

Children's Church Grades 1- 3

Year 1 Curriculum - March

Theme: The Christian Family

Lesson 1 **The Duty of the Husband - Father**

Lesson 2 **The Duty of the Wife - Mother**

Lesson 3 **The Duty of the Children**

Suggested songs related to the theme:

<u>Song Title</u>	<u>Source</u>
<i>A Christian Home</i>	
<i>Beloved</i> (I John 4:7 & 8)	
<i>Children Obey Your Parents</i> (Eph.6:1)	<i>Hide Em In Your Heart, Vol. 1**</i>
<i>Honor Your Father and Mother</i> (Deut. 5:16)	<i>Hide Em In Your Heart, Vol. 2**</i>
<i>Lord, Be Glorified</i> ("In my home, Lord...")	
<i>Love, Love</i> (round)	
<i>This Is My Commandment</i>	
<i>Train Up A Child</i> (Prov. 22:6)	<i>Hide Em In Your Heart, Vol. 2**</i>

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

** Taped songs by Steve Green ©1990 & 1992, The Sparrow Corporation

Children's Church Grades 1-3

Year 1 Curriculum - March

Lesson 1

Title: The Christian Home - the duty of the Husband - Father

Text: Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:4, Colossians 3:19,21, 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

Theme: Men are to be loving leaders in their homes encouraging unity and growth in Christ.

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

1. Be able to relate the Biblical role a man has within his family
2. Submit to the leadership and love of their father.
3. Pray for their father in his role as loving leader.
4. Thank God for His loving leadership seen so well in Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

Teacher Direction:

1. The Christian home is the foundational building block of the church. If the homes in our church are weak then our church will be weak. If they are strong, then the church will be strong. Thus we learn about the Christian home to know how to promote unity and maturity within the church. Fortunately God has not left us alone to try and figure out how to conduct or order our homes. He has given very specific instruction which, if followed, will promote not only unity and maturity in the home but also the church. The 3 lessons in this unit will attempt to lay out God's design for the home.

2. Introduction

As you begin you may want to show the children some of your family photos. Talk briefly about those special people in your life. Then ask children what they think a family is. Help them see that by God's design the smallest unit of a family is comprised of a Dad, mom, and if God blesses, some children. (Note: Though we want to be sensitive to children whose families are not intact this way, we still must proclaim God's design.) Tell the children that in the next few weeks we shall talk about God's special design for the family.

Next ask children if they think it is important that each person in the family has a special role or job. To illustrate the importance of roles you might want to talk about a baseball team. If the team had no coach it would have problems. The same is true if the team had no pitcher or catcher or left fielder,... A team is only successful when each player knows his role and fulfills it. Help children see that the same is true in a family.

Next ask children what they think the role or job of a dad is. After some discussion ask children how we can determine what the role of a dad should be? Is it up to the dad to decide, or is it up to a family vote? Instruct children that we should be thankful that this is not the case. God has given us his plan for the family.

3. Bible Story

Take time now to share with the children the instruction from Ephesians 5-6. (Supplement the teaching of this passage with the passage from Colossians 3 and 1 Thessalonians 2). Focus in on the role of the husband - father. The following ideas should be emphasized.

A. A man's role as husband - The husband is to be the head of the home, but this leadership is to mirror in every way Christ's relationship to the church. Since Christ used His leadership in a loving way, the husband should as well. Thus the husband must love his own wife as if loving his own body even to the point of death. He should work hard to encourage his wife's maturity in the Lord and to promote unity within their relationship.

B. A man's role as father - Again a man is to act as leader of his home but he is not to abuse that leadership. He should not be unjust and provoke his children to anger. Instead he should use his God-given authority to instruct and discipline his children in the ways of the Lord. His leadership should result in the encouragement of all his children to walk worthy of their God-given calling.

4. Application

Encourage children to look to their fathers for leadership and direction. Help them to see that God has given them a father for their own good and that it is best to submit to them. (Note: Those who do not have a dad must look to their mothers and to leaders within the church for leadership in their lives.)

Encourage children to begin praying for their fathers that they would be loving leaders within their homes.

5. Review Questions

Who determines who does what in a family? (God does. He created us and has a great plan for the family.)

What is the man's role in relation to his wife? (He is to use his role of leadership to love his wife and encourage her growth in the Lord.)

What is the man's role in relation to his children? (He is to use his leadership to encourage them to walk with God. He should not use it in a way that discourages his children.)

What do you think might have happened if God did not assign a loving leader in the home?

Necktie

Tips for Teachers

- Make copies of the master on to cardstock
- Make copies of the poem

Materials

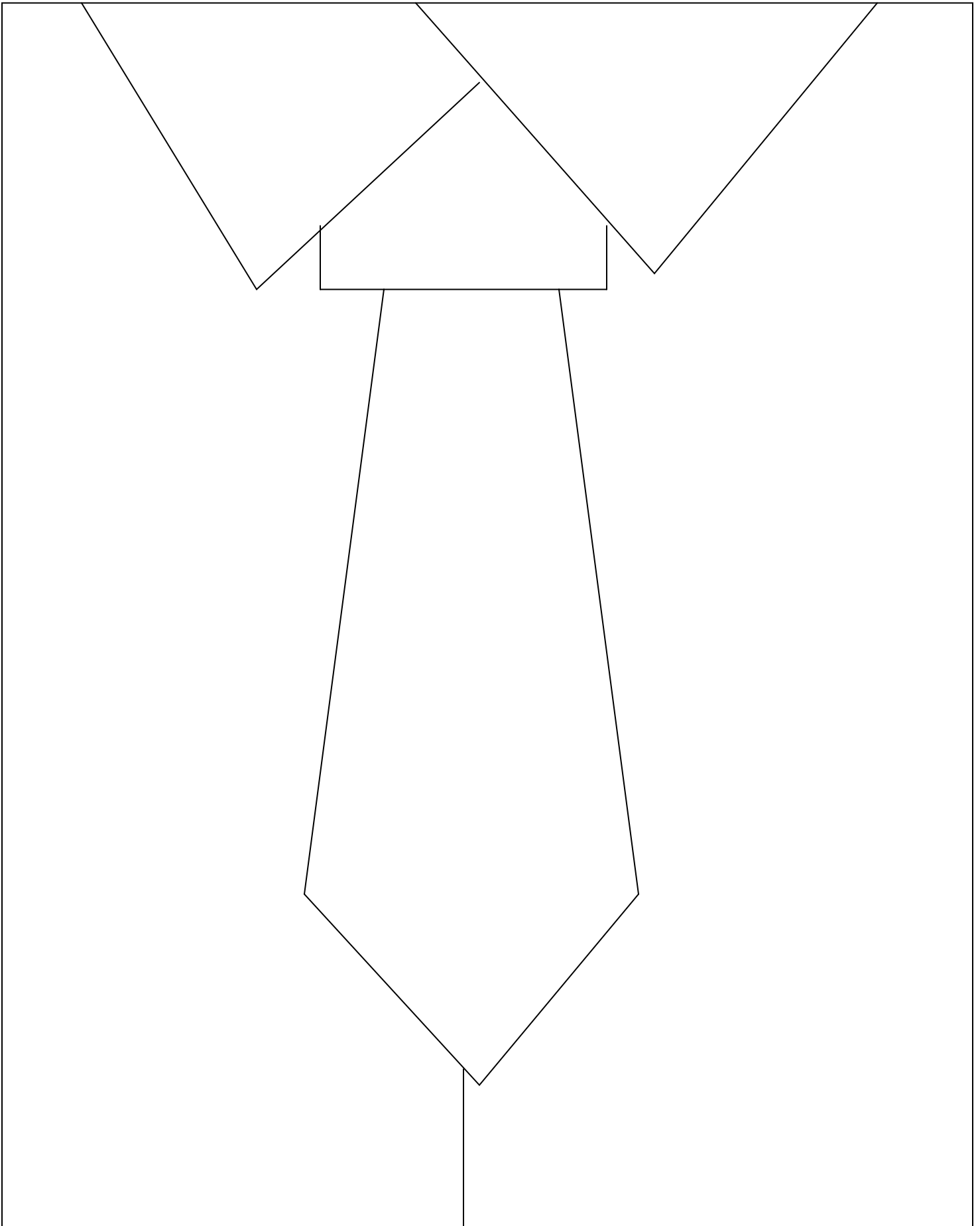
- Copies of master
- Copies of poem
- Buttons
- Glue
- Crayons
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Have the students color their shirt and tie a different color.
2. Have them glue buttons on the 2 tips of the collar and one button below the tie.
3. Have them cut the poem and glue it to the middle of the tie.

Faith Connections

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. As you are helping the children with their craft have them give examples of how their father is the head of the household. As you read the poem to the children remind them that a Christian father follows Jesus and thus leads their children towards Christ.



Lesson 2

Title: The Christian Home - the duty of the wife - mother

Text: Eph 5:21-24, 33, Col 3:18, 1 Pet 3:1-7, 1 Thes 2:7-9, Titus 2:3-5

Theme: Women are to submit to their own husbands in order to create a loving home environment

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

1. Be able to relate the Biblical role a woman has within the family
2. Show their gratitude for all the loving ways their mothers serve them.
3. Pray for their mother in her God-given role
4. Thank God that Christ submitted to the Father in order to love us supremely.

Memory Verse: ***Ephesians 5:24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

Teacher Direction:

1. The Christian home is the foundational building block of the church. If the homes in our church are weak then our church will be weak. If they are strong, then the church will be strong. Thus we learn about the Christian home to know how to promote unity and maturity within the church. Fortunately God has not left us alone to try and figure out how to conduct or order our homes. He has given very specific instruction which, if followed, will promote not only unity and maturity in the home but also the church. In lesson 1 we explored the role of the husband - father. In this lesson we explore the role of the wife - mother.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson it would be good to review the material from last week's lesson on the role of the husband - father. Remind children that men are called to be loving leaders in the home in order to promote unity and maturity in their homes.

To introduce this lesson call up 3 children to act as volunteers. Assign one of them the responsibility of being the leader. Then tell them to play "Follow the leader". Let this go on only for a minute or two. Next assign two of them to be the leader and again set them off to play "Follow the leader". Make sure that both children recognize that they are to be the leader. Note: having two leaders should make it very difficult for the third person to follow anyone. Let the game go on until the children can see how difficult having multiple leaders can be.

After the game discuss with children how important it is to have assigned leaders. In businesses, sports and many other areas of life it is important to have designated leaders. It does not work to have everyone as leader. Explain to children that in the home God has assigned leadership to men. Every family member is not designed to be the leader of the home. Since men have been given the duty of leading their family ask children what they think the role of the woman is within the family. This should lead well into the Bible study.

3. Bible Story

At this time it would be good to summarize the basic teaching found in the Bible texts listed above. It is not intended that each text will be looked at and explained. The following points serve as a basic summary.

A. A woman's role as a wife - The wife is to submit to her own husband's leadership. (Note: the word submit means to place yourself under the leadership of another for the common good such as what a soldier does to his commanding officer.) She is to do this out of reverence for God and as long as in doing so she does not compromise her obedience to God. This submission should come from a gentle and quiet spirit which places its trust in God. It should not be external only.

B. A woman's role as mother - The mother provides the primary care. She is to love her husband and children and provide an environment within the home conducive to proper growth for all. (Note: Proverbs 31 gives a wonderful example of the breadth of the activities a mom may be involved in.) Her desire should be to support her husband in every way with diligent labors to encourage the children to grow up to love the Lord. It might be good to explore with children what the range of activities moms are involved in as they fulfill this role.

4. Application

Encourage the children to give thanks to God for their mothers. Have them name every way their moms care for them and provide a loving environment in their homes. Have the children as well pray for their moms that they would submit to their dads and have the energy and ability to lovingly care for the family.

Encourage the children to thank God for His loving care as well. Have them name the many things God does to bring them up in His love.

5. Review Questions

What role has God given the man in the home? (The man is to lovingly lead their family)

What role has God given the woman in relation to her husband? (She is to place herself under her husband's leadership. This is for the good of all.)

What role has God given the woman in relation to her family? (She is to provide a caring, loving environment within the home.)

What might happen if the wife wanted to lead the home and didn't want to fulfill her God-given role? (The home would probably have less of a caring environment and there may be much conflict and confusion because of undesignated leadership.)

Little Hand Prints

Tips for Teachers

Make copies of the poem

Materials

- Copies of the poem
- Paint
- Small paper plates
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions

1. Place paint in the paper plate and have the student put their hand in the paint and coat it.
2. Have the student press their handprint on the construction paper.
3. Repeat 1 & 2 with the other hand so that the construction paper has the child's hand prints side by side.
4. Have the child cut out the poem and glue it on top of the handprints.

Faith Connections

Ephesians 5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. As the children are making their handprints have them share with you ways their mother takes care of them and provides a loving home. Then as you read the poem make the connection that even though they are little they can still give praise to God for their mother. Have them give examples of ways they can show their mother how much they love her and are thankful for her loving care.

Sometimes you get discouraged, because I am so small,
And always leave my fingerprints on furniture and walls.

But everyday I'm growing. I'll be all grown some day,
And all those tiny handprints will surely fade away.

So here's a little handprint, just so you can recall,
Exactly how my fingers looked when I was very small.

I know I keep you busy, but you keep me busy too.
While you're busy taking care of me,
I'm busy loving you.

Sometimes you get discouraged, because I am so small,
And always leave my fingerprints on furniture and walls.

But everyday I'm growing. I'll be all grown some day,
And all those tiny handprints will surely fade away.

So here's a little handprint, just so you can recall,
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And all those tiny handprints will surely fade away.

So here's a little handprint, just so you can recall,
Exactly how my fingers looked when I was very small.

I know I keep you busy, but you keep me busy too.
While you're busy taking care of me,
I'm busy loving you.

Lesson 3

Title: The Christian Home - the duty of children

Text: Ex 20:12, Eph 6:1-3, Col 3:20, Lk 2:41-52, Jn 19:25-27 (Also see Prov 4:1-13, 1:8-9)

Theme: Children are to honor their parents through their obedience to and care for their parents as well as by attending to their instruction.

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

1. Be able to relate the Biblical role a child has within the family
2. Commit to obey their parents and seek to learn from them.
3. Be able to define the word honor and give examples of how they can honor their parents.
4. Pray for other children or siblings that they will fulfill their God-given role.

Memory Verse: *Ephesians 6:1-2* Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—

Teacher Direction:

1. The Christian home is the foundational building block of the church. If the homes in our church are weak then our church will be weak. If they are strong, then the church will be strong. Thus we learn about the Christian home to know how to promote unity and maturity within the church. Fortunately God has not left us alone to try and figure out how to conduct or order our homes. He has given very specific instruction which, if followed, will promote not only unity and maturity in the home but also the church. In the first 2 lessons we explored the role of the husband - father and wife - mother. In this final lesson we explore the role of the child.

2. Introduction

Again it would be good to review what we have said thus far about the Christian family. Review the roles of the husband - father and wife - mother. Remind children that these roles are designed by God to promote unity and growth in the home and the church.

To introduce this lesson ask children why they think God has given us parents. Allow time for discussion. It might be good to record their answers on the board. If children have been listening to the 2 previous lessons they should note that parents are given to instruct, discipline, love and care for their children. Help children to see that God has designed the family in such a way that those older, stronger and hopefully wiser take care of and protect those younger, weaker and naive (that is, not trained by experience).

Next ask children what they think their response should be to their parents in light of the responsibility God has given to parents. This discussion should lead well to the Bible study section which focuses on the role of the child.

3. Bible Study

A. Tell children that their God-given role in the family is summed up in the 5th commandment. (Take a minute to see if any of the children know what the 5th commandment is.) That commandment instructs children to **honor** their parents.

To help children understand what it means to honor do the following: A. Have the children tell what they think the word means and then lead them to understand that it means to "treat as important". B. Then ask children what they would do if they wanted to honor a visitor to children's church. Come up with a list of ways they might honor such a person.

B. Next explain to children that there are 3 main ways that children can honor their parents. Instead of telling them what those ways are share the following lessons from Jesus' life and have them determine in what way Jesus honored his parents / elders.

1. First share the lesson from Luke 2:41- 52. Lead children to see that Jesus honored his parents by submitting to them or by being obedient to them. When we obey our parents we are recognizing that God has given them authority to rule us and we are showing that they are important because of this.

A second way (not seen as obviously here) that Jesus showed honor was by sitting at the feet of the teachers in the temple and eagerly listening to and questioning them. In a similar way children honor their parents by eagerly listening to and learning from them. The texts above from Proverbs show this clearly.

2. Next share the lesson from John 19:25-27. While hanging on the cross, suffering beyond measure, Jesus took notice of his mother and made sure she would be cared for after his death. Lead children to see that part of honoring our parents means caring for them when they are older (or whenever they are needy).

C. Finally help children see that there is a promise or reward attached to the command to obey their parents. The 5th command says "so that you will live long on the land the Lord is giving you". Help children see that as they fulfill their role the family is blessed, as is their church and their nation.

4. Application

Encourage children to commit, with God's help, to honor their parents - to obey them and to seek to learn from them. Encourage them as well to pray for one another and for their siblings and parents that together they would fulfill their God-given roles.

5. Review Questions

What is the role of a child in the family? (To honor his parents)

In what ways can a child honor his parents? (Through their obedience, and their caring for and learning from their parents.)

What does the word honor mean? (To show that you believe something is important.)

What is the reward or promise for honoring our parents? (Blessing in the land.)

Family Frame

Tips for Teachers

- Pre-cut a cardboard frame for each student
 - Make a 1 inch border with a finished size of 5x7
 - The inside should measure 4x6

Materials

- Cardboard frames
- Paint
- Brushes
- Glue
- Crayons
- Embellishments: sequins, foam shapes, colored tissue paper, jewels
- Thick Black Marker
- Sticky magnet strips

Instructions

1. Have the students paint on side of their frame with a thin coat of paint.
2. Help students write "I thank God for my family" on the bottom of the frame.
3. Have students glue on embellishment around their frame
4. Help the students place a sticky magnet strip all around the back side of the frame. (It is important that there is a magnet all around the back so that it will hold a picture in it while on the refrigerator)

Faith Connections

Ephesians 6:1-2 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"- which is the first commandment with a promise- As the children make their magnets have them share ways they have honored their parents in the past. Then have them share ways they can honor their parents in the future. Share some examples of situations where it might be hard for them to honor their parents, then have them figure out what would be the best way to handle those situations. Have the students take the magnet home and put a picture of their family inside of it and place it on the refrigerator. Then they will have a daily reminder to pray for their family.

Children's Church Grades 1- 3

Year 1 Curriculum - April

Theme: Easter

Lesson 1 **Triumphal Entry**

Lesson 2 **Crucifixion**

Lesson 3 **Resurrection**

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: Triumphal Entry

King of Kings

You Are The King of Glory

(a.k.a. *Hosanna to the Son of David*)

Hallelu, Hallelu

Hallelujah, Christ is Risen (verse 1)

Hosanna! (Matt. 21:9, 11)

(Source: *Hide Em In Your Heart, Vol. 1***)

Lesson 2: Crucifixion

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross, v. 1

We Will Glorify

For God So Loved The World

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

Lesson 3: Resurrection

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Don't You Know

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Hallelujah, Christ is Risen (verse 2)

He's The Lord of All

Sing, Shout, Clap

This is How We Know

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

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Children's Church Grades 1-3

Year 1 Curriculum - April

Lesson 1

Title: Easter according to Luke - the triumphal entry

Text: Luke 19:28-44

Theme: Jesus, the King, would be rejected by His own to bring salvation to all men.

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

1. Understand that Jesus is King of Kings
2. Understand, though King, Jesus was rejected and put to death for our sakes.
3. Welcome Jesus as king and ruler of their heart, mind and soul.
4. Offer praise to the King for all the wonders He has done.

Memory Verse: Luke 19:38 *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

Teacher Direction:

1. The lessons in this unit focus on the passion of Christ as recorded by the gospel writer, Luke. Our first lesson begins with all eyes on Jerusalem as Christ enters amidst the praises of the multitudes claiming Him to be the Messiah and King. Yet within a few days He would be crucified and buried (focus of lesson 2) perhaps a shock and disappointment to many. The cords of death, however, could not hold this King as He raises from the dead (the focus of our last lesson). As you teach these lessons help children enter into the tragedy as well of the glory of these events in the life of our Lord.

2. Introduction

To introduce the lesson it would be good to ask the children what they would do if a very important person was going to visit their city (ei: the Pope, the President, the King of another land.) Gain ideas from the children. Ask them what kind of car they might want to drive this person around in. Would they have a parade? How would they try to honor him? What would they shout from the streets as this person drove by?

If time permits it might be good to stage a mini entrance into a city. Choose one child to be the person of honor and have the other children line up along an imaginary street. Have the observers throw confetti and chant words of praise as the honored person walks along the path.

Next discuss with children what would happen if the people of the city did not like this person. How would they treat him differently? How would this person feel if his welcome was not very warm? Transition into the story by telling the children Jesus had a very special entry into a city which not everyone was very thrilled about.

3. Bible Story

Take time now to relate the story found in Luke 19:28-44. The following ideas should be emphasized as you relate each section of the story.

A. Preparation for the entry - Jesus is on a mission. He is on His way to Jerusalem where He knows certain death awaits Him. (Just prior to this event He had raised Lazarus from the dead and had visited Lazarus and his family subsequent to that miracle in the city of Bethany

just outside Jerusalem.) To prepare for His entrance He sends two of his followers to obtain a young donkey which has never been used. Help the children see that as the obtaining of a colt went according to Jesus' plan, so all of the following events were ordered by God. God had ordained every detail.

B. Jesus honored as King - Help the children see how the people honored Jesus. Multitudes came to where Jesus was because He had performed such mighty deeds. They wanted to be where He was. Then they took their garments off and laid them as a carpet for His feet. This is similar to the way the people honored King Jehu in 2 Kings 9:13. Others took palm branches and laid them along the path (the other writers include this). This, too, was a way of honoring someone who was very important. Finally the people shouted out praise to God for Jesus using the text from Psalm 118. This identified Him with the coming Messiah. Note: if some from this crowd were coming to the feast in Jerusalem this text would have been fresh on their minds. This was one of the Psalms of ascent recited by travelers on their way to Jerusalem.

C. The King's rejection foreshadowed - Though Luke describes a wonderful scene there are some ambiguities as well. Though being honored as a King, Jesus is not dressed as a King nor is He riding the kind of animal a King might ride. Also as Jesus enters the city He weeps for He knows that Jerusalem will reject Him and that they would be judged for this. On the day their King visited them they did not recognize Him. This saddened Jesus though it, too, was according to God's perfect plan.

4. Application

Christ wants to enter the gates of our heart and come and reign as our King. Encourage children to give Him a welcome like the people at His triumphal entry. Encourage them to bring praise to Jesus and submit to His reign.

5. Review Questions

How did Jesus show that God was in control of all that happened to Him? (The way the donkey was obtained showed that all was happening according to plan.)

How did the people honor Jesus as King? (They gathered where He was, laid their clothes and palm branches at His feet, and shouted praise to Him as King.)

What was unusual about Jesus' entry as King into the city? (He was not dressed nor transported as a King. He wept as He entered the city as well.)

How can we welcome Jesus as our King? (Ask Him to come and reign in your heart.)

**If time permits act out this story with real palm branches.

Sing Hosanna

Tips for Teachers

- Trace around the palm pattern (master 1) on cardboard and cut it out. One for each student
- Make copies of master 2 and cut into strips

Materials

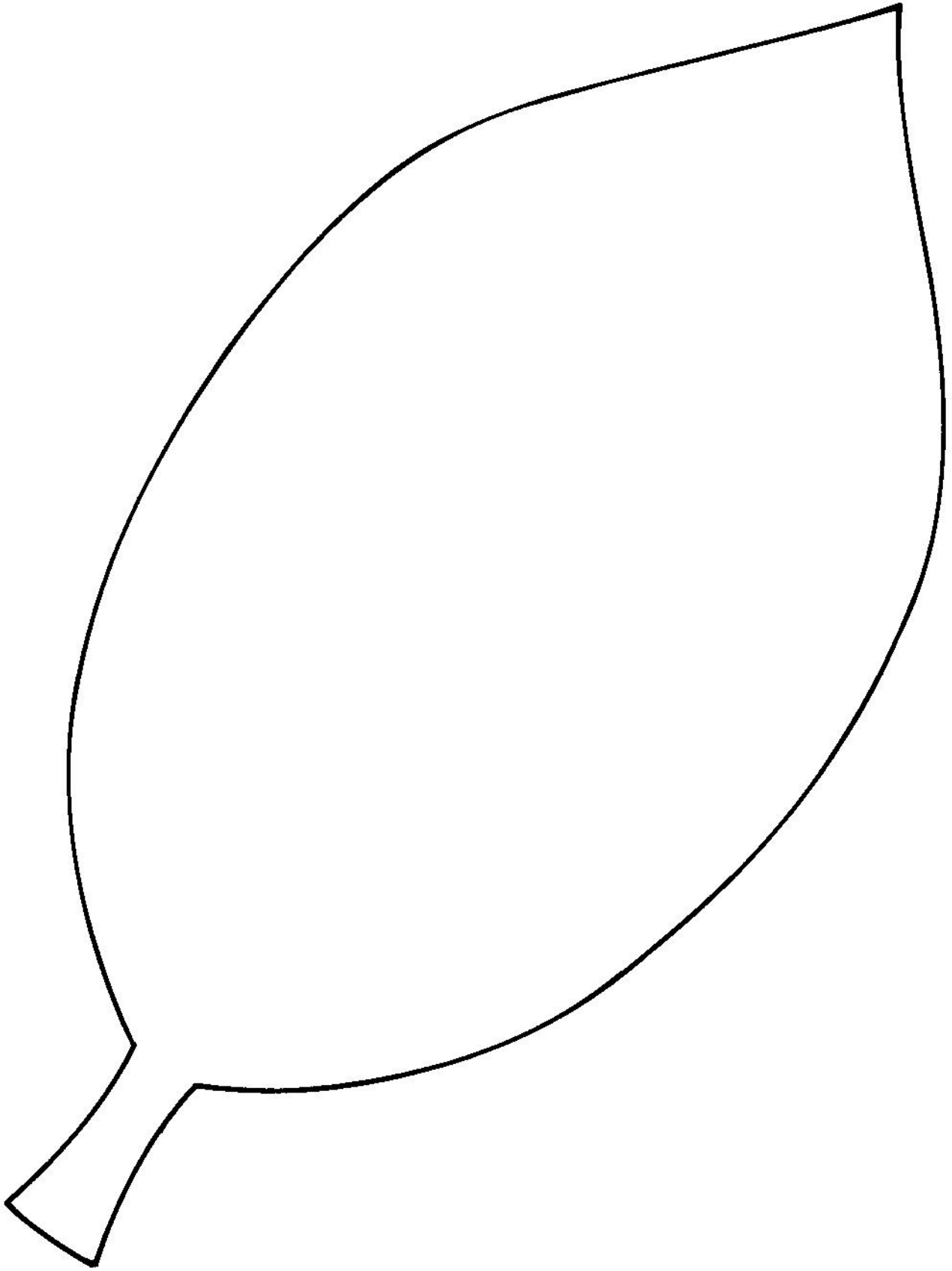
- Cardboard palm leaves
- “Sing Hosanna” strips
- Green paint
- Paint brushes
- Black marker
- Scissors
- glue

Instructions

1. Have the children paint one side of the branch green.
2. Have them draw lines horizontally across the leaf to resemble a palm branch.
3. Fringe the sides of the branch by cutting triangular slits along the sides.
4. Glue the “Sing Hosanna” on top of the branch.
5. Have the students act out the triumphal entry scene if time allows.

Faith Connections

Luke 19:38 *“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”* While children are making their palm branch have them retell the story of the triumphal entry. Make sure you emphasize how they welcomed Him by waving the palm branches. Then make the connection that they should also welcome Jesus into their hearts just like the people did when he entered Jerusalem. Encourage them to pray to Jesus welcoming Him into their hearts.



SING HOSANNA

SING HOSANNA

SING HOSANNA

SING HOSANNA

Lesson 2

Title: Easter according to Luke - the crucifixion and resurrection

Text: Luke 23:26-24:12

Theme: Though the righteous King was crucified, death could not hold Him.

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

1. Be able to recount how Christ suffered for sinners.
2. Be able to tell how Luke showed the perfection of Christ.
3. Participate in the hope of this account by looking to Christ in repentance and faith.
4. Give thanks for the sacrifice of Christ for them and commit their lives to His service.

Memory Verse: *Luke 24:7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'*

Teacher Direction:

1. This lesson is the second of three lessons that focus on Luke's account of the last days of our Lord. Last week students were introduced to Christ, the King, making His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Toward the end of the lesson students were given a foreshadowing of the rejection of this King. This lesson develops that rejection but brings this dark account to a hopeful conclusion. It would be good to develop this rejection and then to leave students with the same sense of marveling Peter had in 24:12.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson review the account from Luke 19:28-44. Remind the children of this peculiar King who came riding on the foal of a donkey, dressed in common clothes, hailed by common people. Remind them of this King's weeping as He entered the city.

At this point you might relate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem to the eye of a hurricane. This entry was a hopeful time for the people watching Jesus come into the city, but it was really the calm before the storm. The storm would come and what a storm it would be, but a new day would soon follow. Tell children that in today's lesson they shall enter into the storm, but when they pass through they shall see what great hope we have as followers of Jesus.

3. Bible Story

Since most of the children will have heard of Jesus' crucifixion, death and resurrection before, it is important to bring out the profound truth taught by these events. The following ideas should help as you recount these most important events.

A. One of Luke's focuses is the innocence or sinlessness of Christ. He brings this out in the following ways: When Christ is crucified He says, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". The thief on the cross, contrary to many others surrounding the cross, claims that Jesus has done no wrong. The soldier at the cross, as well, claims Christ to be a righteous man. The greatest proof, however, occurs at the resurrection for this event is God's vindication of His perfect servant.

B. Another focus of Luke is the rejection of Christ by His own people represented by the city of Jerusalem. Luke develops this rejection in the following ways: Everything that Christ suffered is

part of the rejection - crown of thorns, scourging, beaten with a reed on the head, bearing a cross, crucifixion,.... It is also shown in Jesus' conversation with the women who were weeping for Him. The city of Jerusalem was headed for terrible judgment for rejecting her king. It is also seen in the mocking and sneering Jesus endured at the hands of the rulers, soldiers and even the thief on the cross.

C. Amidst the tumultuous rejection of this innocent savior there is hope. Though taunted to save Himself Christ chooses not to save Himself. For to do so would take away any hope for sinful man. Christ stays squarely in the middle of His Father's plan. The thief on the cross also gives hopes. His plea to be remembered (though he is a guilty criminal) is met by an assurance that he would be in paradise "this day". Finally the empty tomb offers hope. Though Peter was certainly perplexed it is certain that he had a sense that something marvelous had just happened.

4. Application

As the thief on the cross looked to Jesus as his only hope, so each child should be encouraged to look to Jesus as well. Encourage each child to come to Christ freely admitting their sinfulness. Encourage them to see Christ as their perfect sacrifice for sin and to place their trust and their whole life in His hands.

For those who know Christ it would be important to give thanks for the sacrifice of Christ and to renew their commitment to Him.

5. Review Questions

How did look show the sinlessness of Jesus? (Jesus' forgiving words, the statements of those around the cross, and the resurrection all point to Jesus' perfection.)

In what ways does Luke show the reject of God perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ? (All that Christ suffered, the coming judgment of Jerusalem, and the ridicule of those around the cross all point to Christ's rejection.)

Why didn't Christ save Himself from the cross? (If He did sinful man would have no hope.)

How does this story give you hope? (It shows that sinful humans can be forgiven and possess eternal life. It points to a future resurrection for all believers, but also a present resurrection of real life for all those who look to Christ.)

Easter Crosses

Tips for Teachers

- Copy the crosses (master) one for each student
- Cut out each cross pattern
- Make a model for the students to look at

Materials

- Crosses pattern
- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencils
- Crayons

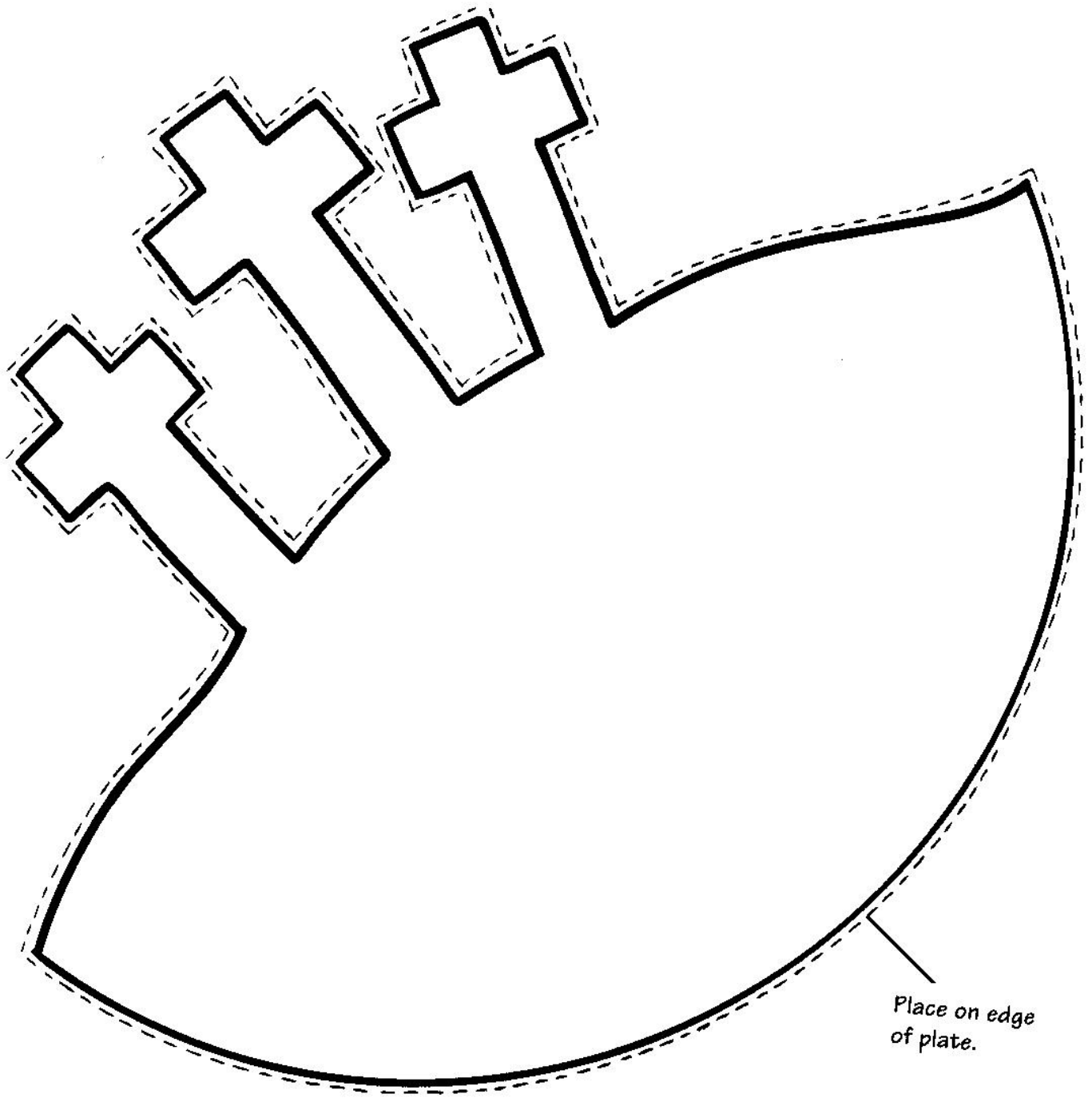
Instructions

1. Have students trace the cross pattern on to a paper plate. Make sure they line up the pattern to the edge of the plate.
2. Have them cut out the pattern and color it either all black or brown for the crosses and green for the hill.
3. Color the other plate on the front side following these coloring instructions: the coloring should look like an evening sky. Start at the end of the plate that will be the bottom of your finished project. Use a red color and color up about one-fourth of the plate in a semicircular motion. Then add orange on top of the red, yellow on top of orange. And finish coloring the plate a light blue.
4. Glue the pattern in front of the sky scene.

Faith Connections

Luke 24:7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'

Ask the children why we are coloring 3 crosses instead of just one. Then lead them in a discussion about the thief looking at Jesus as his only hope. Encourage the children that they too should see Jesus as their only hope.



Place on edge
of plate.

Lesson 3

Title: Easter according to Luke - the Emmaus disciples

Text: Luke 24:13-35

Theme: Christ's resurrection, foretold by the prophets and attested by many first-hand witnesses, should encourage us to proclaim the glories of Christ in our day.

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

1. Learn to trust in the truthfulness of the Bible as they understand that Christ's death and resurrection happened exactly as God planned and foretold through His prophets.
2. Understand that Jesus' resurrection proved He was much more than a prophet.
3. Give thanks for the hope we have of a transformed, resurrected body.
4. Be encouraged to be witnesses to the glories of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: ***Luke 24:46-47** He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In the lessons which comprise this unit we have been building towards a climax. We began with great hope as Christ entered Jerusalem amidst the shouts and praises of the people. These hopes, however, came crashing down as Christ was arrested, tried, and brutally crucified. Yet, in our last lesson there were rays of hope. We left the narrative with that last ray of hope as Peter came to the empty tomb, knowing something wonderful must have happened, but not completely sure what that might have been. As you begin this lesson review the previous lesson trying to build the mystery and bewilderment that are so much part of this account. Then build on this bewilderment until it passes away into a full hope at the appearance of the risen Christ to the Emmaus disciples.

2. Introduction

As you began retelling the story about the Emmaus disciples it might be good to talk about times the children have been confused or bewildered (this word would need definition if used). It might be that they have read a mystery and thought they knew the solution, but the story didn't turn out as they thought. It may be that they were trying to work on a maze or work on a game like a rubic cube, and thought that certain moves would work, but found those moves only made things worse. It may be that they have tried to build a model of some sort and found themselves completely lost even after reading the instructions.

From this discussion transition into the account found in Luke 24:13-35. Help children understand that the two men in this story were truly confused. Ask them to pay good attention and see if they can determine why they were confused and how they came out of their confusion.

3. Bible Story

The following points should be emphasized as you relate the story of the 2 disciples.

A. The two disciples were truly confused. Jesus had taught in an amazing way and He had performed many convincing miracles. This had led these two to hope that Jesus was the Messiah, the one they thought would deliver Israel from the oppression of the Romans. Yet he

was delivered over to death and was crucified. This greatly diminished their hopes. When, however, they heard of the empty tomb their hopes were regained a bit, but they still hadn't seen Jesus. They truly were unsure how to interpret the events of these last days.

B. Jesus came among them to teach them. Though God kept the disciples from knowing Jesus' identity, He favored them with Jesus' instruction and presence. Jesus taught them that the law and the prophets foretold that the Christ must suffer before entering into His glory. In reality Jesus was rebuking them for their lack of believing what the prophets proclaimed. The Scriptures are to be believed in; their words are truth. Even Jesus before His crucifixion confirmed the fact of His need to suffer. (Note: Jesus' breaking bread with these men may have served as a powerful reminder of this truth.)

Jesus also confirmed to them that He had risen from the dead with a transformed body. When Jesus departed from the two He simply vanished from them. Jesus had indeed risen from the dead and now inhabited His body of glory which never shall die and which had been gloriously renewed.

C. Having learned from the risen Christ, the disciples went to spread the good news. They went directly to the 11 apostles and declared that Christ was risen indeed. Then they informed the men of all that Christ had done with them and how He had revealed Himself to them.

4. Application

Those who belong to Christ should rejoice in His resurrection knowing that this proved Him to be the Son of God and that it assures them of their own resurrected and glorious body. Such knowledge should propel believers to witness to these truths.

5. Review Questions

Why were the two disciples confused? (They had hopes that Jesus was the Christ, but His crucifixion confused them.)

What did Jesus teach these two disciples? (His suffering was necessary and foretold by the prophets. They should have believed the prophets. Jesus also showed them He had been gloriously resurrected.)

What did the disciples do after their meeting with Jesus? (They went and shared with others what had happened. They witnessed to the truth of these things.)

How should we respond to the resurrection of Christ? (Worship Christ, give thanks for the hope of our resurrection, be faithful witnesses to the glories of Christ.)

New Life Egg

Tips for Teachers

- Make a model of the project

Materials

- Plastic eggs
- Little googly eyes
- Glue
- Yellow pompons
- Orange construction paper
- Scissors
- Black marker

Instructions

1. Glue one pompon inside the bottom half of the egg.
2. Cut a small square from construction paper (approx $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4}$)
Fold the square corner to corner to form a triangle.
3. Glue the triangle to the center front of the second pompon to form a beak.
4. Glue the two eyes above the beak.
5. Glue the second pompon on top of the one inside the egg.
6. Close the egg. Use the marker to write, "Jesus gives new life" on the outside of the egg.

Faith Connections

Luke 24:46-47 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. As the children are working on their egg help them make the connection of new life and the cross. Only the son of God could conquer death, and it is His resurrection that assures us a new life. If we believe in Him as the Son of God we will never perish but have eternal life.

Children's Church Grades 1- 3

Year 1 Curriculum - May

Theme: The Church Is A Family

Lesson 1 The Church Is A Family

Lesson 2 The Church Is A Family Who Cares

Lesson 3 The Church Is A Family With A Mission

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: The Church Is A Family

Behold What Manner of Love

Lord, Be Glorified ("In my church, Lord...;")

Lesson 2: The Church Is A Family Who Cares

Beloved, I John 4:7 & 8

God's Covenant, verse 3

Lord, Be Glorified

Love is Patient

Love, Love (round)

The Gift of Love

You Shall Love The Lord Your God

Lesson 3: The Church Is A Family With A Mission

Follow Jesus

Go Tell

This Little Light of Mine

Walk Like Jesus

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

Children's Church Grades 1-3

Year 1 Curriculum - May

Lesson 1

Title: The Church is a family

Text: Mark 3:31-31, assorted passages listed under Bible Story below

Theme: God's design for the church is similar to His design for the family. Each were meant to support the other.

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

1. Commit himself to his church family.
2. Be able to state how the church is put together as a family.
3. Be able to share how seeing the church as a family might affect relationships within the church.
4. Pray for their church to become more and more of a family.

Memory Verse: ***Ephesians 2:19** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,*

Teacher Direction:

1. In a previous month we spoke of God's design for the nuclear family. In those lessons we laid out the roles which God intends men, women, and children to fulfill within that small community. Men were to be loving leaders in their homes; women, submissive caregivers; and children were to be obedient and bring honor to their parents.

In this unit we shall take what the children have learned about families in order to help them see how the church is a family as well. Indeed the New Testament does present the body of Christ as a family, or even better, a family of families. Understanding this truth is essential to every Christian since participation in the family of God is vital to every member's growth in Christ.

2. Introduction

As you begin the lesson, review the material from the previous unit on the family (March, Year 1). Remind the children of the role God has given to the man, the woman and the child(ren) in each home.

To introduce this lesson ask children to answer the question, "What is the church?" Help children see that though we often refer to the church as a building, the church is really comprised of all people who have submitted their lives to Christ. Next ask children, "What design is the church supposed to have?" or "How are the people who make up the church suppose to see each other?" To help children grasp the idea of a design it might be good to show the children the layout of the church facility. Suggest that just as there is a design for the physical church structure to insure all the ministry needs are met, so there is a design for the spiritual church. Encourage children to listen to the lesson in order to find out what God's design for the church is.

3. Bible Story

Note: Since there is not a single Bible narrative that gives us a sufficient picture of the church as a family we will need to piece several passages together. The following is a suggested sequence.

A. Jesus suggests the church is a family. Go through the short narrative found in Mark 3:31-35 to show that Jesus recognized the church as a family. He was not denying His earthly family but He was establishing the church as His spiritual family which should have His greatest devotion. Those who have committed themselves to do the will of God are considered our spiritual family.

B. The church is designed as a family in at least 3 levels. 1) God is the Father of the church (Matthew 6:9). He brought her into existence, leads her, protects and provides for her. In a sense the church is the mother. She is to submit to the Father and to care for those in her family (Eph 5:22-33). Jesus is known as the elder brother (Rom 8:29). 2) In God's household (1 Tim 3:15) elders have been established to serve in the same capacity a father would in a home (1 Tim 3:5). Deacons serve in the complementary role similar to the mother (1 Tim 8:13, Acts 6:1-4). Those under this leadership should willingly submit similarly to the role of the child. 3) If God is our Father and Jesus our elder brother, then the rest of the members of the family need to see themselves as brothers and sisters. Those who are older and wiser should also be looked up to as fathers and mothers (1 Tim 5:1-2).

4. Application

Since the church is a family each child should be encouraged to commit himself to the care of each member of the family. The church should not be seen as a place to come and take advantage of services that meet personal needs. Rather the church must be seen as the people of God, the greatest source of one's identity and the place where one's service is most needed.

5. Review Questions

How did God design the church? (He designed it like a family)

How did Jesus show that He believed the church to be a family? (He said that those who do the will of God are His brothers, sisters, mothers,...)

How is the church designed like a family? (God is Father, the church mother, Jesus - the elder brother; elders and deacons play father and mother roles and the congregation submits like the child; we are brothers and sisters in Christ - we treat older saints as if they were fathers and mothers.)

How should knowing the church is a family affect the way you relate to others in the church? (We must treat one another as family and be committed to the care of one another.)

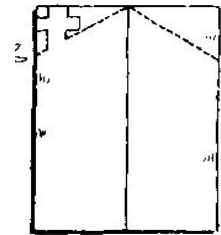
Church Designs

Tips for Teachers

- Prepare large grocery bags ahead of time:
Cut off the bottom of the bag completely. Then cut along the seam starting at the top and going to the bottom.
- Refold the bag with the opening on top
- Mark the lines for the roof and the cross shape (figure 2)

Materials

- Paper bags
- Markers
- Scissors
- crayons



Instructions

1. Have the children cut out the lines prepared on the top of the bag.
2. Have them draw a door and window for the church on the outside.
3. Open the church and have them draw picture of what our church looks like.
4. Help the children write the memory verse on the inside of the church.

Faith Connections

Ephesians 2:19 ***Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with god's people and members of God's household.*** As the children draw pictures of what the church looks inside, have them explain their favorite parts, including the worship service itself. Remind the students that they are a part of God's family which is the church. The church it is not just a building. Have them tell you how the church is designed like a family.

Lesson 2

Title: The Church is a family who cares for its members

Text: 1 Timothy 5:1-10,16, Acts 9:36-43

Theme: Each member of the church family has the duty of caring for the other members of the family.

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

1. Grow in his understanding of the church as a family.
2. Be able to relate how Dorcas cared for those in her church family.
3. Be able to give examples of ways church members can be cared for.
4. Commit himself to the care of the other members of his church family.

Memory Verse: *Galatians 6:10* Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Teacher Direction:

1. In the previous lesson we established the truth that God has designed the church as a family. On one level God is our Father, Jesus our elder brother, and the church our mother who cares for the needs of each member. On another level, elders serve as fathers, deacons as mothers and the rest of us as children. Still on another level, we are to see one another as brothers and sisters and, in regards to those older and wiser in our midst, see them as parent figures.

Having established this picture of the church, we move on now to the implications of this truth. If we indeed are family what will this mean about our relationship to one another? This lesson seeks to establish the fact that as family members we have a duty to care for one another in the same way the members of a nuclear family care for one another.

2. Introduction

To introduce this important concept begin by asking children how people in their family care for one another. You might have children talk in pairs first and record their ideas on paper. This will insure maximum involvement. Then have children share and record their answers on the board. The items listed should include many of the following: provide money to buy the necessities of life, nurse one another when sick, provide a warm house and warm clothes, provide hugs, kisses and loving words, help with the work around the house, fix things that break, spend time with one another, talk about problems together,

After discussing how a family cares for one another, ask children what it would be like if they had no family to care for them. Ask children to describe how they would feel and how their life would be different. Help children see that God has so designed the church so that no one should ever be alone without the care of others.

3. Bible Story

The following points should be emphasized as you teach from 1 Timothy 5 and Acts 9:

A. In the book of 1 Timothy Paul gives instruction as to how each member should conduct himself in the household of God. In 5:1-2 Paul reminds Timothy how each person ought to view others within the church family. Older men are to be seen as fathers, older women as

mothers, younger men as brothers, and younger women as sisters. With this he confirms the family nature of the church. Take time to reinforce this with the children.

B. Paul then speaks of a group within the church family that has special needs: widows. Widows could be especially vulnerable if they were without family. In the first century it would be difficult for them to make a living and it was rare that a widow would have been left financially secure. How should such people be cared for in God's household? The essence of Paul's instruction suggests that those who have widows in their family are responsible to care for them. This is expected of anyone who makes a claim of godliness. In those cases where a widow has no blood family, the church is to take care of such widows. Again any church family making a claim to godliness must care for those family members who are needy.

C. Dorcas, in Acts 9, is a perfect example of one who saw the church as a family. She devoted herself to doing good works and charitable deeds. She especially had a heart for the widows. Seeing their need for clothing and warm garments, Dorcas devoted herself to ministering to this need. When she died you can tell her death was like the death of a close family member. She would be greatly missed for the love and care she tangibly provided to her church family. Dorcas is a perfect example of one who followed her Christian calling.

4. Application

Since all believers are part of God's family, each believing child should be encouraged to commit themselves to the care of one another. Widows need to be cared for; those without moms and/or dads need special care; those who are in financial difficulty or those who need food or warm clothing need to be the object of our care. (It might be good to look at the list of ways families care for one another and compose a similar list for the church family.) Encourage children as well to thank God for their church family and to pray that He helps them be a good family member.

5. Review Questions

How does Paul want us to view older men and women, and younger men and women in our church? (As fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters.)

Why was Paul concerned about how widows were cared for? (If the church is a family, we must properly care for each member.)

How should widows be cared for? How did Dorcas care for them? (Family members should care for widows. If none exist the church should care for them. Dorcas did this by making clothing for the needy women in her church.)

What are some ways we can care for others within our church? (Answers vary)

Love One Another

Tips for Teachers

- Cut out the letters “L”, “O”, “V”, and “E” from various colors of construction paper. There should be 3 of each letter for each child.
- Make copies of “one another” (master 1) on colored paper, one for each student.

Materials

- Letters
- “one another” copy
- large paper bags
- glue
- crayons

Instructions

1. Have children glue the letter “L” at the top left side of the bag. Overlap and glue down the other “L”s beside it.
2. Glue the letter “O” below the “L”. Add the duplicate letter”O”s. Repeat with the “V”s and “E”s.
3. Glue the “One another”, along the right side of the bag.
4. Then allow the students to use the crayons to decorate the rest of the bag.

Faith Connections

Galatians 6:10 *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* As the students are making their bags explain to them what they are going to be used for. They will be filling the bags with items from their home that can be donated to Phoenix Rescue Mission (or any other Christian organization). Have them tell you what types of items they have at home that they could put in the bag. Examples, used clothes, toys, books, can food, etc. Remind them that giving sacrificially honors God and is a great way to show others you care about them.

ONE ANOTHER

ONE ANOTHER

ONE ANOTHER

ONE ANOTHER

ONE ANOTHER

Lesson 3

Title: The Church is a family with a mission

Text: Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:1-11, 2:1-13, 40-47

Theme: The Church family has been empowered to be a witness through their words and their community life.

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

1. Be able to state what the mission of the church family is.
2. Be able to name the two principal ways the church fulfills her mission.
3. Pray that God would empower the church to be a faithful witness.
4. Commit himself to being a witness in word and deed.

Memory Verse: *Mark 16:15* He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we have sought to develop the concept of the church as a family. In the first lesson we showed how the church is ordered like a family on a number of levels. Having established the familial nature of the church we then looked into the implications of this truth. If the church is a family, what difference should this mean? The primary difference we shared with the children is that each member of the family must care for the other members.

In this lesson we shall look at the church family in terms of its mission. God has greatly blessed each of us in making us His children. He has also blessed us by placing us in a loving community which is designed to foster our growth in Christ. God, however, does not bless people for merely self-serving purposes. He blesses us to be a blessing to others. This lesson focuses in on the calling of the church to be a witness to the world.

2. Introduction

Begin by asking children how they are able to communicate ideas to one another. Most likely children will say through words or by speaking to one another. To show them that we communicate by more than words, act out a few ideas and see if they can figure out what you are trying to tell them. The following actions and ideas can be used: Give them a great big smile to communicate you are happy. Give someone a big hug to communicate you care for them. Give them a big frown to show you are unhappy. Pretend that you are scolding someone by shaking your finger at them to show you are upset with them.

Tell children that in today's lesson they will learn that their words and actions are very important in fulfilling their part of the job God has given to the church. Encourage them to see if they can find out what that job is and how their words and deeds matter.

3. Bible Story

As you share today's lesson emphasize the following points:

A. From Luke 24:44-53 - After rising from the dead and appearing to His followers, Jesus confirmed that all happened exactly as it had been prophesied. Having established that no mistakes had happened, He then commissioned His followers to be witnesses to these things. From this point on, the mission of the church would be to preach repentance and the remission of sins through Christ to all the nations. They would soon be empowered to fulfill this mission.

B. From Acts 1:1-11 - Prior to His ascension Jesus reminded His followers of the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had said that He was going away, but He would not leave them alone nor abandon His work. The Holy Spirit would come to them shortly to enable them to be witnesses in all the world and to continue the work that Jesus began. This would be the role of the church until Jesus returned.

C. From Acts 2:1-13,40-47 - According to what was promised, the day came when Jesus' followers were baptized with the Holy Spirit. In a dramatic way the Spirit came and indwelt those committed to Christ. The immediate effect of this was that the church began to fulfill its mission. Acts 2:5-13 shows their witness through words; in this instance words spoken in languages never learned. Acts 2:40-47 shows their witness through community life. As the Spirit united them and gave them love for one another, many came to believe. Community life, ordered by the Spirit, can have great influence as a witness for Christ.

4. Application

Since God has blessed us to be a blessing to others, we all must commit ourselves to this mission. We must commit to proclaim Jesus through both our words and the way we relate to one another in the body of Christ. We need to pray for a unity in the body and for a boldness in every family member to "speak out the excellencies of the one who brought us out of darkness into this marvelous light."

5. Review Questions

What mission did Jesus give to His followers before He ascended to heaven? (They were to be witnesses to all the things prophesied in Scripture about Christ. In light of all these things they were to call all people to repentance and faith in Christ.)

In what way did Jesus help His followers fulfill this mission? (He gave them the Holy Spirit just as He had promised. The Spirit would give them power to witness.)

In what ways were the people a witness to the Lord? (They were a witness both in their words and in the way they related to one another.)

In what ways do you observe our church fulfilling its mission? In what ways are you personally being obedient to the commission Jesus gave His family?
(Answer will vary.)

Spread the Good News

Tips for Teachers

- Trace the pattern (master 1) on to brown cardboard or heavy construction paper
- Make copies of the sail and words (master 2) on white paper.

Materials

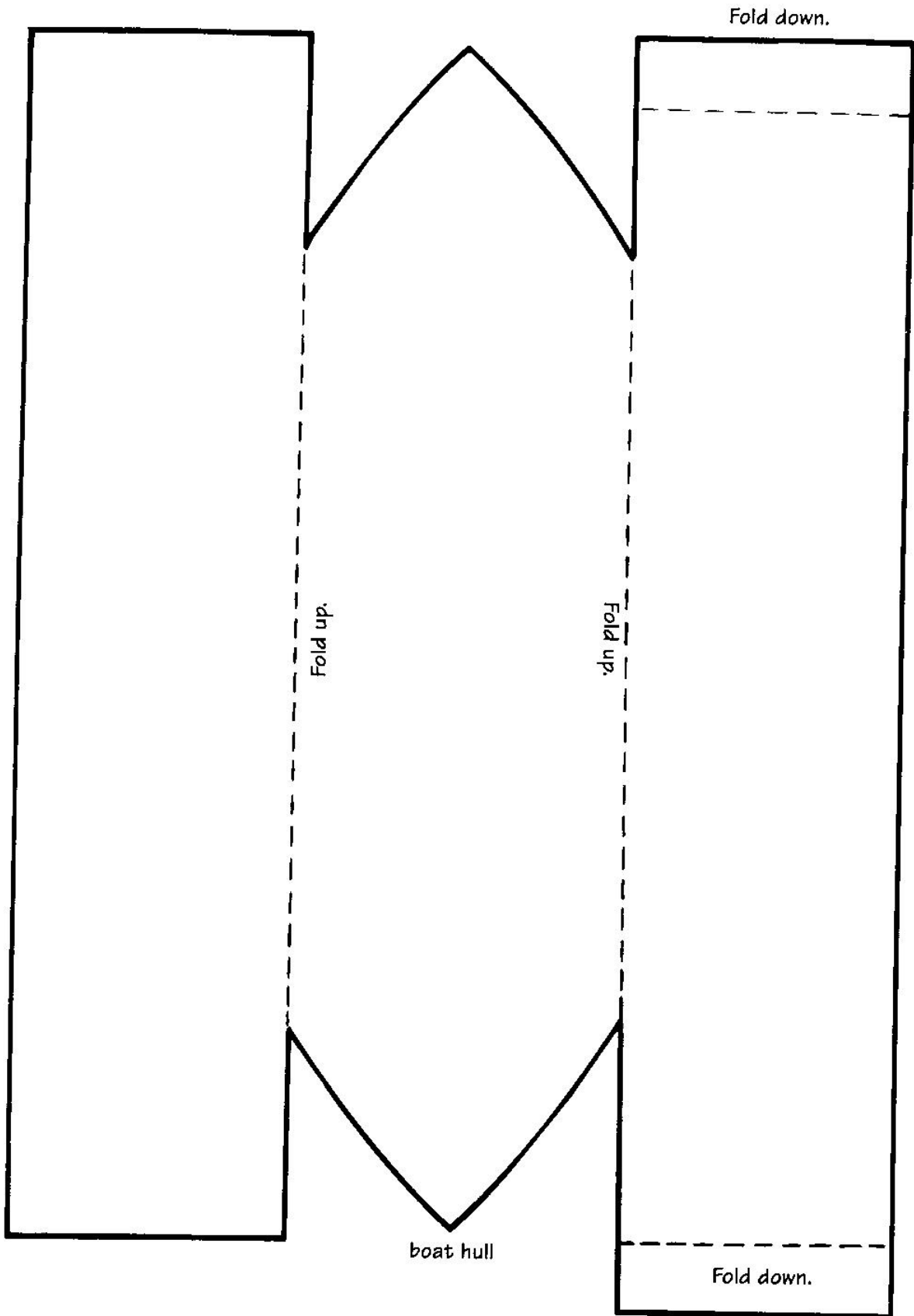
- Traces of the boat
- Sail with words
- 8" drinking straws
- scissors
- glue
- pencil
- stapler
- oil-based clay
- crayons

Instructions

1. Have children cut out the boat hull and fold up the two sides and staple the ends together.
2. Use markers to decorate the sail
3. Staple the two straws together to make a capital "T".
4. Fold the top of the sail over the top straw and staple in place. Glue the sail along the vertical straw.
5. Stick the end of the straw in a ball of oil-based clay and set it in the middle of the boat.

Faith Connections

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." As the children make their boats explain to them that this was how the early disciples had to travel to spread the good news of Christ to all the nations. Help them come up with examples of how we spread the gospel today (use our church missionaries as an example). Then have them tell you how they can be used by God to preach the good news. Have them use their boat as a reminder that they should follow the example of the first disciples and preach the gospel to everyone they meet.



Fold down.

Fold up.

Fold up.

boat hull

Fold down.

Spread the Good News

May., lesson 3

Master 2

