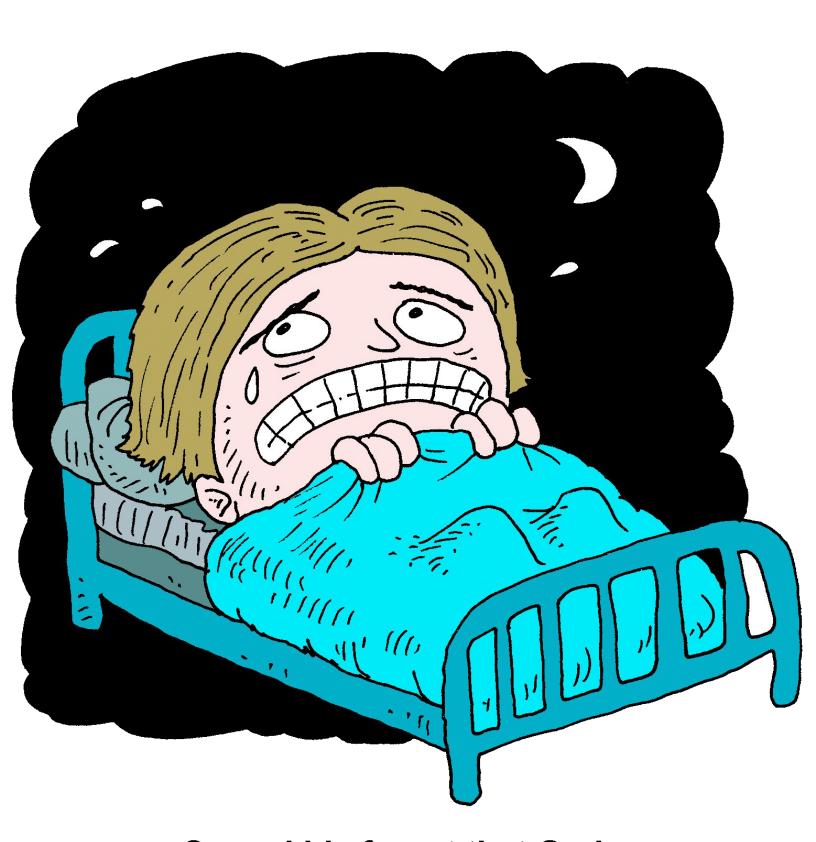
God gave us three things to help us battle fear. First, he gave us power. God's power helps us when we are afraid that we are not strong enough and when we need more strength. God also gave us love. Love is always better than fear. The Bible even says that perfect love casts out fear! The other thing God gave us is a sound mind. This means that when fear is in our mind, God gives us the ability to think clearly and to not be afraid.

Because God gave us power, love, and a sound mind, we can have courage and not be afraid!

Questions:

- 1. Where does fear come from?
- 2. What three things did God give us to battle fear?
- 3. What does perfect love do?





Some kids forget that God created DARKNESS as well as light

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

One day, Jesus and some of his disciples were out on a lake in a boat. Suddenly, without warning, a storm came up. The wind blew so hard and the waves were so high that water was coming into the boat and the boat was about to be turned over.

While the winds and waves tossed the little boat about, Jesus slept peacefully at one end of the boat. The disciples became very afraid and some were upset that Jesus was sleeping. They woke Jesus up and asked him, "Master, don't you even care that we are about to drown?"

Jesus got up and spoke to the winds and the waves. "Peace, be still," he said. As soon as he spoke, the winds stopped blowing and the sea became calm.

Jesus' disciples were amazed! They said, "Who is this man that even the winds and the waves obey him?"

We know who Jesus is, don't we? And we know that Jesus can still calm storms today. Sometimes, there are sudden storms in our life. Perhaps it is an illness, a family problem, or the death of a friend or loved one. During these times, Jesus can calm the storms of doubt and fear in our life. He doesn't always take away all the problems, but if we will trust in him, he will give us peace in our hearts even in the middle of a storm.

Questions:

- 1. What was Jesus doing when the storm began?
- 2. Did the disciples get scared?
- 3. Do you believe that God can take away our fears?





JOSHUA HAS COURAGE

Joshua 1:1-9

After Moses died, God called a man named Joshua to lead the people of Israel. This was a big and important job. Joshua had to lead all the people of Israel into Canaan, a land that God saved just for them.

God knew that this would be a very difficult job and that Joshua would be tempted to be afraid. There would be a big river to cross, people who would complain, and even giants that had to be conquered.

God wanted Joshua to have courage, so he made lots of promises to Joshua. God promised to always be with Joshua the same way that he had been with Moses when Moses was the leader. He promised to never fail Joshua and to never forsake Joshua.

After God gave these promises, he then instructed Joshua to be strong and have courage. The reason that Joshua could be so strong and have so much courage was because of the promises that God made to him. He knew that God never told lies and that whatever God told him was true and trustworthy.

Joshua could fulfill everything that he was supposed to do because of God's promises.

Questions:

- 1. Where did God tell Joshua to lead the people of Israel?
- 2. Name one of the promises God made to Joshua.
- 3. Why was Joshua able to fulfill all that God told him to do?





FAITH OVERCOMES FEAR

1 John 5:4

Fear always tries to take over in our minds. Fear wants to be the first thing that we think about and the one emotion that is in control. Thankfully, there is something that can overcome fear. Faith in God can overcome fear!

Because faith comes from God, but fear does not. Faith is bigger and better than fear. There are three things we can do to use faith to overcome our fear.

First, we can believe that God is greater than anything that we are afraid of. We know that God created all things. There is nothing here that God did not create. Because God is the creator, he is greater than all the things that he created.

Second, we can believe that God is stronger than anyone. There is no person or thing that is stronger than our God. Even when someone is stronger that we are, they cannot be stronger that God. Do you believe that God is the strongest?

Third, we can believe that faith works. If we will believe what God tells us in the Bible, and act upon it, that faith can overcome all our fears. God tells us to believe in him and the way to believe in him is to trust what he says by faith.

Thankfully, faith in God and his word can overcome all our fears.

Questions:

- 1. What does fear try to do in our minds?
- 2. Where does faith come from?
- 3. Who is greater, God or our fears?





The FAITH bus - let God take you places

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

Hebrews 13:5

There are many great things about God. His love is great. His salvation is great. His goodness is great. It is great that God makes promises and that he always keeps his promises. There are thousands and thousands of great things about God, but today we will talk about only one of those great things.

God is always there! Isn't that great?

It might seem impossible, but God can be everywhere in the world at the same time! He is so big and powerful that he is not restricted to a human body like you and me. The Bible also teaches us that Jesus is our friend. He is the very best friend that anyone could ever have because he never leaves us alone. He is always there.

Even when we have sinned, God still loves us and God is there. When we are afraid, God is there. When it is dark and we think that we are alone, God is there. The fact that God is always with us is a great promise from God and it means that we never should be scared or afraid. We can always trust that wherever we are and whatever we are doing, God is with us.

Questions:

- 1. How many great things are there about God?
- 2. Why is God able to be everywhere at the same time?
- 3. Do we need to be afraid when it is dark?





God will always care for you

NOVEMBER- GOD'S PROMISES

Memory verse: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

One of the greatest things about the Bible is all the promises. God is a God of great promises and this month we will talk about some of those promises. The memory verse tells us that God is not like men when it comes to promises. He never breaks a promise like some people do. This teaches us that we can always fully trust in the Lord.

LESSON 1, JESUS IS COMING BACK

What a great promise this is. Jesus went to great lengths to teach the disciples that after he rose from the grave and went to heaven, he would one day return for them. This promise is still true today and it is a great source of encouragement for us. When life is hard and we don't know what to do, we can remember that Jesus has promised to return and take us all to heaven. This could happen at any time. No one knows when this will take place, not even Jesus. He is simply waiting on his father's instructions.

LESSON 2, GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

This story comes from the book of Genesis after the great flood. God put a rainbow in the sky to signify that he would never again destroy the earth with water. This lesson teaches us that God always keeps his promises.

LESSON 3, THE PROMISE OF HEAVEN

There are many sad things that happen here on earth. There is death, disease, pain, sickness and many more bad things. Life can be very cruel and hard at times. Some people will live their entire life in pain and misery. But for every Christian, there is hope of a better life in the future. Jesus has gone to prepare a home for us in heaven. He told his disciples that he would be preparing their heavenly home went he ascended to heaven. That is where he is now and we can have hope that one day we too will be there with him.

LESSON 4, THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus made a special promise to his disciples before he ascended back to heaven. He promised them he would not leave them comfortless and he would send them the Holy Spirit to be with them. He called the Holy Spirit the Comforter. Jesus kept that promise and soon after he went to heaven, the Holy Spirit was sent to live in the hearts of the Christians. This is a great promise because it teaches us that we are never alone.

LESSON 5, COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE

This lesson is about the promise God gave to children who obey their parents. The Apostle Paul taught that children who obey their parents would live long lives and be well. The point of this lesson is to teach that obeying God comes with promises. There are promises God gives only to those who will obey him.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT GOD'S PROMISES

- **Romans 4:21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
- **Psalm 34:20** He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.
- Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
- **2 Corinthians 1:20** For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.
- **Psalm 93:5** Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever.
- **1 Kings 8:56** Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.
- **Genesis 17:2** And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.
- 1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

2 PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



NOAH AND THE RAINBOW

Genesis 7

We all make promises, don't we? You might promise your mother that you will clean your room and do your chores before you go out and play. Or you may promise to keep a secret told by your best friend.

Do your parents make promises? They might promise to give you something you want on your birthday. Or your friend might promise you a movie treat on the weekend. Have they broken a promise they have made to you? How did that make you feel? You were probably very disappointed and said something like, "But you promised!" Sometimes we aren't very good at keeping our promises.

Thankfully, God's promises are different. God made many promises in the Bible and one the promises God made was to man named Noah. I'm sure that you know the story of how God sent a great flood to destroy the earth because of man's evil and wicked ways. He destroyed everything he had created except for two of every kind of bird and animal, and Noah and his family because Noah walked with God righteously.

After 40 days and 40 nights of the flood, the waters went down and Noah's family and all the animals could leave the ark. God made a promise to Noah. God promised that he would not destroy the whole earth again. God did something to remind Noah of his promise. God placed a rainbow in the sky and he said to Noah "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the promise between me and all life on the earth." God said that every time he saw the rainbow, he would remember the promise that he made.

God has kept that promise, hasn't he? Every time you see a rainbow, remember what God had promised to Noah and remember that he never breaks a promise he has made.

Questions:

- 1. Why did God destroy the earth? How?
- 2. What did God make to remind Noah of His promise?
- 3. Can God break a promise?

Memory verse: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.





THE PROMISE OF HEAVEN

John 14:1-4

This month is about the promises that God has made. God is always true and faithful, so he always keeps his promises. One of the greatest promises that has ever been made is the promise of a heavenly home for all people who trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This promise was given first to the disciples in John chapter 14.

People are different from animals because people have a spirit that will live forever. For people who reject Jesus as their Savior, they will live forever in a place called Hell. That is a place of everlasting punishment. However, when a person becomes a follower of Jesus, God forgives their sin and saves them. Followers of Jesus will escape God's punishment. God has promised that they will live forever in a wonderful place that he has prepared for them. That place is called Heaven.

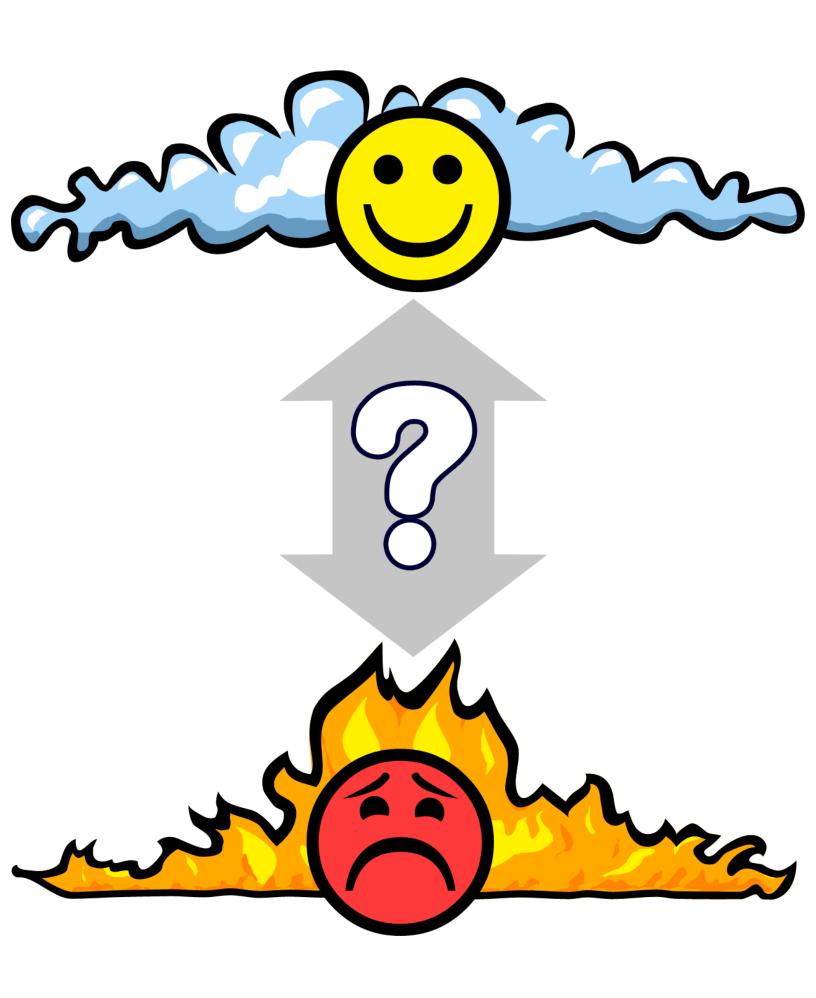
In Heaven, there will be no more tears and no more sorrow. There will be no more hurt or pain. Heaven is a perfect place where God sits on his throne and there is always peace and joy for everyone who is there. It is important that we believe in Jesus Christ because if we reject him, and don't believe in his resurrection, we will never see this beautiful place.

Questions:

- 1. How are people different from animals?
- 2. What kind of place is Heaven?
- 3. Why is it important to believe in Jesus Christ?

Memory verse: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.





THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:16-18

God's promises are the best of all promises because they help us and he always keeps them. God has never broken a promise! While Jesus was here on the earth, he spent almost every day with his 12 disciples. They enjoyed being together. Jesus was their teacher and leader. They saw him do great miracles and help many people. It was wonderful for them to have Jesus with them all the time.

When it was almost time for Jesus to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world, he knew that his disciples would be confused and even scared. He knew that they would need help after he was gone. In John chapter 14, Jesus made many promises to his disciples. One of the promises he made to them was that when he went away, he would send them another comforter. He told them that he would not leave them comfortless.

He promised that this Comforter would be with them forever. The Comforter he was talking about was the Holy Spirit. God is three persons. The three persons are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are all different, but they are also the same! The Holy Spirit would be the one to dwell in the hearts of the disciples after Jesus was gone. God always keeps his promises and in Acts chapter 2, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven and filled all the believers. Today, when a person gets saved, the Holy Spirit comes to live within their heart.

Questions:

- 1. Why are God's promises the best?
- 2. How long would the Comforter be with the disciples?
- 3. When was this promise fulfilled?

Memory verse: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.





WITH THE

HOLY- SPIRIT

COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE

Ephesians 6:1-3; Exodus 20:12

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6: 1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

The Bible gives us some commandments. A commandment is a law from God. A few examples of commandments are: Thou shall not kill, thou shall not steal, thou shall not worship any other gods, and honor thy father and thy mother.

There are also many promises from God in the Bible. Ephesians 6:2 tells us to obey our parents, and to honour them. That is a commandment from the Lord. The commandment to obey our father and mother, and to honor them is written 8 times in the Bible. The very exciting part about this commandment is that God promises that when we obey our parents, and honor them, we will have long life.

The longer we live, the more time we can share with our family. The longer we live, the more time we can serve the Lord. Wow! That is such a wonderful promise.

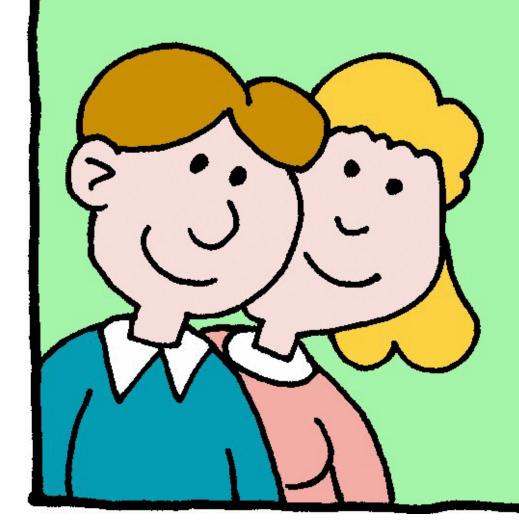
Questions:

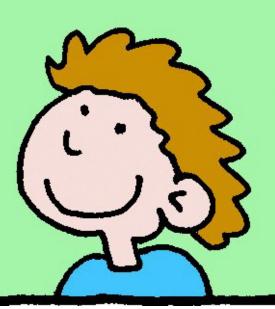
- 1. What is a commandment?
- 2. What is an example of a commandment?
- 3. What is the promise with the commandment of obeying your parents?

Memory verse: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



WISE PARENTS OUGHT TO BE LISTENED TO





DECEMBER- THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Memory verse: Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Christmas is one of the most special times of the year for children. They love the excitement of all the celebrations, the special food, and most of all, gifts. But the problem is, sometimes we forget what Christmas is about. This month all the lessons will be about the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. The name Christ means "Messiah" or "anointed one." Jesus was the anointed messiah who was sent from heaven to take away the sins of the world! Each week you should try to help the children understand the real meaning of Christmas.

LESSON 1, HOLY BIRTH

This lesson focuses on the actual birth of Jesus and hat he was born of a virgin. The virgin birth is very important because if Jesus was not born of a virgin, he could not have been holy. No one besides Jesus has ever entered the world as he did. As you teach this, focus on the holiness of Jesus and his virgin birth.

LESSON 2, OH COME LET US ADORE HIM

This lesson is all about the shepherds who came to visit Jesus after his birth. One of the most significant things is that the angel of the Lord announced to these shepherds that Jesus was born. This is significant because shepherds were very lowly people. They were not rich and they were not popular. The good news is that God wanted them to know about the birth of Jesus. This teaches us that Jesus is for everyone, not just one class of people. He loves all people no matter what they have or don't have.

LESSON 3, HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

This lesson is about the birth of Christ and his sinless life. Jesus was born into the world as a baby in a manger. He lived for 33 years before he died on the cross to become our Savior. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a birthday celebration just for him!

LESSON 4, HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED JESUS

This lesson is about Isaiah's prophecy concerning Jesus. Isaiah was one of the major prophets in the Bible who told about Jesus before he was born. God revealed special things to Isaiah about the birth and death of Jesus. One of the things that Isaiah predicted was the name of Jesus.

LESSON 5, NO ROOM IN THE INN

This story is from the birth of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem and Mary was pregnant with Jesus, there tried to stay at an inn but there was no room for them. Instead of getting a nice room, they had to sleep in the stable with the animals. Jesus was born there in the stable. We call it a manger. Sadly, there are many people today who are like the inn. They have no room in their life for Jesus. Through this lesson you can teach the children to always make room for Jesus.

ADDITIONAL VERSES ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

LUKE 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

HOLY BIRTH

Luke 1:26-35

The Bible tells us in the book of Luke about the birth of Jesus, and about how Jesus was placed into a virgin named Mary. The Angel of God, named Gabriel, came to Mary. Gabriel told her not to be afraid, and that she had found favor with God. In Luke 1:31 Gabriel said, "Behold, thou shalt conceive in the womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

Mary asked Gabriel, "How can this be? I know not a man." Mary had kept herself pure, and she was engaged to be married to Joseph. In verse 35, the Bible tells us what the angel says. The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

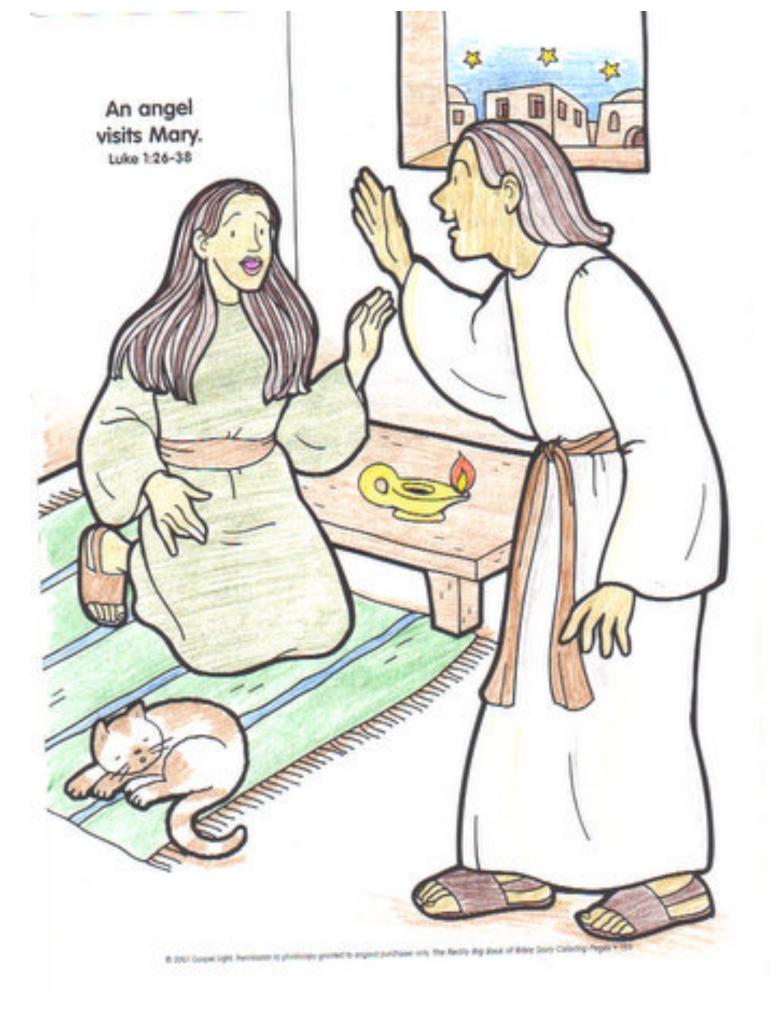
The Angel Gabriel also visited Joseph. Joseph was a desendant of King David. He loved Mary, and he was engaged to marry her. Gabriel told him that Mary would have a son, and that he would be the Holy Son of God. Gabriel told Joseph that it would be okay, and to marry her. Mary would remain pure until after the birth of Jesus.

Jesus is different than anyone else. No one else has ever been born holy, only Jesus. Jesus was not born into sin. The Lord set apart Mary and Joseph for this very special task. Jesus had to be born holy, so that he could die for our sin.

Questions:

- 1. What was the name of the Angel of the Lord?
- 2. What was the name of the man who would wed Mary?
- 3. Why was Jesus born holy?





O COME LET US ADORE HIM

Luke 2:8-18

The Bible tells us that after Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds that were watching their flock at night. There was a great light around the angel, and it was the glory of the Lord showing to the shepherds. They were very afraid.

Luke 2:10-14 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

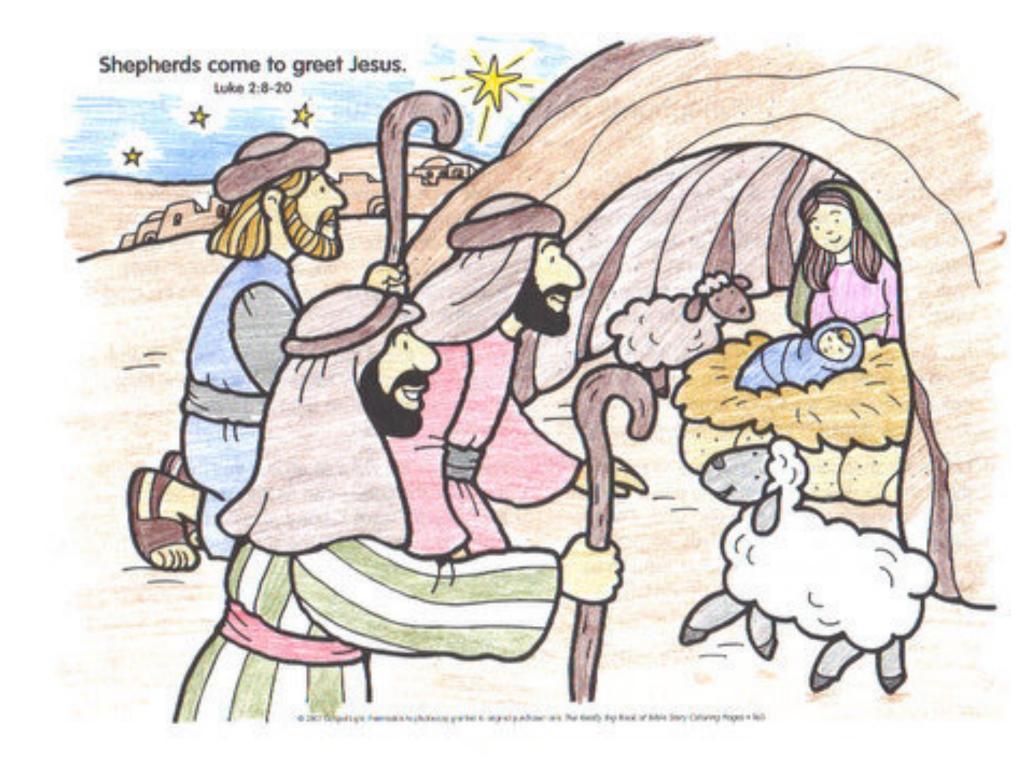
Can you imagine what the shepherds must have thought? Wow! They were just working in the fields at night, and watching their sheep. Then suddenly the sky lights up, and there is an angel of God! Then the angel speaks to them! Wow! They knew that something very important was happening, so they listened very carefully. Then, after they heard the news of baby Jesus; the sky filled with thousands and thousands of angels! The angels began to praise God! Wow! So, exciting! The shepherds said to each other; we must go see this for ourselves! This was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

So, they journeyed to Bethlehem to see Jesus, the Son of God. They found him just as the angel had said, laying in a manger. The shepherds were praising God, and telling people about what they had seen!

Questions:

- 1. Where were the shepherds when the angel appeared?
- 2. What news did the angel tell them?
- 3. What was so special about this baby?





HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Luke 2:1-14

Birthday parties are very fun! When everyone gathers together to celebrate someone's birthday with songs, food, and games, it is so much fun!

Today we will celebrate the birthday of Jesus! Jesus our Savior, the only begotten Son of God. Jesus came into the world as a baby. As he grew older, he never sinned. Jesus was always obedient to his parents, teachers, and God the Father. Jesus lived a perfect life.

Because Jesus had no sin, he was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Praise the name of Jesus! No one else could be the sacrifice for sins because no one else was perfect like Jesus was.

The Bible tells us about Jesus, and gives us many names that describe him. Almighty, Alpha and Omega, which means the beginning and the end. Jesus is also called the Bread of Life. The Good Shepherd, Holy One, Immanuel, Jehovah, King, Lamb of God, Light of the World, Messiah, Redeemer, and Rock are just a few of the names given to Jesus.

Jesus is so wonderful that it takes many, many names to describe him. So, today we celebrate just how awesome and wonderful Jesus is.

Questions:

- 1. Whose birthday are we celebrating?
- 2. What book do we read to find out about Jesus?
- 3. Tell me another name given to Jesus in the Bible.



HAPP BIRTHDAY.

ISAIAH TELLS ABOUT JESUS

Isaiah 9:6-7

Did you know that the Bible tells us about Jesus before he was born? Thousands of years before the birth of baby Jesus, the Lord was preparing people for the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The prophet Isaiah preached and told people that Jesus would be born. When the Bible tells about something before it happens, that is called a prophecy.

Jesus was born to save us from our sin. That is why he is called a savior. The entire reason he came was so that he could die on the cross for your sin and my sin. He became the sacrifice for us. He died so that we do not have to.

There has never been anyone as important as Jesus, and there never will be. No president, no basketball player, no boxer, no champion of anything. There is no one like Jesus.

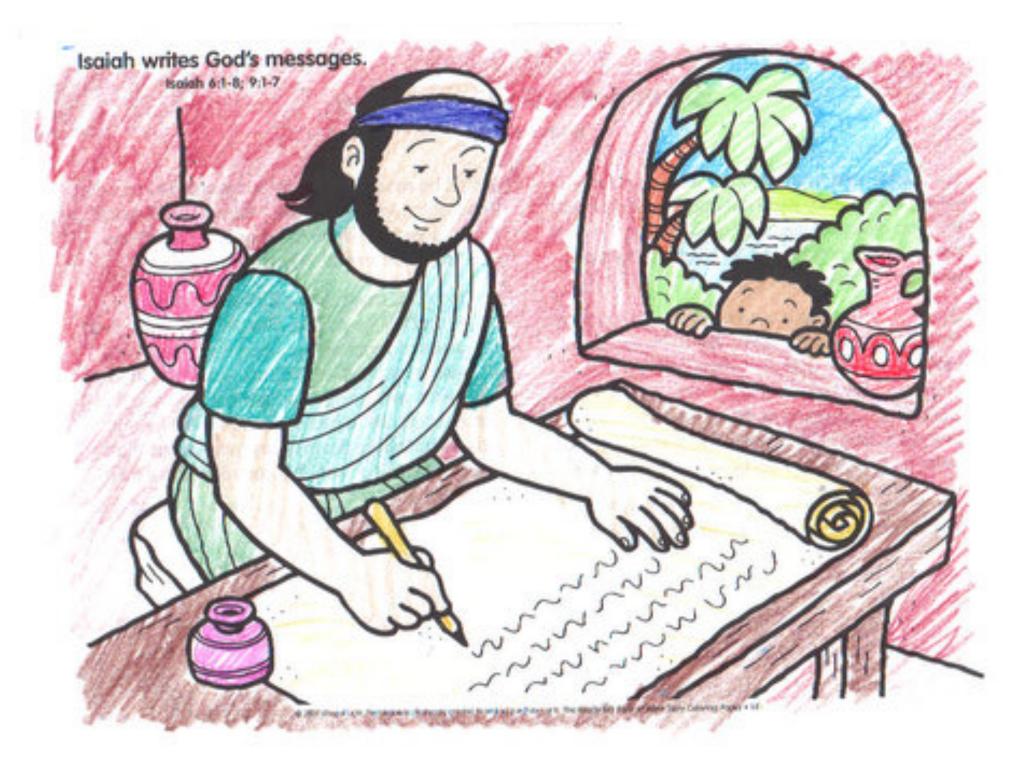
People were talking about Jesus thousands of years before he was born, and even now thousands of years after his death.

Jesus is so wonderful, so holy, so merciful, that we should all serve him. Give Jesus your heart, and ask him to save you. Then after that, give him your life. Jesus loved you so much that he died for you, and he wants you to have a daily relationship with him.

Questions:

- 1. What book of the Old Testament tells us about Jesus years before his birth?
- 2. Why was Jesus born?
- 3. Why did Jesus die?





NO ROOM IN THE INN

Luke 2:1-7

Mary was going to have a baby. Mary already knew that her baby would be special because the Angel of the Lord told her that she was going to give birth to the Son of God.

It was the time of the year to pay taxes. Mary and Joseph had to travel to where the family of Joseph was from. It was a very long journey, maybe more than three days. By the time they got to Bethlehem there were no more rooms available for them to sleep.

Finally, Joseph found them a place to stay. It was not a nice place. It probably was not a clean place. It was a place for animals to stay! Can you imagine how tired Mary must have been after walking for so long? Mary must have wanted to rest so badly!

That place where the animals ate and slept, that is where Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes, which is like clean rags that farmers use. Then she laid Jesus in a manger. A manger is what farmers use to put the feed for the animals in.

Jesus, the Son of God and King of Kings was not born in a hospital or even in a house. The Bible says that Mary thought about these things in her heart. Mary did not get mad at anyone. Mary knew that God had a purpose and that this baby was very special.

Questions:

- 1. Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel?
- 2. Was it a long trip?
- 3. Where did Mary lay Baby Jesus?



