



COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES
SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

KINDERGARTEN





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Introduction

September 11, 2020

“Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have greater wealth and glory than riches can provide.”

St John Chrysostom

The book of Proverbs tells us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov 22:6) Although our Orthodox faith never changes, the society and challenges our children face are always evolving. In light of this constant change, and in honor of the 100 year anniversary of establishment of Sunday school in 2018, the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States began working on a new curriculum named "Children of Light" to equip and educate our children in order to live a life pleasing to God in the midst of the world we live in. St Habib Girgis rightly reminds us that "education is the first need for the community after bread." Seeing the importance of educating our children, great effort was put over the past few years into ensuring a curriculum is developed that would feed our children with the proper foundations and tools appropriate to their age. Every grade will equip the child with strong biblical, liturgical, spiritual and morally appropriate lessons allowing them to grow in faith while providing them with tools to navigate the day to day issues they face in society so that they may be the true light of the world they are each called to be.

May this new curriculum be a tool that allows our children to grow in wisdom and in love of God, living up to their calling of being light of the world and true children of Light.

Bishop Youssef

Bishop Basil

Bishop Gregory

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



Overview and Milestones

Theme of the Year

God Loves Me

Rationale: Throughout the year, the children are to discover that God’s love is our greatest source of happiness. They can experience joy; not only through family and school activities, but also through worship and church life. As they grow in sensitivity to others, they also grow in sensitivity towards God. They learn aspects that please God (such as small services, sharing, being appreciative, giving apologies), and that which saddens the heart of God.

Psych Analysis



Physical:

Self-Dresses, Fine dexterity



Intellect:

Reasons, Enjoys Riddles, Recognizes categories, Improved memory skills



Social:

Shares, Confuses Fantasy/Reality, Various Fears, Bossy, Sensitive to others



[Detailed Characteristics](#)

Building Blocks

BB1: God Loves Children

The Feast of Nayrouz, Let the little Children Come to Me, Moses Childhood, Samuel Childhood, Samuel Hears God, Children are God’s Gift, BB I Review

BB2: God’s Love Is Giving

Creation, Lazarus, Martha and Mary, David and Jonathan, We are The Body of Christ, Our Priests, The Bible, St. Abraam, The Birth of Jesus, Concept of Sharing and BB II Review

BB3: God’s Love Is Kind

God Hears and Answers Our Prayers, Five Loaves and Two Fish, Epiphany, Jonah’s Fast, The Lost Sheep, Crossing the Red Sea, Man born Blind, Centurion’s Servant, BB III Review

BB4: God’s Love Is Caring

Ruth & Naomi, He Gave us His Son, God is our Shepherd, Flight into Egypt, God Cared for Them and Showed Them the Way, Tour of the Church/Icons, Holy Week, Jesus Heals a Little Girl, Our Gifts, He is Risen!, God Sent us the Holy Spirit

BB5: God’s Love Is Forgiving

Forgiveness, Esau Forgives Jacob, Joseph Forgives His Brothers, The Prodigal Son, The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus, The New Commandment, Peter Denying Jesus

BB6: God’s Love Is Steadfast, Unconditional, and Unchanging

God’s Love is Unconditional, God’s Love is Unchanging

BB7: God’s Love Revealed

The Fall of Adam and Eve, God Sent His Son

BB8: God’s Love Is Poured Into Us Through The Holy Spirit

An Introduction to the Trinity, Who Is the Holy Spirit?, How Do We Get the Holy Spirit?, What Does the Holy Spirit Do in Our Lives?

End of Year Milestones & Objectives



Scripture

- + Read Bible with Parents
- + Comfortable with the story of the Nativity and the Resurrection



Spiritual

- + Know what gladdens/saddens God
- + Prays before food & sleep



Social

- + Tendencies to share
- + Is appreciative with thank you’s
- + Apologizes with “Sorry”



Rituals

- + Learning to serve small tasks in church (such holding the communion napkins, getting communion cups, gathering liturgy books, grabbing the head scarfs, etc.)



Acknowledgements

The Diocese would like to thank all those who helped in this curriculum. There were collaborators and volunteers from across the globe throughout the US, Canada, and Qatar. We would also like to thank St. Mary and St. Mark of Edmonton for their significant collaboration in this service. May God bless and reward all to those who have labored and prayed for this curriculum.

Providing Feedback

Feedback, suggestions and material may be submitted at any time in the following [form](#).

Disclaimer

Only the content presented on this curriculum has been reviewed and verified. The provided links have also been reviewed. However, the remainder of the content of these websites were out of the scope of the review.



Building Block I: God Loves Children

Lesson I.1 - The Feast of Nayrouz

Building Block I
God Loves Children



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Dates, drawings of balloons, crosses, confetti, chart paper, real balloons, and an icon of St. George.

Craft: Coloring pictures of Coptic Saints: [Saint George](#), [Others \(lots provided here\)](#), glue stick, child-safe scissors, white/construction paper, coloring pencils/markers/crayons, and cotton balls.

Activity: Martyr cards (2 of each per child).

Video: [Christian Youth Channel: Happy Nayrouz \(1:09\)](#)

Additional reading: [Coptic Orthodox Church Network: The Martyrdom of St. George Prince of the Martyrs](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will celebrate the Feast of Nayrouz in order to understand the sacrifices made by martyrs as examples of how saints have courageously defended the faith.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith and Courage.



MEMORY VERSE:



You crown the year with Your Goodness...



Psalm 65:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Have “Happy Nayrouz” written on chart paper. Surround “Happy Nayrouz” with drawings of balloons, crosses and confetti! You could even border the chart with some real balloons so that the children realize something very big and important is to be celebrated.

Begin the lesson by wishing the children “Happy Nayrouz, Happy Coptic New Year.” Consider asking the children about what they may already know about the Feast of Nayrouz or the Coptic New Year.



LESSON BODY:

The lesson is about martyrs, as an example of Martyrdom, the story of St. George can be introduced to the children.

Saint George - The Prince of Martyrs:

Consider asking the children what they already know about St. George. An icon may be shown to the children as a visual aid.

The following reviews the entire story of St. George, consider highlighting key points with the children such as the fact that St. George was risen from the dead by the Lord three times, he was not afraid of proclaiming his faith and speaking the truth regarding idol worship.

St. George was a great martyr. When St. George’s father passed away, a man named Lustus was appointed governor of Palestine, Lustus was a good, God-fearing man. St. George lived with him for 10 years! St. George became a great leader of 5,000 soldiers.

After Lustus passed away, St. George went to visit Tyre. He saw people bowing to idols and leaving the true God. St. George went to king Dadianos and declared his Christianity. Dadianos saw that George was handsome and had a strong personality and believed he was a young man of nobility. King Dadianos told George to ask for forgiveness from the idols and the gods will give him a royal position and become a prince of ten cities. George answered “Cursed are the defiled images you call gods. They are nothing but devilish idols.”

The king was enraged and so the persecution of St. George began, St. George was tortured with many painful tools and after he had been tortured he was thrown into prison. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared with a host of angels and said “Rise, George, my beloved, stand up without any wounds in your body.” The saint rose, healed with no wounds. Jesus Christ told the saint that he will suffer for 7 years and he will die 3 times. Each time the Lord will raise him up again.

When King Dadianos saw that St. George had no wounds, he believed that St. George was a magician, so he brought the top magician. His name was Athanasius. Athanasius took a cup with poison and gave it to the saint. St. George did the sign of the cross over the cup, but nothing happened to him. When Athanasius saw that St. George was not harmed, he believed in Jesus Christ and received the crown of martyrdom. The king then ordered that St. George be torture on a wheel of sharp swords. The saint prayed to God, and he died for the first time, but as God promised, he raised him up from the dead. A prince who was there when he saw George alive, he declared his faith in Christ, the prince and his 3,000 soldiers and 400 men and women were martyred. St. George was killed a second time, but the Lord rose him from the dead once again.



When the King saw that St. George was still alive, he was enraged. He asked St. George to raise the dead who were lying in a tomb nearby. St. George told the soldiers to bring out the bones and the dust inside the tomb. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake. The spirit of the Lord descended upon the bones and dust. 5 men, 9 women, and a child were raised! After the raising of the dead, king Dadianos ordered the men to beat St. George and then imprison him in the house of a poor widow in town. The saint had not eaten in 6 days, so he asked the widow for bread but she was very poor and had no bread. She went out to look for bread. When the saint was leaning on a wooden pillar the pillar began to develop roots in the ground and it bloomed. Archangel Micheal descended with a banquet of the best kinds of food. The lord blessed the widow's house. The widow came back and was in shock seeing all the food. The widow begged him to heal her son who was deaf, dumb, blind, and paralyzed. The saint placed him on his lap and prayed. The scabs fell off his eyes and he was able to see. The saint said "that is enough for the moment. I shall need him to do me some service. Then he will be able to hear me speak and walk with me."

St. George was beaten, pressed, and then his body was burned. He died for a third time. King Dadianos put the body of the saint on a mountain so the birds could come and eat it. Just as God had promised, the saint rose from the dead. The King tried to persuade him by speaking tenderly to him. The king promised that if he worshiped the idols he would give him up to half his kingdom. St. George, who intended to destroy the idol agreed and said he would worship the idols in the morning. The King was very pleased and allowed the saint to enter the Queen's chamber. St. George began to preach to the queen about creation, and about paradise. The queen listened and believed in Christ. She was afraid to be tortured but he reassured her that she would have eternal joy. In the morning they brought the saint to offer incense to Apollo. The widow and her son were present. When she saw him about to bow down she told him "how will anyone believe in your Christ after seeing you kneel before apollo!" The saint smiled and said "put your son down." The saint told the child to come to him and serve him (remember he was deaf and he could not walk). The child heard the saint and stood up and walked towards the saint.

George said "now go to the temple and tell the idol Apollo that George, the servant of Christ, is telling you to come to him." The devilish idol cried out loud and jumped out of his seat and came to St. George. He asked the devil "are you the god of the gentiles?" the devil tried to deceive the people and makeup lies about why God banished him from heaven. St. George said "You are a liar. You were rejected from heaven because of your pride when you wished to be like the creator of heaven and earth. So you and all your angels were thrown out of heaven." The devil was silenced. The saint tapped the ground again and it opened and threw the idol to the ground and it broke. He sent the rest of the idols back down to hell. St. George was arrested and thrown into prison. The Queen was also martyred when she proclaimed her faith to the king.

After 7 years, and being tortured by 70 kings, prince George was beheaded on the 23rd of Baramoud.

Consider engaging in the following discussion with the children:

- *What did St. George do when he was asked to worship idols? (He refused, and proudly told the king that he was a Christian.)*
- *How many times did he die and was raised again? (Three times).*
- *Was St. George afraid of telling people about Christ? (No, he even proclaimed his faith to the queen.)*
- *How are we similar to great martyrs like St. George? (We are all children of God like them.)*

Continue discussing the importance of the Coptic New Year, as follows. Express to the children that Coptic New Year is celebrated to remember those who stood up and confessed their faith. The martyrs gave up their lives so that we may enjoy the faith today; they gave up their lives to keep the faith for us.

Consider asking the children how they can try to be more saints and martyrs. Highlight the moral character focus of courage by defining what courage is and how saints like St. George demonstrated it.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

A Great Cloud of Witnesses¹:

1. On a large table, or on the ground, make the children sit in one large group.
2. Tape many papers together or get a huge piece of white paper and place it on the ground.
3. Let the kids draw a beautiful sky with clouds and empty spaces in the middle for figures.
4. Allow the children to color one of the saint pictures that you provide for them. (Ensure that the pictures are already cut, or help the children cut them, since it may be difficult for KG children to cut pictures by themselves).
5. Take the finished art and tape it to the wall so that they remember the Feast of Nayrouz.



'I have, who has?' Game:

1. Count how many children there are in the class.
2. Divide the number by two and print that much amount of various martyr cards.
3. Print two copies of each martyr so that there are two of each martyr and exactly the amount of the children.
4. If there is an odd number of children, print three of one of the martyrs to accommodate.
5. The goal is to have two pictures of each martyr and a picture per child so that only two children have the same martyr.
6. Give out the pictures randomly and ask the children to find their match of the martyr. Ensure that the children hold up their saint picture, so that the children can locate the saint pictures through either audio or visual means.
7. For example: "I have Saint Mina, who has Saint Mina?"

¹ Erika. (n.d.). "Cloud of Saints" Craft. Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <http://domesticityanddoctrine.blogspot.com/2012/11/cloud-of-saints-craft.html>



VIDEO:

[Christian Youth Channel: Happy Nayrouz](#) (1:10)

Questions:

- What was the little girl eating? (She was eating a date!). *At this point show the children a date.*
- Why do we eat dates in the Feast of Nayrouz and why? (Eating dates is our custom as we remember the martyrs. The white inside represents purity of the martyrs and the hard stone represents their strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ).
 - *Open the inside of the date to show the children. Remember, you can replay parts of the video at any time as needed as a reminder.*
- What does the word “martyr” mean? (The word martyr means someone who has “witnessed” to Our Lord Jesus Christ by giving up their life, in order to keep our Orthodox faith strong.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Conclude the lesson by giving each child a date to eat as you cheer, “Happy Nayrouz”! Review the significance and meaning of dates, the importance of the Coptic New Year/Feast of Nayrouz as a remembrance of the martyrs and how we are called to be saints - witnesses to God through our actions.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Help the children understand that martyrs and saints were people just like us. They felt hungry and tired sometimes, just as we do! But they did difficult things even when they did not want to because they loved God. We are all called to be saints - saints are people who love Our Lord Jesus Christ and share His love with others. We can all live like the saints while we are here on earth.

- Can you name a time when you were courageous?
- Where do you think this courage came from? (God).
- How can we show Christ through our actions? (Being humble. Treating others kindly and with respect.)
- How can we be more like martyrs? (We can have the courage to be proud of our faith and do God’s will.)



→ Can you think of one thing you can do today to be witnesses of God? (Answers may include: pray with my family, listen to my parents, love others, etc.)



Lesson 1.2 - Let the Little Children Come to Me

Building Block 1
God Loves Children



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [This tracing worksheet](#), [this coloring paper](#), [these visuals](#), popsicle sticks, coloring/writing utensils, and glue.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 19: 13-15

Craft: [This watch print out](#), card stock, scissors, foamies, velcro, glue, crayons, markers and/or glitter.

Activity: Heart cut out or object (to pass around) and sound system (speaker, phone, tablet, etc.)

Song: [Jesus Loves Me \(1:40\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand how much our Lord Jesus Christ loves each one of them all the time and wants them to spend time with Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Kindness.



MEMORY VERSE:



Let the little children come to Me...



Matthew 19:14

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Invite the children to answer the following question, “How do we know Our Lord Jesus loves us?” Take all responses. Emphasize with the children that we know Jesus loves us because the Bible tells us so! The Bible tells us that He came to the earth for us; The Bible tells us that He gave up His life for us! Sing the first verse of the song, [Listener Kids: Jesus Loves Me \(2:49\)](#): “Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so; Little

ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.”

If time allows, the servant may print [this tracing worksheet](#), and allow the children to complete it. At the beginning/at the end of the activity, reiterate the memory verse, to connect the activity to the lesson.

Or, the servant may print [this coloring paper](#), and allow the children to complete it. Again, reiterate the memory verse, to connect the activity to the lesson.



LESSON BODY:

For an interactive way to tell the story of Jesus blessing the children, print out [these visuals](#) onto card stock.² Cut them out and attach each one to a craft stick.



Gather enough child-like figurines (such as dolls from a dollhouse, or Lego people) for each child to hold during the lesson.

² Sprouts, F. (2015, February 21). Jesus Blesses Little Children. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <http://faithsprouts.blogspot.com/2015/02/jesus-blesses-little-children.html>



While telling the story, have the Bible open on your lap, hold up the Jesus figure. Invite the children to move their figurines towards Jesus. Hold up the stop sign to stop them, as you explain that the disciples thought Jesus was too busy with other important people, and didn't have time to be bothered by children.



But, Our Lord Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). Hold up the happy heart as you motion for the children to move their figurines to Jesus. Show a picture of Jesus, with the children in His lap, as you explain that Jesus loves them, and always has time for them.



Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

My Lord Jesus Loves Me³:

1. To prepare, print out the watch faces onto card stock, and cut one out for each child.
2. Cut Foamies into approximately 1" x 6" strips.
3. In class, provide crayons or markers for the children to color their watch faces.
4. Optional: provide red glitter for the heart.
5. Help the children glue the watch face to a Foamie strip, and attach Velcro to each end of the strip as the fastener.



Jesus Loves Me Pass⁴:

If time allows, play the game Jesus Loves Me Pass. This is a game similar to “Hot Potato”. It’s a simple game that reinforces the love of Jesus for each child in your class.

The children sit in a circle and pass around the heart-shaped object while music is playing. When you stop the music, whoever is holding the heart stands up. Say to the class, “Does Jesus love _____ (child’s _____)

³ Sprouts, F. (2015, February 21). Jesus Blesses Little Children. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <http://faithsprouts.blogspot.com/2015/02/jesus-blesses-little-children.html>

⁴ Sprouts, F. (2015, February 21). Jesus Blesses Little Children. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <http://faithsprouts.blogspot.com/2015/02/jesus-blesses-little-children.html>



name)?” The class responds, “Yes! Jesus loves _____ (child’s name)!” Cheer for the child as they sit down. Start the music and continue passing the heart until each child has had a turn.”

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will demonstrate an understanding of the great love that Christ showed children, by answering the following questions:

- How did Jesus react when the disciples tried to stop the children from coming to him? (He told the disciples to make sure the children could come to him.)
- How do you think Jesus sees you? (As His child.)
- How do you see Jesus? Who is He in your life? (My friend, a father, someone who looks over me, etc.)
- Do you think you are unique (special) in Jesus’ eyes? (Yes, He loves all children!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- If we know how much God loves us, how can we show Him that we love Him? (We can spend more time with him, we can pray before we do anything, like eating or sleeping.)
- Since God loves us so much, how can we share that love with the people around us? (We can be kind to our family and friends, we can share with others, and help whenever we can.)



Lesson 1.3 - God Cares for You: Moses' Childhood

Building Block I
God Loves Children



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: ["Baby in a Basket"](#) (reference readings), a crown for Pharaoh's daughter, easy dress up pieces for Moses' mother and sister, a baby doll, and a basket and a blue sheet or blanket for the river.

Scripture Reference: Exodus 1-2

Craft: Envelopes, [clipart of baby](#), pipe cleaners, tape/glue, memory verse printed to fit on an envelope, and coloring utensils.

Activity: Small tubs of water, small baby dolls, towels. The second game requires baskets, baby dolls, and cloths to wrap the baby dolls.

Video: [Gold Quill: Miriam - Little Bible Heroes animated children stories \(2:12\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about God's plan to save Moses and understand that just as God protected Moses, He protects them as well.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Compassion and Kindness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

... for He cares for you.

”

1 Peter 5:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Wrap a baby doll in a blanket and hold him in your arms. Tell the children this is "Baby Moses".



Consider asking the class what they may already know about this little baby.

Inform the children that they will learn about “Baby Moses” and how he was saved and kept safe by a Pharaoh’s daughter (a princess) sent by God.



LESSON BODY:

The following lesson is based on the story as written in Exodus 1-2.

The Children of Israel (the people of God) lived in the land of Egypt. And a new king rose up to reign over Egypt. This king, the Pharaoh, commanded saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast [throw] into the river” (Exodus 1:22). But, a man and his wife, from the house of Levi, had a son. When his mother saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him for three months. But, when she could no longer hide him, she put him in a waterproof basket, and put him in the river.

At around that time, the daughter of the Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. When she saw the basket, she sent her maid to get it. And when she opened it, she saw the child, and had compassion on him.

The child’s sister, who had been following the basket, asked Pharaoh’s daughter if she should go and call a nurse for the child. Pharaoh’s daughter agreed. So the child’s sister went and brought his mother so that she may nurse the child. Then, the Bible says, “And the child grew...and he became her [Pharaoh’s daughters’] son. So she called his name Moses” (Exodus 2:10).

Read: [“Baby in a Basket”](#) from the book Snip-And-Tell Bible Stories by Karyn Henley, page 33.

Ask the children the following questions after telling the story:

- What did Moses’ mother do when she knew she could not keep him safe any longer? (“But when she could no longer hide him [Moses], she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank.” (Exodus 2:3)
 - Paraphrase this verse to the appropriate age vocabulary: ‘Moses’ mother put him in a waterproof basket and put him in the water.’

5

- Who found Moses’ basket floating down the river? (The daughter of Pharaoh.)
- What did the daughter of Pharaoh do with Moses? (She took him as her son.)
- Who do you think sent the daughter of Pharaoh to Baby Moses? (God is He who protected Moses.)



⁵ Moses's 'Ark of Bulrushes'. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://watchjerusalem.co.il/469-mosess-ark-of-bulrushes>

→ Why do you think God protected Moses? (Prompt and elicit responses - God cared for him, just as he cares for us!)

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

'God Cares for You' Envelope⁶:

Prepare envelopes and a [clipart of a baby](#), as well as some pipe cleaners (enough for the entire class). Get the children to color the envelopes and open the envelopes and place the clipart baby - representing Moses - inside of it. Staple a pipe cleaner from one side of the envelope to the other, making a basket that can be carried. You can print the memory verse "For He cares for you" 1 Peter 5:7, and tape/glue/staple it on the envelope.



Baby Relay:

Divide children into teams and run relays to a small tub of water with a small baby doll in it. Each team player will take the baby out of the water, dry off with a little washcloth or small towel, wrap baby in a blanket and place the doll baby back in the water for the next player and run back to the team to tap the next classmate to run the same relay.

Baby Run:

⁶ Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Moses Bible Crafts and Activities for Sunday School. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-themes-moses.html>



Children will take turns as teams to find the hidden baby dolls and RUN as quickly as possible to the hidden baskets, wrap the doll baby and place it in the basket and back to the teacher as fast as they can with the basket and the baby doll.



VIDEO:

[Gold Quill: Miriam - Little Bible Heroes animated children stories \(2:13\).](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have the children retell the story by acting it out. Use simple props from home (e.g. a crown for Pharaoh's daughter, easy dress up pieces for Moses' mother and sister, a baby doll, a basket and perhaps a blue sheet or blanket for the river.

Assign each child to a role; Moses' mother, Miriam, and Pharaoh's daughter. Ask the children to recall the parts of the story prior to acting it out. For example, have the children recall what Moses' mother did when Moses was born (she hid him). Continue the story with questioning until the entire story has been told.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Since God never abandoned Moses and his family, do you think God would ever abandon you? (No, God is always with us.)
- How can we share God's love for us with others? (By comforting others when they are sad, sharing, being kind, etc.)



Lesson 1.4 - Samuel's Childhood: Obedience

Building Block 1
God Loves Children



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Cleaning cloth, and a dodgeball to be passed around.

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 1, 2.

Craft: [This coloring page](#), and coloring utensils.

Video: [Hannah has Samuel \(3:01\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to verbally understand the concept of obedience by retelling the story of Samuel's childhood supported by the prompting questions.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:

“

... the child Samuel grew before the Lord

”

1 Samuel 2:21

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Provide the children a clean cloth and let them clean the room. If it is a possibility, the children may clean the inside of the church (simple tasks, like putting the books where they belong, wipe the benches, etc.).

As the children complete this activity, remind them that this is what Samuel used to do! He obeyed Eli the priest and served the Lord by doing the tasks asked of him.



LESSON BODY:

Use the help of other adult servants to introduce the story of Samuel's childhood (if present, alternatives discussed later). As a servant, it may be necessary to have simple costumes for Hannah, Elkanah, Samuel and Eli. As the story is narrated, act out the narration accordingly. As an alternative, visuals can be used as the story is narrated eliminating the need for acting out the story.

Tell the following story:

A man named Elkanah had a wife named Hannah. Hannah could not have children, and because of this, her enemies made fun of her, which upset Hannah. They upset her so much that when she went up to the house of the Lord, and *"she wept and did not eat."* (1 Samuel 1:7)

So Elkanah, her husband asked Hannah, *"Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved [sad]?"* (1 Samuel 1:8). So Hannah prayed to the Lord and wept and made a vow and told the Lord that if He gives her a boy child, that she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life.

The priest, Eli, saw Hannah weeping, and said to her to 'Go in peace, and may the God of Israel give you your request.' It happened that in some time, Hannah had a child, a boy, and called his name Samuel. Hannah then fulfilled her vow to the Lord, and gave Samuel to the Lord that he may serve Him all the days of his life.

Samuel served the Lord, *"even as a child"* (1 Samuel 2:18). Similarly, we should serve the Lord in obedience! Just like Samuel served the Lord, following what Eli the priest asked of him, we also ought to obey our parents, our priests, and our teachers.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Samuel Served as a Boy (Coloring Page): Allow the children to color [this coloring page](#), and repeat the memory verse before and after the craft.

Red Light/Green Light:⁷

Players all line up at a starting point. The goal is to be the first to reach the end point — or finish line. When the ... [servant] says "Green!" every player runs. As soon as the leader yells "red" every player has to stop, immediately. If anyone moves, they have to restart at the beginning of the line to continue the race. We even yell "yellow" to change things up for a super slow walk.

Simon Says:

⁷ Alison. (2019, July 14). 8 Crazy-fun Games that Teach Kids to Obey Quickly · Pint-sized Treasures. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://pint-sizedtreasures.com/8-crazy-fun-games-that-teach-kids-to-obey-quickly/>



When the servant says “Simon says...[do something]” the children have to do it. But, if the servant says “[do something]”, then the children must not do it. The name ‘Simon’ can be changed to the servants name.

Once the activities have been completed, connect the games to the objective purpose of obedience, and listening/doing as asked.



VIDEO:

[Hannah has Samuel \(3:01\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Use this game to review the story.⁸ Have all of the children sit in a circle, when you ask a question, throw the ball to one child and they must answer the question. If they do not know the answer, they can throw the ball to a friend for help.

- What did Hannah want? (Hannah wanted a son.)
- How did Hannah feel before having a son? (She was sad, crying and refused to eat.)
- What did she do when she was sad? (She prayed and asked God for a son.)
- What did she name her son? (She named him Samuel.)
- What did Hannah promise the Lord if she had a son? (She promised to give him to the Lord all the days of his life.)
- Did Hannah do what she promised? (Yes, Hannah did what she promised.)
- Why did Hannah and Elkanah take Samuel to live in the house of the Lord? (Hannah had promised God that Samuel, her son, would be given to the Lord, to serve Him all the days of his life)
- What kinds of things did Samuel do to help Eli? (He might have cleaned lamps in the tabernacle, he kept the lamps lit, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord (1 Samuel 3:15), and served the Lord as Eli asked of him.)
- How can we be obedient to God? (Answers will vary. We can follow what is asked of us - since that is something that would please God: “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12).)



⁸ 6 Best First Day of Class Ice-Breakers. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://www.gamesandcelebrations.com/first-day-of-class-ice-breakers.html>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

→ What are some examples of times when you can be obedient like Samuel? (Listening to our parents, our teachers, Abouna, offering to help others, working together with our siblings, etc.)



Lesson 1.5 - God Knows Who You Are: Samuel Hears God

Building Block I
God Loves Children



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart with the childrens' names on it.

Scriptural Reference: 1 Samuel 3:1-15

Craft: Prepared [ear cutouts](#), stapler and one long strip of cardstock per child.

Video: [The Lord speaks to Samuel \(2:20\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that Samuel was known by name to God and the children will learn to be obedient like Samuel.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:



Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.



1 Samuel 3:9

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Start the lesson by greeting each individual child by their first name and with the following dialogue:

Your name is very important to you, isn't it? Do you think God knows your name? I am sure He does! In the Bible it says: "I have called you by your name; You are Mine" (Isaiah 43:1). In fact, I can think of several times in the Bible when God called someone by name.

Consider playing the following game with the children to introduce theme of importance of names:



Concentration:

The game concentration involves beginning with the verse, “concentration, everybody ready? When you hear your name, the game begins.” Then the servant begins by saying their own name and the name of one of the children in the class. Then, the child who is called says their own name, and the name of another child, (e.g. “Monica; Andrew”). The game continues until every child has had their name called.

Conclude the activity by reminding the children how important their names are, that God knows each of their names, and that they should consider how important Samuel was to God.



LESSON BODY:

1 Samuel 3:1-15:

During the times when the boy Samuel was serving the Lord before Eli the priest, the word of the Lord was rare (1 Samuel 3:1). One time, as Samuel was lying down, the Lord called Samuel. But, Samuel did not recognize that it was God speaking, he thought it was Eli. So Samuel ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me” (1 Samuel 3:5). Then Eli responded and said to Samuel, “I did not call, my son; lie down again” (1 Samuel 3:5). So, Samuel being obedient, went and lay down. This scenario happened three times. In the third time, as Samuel ran to Eli saying “Here I am, for you did call me,” Eli realized that the Lord had called the boy. So Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, ‘*Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears*’ (1 Samuel 3:9). So Samuel did so.

Now the Lord came and stood and called as with the other times, saying “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel answered, “*Speak, for Your servant hears.*” Then, the Lord spoke to Samuel.

Consider acting out the above story with the help of other servants.

Supplementary

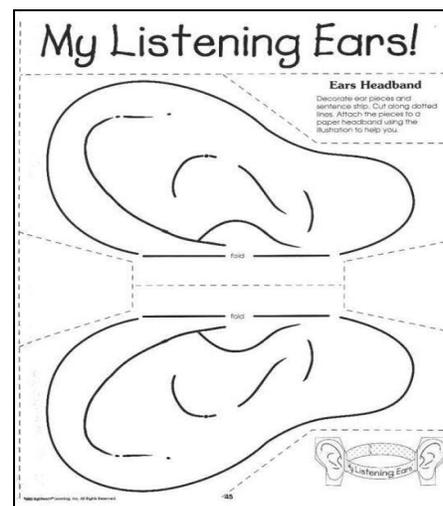


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Samuel’s Listening Ears Headband:

1. Have each of [these ear pieces](#) pre-cut along dotted lines by servants.
2. Write the memory verse on the cut paper sentence strip and cut to fit each child’s head OR print the memory verse below for each child, and cut it out to fit each child’s head.
3. Attach the ears to the paper strip and staple to fit the child.

Write the memory verse “*Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears*” on the sentence strip. Attach the ear pieces to the paper sentence strip and staple to fit the child.





Have the children act out the story, taking turns being God's voice, Samuel and Eli.



VIDEO:

[The Lord speaks to Samuel \(2:20\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have the children sit in a circle and review the story. When you ask a question, throw the ball to a child and they must answer the question. If they do not know the answer they can throw the ball to a friend for help. In order to make this activity more engaging for the children, ask questions about their thoughts on the story.

- Who was calling Samuel? (God Himself!)
- What did Samuel do the first time he heard the Lord's voice? Did he know it was the Lord calling? (No, because he had never heard the Lord's voice before!)
- What did Eli tell Samuel to do when he came to him for the first two times? (Eli told Samuel to go and lie down, since he did not call him.)
- What did Samuel do the third time he heard the Lord's voice? (Eli told Samuel to say, *"Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears"*.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Where can we hear God's voice? (Through the Bible, or through others like Abouna.)
- How can we learn to hear God's voice like Samuel? (By reading the Bible with our parents and being obedient to our parents and Abouna.)
- Be happy when doing chores and helping around the house



Lesson 1.6 - God helps His Children Grow

Building Block I
God Loves Children



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: James 1:17, and Psalm 139.

Craft: Large cardboard box (for gift from God), gift wrap paper, gift tag, card stock (colorful for mirrors), aluminum foil or mirror sticker sheets (available on Amazon), self stick craft gems, and/or self stick craft foam stickers. Note: This craft is for the teacher to prepare before class. 1 for each child. Each child will be able to add the gems or foam stickers to their premade mirror craft.

Song: [Thank you God for making me me \(3:00\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will know that they are God’s gift and that God made each of them unique.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratefulness and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...



Psalm 139:14

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Present the class with a gift wrapped box with a tag that says “From God”. Consider asking children what they think is in the box.

Open the box with the children and have each child take one “teacher made” mirror from the box (See craft).

Ask, as the children look in the mirror, “What is God’s gift?” Remind the children that we are all God’s gift!



LESSON BODY:

Consider using this verse to guide the lesson: 1 Peter 4:10 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace”.

Suggestions to approach the lesson:

→ Have each child pick up their mirrors and discuss the following: When we look in the mirror and complain about things we do not like, we should always remember that God took the time to create us. He drew out every part of our face; our nose, our mouth, our eyes. He sees you as His perfect perfect creation. Ask the children; “why do we not like what we see?”

→ Let each child pick their favourite superhero. Discuss with the class how each superhero is unique, and is called for a different purpose. They all have different powers and help the world in different ways. Just like superheroes, we are also called for different reasons. We are all unique, we all have talents, we all have strengths, and we all help the world in some way.

→ We are all made in God's image and we are all made equally, uniquely, but differently.

The following examples can be used to explain the concept of being unique and being given gifts from God:

→ David the prophet was a man of great honor. He had many gifts; he played the harp, he wrote the psalms, and he was a king. Even though he had many gifts, he was not perfect. God never gave up on him but rather forgave David, and loved him regardless of his flaws.

→ Moses the prophet. He was given a great gift and was able to speak to God 1 on 1. This is very unique as most prophets were not able to do this. Moses also made mistakes, and was not even able to see the promised land. But God remained faithful to him, and stood by him, even through his many mistakes.

→ We are all loved by God, that includes all of our flaws, our mistakes, and our shortcomings.

Consider showing the supplementary videos and songs at this time.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Mirrors⁹:

Make a “mirror” so your children can see the awesome person God created.

1. Cut a mirror shape out of cardstock for each child.
2. Glue an aluminum foil circle in the center.



⁹Pinparent, (2017, February 26). Jeweled Cardboard Mirror Craft. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://thepinterestedparent.com/2016/07/jeweled-cardboard-mirror/>



3. Write each child's name on their mirror. (These are the mirrors that will be in the gift box at the beginning of the lesson.)
4. During craft time allow the children to decorate their mirror using; self stick gems or self stick foam shapes.



SONG:

[Thank you God for making me me \(3:00\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who made you? (God made us all.)
- Are we all made exactly the same? (No, you are all different. You all have different gifts and you should use those gifts to show God how much you love Him!)
- What makes you unique? (have each child name something that makes them unique.)
- Does God love you even if you make a lot of mistakes? (Yes!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Help guide the conversation with children around the importance of knowing we are all made by God. That each child of God is unique and that their uniqueness can be used to honor Him.

Consider choosing some role play scenarios to demonstrate how to help the elderly or be gentle with animals (ex: share our favourite stuffed animals or toys with our brother or sister or friends, saying thank you and I love you to our grandparents, petting dogs gently, etc.)

Ways in which we can honor God:

- I can honor God by sharing with others.
- I can honor God by being kind to the elderly.
- I can honor God by being kind to animals.
- I can honor God by praying,
- I can honor God by being thankful for _____ (my eyes) (my nose) (my hands) etc.



Lesson 1.7 - Teaching A Liturgy Response & Building Block 1 Review

Building Block 1
God Loves Children



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper with liturgy response, picture of the body and blood, markers, picture of a caterpillar, picture of a butterfly, and picture of last supper.

Craft: Poster board, construction paper (blue, white, and yellow), scissors, glue, assorted stickers, and colored tissue paper (one by one inch squares).

Collaboration: Connect with Abouna in advance to see if he is available to participate in this lesson.

Video: [George Metry: Coptic Orthodox Church Communion for Kids \(5:56\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to recite a liturgy response (Eucharistic Response) and understand how Jesus promises to provide for them as the bread of life. They will also review Building Block 1.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Thankfulness and Prayerful.



MEMORY VERSE:



I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.



John 6:35

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Explaining the Eucharist



Share pictures of a caterpillar and a butterfly and ask these questions:

- Where do butterflies come from? (Start as an egg, than a caterpillar, than a butterfly)
- Can anyone tell us how butterflies are transformed? (The caterpillar forms a cocoon around themselves and they turn into a butterfly).
- Did you know that there is a transformation during the liturgy too? Can anyone tell us what that transformation is? (The body and blood of Christ).

Share the image of the liturgical body and blood with the children. Explain that the transformation occurs when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ.



LESSON BODY:

Consider having Abouna visit the class to explain this part of the liturgy with the children. Note that the emphasis in this lesson is not the transformation itself, but the role of the congregation in responding in the liturgy.

This transformation of bread and wine occurs at a specific time during the liturgy.

After explaining its placement in the liturgy to the children, introduce the following liturgical response:

“One is All – Holy Father, One is All – Holy Son, One is All – Holy Spirit”

Have the response written on chart paper with a picture of the body and blood for the children to follow along.

When we say this response as a congregation, we are confirming our belief in our loving God who loves us enough to provide us with His body and blood. Introduce the memory verse and explain that Jesus makes a promise to us to always be our bread of life.

Consider asking if anyone knows what it means when Jesus promises to be our bread of life? (Discuss).

This promise does not just mean that He will give us communion. God is promising to always provide for us and support us. When we say the Eucharist Response in liturgy, we are showing that we believe this is true.

Consider having the children form pairs to take turns reciting the Eucharist Response to each other. After they have practiced with one partner, have children switch partners and practice again.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Chalice and Eucharist Craft:

Create the craft beforehand to provide a model for the children to follow.

1. Cut a white circle, about three inches in diameter, for each child (The Eucharist).



2. Cut a yellow chalice, about five inches in height, per child (The Chalice).
3. Give each child a piece of blue construction paper.
4. Instruct the children to glue the chalice towards the bottom of the paper and the host above the chalice, leaving a one inch space between The Chalice and The Eucharist. (Leave a one inch space at the bottom of the paper and a one inch space at the top of the paper. This will allow you to write; "This is My Body" above the Host and "This is My Blood" under the Chalice.)
5. After the above is complete allow the children to decorate The Chalice with stickers, tissue paper squares etc.



VIDEO:

Video: [George Metry: Coptic Orthodox Church Communion for Kids \(5:56\)](#)

Review



REVIEW OF BUILDING BLOCK I:

Using chart paper or another visual representation, review the following block themes with the children:

1. Nayrouz feast
2. Jesus loves the Children
3. Moses' Childhood/God Cares for You
4. Samuel's Childhood/Obedience
5. God Know Who You Are/Samuel's Calling
6. Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter
7. Children are God's Gift

In order to remind the children of the content of the building block, the servant can create a poster with pictures of all the crafts completed by the children during this building block and asking the children if they can recall what each craft represented. Reaffirm the main theme that "God Loves Children".



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- What are some ways God provides for you? (Responses may include; He gives us food, He protects us, He loves us, etc.)
- How can I remember God's promise that He will be my bread of life? (Conclude by suggesting that participating in this Eucharistic response is one way to remember this promise.)



- Do you think it's important to participate in the liturgy? Why? (Yes, we are confirming our belief in our loving God)
- What should we do when we want something? (We should always talk to God and ask Him because He gives us everything we need).



Building Block 2: God's Love is Giving

Lesson 2.1 - God Gave Us Life: Creation

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Inflatable globe, tape or velcro, days of creation chart, days of creation images, elements of nature (e.g. twigs, leaves, rocks, etc.) or pictures/stickers of these elements if opening activity is indoor, and paper bags (one per child).

Craft: [My Creation Coloring Book](#), and markers.

Video: [Gold Quill: Creation - Little Bible Heroes animated children's stories \(1:37\)](#)

Song: [The Days of Creation Bible Song \(1:53\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to retell the story of creation. They will also demonstrate an understanding that God gave us life and that we should be thankful for this.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Thankfulness



MEMORY VERSE:



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



Genesis 1:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Hold up an inflatable globe. The world is a gift from God and that we will be playing a game to appreciate this!



Treasure Hunt Activity¹⁰:

This activity is designed for the outdoors, but can be adapted by bringing the materials (e.g. bring twigs and leaves inside, or pictures/stickers of twigs and leaves) needed and placing them around the classroom.

1. Tell the children that they will be collecting things that God has created!
2. Give each child a brown paper bag which will be their “collector” bag.
3. Go for a walk outside with children and remind them to collect things that God has created! (grass, sticks, etc).



LESSON BODY:

Prior to the lesson, create a creation poster board for the children, with the word “creation” at the top of the poster; prepare images on pieces of paper of all the days of the creation (a picture of the sun and moon, a picture of the sky, etc.).

Have the children go up and put the pictures on the poster board as you read the story of the creation to them.

On the first day, God created the light and darkness and called them day and night; on the second day, He separated water and sky. God created the dry ground, the seas, the plants, and trees on the third day. Then on the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars which broke up the seasons, days, and years. On the fifth day, God created the birds and the fish. He created land animals and Adam and Eve on the sixth day. God rested on the seventh day.

Emphasize to the children that God’s creation is a gift. Discuss the following questions with them:

- What are some other gifts God has given you through His creation? (e.g. siblings, friends, pets, nature, etc.).
- What can we do to show God we appreciate these gifts? (Be kind, loving and gentle with our gifts, say thank you for everything we get, etc.).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

My Creation Book:

The [My Creation Book](#) is a coloring book which contains a Title page and 7 coloring pages (each page represents a day of God’s creation). Children can color the pictures and afterward the pages can be assembled into the “My Creation Book!”

1. Print out coloring pages specific to each creation day before the lesson

¹⁰ Creation Theme (General) for Preschool. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://www.preschool-plan-it.com/creation-theme.html>



2. For time purposes, give a different page to each child(32 children would result in 4 “My Creation” books)
3. Once all of the children are done coloring, the pages can be stapled together to form the “My Creation Book!”
4. The books can be placed in the room so that children can admire their own work!
5. Enlist the help of other servants to help children write the name of a family member on each heart and glue to the yarn, creating a tail of hearts.¹¹



VIDEO:

[Gold Quill: Creation - Little Bible Heroes animated children's stories \(1:37\)](#)



SONG:

[The Days of Creation Bible Song \(1:53\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Let the kids retell the story of creation to you.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Encourage the kids to thank God for the beautiful trees, grass, pets, etc.

Consider asking the children to discuss the following question:

- What can we do daily to show God we are thankful for His creation? (Take a walk with my family, enjoy the sunshine when the sun is out, taking care of the environment etc.)

¹¹ Creation. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://www.abcjesuslovesme.com/ideas/creation>



Lesson 2.2 - God Gave us Our Family: Lazarus, Martha and Mary

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [Mary and Martha picture cutouts.](#)

Scripture Reference: Luke 10:41-42

Craft: Chart paper, markers, construction paper for both the cloud and the hearts (white, red, yellow, green, purple, orange, blue), yarn, glue, scissors, and stapler.

Video: [Gold Quill: Martha - Little Bible Heroes animated children's stories \(1:45\)](#)

Song: "If You Know God Made Families" (to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It").



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that the Heavenly Father planned for each of us to belong to a family that needs us and loves us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love



MEMORY VERSE:



As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.



Joshua 24:15

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Open the lesson by asking the children who they believe created them and their families. God made families, and everything else that they see.

Sing with the children "If You Know God Made Families" (to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you know God made your family, blow a kiss.

If you know God made your family, blow a kiss.

If you know God made your family and you really want to show it,

If you know God made your family, blow a kiss

Repeat lyrics with changing actions (give a hug, give a high five, etc.)

Introduce the children to the story about the family of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Consider asking the children what they already know about this special family.



LESSON BODY:

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were three siblings whom Jesus loved very much. Today, we are going to talk about a time that Jesus was with the two sisters, Mary and Martha.

Jesus was visiting His good friend Lazarus and his two sisters, Martha and Mary. Jesus sat down and began to tell a story. Mary was sitting at His feet, listening very carefully, but Martha was cleaning around the house and not paying attention to what Jesus was teaching. Martha came to Jesus and told Him that Mary was not helping her clean around the house. Then Jesus said “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things, but one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Encourage the children to guess why Jesus told Martha that Mary chose the good thing. Ask the children to imagine leaving their best friend in the living room because they wanted to clean their room. While it’s great to clean, we should spend time with our best friend who is visiting us first. Martha chose to leave Jesus and clean, but Mary chose to stay with Jesus because she was so happy to spend time with Him and learn from Him.

Explain that this story teaches everyone that our family can help us to know and spend time with our Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes we get distracted with playing games, our friends, etc. But, God is happy when we spend more time with Him through our families, so that we can share our love with each other.

Supplementary

CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Love Rainbow Craft:

1. Give each child a pre-cut cloud (about 6”x 6”) with the memory verse already written on the cloud and a piece of yarn attached (about 14 inches, so that about 12 inches hangs below the cloud).
2. Pre-cut heart shapes using different colored construction paper





3. Review today's memory verse written on the cloud.
4. Give each child small hearts (pre-cut from construction paper, about 2" each, in the color of the rainbow (red, yellow, green, purple, orange and blue). Have them glue the hearts around the cloud.
5. Enlist the help of other servants to help children write the name of a family member on each heart.



VIDEO:

[Gold Quill: Martha - Little Bible Heroes animated children's stories \(1:45\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What was Mary doing that Martha was not? (Listening to Jesus carefully..)
- What did Jesus tell Martha to do? (Come sit with Mary, for Mary was wise to listen to Jesus without being distracted.)
- How did Mary show her love to Christ? (By sitting by His feet and listening to Him.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- What can I do to show my family I love them (Spend time with them, help around the house, cleaning up the toys after yourself, obeying them)
- How do you know your family loves you and cares for you? (they take care of you everyday)
- What does God want us to do with our families? (Spend time with Him together like Mary and Martha did)
- What can you do to show your love for God? (Read the Bible, pray, go to church etc..)



Lesson 2.3 - God Gave us Friends: David and Jonathan

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Long stick, long string, magnetic stickers, fish out of construction paper, and markers.

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 18-19

Craft: Chart paper, markers, poster board, long stick, magnetic stickers, construction paper, (assorted colors and white), yarn (brown), poster board, blank cardstock word cards, empty Pringles cans or similar tube, glue, and scissors.

Activity: Chairs, tables, toys, cones or any other objects you have available.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's People: David and Jonathan \(1:32\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that God gave us friends, and that we should be good friends to those around us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Loyalty, Friendship and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

A friend loves at all times.

”

Proverbs 17:17

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Make a fishing pole by attaching a long string to the end of a stick and a magnetic sticker to the other end of the string for a hook. Make several fish out of construction paper. Attach a magnetic sticker to each. On each

fish write qualities of a true friend that the children can understand, such as: shares, nice, friendly, funny, loving, happy, loyal, helpful, etc.

Place the fish on the floor. Ask the children if they've ever gone fishing with a friend. Explain that in this fishing activity the children will learn about friendship. One at a time have the children catch a fish by "hooking" it on the pole. As the fish are caught help the children read the quality of a friend that is written on their fish. Stick the fish, with the word displayed, on a chart under the heading "What does a good friend act like?"

Today we will hear of two special friends from the Bible. Just as God gave these special friends to each other, God gave us friends!

This is a good time to ask what the children already know about David and Jonathan.



LESSON BODY:

It is recommended to watch the given video at the start of the lesson.

After David defeated Goliath, King Saul invited him to his house where David met his son Jonathan. Jonathan, who was King Saul's son, saw David and wanted to be his best friend. Jonathan wanted to be such close friends with David that he gave him his robe, bow, and weapons.

Encourage the children to have a discussion about what they give to their friends.

King Saul wanted to send David to fight in battles when he was living with him. When David started winning the fights, King Saul became jealous and wanted to hurt David.

Discuss with the children what jealousy is and if it was right for King Saul to want to hurt David. Get answers from the children to see what they think will happen after.

Before King Saul could hurt David, Jonathan ran to warn David about what was going to happen and he told him that he should go hide from King Saul.

Consider asking the children what a good friend does, and if they have ever helped out a friend.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Friendship Quiver and Arrows Craft¹²:

1. Cover a Pringles can (or similar object) with construction paper for each child.
2. Pre-write today's memory verse on the construction paper. Glue a small piece of brown



¹² Duvall, R. (2012). Best Friends: David and Jonathan. Retrieved 17 July 2020, from <http://handsonbibleteacher.blogspot.com/2012/03/best-friends-david-and-jonathan.html>



- yarn around the top and bottom circumference of the can.
3. Glue another piece of yarn from the top of the can to the bottom creating the Quiver.
 4. Make enough arrows out of construction paper (different colors) before the class so that each child can have three arrows.
 5. Give each child their three arrows and help them write one "good friend" quality on each arrow.
 6. Glue a triangle at the top of each arrow and a tail at the bottom of each arrow, a triangle made from white construction paper and tails made from assorted colors.

Backwards Mindfield Walk Activity¹³:

1. Put the children into pairs. One person will be the walker and the other person will give directions.
2. Set up a "minefield" with a variety of obstacles that the children must avoid. You can use chairs, tables, toys, cones or any other objects you have available.
3. The walker must walk backwards through the minefield without stepping on or bumping into anything. They must also avoid bumping into other children walking through the minefield. They must trust their partner to guide them safely through the minefield telling them how many steps and in which direction. If a walker gets nervous and turns around, the pair has to start over. Alternatively, the children can be blindfolded and walk forward if that is easier.
4. When a team successfully makes it through, have them switch places and repeat the exercise.



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's People: David and Jonathan \(1:32\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Let a couple of the children retell the story of Jonathan and David to you or each other in partners.

Questions:

- Who did David live with after he won against the great giant Goliath? (King Saul)
- How did Saul's son Jonathan feel about David? How did Jonathan show David what a good friend he was? (Jonathan loved David, He gave David his robe and weapons).
- When David became successful in all he did, how did Saul feel? What did Saul do to try to get rid of David? (King Saul became jealous and angry at David. Jonathan warned David of what his father was planning).
- Jonathan was such a good friend to David. What did he do to help David stay safe and show what a good friend he was? (Jonathan went to his father and convinced him not to harm David).
- We know that God gave us friends as God gave us everything! Why do you think God thought it was important to give us friends? (Accept all responses.)

¹³ By, W., Hughes, Z., & About the Author Based in Los Angeles. (1970, September 26). Trust-Building Exercises for Kids. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://howtoadult.com/trustbuilding-exercises-kids-10797.html>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- What can we do to be a good friend to others? (Explain that the best way to have a friend is to be a good friend to others)
- How can I help my friend if they are not having a good day? (Give them a hug, share with them, make them laugh, etc.)
- How can we show appreciation to our friends? (Give them hugs, give them gifts, tell them that they are important to you, say thank you when they do something nice)

Conclude by reiterating that a true friendship creates a bond of love. It causes people to care as much about what the other person wants as about what they want. Remind them that Jesus Christ is a true friend too, and we should be like Him the way that Jonathan and David were like him too.



Lesson 2.4 - God Gave us the Church: We Are The Body of Christ

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, and “Mr. Potato Head” doll, or an outline of a face printed with cutouts of the ears, eyes, nose, and mouth and tape.

Craft: [Church cutout](#), markers.

Video: [New Vintage Kids: 1 Corinthians 12 12-27 BIBLE STORIES FOR KIDS | Mr Potato Head | One Body Many Parts \(2:35\)](#)

Song: [New Vintage Kids: You Are the Body of Christ SONG | 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 | Kids Bible Songs \(1:21\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will display an understanding that the Church is the Body of Christ and we are all members of His body.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Body of Christ, Unity, and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.



I Corinthians 12:27

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

[New Vintage Kids: 1 Corinthians 12 12-27 BIBLE STORIES FOR KIDS | Mr Potato Head | One Body Many Parts \(2:35\)](#)

After watching the video with the children, share with the children a “Mr. Potato Head” doll (taken apart).



Explain to the children that a person's body is one thing but has many parts. While you're putting the doll together tell the children that while a body has many parts, it is still one body.

The Church is like that too! All of us are like different parts, but when we come together in unity, we form the Body of Christ.



LESSON BODY:

Before class, trace around somebody's body on big construction paper. Roll the body tracing out onto a table. Let each of them write their name inside of the traced body.

We are all part of the Body of Christ, and our Church as one is the body of Christ. What are some skills, talents and tasks that they can take part of in Church to help it come together as one (e.g. being quiet during liturgy, helping put books away, volunteering to pass out the "communion veils" before communion or pick them up after communion, letting someone go before us for Korban, being kind to one another in Sunday School, sharing toys, smiling to other children, etc.).

Invite the children to illustrate their ideas spreading them throughout the traced body around their names. Label the paper: "The Body of Christ" and display the completed work on the wall. Ask the children to get up, and tell them that you will be asking them to do a couple of things using their bodies.

Ask the children if they can...

- Clap with only 1 hand as loud as you can?
- Can you walk with one leg?
- Put up seven fingers using only one hand?
- Can you look behind you without twisting your body? (while facing forward).
- Say hello to your friend without moving your lips at all?
- Breathe in through your nose while you have your fingers pinched on it?

Just as we cannot do any of these things alone, we need the help of others around us to be a functioning Body of Christ. The Body of Christ means that God put us all into a community with other Christians to help each other, and together we can make each other stronger and better. We can use gifts and talents that we have to benefit others, and they can use the strengths God gave them to help us. Just like you need both hands to clap or you need two hands to show seven fingers, you need the many parts of the body of Christ to all to use their strengths to help each other be all that God wants us to be and hopes for us to be.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Coloring the Church Craft:

1. Print and cut out the [Church cutout](#) before class.
2. Invite the kids to color their individual Church and add their names below their illustration.



3. Let the kids glue their colored Church on a bigger piece of construction paper.
4. Write for the kids “The Church is the body of Christ” at the top of the paper.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Sing the following song to review the ideas of the lesson together.

[New Vintage Kids: You Are the Body of Christ SONG | 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 | Kids Bible Songs \(1:20\)](#)

Questions:

- What is the Church? (The Church is The Body of Christ. We are all part of the church and we are all little parts of the whole Body of Christ).
- What are some of the things we can do to show that we are all part of the Body of Christ? (Help out at Church, clean up after yourself when you are in the Church, etc.)

Conclude by saying that God created each one of us unique and different so we can come together and become one whole and unique body, The Body of Christ.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Some ways we can help other people in the Church to be the Body of Christ include:

- Be generous with what you have.
- Share your skills and talents with others.
- Give to others who are needy.
- Offer to help someone.
- Smile.



Lesson 2.5 - God Gives Us Caregivers: Priesthood

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, and flashlight (or other small light).

Craft: Construction paper (fold in half to create a card), markers, crayons, and poster paper.

Video: [Care Bear's Bible Stories for Kids: 56 Jesus Chooses His Disciples \(1:20\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that God gave us caregivers, such as priests, to lead us and guide us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Caring, Obedience, and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



And he set the priests in their duties and encouraged them for the service of the house of the Lord.



Chronicles 35:2

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Using chart paper or a whiteboard, discuss the following questions with the children:

- What is a caregiver? (A person that takes care of us; they teach and lead us in the right direction).
- Who are some caregivers in our lives? (mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, teacher, nurse, doctor etc.).
- What about Abouna, is he a caregiver? (Yes).

Use a flashlight, a small lamp, or the light fixture in your classroom to help illustrate how Abouna can guide and teach us. Ask the children if they are able to walk in a dark room without light (no). Show them how a flashlight or small light can help them walk along the way.

Consider having a discussion with the kids about how Abouna can be like a guiding light for us in a dark room. We can listen to him and his advice which he gives to us because he cares for us and God asked him to take care of His children.



LESSON BODY:

Begin the lesson by gathering information from the children about what they already know about the disciples and how Jesus chose them.

Jesus called the friends who always followed him and made 12 of them Apostles. The people Jesus chose to be His disciples were Simon, who had another name that was Peter, and his brother. James, John, Philip, and Bartholomew also followed Jesus, but there were more! There was also Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas. All together Jesus had 12 people that were very close to him. All of the disciples followed Jesus and learned everything from Him. They were the very first ones to become priests, like Abouna! Just like Abouna encourages us to learn about the Church and Jesus, the disciples did this too.

Consider having a discussion with the children about what else Abouna does and what they think the disciples did too.

- Teach the Gospel.
- Baptizing people.
- Celebrating the sacraments.
- Visiting the sick.
- Bringing us all to Christ.

Encourage the kids to discuss how Abouna shows everyone how to be a child of God.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Thank You Cards for Abouna¹⁴:

1. Using crayons and markers and the construction paper for each child to have.
2. Write "Thank you Abouna _____" on the front and allow the children to write or draw a message to Abouna.



¹⁴ A cute way to say thank you to a classroom visitor, room mother, secretary etc. st...: Teacher appreciation crafts, Teacher thank you cards, Teacher gifts from class. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/164803667586831240/>



3. Place the cards on a poster board (like the picture below).
4. If time permits, allow the kids to bring the poster to Abouna. You could also take the poster to Abouna and take a quick video of Abouna receiving the poster and ask him to say a few words. Then you could show the video to the children in the following class.



VIDEO:

[Care Bear's Bible Stories for Kids: 56 Jesus Chooses His Disciples \(1:20\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Ask the children to review the lesson by naming ways that Abouna is a caregiver.

Optional: Using prepared pictures that show Abouna carrying out some of the above duties, (teaching the Gospel, baptizing, administering the sacrament etc.) allow the children to glue the pictures to a poster board labeled "Abouna is a caregiver!"



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can we show Abouna that we are happy that he is part of our church? (Thank him for everything he does for us, do not talk in Liturgy, making sure we are paying attention in the sermon.)
- How can we show thankfulness to our caregivers (Being a good listener, being obedient, being helpful).



Lesson 2.6 - God Gave us His Word: The Bible

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: One Bible, and various children's books.

Craft: Construction paper, copied worksheets, scissors, glue, sticks, stapler, yarn and crayons.

Video: [What is the Bible?: Crossroads Kids' Club \(0:53\)](#)

Song: B-I-B-L-E Song with updated words.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn that God gave us His Word through the Bible, and that this Scripture is different from any other book.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faithfulness and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

All scripture is given by inspiration of God.

”

2 Timothy 3:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Sing the following song in tune of [“The B-I-B-L-E”](#):

The B-I-B-L-E

It is God's Word to me;

I will obey God's Holy Word,



The B-I-B-L-E.

The B-I-B-L-E

Yes, it's the book for me;

I love to hear the stories from

The B-I-B-L-E.

The B-I-B-L-E;

Its stories help me see

The love of Jesus, God's own Son;

The B-I-B-L-E.



LESSON BODY:

Have the children sit in a circle, around a table or on the ground, and lay various children's books and a Bible on a table or the ground beside the kids. Begin a discussion on books in general.

Consider asking the children what books they have at home, what they do with them and if they like reading books.

Allow time for each child to express their thoughts and ideas.

Children can each choose a book. Give time for each child to open their book and explore it. Then continue the previous discussion and help them to identify the elements of a book (i.e. the cover, title, author, pages, words, etc).

Have the child who picked up the Bible hold it up. Explain that the Bible is different from the other books in the room. Point out the physical differences and then move into the differences in content. State that the Bible is:

- God's message written to humans.
- A book that helps us to know how to live our lives in order to please God.
- A book that contains many smaller books, all teaching us about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian.
- A book that was written over 1600 years ago.
- People sometimes call the Bible other things like: Scripture, God's Word, Truth, the Law, Commandments, etc.
- Show that the Bible sometimes talks about itself within its pages. Show them today's memory verse as an example.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Things I Know About The Bible Craft:

1. Activity Preparation: Fold 3 construction papers together and staple the middle, making the construction paper become a book. Gather other materials needed: copied worksheets, scissors, glue, sticks, hole punch, yarn and crayons. Print and cut out “Things I know about the Bible”.
2. Let the kids glue on the title on the front page of the book and ask them to use the markers to write their names as the authors.
3. Let them write or draw inside the book something they know/learnt about the Bible. When everyone is done and time permits allow the children to share with each other or the class what they wrote/drew.

Old Time Telephone Activity¹⁵:

1. Have the children sit in a circle and have the teacher tell one child a phrase and have them pass it on to one another by whispering it in their ears.
2. When the phrase has gone around the circle ask the last child to say what they heard and have the first child say what the phrase originally was.
3. Play the round 2 or 3 times depending on the size of the class.

Conclude by discussing with the children that it would be hard for the people who wrote the different books of the Bible to do it on their own from their own memory. They need the help of the Holy Spirit and God, which is why we see the Bible as a gift to us.



VIDEO:

[What is the Bible?: Crossroads Kids' Club \(0:53\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will review how the Bible is different from any other book by making “Things I Know About the Bible” Craft.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS

¹⁵ The Inspired Word of God. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/lessons/spiritual-life/the-bible/the-inspired-word-of-god>



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- What are some ways I can appreciate the gift of the Word of God in my life? (Reading the Bible, living our lives with obedience to the Bible, etc.).
- Encourage the children to ask their parents for a Bible story instead of a bedtime story.

Lesson 2.7 - God Wants Us To Help The Poor: St. Abraam

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: "[Anba Abraam: Late Bishop of Fayoum, Merciful and Giving](#)", *A Friend of the Poor: St. Abraam Bishop of Fayum* by Sherry Fanous on [Amazon](#) (optional; online reading in video link below), Monopoly money or print out fake money (only one dollar bills), costumes, and props for skit (see lesson body).

Craft: Construction paper, pencils, markers, stickers, and crayons.

Video: [St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church: Anba Abram Lesson \(9:56\)](#)

Song: [Blessed are those who have mercy \(CYC\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the story of St. Abraam and develop an understanding of what it means to give generously and sacrificially and why we should be doing so.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity and Helpfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

For God loves a cheerful giver.

”

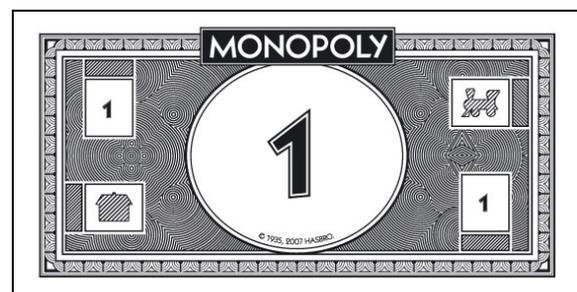
2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Children will be given fake money, with each child having a different amount. They will use this money to “buy” pictures of items that are on the board or table. They are allowed to give money to other children if they choose to. They must count their money before buying anything





or giving money to another child. Use 1\$ bills so the children will be able to count them and don't make the items for sale too expensive.

After the activity, ask children how much money they started with and how much money they have now. The goal of this activity is not to teach them how to exchange money but to think about how much money they chose to give away versus how much they chose to spend.¹⁶

The lesson for today is a story about a wonderful man that used to give out all his money to the poor, this man's name is Anba Abraam.



LESSON BODY:

Servants can use the following [resource](#) for more information on the story of Anba Abraam. Alternatively, consider purchasing *A Friend of the Poor: St. Abraam Bishop of Fayum* by Sherry Fanous on [Amazon](#). A reading of this children's book is provided in the linked video below.

Summarize Anba Abraam's biography with the children.

This lesson may be given as a skit to better engage this age group. The servant should prepare props (e.g. a shawl) for the children.

Anba Abraam was a very intelligent young boy who was born to a Christian family. His parents were very righteous and loved God. Since he was young, he loved prayers and psalms, and discovered in them how God can bless his life and fill his heart.

Anba Abraam was famous for how generous and loving he was to the poor; he was not selfish. His food and clothing were just bare necessities. His ambition never looked up to the glory of higher ranks or positions. When the Patriarch wanted to promote him to the rank of metropolitan, he apologized saying that the Holy Bible did not mention any ranks in the priesthood except the ranks of the priest and the bishop.

Anba Abraam gave the poor all what he had of his belongings. He offered clothing to those who had no clothes and food to those who were hungry. He never allowed anyone to offer him food that was better than that offered to the poor. Once he went down to visit the poor while they were eating and found that the food he was offered that day was better than that offered to them. He became very sad, and immediately let the nun supervising the feeding service of the poor leave her duties..

There are so many stories that show how generous Anba Abraam was. Here is one: One day, a poor woman came to him asking for money, but Anba Abraam did not have any money to give her. Instead, he gave her a shawl that was gifted to him and he told her to sell it. She went to the market to sell it and the man who bought it for Anba Abraam bought it from her and regifted it to Anba Abraam again.

Consider introducing the memory verse at this point.

¹⁶ Monopoly, M. (2011, March 24). First Article - published by Mr. Monopoly on day 1,220 - page 1 of 1. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://m.erepublik.com/en/article/-mm-first-article-1722543/1/20>.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Helping Hands¹⁷:

Help children trace their hands on a piece of construction paper. Make sure the children write their names in the center of the palm. Children can decorate their hand however they would like. This is their *Helping Hand*. It should give them a reminder to always give help when it is needed.

While children are decorating their *Helping Hands*, have a discussion with them. Ask questions to get them thinking.

Questions:

1. “Who can you help?” (e.g. their mom or dad, grandparents, teachers, brothers or sisters, friends, etc.)
2. “What can you do to help others?” (e.g. help their parents by doing housework, help siblings or friends with homework, help take care of their little brother or sister, help teachers clean the classroom, etc.)
3. After the craft is complete and each children has completed their Helping Hands, ask: Why does God want us to give help to others? (To be more like Him.)



VIDEO:

[St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church: Anba Abram Lesson \(9:56\)](#)

**This video is intended for grade 3-4, but can be adapted for this age group by choosing specific clips from the video (e.g.. book reading). This video is also very long for kindergarten, so consider shortening it when you present.*

Questions:

- What is a bishop? (He looks after and leads the other monks of the monastery).
- Why is it amazing that St. Abraam gave the woman his shawl? (It was his only shawl that was supposed to keep him warm in winter).
- What are some ways I can be a cheerful giver? (My time, my gifts and talents, helping my parents, etc.).



SONG:

¹⁷ Artistic Creations Cutouts, Bright Hand, Medium: Cutout, Creation, Artist. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/445926800585979848/>



[Blessed are those who have mercy \(CYC\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Ask the children to identify some ways Anba Abraam showed his love and kindness? (e.g. giving his nice robe to someone who needed a robe or giving the expensive furniture to the poor etc.)

What are some ways that you can give of what you have to others? (It doesn't have to be money! It could be our time, even a hug can really help anyone that is not having a good day.)

You can give some of your allowance to the offering plate on Sunday. You could share your jump rope with a friend. You could share your toys with your brother or sister even when you want to play with them all by yourself. You can give away your time to help someone who needs you.

God loves those who give generously and sacrificially!



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can you be a cheerful giver this week? (By sharing with others, even if we do not want to.)
- God wants us to help others. When we do, we grow into the people that God wants us to be, and God won't forget the things we do. God is pleased with you when you help others!
- One great way we help others and show God how much we love Him is to share with others what God has done for us what He has given us.
- A child that gives with a smile on their face makes God smile!
- When my parents ask me to give my favorite toy to my sibling to play with, should I be angry about it? (No! We should always be willing to give to others!)
- What do you think God will do if you give someone your toy to play with? (He will always remember that you showed love and He will always make you happy.)



Lesson 2.8S - The Birth of Jesus

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Nativity set (child friendly), baby doll, and blanket.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 1: 18-25, Luke 2:1-7

Game/Activity: Flashlight, sheer blindfold.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Christmas \(3:42\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to retell the Nativity story, celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus, and understand His infinite love for us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love, Hope, and Forgiveness.



MEMORY VERSE:



And she (Mary) brought forth her firstborn Son...



Luke 2:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Act out the whole verse: *“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”* (Luke 2:7). She brought forth her firstborn Son (*act out rocking a baby,*) and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. (*Then, wrap a pretend baby in a blanket,*) and lay Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. (*Pretend to gently lay the baby down.*)



Share with the children an actual nativity set and let the children gather around the table that has the nativity set. Before placing each character in the crèche ask the children what they already know and gauge their prior knowledge. Make sure this is a nativity set that is kid friendly.



LESSON BODY:

There was a woman named Mary and she became pregnant with the power of the Holy Spirit. She was going to marry a man she knew called Joseph but he was not sure if he was going to marry her. Then an angel of God appeared to Joseph and told him that he should marry Mary, and that her child, Jesus, would save His people from their sins.

At that time there was a ruler in the land named Caesar Augustus and he passed a law that said everyone needed to go back to their hometown to count the amount of people in the country. So, Joseph had to travel back to his city that was called Bethlehem so that they could be registered.

When Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem they needed a place to stay because Mary was going to have a baby, but they could not find any space at the inn, so they stayed in the barn because it was empty. Mary had baby Jesus, but she did not have any clothes for him, so she wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger surrounded by the barn animals.

Consider moving the character statues as you tell this part of the story. Emphasize to the children that because Jesus loved us so much he was willing to be born in a barn.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Follow The Star:

1. One teacher will be the “guiding star” (holding a flashlight)
2. The wise men who are searching for the newborn king will be multiple or one child at a time to be picked and blindfolded with a sheer-ish piece of cloth (to prevent injuries but also not too easy for them to find the newborn)
3. The teacher will stand near the “newborn” holding the flashlight.
4. The newborn will be picked randomly for the first game and then in the next game it would be one of the wise men that didn’t find the newborn first
5. The person who was the first of the wise men to find the newborn while being guided by the star can pick the next wise men.



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Christmas \(3:42\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will retell the story of the Nativity with prompts from you, using the video as a guide. You may include some props from home or the Nativity set used in the opening if you wish.

Questions:

- Where did Mary and Joseph go to have Jesus? (Bethlehem).
- Why did they go there? (People needed to go back to their hometowns to get counted.)
- Was there any place for them to stay? (No, all the inns were full.)
- Where was Jesus born? (A Manger.)
- Why did Jesus come to earth? (He loves us so much that He came so we can live with him forever in Heaven. Jesus came to help us erase all the sins we do everyday.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth because God loves us so much! How can we share God's message of love? (By being kind, giving to others, sharing, forgiving the people who hurt us, etc.)



Lesson 2.9 - Concept of Sharing and Building Block 2 Review

Building Block 2
God's Love is Giving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Inflatable beach ball, and a black marker.

Craft: Wide mouth container or a jar 1 per child (oatmeal containers or peanut butter containers work well), blue and red construction paper (cut to fit containers), crayons, tape, and stickers.

Song: [InfinityPointOne: The Sharing Song \(2:43\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the concept of sharing by answering discussion questions. They will also review Building Block 2.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Sharing



MEMORY VERSE:



But do not forget to do good and to share...



Hebrew 13:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

[InfinityPointOne: The Sharing Song \(2:43\)](#)

Give each child one crayon (each with different colors) and one piece of paper.

Have the children draw a rainbow on their pieces of paper; observe the children to see if they come to the conclusion that they need to share the crayons in order to finish drawing their rainbows. If it is clear that the children are not understanding this, explain to them that if they do not share the crayons with one another, they will not be able to finish drawing their rainbows. God wants us to share with others!



Sing the song linked above with the children, encouraging them to sing with you.



LESSON BODY:

The body of this lesson kept a bit short to allow time for Building Block 2 review.

Questions:

- How do you feel when someone shares with you? (Happy).
- What does God tell us about sharing? (That we should share everything with others).
- What can we share with others? (Our time, effort).

Review



REVIEW OF BUILDING BLOCK 2:

Prior to the beginning of class, use a black marker to draw shaped spaces on a beach ball (like a puzzle). Write memory verses from each unit taught during Building Block II in the spaces. Blow up the beach ball.

Explain to the children that we are going to play a game that will help us remember all what we have learned in the past month or so.

Gently toss the beach ball to one of the children. When they catch the ball say, "Right Hand" or "Left Hand". Help the child read the memory verse their hand landed on and have the other children repeat the verse with you. Then have them toss the ball back to the teacher and continue the game.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

God wants us to show our love for one another by sharing; sharing our time, our talents (gifts), our toys, food, money etc. By sharing with others we bless others and in turn we are blessed.

- How are you going to share with your family this week? (Share my toys, help my parents, etc.)

Remember: God loves a cheerful giver!



Building Block 3: God's Love Is Kind

Lesson 3.IS* - Jonah's Fast

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind

*Note this Lesson will need to be moved in order to be given the Sunday prior to Jonah's Fast. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, blue bucket (blue paper), black poster board, lemon Jell-O, and items from home (bouncy balls, plastic toys, etc. and a plastic figure who looks as if he could be Jonah).

Scripture Reference: Jonah 1

Craft: Wooden clothes pin, crayons/markers/colored pencils, blue foam board, glue sticks, and scissors.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids - Jonah and the Whale \(5.51\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will display an understanding of God's love and care for them even if they have disobeyed His word.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Forgiveness.



MEMORY VERSE:



I cried out to the Lord...and He answered me



Jonah 2:2

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



In the Belly of a Great Fish:

Consider asking the children if they have heard the story of Jonah, charting what they might already know.

Tell the children that today we are going to look for Jonah in the belly of the great fish! Wrap a bucket with blue paper (or use a blue bucket). Cut a great fish from black poster board (be sure to give him a big mouth) and stick it on the front of the bucket. Make enough lemon Jell-O to fill the bucket two-thirds of the way.

After filling the bucket with the Jell-O add some items from home; bouncy balls, plastic toys etc. and a figure of someone who looks as if he could be Jonah! Ask the children to reach into the bucket to see if they can find Jonah! Talk to the children about what it must have been like for Jonah inside the great fish. Make sure to remind the children to wash their hands after they finish the activity.



LESSON BODY:

One day, the word of the Lord came to Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh, and to go and to cry out against the people there. But Jonah decided to run away from the Lord, and he went to a place called Joppa and there, he went on a boat.

Consider discussing with the children reasons for why Jonah may have run away from the Lord - not doing as He asked. Ask them about how often we may be doing this. Do we not often choose to do things other than the Lord has asked of us? For example, do we not sometimes upset our brothers or sisters, fathers or mothers, or teachers?

While Jonah was at sea, the Lord sent out a mighty windy storm in the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. Then the others who were with Jonah on the boat were afraid, and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. In the meantime, Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

So the captain came to him, and told him to wake up, and call on his God that He may save them from death. Then, they decided to cast lots to find out who has caused this to happen. So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they asked him to tell them about himself. So he said to them, "...I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." He told them that he had run away from the presence of the Lord.

So the men were really scared, and asked him about why he had done this and what they should do to calm the sea. So Jonah responded and told them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm."

At this point, you may ask the children what they think may happen with Jonah. Do you think God cares for him? Do you think God still loves him? (Yes!) Really? Even though Jonah did not do as the Lord asked? Bring to their attention, that regardless of how much we may be far away from God, He will always love us; He will always care for us; He will always be there for us. Why? For we are His children.

The men on the boat tried to row hard to get back to the land, but they could not. So, they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea became calm. Then the men were really scared, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord.

As for Jonah, when he was thrown into the water, it was that the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Like Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days, and three nights, we fast for three days.

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly. And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. The Lord then asked Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, and he followed what the Lord asked of him and went.

Consider asking the children these questions:

- Did Jonah listen to God? (No).
- What did he do instead? (He got on a boat going in a different way.)
- What happened when Jonah got onto the boat? (There was a big storm with crashing waves.)
- What did Jonah tell the people on the boat to do? (He told them to throw him off the boat.)
- How many nights was Jonah in the belly of the whale for? (Three days and three nights.)

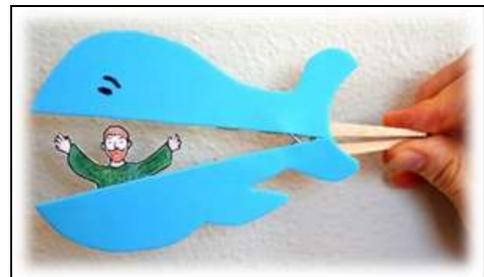
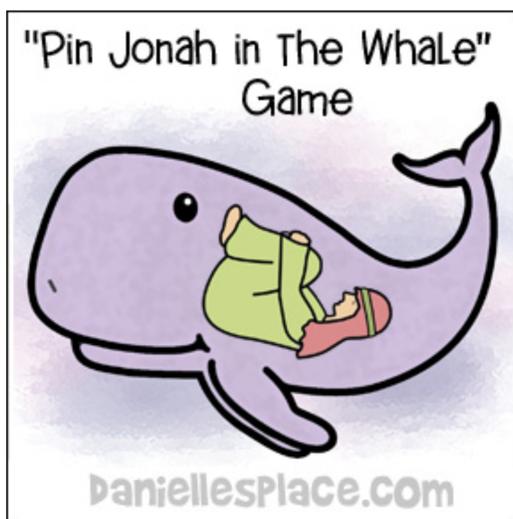
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Jonah and the Great Fish¹⁸: Before the class begins, cut [this picture of Jonah and the big fish](#) (on the blue foam board), make sure to cut the great fish in half, following the line. Have the children glue the top half of the great fish on the top of the clothespin and the bottom half on the lower part of the clothes pin and then glue the cut out of Jonah on the bottom half of the pin behind the great fish cut out.

Pin Jonah in the Great Fish:



"1. Before class tape two pieces of cardstock together and draw a large whale shape covering the entire sheet. (See diagram to the left.) Also draw a picture of Jonah that will fit inside the shape of the whale and make copies or use clipart.

2. In class have your children color the pictures of Jonah.

3. Tape the whale picture on a wall so that your children can reach it easily.

4. Blindfold the children and have them take turns trying to tape Jonah inside the whale. Once a child has taped up his or

¹⁸ JONAH and the GREAT FISH Craft [PDF]. (n.d.). www.HisWonderousWorks.com



her Jonah, take off the blindfold and show the child where his or her Jonah picture ended up on the whale.”¹⁹



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids - Jonah and the Whale \(5:51\)](#)

Consider pausing the video every once and awhile to explain any difficult concepts.



SONG:

[The Beginners Bible, Songs of the Bible: Jonah and the Whale Song \(2:55\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have the children make the motions that go along with the key words written in **bold** print!

Tell the story with the children:

One day God told Jonah, “**Go** to Nineveh. Tell the people that they have disobeyed me!

But Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh, so he disobeyed God and got on a boat that was going the other way! He went down to the bottom of the boat and went to **sleep**.

God sent a big storm with crashing waves. All the sailors were very afraid! But Jonah knew that God sent the storm because Jonah disobeyed him. Jonah told the sailors “Throw me into the ocean then the storm will stop.” One, two, THREE! The soldiers threw Jonah into the water and the waves stopped crashing.

The boat was safe, but Jonah was in the ocean! Then God sent a huge **fish** that opened its mouth wide and then WHOOSH! Jonah was in the belly of the big fish!

Jonah began to **pray**. He asked God to forgive him and thanked God for rescuing him, even though he disobeyed him. Jonah prayed and he waited...for three days! Then God sent the big fish back to land. The fish began to **cough** and choke and he coughed Jonah right up onto the beach!



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS

¹⁹ Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Jonah Sunday School Lesson for Children. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/rrsampleprejonah.html>



LIFE APPLICATION:

How can we practice obedience when we are at home?

- The Bible tells us to do everything the Lord has said. Obeying means we say “yes” to what God tells us to do and then we do it!

What are some of the things God has asked us to do?

- To love others.
- To share.
- To listen to our parents.

What are other things God asks us to do?

- God loves us so much that He is willing to forgive us when we tell Him we are sorry, and go to confession. *Although the children may not know much about confession, and may not be partaking of the sacrament yet, it is important to start bringing up the idea that it is through the sacrament of confession that we get forgiveness of sins.*



Lesson 3.2 - God Hears and Answers our Prayers

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, simple props for retelling story, and cardstock.

Scripture Reference: Luke 1: 5-19 & 57-64

Craft: Paper plates, yarn, stickers, crayons, tape/stapler, and markers.

Video: [SharFaith Kids - The Bible Story of Elizabeth](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding that we must remember to obey God and that He hears our prayers and answers them at the right time.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayer and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...your prayer is heard...

”

Luke 1:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The Quiet Game:

The quiet game simply requires that all children sit quietly for a set period of time, such as five minutes. Once all the children have entered the classroom, tell them that they must not talk or move for five minutes, and whoever is not quiet is out.

Following the game consider asking the children what it would be like to go a whole day or even a week without speaking. Relate this to what had happened to Zacharias.



LESSON BODY:

The lesson is about a priest named Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth. They both loved God very much and obeyed all of His laws. Zacharias and Elizabeth had no children but wanted a child so they prayed and prayed that God would give them a baby.

Consider asking the children if they remember any other stories about people who prayed for children, such as Abraham and Sarah, or Hannah.

Zacharias and Elizabeth were both very old, but they were still obedient to God and still trusted in Him. One day when Zacharias was praying in the temple, the Angel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that Elizabeth would have a son, and his name would be John. The angel told Zacharias that John would prepare the way for the Lord Jesus.

Zacharias was confused, he and Elizabeth were too old to have a child. Since Zacharias doubted God's message, the Angel Gabriel told him that he would not be able to speak until everything the angel said had come to pass.

Once John was born, Elizabeth and Zacharias' relatives asked Elizabeth why the child was not named after his father or his other relatives, since this was the custom. Even though Elizabeth confirmed that his name was John, they still asked Zacharias what name he would choose. Zacharias asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John" (Luke 1:63). After doing this, Zacharias was able to speak once again, and he glorified God.

Consider discussing with the children how Zacharias was obedient to God's will:

- *Zacharias and Elizabeth had prayed for a child for many years, did they receive what they wanted right away? (No, they did not have a child until they were very old.)*
- *Even though they did not get what they wanted right away, did they still trust God? (Yes).*
- *How was Zacharias still obedient? (Even though Zacharias was confused at first, he believed in God and followed His will, naming his child John as he was instructed.)*

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:



Prayer Wall Craft:

1. Give each child a paper plate with the sentence, "God hears me when I pray" written across the top of the plate.
2. Help each child trace their own "praying hands" under the sentence and color it.
3. Allow them to decorate their plate with crayons, stickers etc.



4. Attach yarn to the back of their plate so that they can hang it on a wall/door when they get home!



VIDEO:

[SharFaith Kids - The Bible Story of Elizabeth](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have the children retell the story of Zacharias and Elizabeth using props.

Questions:

- Zacharias and Elizabeth wanted a child of their own. Did God answer their prayers right away? (No).
- What is something that you really wanted? Did you pray for it? (Maybe a new bike, a new toy, etc.)
- Who told Zacharias that God heard their prayers and that Elizabeth would have a baby? (Angel Gabriel).
- How do you think they felt when Angel Gabriel told them the good news? (Happy).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can we trust in God like Zacharias and Elizabeth? (Pray and listen to God, but be patient when asking like Zacharias and Elizabeth.)
 - Emphasize that the children may not always get what they pray for. But we know that God will always provide them with what is right at the right time, because He loves us - even unto death.
- How can we be more obedient in our lives? (Be obedient to our parents and siblings. We can listen to what they tell us to do, we can follow their ask to do our homework, etc.)



Lesson 3.3 - The Miracle of the Five Loaves and Two Fish

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: "Goldfish" crackers, pretzel sticks, plastic containers (large bowls), and spoons (large, wooden).

Craft: Card stock (colorful), yarn, rigatoni, noodles, and a hole punch.

Song: [Miracles: 5 Loaves and 2 Fish \(4:50\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to recognize that Jesus' actions showed God's power and that He cares about His people and their needs.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith and Generosity.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

And whatever we ask we receive from Him

”

1 John 3:22

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Divide the children into teams even in number (number of teams is dependent on how many children you have). Set up two chairs directly across from each other for each team, one at the start and one at the finish. Place a container in each chair. In each container, at the start, place "Goldfish" and pretzel sticks.

Have the children line up behind the starting chair. The first child in each line should have a large spoon. The first child in each line will scoop up as many "loaves and fish" as he/she can and walk quickly to the container in the other chair, trying not to spill anything.



He/she will dump whatever is left in the spoon into the container and walk quickly back to the start and hand the spoon to the next person in line.

Repeat for about five minutes. At the end, whoever has the most in their container (the container that had been empty to start with) wins! Emphasize the connection to the story; Jesus was given five loaves of bread and two fish and fed 5,000 people.



LESSON BODY:

The following lesson about the five loaves and two fish has been adapted from Matthew 14:13-22.

There was a day when a huge group of 5,000 people was following Jesus and it was almost night time and the people were getting very hungry. So Jesus' disciples told him to send the people back home, but Jesus told them not to; He told His disciples to give the people something to eat. The only food that the disciples had was five loaves of bread and two fish so Jesus told them to bring the food to Him.

Now would be a good time to begin to discuss with the children what they think God did with the food.

Then Jesus took the five loaves and two fish and began to break up the food as He prayed. When He was finished, He told His disciples to feed the people; everyone ate and was full. They were no longer hungry. When all the people went to go home, Jesus asked the disciples to gather all of the food that was leftover. When the disciples came back to Jesus, there were 12 baskets that were full of leftover food.

Share with the children that having faith is a very important thing to have. Even if something seems very hard to do, like feeding 5,000 people with such little food, it is always possible for God.

Discuss that we should always have faith, and that with it, we can do many things that seem very hard at first.

In the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 9:10-16), when the disciples asked the Lord to send the multitude away that they may go and lodge and get something to eat, the Lord told them, "**You** give them something to eat" (Luke 8:13). So even though the disciples did not have much to give, they gave what they had, and the Lord blessed it. Likewise, let us do the same. In faith, we can give what we have, and ask the Lord to bless it.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Fish and Loaves Necklace:

Each child will need a pre-cut piece of yarn (large enough to go over their head), five rigatoni noodles and two fish (pre-cut from colorful card stock, with a hole punch for threading on yarn.) You may place all of this on a paper plate for organization.



Instruct the children to thread their "loaves" and "fish" onto their yarn (wrap a small piece of tape at the end of the yarn for easy threading). Tie a knot to form the completed necklaces.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How many loaves and fish did they have to start off? (Five loaves, two fish).
- How many people were standing around Jesus? (5,000).
- Which disciple did Jesus first ask what to do? (Phillip).
- How many baskets of leftovers were there? (12).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Explain to the children that even though we may not have much to give to our Lord Jesus to bless, we can bring what we have, and allow the Lord to do the rest.

Encourage the children to provide other ways that they can help others at school, home or church, even if it seems small.

- Helping our parents do chores at home even if they seem small
- Sharing our toys with someone with someone who does not have any
- Helping do small tasks at church (e.g. holding the communion napkins, getting communion cups, gathering liturgy books, grabbing the head scarfs, etc.)



Lesson 3.4S - The Feast of the Holy Epiphany

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Tarnished pennies, vinegar, salt, water, and a clear jar.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 3

Craft: [Baptism printable](#); baptism picture, clipart doves, clipart clouds, popsicle sticks, and blue cups (to represent water).

Video: [CYC 365 \(136\) Epiphany \(7:30\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

After hearing the story of Jesus' baptism, the children will be able to retell the story and be able to recognize one of the reasons why our Lord Jesus was baptized.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Forgiveness.



MEMORY VERSE:



This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.



Matthew 3:17

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Before beginning the lesson, tell the children that today they will hear the story of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist and share icons of Jesus' baptism. Find a few tarnished pennies. They do not need to be dirty and black, just tarnished/off color. Mix vinegar and lots of salt together and show the children how the pennies become clean after being washed. Relate this activity to baptism; we are like the pennies and after we are baptized, and like the pennies were cleaned, we are completely clean from any mistakes we have made. For this reason, we are baptized, allowing us to be members of the Body of Christ.



Consider describing the Body of Christ in a simpler manner to the children, such as “part of God’s family”.



LESSON BODY:

The following story of Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist is based on Matthew 3:13-17

Consider asking the children first if they know anything about the story of Jesus’ baptism, and writing it down on a whiteboard or a piece of paper.

One day, Jesus was traveling from Galilee to the Jordan River so that he could be baptized by John. At first John tried to stop Jesus from being baptized.

Encourage the children to discuss why John did not want Jesus to be baptized.

John told Jesus that he was the one who needed to be baptized by Jesus, but Jesus was coming for John to baptize Him. Then, Jesus told John that this must be done because Jesus needed to set an example for us despite Him being without sin. When Jesus came up after being baptized, the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit came down to Jesus, and it was in the form of a dove. Suddenly, John could hear a voice from Heaven that said *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”* (Matthew 3:17).

Consider asking the children whose voice was heard from the heavens. Guide them to the answer that the voice was that of God the Father.

So even though our Lord Jesus did not need to be baptized or receive the Holy Spirit, He did it for us as humans. Since He was baptized, it allowed us to be baptized, be able to have the Holy Spirit live in us and be part of the Body of Christ.

For servant preparation: [Coptic Orthodox Answers: Why did Christ get baptized and receive the Holy Spirit? by Fr. Gabriel Wissa](#)

If suitable, it may be beneficial to take the children to the baptism in the church and take a tour of it. Within the tour, consider highlighting some important elements in the design of the baptism room. For instance, the baptism room is designed to have two doors: the entrance into the baptism room, which is accessed from outside the church, and the exit of the baptism room which leads into the church. This design is symbolic, showing that through baptism, the person (who entered from outside the church) becomes a living member of the church.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Baptism of our Lord Jesus: Print out the [free printable of Jesus and John the Baptist](#) and have the children color it in.

Baptism Craft:

1. Have a coloring sheet that shows the Baptism of the Lord Christ. Also, print a clipart of doves (enough for the class).
2. Glue/tape the dove to the popsicle stick. After making a whole in the bottom of the cup for the popsicle stick, pass it through, so that it may “descend” onto Christ.
3. The image on the right demonstrates a possible look of the craft.²⁰
4. Remind the children that there was also a voice from heaven. You may also stick cliparts of clouds onto the popsicle sticks to demonstrate the voice from heaven. It is important that the children see the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the scene.



VIDEO:

[CYC 365 \(136\) Epiphany \(7:30\)](#)

This video is to help with preparation for the lesson, not for the children to watch.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

Consider discussing the video with the following questions to evaluate their understanding of the lesson.

- What did Jesus say to John to let him know he must baptize Him? (Because Jesus needed to set an example for us despite Him being without sin.)
- Why was Jesus baptized? (So that we could be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit.)
- What allows us to be part of God’s family? (Baptism).
- What happened when Jesus came out of the water? (The Heavens opened and John saw the Holy Spirit come as a dove and rest on Jesus)

²⁰ Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34: Jesus Was Baptized; John the Baptist & Jesus...: Bible crafts preschool, Bible crafts, Sunday school crafts. (n.d.). Retrieved July 18, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/291678513344794736/>



- What did the voice from Heaven say? (“This is My beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”)
- Whose voice was it? (God the Father).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Since we are members of the Body of Christ, what are some ways we can live that way?

- By listening to God’s word/doing what God tells us to do.
- By attending Liturgy services and receiving communion, etc.
- By following our parents’ instructions
- By being kind to one another (E.g. sharing our toys, etc.)
- By not complaining/grumbling



Lesson 3.5 - The Lost Sheep

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, sheep (stuffed animal), simple costumes for shepherds, tax collectors, pharisees, and sheep.

Scripture Reference: Luke 15: 1-7

Craft: White paper lunch bags or craft sacks, lamb paper bag puppet templates (attached), scissors, glue sticks, and crayons.

Video: [The Parable of the Lost Sheep \(3:30\)](#)

Song: [Two by 2: The Lost Sheep Animated Bible Songs \(1:54\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding that God rejoices when we come back to Him and say we are sorry.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Repentance and Forgiveness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

”

Psalm 23:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson with a short game. Have the children close their eyes while the servant hides a stuffed lamb somewhere in the room. Tell the children that you are someone who takes care of animals, like a shepherd who takes care of his/her sheep. Begin the game by saying, “I’ve lost one of my sheep. I think she’s

in this room somewhere. Her name is Rosebud. Do you think you could be a good shepherd and help me find her?

Take the children on a search to find the “lost sheep”. Each time a child finds the stuffed sheep, have the child hold it up and make sheep sounds. Then have the children say, “Jesus loves us and keeps us safe!” Repeat the activity until the children begin to remember the verse. Then explain to the children how this relates to the verse they learned at the start of the lesson and ask them to share the verse.

Review the memory verse “The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). Explain how the verse means that Jesus loves us and keeps us safe, just as a shepherd loves and keeps his/her sheep safe. Consider having the children say the verse with you.



LESSON BODY:

Before describing the parable, ask the children how they feel when they lose something important to them, and how they feel if they find it once again.

Luke 15: 1-7:

This week we are going to learn a parable about the lost sheep. Jesus started telling the story to men called tax collectors and pharisees. These men thought they were more important than everyone else and they were not very nice. They were whispering about Jesus and how He should not eat and talk with the sinners. They did not think they even had to say “sorry” to God for their mistakes. Of course, our Lord Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He told this parable:

Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and lost one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine sheep and go look for the one sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders and he is joyful.

Consider referring back to the previous question, and asking the children how excited they are when they find something they have lost.

Then Jesus told what the parable meant: Just like there was big joy over the one lost sheep, there will be big joy in heaven over just one sinner who repents and says they are sorry.

Just imagine, when you say you are sorry to God, all of heaven is joyful, is really happy, just for what you have done! God is very happy when we say we are sorry and confess because it means we have returned to Him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Sheep Paper Bag Puppet:

1. Have one puppet already complete. Tell the children that their paper bag should be closed and flat. On one side, it is all smooth; this will be the back of your puppet.
2. Glue the muzzle of the sheep onto the head, overlapping the body.





3. Glue the eyes onto the head above the nose.
4. Glue the tongue underneath the flap so you can see part of the circle sticking out from under the muzzle.
5. Glue the ears onto the sides of the head.
6. Glue the hair onto the top of the head or use cotton balls to add some lamb wool to the top of the head.

Relate this activity to the lesson, reiterating that we are this lost sheep, and God is really happy when we return to Him.



VIDEO:

[The Parable of the Lost Sheep \(3:30\)](#)



SONG:

[Animated Bible Songs: The Lost Sheep \(1:54\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will display an understanding of the meaning of the parable of the lost sheep by answering and discussing the following:

- Have you ever been lost? (Yes, maybe, no.)
- How did you feel when you were lost? (Scared, worried, etc.)
- How did you feel when someone found you? (Scared, happy, relieved, etc.)
- If you were lost, who would look for you? (Parents, grandparents, siblings, etc.)
- Why would they look for you? (They would be worried for me.)
- When we do bad things, does God still love us? (Yes, we are His sheep, we are His children, He wants us to return to Him and be with Him.)

Our families love us and look for us when we are lost. Parents like to know where we are because they love us and they want to make sure we are safe. Jesus loves us and wants to keep us safe too; He is our Father and He loves us more than anything.

Remind the children that when people sin, they become lost. That is why Jesus is so happy when we confess, because that means we have returned to Him. We are His beloved sheep, and every time we return, He is very happy.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Sometimes we make mistakes and become lost, how can we return to God? (Praying, reading the Bible with our families, talking to Abouna, confession, etc.)
- What is one way we can fix our mistakes at home? (Apologizing and being honest.)



Lesson 3.6 - Crossing the Red Sea

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, small dish of plain water, pepper shaker, dishwashing detergent, 2 blue tablecloths, cane (Moses' staff), plastic spoons, assorted craft scraps, chenille craft wires, and black construction paper.

Craft: Blue construction paper, brown construction paper/cardstock, scissors, glue sticks, pencils, and "Moses" printable.

Video: [KidsHubTV: Moses and the Red Sea \(3:43\)](#)

Song: [How did Moses Cross the Red Sea - Bible Action Songs \(1:09\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will continue to develop the deep understanding that God loves them and will always take care of them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faithfulness and Thankfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground...

”

Exodus 14:22

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider opening the lesson with a "Pepper Trick":

As you see, I have a small dish of plain water. Now I'm going to take this pepper shaker and shake pepper all over the water. Can you see the pepper floating on top of the water? Now, I want you to watch what happens

when I put my finger into the water and touch the bottom of the dish. Did you see that? What happened? You are right...nothing happened!

Next, I'm going to take just a drop or two of this dishwashing detergent and put it on the tip of my finger. Now I will once again put my finger into the water and touch the bottom of the dish. Now, watch carefully. Wow! Did you see what happened? The pepper all separated and moved to the sides of the dish! That is pretty amazing, isn't it?!

Compare the detergent to God's power. Without God, Moses would not have been able to part the Red Sea, just like the pepper would not move without the detergent. Emphasize that Moses was demonstrating God's power, not his own.



LESSON BODY:

A possible way to present the lesson is as follows: Use puppets (such as the one on the right)²¹ made from plastic spoons to teach part one of the lesson. Use a marker to draw a smiling face on the back of one spoon and a frowning face on the back of the other spoon. Use assorted craft scraps to decorate the smiling spoon to look like Moses and the frowning spoon to look like Pharaoh.



Part 1

God told Moses to go to the Pharaoh of Egypt and tell him to free the Israelite people. Pharaoh was very stubborn; he did not want to let the people go because they were his slaves. God had to show the Egyptian His mighty hand ten times before Pharaoh agreed to free God's people.



Use a paper plate chariot (amend the picture on the left)²² for part two of the lesson. Cut the plate in half and glue rims together. Cut two large circles from black construction paper and glue on either side of the plate for wheels. Bend two chenille wires together to make stick men to place inside the chariot.

Part 2

Pharaoh finally said God's people could leave Egypt, but then he changed his mind. So, he got in his chariot and started chasing them. When Moses reached the Red Sea, God performed a miracle! God opened up the Red Sea and let Moses and the Israelites go across, but when Pharaoh and his chariots got there the water rushed back into the Red Sea and swallowed them up.

When the Israelites were safe on the other side of the Red Sea, they *"believed [in] the Lord and His servant Moses"* (Exodus 14:30). They knew God had taken care of them and they wanted to show their thanks, so they sang praises. (Lead the children in waving their arms and saying, "Praise be to God!")

²¹ 12 Best Spoon craft idea images: Spoon craft, Wooden spoon crafts, Kids. (2018, January 13). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/preschoolplanetus/spoon-craft-idea/>

²² Robyn. (2016, October 11). Back-to-School: Yellow School Bus Craft. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://celebbabylaundry.com/2016/08/back-to-school-yellow-school-bus-craft/>

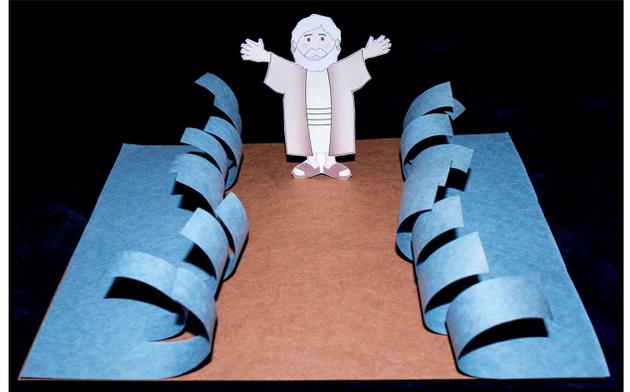
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Moses Parts the Red Sea²³:

Give each child one piece of brown construction paper or card stock and a blue piece of construction paper that has been cut in half, with one inch strips cut along one side of both pieces (leaving ¼ inch edge uncut) and assist the children in gluing on each side of the brown paper. Help the children curl the “waves” using a pencil. Give each child a “Moses” figure, [see template attached](#), printed on cardstock and precut. Cut a double strip of cardstock to position Moses upright. Assist the children in gluing it together.



VIDEO:

[Moses and the Red Sea - KidsHubTV \(3:43\)](#)

Questions:

- What did Pharaoh do when he realized he had let the Israelites go? (He got his chariot and army ready).
- When the Israelites saw Pharaoh coming, what did they do? (They prayed and asked the Lord for help.)
- Were the Israelites mad at Moses? (Yes).
- What did Moses tell them? (Do not be afraid. Be brave and you will see the Lord save you today.)



SONG:

[How did Moses Cross the Red Sea - Bible Action Songs \(1:09\)](#)

²³ Bnwest2. (2017, November 17). Knowledge and Glory. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://27crosses.wordpress.com/2017/02/04/knowledge-and-glory/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Enlist the help of other servants to hold two blue plastic tablecloths, one tablecloth on the left and one on the right. When Moses (allow children to take turns being Moses) raises his rod the helpers raise the waters and the “Israelites” (the other children) cross through on dry land!

Sing the following song to the tune of B-I-N-G-O!

God brought us out of Egypt’s land and safely across the Red Sea! We praise and thank you, Lord! We praise and thank you, Lord! We praise and thank you, Lord we’ll praise your name forever!



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Moses believed that God would not abandon them when they were in danger. If God always protects us, what is something you can do the next time you feel scared? (Answers may vary: Pray, do the sign of the cross, trust in God, talk to Abouna or our parents.)
- How can we show God how thankful we are for His love and protection? (Answers may vary; by praying, reading the Bible with our families, being kind to others.)



Lesson 3.7 - The Miracle of the Man Born Blind

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, drawing paper, pencils, crayons, box/bag and several small objects, and a Bible.

Scriptural Reference: John 9:1-41

Craft: White construction paper, popsicle sticks, crayons, two bowls, and mud.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: Jesus Heals a Blind Man - John 9 | Animated Bible Story For Kids | Sharefaithkids.com \(1:41\)](https://www.sharefaithkids.com/lesson/3-7-the-miracle-of-the-man-born-blind)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of how Jesus shows us compassion through His healing of the blind man.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Compassion, Joy, and Thanksgiving.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...He has opened my eyes!

”

John 9:30

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Living Without Sight:

Give each child a piece of paper and pencil. Have them reach into a box or bag that they cannot see inside and feel one of the several objects such as an acorn or nut, a car key, a stone, a barrette, a ring, an unusual kitchen gadget (be sure there are no sharp objects).

Let them feel it for about 30 seconds and then have them draw what it is on their sheet of paper.

When the children are done drawing, empty the contents of the box or bag for their examination. Have them explain what it was like to try to tell what an object was without the benefit of seeing it!

Invite the children to consider what it would be like to live your whole life without being able to see. Connect this to the faith of the blind man in Christ, who went to the pool of Siloam and washed, even though he was blind (that is, for him to go, was a hard thing.) Mention also the joy of the blind man for being able to see!

Consider introducing a discussion with the children about what the Prophet Isaiah said when he predicted that when the Messiah would come, He would perform many miracles. He would be someone special, the “Son of God”. We are told that He would “open eyes that are blind” (Isaiah 42:7).



LESSON BODY:

John 9:

Today we are going to learn a story about a man who was born blind and then got his sight when Jesus healed him. People who are blind cannot see anything at all; it is like their eyes are always closed! One day as Jesus was walking, His disciples saw a man, sitting on the side of the road who was blind. He could not see the sunshine, the birds, the grass, or the flowers. He could not see the children playing. *Highlight Jesus’ compassion in stopping to help the blind man.*

The blind man felt someone put cool mud on his eyes (put hands on eyes) and say, “Go now and wash in the pool of water.” It was Jesus talking to him!

The blind man went right away to the pool and washed the mud off his eyes. *Invite children to use their hands to “wash” eyes along with you.*

After he washed the man could see! He could see green grass, the yellow flowers, the blue sky, and the children playing. Soon people came to see what happened. “Isn’t this the man who was blind?” they asked.

The man was so excited! *Have the children throw their hands in the air and wave them with joy.* He told them, “A man named Jesus put mud on my eyes and told me to wash in the pool. I did what He said and now I can see!” Later in the story, it is clear that the man believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and he worshipped Him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Blind Man Healed:

1. Preparation for lesson: cut the construction paper into circles, put a little bit of mud in a bowl and fill another bowl with water.





2. Give the children 3 construction paper circles and have them draw faces on each one, One should have sunglasses, the other should have “blind man eyes” and the last should have healed eyes.
3. Spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes and Jesus did, then wash away the mud in the bowl of water as the blind man did in the story.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: Jesus Heals a Blind Man - John 9 | Animated Bible Story For Kids | Sharefaithkids.com \(1:41\)](https://www.sharefaithkids.com/1:41)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by asking the following questions:

- What did our Lord do when He saw the man born blind? (He had compassion for him, and He healed him.)
- How did our Lord Jesus heal the man born blind? (He anointed the blind man with clay, and told him to go wash in the pool of water.)
- Was the man born blind able to see after? (Yes!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

The next time you are sad, mad, or worried, who is always there to help you? (Our Lord Jesus)

Who remembers what compassion means? (Compassion means we care about each other, treat them with kindness, and help others.)

How can we be compassionate to each other? (Help a friend up if they fall. Share a snack to someone who is hungry.)

It is important to be thankful for all that our loving God has given. In what ways can we show God thankfulness for His many blessings? (There are so many wonderful ways to thank Jesus for His love. You can pray, praise, say hymns, or whisper your thanks to Jesus!)



Lesson 3.8 - Centurion's Servant

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, children's first aid kit, craft supplies: adhesive bandages, empty paper towel tubes, craft sticks, glue, scissors, construction paper, googly eyes, chenille stems, yarn, and bits of fabric.

Scripture Reference: Luke 7:1-10 and Matthew 8:5-13.

Craft: Adhesive bandages, empty paper towel tubes, craft sticks, glue sticks, scissors, construction paper, googly eyes, chenille stems, yarn, and bits of fabric.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will begin to understand the importance of helping others and having faith in God through the story of our Lord Jesus healing the centurion's servant.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith and Helpfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Therefore, I did not think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

”

Luke 7:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Invite the children to look at and touch the contents of a toy first aid kit. Play a game in which you say how an item is used and the children must guess which item it is.

Tell the children how we may use these items when we are sick or when we get injured. Today, we will hear about a centurion who did not have a first aid kit to help him. He needed a miracle. He had faith that our Lord Jesus can heal just like the first aid kit. *Proceed to the next section.*



LESSON BODY:

Read Luke 7:1-10 and summarize with the children.

One day, our Lord Jesus was walking toward the town of Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant who was dear to him, was very, very sick. *Consider explaining that a centurion is a soldier responsible for one hundred men.* So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders to beg Him to come and heal his servant. And those elders went to our Lord and begged Him to come and do a miracle. Then our Lord Jesus went with them. And when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it" (Luke 7:6-7).

Then, when our Lord Jesus heard these things, He was amazed at the centurion's faith, and praised his faith saying, "...I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And when those who were sent went back to the house, they found that the servant who was sick had been healed.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Centurion's Servant²⁴:

Note: this activity should be prepared before the lesson is given.

Have the children use the supplies to decorate the paper towel tubes to look like the centurion's servant. Have the children apply adhesive bandages all over the puppet to make it look sick. Have them glue the craft stick to the inside bottom edge of the puppet to become a handle.

Bandaid Art²⁵:

Different color craft paper, markers, scissors, and 6-8 band aids per child



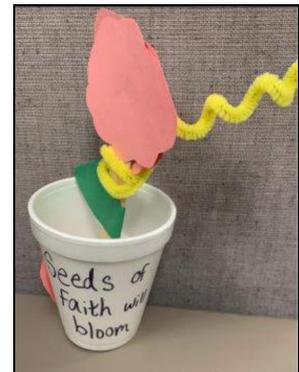
²⁴ Schmidt, K. (n.d.). "The Faith of the Centurion" Sunday School Lesson from Luke 7:1-10 [PDF]. Ministry-To-Children.com.

²⁵ Gordon, B. (2019, September 09). Band Aid Art. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from https://www.123homeschool4me.com/band-aid-art_42

Explain to the children that generally bandages are used when we get hurt, so we can protect the wound as it heals. But, our Lord Jesus did not need medicine or bandages to heal the centurion's servant. Our Lord Jesus is able to heal people near and far, and we are healed through our faith when we place our trust in Him.

Blooming Faith:

1. "Cut flower and leaf shapes out of construction paper.
2. Decorate the cup, adding a caption or verse.
3. Decorate with stickers and other pictures, if desired.
4. Insert popsicle stick into the bottom of the cup, cutting a slit first if necessary.
5. Glue paper flower to the stick, and add a pipe cleaner and/or leaves, if desired. Lift stick up and down to "grow" the plant!"²⁶



Link this activity to faith - the faith of the centurion, and how we should strive to grow in faith.

Questions:

- How many soldiers was the centurion in charge of? (100).
- What did the centurion ask the Jewish leaders to do? (He asked them to go ask Jesus to come help his servant.)
- What did the friends of the centurion tell Jesus? (The officer said that he does not deserve to have Jesus to come.)
- Did the Centurion think he was good enough for Jesus to enter his house? (No).
- Was our Lord Jesus pleased with what the centurion said? (Yes).

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the story with the children using the following activity:

"Yes or No: Ask the children to stand up if these were things Jesus did in this story. If they are not in the story the children should stay seated with arms crossed."²⁷

Questions:

- Did our Lord Jesus cleanse ten lepers? (Children stay seated with arms crossed.)
- Did our Lord Jesus praise the centurion's faith? (Children stand up.)
- Did our Lord Jesus Turn water into wine? (Children sit down with arms crossed.)
- Did our Lord Jesus heal the centurion's servant? (Children stand up.)

²⁶ Schmidt, K. (n.d.). "The Faith of the Centurion" Sunday School Lesson from Luke 7:1-10 [PDF]. Ministry-To-Children.com.

²⁷ Kummer, T. (2020, July 09). Sunday School Lesson (Luke 7:1-10) The Faith of the Centurion: Ministry-To-Children. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/faith-centurion-lesson/>



→ Did our Lord Jesus heal the blind man? (Children sit down with arms crossed.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Invite the children to share prayer requests for people they know who are sick. Write down the names of those people. Invite volunteers to pray for the names on the list.
- Encourage the children to go home and pray for those who are sick, even if they do not know them personally.
- *Pose the question:* “How can it help us to know that Jesus is greater than sickness? (We can trust him more when we pray, we can look forward to the Kingdom of heaven, we do not have to be afraid, because our Lord Jesus is in charge.”²⁸
- It is important to grow in faith, that we may be like the centurion - for we know that his faith pleased the Lord. How can we do that? (Build faith in God by getting to know Him, etc.)

²⁸ Kummer, T. (2020, July 09). Sunday School Lesson (Luke 7:1-10) The Faith of the Centurion: Ministry-To-Children. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/faith-centurion-lesson/>



Lesson 3.9 - Building Block 3 Review

Building Block 3
God's Love is Kind



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Rubber Chicken.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Review of Building Block 3.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Review all Building Block 3 moral character themes.

Review



REVIEW OF BUILDING BLOCK 3:

With the children, briefly review the lessons from Building Block 3. Then proceed with the following activity.

Pass the Chicken²⁹: For this activity you will need a rubber chicken. To begin, have all of the children sit in a circle around the room; have them begin passing the chicken around. Ask a random child questions about the lessons that have been taught this past block. If the rubber chicken comes to this child before he/she answers the questions then they must go sit in the middle of the circle. Restart the game again, with this child now in the middle of the circle, asking the next child review questions. If the child is unable to answer a question, the child in the middle has an opportunity to answer. If he/she gets the right answer then the two children switch spots. The game continues until all the children have answered some review questions.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

Review the memory verses of Building Block 3.



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS

²⁹ Cox, J. (2019, October 17). Fun Review Activities and Classroom Games to Do Now. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.teachhub.com/classroom-activities/2019/10/fun-review-activities-and-classroom-games-to-do-now/>



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

What did we learn from Building Block 3? (God's love is kind!)



Building Block 4: God’s Love is Caring

Lesson 4.IS* - (SPECIAL for GREAT FAST) Jesus Died for Us: Explaining Holy Week

Building Block 4
God’s Love is Caring

*Note this Lesson may need to be moved to be in the Great Fast season. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Jackets and paper palm branches to ‘lay on the road’, palms, prepared Holy Week calendar, green and brown construction paper cut out into various shapes, craft sticks, small stones, and paper scrolls made from craft sticks, and paper.

Craft: [Palm Leaf illustration](#), collection of small pieces of paper with words such as Life, Love, Safety, Families, ProteThe children will display an understanding of the events of the “Holy Week” in order to describe Christ’s sacrifice.ction for each child to select five from, and gluesticks.

Activity: Blindfold, and plastic cup.

Video: [Dr. Jacob Kiran: Jesus Dies for Us JellyTelly 5 Minute Family Devotional \(4:25\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will begin to build their understanding of the Holy week. Children will make the connection that Jesus died for us because of His love for us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Thankfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’



Mark 11:9

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Hosanna Hop³⁰:

Children will begin the lesson by pretending to prepare the road for Jesus!

1. Ensure that you have the necessary materials (Jackets, paper palm branches)
2. Ask the children to lay their palm branches and/or jackets along the “road” before Jesus comes!
3. Once all of the materials have been placed on the “road”, designate one child to be the pretend “Jesus” and encourage the other children to line up beside the road with their paper palm branches and shout “Hosanna”. This could be done several times.
4. While the children are doing this, ask them these questions:
 - a. How did you think the people felt when they were praising Jesus?
 - b. How does it make you feel when you praise Jesus?
 - c. After children have shared their thoughts, state that Jesus is Holy and is the Son of God and he deserves our praise!
5. Optional (if time permitting): children can take turns galloping/hopping along the road!

Once the game is complete the servant can display palms on a table and ask the children the following:

- Does anyone know what these leaves are? (Palms)
- When do we use them? (Palm Sunday)
- What is Palm Sunday? (It celebrates the day Jesus entered Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week).



LESSON BODY:

Just like in our game, everyone was really excited to see Jesus! If everyone was so excited to see Him, why did He die?

Introduce Holy Week by displaying a chart (white craft paper) long enough to be sectioned into boxes for each day of Holy Week (a “Holy Week Calendar”). Label each box in advance, just as you would a calendar, as follows;

Sunday – Palm Sunday - *“Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”* (Mark 11:9)

Monday – Jesus Clears the Temple - *“Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations?’”* (Mark 11:17)

Tuesday – Teaching at the Temple - *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Matthew 22:39)

Consider asking the children what it means to love your neighbor? (It means that we are kind and helpful to other people, even when it is hard to be nice.)

³⁰ Children's Ministry (2020, March 11). 6 Palm Sunday Activities That Preschoolers Will Love. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://childrensministry.com/preschool-palm-sunday-activities/>



Wednesday – Praying for Anything and Remaining Watchful – *“Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”* (Mark 11:24)

Thursday – The Last Supper (communion)– *“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”* (Matthew 26: 27-28)

Friday – The Cross – *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”* (Luke 23:34)

Saturday – Lord in the Tomb - *“This man (Joseph Arimathea) went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.”* (Luke 23:52-53)

Sunday – Resurrection Sunday – *“He is not here, but is Risen!”* (Luke 24:6)

Go through each day of Holy Week and ask children if they know what event or teaching each verse refers to, this process should be restricted to five minutes or less.

After reviewing the calendar, the “Pass the Cup Game” will be played to give children a short break.

Once the days of the week have been reviewed, the children will have the opportunity to come up to the table and choose **one** of the following appropriate items for each day of the “Holy Week Calendar”, starting with Palm Sunday:

Sunday – green construction paper or felt palms.

Monday – table cut from brown construction paper or felt, play money (coins).

Tuesday – small paper scrolls made from craft sticks and paper.

Wednesday – praying hands cut from construction paper or felt.

Thursday – communion chalice cut from construction paper or felt.

Friday – crosses made from craft sticks.

Saturday – tomb cut from construction paper or felt, small stones representing the covering of the tomb.

Sunday - an angel cut from construction paper or felt, representing the announcement that “He is Risen, He is not here!”

Be sure to explain what each item is to the children, or ask them if they can identify them before they sort the items on the calendar.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:



Palm Leaf Gifts³¹:

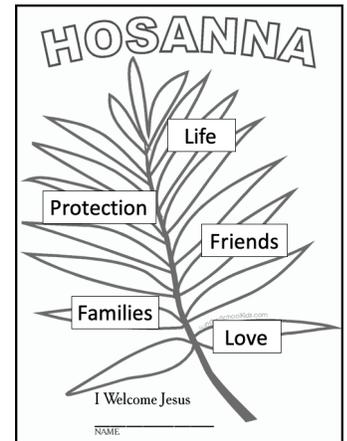
Have children look at the completed calendar.

Look at everything Jesus did for us and taught us during Holy Week! We have a lot to be thankful for!

As we get ready to celebrate Jesus' love for us during this Holy Week, take your palm leaf drawing, glue any words on the palm leaves you think describe things that Jesus has given you.

Each child will be given a sheet of paper with a [Palm Leaf illustration](#). The servant will have prepared a collection of small pieces of paper with words such as "love", "safety", or "protection" to represent what children thank Jesus for. The children will glue the words onto the palm leaves.

Have the children share the words they chose when they are finished.



VIDEO:

[Dr. Jacob Kiran: Jesus Dies for Us JellyTelly 5 Minute Family Devotional \(4:25\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What happened at the start of Holy Week? (Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem!)
- Were people excited to see Jesus? (Yes, at first.)
- How did Jesus show His love for us? (He died for our sins and forgave everyone, even those who were killing Him).
- How did Jesus' sacrifice show us how to love our neighbor? (Jesus even loved the people who were killing him, teaching us how to love the people who are mean to us).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

³¹ Coloring Page Palm Leaf - High Quality Coloring Pages. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/1689381?album=palm-branch-coloring-page>



What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

What greater love, than God sending His only Son to save us from our sins and life everlasting.

God asks only that we return this love by obeying His Word and loving others as we love ourselves.

What are some things we can do to show God how we love others as we love ourselves?

- Obey our parents.
- Be kind to our parents.

If the lesson lines up right before the Holy Week, you can challenge the children to recite the story of each day to their parents throughout the week.



Lesson 4.2S* - (SPECIAL for PENTECOST PERIOD) Our Lord Jesus Saves us from Sin, He is Risen!

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring

*Note this Lesson may need to be moved to be in the Joyful 50 days season. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Prizes for game.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:1-8.

Craft: Craft sticks (large, small), buttons, craft beads, glue, [the "Right, Left" story](#), and a small trinket (e.g. an easter egg, etc.).

Video: [Teaching Kids About Jesus: The Resurrection of Jesus \(Easter Sunday\) \(2:58\)](#)

Song: ["Very Early Sunday Morning" \(4:00\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON: F

The children will understand God's love by explaining the meaning of the Resurrection and learning how to share that love with others.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith, Hope, Love, and Praise.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

He is not here: for He is risen...

”

Matthew 28:6

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Briefly ask the children what they already know about Resurrection Sunday.



Begin this celebration by singing with the children: [Jennifer Launders: “Let Them Know”](#). This song is written to the tune of “Let It Go”. Or, you may wish to sing [“Very Early Sunday Morning”](#).



LESSON BODY:

Remind the children that a few days prior to this day they are celebrating, Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Explain to them that today, we are celebrating the Resurrection! *Help the children define the word ‘resurrection’ prior to beginning the story below.*

Jesus had a lot of followers who missed Him after He died. One of them was Mary Magdalene.

You can invite the children to say what they already know about Mary Magdalene if you wish.

She missed Jesus so much that she decided to go visit His tomb with her other friend who was also named Mary. But, there was a big surprise when she got there! There was a big earthquake that shook the ground and one of God’s angels came down and moved the big stone that was in front of the tomb. His face was like lightning and his clothing as white as snow. The women were scared! But the angel said, *“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay!”* (Matthew 28: 5-7). The two women were amazed! They ran off to tell Jesus’ other followers the good news. Emphasize that Jesus rose through His own power, not after the angel rolled the stone.

Consider stopping at this point to discuss with the children. How would they feel if an angel told them that the person they were looking for was gone and risen from the dead? Why is it a big deal that Jesus rose from the dead?

The two women loved Jesus so much. He loved them too! He showed them the power of His love by defeating death and rising from the dead (by death, He crushed death). They were so excited by this, that they had to run and share this amazing news with everyone they knew. They were no longer sad, but were happy and strong because of the Resurrection of their Lord. Through the Resurrection, our Lord “granted us the everlasting joy, and freed us from” the bondage of sin (“All you Heavenly Orders”).

Consider stopping at this point and reflecting with the kids: Do you know that God loves you so much? Are you excited to tell your friends and family about how much God loves you?

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Simple Popsicle Stick Cross Craft³²:



³² Happy Home Fairy. (2016, March 15). Simple Cross Craft. Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://happyhomefairy.com/simple-cross-craft/>



Give each child a cross made from two craft sticks. (Glue a smaller craft stick over a larger craft stick forming a cross.)

Allow the children time to decorate by gluing buttons or craft beads on their cross. Make certain the beads and or buttons are not too small.

Right Left Game with Mary M.³³:

When the angel met the women at the tomb, he told them, *“And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead”* (Matthew 28:7). Mary Magdalene and the other Mary **heard** that, and *“they went quickly from the tomb...and ran to bring His disciples word”* (Matthew 28:8). So, let us now **hear** carefully, as Mary Magdalene did, and follow the orders!

Have the children sit in a circle. Hand one child a small trinket (an easter egg, etc.). Read the [“Right Left” story](#) putting emphasis on the words “Right” and “Left”. When you say “Right” the children pass the object to the right. When you say “Left” the children pass the object to the left. Whoever is holding the “prize” when the game is over is the winner. Of course, all of the children win as they are all good listeners! And you will have a prize for each of them!

Tell the children that since all of them were such good listeners, they all get a prize! Encourage them to keep sharing the love of our Lord Jesus with their families and friends by listening, following, and sharing the good news: the gospel.



VIDEO:

[Teaching Kids About Jesus: The Resurrection of Jesus \(Easter Sunday\) \(2:58\)](#)



SONG:

Very Early Sunday Morning

³³ Right Left Game with Mary M.pdf. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J1TK0AWL6P2wT1nhbusonG1HC2v43xzqjVwpKF_Nt7c/mobilebasic?pli=1



Very early Sunday morning

While the guards were at the scene

Jesus has risen declaring

Victory no more defeat

Resurrection is my song

Resurrection gave me life

Resurrection made me strong

Jesus, my Lord is alive

Jesus is risen in glory

Heaven and earth sang and praised

And the angel told the story

He is risen as He said

Mary Magdalene was looking

In the garden for her Lord

While Jesus Himself was telling

Her to go and spread the word

All the disciples were praying

They were really in great fear

When Mary came to them saying

He is risen He is not her

All the disciples were praying

They were really in great fear

When Mary came to them saying

He is risen He is not here

While they gathered in the room

Jesus Christ Himself appeared

Said My peace I gave to you

And My peace with you I leave

But Thomas did not believe

What the disciples had seen

So Jesus again appeared

Showed Him the place of the spear

Tell the Mary's no more mourning

Among the dead do not seek

For Jesus Our Lord is living

Giving power to the weak

Jesus My victorious Lord

Conquered the powers of Hades

And the thorns of death He broke

My salvation He declared

The heavenly hosts were singing

Welcoming our glorious Lord

And the joy is overwhelming



He opened the doors of hope

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Take this opportunity to remind the children that Jesus loves us so much - enough to die on the cross for us, and rise from the dead to save us from sin! By death He trampled death! We can remember His love by looking at the cross and sharing the good news with our friends just like Mary Magdalene did.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Why do we celebrate the Resurrection? (Accept all responses but guide the children when needed.)
 - Jesus' resurrection gave us hope because we know that through confession, our sins are forgiven.
 - Jesus' resurrection gave us faith that we may live forever with God, etc.
- How do we celebrate the resurrection every day?
 - Be kind and love one another, just as Jesus loves us!
 - Praise God as He has given us living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ!
- How do we share God's love with others? (By loving them too!)



Lesson 4.3S* - (SPECIAL for PENTECOST PERIOD) God Sent Us The Holy Spirit: An Introduction to the Trinity

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring

*Note this Lesson may need to be moved to be in the Joyful 50 days season. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Apples, knife, white paper plate, chart paper.

Scripture Reference: 1 John 5:7.

Craft: White paper plates, construction paper (red, black, and green), brown markers, glue.

Video: [Joanne Marxhausen and Benjamin Marxhause: 3 in 1 A Picture of God](#) (watch from beginning to 1:41).

Song: [Jesus Loves Me](#), Praise the Trinity in the tune of "Frere Jacques".



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will begin to develop an understanding that there is only one true God, and the one true God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three are united and are One!



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Kindness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

”

1 John 5:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

For servant preparation (and not for class viewing), please watch this video: [Fr. Anthony Mourad: Doctrine of the Holy Trinity](#).



You will need an apple and a sharp knife. Carefully peel an apple in front of the children, keeping the skin in sight. Then using an apple corer, remove the core in one piece exposing the flesh and the seeds.

1. Hold up the skin and ask the children what it is. (The skin is a unique part of the one apple.)
2. Hold up a piece of the flesh and ask the same question. (The flesh is a unique part of the one apple.)
3. Hold up the core and ask the same. (The core is a unique part of the one apple.)

Discuss how each part (the skin, flesh and core) are all diverse parts of the one apple, but it is still all one apple – three parts to one apple!

God is like the apple. Just as the apple is made up of three diverse parts, they are all ONE apple. Similarly, the one true God has three Persons that are united and are ONE.



LESSON BODY:

Have children do the sign of the cross. Discuss the following:

1. Do you know who the Father is when you do the sign of the cross? (God the Father)
2. Do you know who the Son is when you do the sign of the cross? (God the Son)
3. Do you know who the Holy Spirit is when you do the sign of the cross? (God the Holy Spirit)

Who is God the father?

God the Father is the creator of everything. Remind the children of the previous lesson (2.1) on the creation. Why is creation so special? God loves us so much that he gave us all these things when he gave us this world. Prompt children to share aspects of creation? Children might come up with: sun, moon, water, food, animals, etc. Servants can provide children with more guidance by reminding them of the creation book they colored in lesson 2.1.

Who is God the Son?

Jesus is the same God, who was incarnate and came down to earth. God loves you so much that He sent His only begotten Son for us. Does anyone know what Jesus did when he came down to earth? Jesus healed people, forgave people, loved everyone, accepted everyone no matter what, etc.

Consider pausing here and singing a song about God's love, for example: [Jesus Loves Me](#).

Who is God the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of God who was sent to comfort, help, and guide us to live according to God's commandments and know the truth! The Holy Spirit was God's gift to us when He could not be with us on earth anymore. The Holy Spirit is God living inside of us as our compass. Do you know what a compass is? Show the children a picture of a compass if they do not know. Why do we use a compass? To guide us to our final destination. This is exactly what the Holy Spirit does for us. The Holy Spirit within us (that we received at baptism) guides us to God.

As we all use the Holy Spirit as our compass, we will all meet God who is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Invite children to do the sign of the cross again ensuring the full name of the trinity is used (in the name of God the Father, and God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God AMEN!).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Construction Paper Apple³⁴:

1. Have the children tear red construction paper into small pieces. Instruct them to use glue to attach the red pieces to the outer ring of the paper plate to create the skin of the apple.
2. Give each child a brown marker and have color in seeds in the middle of the flesh. Give each child a pre-cut brown construction paper stem and a green construction paper leaf and ask them to glue to the top of the plate to complete their craft.
3. Enlist the help of other servants to write the following on each part of the children's apples:

"God the Father" (on the red skin)

"God the Son" (on the white flesh)

"God the Holy Spirit" (with an arrow pointing to the seeds)

Paper Plate Apple craft



Fruit of the Spirit Charades³⁵:

1. The servant will write out all the fruit of the Spirit on chart paper or on a screen. The servant will individually assign each child one of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
2. Tell the children that they have to keep their fruit secret because they will act out what they think that word means. The remainder of the children will have to guess what that word means. If the children cannot guess, the child who is acting will explain their actions for their word and the next child will go. This continues until all children have had a chance to go. If there are more children than fruits, assign the same fruit to multiple children.

Make sure to connect the fruit of the Spirit to the lesson. It is this same Holy Spirit that is God.



VIDEO:

³⁴ Craft retrieved from: Apple Boats STEM Activity - A Dab of Glue Will Do says;, HUGE List of Apple & Johnny Appleseed Resources says;, 60 Preschool Apple Activities | Mrs. A's Room says;, 24 Best Apple Crafts For Kids To Make - Kids Craft Room says;, Growing an Apple Tree - says;, 15 Fun Apple Crafts Your Kids Will Absolutely Love says;, . . . Apple Blends Match-Up - A Dab of Glue Will Do says;. (2019, July 17). Fine Motor Paper Plate Apple Craft. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.adabofgluewilldo.com/fine-motor-paper-plate-apple-craft/>

³⁵ Activity retrieved from: Roberts, D. (2020, June 30). Christian Games That Teach About the Holy Spirit. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://classroom.synonym.com/christian-games-that-teach-about-the-holy-spirit-12083999.html>



[Joanne Marxhausen and Benjamin Marxhause: 3 in 1 A Picture of God](#) (watch from beginning to minute 1:41).

Questions:

- Is the apple skin still part of the apple? (Yes, it is not any other fruit, it is an apple!)
- Are the seeds still part of the apple? (Yes, just like the skin and the flesh! All of these parts of the apple make up the one apple!)
- What about God? Is the Holy Spirit God? (Yes, the Holy Spirit is God!)
- Is the Father God? (Yes!)
- Is the Son God? (Yes!)
- So the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all one, who is this? (God!)

This video reiterates the concept that just like there is one apple but three diverse parts, the Coptic Orthodox Church believes in one God is three in one, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - God the Father is God, God the Son is God and God the Holy Spirit is God.



SONG:

Conclude the lesson by singing the following song to the tune of “Frère Jacques”. Have the lyrics written on chart paper or on a screen.

Praise the Father. Praise the Father.

Praise the Son. Praise the Son.

Praise the Holy Spirit. Praise the Holy Spirit.

Three in one, Three in one.

[Jesus Loves Me](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will begin to develop and demonstrate an understanding that there is only one true God and the one true God is three in one – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, by answering the following;

- Do we believe in one God or many Gods? (We believe in One God!)
- Is the Father God? (Yes!)
- Is the Son God? (Yes!)
- Is the Holy Spirit God? (Yes!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Explain to the children that if you believe in the Holy Spirit as being one with the Father and the Son, you will grow in faith just as the apple seeds grow. Just as the apple seeds need food to grow (water, sunshine, etc.), you also need food to grow in faith! The Holy Spirit provides that food through His Word.

Pause here and inquire with the children: What are some ways that you can grow from the Word of God? (Listen, read, give thanks and praise, etc., every day!).

Reminding the children that as children of God, we must share His love and help others 'grow' too!

Pause here and inquire with the children: How can you help your friends and family grow? (Accept a variety of responses, servants can refer to the fruits of the Spirit such as love and patience, while informing the children that they can help others grow by sharing these gifts. For example; children can show kindness to their siblings by sharing, helping them grow as a result.)



Lesson 4.4 - Ruth and Naomi - God is Faithful

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Construction paper (red, yellow, green), stickers (red, yellow, green).

Scripture Reference: Ruth 1-4.

Craft: Cardstock word cards, paper bags (one for each child), small pieces of paper (five per child), paper stickers, pencils, markers.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: Ruth and Naomi: Sunday School Lesson for Children \(6:07\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding that God is faithful, even when we feel small, and He always takes care of our needs.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith and Loyalty.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

For wherever you go, I will go.

”

Ruth 1:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Scatter paper squares of three different colors (red, yellow, green) all over the floor, mixing the colors well. Then, form three groups and assign each group a specific color.



Consider using a sticker to mark the hands or shirt of each of the children to remind them what color papers they are to gather.

In this game, pretend you are gathering pieces of wheat for your supper. Explain to the children that they will pretend that these pieces of paper are wheat, and that you can only gather the paper pieces of wheat that match your group's color. You have to work together with your team to make sure you collect all your wheat, so you have to trust each other! So if you're in the red group, only gather the red wheat...and so on. After you've gathered a handful, take them over to your team's colored bag and put them in.

Consider inviting the children to answer the following questions:

- *Did you collect all the wheat for your group? (no).*
- *Did you collect any wheat that was meant for another group?*
 - *Why would this be a bad thing? (This would be stealing.)*
- *If we trust in God, do we need to take anything that does not belong to us? (No, because we have faith that God will protect us.)*

We will take a look at the Bible story of two people in the Bible who trusted in God, even when they were afraid that they might not be able to survive, Ruth and Naomi.



LESSON BODY:

The Story of Ruth and Naomi

A long time ago, in Israel there was a terrible famine that struck the land.

Consider doing a check for understanding with the children. Do you know what a famine is?

There was no crop, no fruit, no vegetables. Many people and animals died from hunger. A man named Elimeech, took his family, wife and two sons out of Bethlehem in order to find food. He went to Moab, a country where they worshiped idols. Things did not work out very well for Elimeech and his family. He passed away, and his two sons passed away also.

This left the mother Naomi with her two daughter in laws Ruth and Orpah. Naomi decided that she wanted to return to her country because she heard the Lord visited people by giving them bread. Orpah decided to stay in Moab and return to her mother's home. Ruth refused to leave Naomi, clung on to her, recited a poem of love and went back to Bethlehem with her.

Consider pausing at this point in the story, emphasizing the point that Ruth was loyal to Naomi unlike Orpah. This is the key idea of the story, so it may be suitable to stop the story at this point.

Upon returning to Bethlehem, Naomi told her old friends to call her Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me (Ruth 1: 20).

Check in with children and see their understanding of the meaning of the name Mara. Mara means bitter, Naomi means pleasant.

Ruth worshiped idols because she comes from the country of Moab, but she turned to the Lord. Everyday Ruth works very hard to make sure she got enough food for her and Naomi. She would pick up the leftover



grain from the harvesters. Boaz, the owner of the harvest heard about Ruth. He helped her by making sure harvesters left grain for Ruth on purpose.

When Naomi heard of Boaz, she told Ruth how he is a relative of theirs. Time passed and Boaz wanted to marry Ruth, but Boaz was not the first in line to marry Ruth. Boaz had to make a deal with his relative in order to be able to marry Ruth. The relative did not want to marry Ruth so Boaz married her and took care of her and Naomi.

Boaz and Ruth eventually had a son and named him Obed.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Prayer Bags:

If God was faithful to Ruth and Naomi, will He be faithful to us? (Yes!) Since we know that God is faithful, today we are going to write down 5 things we will pray for.

Write on each of the bags, "God is Faithful!" before the lesson. Give each child a small paper bag to decorate. Then give each of the children five small pieces of paper and ask them to write or draw pictures of five things they would like to pray for (one on each piece of paper). Once they are done, have them place their prayers in the box. They may decorate their boxes with paper stickers or foam stickers and take their bags home.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: Ruth and Naomi - Sunday School Lesson for Children](#)

Questions: Discuss the video with the following questions after the video to evaluate their understanding of the lesson.

- Why are Ruth and Naomi going back to Israel? (Because Ruth and Naomi's husbands died, and Naomi wanted to go back to her people.)
- Why does Ruth go with Naomi? (She wants to be with her and worship God with her).
- How does God protect Ruth and Naomi (Ruth and Naomi are able to find food in Israel and when Ruth and Naomi arrive in Israel, they are able to find Boaz, a man who was able to protect them.)
- Did God abandon Ruth and Naomi? (No!)
- Did Ruth and Naomi ever doubt God? (No!)



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will display an understanding of God's faithfulness, always understanding and taking care of our needs, by discussing the following:

- How was God faithful to Ruth and Naomi? How did He take care of them? (God knew their needs and fulfilled them! He sent Boaz to them, who took care of all their needs.)
- Was there ever a time that God was not with Ruth and Naomi? (God was with Ruth and Naomi the whole time, even when they didn't know it. In the same way God is always with you!)
- How has God been faithful to you? (Elicit and accept all responses.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

God loves you very much and always cares for your needs. Even when you feel small, God is with you. Even when you feel unimportant, God loves you and you are important to Him! You can trust God with all of your needs. Pray to God because He is faithful and He loves you!

- What can you do the next time you feel alone or scared? (Various answers can be accepted; Pray, do the sign of the cross, or know that God is with them just like Naomi who didn't lose faith in God).
- What can we learn from the relationship of Ruth and Naomi? (Ruth never left Naomi and followed her to another country! She worked hard to fulfil her needs and ultimately when Ruth had a son, Naomi was so happy!).

Have children concentrate on God's fulfillment this coming week.

- Take notice of when God provides you with something or answers your prayers. Remember them so you can share it with your friends next week.



Lesson 4.5 - God Cares for Us; He Gave Us His Son

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chairs and chart paper.

Scripture Reference: John 3:16

Craft: ["Earth" printable](#) – one for each child, laminate or clear contact paper, wet erase markers – one per child, paper towels, spray bottle, water, and red food coloring.

Songs: [Deborah P. Kim: For God so loved the World John 3:16](#), [The Rizers: John 3:16 \(For God So Loved the World\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop and display an understanding that God loves us so much that He gave us His Son to remove our sins and show us His everlasting love.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Thankfulness and Gratefulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.



John 3:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



For God so Loved the World – God Loves YOU³⁶:

Arrange chairs in a circle, with one less chair than person. Have each child sit in a chair, with one child sitting in the middle. This person will be “It”. The person who is “It” will say “God loves everyone...” followed by a description; for example, ‘with brown shoes’, ‘in kindergarten’, etc. Then, anyone who meets that description will stand up and switch places, while the person who is “It” also tries to find an empty seat. Whoever does not find a seat is now it!

If someone is having trouble coming up with a description, have them say “God love YOU!” and everyone must get up and switch seats.

Be sure to make it clear that God really does love everyone, and that while you may say God loves everyone in kindergarten, He also loves everyone in 1st grade, 2nd grade, etc.

Consider asking this transition question to get a discussion from the children:

- *Did you know that God loves us so much that He made a huge sacrifice? Does anyone know what this sacrifice was? (God gave His only Son to save us from our sins!)*



LESSON BODY:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” Our verse today is one of the most popular verses in the whole Bible. It tells us Jesus’ whole purpose in just a few short words. God really loves the world...the WHOLE world. He loves us SO much that He gave His only Son!

Examine the background of this verse for children to understand the importance.

When God created the world and everything in it, he said it was good. The world was perfect up until Adam and Eve. When Satan tempted Adam and Eve, they sinned. This led to God’s punishment which was death on them and future generations. However, God always loved Adam and Eve and God had a plan.

Jesus loves us all and this is why he died on the cross for our sins. We do not need to earn God’s love and despite whatever sin we commit, God still loves us, but to live with Him, we must repent.

Invite children to do this short game

Ask children the following:

Put up your right hand if you know that God gave up a huge sacrifice by giving up His only Son. Put up your left hand if you know God will love you no matter what sin or mistakes you make. Stand up if you want to live in heaven one day with God.

Clap and cheer!

³⁶ *“For God so Loved the World”* Lectionary Lesson from John 3:14-21 | Ministry-To-Children. (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/for-god-so-loved-the-world-lectionary-lesson-from-john-314-21/>

The following craft and song should be completed as a part of the lesson body.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Jesus Washes Away the Sins of the World³⁷:

1. Place an [“Earth” printable](#) laminate or cover in clear contact paper in front of each child. Make certain the children understand that this represents the earth we live on, the home that God made for us.
2. Give each child a black WET erase marker and instruct them to make a dot on the earth and tell them that this represents sin. You could choose to allow them to continue coloring the “earth” with the marker (sin).
3. Next give each child a dry paper towel and instruct them to try to wipe away the sin. (They will not be able to do this as we used a WET erase marker!)
4. Share with the children that we cannot wipe away our own sin. God knew this, which is why He had a very special plan for us because He loves us so much (John 3:16).
5. Pull out a spray bottle of red colored water. Tell the children that God’s special plan was to send Jesus to die for our sins. As you spray it on the “Earth” allow the children to wipe away the “sin”.
6. Jesus’ blood washed away all the sins of the world. God loves and cares for us so much that He sent His only son to wash away our sins!
7. When we sin, we make the world “dirty” again. But don’t worry, Jesus’ sacrifice was so powerful that when we go to confession we can wash those sins away all over again! (Demonstrate this to children by having them draw on their worlds again, and telling them that we can spray the Earth once again by going to confession.)
8. This is very good news! God sent His only son to save us from our sins to allow us to spend eternal life with Him!



SONG:

[Deborah P. Kim: For God so loved the World John 3:16](#)

³⁷ Says:, J., Sarah at Ministry Minded Mom says:, Says:, S., & Says:, S. (2020, June 09). Jesus Washes Away the Sins of the World Bible Object Lesson. Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://ministrymindedmom.com/jesus-washes-away-sins-world-object-lesson-activity/>



*“For God so loved the world...
That He gave His one and only Son.
That whoever believes in him...
Shall not die but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will display an understanding of how much God loves and cares for us by participating in a discussion that answers the following;

Questions: How do we know God loves and cares for us? [*The children will most likely just say that God gave His only Son, further prompts may be necessary such as:*]

- What did God’s Son do for us? (He died to ‘wash our sins away’ and to destroy the power of death.)
- Did Jesus deserve that? (No, He is without sin!)
- What does Jesus’ sacrifice mean for us? (Our sins can be forgiven and we will have eternal life with Him!)
- What do we need to do to be “clean again” when we sin? (We go to confession).

God knew that the world would need a savior-someone to save us from all the ‘not so nice things’ we do. So God sent Jesus to be born and laid to sleep in a manger. As Jesus grew up, He didn’t do anything wrong. He never sinned. Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins so we could live forever with God.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We know how much God loves us, so much that He gave His only Son.

We are so thankful to God and we show our gratefulness everyday by honoring Him, and loving others.

Today, each of us will make a promise to show God how much we love Him.

Have each child think of one way to complete the following sentence: “I promise to do my best to love God everyday by:”

- Being kind to my family.



- Singing His praises.
- Attending church and Sunday School.
- Telling others about Jesus.
- Listening to God's Word.
- Being honest.
- Obeying my parents.
- Praying.



Lesson 4.6 - God is our Shepherd

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Sticks or hockey sticks for each child, and a balloon with a sheep's face drawn on it.

Scripture Reference: John 10: 1-30.

Craft: White paper plates, pre-cut black construction paper face, clothespins, googly eyes, and Sharpies.

Activity: Servant prep prior to lesson: white balloon, sheep cut out or drawing on balloon, and popsicle sticks for each child.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: I am the Good Shepherd \(3:20\)](#)

Song: [Shepherd of my Soul](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows each and everyone one of us and will always take care of us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Trust and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:



I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.



John 10:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The Good Shepherd Relay:

Divide the children into teams equal in number, give each team a white blown up balloon³⁸ with a sheep's face drawn on it. Give each child a stick/cane or a hockey stick. Explain to them that they will need to be the first team to get their "sheep" to the other side of the room and back. Allow all of the children to have a turn; after each child has had a turn ask them what the easiest way was to get the sheep onto the other side of the room. Were they gentle or did they whack the balloon around?



Explain to the children that it was easier to gently push the balloon across the room instead of whacking it because then the balloon goes in different directions. Relate the game to the way Jesus guides us in our lives; he gently nudges us along.



LESSON BODY:

John 10:1-30:

Jesus talked about sheep many times during His teachings. However, one time, Jesus told the Jews a story where He explained to them that He is THE good shepherd.

Consider asking the children what a shepherd is, and what it means for Jesus to be a good shepherd.

Jesus told them that He knew all His sheep personally and would do anything to protect them, even put Himself in danger and die for them.

Remind the children that Jesus really did die for us, by dying on the cross. Consider asking the children how Jesus still protects us.

Jesus warned the Jews that no one else would care about His sheep as much as Him, and that many others would abandon the sheep when scary things happened, like a wolf entering the flock.

Even though Jesus knew that being a shepherd would be difficult, He promised that he would even try to find and care for other sheep that did not know Him yet.

The Jews who heard Jesus were confused; how could Jesus be a shepherd, and who were these sheep?

Consider asking the children who these sheep might be, emphasizing that we are His sheep.

Jesus finished by explaining to them that the people who believe in Him are His sheep and no one can take them away from Him. He promised that He would give His sheep eternal life.

As our good shepherd, Jesus always protects us and leads us to heaven.

Consider discussing with the children how we can be good sheep to honor our Good Shepherd.

³⁸ Harbour City. (2014, December 13). Don't miss our @shaunthesheep balloon giveaway! It starts at 2:30pm today! #hcxmas #harbourcity #shaunthesheep [Tweet]. Retrieved from <https://twitter.com/hkharbourcity/status/543994497906913282?s=20>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

We are His Sheep³⁹:

1. Prior to class, cut out the sheep heads (one for each child) on black construction paper.
2. Let the children glue the cotton balls on the paper plate.
3. Write the memory verse on the clothespins with a sharpie.
4. Help the children glue the face of the sheep on the plate.
5. Help the children put the clothespins on the plate.



SONG:

[Sibling Harmony: The Baa Baa Song \(He's the Good Shepherd\) \(2:05\)](#)

[Shepherd of my Soul \(3:30\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pODWws-ot3k>

O Thou Whose presence delighteth my soul.

And Whom in my distress I call:

My comfort by day, and by night my refuge:

My Stronghold, whenever I fall

Shepherd of my soul, I beg Thee to tell

Where Thou makest Thy sheep to rest.

For why should I roam in the valley of tears,

And wander as one who is lost.

I charge you to tell me, daughter of Zion:

Have ye seen the one I adore?

I seek Him in vain in the night of my soul,

³⁹ L. (2010, November 17). Catholic Craft - We Are His Sheep. Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <https://www.catholicicing.com/catholic-craft-we-are-his-sheep/>



But, lo, I can find Him no more.

Shepherd of my soul, I shall follow Thee.

Oh how sweet Thy voice is to me!

So guide me and lead me and show me the way.

My only desire is Thee.

I am my Beloved's, and He is mine too-

He calleth me sister and spouse.

Oh how do I long for the day we shall wed-

In Heaven, in His Father's house.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Would the good shepherd ever leave his sheep, even if it puts him in danger? (Never!)
- Who is our good shepherd? (Jesus)
- What does the good shepherd do when his sheep are in danger? (Anything! He wants to protect them all the time!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Who should we go to when we are afraid? (God)
- What can you do the next time you feel afraid? (Pray, read the Bible with your family, do the sign of the cross, etc.)
- Who is always watching over us? (God)



→ How can we be good sheep to honor our Good Shepherd? (Listen to our parents and Abouna, help others, be kind, go to Church, etc.)



Lesson 4.7 - The Holy Family's Flight into Egypt - God Watches over us!

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Blankets and/or sheets (or tent), bottles of water, bread or crackers, and backpacks.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 2:13-15.

Craft: [This coloring page](#), and coloring utensils.

Video: [#2FishTalks: Children's Bible Story – Joseph and Mary Escape to Egypt \(Christmas Story\)](#)" (starts at 0:18).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt in order to understand that God watches over them in every situation.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith



MEMORY VERSE:



The Lord is your keeper...



Psalm 121:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Today we are going to have fun! We are going to go camping right here in the room. But first, we will listen to a story about the young Child Jesus and His family!

Introduce the story of the young Child Jesus and His family by sharing the video or saying it out loud.



LESSON BODY:

Re-enact the Flight to Egypt (Adapted from [Sunday School Center](#)):

The Biblical story:

When the wise men left the Child Jesus, after they visited Him, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said to him, ‘take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.’

Then Joseph rose up, took the young Child and His mother by night and left for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod, that the words of Hosea the prophet may come true. He had said, “*Out of Egypt I called My son.*”

*You may perform the following re-enactment, ensuring that you take the time and explain the **Biblical story**.*

The children will pretend to re-enact the Flight to Egypt right in the classroom, even down to constructing a “tent”! You will need items to help make a “tent” in your classroom. (The easiest way is to throw a couple of blankets or sheets over a long table. Practice this before class begins and either leave it set up or rebuild it during the re-enactment.) Items used when camping or traveling will also be required. Examples include: Bottles of water, bread or other dry snacks like crackers, blankets and maybe a backpack.

If your classroom has many children, consider dividing into several smaller groups to travel together, with a smaller tent for each group. Have one adult with each group of six to eight children in a “tent”. ALTERNATIVELY: Suspend a large sheet, or piece of fabric, by its corners from the ceiling in one corner of the room to create a larger “tent” and have the whole class sit under that.

Let us pretend we are with St. Mary, St. Joseph and our Lord Jesus and that we have to run away and leave for Egypt.

It was the middle of the night, and the family left. (*Darken the room a bit.*)

Quick, get all the things! (*Distribute all the items to carry; bottles of water and the bread or crackers*)

Okay, hurry...let’s go!

Lead the children on a trip around the room, stopping briefly now and then at various spots. Crouch low so that you won’t be seen easily. Speak in hurried whispers. Finally, you come to the place where you will “make camp” to rest. This may be any spot in the room.

Making Camp/Tent and Snack

Whew! We’ve come a long way! I’m tired and a little hungry. We are probably far enough away from Bethlehem to be safe for a little while. Let’s make camp and have some food and some rest. (The tent can be set up with the children or prepared before class.)

Mary, Joseph and the Child Jesus **may have had** a little tent just like this to rest in. They would have put all their things in it like this. (Put the things in the tent. Unroll the bedding and let everyone sit inside the tent. When everyone is comfortable, break out the bread and water and have a snack in the tent!) Mary, Joseph



and the Child Jesus would have had some food and water with them. Water is very important there, because some of the land is desert.

As you have snacks in the tent, consider talking with the children about the various aspects of the lesson.

God watches over the Holy family, and God watches over all of us too! As you finish your snack, put your trash in the sack. People that travel have to clean up after themselves. We can not leave any trace that we were here! Someone might find it and follow us!

Good job cleaning up! We have to go! Better break camp. Gather up everything. We can't leave a trace! (Have the children gather up all their camping items and set them on a table in the classroom.)

On to Egypt! Let's go! (Lead the children out of the tent and around the room again until you end up in "Egypt". This can simply be on the other side of the classroom.)

Arrive in Egypt

Here we are in Egypt! Finally! Now we are safe! (Have the children sit down in their chairs.) Mary, Joseph and the young Child Jesus stayed in Egypt until after the death of Herod. Then God sent the angel to tell them it was safe to come back, saying "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead" (Matthew 2:20).

Well, Mary, Joseph and the young Child Jesus are safe now! God watched over the Holy Family and protected them, and God watches over you too!

Retrieved from: <https://www.sunday-school-center.com/support-files/lg2-lesson-6-the-flight-to-egypt.pdf>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Coloring page - Flight to Egypt:

1. Distribute [this coloring page](#) to color either in class or to take it home.
2. The servant can write the memory verse at the bottom of the coloring sheet.



VIDEO:

[#2FishTalks: Children's Bible Story – Joseph and Mary Escape to Egypt \(Christmas Story\)](#)" (video starts at 0:18).

Review



REVIEW LESSON:



Before beginning the review, ask the children to explain the activity they just completed as a class. Have them explain why they were pretending to camp and escape.

- What did we just do as we moved around the room together? (We pretended to flee to Egypt like Mary, Joseph, and our Lord Jesus)
- Why did the Holy Family have faith in God and heard the words of the angel and fled to Egypt? (refer to the memory verse: Mary and Joseph knew that God loved them and would watch over them and protect them.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Ask the children to think about the following questions:

- Have you ever been scared? What did you do? Who did you ask for help? (Allow for the children to respond).
- Did you know that just like God protected the Holy Family protects you too?
- What can you do the next time you feel scared? (Allow for varied answers, pray, do the sign of the cross, etc.)

Refer back to the memory verse. Just as God watched over and protected the Holy Family, He watches over and protects you too! Pray every day that God will strengthen your trust and faith in Him in all you do, because He loves you.



Lesson 4.8 - The Magi: God Cared for Them and Showed Them the Way

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Cardboard or cardstock for stars, aluminum foil, yardstick for Follow the Leader star, images of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 2:1-12.

Craft: Craft sticks, wood glue, and glitter glue.

Activity: Cardboard or cardstock for stars, aluminum foil, small wrapped boxes (one for each child to present to the baby Jesus), and a baby doll to represent Jesus.

Video: [ShareFaithKids: The Christmas Story for Kids – Matthew 2 \(4:50\)](#)

Song: [The Kiboomers - Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Star \(1:55\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand what it means to trust in God and follow Him by reviewing how the Magi searched for Christ.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Hope, Trust, and Patience.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

And you will seek Me, and find Me, when you search for me with all your heart.

”

Jeremiah 29:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Tell the children that the focus of today's lesson will be on the Magi, who are also referred to as the Wise Men in the Bible.

Consider beginning by asking the children what they already know about the Three Wise Men and what they did in the Bible.

Explain that the Magi followed a star to find baby Jesus. Tell the children that the lesson will begin by playing a game called "Follow the Star" so that they can be like the Magi.

Play the game just like "Follow the Leader" except have the leader hold up a large star on a stick. The leader should lead the children around the room while hopping, marching, skipping etc. The children should do exactly what the leader is doing. Allow the children to take turns being the leader.



LESSON BODY:

The Story of the Magi

Consider prompting the children to state what they already know about the birth of Jesus before beginning the story. This will help the servant determine how much context is necessary before beginning this particular story.

Jesus was born in a small town called Bethlehem. During this time, there was a very mean king named Herod who did not want any other king to live in the land. But baby Jesus was the new King of the Jews! King Herod was very upset and jealous about this.

Far, far away, in the eastern part of Jerusalem, there lived some wise men called "The Magi." These men were curious to meet this new King of the Jews. They wanted to go worship this new King, and looked for a star in the sky to guide them to Him. They asked one another, "Where is He who has been born King of Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." (Matthew 2:2).

Consider providing the children with an image of the wise men and King Herod to help them visualize the story.

But when King Herod heard this, he was upset! He told the wise men to come to him, and he demanded that they go find this new baby King. He lied to them and told the wise men that he also wanted to worship this new King.

Pause here and inquire with the children: Why do you think King Herod lied about this? Do we sometimes lie when we want something?

The wise men agreed and went off on their mission to find the new baby King, Jesus, for King Herod. They continued to follow the star in the sky until it brought them directly to baby Jesus and His family. The wise men were so happy, and gave baby Jesus and St. Mary, His mother, gifts and worshipped Him. The gifts they gave were gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Consider pausing here and showing the children images of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

After spending some time with the new baby King, the wise men went to sleep. In their sleep, they had a dream from God. God warned them that they should not return to King Herod, because the king was planning

to hurt baby Jesus! The wise men listened and went back to their home after this trip, instead of back to King Herod.

Pause here and inquire with the children: Thankfully God appeared to The Magi! What does this teach us about God? (He protects us, we should trust Him, He will always guide us, etc.).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Craft Stick Stars⁴⁰:

Assist the children in gluing five craft (Popsicle) sticks together into a star shape using Elmer's white wood glue. Next, assist the children in decorating their stars with glitter glue and attaching.

Gifts for Baby Jesus:

The children will display knowledge of the people, places and events in the story of the Magi and how God cared for them and showed them the way by acting out the story. The following game can help consolidate their learning:

1. Ask the children how they would know which way to go if they were searching for the "Baby Jesus". (Follow the Star, just like during the lesson opening).
2. Before class, place a huge star covered with aluminum foil in the corner of the room, hanging from the ceiling. In the class have one teacher sit in the corner of the room underneath the star, holding a baby doll representing Jesus.
3. Have another teacher guide the children around the room carrying their gifts for Jesus.
4. When the children reach the "Baby Jesus" have them bow down in worship and leave Him their gifts.



VIDEO:

[Three Wise Men - Matthew 2 | The Magi Christmas Bible Story for Kids | Sharefaithkids.com \(4:50\)](https://www.sharefaithkids.com/3-wise-men-matthew-2-the-magi-christmas-bible-story-for-kids/)

Questions:

- How did God show the Magi the way to Jesus? (God used the star.)
- When Herod wanted to kill Jesus, what happened to the Magi? (An angel of the Lord appeared to them to warn them)

⁴⁰ Says, A., Alyson, Says, N., Roux, N., Says, C., Christie, . . . 12 Fun and Easy Kids Christmas Crafts to Make says: (2018, December 13). Easy Christmas Crafts for Kids: Craft Stick Stars. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://www.powerfulmothering.com/easy-christmas-crafts-for-kids-craft-stick-stars/>



SONG:

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Christmas Star⁴¹ (to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Twinkle, twinkle little star,

The Magi saw you from afar!

They followed you to find the king,

Some gifts for the Babe they did bring.

Twinkle, twinkle little star,

The Magi saw you from afar!

Twinkle, twinkle little star,

The Magi saw you from afar!

Appeared on the day of Jesus' birth,

Shining brightly above the earth.

Twinkle, twinkle little star,

The Magi saw you from afar

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How did God show the Magi the way to Jesus? (God used the star.)
- How did God show the Magi the way? (With a star.)
- How did God care for and protect the Magi? (He warned them of Herod's plans and guided them out of Bethlehem)
- Did God abandon the Magi when they were in danger? (No, God led them safely out of Bethlehem, just as He did with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus!)
- When we were following the leader before, were you scared? (No, you trusted your leader and you had faith in them, just like the Magi did when they followed the Star!)

⁴¹ Warvel, C. (n.d.). Lesson 4 - The Wise Men Search for Jesus. Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/christmas-lesson-4-wisemen.html>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Remind the children that the Magi looked for Jesus and found Him. They followed a star. Did you know that Jesus wants you to search for Him? He said search for Me and you will find Me, search for Me with all your heart.

→ What are some ways you can search for God today? (Allow the children to respond first. We can read and study His words in the Bible. And we can pray to help us find Him and know Him.)

Consider concluding by reminding the children that they should keep their eyes open for God's love in their lives. They can also share this love through gifts like the Magi.

Remind the children that like the Magi, God will always protect us and guide us.



Lesson 4.9 - Tour of the Church/Icons & Building Block 4 Review

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Icons brought from home, paper, markers, camera, and pictures of previous crafts.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 18:20

Craft: Mason jars, glue or decoupage, picture of Christ (attached), battery operated tea lights, and gold sequins.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop a deeper understanding of their church and its icons, and will review Building Block 4.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respectful and Prayerful.



MEMORY VERSE:



For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them



Matthew 18:20

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider coordinating this lesson with your church priest so that he can help facilitate the tour and build a deeper relationship with the children.

Begin the lesson by displaying icons from home of different shapes, sizes, details, and materials. Start a conversation by asking the children what they may already know about these pictures. Consider using the following prompting questions to gauge their knowledge:



- Do you recognize any of the people in these pictures (Jesus, saints)?
- Where do we typically see these pictures (church, home, etc.)?
- Does anyone know the proper name of these pictures (icons)?
- Why do we put up icons in our church?
- How do you feel when you see these icons?

Explain to the children that when God came down to Earth, He became a person like us. He made it possible for us to see Him, touch Him and make pictures of Him – pictures we call icons. In our church we have many icons of Our Lord Jesus and His saints. These icons all have stories of the people they depict. These icons help us to know about these people and their stories. They help us to pray.

Then tell the children that today we will take a “field trip” to see what icons are represented in our church!



LESSON BODY:

Before taking the children to the church, invite the children to sit down and draw something they remember about their church or from liturgy. Provide children with the opportunity to share what they drew.

Tell the children that they will now go to the church to meet Abouna (if he is available) to point out some of the objects they drew, as well as to see the icons of the church.

Consider introducing the memory verse to the children prior to going into the church and remind them that when we gather together in the church, Christ is present with us. This can be a good reminder of appropriate behaviour in the church; since Christ is among us, we have to behave respectful and appropriately.

Then take a “field trip” to the church to play a version of “I Spy”.

Ask the children if they can point out any of the objects they drew, along with other characteristics of the Church that stand out to them. Ask the children to identify certain icons, such as the icon of Jesus to the right of the Altar curtain, by pointing at them.

Consider taking photos throughout the trip of the things the children identified. These can be printed out later and posted on a poster for the classroom wall titled “Our Church.”

After returning from the Church, engage in the following discussion:

Questions:

- What are some things that you noticed when we went to our Church? (Varied answers; there were icons in front of the altar, there was an egg in front of the curtain, etc.).
- Did you see any of the icons we talked about before? (Varied answers).
- Did you recognize any icons or saints, why do you think the icons have been placed where they are? (For example, children will likely be able to identify Jesus to the right of the altar. Servants can remind children that Jesus said that the Son of God sits at the right hand of the Father, just as it appears on the iconostasis).
- Do you have any icons like those in your own home? (Varied answers).

- Why would your parents put icons in your house? (To remind us of the lives of saints and how we can always remember what it is like to be at Church. This keeps Jesus in our lives all the time, because we will always be gathered in His name [recite memory verse].)

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Light of Christ Jar Lantern⁴²:

1. Have a discussion with the children about why we light candles and how they represent a prayer.
2. Have the children reflect on if they saw any candles in the Church. Tell the children that candles can help remind us that Christ is the light. Engage the children in discussing how God is always with us and that He is our light.
3. Give each child a mason jar and a small copy of the Icon of Christ to glue or “decoupage” to the front of the jar. Have them decorate the back of the jar with gold sequins to show the brightness of the candles glow! Give each child a little battery operated tea light candle to place in their jar.



Review



REVIEW OF BUILDING BLOCK 4:

The children will review Building Block IV by participating in a discussion on the following;

- In what ways does God show us how much He loves and cares for us?

Prompt answers by reminding children of Building Block IV lessons. Remind children of previous lessons by showing them pictures of crafts they completed throughout the building block. For example, the cross children made during the lesson on the Resurrection can remind them of the message that Jesus died for our sins because He loves us.

Servants can also write out the lesson titles on chart paper and have it placed at the front of the class as a reminder.

⁴² Craft retrieved from: Church School :). (n.d.). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <http://www.theorthodoxchildrenspress.com/diy-kids/church-school/>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We give thanks to and praise God for loving and caring for us. One of the ways we can thank and praise God is to create our own little altar at home. Having an altar at home will remind us to gather with our families and pray, and when we do that, Jesus will be with us! Review the memory verse with the children at this time.

When we pray with our families at home, will Jesus be with us? (Yes! Just like the memory verse tells us!)



Building Block 5: God’s Love is Forgiving

Lesson 5.1 - Introduction to Forgiveness

Building Block 5
God’s Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, washable markers, foam craft hearts (one per child), small containers (one per child) for soapy water, and dish soap, Excerpts from Memoirs from a Church Servant: On the Life of Hegumen Mikhail Ibrahim by Hegumen Gawargios Kolta.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 18:21-35

Craft: Clear contact paper, black construction paper, colored tissue paper squares, craft brads, scissors.

Video: [Friend of God: An animation story about GOD’S forgiveness \(1:50\)](#)

Song: [Lifetree Kids: You Forgive Me | Maker Fun Factory Music Video | Group Publishing \(3:13\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will begin to understand what forgiveness is, who it is that forgives them, who helps them forgive others, and the gifts that forgiveness brings them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness



MEMORY VERSE:



Then Jesus said to [Peter], ‘I do not say to you [to forgive] up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”



Matthew 18:21-22

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Today, we are going to be learning about forgiveness.

Invite the children to share what they think forgiveness is. (Use responses to see how well the children already understand this concept.)

Consider using the following activity to introduce the concept of forgiveness.

I Forgive You Activity:

Give each child a craft foam heart. Ask the children to color all over their foam hearts with washable markers. Once the foam hearts are “dirty,” assist the children in washing their hearts clean in a soapy tub of water. Explain to the kids that this is forgiveness: our hearts become dirty from all of the things that go wrong in life, and when we come to Jesus and ask for forgiveness, He washes away our sin and makes our hearts clean again.

Emphasize that the children should also wash their hearts clean by apologizing to those they hurt, going and talking to Abouna to confess (explain the concept of confession), etc.



LESSON BODY:

Here is a story inspired from Father Mikhail Ibrahim that has been adapted for this age group:

There were two friends fighting over a toy. They did not want to share the toy and while they were fighting they broke it. They blamed each other and ran to Abouna crying about what had happened. Abouna told the two friends to stand in prayer together. Abouna began praying, Our Father...give us this day our daily bread, (omit: and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us), and lead us not into temptation... The friends wondered why Abouna left out one of the lines in the prayer.

Consider asking the children why they think Abouna left out this line of the Lord's Prayer.

Conclude the story by explaining that Abouna told the friends, “Well if you won’t forgive each other, how can we ask God to forgive us?”The two friends realized how wrong they were to blame each other. They hugged each other and forgave one another.

Questions: Using chart paper or a white board, brainstorm the following questions with the children:

- Who forgives us?
 - God forgives us.
- Who helps us to forgive others?
 - The Holy Spirit. God. Abouna.
- What does forgiveness bring?
 - Happiness, love, peace, friendship.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Forgiveness Makes a Difference⁴³:

1. Preparation: Take a piece of black construction paper and fold the paper in half. Cut out a large heart shape along the fold. In white crayon write the words “Forgiveness Makes a Difference” onto the black heart and set aside. Unfold the rest of the paper to reveal an empty heart in the center of the page. Repeat this process to create one for each child.
2. Give children a sheet of contact paper and guide them in carefully laying the unfolded paper onto the sticky side of the contact paper. Give children several pieces of colored tissue paper squares and guide them in sticking the papers carefully onto the contact paper inside the heart. Lay another sheet of contact paper, sticky side down on top of the page. This will seal the tissue paper squares inside.
3. Assist the children in trimming the edges of contact paper. Turn the craft over to reveal a colorful heart center.
4. Using a craft brad, attach the black heart that was cut out and set aside earlier.
5. Now the black heart can be moved back and forth to illustrate what happens when we open our hearts to forgive. The forgiving heart is beautiful, and the light of God can shine through it!



VIDEO:

[Friend of God: An animation story about GOD’S forgiveness](#) (1:51)

- Pause intermittently to help the kids understand. Note to them that the pencil is like us, and when we slip up and hurt someone, it’s like the pencil making a mark outside of the lines. God is the healing eraser who comes to clean up that mess when we ask for forgiveness.
- Now, does God only forgive some sins? Or does He forgive all of them? (Give kids time to suggest answers and discuss.)
- Some people choose only to forgive small things. But God is different. God will forgive anything as long as we go to Him and say what we did wrong, and ask Him to make us clean again! Never forget that God loves you and always forgives you. The Bible says: *“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You”* (Psalm 86:5).

⁴³ Jesus Taught About Forgiveness Bible Craft on Sunday School Zone: Sunday school crafts for kids, Bible crafts for kids, Sunday school crafts. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.at/pin/401594491768417134/>



SONG:

[Lifetree Kids: You Forgive Me](#) | [Maker Fun Factory Music Video](#) | [Group Publishing](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Remind the children that God forgives *all* sins. By doing this for us in our lives, He gives us the strength and ability to forgive others.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Use this opportunity to ensure that the children have received practical solutions to the problems they posed at the beginning. Consider discussing the following practical applications:

- This week, if you do anything that makes your heart dirty (e.g. not sharing), who will you go to to have it washed clean? (We ought to ask God for forgiveness, as well as the person we hurt.)
- How can we forgive others? (Apologizing. Hugging it out. Listening to each other. Pray.)
- Who helps me to forgive other people in my life? (God. Abouna. The Holy Spirit.)



Lesson 5.2 - Esau Forgives Jacob

Building Block 5
God's Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Craft sticks (popsicle sticks), and yarn/string.

Activity: Tape; [coloring sheet](#).

Scripture Reference: Genesis 25: 29-34, 27:1-45, 32:2-21, 33:1-17

Video: [Superbook: Episode 3 - Jacob and Esau - Full Episode \(22:37\)](#)

Song: "Jesus Loves Me and Forgives Me" (lyrics below) to the tune of "[Ten Little Indians](#)"



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand what forgiving one another looks like through the biblical example of Jacob and Esau.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness, Friendship, and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.



Matthew 6:14

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Today, we are going to look at an example from the Bible about the importance of forgiving people in our lives that hurt us.

Say You Are Sorry Activity:



Before this activity, tape a line down the center of the floor. Have the children form two groups and have the groups line up single file, facing each other, at opposite ends of the tape.

Consider introducing the game by saying: We are going to play a game called "Say You're Sorry!" When I switch the lights off and on (or say "Go!"), I want both groups to start walking; heel to toe, on the line, towards each other. When you meet people coming toward you, try to step around them but still try to keep your feet on the line. You might bump into each other a little bit. When you bump someone else, say "I'm sorry." When someone says, "I'm sorry" to you, say "I forgive you!" back to that person. (Consider demonstrating for clarity). Ready? Go!

**Note: Encourage the kids to be careful and not hurt each other, or else they will have to sit out.*

When all of the children have walked along the line, consider saying "Now, let's go back the same way, only this time there will be no talking. Ready? Go!"

When all of the children have again walked along the line, have them sit in a circle on the floor.

Questions:

- What was it like walking along the line the first time? (Answers could be: It was fun; it made me laugh; it was noisy with everyone saying sorry.)
- What did you think of walking the line the second time? (Answers could be: It seemed harder; it wasn't as much fun; I felt nervous.)
- What would it be like in real life if people never said they were sorry? (Answers could be: Sad; I would feel bad; people would be mean all the time.)
- What would it be like if we could not tell God we were sorry? (It would be scary; I wouldn't like it; I would feel bad.)

Part of loving one another is always saying sorry if we have done something wrong to someone. Also, loving one another is accepting someone's apology when they say sorry to you! In our memory verse today, Matthew 6:14, it says: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Our memory verse is saying that God forgives us so much, and so, it would please Him if we forgive others.

Today we will learn about a story about forgiveness - the story of Jacob and Esau.



LESSON BODY:

Our story is of twin brothers Esau and Jacob, and their father and mother, Isaac and Rebekah. One day Jacob took something from Esau - something very precious, his blessing as the older brother. When Isaac was old and blind, he told his eldest son, Esau, to go hunt for him and that he would bless him in the eyes of the Lord. Rebekah heard what Isaac told Esau and went to Jacob and told him to go get two kinds of sheep so that she could cook for Isaac and then he would bless Jacob, but Jacob was scared that his father would know who he was if he touched him because Esau was hairy, and he was not.

So, Jacob was worried that his dad would notice when he asked for the blessing. Rebekah put sheepskin on Jacob's hands and neck and Esau's favourite clothes on him so Jacob would not get caught. She then sent him to his father with the food that she made. When Jacob gave the food to Isaac, Isaac requested Jacob to come closer to him so that he could feel his arms to make sure the person bringing the food was Esau. So Jacob



went to his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.

Emphasize then, that this is a deceptive way of getting the blessing.

When Esau came back for his blessing and found out Jacob had already taken it, he was very upset, cried, and said that he “*hated Jacob*” (Genesis 27:31). The brothers, who were supposed to love each other so much, split up and lived far away from each other. After some time after, Jacob wanted to make peace with his brother, so he decided to send presents to Esau. Jacob asked God for a blessing and he became weak. Jacob decided to go to Esau for help, as he approached Esau he bowed (as sign for forgiveness).

Encourage the children to brainstorm with you what they think Esau did.

At the same time, Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, and kissed him. These actions were a result of forgiveness - once Esau forgave his brother, he was able to hug him and love him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Cross:

Tell the children that this craft will remind them that Jesus died on the cross to forgive us of our sins. He is our example for forgiving others.

1. Give each child two wooden craft sticks and a long piece of yarn or string.
2. Tell them to place one stick over the other to make a cross. Have them wind the string around the intersection of the sticks, in an X shape. Make sure they leave a few inches of string hanging when they start, so they can tie it to the end of the string when they finish wrapping it around the sticks.
3. Assist them in writing “Jesus Forgives” on the cross. (“Jesus” on the horizontal stick and “Forgives” on the vertical stick).

Jacob and Esau Coloring Sheet: Prepare [this coloring sheet](#) for the children, and give them time to color it. Repeat the memory verse before and after the coloring activity to link it to the lesson objectives.



VIDEO:

[Superbook: Episode 3 - Jacob and Esau - Full Episode](#) *Play the video in three parts to provide time for questions and elaboration.*

After viewing part one of the video (beginning - minute 11:25), ask: What do you think of the trade Jacob and Esau made of the soup for the land and animals? Do you think it was fair? Has anybody ever tricked you? What did you do about it? (Jacob knew he was being unfair to his brother, but he did it anyway.) Let’s find out what happened next!

After viewing part two of the video (11:25-19:08), ask: How do you think the mom, Rebekah, and her younger son Jacob, felt about what they did? How about the dad, Isaac, and the older brother Esau? How do



you think they felt? If you were Isaac or Esau, would you want to forgive Rebekah and Jacob? (People sometimes do mean things to each other. When someone does something mean to us, it can make us so angry that we want to hurt them back. But God wants us to forgive others.) Let's find out if Jacob and Rebekah were forgiven.

Before part three of the video, ask the children if they think the brothers will forgive each other or not and discuss with them.

After viewing part three of the video (19:08 - end), ask: So, the Bible tells us the two brothers forgave each other and lived in peace! Why do you think they forgave each other instead of staying mad? How do you think they felt after they forgave each other? (God wants us to forgive others just as Jacob and Esau did! The main reason for this is because He forgave us first. If God forgives us (which we saw in last week's story about the Prodigal Son), then we also have a responsibility to forgive others in our lives too, just like Jacob and Esau.)



SONG:

Sing the following song to the tune "[Ten Little Indians](#)":

Jesus loves me and forgives me.

Jesus loves me and forgives me.

Jesus loves me and forgives me.

I'll forgive like Jesus.

I'll forgive, I won't hold grudges.

I'll forgive, I won't hold grudges.

I'll forgive, I won't hold grudges.

I'll forgive like Jesus

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Like Jacob and Esau -- God wants us to forgive them too. We forgive because He forgave us, and we want to be like Him. *Consider reviewing the lesson by singing the song above.*



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- What are some examples of times where I can choose to forgive others the way God forgives me? (E.g. When someone does not share with me, I can choose to forgive them and love them anyway!)
- How do we know we have truly forgiven someone? (We continue to love them and do not hold any grudges like Esau forgave Jacob).
- What are some strategies we can practice to forgive others? (Apologize when we are wrong. Listen to other people's feelings.)



Lesson 5.3 - Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Building Block 5
God's Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, brick, foil, and a black marker.

Scripture Reference: Genesis 42-45.

Craft: Cardstock, crayons, and scissors.

Activity: Stones (or other heavy items), picture of Jesus, and cloth bags (one per child).

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Joseph \(3:48\)](#)

Song: [Joseph's Song](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand what forgiving one another looks like through the biblical example of Joseph and his brothers. They will also learn about the dangers of holding grudges rather than forgiving.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness, Friendship and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



... even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.



Colossians 3:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Today, we are going to learn about how Jesus can help us to forgive others, even when they hurt over and over.



Jesus Lightens Our Load Activity:

Have a servant prepare three stations with stones or other heavy items. Place a picture of Jesus at a fourth station. Give each child a bag.

Introduce the activity by saying "I'm going to tell you about some things that might make you angry. Each time, you will go to one of our helpers and they will put a stone in your sack."

- Someone hides your favorite toy.
- Your little brother knocks down the tower of blocks you just finished.
- Your mother scolds you for something your little sister did.
- Your friend says you can't play in his yard anymore.
- Someone spills milk over the picture you just made.

Explain to the children the feelings we experience when we do not forgive those who are unkind to us . It's like carrying a heavy load; our bad feelings weigh us down and make us feel angry.

One way to feel better is to tell Jesus and ask Him to help you forgive them and to forgive you for being angry. When we forgive others or ask for their forgiveness, it's like letting go of a heavy load. Come now and put your heavy bags by Jesus' picture. Give your angry feelings to Jesus, and He will help you be happy again!

To conclude this activity, bring in a brick covered in foil. Using a black permanent marker write the word "GRUDGE" on the foil covered brick.

Consider asking the children if they know what grudge means. Then explain what it means by condering saying "A "grudge" is when you continue to feel angry at someone because of something they did wrong to you. A grudge can be very, very heavy - it is one of the heaviest things we can carry when someone hurts us."

Consider introducing today's lesson by saying Today, we are going to learn about the story of a man in the Bible who chose not to hold a grudge, even though people hurt him very badly: Joseph!



LESSON BODY:

Joseph had 11 brothers, but he was his father's favorite son. This made his brothers jealous of him so they put him in a dry well and then sold him to people who took him to Egypt. Much later, God revealed to Joseph that Egypt would go through a famine so He told Joseph to tell the Egyptians to start collecting food while the land was abundant. Joseph went to the king of Egypt and told him what God had revealed to him and the king was very pleased and made Joseph a governor of Egypt.

When the famine came, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to ask for food from the governor. The brothers did not know that the governor was their brother, Joseph.

Consider asking the children how they think Joseph felt when he heard that his brothers are in Egypt.

When Joseph first saw his brothers, he still held a grudge against them, and accused them of being spies against Egypt. Joseph asked his brothers what had happened to his family since he had been sold. When he found out he had a new brother, Benjamin, Joseph told his brothers that their brother Simeon would remain in prison while they took food back to their family, until they returned with their youngest brother.

When his brothers returned with Benjamin, Joseph was overjoyed, he released Simeon and made a big feast for them. However, Joseph was still mad at his brothers for sending him away so he decided to test them and see if they would protect their youngest brother.. *Emphasize to the children that Joseph's test was not right.* When Joseph saw how much his brothers loved Benjamin, he finally revealed himself to his brothers. Joseph forgave his brothers and gave them new homes and all the food they needed.

Emphasize that it is our command and responsibility to love one another (which requires forgiving people). When we do this, our hearts are made light and new again like Joseph's!

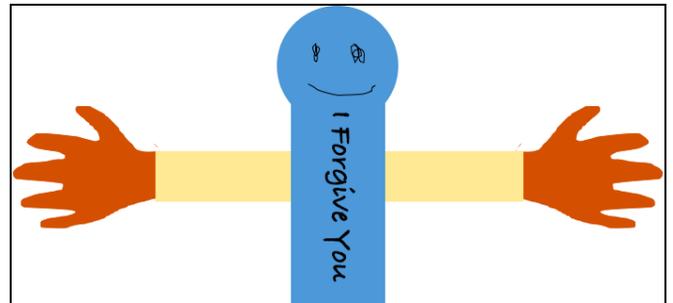
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Forgiving Friend:

1. Servant Preparation: Pre-cut pieces of cardstock measuring approximately 3 inches by 11 inches. Draw out and cut out a keyhole shape (top, circle part of the keyhole shape measuring 3 inches in diameter and the bottom, rectangular part of the keyhole shape measuring 3 inches in length and 4 inches in width).
2. Give children a piece of cardstock and instruct them to trace both of their hands. Assist them in cutting out their hand shapes. Give them the pre-cut piece of card stock (3"x11") and instruct them to color this anyway they like and then assist them in folding lengthwise into thirds. This will become the "arms" of their "forgiving friend".
3. Give children the keyhole shape. On the rectangular part of the shape, instruct children to write "I Forgive You". Children can now glue this shape to the center, front side of the 3"x11" cardstock strip and then glue the hands to each end of the strip.
4. Instruct the children to use their crayons to decorate the face of their "Forgiving Friend". The arms (the left and right side of the 3"x11" cardstock strip can fold in for a forgiving hug!



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Joseph \(3:48\)](#)



SONG:

[Joseph's Song](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Remind the kids of the weight of their bags from earlier, as well as the weight of the "GRUDGE" brick.

Today, we talked about the weight of grudges and anger at those who hurt us. We learned when we forgive, like Joseph did with his brothers, we become free of this weight! We do this because this is what Jesus taught us to do when He forgave our sins, and because He commanded us to love one another.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Is there a limit to how many times we should forgive one another? Allow the kids to discuss.

St. Peter asked Jesus the same question in the Bible. He asked if 7 times was enough. Jesus responded and said not 7...7x70! That's a lot - 490 to be exact! But God forgives you even if you make 7000 mistakes. We must do the same for others.

This week, do your best not to hold grudges, even when someone does something mean to you like Joseph's brothers did to him.



Lesson 5.4 - The Prodigal Son

Building Block 5
God's Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, bags of coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.), M&Ms, and Dixie cups.

Scripture Reference: Luke 15:11-32.

Craft: [Printable](#), construction paper, googly eyes, markers, yarn/string, scissors, and glue.

Song: [SingKids! Songs by Sue Bleazard: The Prodigal Son \(2:41\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop and display an understanding that we should never be afraid to ask for forgiveness.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness, Courage and Repentance.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Your brother was dead and is alive again; and was lost and is found.

”

Luke 15:32

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Invite the kids to come sit at a round table. Dump a bag of coins on the table. Work together to sort the coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.).

Think about asking the children their knowledge of the word “inheritance”. (Explain to the kids that an inheritance is a gift of money or property that parents give their children when they pass away.)

Brainstorm with the kids about some things they would like to buy if they had been given lots of money as they sort the coins.



Explain to the children that today they will learn about a young man who did not use his inheritance wisely and this man is called the prodigal son.



LESSON BODY:

Have each child sit in their seat. Prepare two cups for each child with around 5 M&M's in each cup. Tell the kids they cannot eat from the M&Ms until instructed to do so (or hold them until the part of the lesson where they need them).

The story of The Prodigal Son can be found in Luke 15:11-32. Consider having images of the story on the screen or TV for the children to visualize.

There was a man who had two sons. Each son was going to get an inheritance from their father. An inheritance means they would get part of their father's money and land. One day the youngest son came to his father and said, "Father, I want my inheritance now!" So the father gave it to him and the younger son took his inheritance and spent it all.

Now give the children the first cup of M&M's.

Consider explaining that the cup of M&M's symbolizes the younger son's inheritance. He spent all of his inheritance very fast, so I want you to eat all of your M & M's right now. You can't save them for later when you are hungry. You must eat them all right now! (Make sure they eat all of their M&M's and talk about how happy it makes them to eat them all immediately because they are so good!)

Explain to the children that the younger son had a great time spending his inheritance but because of this his inheritance, like your M&M's, was gone very quickly. Once his inheritance was gone, the younger son started to get hungry. He started to think that maybe he should have saved some of his money for later instead of wasting it all at once, but the older son still had his inheritance.

Give each child their second cup of M&M's and instruct them to eat them slowly or save a portion for later as the older son did.

The older son didn't run out of his inheritance and get hungry because he saved his money and land and only used it when he needed it.

Meanwhile the younger son kept getting hungrier and hungrier! Then he remembered that his father had servants that he paid. He knew his dad would be really mad at him if he tried to go home, but he thought his father would let him at least be a servant and take care of the pigs or something. At this point he was so hungry that he would have been even willing to eat the pig's food.

The younger son finally got the courage to return back to his father and apologize for what he had done. He wanted forgiveness from his father. So, the younger son went to his father to ask if he could be a servant and take care of the pigs, because this would be better than being hungry and on the streets.

Consider stopping and asking the children how they think the dad reacted.

The younger son walked through the gate to his father's home and something amazing happened! His father wasn't mad! Instead he gave his son a hug, a ring and sandals to wear. He threw a big party because he was so happy to have his son home. He completely forgave his son for what he did!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Lost Son Craft⁴⁴:

1. Servant preparation: measure 3 inch increments of construction paper and draw a guideline. Cut along these guidelines and fold the strips into thirds. Cut out the printables for the children in advance to prevent accidents and save time.
2. Have the children trace both of their hands on a sheet of construction paper. Assist them in cutting out their tracing.
3. Glue the hands on the ends of the strips prepared earlier by the servant and place the printable in the middle.
4. Let the children decorate the face of the craft.
5. Explain to the kids that this craft represents the open arms of God, who is always ready to forgive us.



SONG:

[SingKids! Songs by Sue Bleazard: The Prodigal Son](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Why do you think the father forgave his son and threw this incredible party for him? (Answer: Because he loves him! He continues to love him and forgive him, even when he makes mistakes).

The relationship between the father and the son is like our relationship with God. Even when we mess up and do very bad things, God will always forgive us and love us just like the father in the story. If we love the father, we will stop doing very bad things too.

Does God only forgive little sins? (This is a review of previous lessons).

No! Our God, like the father in this story, loves us so much. He will never turn you away if you come to Him saying sorry for what you have done, whether it is big or small. Never be afraid to come to God to ask for

⁴⁴ Teaching Kids Forgiveness - Parable of the Lost Son Craft. (2019, April 15). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://meaningfulmama.com/teaching-kids-forgiveness-parable-lost-son-craft.html>



forgiveness. But remember - that doesn't mean we keep doing bad things! We have to stop doing bad things so He will be proud of us and we can follow His example. We have to be holy like God is holy.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Discuss the following questions to help the children apply what they have learned:

- What are some things I am scared to talk to God about? (Lying, yelling, hurting my siblings, etc.)
- What can I do to remind myself that God loves me and wants me to talk to Him about everything? (Pray, talk to Abouna, remember the story of the Prodigal Son, etc.)



Lesson 5.5 - The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Building Block 5
God's Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, hacky sacks, ping-pong balls, paddles, and a potato (or ball).

Scripture Reference: Matthew 18:21-35

Craft: Yellow construction paper, glitter, glue, tape, scissors, crayons, and a stapler.

Activity: A ball or object that can be passed around.

Video: [VeggieTales: Lettuce Love One Another \(14:26\)](#)

Song: [VeggieTales Sing-kAlong: The Forgiveness Song \(2:03\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop and demonstrate an understanding that God forgives them and asks them to forgive others.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness, Kindness, and Mercy.



MEMORY VERSE:



Forgive and you will be forgiven.



Luke 6:37

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Remind the children of the memory verse in the previous lesson (Matthew 18: 21-22).



Have a discussion, referring to the memory verse from before, with the children about how many times Jesus asks us to forgive others? (7x70 times)

Introduce the activity by explaining to the children that they will see how big of a deal forgiveness is.

How Many Times Activity:

Ask the children how many times they can do various tasks:

- How many pushups can you do?
- How many times can you bounce a ping pong on a paddle?
- How many times can you bounce a hacky sack off your knee?
- How many jumping jacks can you do?

Have the children attempt these tasks. Ask if anyone can complete these tasks 490 times in a row without messing up. Let them try. The exact activities don't matter, as long as they get the "wiggles" out and see how difficult it is to do something 490 times!

Consider explaining to the children how this activity teaches us how difficult it is to do something especially 490 times. Remember to remind the children that Jesus forgives us 490 times and more! Our memory verse today teaches us that we must forgive others if we want forgiveness from God. Let's learn about a story from the Bible that helps us understand why we must forgive others.



LESSON BODY:

One day as Jesus was teaching a group of people, one of the disciples asked how many times a person should forgive others. Jesus answered him by telling a story (parable). Jesus started by saying that the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted his servants to return the money they owed him. Then, one of his servants needed to give him 10,000 dollars (talents), but the servant could not pay, so his master ordered him to be punished. The servant begged him to give him time and said "Master, have patience with me and I will pay you all." The master felt sorry for him and forgave him. Later, the servant went and found another servant who worked with him. Now, this servant owed him 100 denarii, but the servant was angry with him and told him "pay me what you owe." The servant begged his fellow servant for forgiveness and more time. However, the servant would not allow it and he threw him into prison until he paid the money.

Consider discussing with the children the different ways that both the master and the servant reacted to being owed money.

Consider asking the children what the servant should have done.

Friends of the servant went and told the master what happened. Then the master called the servant to him and told him that just as he forgave his debt, the servant should have forgiven also. The master ordered that his servant be punished until he paid his money.

Consider having a discussion with the children about the following question:

How did Jesus answer the disciple's question? What did Jesus mean by telling the servant?

Supplementary



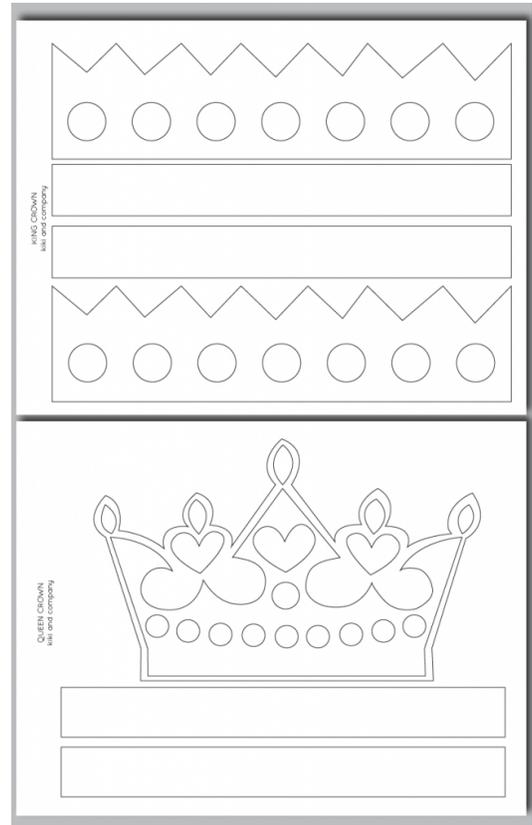
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

King's Crown⁴⁵: This easy crown craft, based on Jesus' parable told in Matthew 18: 21-35, will give the children the opportunity to role play and retell the story of the forgiving king and the importance of forgiving in light of the forgiveness we have received from the Lord.

1. Pre-cut construction paper into crown templates and headbands. One sheet of paper can create a crown set for one child. Create a set for each child.
2. Give each child a pre-cut crown page and ask them to decorate it using crayons, glue and glitter.
3. Tape the headband to one side of the crown; wrap the headband around the child's head to fit. Take it off their head and staple together.

Hot Potato⁴⁶:

1. Have the children sit in a circle and show them the "hot potato" or ball.
2. Start by telling the children about a time when you forgave someone for something.
3. Then, toss the potato to the child on your right and say "hot potato!" and explain that now it's that person's turn to share with everyone how they forgave someone.
4. Let them pass the potato until everyone gets a chance to share their story.



VIDEO:

[VeggieTales: Lettuce Love One Another](#) (link lasts from 2:50-4:11)

Consider stopping the video at 3:26 and 4:00 parts to discuss the following question with the children.

- Have you ever done something wrong to someone else? Have you said something mean, not shared, etc.? Did that person forgive you?

⁴⁵ Comin, K. (2019, January 16). Printable Kings and Queens crown {Free Printable}. Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <https://thecraftingchicks.com/printable-kings-and-queens-crown-free-printable/>

⁴⁶ Flood, S. (2019, January 10). Children's Games That Demonstrate Forgiveness. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://ourpastimes.com/childrens-games-demonstrate-forgiveness-5792147.html>



- Jesus is like the King in this parable. We do lots of sins throughout our life and are not able to fix things, but God forgives us anyway because He loves us. Remember: when we say we're sorry, He makes our hearts brand new. Let's see what the servant who was forgiven does next.
- Even though the servant was forgiven by the king, he didn't forgive the person who owed him money! That doesn't make much sense, does it? (*Invite them to discuss and share their thoughts.*)
- Remember how hard it was to do something 490 times? Forgiving people in our lives will also be hard. But we still must try our best and continue to forgive. Why? Because Jesus does it for us everyday! If He loves us and forgives us, we must also love and forgive others.



SONG:

[VeggieTales Sing-Along: The Forgiveness Song\(0:00-0:50\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Ask the kids if they think they can forgive someone 490 times. *Discuss why/why not.*

Remind the children that forgiveness can be hard! God forgives us 490 times and more, so we have to do the same for others.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today? Discuss the following question with the kids:

- Why should we forgive others? (If God forgives us, we must forgive others in return.)
- What can I do to show others I forgive them when they hurt me? (Be kind to them anyway, accept their apology, etc.)
- What can we learn from the unforgiving servant? (We cannot expect God to forgive us for all our sins if we will not forgive others for their mistakes.)

God always forgiven us. Because of this, we should always show love to others and forgive them too!



Lesson 5.6 - Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus

Building Block 5
God's Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, picture of Jesus, and a box

Scripture Reference: Luke 19:1-10

Craft: [Tree pattern](#), [Zacchaeus pattern](#), green construction paper, card stock, jumbo craft sticks, yarn, scissors, hole punch, crayons, glue, and tape.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Zacchaeus \(3:12\)](#)

Song: [P R W Clann: Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man \(1:10\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Through an exploration of the story of Zacchaeus, the children will develop an understanding of how Jesus accepted, included and loved everyone through forgiveness, and that we should do the same.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Today salvation has come to this house.

”

Luke 19:9

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Before the lesson, place a picture of Jesus in the bottom of a box. As you begin the lesson, tell the children that there is something amazing and wonderful inside the box, and ask them if they would like to see it. Then, create a situation that would make it difficult for the children to see inside the box...either having adults or children stand in front, or possibly placing the box too high on a table or counter so that they cannot see inside. Discuss how not being able to see makes us feel. Ask the children if they can think of other times, they

haven't been able to see. Move the box so that they can see inside. Explain that today's Bible story is about someone who had a hard time seeing Jesus because he was little and different than everyone else.



LESSON BODY:

As Jesus was passing through a city called Jericho, there was a man named Zacchaeus; this man used to collect money from the other people in the city so he was very rich. The day that Jesus was walking through the city, Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was, but there was a problem; Zacchaeus was too short to see anything. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a tree to see Jesus as he passed by. As Jesus walked by the tree, he saw Zacchaeus and he told Zacchaeus to quickly come down and take him to his house.

Consider asking the children How they think Zacchaeus felt about Jesus coming to his house (e.g. loved, accepted, forgiven, etc.).

Zacchaeus quickly came down from the tree and he was happy to have Jesus come into his house. When everyone else saw that Jesus was going into Zacchaeus' house, they were angry that he was going into the house of a sinner. As Jesus was walking with Zacchaeus, he began telling Him " Lord I give half of my goods to the poor." Then Jesus answered and said "Today salvation has come to this house."

Consider discussing with the children what made Jesus notice Zacchaeus? Why did the people call Zacchaeus a sinner if he gives to the poor?

Encourage the children to give ideas as to why Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house if he knew he was a sinner?

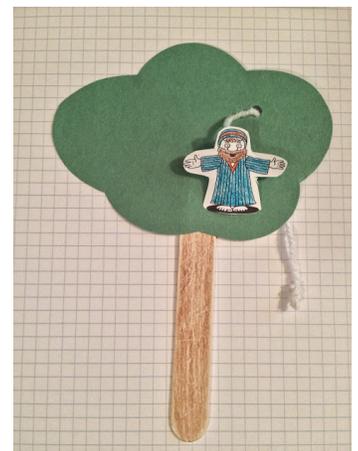
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Up and Down the Tree⁴⁷:

1. To prepare, cut out the top, leaf portion of the [tree pattern](#) and use it to trace onto green construction paper. Cut out tree and [Zacchaeus figures](#) after copying onto cardstock. Punch a whole near the top of the trees. Cut yarn into approximately 7" lengths.
2. In class, provide crayons for the children to color Zacchaeus, and the jumbo craft stick. Help them attach the tree to the craft stick with glue. Tape Zacchaeus to the yarn, thread the yarn through the whole in the tree, and knot the yarn at the end in the back to move Zacchaeus up and down the tree.



⁴⁷ Sprouts, F. (2016, February 15). Jesus Changed Zacchaeus' Heart. Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <http://faithsprouts.blogspot.com/2015/02/jesus-changed-zacchaeus-heart.html>



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Zacchaeus \(3:12\)](#)

Consider stopping at 0:42 so that the children can pay more attention and brainstorm the following questions:

- Zacchaeus was described as short and unliked. What are some things that make people unlikable today? (E.g. mean, doesn't share, etc.).
- Do you think God forgives and loves these unlikeable people too? Or does He only love certain people who are more likeable? (Discuss).

Play video from 0:42-1:49.

- So Jesus loved and forgave Zacchaeus! How do you think this changed Zacchaeus' life? Do you think he continued to be mean to other people like the unforgiving servant we heard about last week or do you think he changed his actions? (*Discuss*)

Play video from 1:49-2:40.

- Jesus loves all of us, even when we are short and mean to others! This should make us want to be like Zacchaeus and change our ways. Not only should we say sorry for being mean - we must stop being mean and love others the way Jesus loves all of us!



SONG:

[P R W Clann: Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man \(1:10\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Skit: The children will display an understanding of the story by retelling the story of Zacchaeus using the Up and Down Tree craft they created.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Ask and discuss the following questions with the children:



- What kinds of things can you do for others to show them that you love and accept them, even if they look and act differently than you? (Include them, asking about them, playing with them.)
- Everyone thought Zacchaeus was a sinner, but Jesus still loved him and was kind to him. When we see someone who does not have a lot of friends, should we leave them by themselves? Should we try to be friends with them? (We should always be nice to everyone and treat them with respect. This means treating them how we want them to treat us.)



Lesson 5.7 - The New Commandment

Building Block 5
God's Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, large picture of The Last Supper.

Scripture Reference: John 13:34.

Craft: Markers, construction paper (purple, pink, etc.), black marker.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding that forgiving others is an expression of God's commandment to love one another.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Kindness.



MEMORY VERSE:



A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.



John 13:34

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider telling the children that today we are going to be learning about God's love for us, and how His love helps us to love one another. Let's start with a game!

Love Run:

Before class, the servant will hide paper hearts around the room with "Love" quotes on them. The quotes should be simple sayings (appropriate for their reading level/ability) such as: JESUS LOVES ME!, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN, LOVE AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, etc. To begin the game, the servant will say something like "all children wearing something red, run and find a heart and bring it back to your circle," or "children who have shoestrings, run and find a heart." The game continues until all the hearts

have been found and each child has a heart. If a child is unable to read, have a servant assist them in the activity.

After each child has a heart, *ask them to turn to their neighbor and give them their heart to show them they love them.* Allow them to hold onto the heart they have received during the rest of the lesson (if this becomes a distraction, have the children tape up their heart to a large poster until the end of the class).

Consider having a discussion with the children and saying: Each and every one of you has received love twice today - the first time through the heart you found, which is from God. The second time was from your neighbor, who was able to give you the love God gave them! Today, our lesson is about how this sharing of love helps us to forgive one another and obey God's commands.



LESSON BODY:

Have a large picture of The Last Supper prepared for the kids.

Consider asking the children if anyone knows what is happening in the picture? (Give them time to tell you what they might already know about The Last Supper.)

Explain to the children that just before Jesus was crucified, He met with His disciples and they ate their last meal together. This meal is called The Last Supper. During this meal, Jesus told His disciples that He would soon leave them, but he had an important command for them before He left: *"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you."* (John 13:34).

Have the children repeat the words after you, so that they can memorize the verse.

Consider asking the children if they know what a commandment is. (Discuss that a commandment is like a rule or law we must follow. Have the children suggest other rules they follow).

Contemplate telling the children that this means that God's instruction to love one another is not a suggestion. It is a command! Just like you shared love with each other in the opening activity, God commands that we do this all the time with everyone.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Hand Holding Hearts Craft⁴⁸:

1. Have the children trace one hand on any construction paper that is folded in half so that when they are cut out, the end result will be two hands coming together.
2. Cut a few small sized hearts out of red construction paper (do this before the lesson to save time).



⁴⁸ Handprint Valentine Craft. (2018, January 25). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/handprint-valentine/>



3. Stack the small hearts on top of each other and glue one half of the heart with the other to look like a small book.
4. Glue the heart to the center of both hands where they connect.
5. Write messages of love or drawings on the heart to decorate.
6. Tell the kids they can give this craft as a gift to someone they love!

Finger Play Poem Activity:

Jesus said love everyone (outstretch arms);

Treat them kindly, too (outstretch arms);

When your heart is filled with love (place hands on heart),

Others will love you too (hug self).

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Remind the children about last week's lesson about forgiveness. God forgives us because He loves us! Today's lesson reminds us that we also have to love others and forgive them, just like God did with us -- even when they mess up!

Conclude by reminding the kids of the importance of love from God and love for each other in order to experience forgiveness. Emphasize this to connect to previous learning in this Building Block.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Questions: Using chart paper or a whiteboard, brainstorm the following ideas with the kids:

- What are some things that make me feel that God loves me? (Food, shelter, health, family, friends, school, sports, video games.)
- What are some things I can do to show the people in my life that I love them the way God loves me? (The YouTube video refers to this as "pulling people out of the puddle.") *Connect this idea at this part of the discussion to extend their thinking.*



Lesson 5.8 - Peter Denying Jesus & Building Block 5 Review

Building Block 5
God's Love is Forgiving



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, markers, copies of fish image, cardstock, bean bag, blue plastic, and tablecloth.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 26:31-35, John 18:15-27

Craft: Netting from orange bags, thin cardboard, craft sticks, glue, yarn, and crayons.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Peter Denies Jesus \(2:52\)](#)

Song: [Lifetree Kids: You Forgive Me | Maker Fun Factory Music Video | Group Publishing \(2:37\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop and demonstrate an understanding of how Peter denied Jesus, but asked for forgiveness and became a great apostle, spreading the word of God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness



MEMORY VERSE:



Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.



Matthew 4:19

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Fishers of Men Memory Verse Game:

Prep:

1. Using a printer, copy the fish image onto 18 pieces of colored cardstock.
2. Cut out the fish.



3. Write on the back of nine fish the first part of today's memory verse (Follow Me...).
4. On the other nine fish, write the second part of today's memory verse (...and I will make you fishers of men. Matthew 4:19).

*Prior to beginning, the teacher should ensure all children are capable of reading the verse (e.g. sound it out together on chart paper or a whiteboard prior to the activity).

1. Use a blue plastic tablecloth to mimic water. Spread it on the floor.
2. Spread the fish, face up, on top of the water.
3. Pick a spot on the floor where the children will stand when it's their turn. (e.g. small throw rug.)
4. Tell the children that they can't step off of the rug during their throw.
5. Using a bean bag, each child gets one throw at a time. They are to toss the bean bag in an attempt to land on a fish.
6. When they land on a fish, they get to turn it over and read the part of today's memory verse written on the back of their fish.
7. The game continues until everyone has a fish. At this time assist the children in finding a fish that is the other part of the memory verse. (You may wish, for the little ones, to match colors (red fish with red fish, blue fish with blue fish etc.) and then put their memory verse together. Then each pair holds up their fish and recites the memory verse.

Consider explaining to the children that today we celebrate the Apostles of our Church, who we call the "Fishers of Men." Briefly discuss what they may already know about this special day. (You may also wish to review the meaning of "Feast", as well as clarify that "fishers of men" is not literal, but means that these are God's people who shared the faith to others).



LESSON BODY:

Introduce to the children that today, we are going to be learning about the story of one apostle who was forgiven by Jesus for making a mistake. This forgiveness gave him the courage to go out and be one of the most excellent fishers of men in our church. This apostle is St. Peter!

During The Last Supper, Jesus was telling His disciples that it was time for Him to leave them. When Peter asked Jesus where He was going and that he was willing to die to be with Jesus, Jesus explained that Peter could not follow Him where He was going. Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed, Peter would deny Him three times. Then they all went to the Garden for Jesus to pray (and later taken). Later when Jesus was taken by the guards who were sent by the religious leaders, Peter and another disciple followed them. The night was cold, so Peter went to the fire to warm himself. As he was standing near the fire a servant girl recognized him as Jesus' disciple and asked Peter if he was a disciple of Jesus, but he denied it. After a while, another person came to the fire and asked Peter if he was one the disciples, again Peter denied. Soon after, a servant of the high priest asked him if he was a disciple, for the third and final time Peter denied knowing Jesus. Then immediately, the rooster crowed; Peter remembered Jesus' words and immediately felt bad and started crying.

Consider emphasizing that Peter asked for forgiveness, and when God forgave him he became a great apostle!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Fishers of Men Craft⁴⁹:

Prep:

1. Gather: netting from oranges, thin cardboard or cardstock, cut into squares, approximately 6"x6", with two holes punched in the top, yarn, glue, two jumbo popsicle sticks, with today's memory verse written as follows:
 - Top stick: "Follow Me, and I will make you"
 - Bottom stick: "Fishers of men - Matthew 4:19"
2. Pre-cut three or four gingerbread shaped people out of construction paper for each child.



Fishers of Men:

1. Have the children color their gingerbread shaped people, making sure to add happy faces. Direct them in gluing their people shapes onto the cardboard. Assist them in placing the netting on top of the people. Direct them by placing one line of glue onto the back side of the stick, "Follow me and I will make..." and place it on the netting leaving the holes exposed.
2. Do the same with the second stick, "...you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19) gluing on netting at the bottom. Thread yarn through holes at the top of cardboard, when everything has dried a bit, so that the children can hang it when they get home.

Fisher-Tag Activity⁵⁰:

This game is like the game tag. One person will be the fisherman, and everyone else is the fish. Place a hula hoop in the middle of the play area (or use a small rug). Whenever a small fish is tagged, they must go and stand in the net (hoop or rug). The game is over when everyone has been caught.



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Peter Denies Jesus \(2:52\)](#)



SONG:

[Lifetree Kids: You Forgive Me | Maker Fun Factory Music Video | Group Publishing \(3:13\)](#)

⁴⁹ Brummer, L. (2020, January 07). 49 Outstanding Christian Craft Ideas for Kids. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://wehavekids.com/education/all-christian-crafts>

⁵⁰ Putman, B., Daniel, S., & Beke, N. (2013, July 15). Fishers of Men (Luke 5:1-11) Sunday School Lesson: Ministry-To-Children. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/bible-lesson-fishers-of-men-from-luke-5/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Remind the kids that accepting God’s forgiveness can give us increased trust in God. If we remember He will always forgive us, we will have the strength to be a fisher of men and women just like St. Peter was.

Block 5 Review:

Explain to the children that today we learned about St. Peter and how Jesus’ forgiveness helped him have the courage to be the fisher of men that Jesus asked him to be. We have talked about lots of other characters from the Bible as examples of forgiveness. Can anyone remember them?

(Discuss with the kids using chart paper to see what was retained and what needs to be reviewed from the list below)

1. We learned that forgiveness means God washing your heart clean from what we have done wrong (recall heart washing activity).
2. We learned that God forgives us, always! Even if we are mean and small like Zaccheaus, or irresponsible like the Prodigal Son. God loves us so much and is always ready to forgive us if we ask.
3. We learned that if we don’t forgive, we will carry a heavy weight (recall the “grudge brick”). Jesus can carry this for us!
4. Joseph and Esau taught us that just like God forgives us, we must forgive others.
5. When we forgive others, we love them in the same way God loves us.

Consider creating a simple visual mind map or image to help children connect these themes.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Questions: Discuss with the kids using chart paper or a whiteboard:

- What are some ways we can remind ourselves that God loves us and forgives us so that we can be strong fishers of men like St. Peter?
- What are some practical ways we will show forgiveness in our everyday lives? (Apologizing when we do something wrong. Praying for God to help us forgive. Be ready to forgive others because we ask for God's forgiveness when we say the Our Father.)



Building Block 6: God’s Love is Steadfast, Unconditional, and Unchanging

Lesson 6.1 - God’s Love is Unconditional: Samaritan Woman

Building Block 6
God’s Love is Steadfast,
Unconditional, and Unchanging



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Bibles.

Scripture Reference: John 4:5-42

Craft: [This coloring page](#) and colored pencils/crayons.

Activity: Poster paper, marker, and sticky notes (post-its) with “God’s love” written on them.

Video: [The Gospel Project for Kids: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman \(3:29\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will display a deeper understanding of God’s love for them and that He takes care of them even when they have disobeyed His word.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love



MEMORY VERSE:

“

“God is love.”

”

1 John 4:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Hold up your Bible and say, “The Bible tells us that God is love.” The Bible tells us that nothing can separate us from His love! He never changes, so we know His love for us never changes. God’s love is bigger than all other love. “How much do your parents love you??” (Show them how to open their arms wide.) “Thiiiiis much! But God’s love is even bigger!”

God’s love is the biggest love there is! His love is bigger than all other love! And His love is forever, even if we do something wrong.

God’s love is unconditional. This means that God will love us all no matter what and that it will never change.



LESSON BODY:

Today we will learn about a woman who was also forgiven even though she had many sins. The story is based on John 4:5-39.

One day Jesus was traveling and He entered into Samaria. He went on purpose to this city because He wanted to see someone who mattered so much to Him. There, He sat down by a well called Jacob’s well to rest. Around noon time, while there were not many people outside, because of the hot weather, a woman came to the well to get some water. She only came out when everyone in the town was inside so no one would see her. The people in Samaria did not like this woman because she did bad things. She was Samaritan, and the Jews (of whom our Lord Jesus was one) usually did not speak to Samaritans. So when Jesus asked the woman for a drink, she was very surprised!

When Jesus saw her confusion, He told her that if she knew who He really was, she would be asking Him for water! This confused the woman even more! Jesus explained to her that while the water she could get from a well would help her overcome how thirsty she was for a little while, the living water He could give would mean that whoever drank it would never thirst again! The woman thought that was amazing, and she wanted some of that living water. So Jesus asked her where her husband was. She replied that she had no husband. Jesus said, that was right - she had been married before, but she was not now. This was the person that Jesus was waiting to see, and Jesus cared about her very much.

Our Lord Jesus Christ chose to go to this particular city, to speak to the Samaritan woman. He loved her, even when everyone in the city may have not, He did - and He always will, for “*God is love*” (1 John 4:8). In the same way, God loves each and every one of us - He always will. He loves us because we are His children. Remember how He taught us to say, “Our **father** who art in heaven?” So, God loves us, and He loves us unconditionally.

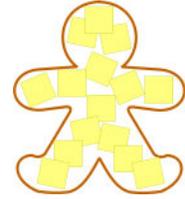
Consider expanding on explaining the word “unconditionally;” God loves us regardless of our sins, and regardless of our mistakes and our weakness.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Sticky Love⁵¹:



The servant should write 'God's Love' on all the sticky notes.

1. Have the teacher draw a picture of a person (like a gingerbread shape) on the poster paper and hang it up
2. Ask the children to say some bad things they do sometimes and have the teacher write them in the person
 - a. I don't share.
 - b. My words are mean or hateful.
 - c. I get angry.
 - d. I hit someone.
 - e. I disobey my parents.
 - f. I take a friend's toy.
 - g. I'm impatient.
 - h. I tease a friend.
3. Have the children come up one by one and cover a bad thing with a sticky note while saying "God's love covers me when ..."
4. Emphasize that although God covers our sins by His mercy, that we ought to do our part. We should seek forgiveness from the person we hurt, and get the absolution of sins from a priest through the sacrament of confession. *Although the children may not know much about confession, and may not be partaking of the sacrament yet, it is important to start bringing up the idea that it is through the sacrament of confession that we get forgiveness of sins.*

Coloring Page: [This coloring page](#) can be printed and given to the children to enjoy coloring in class or to take it home if time does not permit.



VIDEO:

[The Gospel Project for Kids: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman \(3:29\)](#)

Consider pausing the video to explain any difficult concepts.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

⁵¹ God's Sticky Mercy. (n.d.). Retrieved August 31, 2020, from <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/preschool/activities/gods-sticky-mercy>



- What was the woman's reaction to Jesus' statements about her life? (She was confused because no one usually talked to her)
- How did Jesus feel about this woman? (Jesus loved her so much and chose to go to her town to meet and speak to her.)
- What does unconditional love mean? (Loving no matter what someone does. God loves us even if we break the rules. This love though does not allow us to make use of it - let us ask Him to help us to love Him as He loved us.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Remember that God loves us unconditionally, always. We should do the same. Even if someone upsets us we need to still love them. Let us not hold grudges against anyone, let us forgive easily.



Lesson 6.2 - God's Love is Unchanging: From the Sea to Mt. Sinai

Building Block 6
God's Love is Steadfast, Unconditional, and Unchanging



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Exodus 16-17.

Craft: Play-doh.

Activity: Glass of water filled $\frac{3}{4}$, bottle of water, coins/nails (small metal object), food coloring (optional), and puppets (for review lesson).

Video: [Leading Children to Heaven: God is Love 1 John 4:8 \(3:31\)](#)

Song: [Veggie Tales: God Loves Me \(2:47\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will know that God never changes no matter what they do. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love



MEMORY VERSE:

“

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

”

Hebrews 13:8



Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Tell the children that the Bible tells us a lot about who God is. From the Bible we know that God is so loving and powerful and today we are going to talk about how God never changes.

Then, give the children a demonstration using the cup of water, water bottle, and coins. Steps to this demonstration are listed below.

This is a beautiful demonstration of God's unchanging love. Consider watching [this video](#) for further insight as to how the demo can be presented.

Water Demo: The following steps outline how this can be done:

- Bring out a glass filled $\frac{3}{4}$ with water (can be colored if food coloring is available)
- Fill the glass with water all the way to the brim. Ask the children if they think you can add anything to the glass without it spilling over. They should expect it to spill over once anything is added.
- Drop the metal objects sharp end down in the glass and the water should stay and not spill over.
- Explain that the water is like God's love, it doesn't change even when we sin.



LESSON BODY:

Consider refreshing the childrens' memory of the story of the crossing of the Red Sea (lesson 3.6) to give them the context for today's lesson.

After the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and parted the Red Sea, they were in the desert and started complaining to God. They quickly forgot the miracles that the Lord just performed like the crossing of the Red Sea. They began grumbling towards the Lord and complained to Moses, saying 'Oh, we wish we just stayed in Egypt where our tummies were full of meat and bread. Instead, you have brought us to this desert to where there is no food at all!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, "*Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you*" (Exodus 16:4).

So even when the Israelites were grumbling against God, and His servant Moses, God sent down bread from heaven called Manna which the Israelites could eat and satisfy their hunger.

Afterwards, the people then went to Moses and said "*Give us water, that we may drink.*" (Exodus 17:2) The Lord told Moses to hit the rock, and water will come out of it, that my people may drink.

From this we learn that even when we are sinning and not being thankful, God's love for us does not change; He loves us and provides us with all we need because we are His children.

Consider showing this [video](#) to help the children visualize the story told.



Questions:

Read Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8, to the kids. Be sure to explain what change is. Discuss these verses, pointing out that God does not change.

Discuss the craft with the following questions after to evaluate their understanding of the lesson.

- What is something that changes? (gather answers from children)
- How does your hair change? (grows longer, gets cut)
- How do the trees change? (leaves change colors, gets buds, leaves fall off)
- How does the weather change? (cold, hot, summer, winter, snow, rain, etc)
- How do you change? (grow taller, learn more, taste, etc.)
- How does the grass change? (grows longer, gets cut, changes color)
- Does God ever change? (No)
- Does God always love you? (Yes!)
- Does God ever change His mind and decide He doesn't love you? (NO!)

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Unconditional Love:

- Give each child some Play-doh to play with. Ask them to make any shape.
- Ask the children, "When do you think Jesus loves you?"
- Then ask them to brainstorm a number of bad choices that sometimes are made (e.g. do not obey, not share, hit our brother or sister, etc.). Then ask them, "Does God love us when we sin?"
- Follow with an explanation that God's love is unconditional, i.e. "He still loves us no matter what. He might not like what we choose to do, but He will never stop loving you."
- Tell the children an explanation with the playdoh, "Even though the playdoh changed form, like we change, the amount of playdoh that each started with is still the same. Although we change, God's love us just the same."



VIDEO:

[Leading Children to Heaven: God is Love 1 John 4:8 \(3:31\)](#)



SONG:

[Veggie Tales- God Loves Me \(2:47\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children may be engaged in the following review lesson story demonstrated using puppets.

There were two plants, a good plant, and one that was not too good. One day, the sun was shining and it was beautiful outside. The two plants reacted very differently to the sun being there.

Good plant: Wow! It is a beautiful day outside today! I love the sun, it keeps me warm, and helps me enjoy the day.

Not-so-good plant: Ugh, the sun is out today. It will be really hot and dry, and I do not like it at all. Why can we not just have anything else. Why does it have to be sunny??

The next day, it was rainy and again, the two plants reacted very differently.

Good plant: Thank God! Today is rainy! I can get water and it's going to help me grow!

Not-so-good plant: Come on! Why is it rainy today! I just want it to be nice out and not so cold!

This was the story of the good plant and the not-so-good plant. We can see that even if the not-so-good plant complained and grumbled against God, His unconditional, and non changing love towards it still gave it all it needed. He gave it water to grow, and the sun for its food. Likewise, God does the same for us.

“That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Always remember that God loves us no matter what and we should love others the same way.
- What are some ways that we can show our love for others? (Be kind to them, tell them we love them, be helpful, etc.).



Building Block 7: God’s Love is Revealed to us Through Jesus Christ

Lesson 7.1 - The Fall of Adam and Eve

Building Block 7
God’s Love is Revealed to us Through
Jesus Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Genesis 3.

Craft: Popsicle sticks, glue, [cut out images of Adam and Eve](#), and colored markers.

Activity: Playing blocks; Toy snake or print out of snake.

Video: [Geethanjali Kids: Adam and Eve \(10:03\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop and demonstrate an understanding of how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and that this disobedience brought them away from their loving Father.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My father will love them, and We will come to [them] and make Our home with [them].

”

John 14:23

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The “Importance of Rules”



1. Provide playing blocks for the children.
2. Tell children that they can play with the blocks as they please, but that they must follow two rules: 1) No throwing the blocks, and 2) You can only take one block at a time.
3. Give the children time to play by the rules .
4. Next, tell the children to clean up. Once they are done cleaning up ask them why it is good to have rules.
5. Once children have shared their thoughts, state that God has rules too! He also had a rule for Adam and Eve which they will learn about later.



LESSON BODY:

God created a beautiful garden called Eden. This garden had all kinds of trees and animals.

Consider asking the children what their favourite animal is.

God let Adam and Eve eat from any tree they wanted to in the whole garden, but God told them they could not eat from one of the trees.

Consider asking the children if they know what this tree was called? It was called The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The devil, disguised as the serpent, tricked Eve into eating from this tree. He told her that God did not want them to eat from the tree so that they would not be like Him. He told them they would not die if she ate from this tree.

Have the children say whether what the serpent said was true or not.

Adam and Eve ended up disobeying God, and they ate from the tree. Once Adam and Eve ate from the tree, they noticed that they were naked and were very embarrassed! Then, God came into the garden, and when they heard God coming, they hid from Him.

At this point, consider asking the children if they think we can hide from God. Have them discuss why or why not.

When God asked why they ate from the tree, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent! As a punishment, God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden forever, and made it so that the serpent crawled on its stomach forever.

Questions:

- How do you think God felt when Adam and Eve ate from the tree? Why do you think he felt this way? (Worried, scared, upset, disappointed, etc.) Why? (Because He loves you! He didn't want Adam and Eve to get hurt, just like when we made rules with the blocks at the beginning of the lesson.)

- Consider posing an analogy to the class: *If your parents tell you not to use the knife in the kitchen because it's dangerous, but you go and use one anyways. How do you think your parents would feel when they found out?*
- God sees us the same way. How special are we to God? What does God call us? (We are His Children, He loves us just like our parents do!)

Conclude by emphasizing that God puts rules in place because He loves us and wants to protect us. If we love Him, we will obey Him too because this is for our wellbeing (consider introducing the memory verse here).

Supplementary

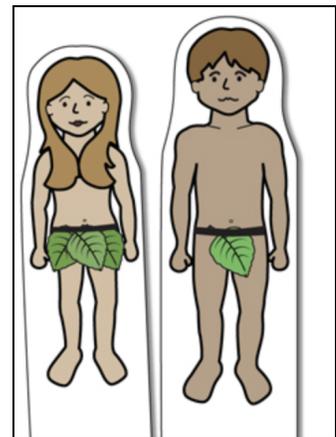


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Adam and Eve Popsicle Stick Puppets Craft:

Prior to the class, pre-cut and glue images of Adam and Eve onto popsicle sticks.
In class:

1. Have the kids color the images of Adam and Eve.
2. They can engage in dialogue with their puppets with other classmates when finished coloring.



Find the Snake Activity⁵²:

1. Ensure that the snakes are hidden in different locations around the room before playing.
2. Tell the children about how Satan spoke through a snake and tempted Eve to eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She ate this fruit, and the snake was cursed to crawl on the ground forever!
3. Divide children into groups and have them search for the snakes. The group that finds the most snakes wins!



VIDEO:

[Geethanjali Kids: Adam and Eve \(10:03\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

⁵² Scheidies, C. (n.d.). Adam & Eve Games for Kids. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://oureverydaylife.com/adam-eve-games-for-kids-12083515.html>



We become like Adam and Eve today when we listen to anyone who leads us to disobey God and our parents. The devil can use friends and people around us just like he used the serpent.

- What did the devil do to Adam and Eve? (Used the serpent to trick them into disobeying God.)
- How did the serpent trick them? (He made them think that it was okay to eat from the tree.)
- What did Adam and Eve do after they ate from the tree? (They tried to hide from God.)
- What did God do to Adam and Eve? (He sent them away from the garden.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Have you ever disobeyed your parents, teachers, grandparents, etc.?
- Were you scared to tell them the truth? How did they react when you do tell them the truth? (Emphasize that regardless of our mistakes, our parents and loved ones will always love us just like God).

All of our parents tell us not to do certain things. It is just as important for us to listen to them as it was for Adam and Eve to listen to God. Why do you think our parents tell us to do certain things?

- To protect us, to keep us safe, because they love and care for us, and they know what's best for us.

When we think about disobeying our parents, teachers, or other family members, we should always remember the story of Adam and Eve. One bite of a fruit changed their lives and the lives of everyone who came after them, that includes us!



Lesson 7.2 - The Father Loves Us; He Sent His Son

Building Block 7
God's Love is Revealed to
us Through Jesus Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: 5 clear tall drinking glasses, food coloring in four colors (blue, green, red, yellow), and a large pitcher filled halfway with water.

Scripture Reference: 1 John 4:19.

Craft: Gray (or striped) long socks, googly eyes, red felt, and glue gun(s) (have multiple if more than one servant is present).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will learn that sin is disobedience (like the one they learned about last week in the lives of Adam and Eve) that prevents us from having a relationship with God. They will learn that God remedied this sin by sending His own Son, Jesus, to die for us so that we can have a relationship with God forever.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:



We love Him because He first loved us.



1 John 4:19

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Introduce the lesson by asking these following questions to review last week's lesson:

- What did the devil do to Adam and Eve? (Used the serpent to trick them into disobeying God)



- How did the serpent trick them? (Made them think that God did not love them enough and that it is okay from them to not listen to God's command.)
- What did God promise Adam and Eve that He would do? (Send them a savior.)
- What is sin? (Anything that we think, say or do that does not please God.)
- Who sins? (Everyone).

Consider introducing the lesson by saying: Today we will talk about how Jesus solved the problem of sin and disobedience we learned about in the previous lesson.



LESSON BODY:

When we sin and disobey God, like Adam and Eve did, we prevent our ability to have a relationship with God. For example, when Adam and Eve sinned, they could no longer stay in the Garden of Eden with God.

This causes a problem because we love God so much and want to be with Him all the time, but if we sin, that cannot happen. We as humans do not have the power to fix this problem, but God does!

To fix the sin that Adam and Eve committed, God sent Jesus, His only Son, to Earth for us. Remember, Jesus is God (in the flesh). Jesus was born like you, but He had no sin. He grew up, lived His life, worked miracles, preached sermons, and then He was accused of saying He was God. The Pharisees did not like hearing Jesus' teachings and that He said he was God. So, the Pharisees decided to kill Jesus and crucify Him, but Jesus was not scared; He did not fight them and at the end, He was nailed to the cross and died.

Consider pausing here and asking the children if they know what happened next in the story.

But wait! That's not all. Jesus rose from the dead after all of this. He conquered death and saved us all from our sins.

Consider pausing here and asking the children why they think Jesus' life on earth is important to know and believe.

Jesus did all of this for us because He loves us so much. God the Father, who loves us, sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to do all of this for us. Jesus' death allowed Him to be with God in Heaven forever. If Jesus did not come to save us we would be separated from God forever. Just like God loves us we need to love others. Jesus came and died for us because He loves us; if Jesus did not come to Earth and die for us we would have not been able to be with God forever.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Snake Sock Puppets Craft:

Remind the children that last week, they learned about how Satan disguised as a serpent and tricked Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden. This craft builds on this story. Emphasize that this serpent tries to get in the way of us loving and obeying God.

1. Prior to the class ensure the tongue shapes are cut out of red felt.
2. Handout a long gray socks, red felt tongue, and two eyes to each child (The servant should be in control of the glue gun)
3. The servant can go around to each child (or have the kids line up) and glue the eyes and tongue for them. Ensure that the eyes will be at the top of the face and the tongue 'inside the mouth' as shown in the image.
4. The children can engage in dialogue with their completed puppets.



Review

REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson using this activity to ensure a clear understanding of sin.

Preparation:

1. Prior to the children arriving to class, place two drops of dye in each glass. One color (except the blue) per glass.
2. In the fourth glass mix one drop of each color. Leave the fifth glass empty.
3. Place the glasses on a table, preferably high enough so that when the children sit down they can not see the bottom of the glasses.

Arrange them in this order: Mixed Colors → Red → Empty → Green → Yellow

Activity:

1. Begin by announcing that you have a pitcher that contains special color changing power! Start reviewing to the children how sin separates us from God. Sin is breaking God's law and its punishment is separation from God forever.
2. As you talk about sin, pour special water into the first cup. It fills up with a dark liquid, representing our sins.
3. Continue by telling the children that Jesus came to pay the penalty for our sins. That He died on a cross and shed his blood (pour water in the second [red dye] glass as you speak) to take away our sins.
4. God has promised to take us to be where He is, heaven (pour water in the fifth [yellow] glass). Explain how heaven is a place where the streets are made of gold. Where God is the light that shines, where there is no sin and no pain.



Emphasize to the children that this blood cleanses (pour water into third [empty] glass) us from all sin and allows us to come near to God. We are free from sin and the penalty of it. Consider telling the children that once we are forgiven, we need to start living for God and learning more about Him. Tell them how we need to grow (pour water in the fourth [green glass]) in the knowledge of Jesus and His kingdom.

REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS

REVIEW BUILDING BLOCK 7

Review previous lessons from building block 7.

Consider developing a poster with pictures of the crafts completed during the building block to remind children of the themes from each lesson.

LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Discuss the following questions with the children:

- How can we show others how much God loves them? (Being obedient, kind, including others, etc.)
- What is one thing that we can do everyday to show God how much we love Him? (Praying and thanking God for everything He has done for us.)
- What should we do if we sin? (Ask God for forgiveness and change our ways to be more obedient.)



Building Block 8: God’s Love is Poured Into Us Through The Holy Spirit

Lesson 8.1 - An Introduction to the Trinity & Building Block VII Review

Building Block 8
God’s Love is Poured Into us
Through the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: An egg (raw), printed picture ([God is/is not](#)).

Scripture Reference: Matthew 3:16-17.

Craft: Green, yellow, white and red construction paper, card stock (any color), popsicle sticks, crayon, scissors, stick glue, and pencils.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will have a better understanding of the three persons of God—the Trinity.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Unity



MEMORY VERSE:



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit



Matthew 28:19

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider playing the game “Trinity Tag” if space permits.



“Trinity Tag”:

This is a game in which 1/3 of the children will be The Father, 1/3 will be The Son, and 1/3 will be The Holy Spirit. Different colored jerseys/shirts could be worn or different colors of post it notes/tape to make it easy for the children to recognize which group their peers belong to.

1. Tell the children that we will be playing a game called “Trinity Tag”. Consider introducing the game by reminding the children that we refer to God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Assign children as either “The Father”, “The Son”, or “The Holy Spirit”. Give them different colored jerseys/tape/post notes to make it easier for their classmates to identify who they are.
3. “The Fathers” will be “it” to start off and the goal is to tag someone who is “The Son” and someone who is “The Holy Spirit” to make the Holy Trinity! Whenever someone is tagged, they must link arms with the person who tagged them.

Once “The Father” has tagged “The Son” and “The Holy Spirit”, they will link arms and head to the Trinity Area.

Consider showing the following video to introduce the concept of the Trinity: [What’s in the Bible?: What is the Trinity? | What’s in the Bible? | DVD 5 \(1:27\)](#)



LESSON BODY:

Have the children sit down, either on chairs or on the ground and read to them Matthew 3:16-17.

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)

Explain to the children that this passage is about the baptism of Jesus, a voice from heaven, assumed to be God the Father, announces that Jesus is His Son. In these three persons, the Trinity is completed. The children have likely heard all three of those names of the Holy Trinity in some of our prayers and especially when they do the sign of the cross.

Consider doing the sign of the cross with the children, emphasizing the names of the Trinity and the conclusion, “One God”.

Note that it can be difficult for the children to understand, and that is okay. Emphasize that the Bible reveals that there is only one God but that this God is made up of three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

It is a bit of a mystery that there can be one God yet three persons to God. It makes sense that we humans might not be able to completely understand God. However, here are some things that might help us understand how something can be “one” and “three” at the same time. Here is an example: (show the children an egg)

See this egg. It is only one egg, yet it is made up of three parts. Do you know what those three parts are? Shell, yolk, and white. (Let the children respond – discuss some other things that are both 3 and 1 at the same time)

Remind the children that unlike the egg, God is alive. The wonderful thing about the real God is that He is alive. Jesus is our Savior and friend, the Holy Spirit can live inside of us and give us life, and we can know the deep love the Father has for us. God we serve is known to us in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Trinity Shamrock⁵³:

1. Using the cardstock, pre-make the clover leaves (three heart-shaped pieces), the cross, dove and heart, enough for each child.
2. Provide the children with glue to put together the shamrock, and attach the cross, heart, and dove.

Consider explaining to the children how the heart, cross and dove represent the persons of the Trinity, and that just as ONE shamrock is made up of three leaves, our ONE God is made up of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



VIDEO:

[What's in the Bible?: What is the Trinity? | What's in the Bible? | DVD 5 \(1:27\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Discussion Questions:

- What are the three persons that make up our God? (The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.)
- How does a heart represent the Father? (God the Father loves us.)
- How does a cross represent the Son? (Jesus died for us on the cross.)
- When did a dove appear as the Holy Spirit? (During Jesus' baptism.)
- Even though God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is He still one God? (Yes!)

⁵³ Kate, M. (2017, March 13). Father, Son, Holy Spirit Shamrocks (St. Patrick's Day Craft). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.christianitycove.com/trinity-shamrocks-craft/6863/>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Discuss the following question with the children:

→ How can we be more united with others just like God is united in the Trinity? (By sharing our gifts, by loving others, kindness, and being forgiving.)



Lesson 8.2 - Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Building Block 8
God's Love is Poured Into us
Through the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Fan and loose paper (or other materials to hold in front of the fan.)

Scripture Reference: John 16:5-15.

Craft: Paper or whiteboard and markers.

Song: [HOLY SPIRIT FOR CHILDREN - AYI THE COW - CHRISTIAN SONGS FOR KIDS](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of the Holy Spirit and His work in our life and will be encouraged to faithfully turn to Him for comfort and help.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Unity and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things.



John 14:26

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Set up a fan in the room. Have the children stand in line and stand in front of the fan one-by-one. Turn on the fan and watch their hair blow, pieces of paper move, etc. Discuss the following questions with the children:

→ Can anyone see the wind? (No. But, you can see the effect of the wind on other people!)



→ Who can feel the wind? (Everyone who chooses to stand in front of the fan.)

In last week's lesson, we learned about the Holy Trinity; God is three persons in one - God the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Today, we are going to focus on the Holy Spirit. Can anyone see wind? No, of course not. But you can feel it! The Holy Spirit is like wind; although we may not see Him, we can feel Him working in us, and through us. He is very strong for He is God.



LESSON BODY:

Review the following excerpt from John 16 prior to beginning the lesson:

“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

Consider beginning the lesson with the video provided.

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children the following questions:

- How many of us have ever done something wrong?
- How many of us felt sorry about it?
- How many of us have ever been brave when we could have been afraid?
- How many of us need help making the right decisions?

Remind the children that if they answered yes to any of the above questions, they have experienced the work of the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is one of the persons of God. *Consider reviewing the term “Trinity” from the previous week.*

Begin the following discussion with the children:

- Does anyone here have a best friend? Why is that person your best friend?
- The Holy Spirit is like our best friend. He is with you always and comforts you when you are sad. He watches over your shoulder and protects you from any danger and helps us make the right decisions. We should thank God for giving us such a lovely friend, gift, and comforter! Let's sing a song together about the Holy Spirit being our friend.

Consider singing the song provided at this time.

Supplementary

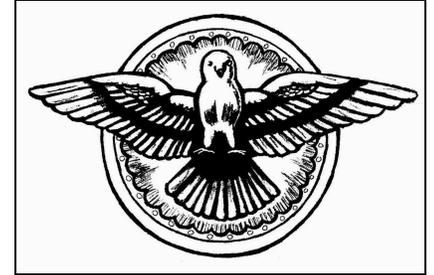


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Holy Spirit Drawing Activity⁵⁴:

This craft can be done as a group or as individuals based on the preference of the servant.

1. Get a large whiteboard (group) or blank sheets of paper for each child (individual).
2. Have each child draw whatever they imagine the Holy Spirit to look like to them (this can be done in 15 sec. increments per child as a group using the whiteboard; if individual, give the children time to share their drawings with the class or a partner.)
3. Conclude by reminding the kids that the Holy Spirit does not have a certain image because He is a spirit (recall wind analogy.)



VIDEO:

[Christian Questions: What is the holy spirit? CQ Kids \(1:59\)](#)



SONG:

[HOLY SPIRIT FOR CHILDREN - AYI THE COW - CHRISTIAN SONGS FOR KIDS](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Remind the children that The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is our comforter and a friend who is available to encourage and guide us as we go through life. We can turn to the Holy Spirit for support when problems seem overwhelming. He can help us make the right decisions!



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS

⁵⁴ Holy Spirit Drawing. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <http://getdrawings.com/holy-spirit-drawing>



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Brainstorm the following questions with the kids using a whiteboard or chart paper:

- What are some ways God helps you? (E.g. God helps me forgive others, love others, be kind, obey my parents, etc.).
- How can we show God we are thankful for this help He gives us through the Holy Spirit? (E.g. Say thank you when we pray, obey and be faithful to the Holy Spirit, etc.).



Lesson 8.3 - How Do We Get The Holy Spirit?

Building Block 8
God's Love is Poured Into us
Through the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Picture from servant's baptism, parachute or blanket.

Scripture Reference: Acts 2: 1-6.

Craft: Pre-cut cardstock paper in the shapes of flames and long rectangles, staplers, orange and yellow markers.

Video: [Holy Pimoly- HQ - Baptism And Chrismation Cartoon - Arabic subtitled](#), Fr. Gregory Bishay (16:34-17:51).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of the Holy Spirit by learning about how they receive it during their Baptism and Chrismation.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Unity.



MEMORY VERSE:



Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Acts 2:38

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider showing a picture from your own baptism to the children.



Ask the children if they remember their baptism. The children will likely respond by indicating that they were just babies. The servant would then show the class a picture from their baptism.

Explain to the children When anyone gets baptized, they receive the Holy Spirit through the Chrismatin when Abouna anoints us with the Holy Oil.

The servant may choose to explain how the Holy Spirit guides them every day in their lives. For example: I never forget my baptism because the Holy Spirit guides me all the time, even when I do something wrong, the Holy Spirit guides me back to God when I take confession.

Consider showing the following video and having the following discussion: [Holy Pimoly- HQ - Baptism And Chrismation Cartoon - Arabic subtitled](#), Fr. Gregory Bishay (play from 16:34-17:51).

- When we are baptized like that baby, we receive the Holy Spirit and join God's people; the Church!
- Can you see the Holy Spirit? (No! Remember: it is like the wind, we don't see it, but we can feel it!)
- People have been able to receive the Holy Spirit for many years, and it all began with Jesus' disciples.



LESSON BODY:

Discuss Acts 2: 1-6 with the children to explain where the Holy Spirit comes from.

*"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. **5** And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. **6** And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language."*

Discuss the following questions with the children to help them understand the passage:

- Does anyone know what Pentecost is? (It celebrates when the Holy Spirit first came upon Jesus' disciples)
 - Pentecost is a very important feast, it shows us how the Holy Spirit helped the disciples tell people about Jesus.
- How did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples? (It was like a rushing wind, and then tongues of fire appeared over the disciples.)
 - Now we are going to play a game called Spirit Says, where we are going to pretend that the wind we create is the Holy Spirit!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Spirit Says⁵⁵:

“Spirit Says” is an activity similar to “Simon Says”.

Example: Spirit says wave the parachute fast, wave it slowly, make it still, put it over your head, turn around and hold it, etc.

→ While moving the parachute, ask the children what they feel. Tell them it would have been an even stronger wind for the disciples.

→ The Holy Spirit guides us all the time. Even if it may not tell you to move a parachute, it shows you how to know what is right and what is wrong, and it unites us with all other Christians all over the world!

→ Even when you do something wrong, the Holy Spirit helps us return to God through confession.

Tongues of Fire Headbands Craft⁵⁶:

1. Have pieces of white cardstock paper cut into flames and long strips for each child to use. Have the children color the flames with orange and yellow markers.
2. Once the children have finished coloring their flames, have them come up to a servant to have a strip of cardstock measured to their head and stapled into a ring. The servant will then also use the stapler to attach the flame to the headband.



VIDEO:

[Holy Pimoly- HQ - Baptism And Chrismation Cartoon - Arabic subtitled](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Children will express their understanding of the Holy Spirit by answering the following questions:

→ When do Christians receive the Holy Spirit? (During their Baptism through Chrismation.)

⁵⁵ VanderMeulen, N., Mellesia, & Charlotte. (2020, May 26). Children's Bible Lesson: The Pentecost Party. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/the-pentecost-party-lesson/>

⁵⁶ Amazing_Grace. (2014, January 02). Crafty Crafters: Pentecost. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/2012/05/crafty-crafters-pentecost.html>



→ How did the disciples receive the Holy Spirit? (It was sent to them on the Pentecost like a rush of wind, and tongues of fire appeared over them.)

→ How does the Holy Spirit guide us? (It helps us return to God, even when we have done something wrong.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Discuss the following questions with the children:

→ Since the Holy Spirit always guides us and keeps us close to God, what can you do the next time you make a mistake and do something wrong? (Answers may vary, children may say that they will pray, admit what they did wrong, or go to confession).

→ God loves us a lot. As long as the Holy Spirit is within us, God is always with us! So, do we need to be afraid? (No, God always guides us and protects us!)

→ How can we show God how thankful we are for this gift? (Varied answers, example: by loving others.)



Lesson 8.4 - What Does the Holy Spirit Do in Our Lives?

Building Block 8
God's Love is Poured Into us
Through the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Images of a rotten and a good fruit.

Scripture Reference: John 14:26-27, John 16:8, and Galatians 5:22-23.

Craft: [Coloring pages](#) and coloring markers; [The Spirit basket](#), construction paper, coloring markers/pencils and glue; Piece of paper with the words "Bad Fruit", piece of paper with the words "Good Fruit", strips of paper labeled with good qualities and bad qualities (see craft section for labels), and tape.

Game: Poster board with velcro, cut out images of rotten and fresh fruit.

Song: [Fruits of The Spirit](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of the work of The Holy Spirit in us and His fruit in our lives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Unity.



MEMORY VERSE:



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."



GALATIANS 5: 22-23

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider playing this [song](#) (Uncle Charlie: Fruit of the Spirit Children's Song), as a way to introduce the lesson.



So far in our lessons on the Holy Spirit, we've learned who the Holy Spirit is, where He can be found, and how He works in our lives. Today we're going to learn a little bit more about what He does.

The Bible tells us (Galatians 5:22-23) that when we stay connected to Jesus and walk with the Spirit as our Helper, we produce good fruit in our lives. That is what we will talk about today.



LESSON BODY:

Show two examples of fruit to your children (a picture of rotted fruit and a picture of good fruit). If you had the choice, which piece of fruit would you eat: The nasty, disgusting, rotting, smelly fruit, or the perfectly ripe, delicious, sweet smelling fruit? Why?

Pause to discuss this with the children.

We can learn from these pieces of fruit that some fruit is bad, and some is good. That might seem obvious to us, but God has a lot to say about bad fruit and good fruit in the Bible!

Our Bible lesson today is about fruit. No, we aren't talking about apples and oranges. It is about a different kind of fruit -- the fruit of the Spirit. We are talking about the way we act when we love Jesus, ask Him to forgive us of our sins, and promise to be His followers. The Bible tells us that when we do that, the Holy Spirit fills us with God's love and produces some good fruit in our life.

What kind of fruit grows on an apple tree? Apples! Well, when you see someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit, you expect to see what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit. What is that? It is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Pause to discuss these words with the children to ensure they understand them. Consider visually representing these fruits on a poster, whiteboard or screen. With each fruit/virtue, prompt them with the questions below and invite the children to discuss.

Are you always patient? Are you always gentle and kind? No, there will be times when we all fail. When we fail, we should ask God to forgive us and fill us with His Spirit so that we can have the fruits of The Spirit.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Fruits of the Spirit Coloring Page:

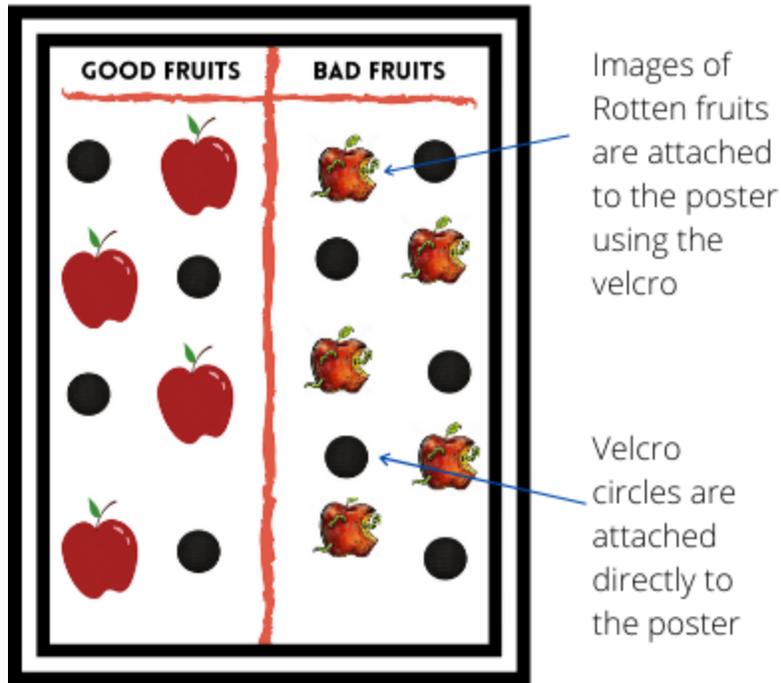
1. Distribute copies of the [Fruits of The Spirit Coloring Page](#).
2. Give the children time to color the pages using markers, crayons, etc.
3. The servant may wish to write the memory verse at the bottom of the page for the children.

Fruits of the Spirit Basket:

1. Give each child a cut out of the fruits of [The Spirit basket](#)
2. Give the children the fruits. The servant can allow the children to cut or have them precut.
3. Allow the children to color the fruit.
4. Glue the basket and the fruit on a piece of construction paper.

Which Fruit Game:

Have cut out images of rotten fruit and fresh fruit. Have a poster board with a t-chart with the words “good fruit” and “bad fruit” on opposite sides. Add velcro pieces to each side. Brainstorm with the class examples of good and bad fruits (examples listed below). Everytime a rotten fruit example is told, add the image (rotten fruit) to that side of the board.



Examples of Good and Bad Fruits:

Good Fruit	Bad Fruit
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asking questions about God's Word because I don't understand - Trusting in God even when I am worried - Not getting upset with my little sibling when they destroys my stuff for the fifteenth time - Deciding to help my family clean the house - Learning to thank God instead of complain - Helping the new student make friends at school - Loving Jesus and wanting to do what is right - Singing to God with joy in my heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complaining about having to come to church - Picking fights with kids at school - Getting angry - Being impatient - Wanting someone else's stuff so much that I steal it - Give me that remote and give me it NOW!!!!!! - Playing video games for hours (no self control) - Talking back to my parents
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SONG:

[Uncle Charlie: Fruit of the Spirit Children's Song](#)

[KidSpring Children's Ministry: Fruit of the Spirit | Preschool Worship Song](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Discuss the following questions with the children to review:

- What are some examples of good fruit? (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc.)
- What are some examples of bad fruits that we discussed? (hatred, anger, impatience, etc.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Throughout the week, let's practice the good fruits of The Spirit that we learned about today by doing the following:

- Let's remember to be patient, loving, joyful, have self-control, etc.
- What are some ways we can do this? (share with family, spend less time on games, be kind to those around us, be joyful even when you're not enjoying something, etc.).



Spare Lessons

These lessons are spare and can be given in the event a lesson is given on the day of Palm Sunday or the feast of Resurrection.

SPARE.1 - Jesus Heals A Little Girl

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A doll.

Scripture Reference: Luke 8: 40-42, 49-56

Craft: Construction paper, heart cut out, glue, marker, band aids, and [printout of foldable](#).

Video: [KidsHubTV: Jarius' Daughter \(1:37\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will begin to develop an understanding that Our Lord Jesus, in His love and power, can heal and give life, and that they should trust in Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith, Courage, and Kindness.



MEMORY VERSE:



...Do not be afraid, only believe.



Mark 5:36

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

While holding a doll in your arms, explain to your children that your baby is sick.



Engage in the following dialogue:

If you were sick, what would your parents do? If you just had a tummy ache or a headache, they might give you some medicine that they could buy and wait to see if it made you feel better. But what if you didn't get better? What would your parents do then? They would take you to the doctor right away. They would do everything possible to help you get better.

Today our Bible story is about a man named Jairus and his daughter.



LESSON BODY:

Luke 8: 40-42, 49-56:

While Jesus was in Galilee, a man named Jairus came and fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, because his only daughter, who was twelve years old, was dying. However, it was very crowded, and Jairus was pushed away from Jesus. Later on, a man from Jairus' house told Jairus that his daughter had died, and he shouldn't bother Jesus anymore. But Jesus answered and said, "Do not be afraid; believe and, and she will be made well." (Luke 8:50). When Jesus came to Jarius' house, he did not let anyone go in except for Peter, James, John, and the father and mother of the girl. Everyone was crying for her but Jesus told them not to cry because she is not dead, she's sleeping. They made fun of Jesus because they knew she was dead. Jesus took her hand, and called her saying "little girl, arise." She immediately arose! He commanded that she be given something to eat. Her parents were shocked. Jesus told them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Consider asking the children why Jairus would have gone to Jesus to heal his daughter. Emphasize Jairus' faith, and Jesus' kindness.

Supplementary

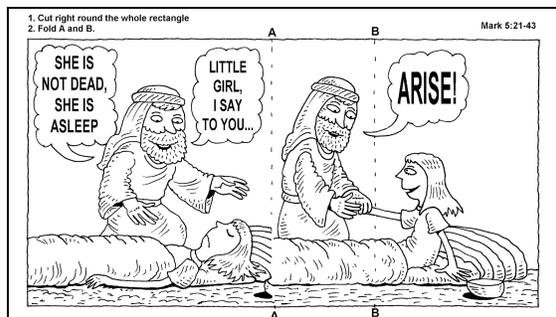


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Heart Craft: Children will color, cut and paste on construction paper, heart with memory verse; "Do not be afraid, only believe."

Jesus Heals:

1. Have the children trace their hands on a piece of construction paper.
2. Then they should glue that cutout to a half sheet of construction paper.
3. Next they should take 2 bandaids and place them in the shape of a cross in the middle of their hand cut out.
4. On top of the sheet they should write the phrase "One touch from Jesus heals." (Luke 8)





Foldable: ⁵⁷

1. Give each child a foldable.
2. Tell the children to fold the paper on the dotted lines. *The servant should demonstrate so the children can follow.*
3. Allow the children to color their foldable.



VIDEO:

[KidsHubTV: Jairus' Daughter \(1:33\)](#)

Questions:

- What did Jesus ask Jairus to do for him? (He asked Jesus to come to his house because his daughter was sick and about to die.)
- What did Jesus do when He arrived at Jairus' house? (He told everyone to not cry, He touched the girl and she got up, He told her parents to get her something to eat, etc.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

The children will demonstrate an understanding of the Bible lesson, Jesus Heals a Little Girl, by taking turns acting out the story, using the doll as a prop. Lay the doll down and watch the eyes close. Acting as Jesus, touch her hand to raise her so that her eyes open. Remind the children that Jesus helped a girl open her eyes by touching her and raising her to life.

Consider asking the children the following questions:

- When Jairus was worried about his daughter, who did he go to? (Jesus).
- Why did he go to Jesus? (Jairus believed in Jesus and knew that He could help his daughter.)
- Why did some people laugh at Jesus when He said the girl was asleep? (They thought she was dead, they didn't have faith in Jesus.)
- What did Jesus tell the people to do instead of being afraid? (To believe!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

⁵⁷ NT Crafts. (2020, April 12). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://biblecraftsandactivities.com/nt-crafts/>



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Who should we ask help from when we are sad, worried, or afraid? (Just like Jairus, we can turn to Jesus when we are afraid.)
- Even if things do not get better right away, should we give up? (No! we should have faith, just like when Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid, but to believe)



SPARE.2 - God Gave Us Many Gifts

Building Block 4
God's Love is Caring



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A self-portrait pre-drawn of the servant (see lesson opening), chart paper, markers, drawing paper, crayons, and construction paper.

Scripture reference: Matthew 25:14-30

Craft: A self-portrait pre-drawn of the servant (see lesson opening), drawing papers, markers, and crayons.

Activity: Balloon; 1 small stuffed animal OR baby plant per child.

Video: [Children's Ministry Deals: Object Lesson on Gifts and Talents - Gift \(1:40\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to identify that God gave us many gifts and name some of their special gifts. They will also be able to tell how they can use their special gifts to help others and glorify God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Sharing



MEMORY VERSE:



There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.



I Corinthians 12:4

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Give each child some paper and crayons. Ask them to draw a self-portrait (draw a picture of themselves). Have a portrait that you have drawn to share as an example!



After about five minutes, collect the crayons. Let each child share their portrait, introduce themselves and name something they can do very well. They could say, "Hi. My name is _____. One thing I do very well is (helping Mommy, riding a bike, setting a table, picking up toys, etc.)"

God made us all so special and different from one another. I am so thankful that He made everyone different because it makes life more interesting. The Bible talks about how God gives everyone a different gift (something they do very well). Let's read what the Bible has to say about it!

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-5: "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences between ministries, but the same Lord".

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

This verse tells us that God made each of us! Isn't that amazing! Everyone is made by the same God, but God also made everyone different. Everyone has different talents and things they like to do!



LESSON BODY:

Let's read The Parable of the Talents together in Matthew 25:14-30.

As a suggested delivery, invite three children to volunteer to be the servants from the story, the parable of the talents.

There was a man who was going on a long trip and asked his servants to take care of his home. Give one child 5 coins, which represent 5 talents, another child 2 coins and the last child 1 coin. The remainder of the story can be shared without the acting.

Share with the children that our abilities (talents) are a special gift from God. He gave us all something special. Make reference to the opening activity and have the children recall what they are good at.

When each of the servants received their talents, the one with the five talents went and traded them and made another five talents. The one with two talents did the same and also gained two talents. However, the servant who was given one talent dug it into the ground and hid it.

The Lord who gave the servants the talents came back to see what each had done with their talents. The servant with the five talents showed him that he made five more talents. His lord was very pleased and said "Well done, good and faithful servant". The servant who had received 2 talents also came forward and showed his master the additional two talents he had made. His lord also said to him "Well done, good and faithful servant." Now the last servant who was given one talent came forward. Since this servant was lazy, he buried his coin and began making excuses when his lord asked him what he did with his talents. "You wicked and lazy servant," his lord told him as he took his talent and gave it to the servant who had ten. "For everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away."

God gave each one of us a unique talent. We have to use these talents. The more we use them the more God will bless these talents and give us even more!



We should value our talents as a gift from God and we should use them to glorify Him and His people. We should not make excuses for why we do not use our talents. We should be actively using these talents.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Word Balloon:

1. Have the children dictate one of their special gifts (talents), blessings from God and write in a “word balloon” next to their portraits made in lesson opening.
2. Mount on construction paper so that they can take it home or mount on a bulletin board!

Hot Balloon:

1. Have the children stand in a circle, and tell them they need to keep the balloon off the ground.
2. Make sure everyone gets the chance to hit it into the circle.

Keeping the balloon in the circle meant that everyone had to work together. It would be much harder to keep the balloon in the circle if you didn't have help. It is the same way in the church. One person cannot preach, teach, clean, lead worship, take care of the finances, and visit the elderly and the sick. God has given everyone in the church a job to do and when everyone works together and does their part it makes God happy!

What's My Talent Game⁵⁸:

1. Set up a game where children get to think about and identify the talent of a special guest or grown-up.
2. Start by asking the children to name as many possible talents that they can think of — which might include anything from storyteller to athlete to artist.
3. Bring in a volunteer Special Guest with a specific, secret talent and split the children up into two teams for 20 Questions.
4. Each team will be allowed to ask a single yes/no question at a turn in order to figure out the Special Guest's secret talent. The team that guesses correctly wins!

Optional Take-Home Project:

Have each child take home a small plant or small stuffed animal and ask them to take care of it for a week and take pictures during the week to show how they took care of their gift.



VIDEO:

[Children's Ministry Deals: Object Lesson on Gifts and Talents - Gift \(1:40\)](#)

⁵⁸ Dreisbach, E. (2019, January 10). Talent Games for Kids. Retrieved July 13, 2020, from <https://ourpastimes.com/talent-games-for-kids-13583175.html>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

What type of job do you think you would like to do in the church? *Allow for everyone to answer.*

You are all so talented! Let's pray and thank God for making each of us so unique so that we can work together to take care of His church.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can we make sure we use our talents? (Listen when someone compliments you for doing something. Encourage your friends. Compliment family or friends when they do something special.)
- If your friend or parents ask you to look after their gift, what would you do?
- What are some ways we can work together in our homes? (Offer help to others, share with your siblings, etc.)
- Our church is made of many members. All of them have talents. Can you think of some examples of talents you see at church? (Abouna is compassionate. A favorite teacher. Deacon who makes korban. Etc.).