



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - WINTER QUARTER

LESSONS 1 - 4

THEME: The Life of Jesus – His birth

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Matthew 1:21b “You are to give him the name Jesus,
because
He will save His people from their sins.”

HYMN

Tell Me the Story of Jesus (chorus only)

CHORUS

O, Come Let Us Adore Him

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

We're Singin' Praises

Jesus, Jesus

I Will Praise You, O Lord

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH , AGES 4-6 YEARS
YEAR 1 CURRICULUM , WINTER**

Lesson 1

Title: The Angel Tells Joseph What to Name Jesus

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Theme: The name "Jesus" was a very special name ("The Lord Saves") for a very special baby (the long-awaited Savior from sin).

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

1. Know what the name "Jesus" means.
2. Praise God for sending His long-promised Son to save us from our sins.
3. Appreciate the real reason for joy and celebration at Christmas time.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 1:21b* You are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

1. Teacher Direction

Since most of the children will probably know the Christmas story, the focus of this lesson will be on what makes this story so wonderful. Yes, Christmas is when Jesus was born, but why is that so special? It is special because Jesus was the Son of God, the long awaited Savior from sin.

2. Learning Readiness Activities

A. Name the Baby. Bring a large photograph of a baby to class and fasten it to the bulletin board or wall. As each child comes in, ask him or her what would be a good name for this baby. Write each child's suggestion on a slip of paper and tape it near the baby photograph.

B. The True Meaning of Christmas. Bring old Christmas cards or magazine pictures that have a Christmas theme. Have an assortment picturing both secular and religious ideas of Christmas. Guide the children in sorting the cards into two piles-- those that show something of the real story of Christmas (from the Bible) and all others. Discuss with the children that all the decorations and make-believe stories and "extras" of Christmas are fun and help us to celebrate, but the real reason for celebrating is the gift of God's Son.

3. Introduction

Read to all the children the variety of names that were suggested for the baby in the photograph. **How do parents pick a name for a baby?** Listen to the children's suggestions which could include: they choose a name that sounds pretty or they choose the name of a family member or friend or they choose a name because of what it means. See if any of the children know what their name means. **How would you like**

to have had the job of picking a name for the most important baby in the world? How would you have known what name to choose?

4. Bible Story

Once there was a young man named Joseph who was planning to marry a young woman named Mary. Both Joseph and Mary loved God. Both Joseph and Mary listened to God's word and learned from it. They knew that for many, many years, God had been promising to send a very special baby. God first promised this baby to Adam and Eve, after they listened to the serpent and disobeyed God. Right then, God said that someday a special child would be born. This child would save people from the sin that was in the world because of what Adam and Eve had done. Many years went by. Then God promised this special child to Abraham. Many more years went by. The prophets came with messages from God. Part of their message was always that God was still promising this special baby. So Mary and Joseph, like many other people, waited and hoped the special baby would be born while *they* were alive so they could see him.

One day, as it came closer to the time when Mary and Joseph would get married, Joseph had a surprise. Joseph discovered that Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph did not know what to think. He knew that *he* was not the father of this baby. Who could be the father? Do you know who the Father of Mary's baby was? Yes, God was the Father of Mary's baby.

Joseph was not left to wonder very long. God sent an angel to Joseph with a message about the baby. The angel told Joseph that God was the Father of Mary's baby. *This* baby would be like none other; He would be the Son of God. The angel told Joseph to go ahead and marry Mary. Joseph would help Mary to raise and care for this special child. Joseph might have wondered what in the world to name a baby who was the Son of God, but Joseph did not have to choose a name for this baby. The angel told him what name to choose. "Mary will give birth to a son," the angel said, "and you are to give him the name Jesus."

Now why do you think the name *Jesus* was the best name for this baby? Well, it's not because of how it sounds. It's not because Mary or Joseph had friends or relatives named "Jesus." It's because of what the name means. The name "Jesus" means "The Lord saves." Isn't that a good name for the special baby God sent? What would Jesus save people from? (Sin.) And that is just what the angel said to Joseph: "You are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

This is what all the celebration is about at Christmas time. The baby God had promised for so long had finally been born. Finally the One who saves us from our sin had come.

5. Application

Rejoice with the children that Christmas is coming and encourage them to remember the real reason for all the joy at Christmas time. Lead them in singing a simple Christmas carol or two, discussing the words with them first and pointing out how

the words praise God for giving us Jesus. Lead the children in prayer to thank God for sending His Son and to thank Jesus for being born to save us from our sins.

6. Review questions

- A. Who was going to get married? (Mary and Joseph)
- B. What had God been promising? (A special baby who would save people from sin.)
- C. When it was almost time for Mary and Joseph to get married, what surprise did Joseph have? (He found out Mary was going to have a baby.)
- D. Who came to Joseph with a message from God? (An angel)
- E. The angel told Joseph who the baby's father was. Who was it? (God.)
- F. What did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby? (Jesus)
- H. What does the name "Jesus" mean? (God saves)
- I. What did the angel say Jesus would save people from? (Sin)

7. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Write the name "Jesus" in large block letters that fill an 8 ½ x 11" piece of paper. Make copies of this on white construction paper. Bring an assortment of art supplies such as markers or glitter glue or glitter pens and allow the children to decorate the name Jesus to make it look special. As they work, remind them again of why the name of Jesus is so special.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
YEAR 1 CURRICULUM, WINTER**

Lesson 2

Title: The Wise Men Seek the Newborn King.
Text: Matthew 2:1-8.
Theme: It is in God's word that Jesus is revealed to us.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 1:21b* *You are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.*

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

1. Give thanks to God for sending us a perfect King, Jesus.
2. Give thanks to God for His word that tells us about Jesus our King.
3. Be drawn to the King, Jesus, through God's Word.

1. Teacher Direction

Jesus came to be a Savior and a King for all the nations. God, in His grace, revealed to these Gentile astrologers that Jesus had been born. They knew of the birth of the King when they saw His star. What they did not know was where to find Him. Since He was the King of the Jews, they went to the most logical place to look: Jerusalem, the Jews' capital city. In order to obtain enough information to find and worship this King, however, the wise men had to seek it in the word of God. It was through the prophecy of Micah that they were able to correctly direct their search and so find the One they sought. God in His grace continues to draw people to His chosen King. Like the wise men, we must turn to God's word to learn what we need to know of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Introduction

Ask how many of the children have ever gone for a long trip in the car, one where they had to drive for a whole day or more. Ask them who drove and how the driver knew how to get from where they started to where they were going. **Today we use maps to help us find our way to faraway places. Long ago, people knew how to get from one place to another by looking at the stars.** Ask the children if they know of any Christmas stories in which someone traveled, using a star to find the way.

3. Bible Story

Ask the children who came to Joseph with a message in last week's story. (An angel.) **The angel told Joseph that Mary's baby had God as His Father. He told Joseph what they should name the baby. What was the name? What does "Jesus" mean?** (The Lord saves.) **What did the angel say this baby would save people from?** (Their sins.)

God had not only promised His people a Savior. He had promised that this

special baby would be a perfect King. What is the job of a king? Let children discuss this and bring out that a good king is someone who takes care of his people, making sure they have what they need and protecting them from enemies. **Some kings are bad, selfish kings who do not even try to take care of their people. But even good kings are not perfect. Even good kings cannot always do what is right and good for their people. God had promised that He would send a perfect King to rule over His people. This King would always do what was best for His people. He would give His people what they needed most--changed hearts so they could be pleasing to God. This perfect King would protect His people from the enemies of sin and Satan.**

God wanted to be sure that people would know who the perfect King was when He came. So He told His prophets many things about what the King would be like. One thing God said through a prophet named Micah was that the King would be born in the little town of Bethlehem. God promised that a King would come out of Bethlehem who would rule God's people for Him, taking care of them the way a shepherd takes care of sheep. And to make the good news about God's perfect King even better, God promised that the King would be a king for all nations. People from every country could have this perfect King for their King.

Finally, just as God had promised, His perfect King was born in Bethlehem. What was the King's name? (Jesus) At the time that Jesus was born, God placed a special star in the sky. In a country far away from Bethlehem, men who studied the stars saw this new, special one. Somehow, they knew that this star was not just any star; this star meant that a King had been born. And they knew that this King was not just any king; this King was a King people should worship. So these wise men packed up food and clothing for a long trip. That's not all they packed. They knew this King was special and they wanted to bring Him gifts. The gifts they chose were not the kind of gifts we usually give to a baby. We give toys or baby clothes. But the wise men knew this was a special baby, so they chose expensive gifts, the kind of gifts you would expect to give to a king. They took gold as a gift and two expensive gifts that people used back then to make things smell good: frankincense and myrrh.

So the wise men were ready to go to the King and to worship Him and give Him their gifts. But they had one problem. They did not know where to find the King. They did know that this newborn King was a Jewish baby. Now, if you wanted to find the King of England, where would you go? (To England.) And once you got to England, you would go to the capital city of London where the palace is. Or if you wanted to find the King of Arabia, where would you go? (To Arabia.) And once you got to Arabia, you would go to the capital city, where the palace is. That is what the wise men did. They knew this King was the King of the Jews. So they went to the country of the Jews, Israel, and once they got there, they went to the capital city of Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, they began asking people, "Where is the baby who was born to be King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." Of course, the new baby King was not in Jerusalem. Where was He? (Bethlehem.) The wise men could have searched all through Jerusalem and they never would have found Jesus, the

newborn King.

But there was a king in Jerusalem. He was not a perfect king; he was not even a good king. His name was Herod. When he heard that men from faraway were looking all through Jerusalem for a newborn king of the Jews, he called a meeting. He ordered all the men who knew the most about God’s laws and God’s word to come to the meeting. He asked them what it said in God’s word about a special king being born. These men knew about God’s promise through Micah the prophet. They told King Herod, “God’s special king is to be born in Bethlehem. The prophets wrote about this in the Scriptures.” Then the men who knew God’s word told Herod about the words that said a King for God would come from the little town of Bethlehem. They told him that the promise was that this King would care for His people like a shepherd taking care of his sheep. King Herod called for the wise men and told them that they should go to Bethlehem to look for the newborn King.

The wise men must have been very thankful that God had let them know about the birth of His perfect King. They were also thankful for God’s word, that clearly told them to go to Bethlehem to find the King. If the wise men had not learned what God’s word said, they could not have found God’s perfect King.

4. Application

Help the children to see that even though God gave the perfect King, if no one knew about Him, it would do no good. Encourage them to give thanks that God not only gave the King, but makes sure that people know about Him. Help them to see what a wonderful thing it is to have God’s word that tells us about the perfect King. Encourage them to thank God for His word and to learn all they can from it about Jesus the King, so they can find Him and worship Him as *their* King.

5. Review questions

- A. What does a good king do for his people? (Protects and gives them what they need)
- B. What kind of king had God promised to give His people? (A perfect king.)
- C. Where did God say the perfect King would be born? (Bethlehem)
- D. How did the wise men from faraway know that Jesus had been born? (They saw His star.)
- E. Did the wise men know where to find Jesus? (No)
- F. Where did they go? (Jerusalem)
- G. King Herod asked the people who knew God’s word where the King was to be born. Where did they look to find out? (In God’s word.)
- H. Where did King Herod send the wise men to look for the newborn King? (To Bethlehem.)
- I. What does God give us so we can know about Jesus, the perfect King? (His word, the Bible.)

Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Because Jesus was such a special King, the wise men prepared expensive gifts to give to Him: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Give the children drawing materials and ask them what they would have given to Jesus, if they had gone to visit Him as a baby. Let them draw their ideas. You may want to bring gift wrap, tape, and ribbon and let them gift wrap their drawings when they have finished. You could have a cut-out Christmas trees on the bulletin board or wall and the children could tape their gift-wrapped drawings up under the tree. Remind the children that, as the perfect King, Jesus deserves the best gifts we can give Him. His favorite gift is when we are sorry for living for ourselves and live for Him as our King. (Psalm 51)

B. Make copies of this abbreviated version of the verse from Micah 5:2 that the wise men used to find the baby Jesus: "A ruler will come from you, Bethlehem. He will be like a shepherd for My people." Give each child a piece of construction paper, to which he can glue his copy of the verse. Then show them how to roll them up like scrolls. Give them pieces of string or rubber bands to keep them rolled up. Remind the children that this is what God's word would have looked like back in the days of the wise men. Herod's helpers would have unrolled a scroll like this one (only larger) to find the verse about where the King was born.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
YEAR 1 CURRICULUM, WINTER**

Lesson 3

Title: The Wise Men Follow the Star to Jesus and Worship Him.
Text: Matthew 2: 9-11
Theme: Giving ourselves in worship is the best response to God's gift of His Son.

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

1. Know that the wise men worshiped Jesus and rejoiced because they had found Him.
2. Rejoice that God has given His Son and express that joy in worship.
3. Respond to God's gift of His Son by wanting to give themselves to Jesus to live for Him.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 1:21b* *You are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.*

1. Introduction

Ask the children to tell of the best Christmas or birthday gift they ever received. Ask them how it made them feel. Were they happy? Were they thankful? Did they want to do something in return for the person who gave them such a wonderful gift? Ask them what they think was the best gift ever given. Of course, the best gift ever given was the gift God gave when He gave His Son, Jesus.

2. Bible story

Review last week's story with the children. What does a good king do? (Care for His people.) What had God promised? (A perfect king.) How would the perfect king care for His people? Like a---(shepherd cares for sheep). Where would the perfect king be born? (Bethlehem) Who saw a new star in the sky and knew a king had been born? (The wise men) What did the wise men do? (They set out to find the new king.) What did they take along? (Gifts for the king.) How did they find out that they should go to Bethlehem? (From God's word.)

Can you remember a time when you traveled a long way on an airplane or in a car? After a few hours, you got tired of sitting, but the car or the airplane went on and on and you wondered if you would ever get to where you were going. Remember how glad you were to *finally* get there? It felt so good to stand up and get off the airplane or to finally open the door and get out of the car. But what if you had stepped off the plane or out of the car and someone had said, "Oops. This isn't the right place. We've got to travel some more. Everyone back in!" Wouldn't you have been disappointed?

When we stopped the story last week, the wise men were just leaving Jerusalem to go on to Bethlehem. The baby king was not in Jerusalem after all. Maybe the wise men were disappointed. They were tired. They had already come

such a long way. Now they would have to pack up again and go on traveling once more. Yet since they were sure that this baby was a very special boy, they were willing to take another trip to find Him. They left Jerusalem and traveled on to Bethlehem.

As the wise men traveled, they saw a familiar star. It was the same star they had seen when they were back home, the one that had caused them to know that a king had been born. The star was moving, so the wise men followed it. The star kept moving and the wise men kept following until the star finally stopped. It stopped over a simple little house. In that house was the baby Jesus with His mother, Mary.

When the wise men saw the star they were filled with joy. They had been looking for this newborn king for so long and now, finally, they had found Him. The wise men hurried into the house. There they saw Mary and her little child, Jesus. This child did not look like a king. His house did not look like a king's palace. Yet God's word had said the king would be found in Bethlehem. The star had led right to this house and stopped. The wise men knew this was the king they had been looking for. Filled with joy, they bowed down to the baby Jesus and worshiped Him. They opened their packs and gave to Mary the expensive gifts they had brought for the King. Then, the wise men left. They had seen the perfect King and had given Him their gifts and their worship, so now they went back to their home country.

3. Application

Remind the children of how they felt when they were given the favorite gifts you discussed with them during the introduction. Remind them of how they might have wanted to do something in return for the person who gave them that gift. The wise men were filled with joy over the gift God had given and that joy caused them to want to worship Jesus. Are we glad God gave His Son? We should want to give Him our worship, too. Lead the children in giving praise to Jesus for coming to save us and to be our perfect king.

Such a wonderful gift as the Son of God deserves the best gift we can give in return. Help the children to see that the gift Jesus deserves from us is the gift of our whole lives. When we live to please Him, learning about Him in His word and doing what we know He wants us to do, we are giving Him the kind of gift He deserves.

4. Review questions

- A. Once the wise men left Jerusalem, how did they find the right house in Bethlehem? (They followed the star.)
- B. Where did the star stop? (Over the house where Jesus was.)
- C. How did the wise men feel when they saw the star? (They were filled with joy.)
- D. When they went into the house, what did the wise men do? (They worshiped Jesus and gave their gifts.)
- E. What is the best gift anyone ever gave? (The best gift was when God gave His Son, Jesus.)

5. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Role play. Lead the children in role playing the journey of the wise men. They can pack their supplies and their gifts, then walk and walk on their journey. When they arrive in a designated "Jerusalem," they can ask where the king of the Jews is. Unroll a scroll and tell them that God's word says the King will be born in Bethlehem. Hold up a star to go along in front of them and lead them to "Bethlehem." (Here they should show how joyful they feel.) When the star stops, they go into the house, bow down and unpack their gifts. Then they go back "home."

B. Star craft. Bring stars you have cut out of cardboard, and crayons with the paper wrappers removed. Give each child a cardboard star and a piece of plain white paper. Show them how to place the paper over the cardboard and use the peeled crayons to make a rubbing. Write the Bible verse on their papers. Remind the children of how joyful the wise men were when they saw the star because they had finally found the perfect King.

C. Night sky craft. Give children star stickers of assorted sizes with one star larger than the rest. Distribute pieces of dark blue or black construction paper on which they can stick the stars. Have the memory verse printed on white paper for each child to glue somewhere on his paper.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH AGES 4-6
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 4

Title: John Introduces Jesus

Text: John 1:19-34

Theme: God let people know that Jesus was the One He had been promising to send.

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

1. Know who John the Baptist was and appreciate his special role in introducing Jesus.
2. Thank God for keeping His promise to send Someone who would save His people from their sins.
3. Thank God that He made sure John and others knew that Jesus was the One God had promised to send.
4. Believe that Jesus is the Savior from sin that God had promised.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 1:21b* *You are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.*

1. Teacher Direction

For the next six months, the lessons for children's church will be stories of Jesus taken from John's gospel. At the end of John's gospel, John states the purpose he had for writing these stories. "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31). As we recount these stories to the children, we want to keep John's same emphasis. We want each story to help the children to see more clearly that Jesus is the Christ, the One God had promised to send to deliver us from sin and its consequences, and that He is the Son of God. We want to help the children to put their faith in Him so that they may have life.

This first story in John introduces Jesus. For thousands of years, ever since God's promise to Adam and Eve in the garden, God's people had been waiting for God to send His Messiah, His Anointed One. All of the Old Testament prophets had spoken of Him. But four hundred years had gone by since the last prophet had brought a message from God. Still God's people were waiting. Then John the Baptist came as Isaiah had promised, the voice of one crying in the desert, "Make straight the way for the Lord." John made it clear that God's Promised One was about to come. Then when Jesus actually appeared, ready to begin His ministry, God revealed to John that Jesus was the One God was sending and John announced this to the people.

2. Introduction

Begin by telling the children that today someone has a little piece of candy for everyone there. Tell them you are not going to tell them who that person is or when he or she will come, but they will know who it is because that person will go to a specific chair and sit down there (or some other signal). Tell them to raise their hands and let you know if they see someone do that. During your singing or as you practice your memory verse, have one of the adults move to the chair and sit in it. Once the children have pointed this out to you (and received their little pieces of candy), tell them that in today's story a man named John was waiting for someone special. John did not know who the someone special would be or exactly when he would come, but God had told John how he could tell who the someone special would be.

3. Bible Story

The Bible tells us about a man who lived a long time ago. This man's name was John. John baptized people. (Ask the children what happens when someone is baptized. Describe a baptism for those who have not seen one.) **Many people came to John to be baptized. In fact, John baptized so many people that he was called "John the Baptist."**

The time had come for God to send the Savior He had been promising to send for so many years. What was that Savior's name? (Jesus) When John was baptizing, Jesus had already been born and now he was grown up. Jesus was ready to begin the work God had for Him. John the Baptist's job was to get people ready for Jesus.

John the Baptist lived out in the desert, near a river where he could baptize people. He preached to people and told them that the One God had promised to send would soon come. He told the people they needed to be sorry for the things they did that were wrong and stop doing them. That was how they could get ready for the One God would send. When the people heard John the Baptist preach, many of them would say, "Yes, I *am* sorry for the things I have done that God doesn't like." Then John would baptize these people. They were baptized to show that they were sorry for their sins.

John kept telling people to get ready for the One God would send. But maybe John wondered how he would know when that One had come. Would he look different from other people somehow? Would John recognize the One God sent? Then God promised John the Baptist something that would help. God promised that John would see the Holy Spirit come down on a man and stay on Him. When John saw that, he would know *that* man was the One God was sending.

One day, John the Baptist was preaching as usual. When it was time for John to baptize people, Jesus came out of the crowd and asked to be baptized. John knew Jesus, because they were cousins. John knew that Jesus was a very good man. But John was not sure that Jesus was the One God had promised to send...that is, not until he baptized Him.

Jesus and John the Baptist stepped into the river. John baptized Jesus. As Jesus was stepping out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven and landed on Him. Can anyone see the Holy Spirit? (No) No one would have

known the Holy Spirit had come upon Jesus because no one could have seen Him. So, for this time only, the Holy Spirit took the form of a dove, which is a kind of bird. That way John the Baptist could see that the Holy Spirit was coming upon Jesus and staying on Him. God wanted John the Baptist to know for certain that Jesus was the One He had been promising to send. God wanted John to know so that he could tell others.

On another day, John was preaching and baptizing again, and again Jesus came. This time John knew who Jesus was. He said to the people who were standing there, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John told the people that he knew Jesus was the One God had promised to send because he had seen the Holy Spirit come down on Him in the form of a dove and stay on Him, just as God had said would happen. Some of the people who were listening to John that day believed what he said and began to follow Jesus.

4. Application

During the prayer time, the children can thank God for keeping His promise and sending Jesus to take away our sin. They can thank Him for making sure that John knew Jesus was the One so he could tell others. The children can also thank God for putting them in a family and in a church where they are being taught that Jesus is the One God had promised to send, so they can know it too.

Point out to the children that John could only baptize people to show they were sorry about their sin. Jesus can actually *forgive* people for their sin. He can give people power over sin, so they can live for God. Encourage them to trust in Jesus as the One who can forgive their sin and make them able to live for God.

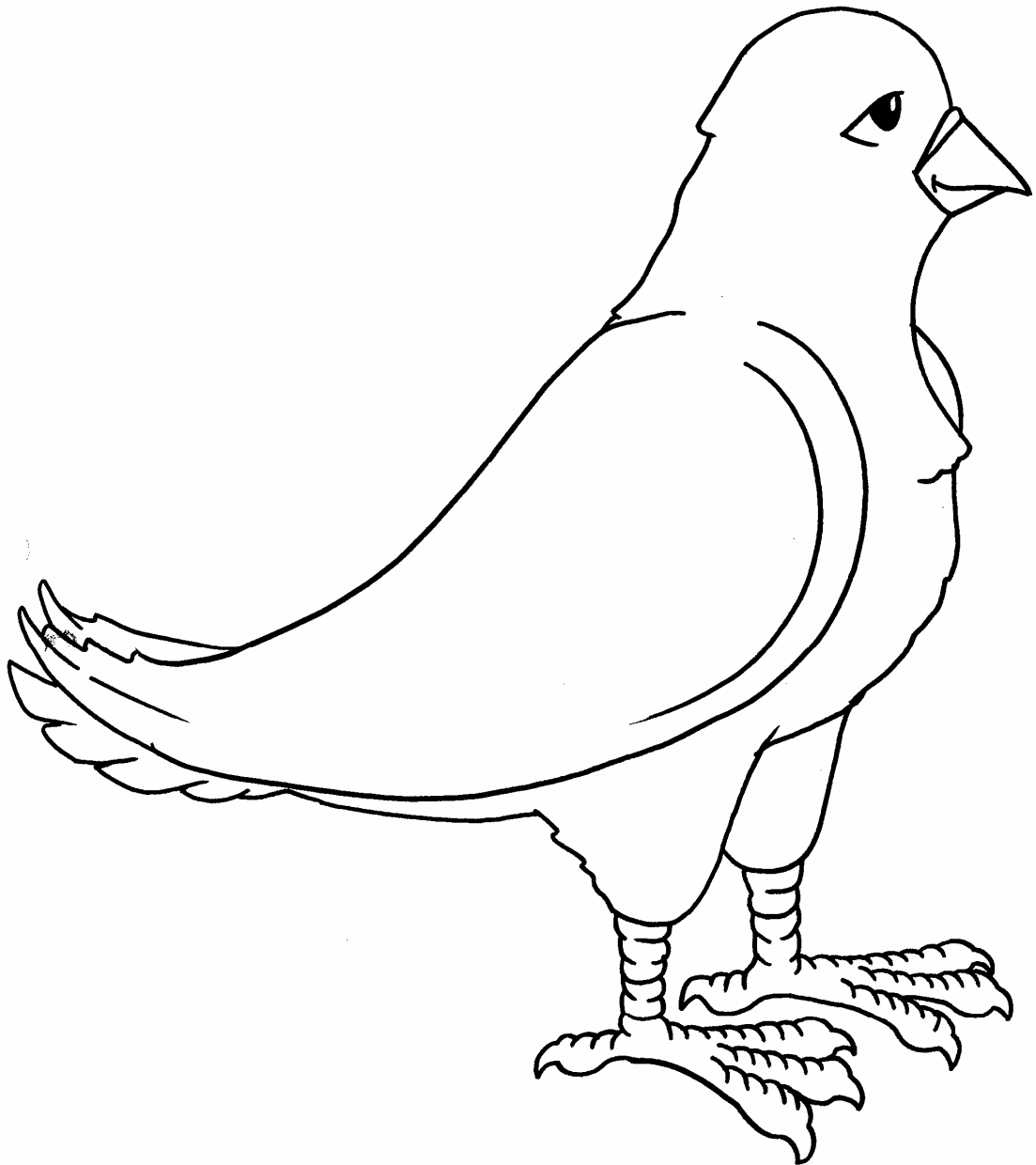
5. **Review questions**

- A. Why was John called "John the Baptist?" (Because he baptized so many people.)
- B. What did John tell people to get ready for? (the One God had promised.)
- C. Why did people want John to baptize them? (To show they were sorry for their sins.)
- D. What was everyone, including John, waiting for? (The One God had promised to send.)
- E. How would John know who that person was? (He would see the Holy Spirit come down on Him and stay on Him.)
- F. Who did the Holy Spirit come down on and stay on? (Jesus)
- G. What form did the Holy Spirit take so that John could see Him? (A dove.)
- H. On another day, when Jesus came again, what did John tell everyone? (Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.)
- I. Could John forgive people's sins? (No) Who can? (Jesus)
- J. Could John give people power over sin, so they could stop doing it? (No.) Who can? (Jesus)

6. Suggestions for Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Dove Craft. On construction paper, make copies of the attached dove and distribute one to each child. Have children glue feathers to the dove (these can be purchased from Michael's or Old America Store). As the children work, ask them if they have seen the bird that often makes the "coo-coo" sound in the mornings. Tell them that is a dove. If they have not seen a dove, tell them that pigeons look like doves, but doves are smaller. Remind them that this was the form the Holy Spirit took when He came down to rest on Jesus so John would know that Jesus was God's Son. Point out how good it was of God to not only send His Son but to make sure we would know it was Him.

B. Review. You could use flannelgraph figures to tell the story. Then ask for volunteers to come up, select one figure from the story, tell one thing about it, then place it on the board.



DOVE OUTLINE

A decorative border of musical staves with colorful notes (red, green, yellow, blue, orange) surrounds the central text. The notes are stylized and scattered across the staves.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - WINTER QUARTER LESSONS 5 - 8

THEME: The Life of Jesus – His miracles

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Matthew 28:18 "Jesus ... said, 'All power ... is given to Me.'"

HYMN

Tell Me the Story of Jesus (chorus only)

CHORUS

O, Come Let Us Adore Him

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

We're Singin' Praises
Jesus, Jesus
I Will Praise You, O Lord

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH AGES 4-6 YEARS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 5

Title: Jesus Reveals Himself to His Disciples

Text: John 1:35-51

Theme: Jesus revealed Himself to His first disciples so that they would believe in and follow Him. These disciples quickly passed the news on to others.

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

1. Be able to retell the Bible story.
2. Give thanks to Jesus for letting people know who He is so that they can believe in Him.
3. Appreciate that knowing about Jesus is the very best news we can share with others.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 28:18* Jesus said, "All power . . . is given to Me."

1. Teacher Direction

God in His grace does not merely offer us salvation, to take or leave as we choose. If it were left up to us in our sinful, unregenerate condition in which we are the enemies of God, we would never choose Christ. God graciously does all that is needed to reveal to His people the depth of their sin, the desperateness of their need, and the ability of Christ to fully save. In this story Jesus' first disciples become acquainted with Him. Although the story begins with two of John's disciples following Jesus, we quickly sense that Jesus is in control of every circumstance and every conversation, drawing these men to Himself. He reveals to each of them enough of who He is to convince them that they should follow Him. This is especially evident with Nathanael, to whom Jesus shows a demonstration of His divine omniscience. As you tell the story, stress the initiative of Jesus in drawing these men to believe in Him and follow Him.

At least two of these new followers of Jesus immediately go find someone else to bring to Jesus. Stress that the news of Jesus is such good news that those who know it cannot keep it to themselves.

2. Introduction

What is the first thing you want to do when you learn some really wonderful news? If you find out that you are going to get a puppy or if you know someone is going to have a baby, what do you want to do? (Tell someone else.) Isn't this especially true when your good news would help someone? Maybe Mom lost her car keys and you found them, or the neighbor's dog is missing and you see it in your back yard. When you know someone needs your good news, you are in

even more of a hurry to share it. In today's story you will hear of several men who learned some truly good news. Listen to hear which ones find someone else to whom to tell their good news.

3. Bible Story

It was time for Jesus to begin the work God had given Him to do. But before Jesus began His work, He wanted to have disciples. Disciples were people who would go everywhere Jesus went. Disciples would learn from Jesus. They would watch what He did and listen to what He said. Then later, the disciples would tell other people what Jesus had done and said. Then other people could believe in Him, too.

Jesus knew just whom He wanted for His disciples. Two of them were men who liked to listen to the preaching of John the Baptist. Jesus went to where John was preaching. When John saw Jesus, he said again, "Look, the lamb of God." The two men whom Jesus wanted for His disciples heard John say this. These two men wanted to know more about Jesus, so they began to walk along behind Him, watching Him. Jesus knew they were following Him. He turned around and said to them, "What do you want?" The two men answered, "Where are you staying?" So Jesus invited them to come with Him and see. The two men went with Jesus and spent the rest of the afternoon with Him. The Bible does not tell us what they talked about, but whatever it was, it made the two men sure that Jesus really was the Lamb of God, the One coming to take away sin, like John the Baptist had said.

One of the two men was named Andrew. Andrew was very happy to know that the One God had promised to send had finally come. And now, he, Andrew, knew *who* that One was. It was Jesus. Andrew was so excited about his news that the first thing he did, after leaving Jesus' house, was to go find his brother, Simon, so he could tell him his good news. "Simon," he called to him, "we have found the Messiah!" (Messiah was the name for the One God had promised to send to take away our sin and make us able to live for God.) Andrew took his brother Simon to Jesus. Jesus knew that Simon was another one of the men he wanted as a disciple. "Your name is Simon," Jesus said, "but you will be called Cephas or Peter." (Peter means "rock." Jesus knew that He would make Peter as strong as a rock in telling other people about Him.)

The next day, Jesus found a man named Philip. The Bible does not tell us what Jesus said or did when He was with Philip. It just tells us that Jesus told Philip to follow him, and Philip left whatever he was doing and began to follow Him. Philip was absolutely certain that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised to send. We know this because Philip was also very excited about his news. He hurried to find his friend, Nathanael, so he could pass his good news about Jesus on to Nathanael. When Philip found Nathanael, he was sitting in the shade of a fig tree. Philip ran to him and said, "Remember that Moses and the prophets wrote about a man who was coming. We have found Him! He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth!"

Has it ever happened to you that someone told you some good news that

seemed so good that, at first, you did not believe it? That's how it was with Nathanael. Like all of God's people, he really wanted to see the One God had been promising to send. But now Philip was saying that One was really here and it was someone Philip knew. Could that really be true? Especially since Philip said this Jesus was from Nazareth. Nazareth was just an ordinary little town. No one important ever came from Nazareth. But Philip talked Nathanael into coming to meet Jesus for himself. Jesus knew that He wanted Nathanael for a disciple, too. Jesus also knew that Nathanael was not really sure about Him. So Jesus let Nathanael see that He, Jesus, really is God. When Nathanael came up to Jesus, before they had even met, Jesus said to Nathanael, "Here is an Israelite in whom there is nothing false." Nathanael was surprised. "How do you know me?" he asked Jesus. Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree, before Philip told you about me." Nathanael was amazed. How could someone who had never met him know who he was and what he had been doing? Philip must be right about this man. Nathanael said to Jesus, "You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel." Jesus said to Nathanael, "You believe in Me just because I said I saw you under the fig tree. You will see much greater things than that." Nathanael and Philip both became Jesus' disciples. Jesus continued to find and call men to follow Him until He had twelve disciples in all.

These men stayed with Jesus all the rest of His life. It is thanks to Jesus' disciples that we know about Him, because they are the ones who told others about Him and who wrote down what they had seen Him say and do.

4. Application

Point out to the children that God has made known to them the same good news the first disciples learned. They know that God sent His Son Jesus. They know Jesus came to die in our place so our sins can be forgiven and they know that Jesus can change people so that they can live for God and say no to sin. Help them to see that if they had been born into some other family or in some other country, they might not know these things. As you pray with the children, encourage them to give thanks for these things.

Also help the children to realize that there are people who know nothing about Jesus or who do not know very much about Him. Help them to see that, like Andrew and Philip, Christians want to do whatever they can to help others learn about Jesus, whether it's telling them personally about Him or whether it is giving money to help missionaries take the good news to people who have not heard it.

5. Review questions

- A. Before Jesus began the work God had given Him, He wanted men who would be with Him, learn from Him, watch what He did and listen to what He said so they could tell other people about Him. What do we call these men? (Disciples)
- B. Did Jesus know *whom* He wanted for His disciples? (Yes.)
- C. What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus? ("Look, the lamb of God.")
- D. Two of the men who were listening to John followed Jesus. When Jesus asked

- them what they wanted, what did they say? (They wanted to know where He was staying.)
- E. One of the men was Andrew. As soon as Andrew was sure that Jesus was the One God had promised to send, whom did he go find? (His brother.)
 - F. The brother's name was Simon. What did Jesus say He would be called? (Peter)
 - G. What was Nathanael doing when Philip went to tell him his good news? (Sitting under a tree.)
 - H. Did Nathanael believe that Jesus was the One God had sent? (Not at first.)
 - I. What made Nathanael sure? (Jesus said He had seen him while he was under the tree.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Art activity. Make copies of the attached picture. Let the children color the tree trunk, then use sponges attached to clothes pins and dipped in tempera paint to make the leaves. Or let the children tear green (or autumn-colored) construction paper into leaves to glue on the branches. As they work remind them that Jesus knew all about Nathanael while he sat under the tree, before they had ever met.
- B. Body Language Review. Ask the children to stand a little apart from each other, with room to move around. Tell them to use their bodies to answer each question.
 1. What was John the Baptist doing when Jesus walked by? (They can either demonstrate baptizing people or preaching.)
 2. What did two of the men who were listening to John begin to do? (Demonstrate following.)
 3. When Jesus knew the two men were following Him, what did He do? (Turn around.)
 4. How quickly did Andrew go looking for his brother Simon? (Run in place.)
 5. What was Nathanael doing when Philip came to tell him about Jesus? (Sit.)
 6. At first, did Nathanael believe Jesus was the One God had sent? (Shake head.)
 7. When Philip told Nathanael "Come and see," what did Nathanael do? (Walk "to Jesus.")
 8. Jesus said He had seen Nathanael when Nathanael was doing what? (Sit)
 9. Now did Nathanael believe in Jesus? (Nod head.)
 10. What did all the disciples do when Jesus said, "Follow Me"? (Walk as though following.)
 11. What did the disciples do with the things they saw Jesus do and say, so that we could know about them? (Write.)



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 6

Title: Jesus Changes Water into Wine
Text: John 2:1-11
Theme: With this first miracle, Jesus revealed His glory to His disciples so they would believe in Him.

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

1. Know the difference between a trick and a miracle and know that a true miracle is a sign that someone comes from God.
2. Praise Jesus for the many miracles He did that show He truly is the Son of God.
3. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us from our sin.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 28:18* Jesus said, "All power . . . is given to Me."

1. Teacher Direction

Often when this story is told to children, the stress is on the joy of the bride and groom. It is said that Jesus, entering into their joy, did not want anything to disturb it, so He helped them out when they ran out of wine. While it is true that Jesus is concerned about all the problems of His people, great or small, and while it is true that our joyful times are even more joyful when we realize Jesus shares them with us, that is not the point of this story. John clearly tells us the point of the story and it is this point we must emphasize when we retell this story to children. At the end of this account, John tells us, "This first of His miraculous signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him." The miracles of Jesus were signs that He was who He claimed to be. This miracle is no different. The primary reason Jesus had for performing it was to convince His disciples that He truly was the Messiah sent from God.

2. Learning Readiness Suggestions (Today, these are in place of learning reinforcement activities that come after the lesson.)

A. Making Grape Juice. Bring enough cans of frozen grape juice concentrate (thawed) to make enough grape juice for all the children to have a little. Allow one small group of children to make the juice under your direction. Explain why water must be added to this juice. Allow some children to pour the concentrate into a pitcher and measure and add cans of water. Allow other children to take turns stirring. Other small groups of children could try squeezing the liquid out of grapes using sieves or strainers. Point out that although there are easier ways to get the liquid from the grapes than doing it by hand, this is basically how grapes are turned into juice or wine.

When people make grape juice or wine, they always begin with grapes God made. Sometimes they squeeze the liquid out and drink it right away. Sometimes they freeze it or store it in some other way. To make wine out of grape juice, the liquid from the grapes must be stored for a long time. In today's Bible story, the people giving a party ran out of wine. They had no grapes and they did not have

enough time to make wine.

B. Water pot craft. Give each child a small amount of play-doh or clay. Show the children how to make miniature water pots and let them use their lump of clay to make one. Explain that people in Bible times made pots like these, but much larger. They let them dry, and then used them to store water since they had no pipes or faucets for water like we have.

3. Introduction

Bring from home four clear glasses or cups and a pitcher for water. In the bottoms of two of them, before class, put a drop or two of blue and a drop or two of red food coloring and allow it to dry. Use one empty glass and one with dried food coloring for your demonstration of a trick. Use the other set of glasses afterward to show the children how you did the trick.

As you do the trick, make sure the children do not see the dried food coloring on the bottom of the one glass. Show the children the clear water in the pitcher. Ask them what will come out if you pour the water into a glass. Demonstrate with the empty glass that water from the pitcher is still water when you pour it into the glass. Then pour water into the other glass. As the water hits the dried food coloring, it will become colored and look like it has turned into something other than water.

Ask the children if you really turned the water into something else. Help them understand it was a trick. With the other set of glasses, show them how you did the trick.

Ordinary people like you and me can trick people into thinking we have done something amazing, when we really have not. A miracle is different from a trick. When someone does a miracle, it does not just *look* like something amazing has happened. Something amazing really *has* happened! Jesus did amazing things that ordinary people cannot do. Do you think He tricked people or do you think He really did miracles? Yes! He really did miracles. Jesus could do miracles because He is no ordinary person. Our memory verse tells us, “Jesus said, ‘All power... is given to me’”. Jesus is the Son of God.

4. Bible Story

How many of you have ever been to a wedding? What do you remember about it? What was it like? (Allow volunteers to tell what impressed them.) Many times, after a wedding, there is a big party with food and drink and maybe music and dancing. In our country, the party lasts a few hours. In Jesus’ country, the party for a wedding would last for several days!

One day, Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding party. Do you remember what disciples were? (Men who followed Jesus to learn from Him and to hear what He said and see what He did. These men would tell others about Jesus so many people could believe in Him.) Jesus’ mother was at the wedding, too. She was helping to serve food and wine to the guests. Something very disappointing happened at the wedding--they ran out of wine! There was nothing left for people to drink and the party wasn’t nearly finished. What could be done?

Jesus’ mother knew that Jesus was special. She knew that God was His Father. So she said to Him, “They have no wine.” Then she said to the servants,

“Do whatever He tells you to do.”

Over in the corner, there were six large jars for storing water. They were like the little jars you made from clay, only much larger. These jars might have been taller than you are. Jesus told the servants to fill all six of those jars with water. So the servants did.

After the servants had filled the water pots to the very top, Jesus told them to take out a cupful of the water and take it to the man in charge of the wedding refreshments. They did, and when the man tasted it---it had turned into wine! Was it really wine, or was it just a trick? (It was really wine.) Jesus had done a miracle. He had really changed the water into wine. Jesus could do that because Jesus is the Son of God. He has all power. He can do anything.

Of course, Jesus was happy to help the bride and groom and the man who was in charge of the refreshments. But that was not the main reason He did this miracle. The Bible tells us that Jesus did this first miracle to show His disciples that He could do amazing things like this. He did this because He wanted His disciples to believe in Him and to know that He is the Son of God.

5. Application

Ask the children if they know of any other miracles Jesus did. Let them list several. In the prayer time, lead them in praising Jesus for His power shown by all the amazing miracles He did when He was on earth. Encourage the children to thank Jesus for making it so clear that He really is the Son of God so that people would believe in Him. Remind the children that if they know about Jesus and His miracles, they should believe that He is the Son of God and trust in Him alone to save them from their sin.

6. Review questions

- A. What is the difference between a trick and a miracle? (A trick just *looks* like someone has done something amazing, but he really did not. A miracle is something amazing that an ordinary person could not do.)
- B. What kind of party was Jesus invited to? (A wedding.)
- C. Who was invited besides Jesus? (His disciples)
- D. Who was helping to serve food to the guests? (Jesus' mother.)
- E. What problem came up at the wedding? (They ran out of wine.)
- F. Who told Jesus about the problem? (Jesus' mother.)
- G. What did she tell the servants to do? (Whatever Jesus said.)
- H. What did Jesus tell the servants to do? (Fill six big water pots with water.)
- I. What happened when the man in charge of the refreshments tasted the water that had come from the big water pots? (It had changed into wine.)
- J. Was this a miracle or a trick? (A miracle.)
- K. Why could Jesus do miracles? (Because He is the Son of God.)
- L. Why did Jesus change the water into wine? (So His disciples would believe in Him.)

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 7

Title: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
Text: John 4:1-42
Theme: Jesus alone gives what our spirits need to live.

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

1. Understand that a human being is more than just a body; he also has a spirit.
2. Realize that just as his or her body cannot live without water, so his or her spirit cannot be spiritually alive without Jesus.
3. Trust Jesus for the "living water" that will give him spiritual life.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 28:18* Jesus said, "All power . . . is given to Me."

1. Teacher Direction:

In John's gospel, Jesus makes a number of claims for Himself that would be outrageous if He were not truly God the Son. In this story, He claims to be able to give "living water," water that would prevent the recipient from ever thirsting again and that would impart eternal life.

2. Learning Readiness Activities:

A. Allow the children to assist you in building a "well" of blocks or boxes. (It can be very small.) Tie a string to a small toy bucket or punch holes through both sides of a small Pixie cup and run a string through both holes to form a handle. Inside the "well," place a dishpan or other container full of water. Allow children to take turns lowering the "bucket" into the "well" to pull up water. When everyone has had a turn, ask how they get their water at home. See if anyone has ever gone camping or been in some other situation where water had to be brought from some distance. Tell the children that people in Bible times did not have pipes with running water in their houses. All the people of a village would go to the village well and haul water up from the well. They would fill large jars with water and carry them home again. Help them to see how time-consuming and inconvenient this would be.

B. Tell the children to pretend they are fish. They are happily swimming about in a large aquarium full of clean water. Ask them what would happen if their aquarium cracked and the water leaked out. Then tell the children to pretend they are plants. It is a sunny day after a refreshing rain storm and they have had plenty of water. Tell them to show you how they would be growing and stretching because they are healthy, well-watered plants. What if many days went by and no more rain fell? Tell the children to show you what they would look like as plants that are drooping and wilting because they have no water. Finally, ask them to use their bodies to show you how a person might

act if he had gone a long time without water and was very thirsty.

3. Bible Story

Which living creatures must have water to live? (As children answer, they will realize that all living creatures need water.) **How many times a day do you think you get a drink of water? Your body could not go very long without water. How do you know when you need a drink of water?** (As children answer, help them to see that, since we must have water to live, God has built signals into our bodies to let us know when we need some.)

You have a body that needs water. Without water, your body cannot live. But you have more than just a body. You also have a spirit. The spirit part of you is inside of you, where no one can see it. When you were born, your body was born alive. Your parents could tell your body was alive, because you probably began to cry and kick and move around as soon as you were born. But the Bible tells us that all of us are born *spiritually* dead. That is because we are sinful on the inside and the sin causes us to be spiritually dead. We cannot know and love and please God if we are spiritually dead. We cannot be God's children if we are spiritually dead. We all need something that will make us spiritually alive, just like our bodies need water to be alive. In today's story, Jesus told someone how to get "*living water*" that would make her spiritually alive.

One day, Jesus was walking with His disciples through Samaria. They had walked a long way and were tired. Jesus and His disciples came to a town. The disciples went on into the town to buy some food, but Jesus stopped at the village well and sat by it to rest. As Jesus rested and waited for his disciples to come back, a woman came out to the well. She lived in the town and she needed water for her home.

When she arrived at the well, she got the bucket ready to lower down into the well to pull up some water. Jesus spoke to the woman. He said, "Will you give me a drink?" The woman was surprised. In those days, most Jews did not like Samaritan people and would not talk to them. Jesus was a Jew. So the Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you are a Jew and you are talking to me, a Samaritan woman?"

Jesus said, "If you knew who I am, *you* would ask *me* for water. I can give you living water."

At first, the woman did not know what Jesus was talking about. She had a bucket to lower into the well; Jesus did not. "Where will you get the water you're talking about?" she said. "You don't have anything with which to get water. Where will you get this living water?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. In fact, the water I give him will cause him to have eternal life." Jesus meant that He is the One who can give us what we need to be spiritually alive. Jesus can give us something much better than just water for our bodies. Jesus can make us alive on the inside, in our spirits, so we can be God's children. He can give us what we need so we can know and love and please God.

Jesus and the Samaritan woman continued to talk, and then the woman

said, "I know that someday God will send the One He has been promising to send. When *He* comes, He will explain to us everything we need to know about God and worship."

Then Jesus said to her, "I who am talking with you am the One God promised to send."

Just then, the disciples returned from town with food. The woman suddenly left. She wanted to hurry back to her village and get her neighbors to come meet Jesus. The woman was in such a hurry that she did not even take her water jar with her. She just left it there at the well. When she got back to town, she called to all her neighbors, "Come meet the man at the well. He may be the One God has been promising to send!"

Many of the people from the town believed in Jesus as the One who gives "living water." They believed He was the One God had promised to send to make us alive spiritually. The townspeople asked Jesus to stay with them for a few days and He did. During those few days, even more of the townspeople believed in Jesus.

4. Application

Help the children to see that they too can believe in Jesus as the only One who can make them spiritually alive. They can trust Him to forgive their sin and change them on the inside so they are alive and able to know and love God as His child.

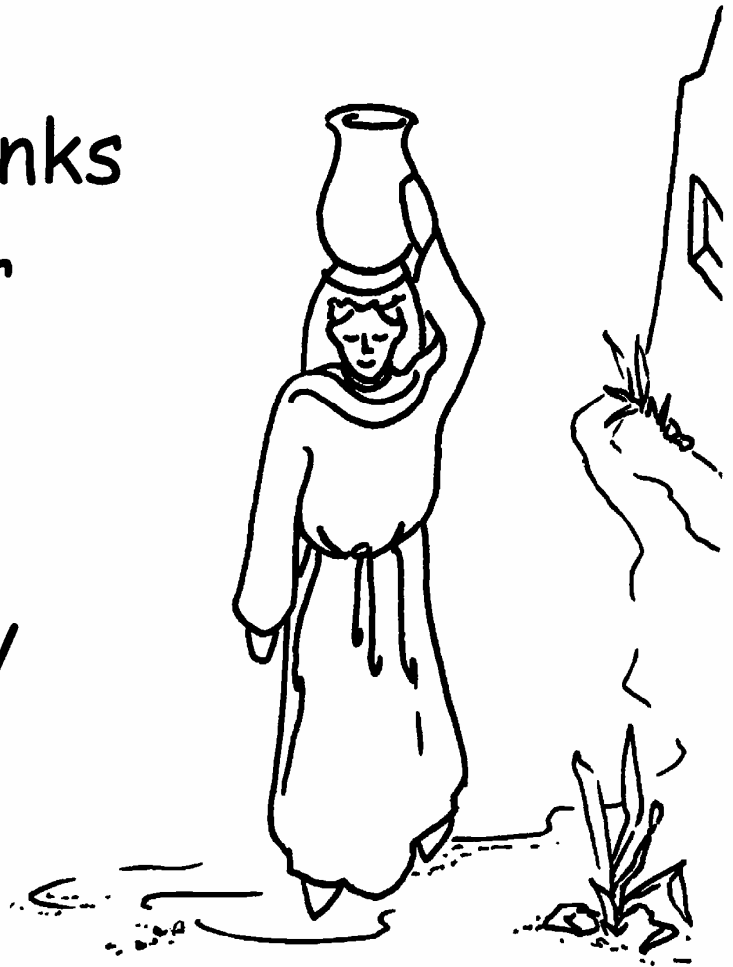
5. Review questions

- A. How did people in Bible times get their water? (From a well.)
- B. Why did Jesus stop and sit by the well? (He was tired.)
- C. What did Jesus ask the woman for? (A drink.)
- D. What kind of water did Jesus tell the woman He could give her? (Living water.)
- E. Jesus said that anyone who had the living water He gives would have eternal--- (Life.)
- F. Why did the woman leave the well in such a hurry that she left her water jar there?
(She wanted to tell others in the village to come meet Jesus.)
- G. Did other people in the village believe in Jesus? (Yes.)
- H. What do you have besides a body? (A spirit.)
- I. Are people born spiritually alive or spiritually dead? (Spiritually dead.)
- J. Who is the only one who can make people spiritually alive so they can know and love God? (Jesus.)
- K. Who has the power to give people "living water?" (Jesus)
- L. How much power does Jesus have? (All power)

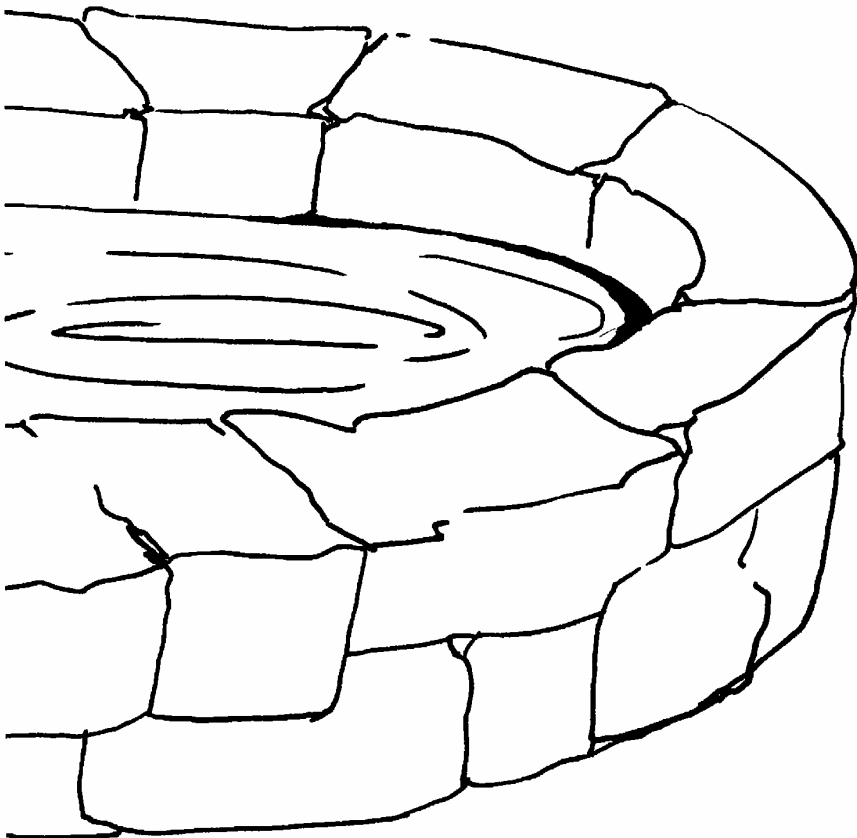
6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Use the review questions to play a review game.
- B. Photocopy the attached pattern of a well. Make enough copies for each child to have one. Bring colored construction paper and glue. Show the children how to tear small pieces of construction paper to represent rocks or bricks and glue them on the well to cover it. As the children work, have them repeat the memory verse written on the picture. Remind them that when Jesus gives “living water,” He makes people spiritually alive so they can know and love God.

"Whoever drinks
the water
I give
will never
be thirsty
again."



John 4:14a



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 8

Title: Jesus' Second Miracle: the Royal Official's Son Healed
Text: John 4:43-54
Theme: Jesus possesses all power and authority.

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

1. Realize that Jesus' power is great and controls all things.
2. Praise Jesus for His great power.
3. Trust Jesus to always do what is best, since all things are under His control.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 28:18* "Jesus. . .said, 'All power. . .is given to Me.'"

1. Teacher Direction:

Of all Jesus's miracles, John records only seven and he calls these seven miracles "signs." John chose these specific miracles as evidence that the claims Jesus made for Himself are indeed true. The significant thing in this particular story is not just that Jesus healed a sick person, for He did that in many instances. Here, Jesus healed the person "long distance." The sick person was in Capernaum, while Jesus was in Cana. The authority of Jesus is so great that He merely had to speak the word ("Your son will live."), and that from a distance. The boy's fever left him at exactly the time Jesus spoke. The authority of Jesus's word over sickness is what we will focus on with the children, but you might want to read verses 19-30 in the next chapter of John (chapter five) on your own. There Jesus says that even the dead will hear His voice and respond to it. He also says that He has been given authority from the Father to judge all men. The claims He makes in chapter five of authority over death (spiritual as well as physical) and authority to judge are substantiated by the miracle told in today's story.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Tell the children that you are going to pretend to be someone with authority and they will pretend to be those who would follow your directions. Tell them they must listen carefully, for you have authority over them and they must do what you say. (You will need to demonstrate some of these for the children.)

1. Tell them first you are a policeman directing traffic and they are drivers. As they drive around, tell them to "Stop!", "Go!", "Turn here," etc.
2. You are the general and they are soldiers. Call out, "Attention!", "At ease," "March-two-three-four," "Halt!"
3. You are the captain of the ship and they are sailors. Tell them to "Pull up the anchor," "Row," "Swab the deck" (mop the floor).
4. You are the band conductor; they are the players. Have them march silently, march while playing their instruments, stand still and play their instruments, etc.
5. You are the king giving directions to your servants (this might be a good way to

get the children to sit down and be quiet in preparation for the story).

3. Bible Story

Policemen have authority. That means people must do what policemen tell them to do. Generals have authority, or power over their soldiers. Soldiers must do whatever generals say. Band members must listen carefully for the directions of the conductor. If they will not do what he says, they will not be allowed to be in the band. The captain on a ship has power over the sailors. They will carry out his orders. A king has more power than anyone else in the country. All people must obey him.

Jesus has power and authority too. Jesus has all power. Everyone and everything in the whole world is under His control. He can speak and make anything do what He says. In today's story, listen to see how powerful Jesus is and what happened when He just spoke some words.

There was a man who lived in the town of Capernaum. The man had a son, whom he loved very much. The man's son was sick. He was so sick, he could not get out of bed. In fact, the boy was so sick that he was getting close to dying. The father was terribly upset. He could not stand the thought of his boy dying.

Then the father heard that Jesus was nearby. The father knew that Jesus could do amazing things. He had heard of other sick people whom Jesus had healed. He knew that Jesus had turned water into wine. He knew Jesus had made blind people see and lame people walk. And now Jesus was nearby. It was true, Jesus was not in their own town of Capernaum. But He was in a neighboring town, Cana, where He had turned the water into wine. The father decided he had no time to lose. His son might die any day. So the father traveled to Cana to ask Jesus to come back with him to Capernaum and heal his boy.

When the man arrived in Cana, he found Jesus as quickly as he could. "Please," he begged Jesus, "My little boy is so sick he may die any time. Please come with me and heal him. Come quickly, before he dies."

Jesus did not go home with the man to Capernaum. He did not need to go with him. Jesus has such power and authority that He could command the boy's sickness and the sickness would obey--even if Jesus was commanding from far away. Jesus said to the father, "You may go. Your son will live."

The father believed Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to command sickness, even if he was not in the same place as the sick person. Excited, the father set out on his way home to Capernaum. Before he was home, servants from his house came running to meet him. "Good news!" they cried. "Your son is alive and getting better."

"What time was it when my little boy got better?" the father asked the servants. "At exactly the seventh hour yesterday, the fever left him," they answered. Then the father remembered that it was at exactly the seventh hour that Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." Now this father understood that Jesus has all power. Everything obeys Him, even sickness. Jesus has so much power that He only needs to say the word, and a sickness will go away. All things obey Jesus because all power is His. This father and his whole family and his servants believed in Jesus because they saw how much power He had.

4. Application

Encourage the children to name some of the things over which Jesus has power and to praise Him in the prayer time for His great power. As they name things over which He has power, help them to consider how that should affect them. If He has power over thunder and lightning, they can be unafraid in a storm; if He has power over sickness, they can pray for those who are sick, etc. If He has all power over all things, He really is the Son of God and they must believe in Him, too, like the father in the story.

5. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Have the children get in pairs. One child in each pair is to play the part of the father and the other child will play the part of the son. All gather in one corner of the room. "Sons" become sick, go to bed, and moan. "Fathers" hurry off to another part of the room (Cana) to seek help from Jesus. When they get to "Cana," they say, "Please come help my son." Then the teacher will read, "Jesus replied, 'You may go. Your son will live.'" As soon as the teacher reads those words, the "sons" should immediately jump up, healed, and the "fathers" can go home. Then have the children trade roles and go through it again.

B. Bring old magazines, glue, and a piece of construction paper for each child. Children should look for pictures of things that Jesus has power over (people, animals, nature, weather, sickness, news events, etc.), tear or cut them out, and glue them to their paper, making a collage of things Jesus controls



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - WINTER QUARTER

LESSONS 9 - 13

THEME: The Life of Jesus – His miracles

MEMORY VERSE SONG

John 20:31 "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

HYMN

Tell Me the Story of Jesus (chorus only)

CHORUS

O, Come Let Us Adore Him

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

We're Singin' Praises

Jesus, Jesus

I Will Praise You, O Lord

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 9

Title: Jesus Heals a Man Sick for Thirty-eight Years.
Text: John 5:1-18
Theme: Jesus' miracles show that He is the Son of God.

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

1. Realize that Jesus could do such great miracles because He really was the Son of God.
2. Praise Jesus because He is God and because He can do anything.
3. Give thanks that Jesus did miracles so that people could know that He is the Son of God.

Memory Verse: *John 20:31 Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*

1. Teacher Direction

Today's story tells of the third of seven miracles that John recorded in his gospel. John calls the miracles "signs," and at the end of his book, in the verse from which today's memory words are taken, he says that he wrote about these specific miracles so that his readers would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and, believing, they would have life in His name. One of the significant things about this third miracle is that it occurred on the Sabbath. The Jews took issue with Jesus for healing on the Sabbath and His lengthy reply made it clear that He could do His work on the Sabbath for He was Himself equal with God. We will not cover much of the discussion Jesus had with the Jews in the children's lesson, but you may want to read it for yourself in the remainder of John 5.

2. Introduction

(Bring something from home--a small blanket or large beach towel that you could use to demonstrate the mat the sick man lay on, which he rolled up at Jesus's command.)

Ask the children to imagine what it would be like if they had a sickness that made them so weak they could not get out of bed. Then add that this sickness never got any better, so day after day, for year after year, they had to always stay in bed. Ask them how they would eat, how they would get a drink of water, how they would go anywhere. If they were still sick when they grew up, how would they earn money to buy food and clothing?

3. Bible Story

In the days when Jesus was alive on earth, there was a man who lived in Jerusalem who could not get up and walk for himself. He had a sickness of some kind that made him unable to get up and do things for himself. This man had been sick like this for thirty-eight years. For thirty-eight years, he had been in

bed. But sometimes he had to go places, and then people would have to carry him. There were no wheel chairs and no cars, so people would have to put him on a stretcher and carry him.

There were many days when the man needed to go somewhere. There was a pool in Jerusalem to which many sick and lame and blind people would go. They hoped that the water in this pool would help them get well. So, many days, the man would have his friends carry him to the pool. They would take his mat, unroll it, and lay it out on the pavement by the pool. (Demonstrate with the “mat” you brought.) The sick man would spend the day by the pool, lying on his mat. Then later people would carry him back home again.

One day, Jesus passed by this pool. He saw the man lying there on his mat. He learned from someone that this man had been there, on his mat, day after day, for many years. Jesus went to the man and said to him, “Get up. Pick up your mat and walk.” At once, the man was well. He picked up his mat, just as Jesus had told him to do, and walked away.

This happened on the Sabbath. In Bible times, the Sabbath was like our Sunday. It was a day set aside to worship God. God had told His Old Testament people to always keep the Sabbath by using it to pray and worship. They were not to do any of their usual, everyday work on the Sabbath. By the time Jesus came, people had added many rules to God’s law about the Sabbath. They had a whole list of things you could not do on the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders saw the man Jesus had healed. He was walking! But the leaders did not care that the man was able to walk now. They were only angry that he was carrying his mat on the Sabbath. “This is the Sabbath,” they told the man who had been healed. “It’s against the law to carry your mat on the Sabbath.” “The One who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk,’” he answered.

When the Jewish leaders heard this, they became angry at Jesus for healing someone on the Sabbath. “My Father never stops working,” Jesus told them. “And so I work too.”

Now the Jewish leaders were even angrier because Jesus was saying that God was His Father. They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus told them that they *should* believe that He was God’s Son. They should believe it, not just because Jesus said it, but because of the miracles He could do. Jesus could do so many great miracles because He really is God. Since He is God, Jesus can do anything.

4. Application

Use the memory verse to help the children understand why John wrote about these miracles of Jesus. He wanted people to read about the amazing things that Jesus did and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the One God had promised to send. John wanted people to see from the stories of the miracles that Jesus is the Son of God so they would believe in Him. Encourage the children to believe in Jesus as the One God said He would send to take away our sins and make us spiritually alive. Encourage them to praise Jesus because He is God and can do anything. Together, thank Jesus for doing miracles that help us to see that He is the Son of God.

5. Review questions

- A. What could the man in the story not do because of his sickness? (He could not get out of bed by himself.)
- B. How long had the man been sick? (38 years.)
- C. Where did the man have people carry him? (To the side of the pool.)
- D. Who saw him there one day? (Jesus.)
- E. What did Jesus tell the man to do? (Get up, pick up his mat, and walk.)
- F. What day was it when this happened? (It was the Sabbath.)
- G. What made the Jewish leaders angry at the man who had been healed? (He was carrying his mat on the Sabbath.)
- H. What made the Jewish leaders angry at Jesus? (He had healed someone on the Sabbath.)
- I. Who did Jesus say was His Father? (God.)
- J. Did the Jewish leaders believe that Jesus was the Son of God? (No.)
- K. Why should the Jewish leaders have believed that Jesus was the Son of God? (Because of His miracles, or because of the amazing things He could do.)
- L. Why did John write about Jesus' miracles? (So people who read about them would know that Jesus was the Son of God.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. If all the children's church leaders could bring several large towels, each child could use one as a mat. The children lay the "mats" out on the floor and lie down on them. They stay there while the teacher reminds them of all the things the invalid man could *not* do because he was not able to get up off his mat by himself. Finally, the teacher repeats what Jesus said to the man, "Get up." The children get up. Then the teacher says, "Jesus said, 'Pick up your mat.'" The children roll up their "mats" and tuck them under their arms. Finally, Jesus said, "Walk." The children walk away with their mats tucked under their arms.

B. Photocopy the attached picture of a man. Make enough copies for each child to have one. Bring rectangular scraps of fabric and pieces of twine, string, or ribbon. Show the children how to roll the fabric rectangle into a roll and help them tie it with the twine. They can color the man in the picture, then use glue or tape to attach his fabric mat to his hand.



MAN FOR CRAFT WITH CLOTH AND GLUE

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 10

Title: Jesus Feeds Five Thousand
Text: John 6:1-15, 25-59
Theme: Jesus alone gives what our spirits need to live.

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

1. Understand that a human being is more than just a body; he also has a spirit.
2. Realize that just as the body needs food to live, so the spirit cannot live without Jesus.
3. Ask Jesus, the "bread of life," to give him or her spiritual life.

Memory Verse: *John 20:31* *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*

1. Teacher Direction:

Typically, when this story is presented to young children, the emphasis is placed either on the value of sharing (as the little boy did with his lunch) or on the goodness of God in providing food for us to eat. While both of these are valid concepts to teach our children, neither is the point of this particular passage of Scripture. John makes it clear that he has chosen and recorded the specific miracles we find in his gospel for the purpose of convincing us that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31). John tells the story of the feeding of the five thousand, then goes on to recount Jesus' "Bread of Life Discourse." In this discourse, Jesus explains to the Jews the difference between bread that perishes and food that endures to eternal life. He tells them that He can give them that bread and even adds that He Himself *is* that bread. Only the one who eats Jesus' flesh and drinks His blood, given for the life of the world, will have eternal life. These are complex concepts to explain to young children--even the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day had trouble with them!--but if we wish to be faithful to the teaching of Scripture, we must teach what its author intended it to teach, and not content ourselves with that which is easy to explain.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Show the children how to make a simple basket-like container from Play-Doh. Have them shape two small pieces of fish and five little round loaves to place in the basket. Find out how many children like fish and which kinds of bread they like the best. Comment on the goodness of God in providing so many kinds of food for us to enjoy. Explain that, in today's story, Jesus did something amazing with a little boy's lunch made of fish and bread.

3. Bible Story

If you bring two chicken strips or fish sticks and five biscuits, you can illustrate for the children just how little food this would be for so many people.

A few Sundays ago, we had a story about Jesus and a woman at a well. She had come to get water and Jesus told her that He could give her *living* water that would not be just for her body, but for her spirit. Can you remember--what *is* your spirit? (Help the children to remember that the spirit is the part of us that is on the inside, that no one can see.) **When we were born, our bodies were born alive. We cried and kicked and moved around. The Bible tells us that all of us are born *spiritually* dead. We cannot know and love and please God until, somehow, our spirits are given life. When Jesus told the woman He could give her living water, He meant He is the One who can make people spiritually alive.**

When we talked about that story, we said our bodies need water to keep living. What else must our bodies have to stay alive? (Food.) How do you know when your body needs food? (It feels hungry.) When is your body most likely to feel hungry? (When you have gone a long time without eating *or* when you have been very active.) In today's story, people had gone a long time without eating *and* they had walked a long way, so they felt very hungry. Yet there was no food anywhere!

Everyone wanted to see Jesus. People knew He could do amazing things no one else could do. They knew He taught about God and was a better teacher than anyone they had ever heard. Whenever Jesus passed by, people from all around would hurry after Him, hoping to see and hear Him before He was gone. One day, a great crowd of people had come looking for Jesus. Because they did not want Him to get away before they saw Him, they did not bother to pack lunches or take food with them. In those days, of course, people did not have cars; most people walked wherever they needed to go. This crowd of people followed after Jesus, walking all the way. Once they came to where Jesus was, they spent the day listening to Him.

Finally, the day was nearly over and, all at once, everyone had the same thought, "I'm *hungry!*" They had gone all day with no food. They had walked a long way. They must have felt weak and tired, with no energy. The people must have wondered how they would walk all the way back home again, as hungry as they were. Then some of the people saw a little boy with a lunch basket. They may have thought, "He's lucky. He brought food. I wish I had some." The little boy did not eat his lunch, though. He took it up to Jesus and gave it to Him. The people in the crowd saw Jesus take the food out of the lunch. There were only two small pieces of fish and five little loaves of bread. (At this point, take out your chicken strips or fish sticks and your biscuits so the children can see how much food it is.) The people heard one of Jesus' helpers say, "Five loaves and two small fishes--what good will that do for so many people?" Jesus was planning to share the little lunch with everyone there.

The Bible tells us there were 5000 men in this crowd--that doesn't even count the women and children who might have been there. Think about the room

where your parents are in the worship service right now. Imagine that room packed so full of people that there are no empty seats at all. Now imagine four more rooms just as big and just as full. That would give you an idea of how many men were in the crowd. (Show your food again.) How far could this little bit of food go for that many people? There aren't nearly that many people in this room; let's see how far this food would go even in our class. (Tear the food into pieces and have a helper pass it around to all the children, allowing them to see what small portions of food they would have if so small an amount were divided among them.) If it were the end of the day and you had eaten nothing all day, and if you had walked a long way and were really hungry, would you feel full after you ate this little bit? What if there were thousands of people here and *everyone* had to have some? We would run out!

That's not what happened when Jesus tore the boy's lunch into pieces. He began to tear the food into pieces and drop the pieces into a basket. He tore and tore, but He never ran out of food. Soon He had filled a large basket full of bread and fish and He gave it to one of His disciples to pass around to people. Jesus kept on tearing bread. Soon He had another full basket of bread for another disciple to pass around, and still the little lunch was not gone. Jesus kept tearing and His disciples kept passing out food until, finally, everyone was full. No one could eat another bite. Now Jesus told His helpers to gather the leftovers and they filled twelve baskets with the food leftover from the one little lunch.

How could Jesus make that much food from a little boy's lunch? Jesus has all power, because He is the Son of God. He fed the people that day so they would see His power and know He is the Christ, the One God had promised to send.

The next day, many of the same people came looking for Jesus again. All they wanted and all they asked Jesus for was more bread for their bodies. Jesus told them it was much more important that they get the bread that would make them alive *inside*. Jesus said: "*I am the bread of life.*" Jesus alone can make us spiritually alive, so that we can know and love and please God. Just like bodies cannot live without bread, so we cannot live spiritually unless Jesus gives us life. Jesus is the bread of life.

4. Application

Encourage the children to give thanks to Jesus for being the bread of life, the one who makes us spiritually alive. If they are unsure whether or not they have the life Jesus gives, encourage them to ask Him for it, since He is the only One who can give it.

5. Review questions

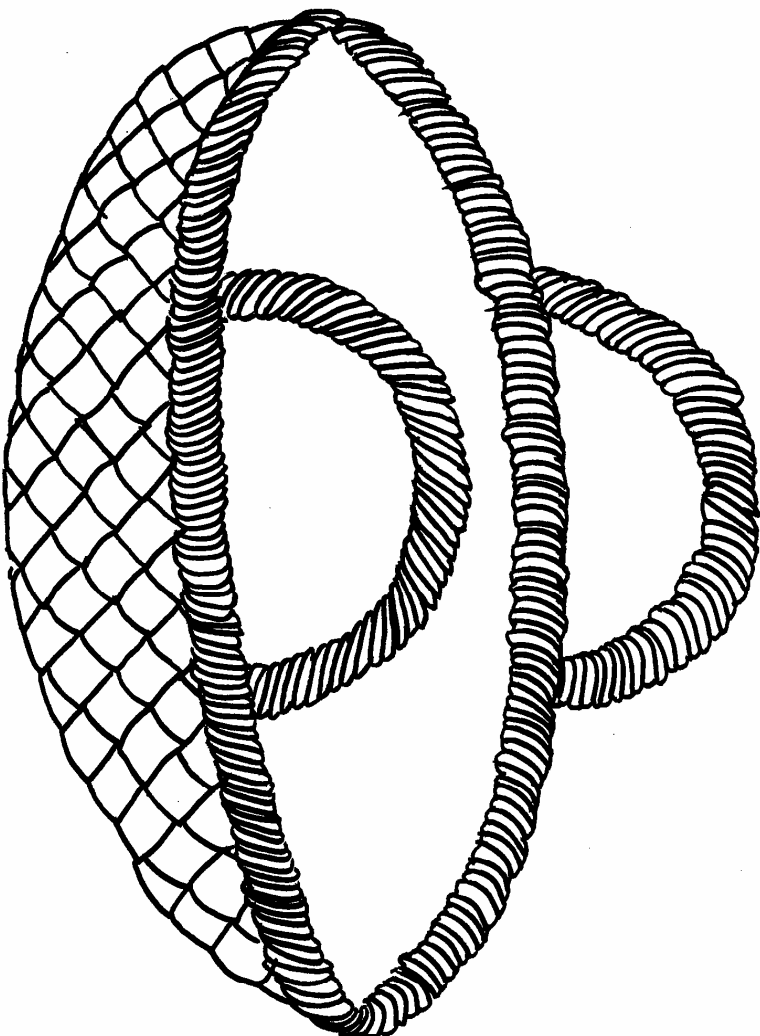
- A. Why had so many people followed Jesus? (They wanted to see His miracles and hear His teaching.)
- B. What did almost everyone fail to bring with them? (Food.)
- C. What was in the little boy's lunch? (Two small fish and five small loaves of bread.)
- D. What did Jesus do with the boy's lunch? (He tore it in pieces and had His disciples pass it out to the crowd.)

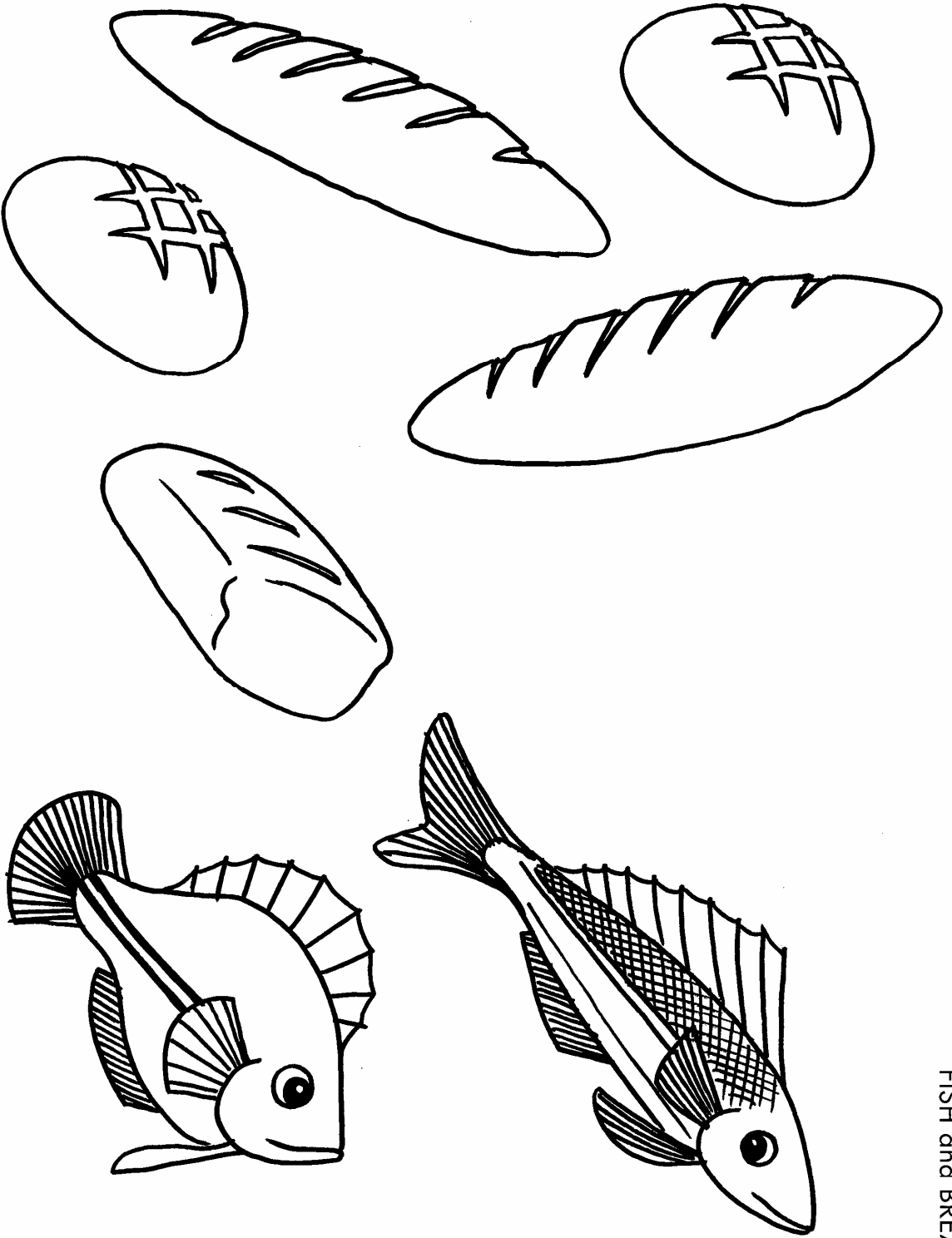
- E. Was there enough food for everyone? (Yes.)
- F. How much was left over? (Enough to fill twelve baskets.)
- G. Why does your body need bread? (To stay alive.)
- H. What do you have besides a body? (A spirit.)
- I. Are people born spiritually alive or spiritually dead? (Spiritually dead.)
- J. Who is the only One who can make people spiritually alive so they can know and love and please God? (Jesus.)
- K. What did Jesus say He is? (The bread of life.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make enough copies of the attached pages for each child to have the picture of the basket and two fish and five loaves. Children can color the basket and the letters of the memory verse and glue the fish and loaves (pre-cut) into the basket. They could color the food as well. As they work, go over the memory verse with them again, reminding them that having the life Jesus gives is even more important than keeping your body alive with food.

JESUS SAID, "I am the bread of life."





**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 11

Title: Jesus Walks on Water

Text: John 6:16-24

Theme: Jesus can control all creation for He is the Son of God.

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

1. Praise Jesus for creating and controlling all that is.
2. Believe that Jesus is God's Son.

Memory Verse: *John 20:31 Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*

1. Teacher Direction

One theme that can be traced through John's gospel is the care Jesus took to reveal His glory to His own disciples, along with the disciples' growing awareness of who Jesus really was. The miracle of walking on the water was witnessed only by the disciples. Jesus' ability to walk on stormy water in which even seasoned fishermen could hardly row bore powerful testimony to His divinity. Job wrote of God, "He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea" (Job 9:8). How could Jesus have done the impossible and walked on water unless He were truly God Himself in human flesh?

2. Learning Readiness Activities

A. Ask the children to stand and to show you how they would walk in/on . . .

. . . ankle-deep sand on the beach;

. . . ice;

. . . hot pavement with bare feet;

. . . a good, hard path;

. . . rocks across a stream;

. . . knee-deep snow;

. . . a narrow bridge over a deep hole;

. . . the top of the water in a swimming pool.. Hopefully, at this point, someone will protest: "You can't walk on water!" Agree that *they* can't and *you* can't, but someone in today's Bible story did.

B. Bring a dish tub or other container from home and fill it with water. Bring a variety of objects, some that will float and others that will not. Hold up each object and ask if it will float, then allow the children to take turns trying each object in the water. When you have finished, ask them, "What about people? Can people float?" Bring out the information that people only float under certain circumstances and in certain positions. Ask them if they could stand up on water and expect to float. Ask what

happens if someone steps into deep water, feet first.

3. Bible Story

Jesus' disciples were tired. It had been a long and busy day. They had been with Jesus when He had fed the crowd of five thousand people from the lunch of one little boy. They had gone back and forth through the crowd passing out the food to the people as Jesus had given it to them. After everyone had finally eaten, the disciples had gone back through the crowd, gathering the leftovers. Now it was evening and they were tired.

Jesus had gone into the hills to be alone and to pray. The disciples waited for Him by the lake. When He did not come, the disciples got into their boat and began to row across to the other side. It was dark by now. As the disciples rowed, a wind came up. It grew stronger and stronger until it became very difficult for the disciples to row their boat. The wind blew the water, whipping up waves and making the sea rough. Some of these disciples knew a great deal about boats. They had been fishermen before they had begun to follow Jesus, so every day they had sailed out onto the lake in a boat and caught fish to sell. They knew about storms. They knew all the right things to do in a boat. Still, the water was rough enough and the wind strong enough that these men were finding it difficult to make the boat go where they wanted it to go.

Suddenly, Jesus' disciples saw something strange that frightened them. Out on the sea, in the dark, standing up against the wild wind, was what looked like a man, walking on the water. These men knew, just like you do, that *people* cannot *walk* on top of water. So, whatever it was that was walking across the dark and stormy sea, the disciples were sure that it was not a man and they were afraid of it.

Then the disciples heard a voice they knew well. The voice came from the whatever-it-was that was walking on the water and the voice belonged to Jesus. Now the men in the boat knew who was walking on the water. Impossible as it seemed, *Jesus* was walking across the top of the sea, on the water, toward their boat. "It is I," Jesus called to them. "Don't be afraid."

When they heard Jesus' voice, the disciples felt much better. They took Jesus into the boat. When they did that, another amazing thing happened. Even though they still had more of the lake to cross to get to the other side, as soon as Jesus got into the boat, the boat was suddenly there.

How could Jesus do such amazing things? How could He walk on top of water when no one else could do that? How could He get into the boat and cause it suddenly to be where it was going? Jesus could do these things because He is God. He made everything that is. He made the wind and He made the water. He can control these things because He made them.

Jesus calmed storms and walked on stormy water so that His disciples would know that He was the Son of God. He wanted them to be sure of that, and to know He was the Christ, the One God had promised to send. One of the disciples who saw Jesus walk on the water wrote about it in the Bible so we, too, could know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

4. Application

In the prayer time, invite the children to praise Jesus because He is truly God and can do things no one else can do. They can praise Him because He made and controls everything. They can also thank Him for showing His disciples that He was God by walking on water and controlling storms. They can give thanks that His disciples wrote these stories down so we would know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

5. Review questions

- A. How were Jesus' disciples going to get across the lake to the other side? (In a boat.)
- B. What time of the day was it when Jesus' disciples got into the boat and started across the lake? (Evening; it had just become dark.)
- C. What happened to the weather while the disciples were crossing the lake in their boat? (A strong wind began to blow.)
- D. Why was the strong wind a problem for the disciples? (It made it hard to row the boat to where they wanted to go.)
- E. What did the disciples see out on the water that was unusual? (Someone walking on the water.)
- F. How did the disciples first feel when they saw someone walking on top of the water? (They were afraid.)
- G. Who was it that was walking on the water? (Jesus.)
- H. How did the disciples find out that it was Jesus who was walking on the water? (He spoke to them.)
- I. What did Jesus say to the disciples? (It is I; don't be afraid.)
- J. Then what did Jesus do? (He got into the boat.)
- K. What happened as soon as Jesus got into the boat? (The boat reached the place where the disciples were trying to go.)
- L. Why could Jesus walk on water when no one else can? (Because He is God.)
- M. Why could Jesus make the wind and the waves obey Him? (Because He is God.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make copies of the attached picture and distribute one to each child. Have the children color the boat and the Jesus figure on the picture. Then let them use water colors or watered-down tempera paint to paint over the entire sea portion, including the things they colored with crayon. The crayon will resist the paint. Note: This should be done as early as possible, perhaps before the review questions and before working on the memory verse, so the paintings have a little time to dry. The thinner the paint, the quicker it will dry.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, WINTER**

Lesson 12

Title: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

Text: John 9:1-41

Theme: Jesus is the light of the world. Just as He can heal a man's physical blindness, He can heal our spiritual blindness so we can "see" the truth.

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

1. Understand that a blind person cannot see things, even though the things are there, and realize that Jesus can heal blindness.
2. Realize that our sin makes us blind to God's truth, but Jesus can make us able to "see" it.
3. Ask Jesus to make them able to see and understand the truth of God's word.

Memory Verse: *John 20:31 Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*

1. Teacher Direction

In the chapter before this story, Jesus announced, "I am the light of the world." As this chapter opens, He repeats His claim to be the light of the world (9:5) and then supports that claim by healing a man born blind. The result is a confrontation between the man who had received his sight and the Pharisees. The Pharisees prove their own spiritual blindness by refusing to believe that Jesus has come from God, in spite of Jesus' miracles. The formerly blind man, on the other hand, receives not only physical sight from Jesus, but spiritual sight as well. When Jesus asks him if he believes in the Son of Man, he answers, "Lord, I believe," and then he worships Him. As wonderful as it is that Jesus died in our place to pay the penalty for our sin, that would not have been enough to save us, since, left to our sinful selves, none of us would ever have placed our faith in Him. Our sin blinds us to the truth and causes us to love darkness. Jesus is a perfect Savior. He not only died so we could live through faith in His name, but He also gives light to our spiritual darkness so we will understand the gospel and put our faith in Him.

2. Learning Readiness Activities

A. Bring a "Feelie Bag," a brown paper sack containing items for the children to feel. Volunteers will feel one item without taking it out of the bag and try to tell you exactly what it is. If they cannot tell you what it is, ask them to describe what they think it looks like. For this particular lesson, it would be most effective to use items that would be difficult to guess by touch alone. Discuss with the children the value of sight for performing everyday tasks.

B. If you can make the classroom quite dark, give the children a task to do at the table that would be difficult to do with poor lighting. Ask them to tell you some of the things it would be difficult to do if they were unable to see. Ask them to tell you some of the kinds of work an adult would find difficult if he were blind. Tell them that today's story is about a man who had been blind ever since he was born. Although he had

surely learned how to do many things well without being able to see, there would still be many things and certain kinds of work he could not do because he was blind.

3. Bible Story

What is one thing your eyes *must* have if they are going to be able to see anything? Eyes must have light or they cannot see. No matter where you are, there is almost always at least a little bit of light. At night time, there is still some light from the moon or from the stars or from a street light nearby. The more light you have, the better your eyes will work, but as long as there is *some* light, your eyes can see, at least a little.

If you ever go someplace where not the tiniest bit of light can get in, you will find that you are not able to see at all. Have you ever been inside a cave? A cave is one of the darkest places you can ever be because a cave is so far away from the light that, unless you bring a light of your own, there is no light at all. If you turn off the light in a cave, you can put your hand right in front of your nose and not be able to see it at all. Your hand is there, but without any light, your eyes cannot see it.

If a person is completely blind, he is always in darkness. Things are there to see, all around him, but he is blind to them. The Bible tells us that all of us are born with *minds* that are blind because of sin. God gives us important truth in His word, but because of the sin in our hearts, we do not “see” it. We do not understand the things God says. God tells us we are sinners who need a Savior. He tells us He has given us a Savior, Jesus, who died to pay for our sin. But as long as our minds are blind because of sin, we will not care that we are sinners and we will not trust Jesus to save us.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” He was not talking about the light you see with your eyes. He meant that He is the light that can shine in our blind minds to make us able to “see” and understand the truth God tells us. The people who heard Jesus say, “I am the light of the world,” did not believe Him. They thought He was an ordinary person, just like anyone else. So Jesus did something to show that He really is the light of the world.

Jesus found a man who had been born blind. Never in his whole life had this man seen anything except darkness. The disciples said to Jesus, “Did this man do something bad, and that’s why he is blind? Or maybe it was his parents, since he was born blind as a baby. Did *they* do something bad that caused their baby to be born blind?”

“No,” Jesus said. “Neither this man nor his parents did anything that caused him to be blind. This man is blind so that God’s glory can be shown.” Jesus said again, “I am the light of the world.” Then Jesus spit into the dirt at His feet to make some mud. He put the mud on the blind man’s eyes and told him to go wash the mud off at a certain pool called the pool of Siloam.

The blind man did as he was told. He went to the pool and washed off the mud. Suddenly, he was no longer blind; he could see. The man, who was now a seeing man, hurried home to tell his family and his neighbors. His neighbors and the people who had seen him when he used to beg (because he could not work) were so amazed that some of them thought he was not the same man. He kept

insisting, “I *am* the same man.”

“How were your eyes opened?” the neighbors asked.

“The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

Then the Pharisees, men who were always arguing with Jesus, asked the blind man who had been healed the same question. “If you were born blind, how can you see now?”

The man gave them the same answer: “Jesus put mud on my eyes, I washed it off, and I could see.” Then he added that he thought Jesus was a prophet who came from God.

This made the Pharisees angry. They had blind *minds*. Even though Jesus could do miracles and even though He had healed a blind man, the Pharisees could not see the truth of who Jesus was. They would not believe that He had been sent from God. They became angry at the man because he said that he thought Jesus came from God. They made the man leave their meeting.

Jesus heard about the argument between the man He had healed and the Pharisees. He went looking for the man. When He found him, Jesus asked the man if he believed in the Son of God. When the man realized that Jesus was the Son of God he answered, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped Jesus. Then Jesus said that He had come so the blind would be able to see. He did not mean that He would heal all the people whose eyes were blind. Jesus meant that He had come to make blind minds understand God’s truth. Then they could believe in Jesus, just like the man He had healed believed in Jesus.

4. Application

Our minds are blind and dark because of sin. We can only believe in Jesus if He makes our blind minds able to see and understand that we need Him to save us. Jesus is the light of the world. Ask Him to shine in the darkness of *your* mind so you will understand and believe in Him.

5. Review questions

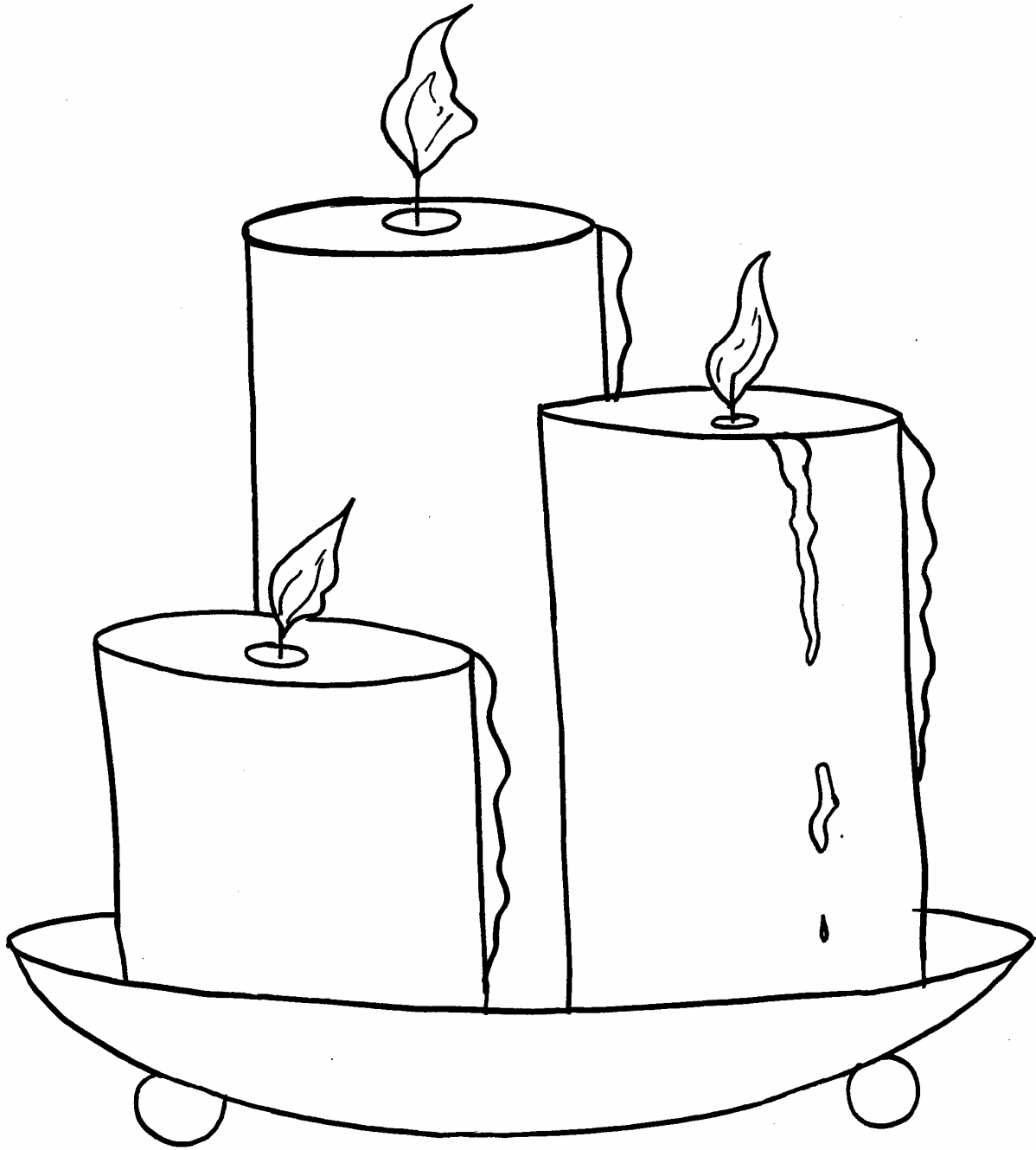
- A. What did Jesus say that He is? (The light of the world.)
- B. Did everyone believe Him when He said that? (No.)
- C. What did Jesus do to show that He is the light of the world? (He healed a blind man.)
- D. How long had the man been blind? (From the time he was born.)
- E. What did Jesus do to heal the man? (He spit in the dirt, made mud, and put it on his eyes. Then he told him to go wash it off.)
- F. What happened when the man washed off the mud? (He could see.)
- G. What makes our minds blind? (Sin.)
- H. When our minds are blind because of sin, we don’t understand God’s truth. How did the Pharisees in the story show that their minds were blind? (They did not believe Jesus had come from God, even though He could do miracles.)
- I. How did the man show that Jesus had made *his* mind able to see? (He believed in Jesus.)
- J. What can Jesus do for people whose minds are blind? (He can make them able

to see and understand God's truth.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make copies of the attached candle picture and give one to each child. Show the children how to tear small pieces of colored construction paper to glue on to the candle in a mosaic pattern. Point out to them the words of the memory verse written on the page and practice saying it with them.

JESUS SAID, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM WINTER, YEAR 1**

Lesson 13

Title: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Text: John 11:1-45

Theme: Jesus gives life to His people, who were dead in sin.
When He returns, Jesus will raise the bodies of His people who have died.

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

1. Understand that we are born dead in sin, but Jesus can make us alive.
2. Know that Jesus will return to raise the bodies of His people who have died and to make them perfect forever.
3. Praise and thank Jesus who is able to raise dead bodies to life and to give life to the spiritually dead.

Memory Verse: *John 20:31 Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*

1. Teacher Direction

This last of the seven miracles John records is surely the climax of them all. In this miracle, Jesus not only raises a dead man, but He raises a man who has been dead for four days. Jesus not only had to restore life to a dead body, but He also had to reverse the process of decomposition that would have already begun. Lazarus could have done nothing to make himself alive, but when Jesus commanded, he had no choice but to obey. What a clear picture of what Jesus does in our salvation. We are dead in sin. There is nothing we can contribute to our conversion. We cannot choose Christ, we cannot believe the gospel, we cannot repent until Jesus first makes us alive so we can respond. At His command, however, we rise to newness of life.

Jesus is not content to give us spiritual life only. He created us body and spirit and though our bodies will die because of sin, when He returns, He will raise our bodies, perfect them, and unite them with our spirits (also made perfect) to live with Him forever.

2. Introduction

Ask the children if they know anyone who has died. **Whenever one of God's people dies, it is sad for the family members, because they will miss the person they love, but it is also a happy time. That is because we know that person went immediately to heaven to be with the Lord and some day, we will see that person again when we go to heaven. It is the spirit part of the person who goes to heaven, the part of the person that we cannot see. What happens to a person's body when that person dies? (We bury the body in a grave.) The Bible tells us that when Jesus comes back again, to take all His people to heaven, He will raise all**

the bodies of His people who have died. He will make those bodies perfect so they will never again be sick or broken or hurt and they will never get old or die again. Jesus will give those perfect, living bodies to the spirits of His people who are in heaven so they will have perfect bodies and spirits to live with Him forever. When dead bodies are made alive again, we call it “resurrection.” When Jesus raises the bodies of those who have died, this will be the resurrection.

We know that now, because that is what our Bibles tell us. When Jesus was on earth, not all of the Bible had been written yet, so people did not understand very well what would happen to dead people. In today’s story, someone had died and his family was sad. Jesus explained about resurrection. He did even more than that to cheer up this family. Listen and see what He did.

3. Bible Story

Jesus had three very good friends who lived in a town called Bethany. The three friends were two sisters and a brother. Mary and Martha were the sisters. Lazarus was the brother. Jesus often stopped at their home and stayed with them when He was traveling through Bethany.

Jesus was far from Bethany one day, when he received a message from Mary and Martha. The message simply said, “Lord, the one whom you love is sick.” When Jesus read this message, He knew that the sisters were writing about their brother. It was Lazarus who was sick. The disciples knew that Jesus loved these two sisters and their brother. They knew He would do anything for them. So they were surprised when Jesus did nothing about the message the sisters had sent.

In those days, doctors did not know nearly as much as they know now. Sickesses that we now think of as very simple and not serious at all killed people back then. They did not have the medicines that would make the sicknesses go away and people often died quickly after becoming sick. The disciples may have wondered why Jesus did not hurry to go heal Lazarus before he died. However, Jesus did nothing. For two days, He stayed right where He was. Finally, He told His disciples that it was time to go to Lazarus. “Lazarus has fallen asleep,” He told them, “but I am going there to wake him up.”

When someone is sick, plenty of rest and a good night’s sleep is good for that person. The disciples said to Jesus, “If he sleeps, he will get well.”

Then Jesus explained that when He said Lazarus was sleeping, He meant that he was dead. Jesus told them, “Lazarus is dead.” Then Jesus and the disciples began the long walk to Bethany.

In Jesus’ time, the bodies of dead people were not buried in the ground as they are today. Instead, people put dead bodies into tombs. A tomb was like a small cave, a hole in a rock. People would wrap the body in strips of cloth with good-smelling spices, then lay the body in the tomb. A large rock was rolled into the doorway, to close it up. By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus’ dead body had been in the tomb four days.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him.

Martha, of course, was very sad and so was her sister, Mary. They knew Jesus could heal sick people. They had waited and hoped He would come, but He had not come. Lazarus had died. Now Martha said to Jesus, "If You had been here, my brother would not have died."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus said.

"He will rise again at the resurrection," Martha said.

Jesus answered, "I am the resurrection and the life." He meant that because he is the Christ, the Son of God, He is the One who raises dead people to life. When Mary came out to Jesus, also. She, too, said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw Mary crying and the others who were there with her crying too, the Bible tells us He was deeply troubled. He asked where they had put Lazarus' dead body. Mary and Martha took Jesus to the tomb so He could see for Himself. When they arrived at the tomb, Jesus ordered that the stone in the doorway be taken away. Mary and Martha did not want to take away the stone at first. Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Then Jesus prayed. In His prayer, He told His Father that what He was about to do He would do so that the people standing there would believe that God had sent Him. Then Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

Can a dead man walk? Can a dead man get up? Can a dead man even *hear* what someone tells him to do? But Lazarus heard Jesus' command, got up, and walked out of the tomb. Jesus is God. He has power even over death. He can raise dead people back to life. When Jesus returns again, He will raise all His people who have died, like He did that day with Lazarus.

Jesus can do more than just raise dead bodies. The Bible tells us that, because of sin, all of us are born *spiritually* dead. That means we cannot know God or love Him or live for Him, the way He wants us to. Like Lazarus when he was dead, there is nothing we can do to make ourselves spiritually alive. Jesus can give us life, though. He can make us alive inside, able to know God and to love Him and to be His child. Jesus is the only One who can bring dead bodies back to life. Jesus is the only One who can make us spiritually alive. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus raised Lazarus' dead body so the people would know that He is God and can give spiritual life to people. The Bible tells us that many of the people who saw what Jesus did that day put their faith in Him.

4. Application

Lead the children in praising Jesus for having control over death. They can thank Him that He will one day raise the bodies of all His people who have died and make them perfectly healthy forever. They can also praise Jesus that He is the One who can give life to us spiritually, so we can know and love God and not stay dead in sin.

5. Review questions

- A. How many sisters and brothers were in the story? (Two sisters and a brother.)
- B. What were their names? (Mary and Martha and Lazarus.)
- C. What was the message the sisters sent to Jesus? (Lazarus was sick.)
- D. Did Jesus go to their home right away? (No; He waited two days.)
- E. What happened to Lazarus in the meantime? (He died.)
- F. Once Jesus arrived in Bethany, how long had Lazarus been dead? (Four days.)
- G. What did Jesus tell people to do when He got to Lazarus' tomb? (Roll away the stone.)
- H. Then Jesus prayed. He said He was going to do something that would cause people to believe He had come from God. Then what did He do? (He commanded Lazarus to come out.)
- I. What did Lazarus do? (He came out.)
- J. Could Lazarus have done anything to make himself alive? (No.). The Bible says we are spiritually dead because of sin. Can we do anything to make ourselves alive? (No.)
- L. Who is the only One who can give us spiritual life? (Jesus.)

Learning Reinforcement Activity

A. Briefly retell the story, asking the children to show you *with their faces* how the people in the stories would have felt at different points in the story. You could look out over the faces and choose particularly expressive ones to come up front and show the rest of the group. As you retell the story, children can show:

- happy faces, as Jesus, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus enjoy each other's company;
- anxious faces as Mary and Martha watch Lazarus' illness become worse;
- watching faces, as the sisters hope Jesus will come;
- sad faces when Lazarus died;
- a commanding, "in-charge" face when Jesus ordered Lazarus to come out;
- surprised, "I-can't-believe-it" faces when Lazarus came out;
- joyful faces of the sisters when they had Lazarus back again.

B. This is the last story in John's gospel about Jesus' miracles. This would be a good time to review the miracle stories, so a list of questions about all the stories is included. Here is a suggestion for a review game. Children line up, with one child as leader. The leader answers the first question. If he is correct, the whole line takes one giant step forward. The leader then goes to the end of the line to give the next person a chance to answer a question. If his answer is correct, the whole line takes another giant step forward. The goal is to see how far around the room the line can get by answering questions. Attached are all the review questions from the stories of Jesus' miracles. Choose questions from the list for this game.

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

1. What is the difference between a trick and a miracle? (A trick just *looks* like someone has done something amazing, but he really did not. A miracle is something amazing that an ordinary person could not do.)
2. Jesus did one of His miracles at a party. What kind of party was it? (A wedding.)
3. Who was helping to serve food at the wedding? (Jesus' mother.)
4. What problem came up at the wedding? (They ran out of wine.)
5. Who told Jesus about the problem? (Jesus' mother.)
6. What did Jesus tell the servants to do? (Fill six big water pots with water.)
7. What happened when the man in charge of the refreshments tasted the water that had come from the big water pots? (It had changed into wine.)
8. Was this a miracle or a trick? (A miracle.)
9. Why could Jesus do miracles? (Because He is the Son of God.)
10. Why did Jesus change the water into wine? (So His disciples would believe in Him.)

Jesus Heals a Man's Son

1. One time a man came to Jesus from another town. He wanted Jesus to go back with him to heal his son, because his son was about to die. Did Jesus go? (No.)
2. What *did* Jesus do? (He healed him from there.)
3. Servants came to meet the man as he hurried home. What did they tell him? (Your son is well.)
4. When did the fever leave the boy and he began to get well? (At exactly the time Jesus said he would be well.)
5. What did the father and his family do because of this miracle? (They believed in Jesus.)

Jesus Heals a Man Sick for 38 Years

1. One of our stories was about a man who had been sick for 38 years. What could the man in the story not do because of his sickness? (He could not get out of bed by himself.)
2. Where did the man have people carry him? (To the side of the pool.)
3. Who saw him there one day? (Jesus.)
4. What did Jesus tell the man to do? (Get up, pick up his mat, and walk.)
5. What day was it when this happened? (It was the Sabbath.)
6. What made the Jewish leaders angry at the man who had been healed? (He was carrying his mat on the Sabbath.)
7. What made the Jewish leaders angry at Jesus? (He had healed someone on the Sabbath.)
8. Who did Jesus say was His Father? (God.)
9. Did the Jewish leaders believe that Jesus was the Son of God? (No.)
10. Why should the Jewish leaders have believed that Jesus was the Son of God? (Because of His miracles, or because of the amazing things He could do.)
11. Why did John write about Jesus' miracles? (So people who read about them would know that Jesus was the Son of God.)

Jesus Feeds 5000

1. Jesus did one of His miracles on a day when a large crowd of people had come to hear Him. What had almost everyone in the crowd failed to bring with them? (Food.)
2. Who had brought a lunch? (A little boy.)
3. What was in the little boy's lunch? (Two small fish and five small loaves of bread.)
4. What did Jesus do with the boy's lunch? (He tore it in pieces and had His disciples pass it out to the crowd.)
5. Was there enough food for everyone? (Yes.)
6. How much was leftover? (Enough to fill twelve baskets.)
7. Why does your body need bread? (To stay alive.)
8. What do you have besides a body? (A spirit.)
9. Are people born spiritually alive or spiritually dead? (Spiritually dead.)
10. Who is the only One who can make people spiritually alive so they can know and love and please God? (Jesus.)
11. What did Jesus say He is? (The bread of life.)

Jesus Walks on Water

1. Jesus did one of His miracles out on a lake. His disciples were going to cross the lake to the other side. How were they going to get across the lake? (In a boat.)
2. What time of the day was it when Jesus' disciples got into the boat and started across the lake? (Evening; it had just become dark.)
3. What happened to the weather while the disciples were crossing the lake in their boat? (A strong wind began to blow.)
4. Why was the strong wind a problem for the disciples? (It made it hard to row the boat to where they wanted to go.)
5. What did the disciples see out on the water that was unusual? (Someone walking on the water.)
6. How did the disciples first feel when they saw someone walking on top of the water? (They were afraid.)
7. Who was it that was walking on the water? (Jesus.)
8. How did the disciples find out that it was Jesus who was walking on the water? (He spoke to them.)
9. What did Jesus say to the disciples? (It is I; don't be afraid.)
10. Then what did Jesus do? (He got into the boat.)
11. What happened as soon as Jesus got into the boat? (The boat reached the place where the disciples were trying to go.)
12. Why could Jesus walk on water when no one else can? (Because He is God.)
13. Why could Jesus make the wind and the waves obey Him? (Because He is God.)

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

1. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Did everyone believe Him when He said

- that? (No.)
2. What did Jesus do to show that He is the light of the world? (He healed a blind man.)
 3. How long had the man been blind? (From the time he was born.)
 4. What did Jesus do to heal the man? (He spit in the dirt, made mud, and put it on his eyes. Then he told him to go wash it off.)
 5. What happened when the man washed off the mud? (He could see.)
 6. What makes our minds blind? (Sin.)
 7. When our minds are blind because of sin, we don't understand God's truth. How did the Pharisees in the story show that their minds were blind? (They did not believe Jesus had come from God, even though He could do miracles.)
 8. How did the man show that Jesus had made *his* mind able to see? (He believed in Jesus.)
 9. What can Jesus do for people whose minds are blind? (He can make them able to see and understand God's truth.)