

Children's Church Grades 1- 3

Year 1 Curriculum - June

Theme: The Life of Paul

Lesson 1 His Conversion

Lesson 2 Sent out to Minister to the Gentiles

Lesson 3 Called to Suffer for Christ's Name

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: His Conversion

Amazing Grace

Great Is The Lord

He Is Lord

Lamb of God

Lesson 2: Sent out to Minister to the Gentiles

Follow Jesus

Go Tell

Take My Life

Lesson 3: Called to Suffer for Christ's Name

His Banner Over Me Is Love

My God Is So Great

Trust in the Lord

Trusting You

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

Children's Church Grades 1-3

Year 1 Curriculum - June

Lesson 1

Title: The Life of Paul - His Conversion

Text: Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-31

Theme: God's desire is to change His chosen ones completely.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to relate how Paul came to know Christ.
2. Be able to relate how Paul's life changed after He came to Christ.
3. Personally come to repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Share ways a person's life changes after coming to faith in Christ.

Memory Verse: *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

Teacher Direction:

1. In the next 4 lessons we shall focus on the life of Paul (formerly Saul), God's chosen apostle to the Gentiles. We will not be studying Paul's life to marvel at his accomplishments. Rather we shall marvel at the God who transformed a self-focused Pharisee into an instrument of His glory. This lesson especially shows the power of God to not only make alterations to a life, but to utterly transform it. This is why we call this work of God, conversion. Radical change occurs in the life where God takes residence.

2. Introduction

To introduce this lesson you can talk with children about the little toys called "transformers". (Note: these little toys are in one shape, but by twisting and turning them they can be changed to another shape often very different.) If you are able to show an example, have the children describe what the shape looks like at first. Then "transform" the toy and have children describe how it is different from the original shape. (Note: if you do not have an example you could ask children if they could describe ones that they have.)

If the above example is not practicable or if you would like additional reinforcement of the idea, the following suggestion will help. Introduce children to the life cycle of a butterfly. Starting as a lowly caterpillar, by God's design, they are in time transformed into a soaring butterfly. Once you have explained this wonderful change have children describe as many differences as they can between the caterpillar and the butterfly.

From this introduction tell the children that today's story will focus on the marvelous change God made in the life of a very important man in church history. Tell them to listen well and see if they can tell how God changed the life of this man.

3. Bible Story

Focus on the following ideas as you teach the account from Acts 8-9.

A. Saul's old way of life - From 8:1-3, 9:1-2, 13-14 we learn much of Saul's life before Christ. When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being killed he consented to his death. In fact, it seems that this motivated him to go house to house persecuting Christians. In time protecting

Jerusalem was not enough. Saul wanted to go to Damascus, as well, and bring believers to be imprisoned. Saul was quickly becoming the greatest persecutor of Christians in his day.

B. God intervenes in Saul's life - God's plans for Saul were different, however. Saul was to be God's chosen instrument to reach the Gentiles with the gospel of Jesus Christ, so God invaded his life. (Note: it was God who sought Saul, not the other way around.) On the road to Damascus God revealed Himself to Saul (the bright light and voice from heaven were unmistakable signs of divinity). He convicted Saul of his sin (he persecuted Jesus), and he convinced Saul that Jesus truly was the Son of God. In time God brought light to Saul's eyes (both physical and spiritual) and the Holy Spirit into his heart. He also told Saul He had a job for him. Life is never to be the same when God enters in.

C. Paul's new way of life - Not only was Saul's name changed to Paul but his life was transformed. He who persecuted was now a follower of Christ boldly proclaiming His name. He had caused others to suffer for bearing the name of Christ, now he was willing to suffer for that very same name. So convincing was Paul's conversion (his behavior and activity dramatically changed) that he became the enemy of the Jews (his former friends) and the friend of the other Apostles.

4. Application

Help children see that God is in the business of changing lives for His glory. He wants to take a selfish person and transform him into a useful messenger of His love. As part of the change process God always calls His chosen ones to repentance and faith. Call children to respond to God in this manner and then challenge them that if God lives in them, life cannot go on as it was before they came to know him.

5. Review Questions

What was Saul's life like before he met Jesus on the road? (He persecuted Jesus)

How did God turn Saul's life around? (He appeared to him, convicting him of sin, and convincing him of the deity of Jesus.)

How did Saul's life change after coming to know Christ? (He became a servant of God.)

How should a person's life change after they have come to Christ? (We no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ. We have a new mission: to proclaim Christ.)

A Beautiful Butterfly

Tips for Teachers

- Make a butterfly pattern
- Trace and cut a butterfly out of a large piece of construction paper. (one per child)
- Cut 1" to 2" squares of various colors of tissue paper.

Materials

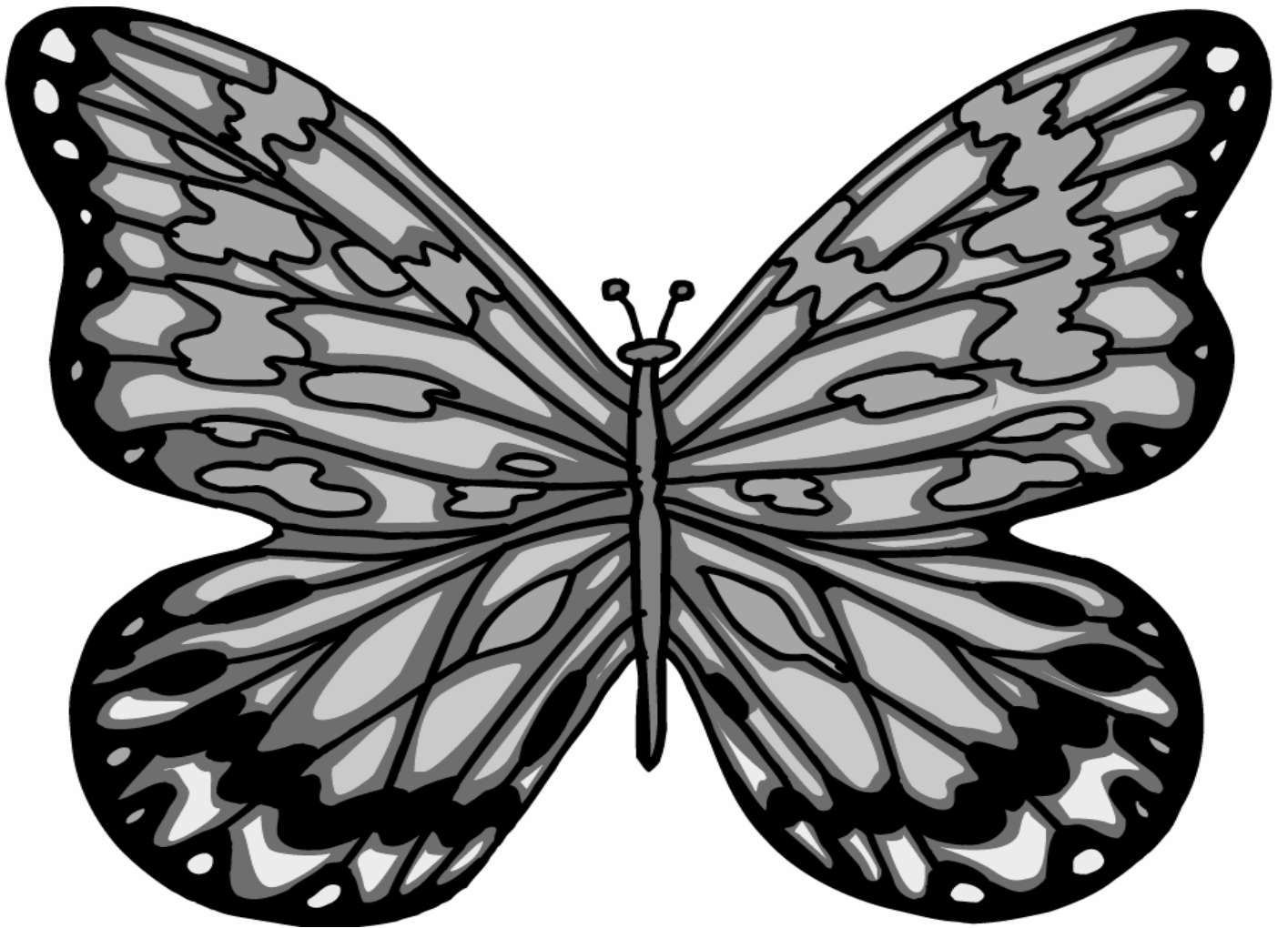
- Construction paper butterflies
- Tissue paper squares
- Glue
- Small plates of glue
- Pencils
- Marker
- Pipe cleaners

Instructions

1. Help the children glue two pipe cleaners in the center of the butterfly to be the antenna
2. Wrap a square of tissue paper around the eraser of the pencil and then dip in into the glue and place it on the butterfly.
3. Continue with the tissue paper until it is decorated.
4. Help the children write the memory verse on the back of the butterfly.

Faith Connections

2 Corinthians 5:17 *therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* Help the children make the connection of a butterfly to a new creature. The butterfly is first a caterpillar and then becomes a butterfly and is an entirely new creature. Help them see that this was just like Paul when he turned from ruling his own life to allowing Gd to reign as his King. Then help the children see their need to be a new creature and allow the Lord to rule in their life.



Lesson 2

Title: The Life of Paul - Sending out to minister to the Gentiles

Text: Acts 13:1-49

Theme: God sent Paul to bring light to the Gentiles to fulfill His desire that salvation reach to the ends of the earth.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to relate the mission for which God called and sent Paul.
2. Understand that God desires to bring His salvation to the four corners of the earth.
3. Be willing to go where God sends him as His witness.
4. Thank God for those who were faithful to bring the gospel to him.

Memory Verse: *John 17:18* As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Teacher Direction:

1. In our last lesson we chronicled the amazing transformation of the Apostle Paul. Bent on destroying Christians and on his way to Damascus, Paul is stopped by almighty God and his life is transformed, never again to be the same. Part of that transformation involved taking on God's mission for his life. He would bring the message of salvation to the Gentiles. This lesson looks at Paul's commissioning and early success in bringing salvation to the non-Jew.

2. Introduction

Tell children to imagine that they have a very important job to do in another part of the country. So important is the job that people's lives are at stake. Ordinarily the best thing for them to do would be to go to this place in person and complete the job. At this time, however, this is impossible because their absence would create many more problems. Ask children what they would do in such a situation. Hopefully they will come up with the idea that they would send someone in their place.

Next ask children how they would prepare the person who would take their place. Try to help the children see that they would need to provide this person with all the training and tools required to do the job.

After this discussion take a moment and review last week's lesson concerning Paul's conversion. Remind children how the Lord told Paul that he would serve him in a special way. Ask children to see if they can determine how the Lord prepared Paul for this special assignment.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story from Acts 13 the following points should be considered:

A. God prepares Paul and then sends him out (13:1-3) - After Paul's conversion God worked with Paul for approximately 14 years preparing him for the work He called him to do. Three of those years Paul was in the Arabian desert; some time was spent in Jerusalem; Paul's final years were spent in Antioch. Surely during those years God was helping Paul unlearn those things which he falsely believed, and learning God's plan in truth. At just the right time God, through the Holy Spirit, sent Paul to do the work prepared for him to do. Equipped with the Holy Spirit Paul went forth.

B. Paul's first recorded Gentile convert (13:4-12) - Fully prepared and equipped with God's Spirit, Paul went forth on his first missionary journey. He preached the gospel in Salamis and in Paphos. In Paphos God validated the preaching of the Word with a miracle (v 11) and Sergius Paulus, despite the opposition of the enemy, came to believe. God had equipped his man for a work and had given him early success.

C. Paul's ministry to the Gentiles established (13:13-49) - As you tell the rest of the story focus on Paul's message. Help children see how Paul used the history of the Jews to bring them to Christ and then call them to belief in Christ (13:39). When the message is rejected by the Jews, Paul gives them warning and then continues to minister to the Gentiles. Again God brings him a good measure of success. In the whole story we see the marvelous hand of God. He converts his man, calls him to ministry, prepares him, send him out, and then works mightily through him.

4. Application

God has a work for all of us to do. When he makes us His child he will begin preparing us for that work and in time He will send us out to do it. We must all submit to the preparation process and ask God to show us what special work he has for us. We should also ask God to give us an obedient and willing spirit so that we go where He wants us to go.

5. Review Questions

What special work did God have for Paul? (He called Paul to preach to the Gentiles)

How did God prepare Paul for this work? (After saving Paul, God worked with Paul for 14 years. Beyond this God gave Paul His Holy Spirit to enable him to speak and perform miracles.)

How successful was Paul in his new work? (God brought salvation to Sergius Paulus and to many Gentiles in Antioch of Pisidia even amidst many obstacles.)

How did Paul try to reason with the Jews in Antioch? (He reviewed their history showing that it moved toward Christ. Then he called them to believe in Christ whom God raised from the dead.)

Does God have a work for you to do? (Yes, our memory verse suggests that as God sent Jesus into the world to save the world, so Jesus has sent His followers into the world to bring them salvation in Christ.)

Bibleland Theater

Tips for Teachers

- Make copies of the theater pattern (master 1) on cardstock
- Make copies of the characters (master 2) on cardstock

Materials

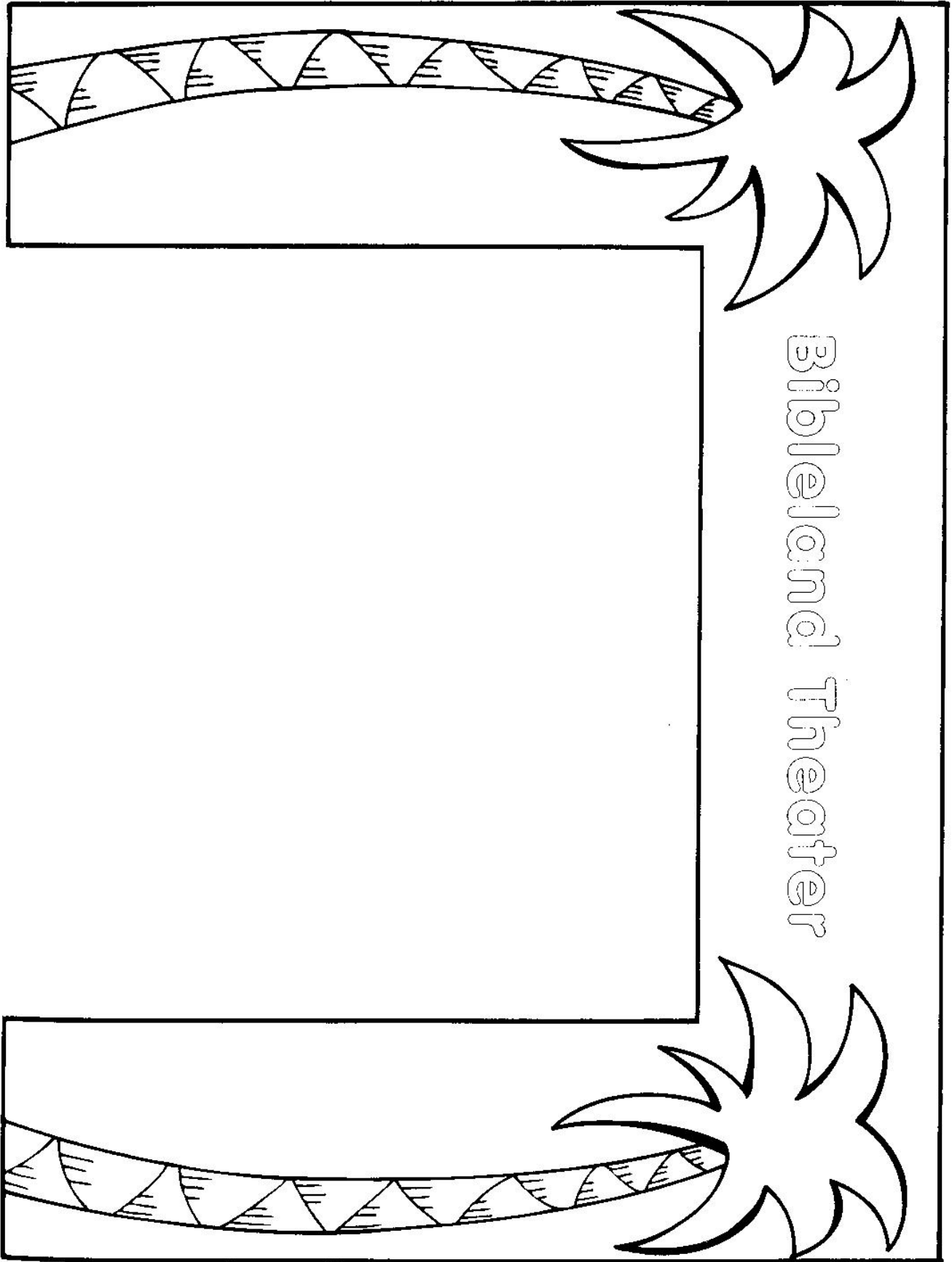
- Copies of theater
- Copies of characters
- Toilet paper rolls (2 per child)
- Crayons
- Popsicle sticks
- Scissors

Instructions

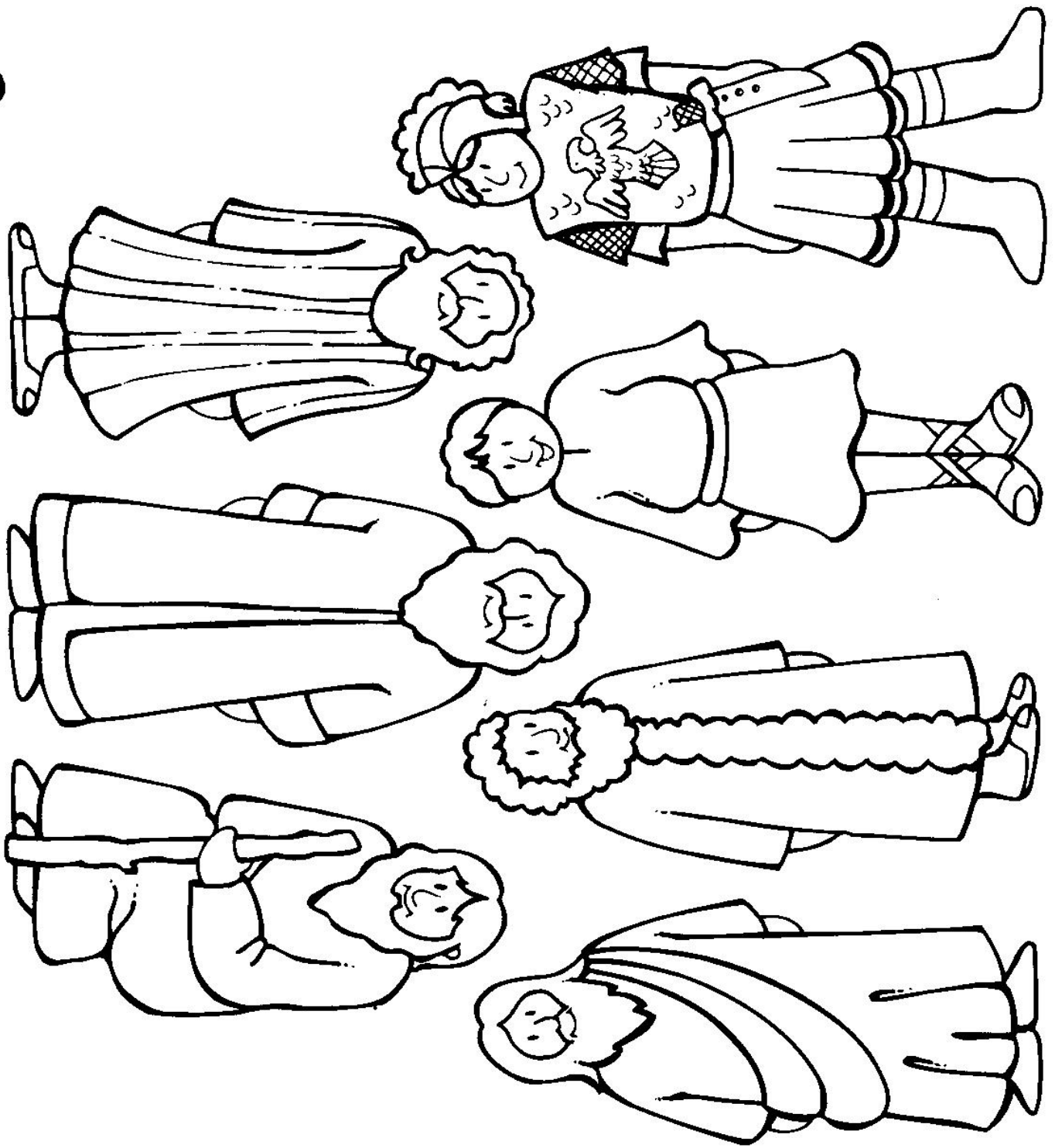
1. Have the children cut out the theater pattern and color it.
2. Glue an upright TP tube to each side of the theater on the back to make it stand up.
3. Cut out the characters and color them.
4. Glue a popsicle stick to the back for handles
5. Place the theater at the edge of a table and use the puppets behind it to tell stories of Paul ministering to the Gentiles.

Faith Connections

John 17:18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. As the children make their theater have them review some of the missionary journeys of Paul. Then have them act out one of those stories for each other. Make sure to make the connection that we need to follow Paul's example and do the work God has for us. We too must be sent out to make disciples.



Bibleland Theater



Lesson3

Title: The Life of Paul - Called to suffer for the name of Christ

Text: Acts 16:6-34

Theme: Suffering is part of the calling of God upon His servants.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to relate how Paul suffered for Christ.
2. Be able to share ways Christians today have to suffer for Christ's sake.
3. Commit to serving Christ no matter the cost.
4. Thank Jesus for being willing to suffer in order to bring us salvation.

Memory Verse: *Philippians 1:29* *For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,*

Teacher Direction:

1. When God called Paul into His service He said the following about him: "... for he is a chosen vessel of mine to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake." (Acts 9:13-14) In the previous lesson we showed how God used Paul to bring the gospel to the Gentiles. God had equipped Paul with the Holy Spirit and then commissioned him to this important work. As we saw, God gave him a measure of success as well.

In this lesson we shall focus on the second part of the above statement. Paul was not only to bear the name of Christ, but he was appointed to suffer for that name. This lesson focuses on suffering as a normal part of the Christian experience.

2. Introduction

To introduce this lesson ask the children if they know of any examples of Christians who have suffered for the sake of Jesus. It would be good to direct the children's thinking to examples from the Bible (Steven, Acts 6-7), examples from church history (Foxe's Book of Martyrs would be a good source), and even modern day examples (in other countries as well as in their own lives). It should not be difficult to show that suffering has been part of many Christian's lives.

Next ask the children if they think Christians are meant to suffer. Is it God's design that Christians suffer as they fulfill their calling? After some discussion review with the children Paul's conversion and calling (quoted above) which clearly included a statement that Paul would suffer for bearing the name of Christ.

Finally ask children to listen to find out how Paul suffered for Christ and look for evidence that suffering really is part of the calling of Christians.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story from Acts 16 the following points should be emphasized:

A. It is God who directs Paul by the Spirit to Philippi (16:6-10). Paul had ideas about where he would like to share the gospel after he had strengthened the churches to which he had previously ministered. Each time, however, he tried to venture into a new area God closed the

door. Finally God made it clear through a vision that Macedonia was the place he should continue to fulfill his calling. Going to Philippi was definitely God's doing.

B. God sovereignly works to bring salvation to Lydia (16:11-15). Led by God, Paul made his way to Philippi. On the sabbath Paul went out to the place of prayer to be able to preach the gospel. (Note: A synagogue could form if there were 10 male heads of household. If these were not available a place of prayer could be established preferable near water.) As Paul preaches God opens the heart of Lydia and so begins a new church in this region. Emphasize how God worked all this together for good.

C. Suffering comes to Paul as he follows the will of God (16:16-24). Paul was right where God wanted him, preaching the message God had given to him. He exorcised a demon from the woman proving that the Christ he preached has power to conquer all the forces of evil. Amidst such ministry Paul was subjected to false arrest, having his clothes torn off, flogging, imprisonment, and having his feet placed in stocks. Help children see that when we proclaim the truth, those who are in bondage to Satan will react many times in a hostile way. For this reason Christians must realize suffering is a normal part of their calling.

D. God's presence in, deliverance from, and use of suffering (16:25-34). Confronted with mistreatment Paul responds with praise and prayer to God. He was not taken by surprise by suffering. God then moves on behalf of Paul to deliver him from this suffering. As this is happening God uses the circumstances to further His kingdom by bringing salvation to the jailer and his family.

4. Application

God sovereignly calls us to ministry which often includes suffering. We need to remember that God is ruling even amidst the suffering and that He can and will use it for His glory. We need to embrace our calling being ready to fulfill it no matter the cost.

5. Review Questions

Whose idea was it for Paul to go to Philippi? How do you know? (It was God's idea. He revealed this to Paul through the Spirit in a vision.)

How did Paul have to suffer for the sake of Christ? (He was falsely arrested, flogged, stripped, imprisoned, and put in stocks.)

Are Christians called to suffer? How do you know? (Yes, God clearly told Paul he would suffer and our memory verse clearly states it.)

What good came from Paul's fulfilling his calling regardless of the cost? (Many were saved. A church was formed in Philippi.)

God Protects Umbrella

Tips for Teachers

- Pre-cut some strands of string (about 6 per child)
- Pre cut some rain drops (3" in size) out of blue construction paper (about 6 per child)

Materials

- Large paper plates
- Blue rain drops
- String
- Straws
- Tape
- Markers
- Crayons
- Hole punch

Instructions

1. Color the bottom of the paper plate
2. Cut a slit in the paper plate starting at the edge and going to the center.
3. From the slit, overlap the edges of the paper plate to form a cone shape. Glue to hold.
4. Write "God Protects" on the top of the plate
5. Tape the drinking straw to the center of the cone shape to form the handle.
6. On each rain drop list one thing that God gives us to show us that He cares about us.
7. Hole punch the rain drop and tie a piece of string to it.
8. Hole punch the plate and attach each rain drop using the string.

Faith Connections

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,
As the students make their umbrella explain to them that in the midst of suffering God still protects us. Therefore, we should be willing to serve God no matter what the cost because He will always protect us and give us what we need to endure our suffering.

Lesson 4

Title: The Life of Paul - God's provision to the end

Text: Acts 27-28

Theme: Where God guides His servant, He is sure to provide.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to share how God protected Paul on his way to Rome.
2. Be able to share how Paul was used by God to share the gospel to many.
3. Grow in his confidence in God, that He is able to provide all he needs to complete the task God has given him.
4. Commit his life to the service of God.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 138:8* *The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.*

Teacher Direction:

1. The book of Acts chronicles the journey of the gospel, starting in Jerusalem and ending in Rome. Throughout the book God uses His chosen instruments to bring the good news to ever widening circles. It is a divine drama that continues even today.

We have entered this drama by studying the life of Paul, one of those chosen instruments of God. God called him that he might bring the good news especially to the Gentiles. In this final lesson on Paul's life we look at the last story recorded in the book Acts. As this story unfolds it is very evident that God has led this servant and has provided to make him successful in fulfilling his commission. Everywhere Paul goes the gospel is proclaimed and the supporting hand of God can be seen.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson take time to review. Remind the children of the miraculous conversion of Paul from a persecutor of Christ to a proclaimer and follower of Christ. Remind children of the commission God gave to Paul: to preach especially to the Gentiles and also to suffer for the name of Jesus. Next show how Paul, by God's grace began to fulfill his commission. Briefly share the material from the second and third lesson that would show His ministry to the Gentiles and some of his sufferings.

Having reviewed, ask children if they have ever heard of the phrase, "Where God guides, He provides." Allow children to tell you what they think this phrase means. Ask children if they can think of examples in Paul's life or in other Bible characters where this phrase has been true. Tell children that today's lesson will show once again how God guided Paul and how all along the way He provided and protected him. Tell children to see if they can find out where God guided Paul and how He provided for him.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story from Acts 27-28 the following points should be emphasized:

A. God was indeed guiding Paul to Rome. As we said earlier the book of Acts chronicles the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome (part of the remotest parts of the earth - Acts 1:8). It should be noted that God also clearly stated to Paul (Acts 23:11) that he would share the gospel in Rome just as he had done in Jerusalem. This may have been why Paul appealed to Caesar (25:11).

B. Wherever Paul went He was faithful to preach the gospel. On the boat Paul gave acknowledged God for the advice and food He gave. He also pointed others to God. On Malta Paul preached Christ and healed as God gave him ability. Finally in Rome Paul preached to the Jews and later to the Gentiles. In fact the book ends with the confident assertion that Paul preached God's Kingdom without any hindrance. God had guided and God's servant had faithfully fulfilled his commission. Note: It is worthy to note that during this Roman imprisonment Paul also got the gospel out through writing letters which later became part of our New Testament.

C. Wherever God led Paul He provided for him. While on the boat God protected the life of Paul and the others on the boat. He also gave Paul insight (through an angel) that none would be harmed. Furthermore God seemed to grant Paul favor in the eyes of Julius and other guards put in charge of him. Once in Malta God protected Paul from the bite of a viper and He enabled Paul to heal many people as a validation of Paul's message. Finally God gave Paul great freedom for at least two years to preach the gospel freely in Rome just as God said he would.

4. Application

God has a wonderful work that He wants to accomplish on this earth. To do this work God chooses people whom He equips and then sends out. Having been sent out God works on behalf of His chosen servants to make them successful. Since this is true it is important that each of us commits his life to God and then trusts God to provide for us no matter how hard the path is that we are called to walk. We must believe that where God guides, He provides.

5. Review Questions

To what place did God want Paul to go and preach the gospel? How do you know? (Rome. The book of Acts chronicles this spread and God specifically told Paul to go.)

In this final journey how was Paul a faithful servant? (He always pointed people to God and He preached the gospel and healed in the name of Christ. Even imprisonment Paul used to get the gospel message out.)

How did God provide for Paul in his journey to Rome? (He kept him safe while on the boat, spoke to him through His angel, gave him power to heal, and gave him favor in the sight of Julius and others put in charge of him.)

What does it mean that where God guides He provides? (We can be confident that where God sends us with the gospel, He will be faithful to care for us.)

Children's Church Grades 1- 3

Year 1 Curriculum - July

Theme: The Tabernacle

Lesson 1 God's Presence Among His People

Lesson 2 The Construction of a Dwelling for God

Lesson 3 A Picture of Christ

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: God's Presence Among His People

Christ Beside Me

Every Step of the Way

Lesson 2: The Construction of a Dwelling for God

God's Covenant

God's Love in Me

He Has Made Me Glad

Lead Me, Lord

Lesson 3: A Picture of Christ

A-B-C-D-E-F-G

I Am the Way

Lamb of God

This is How We Know

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

Children's Church Grades 1- 3

Year 1 Curriculum - August

Theme: The Tabernacle (continued)

Lesson 4 The Preparation of Ministers for God's Tabernacle

Lesson 5 God Indwells The Completed Tabernacle

Lesson 6 Day of Atonement (Christ's sacrifice for forgiveness of sins)

Suggested Songs Related To The Theme:

Lesson 4: The Preparation of Ministers for God's Tabernacle

Abba Father

I Can Do Everything

Lord, Be Glorified

Walk Like Jesus

You Shall Love the Lord, Your God

Lesson 5: God Indwells The Completed Tabernacle

Follow Jesus

I Am The Way

Lead Me, Lord

Lesson 6: Day of Atonement (Christ's sacrifice for forgiveness of sins)

Behold What Manner of Love

For God So Loved The World

Lamb of God

This is How We Know

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 1 Curriculum - July \ August

Lesson 1

Title: Tabernacle - God's presence among His people

Text: Exodus 19:16-20:21, 23:20-25:9

Theme: The tabernacle was a visible symbol of God's presence among His people.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to give a simple definition for the word tabernacle
2. Understand that the tabernacle was to be the symbol of God's presence among His people.
3. Share reasons why God's people desperately need God's presence among them.
4. Give thanks for God's presence even though he does not deserve this gift.

Memory Verse: *Exodus 33:14* The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Teacher Direction:

1. The next series of lessons will focus on the tabernacle, the portable tent constructed by the people of Israel in obedience to God. This tabernacle was to be the visible reminder of the presence of God and was to be the focal point of their worship and life. During the next lessons it should be your desire to help the children understand, in a basic way, what this structure was and how important it was to the people of God. Since the tabernacle was a shadow of the realities to come, it should also be your desire to show how all of this points to our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Introduction

To introduce the lesson ask children what it would be like if their parents left them alone for a very long time without another adult to take their place. Ask them what difference it would make not having their parents around. Ask them how they would feel. As you discuss these questions help the children see how important their parent's presence is. Without it, they would feel afraid, alone and insecure. There would be many troubles they would have to handle alone. Life would be very difficult.

Tell the children that today's lesson speaks of a people who lived long ago who would have had many troubles had it not been for the presence of a very special person. Ask children to listen to see if they can find out who the people were, whose special presence they needed, and why they needed help from this special person.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story with the children emphasize the following points:

A. Review some of the history of the nation of Israel. For 400 years they had been in bondage in the land of Egypt, but by God's outstretched arm seen in the 10 plagues, they were finally delivered. From Egypt God led the people across the Red Sea and into the wilderness where He miraculously provided food and water for His people. As you review this history focus on how important God's presence was to the people.

B. While in the wilderness God led the people to Sinai. At Sinai God intended to enter into covenant with this people. He would be their God and they would be His people. To insure their covenant faithfulness God appeared to the people in an impressive manner and He spoke directly with them. This experience, however, was too much for the people who asked Moses to hear God and then relay His message.

C. The covenant God enters into with the people is predicated on their obedience to the covenant stipulations. At the heart of those stipulations are the 10 commandments which are stated and then applied in many appropriate ways to the lifestyle of this people. If the people obeyed, then God would plant them in the land He promised them. The sprinkling of the blood on the people ratified the covenant symbolizing a cleansing of the people as well as providing a warning that death would come to those who were unfaithful.

D. When the people entered into covenant with God, they, in essence, were enthroning God as King. Having been enthroned, God then relays to Moses His desire to dwell among this people in a visible way. A tabernacle or tent designed to be a copy of heavenly realities was to be built as a sign of their King's presence among the people. It would also serve as the focal point of their worship, even of their whole life, for it would, for symbolic purposes, be centrally located in the camp.

4. Application

We should all be awed that God has a desire to dwell among His people. Though we, like Israel, do not deserve such a presence, God has shown Himself desirous of this even today. (Since Jesus came God dwells in His people. We are His tabernacle.) We should also be very thankful for the presence of God among us. Without God life is impossible to navigate. He is our only hope and comfort for this life and the next.

5. Review Questions

How was God's presence essential for the people of Israel? (God delivered them from Egypt and kept them while in the wilderness and beyond.)

Why did God bring Israel to Mt. Sinai? (He wanted to enter into covenant with them.)

Once the people had covenanted with God, how did God want to make His presence known? (He wanted the people to build a tabernacle - a symbol of His kingly presence.)

How is God's presence absolutely necessary for God's people today? (We need God to guide us, keep us from sin, promote new life in us, make possible the accomplishment of our mission,...)

The Holy Spirit – God’s Presence

Tips for Teachers

- Copy the dove (master 1) on thick red paper

Materials

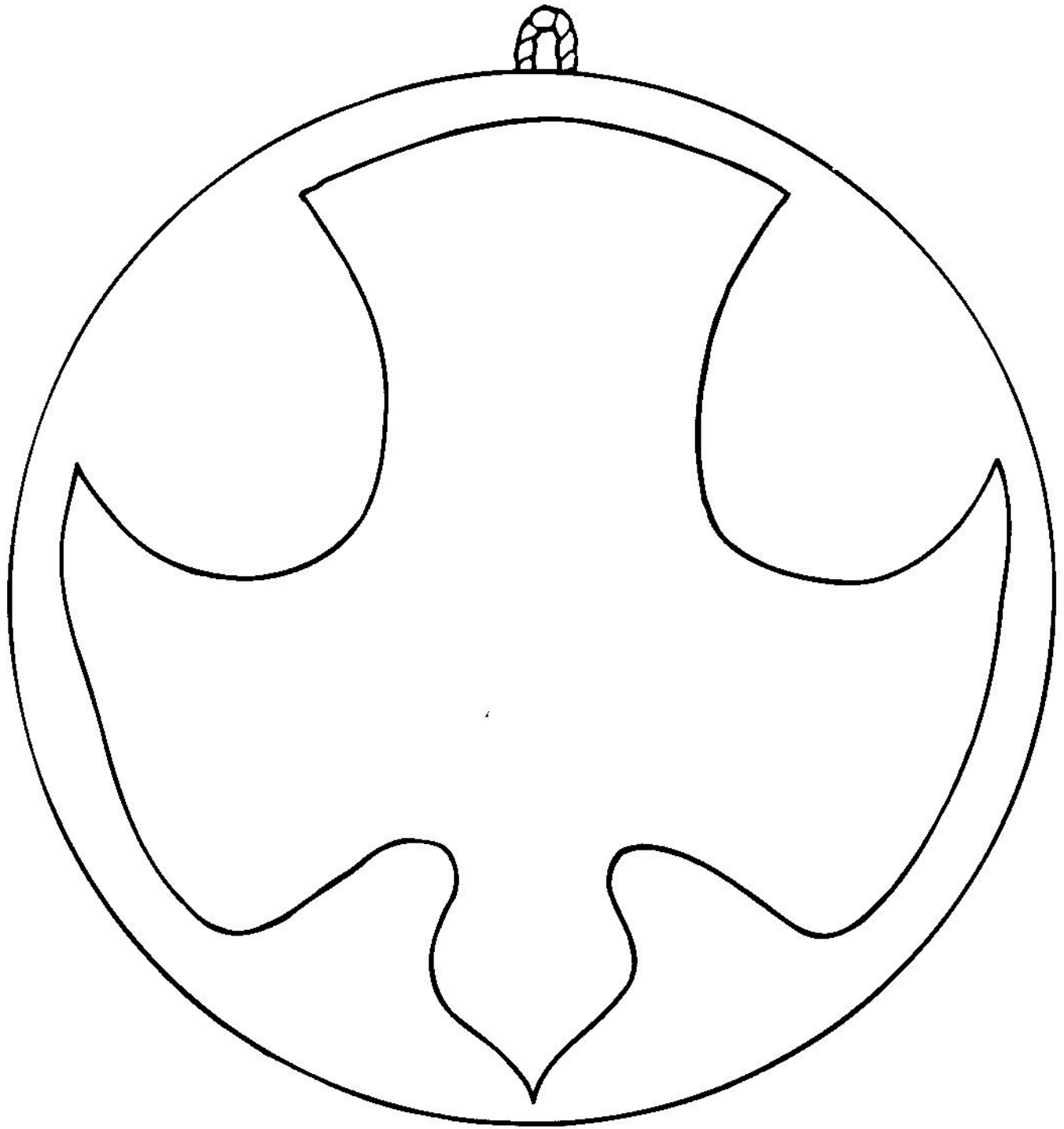
- Copies of the dove on red paper
- White rice
- Glue
- Marker
- Hole punch
- String

Instructions

1. Have the children cut around the circle pattern
2. Using the marker help them write the memory verse on the back of the circle.
3. On the other side, have the children spread glue on the inside of the dove using their fingers.
4. Then have them sprinkle the white rice on the glue until they cover the entire dove.
5. Punch a hole at the top and loop the string through it.

Faith Connections

Exodus 33:14 The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Even though this story is from the Old Testament and Pentecost has not yet occurred, help the children see that today we have the Holy Spirit to be God’s presence in our lives. Reiterate the point that, since Jesus came God dwells in His people. We are His tabernacle.



Lesson 2

Title: Tabernacle - the construction of a dwelling for God.

Text: Exodus 25:1-9, 31:1-11, 35:4-36:7

Theme: God's dwelling is built through the sacrificial giving and work of His people.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to relate how God provided for the building of the tabernacle.
2. Relate the kind of gifts and talents the people of Israel offered to build the tabernacle.
3. Offer to use his resources, gifts and talents for the building of God's temple.
4. Share what kind of gifts and talents God can use today for the building of His temple.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

Teacher Direction:

1. When Israel entered into covenant with God, God made His desire known that He wanted a tabernacle built to serve as a visible sign of His presence among the people. Israel had already seen the utter importance of the presence of God throughout their exodus from Egypt. They also knew that God's presence was essential as they continued their journey to the promised land. This visible reminder would be a source of comfort to the people.

In this lesson we will focus on the building of the tabernacle and on how God stirred and gifted His people to complete the building just as He prescribed. We will then relate this to the building of God's temple today and how God is still stirring and gifting His people.

2. Introduction

To introduce this lesson ask the children what kinds of things were necessary for our church building to be built. As you discuss this with the children try to bring out the necessity of much funding and many skilled workers. The people of the church had to give (and still are giving) many dollars so the materials could be purchased and the workmen could be hired. Beyond the funds it was necessary to find gifted people such as brick layers, stone masons, tile layers, electricians, lighting specialists, draftsmen, carpenters, cement workers,.... to complete the needed work.

Tell children that these sorts of things were needed as well, when the people of Israel built the tabernacle. Encourage them to listen carefully and see how God provided for the building of this special tent designed to be a reminder of God's presence.

3. Bible Story

The following ideas should be emphasized as you share the sequence of events that led to the construction of the tabernacle.

A. Set the context of this story. Israel had met with God at Mt. Sinai. They had heard God as He gave them the 10 commandments. Following this awesome manifestation, the people entered into covenant with God and God shared his desire to dwell among them.

Part of God's dwelling among this people would be the construction of a tabernacle. While on the mountain Moses received from the Lord the exact plan for what was to be built. God also told Moses to encourage the people to give willingly and from their hearts the materials that

were needed (25:1-9) and He told Moses those whom He had chosen and gifted to do the work (31:1-11).

Note that while Moses was receiving this information, the people were already breaking the covenant. This tragedy had to be dealt with and the covenant renewed before the work on the tabernacle could begin.

B. When Moses told the people God's plan for the tabernacle and the role they could play in providing the necessary materials, the people quickly went out and gathered those materials. They gave willingly and from the heart, to such an extent that the artisans had to tell them to stop giving because there was too much. It should be noted that all Israel gave had clearly been a gift from God. They had been slaves for 400 years in Egypt and would have left empty-handed had not the Lord worked the situation to their advantage. Help the children see how God provided the means for the building of the tabernacle and how He as well had worked in the people's hearts to make them willing givers.

C. God also provided artisans to do the work. He filled them with His Spirit thereby putting wisdom in their hearts and also a willingness to do the work. He, in every way, equipped these gifted people to do the job He had set before them.

D. Take this story and apply it to the church today. God is building His tabernacle, the place of His presence, in our day as well. That tabernacle is the church comprised of individuals who have committed their lives to Christ. Again God has equipped His people to complete this work. He has gifted artisans or church leaders to carry forward the work of building His Kingdom and He has given His people many gifts to contribute to the work. Together all we who comprise the church should be willingly working to see God's tabernacle (temple) growing in our midst.

4. Application

Encourage the children to participate in the great work God has given to them. That work is to see the tabernacle or temple or Kingdom of God grow. They participate in this great work by using their resources, gifts and talents. Help the children see that God has redeemed them and entered into covenant with them in order that they might use their lives for this great purpose.

5. Review Questions

How did God provide for the building of the tabernacle? (He provided the people with many gifts from Egypt. He also provided skilled craftsmen to do the work.)

How did the people respond to the opportunity to give to the construction of the tabernacle? (They gave so much that Moses had to tell them to stop giving.)

Is God building a tabernacle today? If so, what is it? (Yes. It is not a physical tabernacle, but it is His dwelling place among His people. God dwells among the people who have enthroned Him as King.)

How can we be involved in building God's temple today? (We can be using our gifts, talents, and resources to see that God's Kingdom expands.)

How can children your age participate in this great work? (Giving money, serving in any way possible, telling others about the Lord, studying to be an approved workman,...)

Shine for Jesus

Tips for Teachers

- Make a copy of the words (master 1) on orange paper. one per student.
- Make a copy of the sunbeams (master 2) on yellow paper. Each student should have a total of 14 sunbeams

Materials

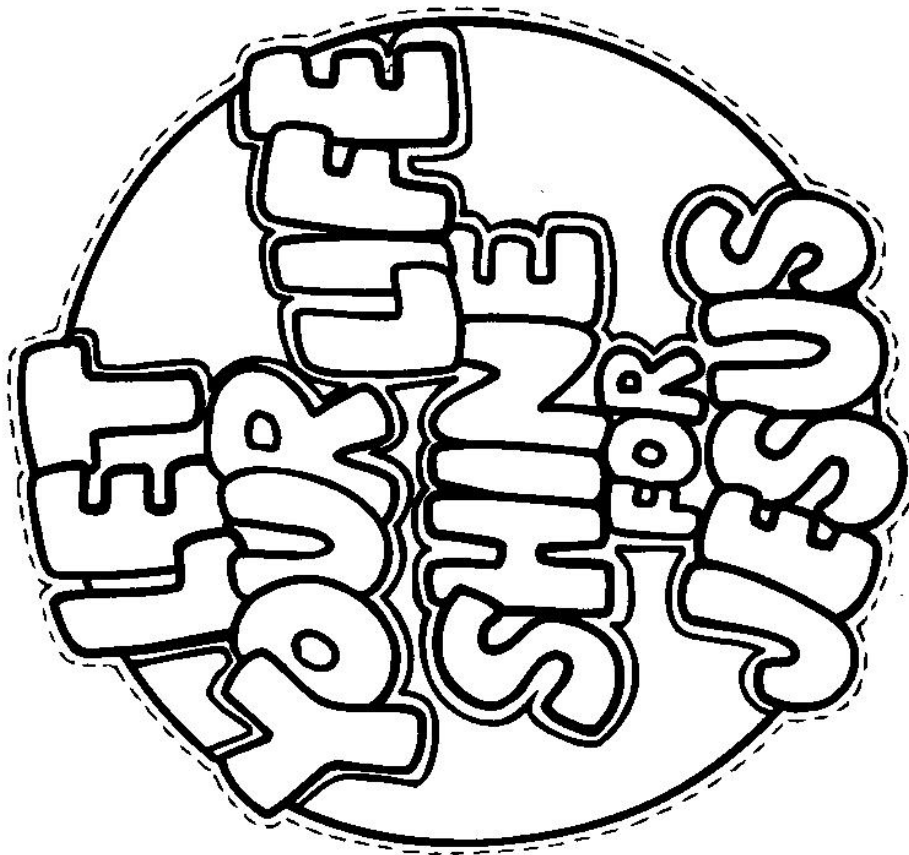
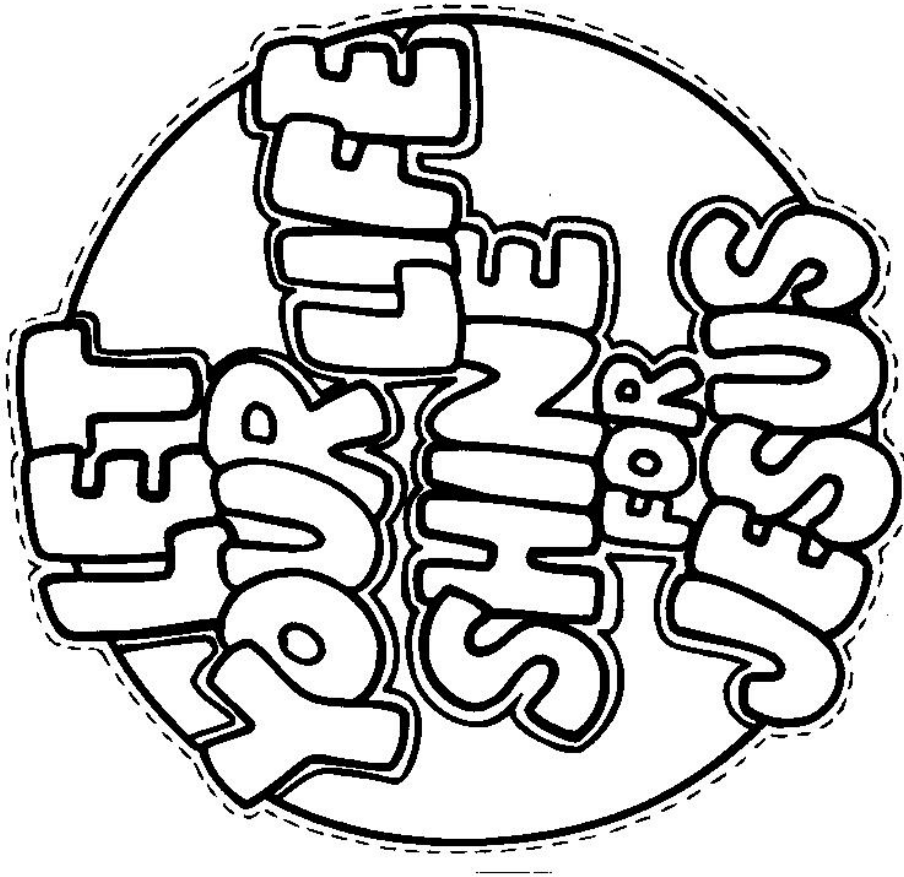
- Copies of words
- Copies of sunbeams
- 8" paper plates (2 per child)
- crayons
- scissors
- glue
- marker

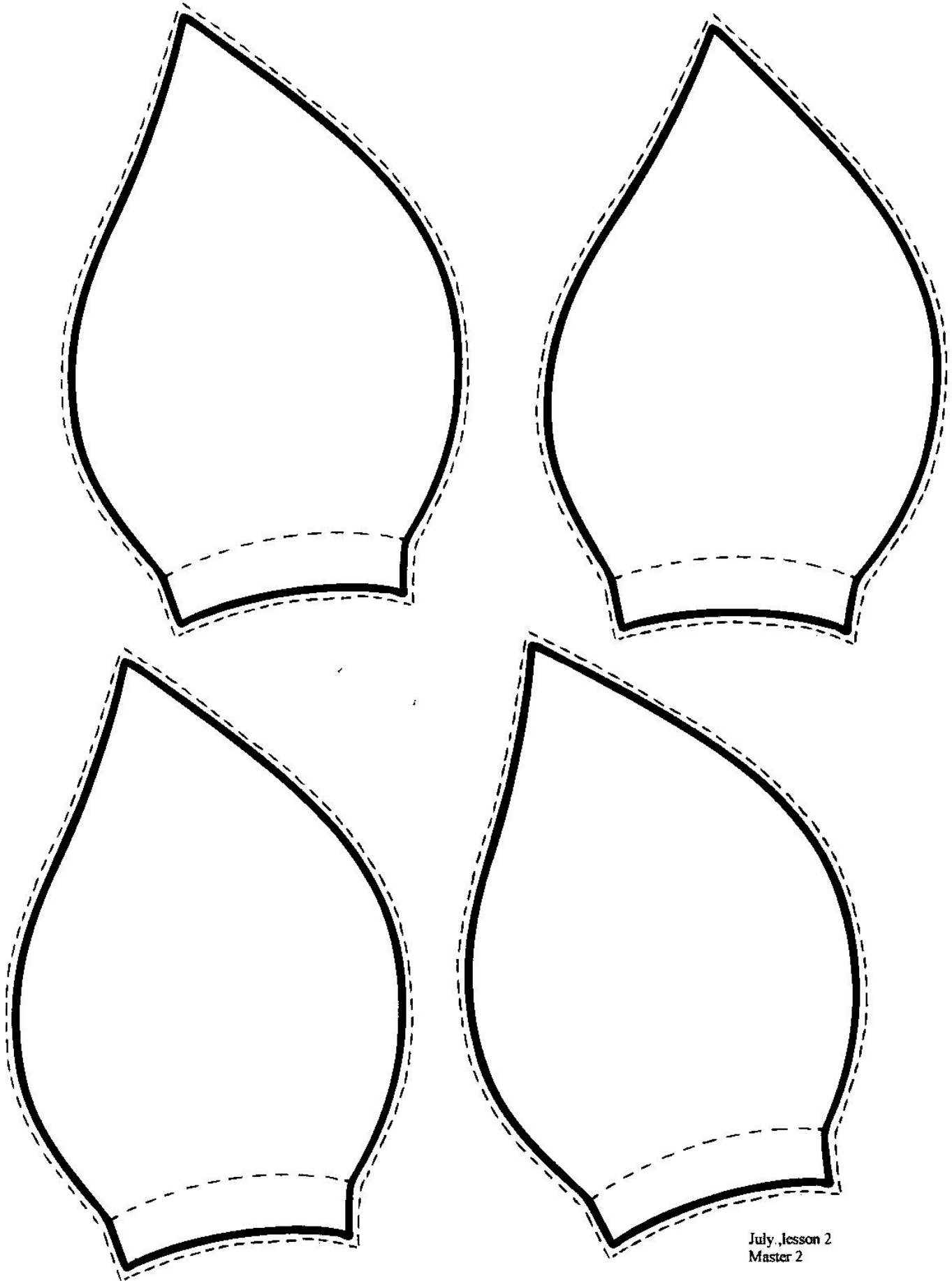
Instructions

1. Color the bottoms of the paper plates yellow.
2. Have the children cut out their words and all 14 sunbeams.
3. Glue the sunbeams around the front rim of one of the plates.
4. On the back side of the other plate help the students write their memory verse.
5. Glue the fronts of the two plates together.
6. Glue the words on the center of the plate.

Faith Connections

1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* Remind the children that the only way we are going to see God's tabernacle grow is if we are out "shining for Jesus". Help them see that they need to use the gifts God has given them to "shine for Jesus" and share His good news. Discuss with each child a gift that they feel God has given them. Then guide them as to how they could use that gift to glorify God.





Lesson 3

Title: Tabernacle - a picture of Christ

Text: Exodus 25, 27:1-8, 30:1-8, other texts referenced in this lesson

Theme: The tabernacle shows that only through the ministry of Christ can we have access to the presence of God.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to name the main furnishings of the tabernacle.
2. Be able to tell how each piece of furniture points to the ministry of Christ.
3. Sense their need for Christ's ministry so that they might be able to fellowship with God.
4. Give thanks and praise to God for His Son, Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 9:24* *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In the first lesson of this series we tried to establish the tabernacle as the place of the presence of God. It was God's desire to provide a visual reminder of His dwelling among His people. In our second lesson we showed how this dwelling was to be built by the people of God through sacrificial giving and use of their gifts. In this lesson we shall focus on the specific furnishings of the tabernacle and how they foreshadow the ministry of Christ.

It must be noted that this lesson must be simplified. It is possible to look at this material from many different perspectives (what it meant to Israel, how it manifests Christ, how it applies to believers today,...) and through the many layers of symbolism. This, however, is not the purpose of this introductory lesson. We shall focus only on how the different furnishings point to the ministry Christ has accomplished for us in order to make available access to the presence of God.

2. Introduction

To introduce the lesson talk with the children about symbols. Help the children see that symbols are signs or objects that stand for and point to something else. For example, the Nike symbol stands for the Nike company and their product line. The golden arch stands for McDonalds and all of its food services.

Explain to children that the Bible has many symbols, too. Have children think about the Lord's Supper and the symbols of the bread and wine. Help children see that these symbols stand for the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. After this explanation tell the children that in today's lesson about the tabernacle there are many symbols all of which point to something about Jesus Christ.

3. Bible Story

As you talk about the tabernacle and its furnishings, emphasize the following points:

A. When God gave Moses the instructions for the tabernacle, He told Moses to make everything exactly the way he was instructed. He was not to deviate one bit from God's design. The reason for this was because the tabernacle pointed to some very important heavenly realities. To change God's design would be to distort the truth that each part of the tabernacle was meant to convey. Each symbol used in the tabernacle construction needed to

be constructed and preserved lest man would get a very different idea about what was necessary for man to gain access to a holy God.

B. Note: it would be good to provide a simple sketch of the tabernacle as you talk about each part below. The order of discussion is based from the perspective of the person who might approach the tabernacle (what he might see first, second,...) rather than from God's perspective which seems to be the order Moses used.

1. The gate of the tabernacle - As there is only one gate to the tabernacle so there is only way to access the presence of God. We must go through Christ, who is the gate, the only way to God (John 10:9, 14:6, Acts 4:12).

2. The brazen altar - The first thing a person would see who entered the gate was the brazen altar. Here was a reminder that only through a death could a sinful human enter the presence of a holy God. The brazen altar should remind us of the cross of Christ (Heb 13:10-14) since this is where He was offered without spot before God as a whole burnt offering. Before making any approach to God, we must kneel at the foot of the cross and acknowledge His death to be the only means of that approach.

3. The brazen laver - The laver was used by the priests to cleanse themselves of the common so that they might more worthily serve that which is holy. Christ is the one who not only cleanses us initially from sin and its filth (forgiveness of sin), but who continues to provide daily cleansing through His word and Spirit (John 13:1-17, 15:3, Eph 5:26).

4. The table of shewbread - As one entered the holy place on the right side stood the table where the twelve loaves of bread (representing the 12 tribes) were displayed. These loaves are often called the bread of presence. They would have reminded the people of Israel of the sustaining presence of God throughout their sojourn. Likewise for those who have been cleansed of sin, they come to Christ as the one who sustains their soul. He is the Bread of Life whose presence in their soul is life to them (John 6).

5. The Golden lampstand - Across from the table of shewbread stood the golden lampstand providing the only light available in the holy place. This lampstand burnt continually and provided the light necessary to approach the Holy of holies. Christ stands as a continually burning light guiding us into fellowship with the Holy God. He is the light sent from heaven which who illumines men's minds to their need of God and to the only path to God. Christ is the Light of the world (John 12:46).

6. Altar of Incense - Standing right before the veil separating the Holy place from the Holy of Holies was the altar of incense. At this altar the priest would place coals from the brazen altar and then burn incense upon the coals. At this position the priest would also pray for the people. In a similar manner, Christ who sacrificed His life for us (the coals of the brazen altar) now intercedes for us before the Father. His prayers are a sweet smelling aroma to the Father and as such are acceptable. Through Christ's intercessory ministry the believer has great assurance and confidence to enter in the Lord's presence. This altar reminds us of Christ's ministry of intercession (1 Tim 2:15, Heb 7:25).

7. The veil - The veil between the Holy place and Holy of holies was a significant barrier. The high priest alone could enter beyond the veil and only once per year as he represented the people. At the time of Christ, this veil now in the temple, was torn in two when Christ was crucified. This was to show that the veil represented the body of Christ. It was Christ's death, the breaking of His body, that threw open to believers today direct access to the Father. Prior to this event access was hindered awaiting the sacrifice of Christ.

8. The ark, mercy seat and cherubim - In the Holy of holies sat one piece of furniture. The base was called the ark which contained the testimony or tablets of stone. Upon the ark sat the mercy seat and over that stood the cherubim who covered the mercy with their wings as

they stared intently at the seat. Above this piece of furniture was the shekinah glory of God. It was here that God told Moses He would meet with Him. How could God meet with sinful man? The symbols of this holy object give the answer.

In the ark was the law, a law which proclaimed that judgment should come upon sinful man, but also a law which Jesus had kept perfectly. In the latter sense that the ark with the tablets reminds us the Christ is our righteousness. The mercy seat was the place where blood was sprinkled and where the wrath of God was appeased. Christ not only shed His blood and offered it, but He is the mercy seat. He is the place where the wrath of God for the sins of men is appeased. The Cherubim, representatives of God's judgment, are witness to the satisfaction of the righteousness of God in Christ (Rom 3:25).

4. Application

Encourage children to come to Christ. He alone provides the way for them to approach a holy God. He alone is life and light, and lives to intercede for them. Also encourage them to give thanks to God who desires to dwell among man and whose presence is the supreme blessing to man.

5. Review Questions

Name the objects in order that a person would come upon as they entered the tabernacle. (Gate, brazen altar and laver, table of shewbread, lampstand, altar of incense, ark with mercy seat and cherubim.)

In what way do each of these objects tell us something about Christ? (He is the gate - the only access to God; His cross provides the death necessary for sinful man to approach God - brazen altar; Christ cleanses us and fits us for service to God - laver; He is the bread of life and the light of the world - table and lampstand; He intercedes for us - incense altar; He is our righteousness and the place where God's anger is appeased - ark and mercy seat.)

A Picture of Christ

Tips for Teachers

- Copy the window (master 1)
- Cut pieces of heavy clear plastic to fit the window
 - If you can't find heavy clear plastic make a frame and cover it with tight fitting cellophane.

Materials

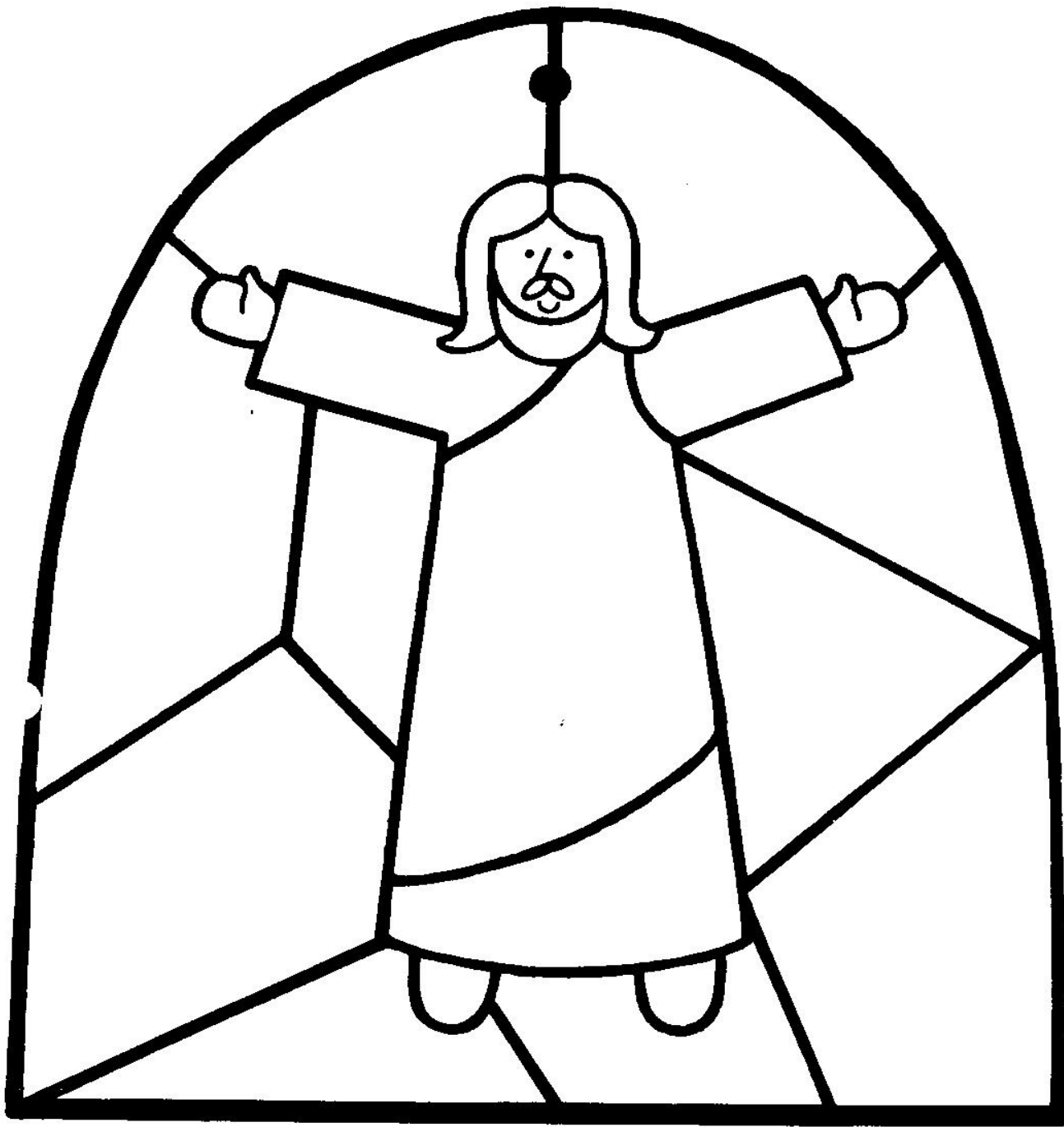
- Tissue paper in assorted colors
- Heavy plastic
- Copies of window
- Rubber cement
- Colored glue
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Hole punch yarn
- Markers

Instructions

1. Cut out the window pattern
2. Cut a piece of clear plastic to fit the window.
3. Trace and cut pattern shapes out of different colors of tissue paper to match the shapes in the window pattern.
4. Use rubber cement to attach the tissue shapes to the plastic.
5. Outline the shapes with colored glue.
6. Use markers to draw in Jesus' eyes, nose, and mouth.
7. Punch a hole in the top of the window and tie a piece of yarn for hanging.

Faith Connections

Hebrews 9:24 *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.* Since this lesson is truly a lesson of thanks and praise for God's gift of His Son, you need to be discussing Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. Encourage the children to come to Christ. Remind them that He is the only way to God. If they already know Christ, have them give thanks to God for that precious gift.



Lesson 4

Title: Tabernacle - the preparation of ministers for God's tabernacle

Text: Exodus 28-29

Theme: God prepares His people to serve Him through the ministry of Christ.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Understand how Christ equips him for ministry before the Father.
2. Understand that Christ is his High Priest who obtains access to the Father.
3. Give thanks for the incredible privilege of ministering before the Father.
4. Relate ways he is called to act out his priestly function among God's people.

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 13:15-16* *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. or*

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In the past lessons we have established the tabernacle as the place of God's presence among His people. Of course this foreshadowed when Christ tabernacled among us during His earthly ministry and how He now dwells among us through the Holy Spirit. In the previous lesson we outlined the furnishings of the tabernacle and how they as well point to Christ. In this lesson we shall focus on those who minister in the tabernacle and how they were prepared for that ministry. This description will give us insight into how Christ prepares His followers to minister today among the people of God. As this material can be quite difficult to understand we will try to greatly simplify it for this age group.

2. Introduction

It would be good to review with the children the idea of "symbol". Take time to review the previous lesson on how each piece of furniture points to some aspect of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Draw a model of the tabernacle on the board and as you point to each individual furnishing have children tell how it should remind us about Christ.

After reviewing the above information, tell children that God not only gave instructions for the building of the tabernacle and its furnishings, but He also gave instructions for the people (the priests) who would work in the tabernacle. This instruction, as well, had to be followed without deviation for it symbolized spiritual realities.

3. Bible Study

Refer to the following points as you share a few of the details found in Exodus 28-29.

A. Aaron and his sons were chosen by God to serve as priests in the tabernacle. They were to represent the people before the Lord. Since God is a God of perfect holiness they could not minister before Him unless they were adequately prepared (consecrated) for the task. God instructed that they be washed with water, clothed in very special garments, anointed with oil, and that they offer up several sacrifices. These activities would prepare them for holy service to the Lord and would avoid offending the holy presence of God in their midst.

B. Just like Aaron and his sons, believers today are called to serve as priests in the presence of God (1 Peter 2:5). Again God's holiness demands that we be prepared for service to Him. We must be washed from our sins by the water of the Word (Eph 5:26). Not only must we

deal with sin, but we must also put on the garment of Christ, that is , to be clothed with His righteousness. As God looks at us clothed with the garment of Christ, He sees that we are holy. We must also be anointed with oil, which is symbolic of our being indwelt and empowered by the Spirit of God. All of this is predicated on our being recipients of the merits obtained through the sacrifice of Christ. Having been acted upon by God in this way we are then able to function as priests in His presence.

C. Believers today function as priests by offering up prayers of praise and thanks, interceding for the body of Christ (especially that she may be holy), and by doing good and sharing especially among the household of God (Heb 13:15-16).

D. Aaron's priesthood is ultimately a picture of Jesus Christ. He entered the Holy Place with the names of His people engraved upon His heart, and offered up the final sacrifice. He not only offered up the sacrifice, but He was the sacrifice and He was the place where the sacrifice was offered. What Christ did He did once for all. Because He lives on His sacrifice is sufficient for all time. His continual priesthood guarantees open access to the Father for all time.

4. Application

Encourage children to recognize that they are called and consecrated to be a nation of priests. Encourage them to offer up acceptable sacrifices to the Lord and, with God's help, to pursue a life of holiness.

5. Review Questions

How were the priests made ready for acceptable service of God in the tabernacle? (They were washed, anointed, clothed with a special garment, and sacrificed for.)

Why did the priests need to be made ready for their service of God? (God is holy and those who would represent Him as priests must be holy as well.)

How are Christians prepared to serve in the presence of God? (They are washed of sin, clothed with the righteousness of Christ, indwelt with the Holy Spirit, and made the receiver of the merits earned through Christ's sacrifice.)

It what ways do Christians today serve as priests? (We offer the sacrifices of praise, thanks, intercession, doing good, and sharing.)

How was Aaron a symbol of Christ? (Aaron foreshadowed Christ's priestly ministry to us. Christ fulfilled the type by offering Himself as sacrifice for our sins and now continually interceding for us. Christ's priesthood was the perfect priesthood which accomplished all that Aaron's pointed to.)

A Prayer Journal

Tips for Teachers

- Make copies of cover (master 1) one for each child
- Pre-cut 8x11 white paper in half for the journal pages. 16 pages per child

Materials

- Covers for the journal
- Inside pages (16 per child)
- Crayons
- Hole punch
- string

Instructions

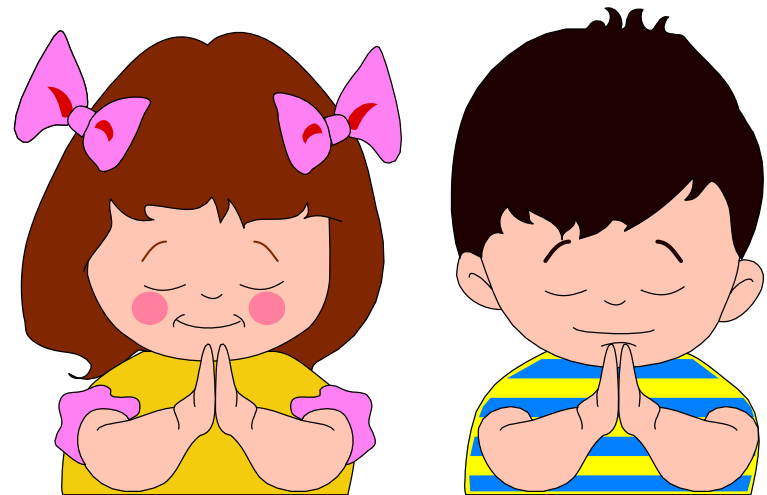
1. Have the children decorate the cover of their journal using the crayons.
2. Fold the cover in half and insert the white pages
3. Hole punch the journal on the left sides. Punch numerous holes along the left side of the journal.
4. Give the children some string and have them thread it through the holes in a spiral style tying the string at each end with a knot.

Faith Connections

Hebrews 13:15-16 *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Make the connection of how prayer can be used to equip each of us to be effective ministers of God's work. A good way to stay focused during your prayer time is to write out your prayers in a journal. Help the children write out their first prayer. Have them ask God how He could use them to be a minister for His Son.

My Prayer Journal



July/Aug., lesson 4

Master 1

Lesson 5

Title: Tabernacle - God indwells the completed tabernacle

Text: Exodus 39:32 - 40:38

Theme: God indwells and guides the vessel especially prepared for Him.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to relate how the tabernacle had to be prepared before God's glory came.
2. Be able to tell how the people of Israel were guided by God's presence.
3. Prepare their heart to be a fit dwelling place for the glory of God.
4. Respond to the direction of God through the Holy Spirit who lives in him.

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 57:15* For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit..." **OR Proverbs 4:11** I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths.

Teacher Direction:

1. In past lessons we have seen that the Tabernacle was to be a symbol of the presence of God among the people of Israel. It was God's desire that such a dwelling be built, for God was pleased to live among His chosen ones. As in many other places in the O.T., the tabernacle contained numerous types which foreshadowed not only Jesus Christ, but also God's relationship to His people even today. The lessons on the furnishings and the priesthood associated with the tabernacle demonstrated this well.

In this lesson we come to the completion of the tabernacle. Faithfully God's people constructed a dwelling for God, and now God was ready to inhabit it. This was a significant time in the history of this nation. In this lesson we will try to bring out this significance and apply it to believers today.

2. Introduction

Ask children if they know what a "Ghost Town" is. Explain that a ghost town is a place that was once full of life and activity, but for some reason has been deserted. Though a ghost town has all the buildings, roads, etc..., of a real town, it is lacking someone to govern it and give it life.

Next ask children if they know what a corpse is. Explain that a corpse is a human body that no longer has life in it. Though it has all the structure, bones, flesh, etc..., of a real body it is missing a soul to govern it and give it life.

Tell children that like the ghost town and the corpse, the tabernacle the people of Israel were building would remain a lifeless, insignificant structure unless God

came and brought His life and glory into it. Today's story reflects upon the coming of God to the tabernacle with His glory.

3. Bible Story

The following ideas should be emphasized as you relate the coming of God in glory to the tabernacle.

A. All things were done just as the Lord commanded. The people made each item of the tabernacle exactly as the Lord had commanded, and Moses assembled those items exactly in conformity to what the Lord said. This was important to show who is in charge and to preserve the symbolism that was such an important part of this structure. This was all God's plan and it was man's part only to listen and obey.

B. Before the Lord inhabited the tabernacle it had to be prepared properly. First Moses had to construct it exactly as God desired and when He desired. Then Moses had to anoint the furnishings and the priests with oil. Vessels set apart for the Lord's use must be consecrated to that use. The same is true of believers today. We are vessels set apart for the Lord's use, but we must first be prepared. Part of that preparation includes a contrite and humble heart which only comes through the ministry or anointing of God's Spirit.

C. God's coming in glory was the climax of the exodus story. God redeemed His people from Egypt, and then led them to Sinai where He gave them the law and entered into covenant with them. Now that the tabernacle was complete God came to dwell among them as their king. He came to direct them to the place of His choosing. This was truly a momentous occasion; a great day in their history.

D. God's coming to the tabernacle in glory was like a soul being implanted in a body. It caused an otherwise lifeless structure to be the place of meeting between God and man.

4. Application

Before God will come and dwell in our hearts, they must be prepared for Him. To be prepared we must repent of our sin. We must come before God in humility and with a contrite heart. And when He comes we must realize that He comes to be King; to rule and guide us in the paths that He desires.

5. Review Questions

Why was it important that the people and Moses did things exactly as God had commanded? (It showed that God was in charge. It also protected the symbolism God meant for there to be in the tabernacle. If they tampered with God's design they would be tampering with God's message of truth about Christ.)

Why did the tabernacle need to be anointed with oil before the coming of God? (Vessels for God's use must be prepared for that use.)

How do we need to prepare for the Lord's living in us? (We must repent of our sin, be filled with the Spirit, and come before God with a contrite heart.)

How did God guide the people once He came to the tabernacle? (When the pillar of cloud or fire was removed from the tabernacle, the people knew it was time to move.)

Cross Frame

Tips for Teachers

- Cut 4 ½ “ x 4 ½ “ square of white poster board for each child
- Pre-cut some yarn to 8” in length for each child

Materials

- Poster board squares
- Yarn
- Colored glue
- Scissors
- Craft sticks 4 ½ “ long (8 per child)

Instructions

1. Glue four craft sticks on each edge of the poster board.
2. Glue the other four sticks on the back so the sticks frame the poster board.
3. Use colored glue to draw a cross in the square.
4. Draw lines or dots in the cross shape
5. Use the colored glue to decorate the craft sticks (or you could use other embellishments (sequins, jewels, etc.)
6. Tie or glue the yarn to each side of the top for a hanger

Faith Connections

Isaiah 57:15 for thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit...

Proverbs 4:11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. Explain to the children that the frame is like our hearts. In order for it to hold a picture it must first be prepared to hold something. The frame holds a picture of a cross which represents Jesus. In order for us to have Jesus in our heart we need to prepare it. We need to make our hearts a “high and holy place” because that is where God will dwell.

Lesson 6

Title: Tabernacle - The Day of Atonement

Text: Leviticus 16, 23:26-32, Hebrews 9:11-10:25

Theme: The Day of Atonement pointed to the sacrifice of Christ for the forgiveness of sin.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Understand what took place on the Day of Atonement and what this meant to the people of Israel.
2. Be able to show ways that the Day of Atonement points to Christ.
3. Give thanks for the perfect and full salvation available only through Jesus Christ.
4. Place his trust in the shed blood of Christ for forgiveness of sins.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 86:5* You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you. **OR Hebrews 9:22** And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Teacher Direction:

1. This lesson represents the final lesson in our study on the tabernacle. In past lessons we have established the tabernacle as the place of God's presence. We have also said embedded in the symbolism of this unique structure are numerous pictures of Christ. Each piece of furniture points to some aspect of the person and ministry of Christ. Also the priesthood itself directs our attention to the ministry of Christ on our behalf.

In this final lesson we shall look at the Day of Atonement. This day was the highest of all holy days for the nation of Israel. Again it is hoped that the children will not only come to understand the day as the people of Israel did, but that they will also see Jesus Christ in the rich symbolism of the day.

2. Introduction

Ask children to name all of the non-religious holidays that we celebrate in this country. After obtaining a response, ask children which they believe to be the most important. Next, have children name all the Christian holidays that we celebrate (see the sheet, "The celebration of the life of Christ in Worship"). Again ask which they believe is the most important holiday we Christians celebrate. Hopefully children will decide that our celebrations centering in the death and resurrection are our most important ones.

Suggest to the children that the people of Israel had numerous holidays as well (Passover, First-fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles). Of these Yom Kippur was their most important and holy day.

Encourage children to learn of the importance of this day and how it teaches us ultimately of Jesus Christ.

3. Bible Story

The following ideas should help you in your presentation of the Day of Atonement.

A. The first priority for this lesson is to help the children understand what the Day of Atonement was like for the people of Israel. To assist children gain insight you might want to show the second half of the video "The Tabernacle and the Day of Atonement" by AVM Presentations. If this video is not available walk children through the instructions found in Leviticus 16. As you

talk about this special day it might be good to have a diagram of the tabernacle available and to chart out the movement of the high priest. Above all help children see that this day was a very significant day whereby the people felt they were starting anew having had their sins forgiven.

B. Next relate how this special feast points to Jesus. The following will help:

- As only the High Priest could enter the holy of holies, so only Christ, the ultimate High Priest, chosen of God, could enter in the heavenly holy of holies on our behalf.
- As the High Priest removed his colorful, more glorious garments and dressed only in linen, so Christ came dressed in His humility, covered with humanity.
- As the sacrifice was killed and its blood applied to the mercy seat, so Christ was killed and His blood was shed. His blood now acts as a satisfying sacrifice for our sins assuring us of the mercies of God.
- As hands were laid on the scapegoat and the goat sent away, so our sins are laid upon Christ and are taken away as far as the east is from the west.
- As the bodies of the sacrifices were burned outside the camp (a place of reproach), so Christ suffered for us outside the city gate bearing the reproach of our sin.

C. Finally share how Christ far supercedes the picture set forth in the Day of Atonement. The following will be helpful:

- Sacrifice for sins had to be made each year, but Christ's sacrifice was done once for all.
- The blood of bulls and goats never really atoned for sin, but Christ's blood truly atoned for sin. That is why He only needed to die once.
- The High Priest had to sacrifice for himself as well, but Christ needed no sacrifice for Himself because He was perfect.
- When the High Priest offered sacrifice the veil still remained, but when Christ died the veil was torn down opening access to God for all God's people.

Note: It is not necessary to cover every comparison above, but rather to show the wonder of Christ in His fulfillment of all God set forth in His word.

4. Application

Toward the end of the Day of Atonement the High Priest put on all his glorious garments and then sacrificed the burnt offering. In like manner, since Christ has returned to His Father's right hand in all His glory, it is right for us to offer up ourselves as living sacrifices. It is also appropriate for us to enjoy the access to God that we have through the blood of Christ.

5. Review Questions

What is the most important holy day to the people of Israel? (The Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur)

What was the significance of the Day of Atonement for the people of Israel? (It was the day that they started anew having had their sins forgiven.)

Name several ways that Jesus fulfills the symbols that are part of the Day of Atonement. (See 3B above)

Name several ways Jesus surpasses the symbolism that is part of this special day. (See 3C above)

In what way does the burnt offering at the end of the Day of Atonement suggest we respond to the risen Christ? (We should offer our lives as a living sacrifice and take advantage of our access to the Father.)

His Sacrifice - Cross

Tips for Teachers

- Make copies of the background (master 1) one per child
- Make copies of the cross (master 2) on red paper. one per child
- Small squares of various colored tissue paper

Materials

- Copies of background
- Copies of cross
- Scissors
- Small squares of tissue paper
- Pencils
- Glue

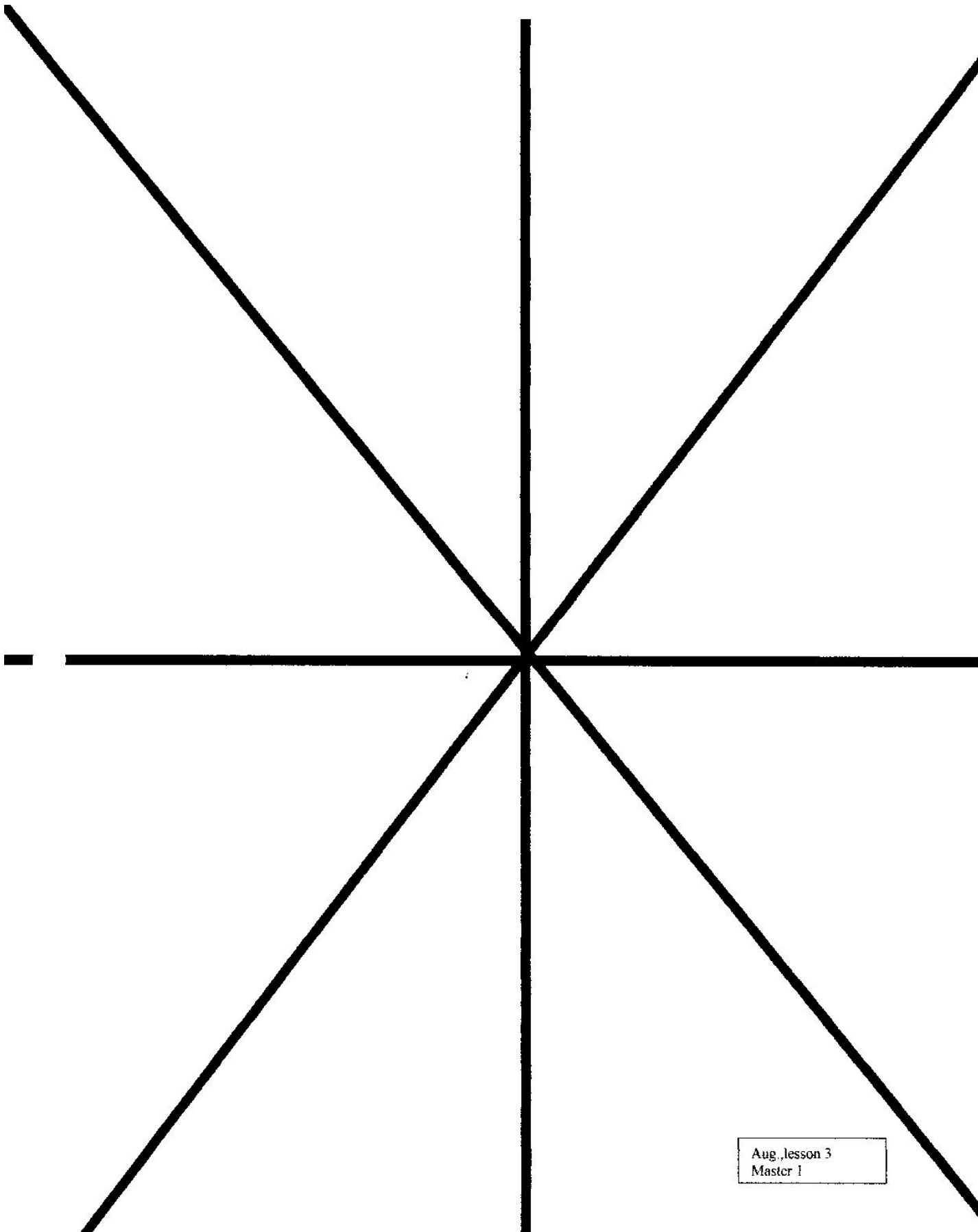
Instructions

1. Wrap tissue paper around the tip of a pencil eraser and dab it in glue. Then attach it to each section of the background.
2. Fill in each section of the background with a different color of tissue paper.
3. Cut out the cross pattern and spread glue on the entire back side.
4. Glue the cross in the center of the background.

Faith Connections

Psalm 86:5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Review with the children how Christ was the ultimate sacrifice for us. And now we should offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. Discuss with the children ways they could sacrifice themselves for the Lord.



Aug. lesson 3
Master 1



**HIS
SACRIFICE**