



CHILDREN'S CHURCH
MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - SPRING QUARTER

LESSONS 1 - 4*

(*Lesson 4 is part of the unit only if Easter lessons follow)

THEME: Lessons from the life of Jesus – His miracles

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Romans 9:5b "Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever!
Amen"

HYMN

Doxology

CHORUS

Great is the Lord

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

God is So Good

I Will Sing Unto the Lord

I am the Light of the World

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Lesson 1

Title: Jesus Heals a Leper
Text: Mark 1:40-45
Theme: The Lord Jesus has power over all things, including disease. He is loving and compassionate, even toward those with whom others are unwilling to be involved.

Memory Verse: *Romans 9:5b Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever!
Amen.* International Children's Bible

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

1. Praise Jesus for having all power over all things.
2. Praise Jesus for His great love and compassion.
3. Trust Jesus to love him and care for him.

1. Teacher Direction

Mark's gospel addresses the question of "Who is Jesus?" Throughout Mark's account, Jewish leaders, common people, followers and relatives of Jesus wrestle with this question and offer various answers. In the very first verse of his gospel, Mark makes clear his own answer to the question by announcing that this is the gospel "about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The miracles Mark describes, one right after another, provide overwhelming evidence that Jesus has power over all things, and so is the Son of God and Lord of all. The four miracles we will look at in this lesson and in the next three demonstrate Christ's power over disease, nature, blindness, and demons.

2. Bible Story

The Bible tells us about a man who had leprosy. In Bible times, leprosy may have been the worst disease you could have. For one thing, no one knew how to cure it. Once you found out you had leprosy, you knew it would get worse and worse. It would never go away and no doctor would be able to help you. Leprosy was not only uncomfortable, it also was very ugly. It caused big ugly sore patches on the skin all over your body. It made your fingers and toes ugly and made them so you could not use them very well. But probably the worst thing about leprosy was that, if you had it, you were not allowed to be around people who did not have it. Lepers lived off by themselves, with other lepers. They could not live at home with their families. They were not even allowed to visit their friends and families. If people with leprosy were walking down the road and they saw healthy people coming, they had to shout, "Unclean! Unclean!" This warned the healthy people that there were lepers ahead and they should stay away. To be a leper in Jesus' day was to be not

only sick and in pain, but also poor because you could not work. To be a leper was also to be very lonely.

The man in our story had probably given up all hope of ever being well and happy again. He had given up hope of ever being with his family and friends. He had given up hope of anyone helping him or loving him or even giving him a friendly hug. No one would touch him; no one would even come near him. He had leprosy.

So he had given up hope--until the day he heard about Jesus. People said that Jesus could heal anyone. He had healed lame people and blind people and deaf people--maybe Jesus could heal leprosy! At first, the man with leprosy may not have thought Jesus could help him. However, as the leper kept hearing stories about Jesus' miracles and the people He had healed, finally, he would have felt sure that Jesus could heal *his* leprosy.

But just because Jesus *could* heal his leprosy did not mean Jesus would *want* to heal him. Remember, for years this man had lived away from people and everyone had run away from him when he came near. No one ever touched him; no one even wanted to get near him. Maybe Jesus would be like that, too. Maybe He would not want to help the leper; maybe Jesus would be unhappy if he came too close.

So when the leper heard that Jesus was in his town, he was excited--but he was also afraid. He wanted to go to Jesus, because he knew Jesus could help him. But he was afraid to go to Jesus, because maybe Jesus would not want to help. Still, he had to know. It was his only chance. So the leper went to Jesus. When he came near him, he fell on his knees and begged Jesus: "If you want to," he said, "you can make me clean." (To be "clean" if you were a leper meant the leprosy was completely gone.)

The Bible tells us that when Jesus saw this man, He was filled with compassion. He felt sorry for him and He loved him and wanted to help him. "I *do* want to," Jesus said, and then He did something no one had done to the man in a long, long time. Jesus reached out His hand and *touched* the leper. Many times Jesus healed people by just saying something. This time, he touched the man He was healing. Jesus wanted the man to know that He not only had the power to heal him, but also that He loved him and wanted to help him. So Jesus touched the leper as He said, "Be clean." Immediately, the leprosy left the man and he was completely well!

The man was overjoyed. He was healed--*and* Jesus loved him. The man who *used to* be a leper hurried away to find his friends and family.

3. Application

Help the children to see that Jesus loves us even when we are the least lovely. We may not have leprosy that makes our skin ugly, but we all have sin that makes our hearts ugly. Even so, Jesus will reach out in love to cleanse our hearts when we cry out to Him for healing. He has the power to change our hearts and make them clean so we can go on to live our lives for Him. Lead the children in thanking Jesus for these things and for His

power over all things, even disease and sinful hearts. Encourage them to trust Jesus to love and care for them always.

4. Review Questions

- A. What was the name of the man's disease? (Leprosy)
- B. Why were people with leprosy often lonely? (Because they could not be around people who were well.)
- C. What did lepers have to shout when well people were coming their way? ("Unclean!")
- D. Once the man with leprosy believed Jesus had the power to heal him, what did he still worry about? (Whether or not Jesus would want to heal him.)
- E. The man said, "If you want to, you can heal me." What did Jesus answer? ("I do want to.")
- F. What did Jesus do when He healed the leper that no one had done for a long time? (Jesus touched the man.)
- G. How soon did the man's leprosy go away? (Right away.)
- H. Who has power over leprosy and all sickness? (Jesus)
- I. Who has power over all things? (Jesus)
- J. Say the memory verse. (Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever. Amen! Romans 9:5b)

5. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Cut two little stick men from construction paper, one to represent the leper and one to represent Jesus. Each time a child answers a review question correctly, move the leper closer to Jesus until he finally arrives where Jesus is.
- B. Give each child a piece of construction paper on which the memory verse has been written and with space for gluing pictures. Bring old magazines from home and allow children to choose pictures showing some of the things Christ rules over. To illustrate the memory verse, have the children cut or tear out the pictures and glue them to their papers. Another variation of this activity would be to make one large class collage instead of individual ones for each child.

CHRIST IS GOD OVER ALL.

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PRAISE HIM FOREVER! AMEN.

ROMANS 9:5B

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Lesson 2

Title: Jesus Walks on Water and Calms the Wind
Text: Mark 6:45-52
Theme: As the Son of God, Jesus has power over the wind, the water, and all of nature.

Memory Verse: *Romans 9:5b Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever. Amen!*
International Children's Bible

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

1. Know that Jesus is Lord over all things, including weather and storm.
2. Trust Jesus to protect and care for him.

1. Teacher Direction

This is another of the stories Mark recounts in his gospel as evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was truly the Son of God. In this story, we see Jesus' complete command over nature when He walks on water as well as when the wind is stilled.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring a large basin or a baby bathtub from home. Fill it with water and have a variety of objects to place on top of the water to see whether or not they float. Discuss with the children what kinds of shapes and materials float best. Ask them why some things will float on water but others will not. Help them recognize that God has given laws for all He made. He has given laws for water, about what will float on it and what will sink in it. Ask them to tell you which of the following things they can stand on without sinking or falling: land, air, deep mud, rock, water. Again ask them why this is so. Why can you stand on land but not in the air? Why do you sink into water but you don't sink into rock? God's laws for the things He made cannot be broken. When someone designs a big boat that will float on water or a large airplane that will fly in the air, they must think of God's laws and work with them, or they cannot make it work. Who would be the only One who *could* break God's laws for air or water or land? (God Himself.)

3. Bible Story

It had been a long day. Jesus and His disciples had been with a huge crowd of people all day. Jesus had taught the people until late in the day. Now it was almost evening. Jesus told His disciples to get into their boat to go across the lake to the other side, to the town where they would stay. Jesus Himself did not get into the boat. He stayed behind and went up on the hill by the lake to pray.

The disciples may have wondered how Jesus would cross the lake. But they did what He said, got into the boat, and started to row across. By the time they were in the very middle of the lake, it was becoming difficult to see because the sun had gone down and it was getting dark. The disciples should have been closer to land by now, but the wind was blowing hard against them. They worked and worked with the oars, rowing to make the boat take them where they wanted to go, but they seemed to be getting nowhere. As they worked, it grew darker and darker. They were working so hard that none of them noticed that Jesus was coming across the lake toward them.

Finally, someone looked up and saw Him. “Look,” he cried to all the others. All the disciples looked up and peered through the darkness. There was someone walking--yes, *walking*--on the water. He was not wading in the water, or swimming in it, but walking right across the top of it, so that only His feet were getting wet. How could that be? All the disciples saw Jesus, but they all thought what they were seeing was a ghost. Anyone with a real body would sink if he tried to walk on top of water. A ghost would not have a body. So the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost and they were afraid, so afraid that they screamed.

Of course, Jesus did not want them to be afraid. Right away, He called to them, “Take courage. It is I! Don’t be afraid.” Then Jesus walked up to the boat--still *on* the water--and climbed into it with them. As soon as Jesus got into the boat, the great wind against which the disciples had been fighting so hard, stopped. The disciples were completely amazed. Not only had Jesus walked on water, He had stopped the wind. Jesus was greater than God’s laws for water. He could control the wind. Who would be the only One who could do that? (God.) The disciples were beginning to understand that this wonderful man who was so good and who could make sick people well was *God*.

4. Application

Lead the children in praising Jesus because He is God and is over all things. Praise Him that He controls everything in the world He made. Encourage the children to trust Jesus when they are afraid (as the disciples were afraid), or when things are hard for them (like rowing across the lake was hard for the disciples). They can trust Him because He has all power.

5. Review questions

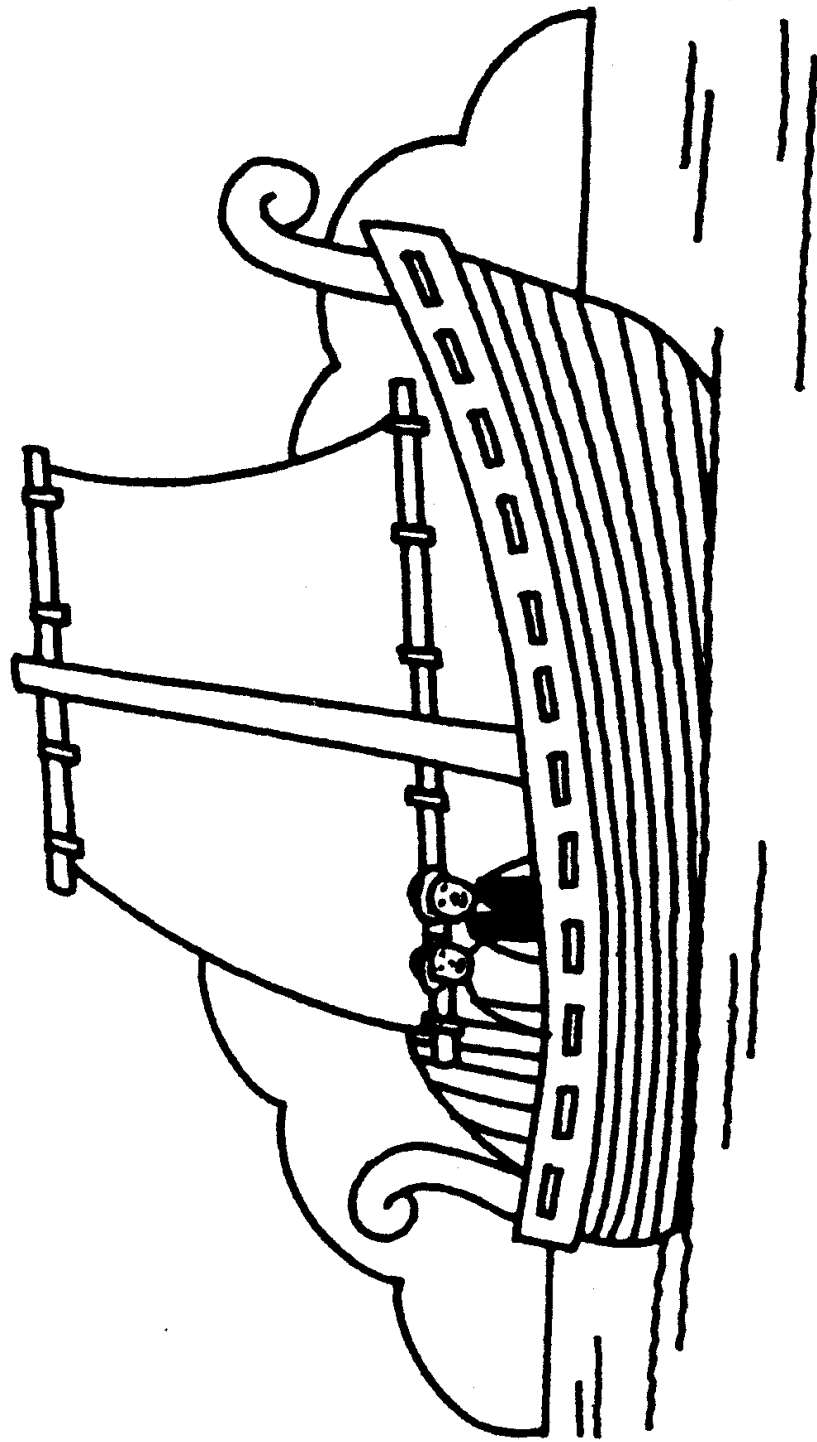
- A. How were the disciples going to get to the town on the other side of the lake? (In their boat.)
- B. Who did not get into the boat with them? (Jesus)
- C. What did Jesus stay behind to do? (Pray.)
- D. Why were the disciples still only as far as the middle of the lake by the time it was getting dark? (Because there was a strong wind they had to row against.)
- E. When the disciples looked up, what did they see that surprised them? (They saw Jesus walking on the water.)

- F. What did the disciples think they were seeing? (A ghost.)
- G. How did the disciples feel? (Afraid.)
- H. What did Jesus tell them? (Don't be afraid; it is I.)
- I. Then what did Jesus do? (He got into the boat.)
- J. What happened to the wind when Jesus got into the boat? (It stopped.)
- K. Why could Jesus walk on water and make the wind stop? (Because He is God.)
- L. What is the memory verse? (Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever! Amen. Romans 9:5b)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Using a small piece of tape, place a boat cut from construction paper on the edge of a lake you have drawn on the chalkboard. Each time a child answers a review question correctly, he may move the boat a little farther across the lake until it reaches the other side.

- B. Give each child a piece of white construction paper and several small pieces of cardboard. Place dabs of paint on the paper. Use colors that could represent the sky and the water in the story. The children are to pull, twist, and turn their pieces of cardboard through the paint to create windswept effects. As they work, remind them that Jesus is Lord of the wind and the sea. Give each child a cut-out copy of the attached boat picture to add to their picture.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Lesson 3

Title: Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Text: Mark 8:22-26

Theme: Jesus has power over blindness and over all things. Jesus is God.

Memory Verse: *Romans 9:5b Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever! Amen.*

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

1. Praise Jesus because He is God and has power over all things.
2. Give thanks that Jesus has given him eyes that can see.
3. Trust in Jesus as the One whose great power and love can provide all he needs.

1. Teacher Direction

This is the third of four lessons in which we focus on Jesus' miracles as evidence that He is the Son of God, because they demonstrate His power. In the two previous stories, we saw Jesus' power over disease and nature. In the miracle in today's story, we see Jesus' ability to give sight to blind eyes.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring old magazines from home and let each child choose and glue pictures to a construction paper background, to form a "Things We Can See" collage. As they work, discuss the importance of eyes, not just for enjoyment, but for the accomplishment of everyday tasks. Try to develop in the children an appreciation for the gift of sight God has given *them*, as well as a sense of wonder for God's design and creation of eyes.

3. Bible Story

Begin by asking the children to name things that are especially enjoyable to look at with their eyes. Then ask them to tell things they think it would be difficult to do if they could not see. **Once there was a man who could not see. That meant he could not enjoy the beauty of a flower or a rainbow or a starry night. He could not look in a mirror to see if his hair and beard were trimmed and neatly combed. He had to be very careful to remember where he set things down, because he was not able to look for things he had misplaced. He could not go out in the vineyards and pick grapes because he could not see where the grape clusters were. He could not drive an ox pulling a plow because he could not see to go in a straight line. He could not cut grain in the field because he could not see what he was supposed to cut. He could not work in a market, because thieves could slip in quietly and walk away with things without paying for them and he would never know. There was no work the blind man could do. The only way he could earn money was by begging.**

The blind man's friends felt very sorry for him. They wished there was something they could do to help him see. Of course, there was nothing they could do about his poor, blind eyes. They could not heal them and make them able to see. No one could. There were no doctors who could make completely blind eyes see. No, the most the blind man's friends could do for their blind friend was to take him where he needed to go and help him do things when they could. They wished they could do more.

Then, one day, the blind man's friends heard that Jesus was coming to their town. Maybe Jesus could help their friend. They had heard that Jesus had done many amazing things no one else was able to do. Jesus had healed a man with leprosy. Jesus had healed a man who could not hear or talk. Surely, if Jesus could do those things, he could heal their blind friend. So when Jesus came to town, the friends took the blind man to Him. They begged Jesus to touch their friend. They were sure that if Jesus only touched him, he would be able to see.

Jesus wanted to go outside of the village, away from so many people, to heal the blind man. So He took him by the hand and led him. Surely, the blind man's friends followed, anxious to see what Jesus would do for him. When they were outside of the village, Jesus put some of His spit on the man's eyes, then lay His hands on them. Then the man opened his eyes, and Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" The man looked around. He looked at his friends. He could see *something*, but he wasn't sure what it was. The blind man answered, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

The friends must have been a little disappointed. Of course, being able to see a little bit was better than nothing, but they must have wished Jesus had healed their friend's eyes completely. Maybe that was the best He could do.

Then Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes again. This time, the man's eyes were perfectly healed and he became able to see everything clearly. Imagine what fun he must have had looking around at everything. Imagine how happy his friends were for him. They were glad they had brought their friend to the only One who could help him, the only One who had power over blindness. They were glad they had brought their friend to Jesus.

4. Application

Lead the children in thanking Jesus for giving *them* eyes that can see and in praising Him for having all power, even over things like blindness. Lead them in praising Him because He is God. Remind them of Jesus' love and of His power over all things and encourage them to always trust Him to give them whatever they need.

5. Review Questions

- A. What kinds of things could the blind man *not* do because he could not see? (Enjoy the things we see with our eyes, look in the mirror to make sure he looked fine, work at a job.)

- B. What could his friends do for him? (Help him do things, take him where he needed to go.)
- C. What could his friends *not* do for him? (Heal his eyes.)
- D. To whom did the friends take the blind man? (To Jesus.)
- E. Could he heal the blind man's eyes? (Yes.) Why? (Because He is God.)
- F. What happened the first time Jesus touched the man's eyes? (He could see, but not clearly; people looked like trees to him.)
- G. What happened the second time Jesus touched the blind man's eyes? (He became able to see perfectly.)
- H. What does Jesus have power over, besides blindness? (Everything.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Play "I Spy" with the children. One person sees something somewhere in the room and says "I spy something _____," telling one thing about what it looks like. People try to guess what it is. If no one guesses, the person says something else about what it looks like. This continues until someone guesses correctly. That person then finds something visible in the room and others try to guess. As the game is played, remind the children often of how valuable our eyes are and how good it is of God to give us eyes that can see.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Lesson 4

Title: Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy
Text: Mark 9:14-27
Theme: Jesus has power over all things, even over demons. Jesus is God.

Memory Verse: *Romans 9:5b Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever! Amen*

Note: You may wish to teach Romans 13:8b if the Easter lessons are taught before this lesson.

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

1. Praise Jesus for His power over all things, even His worst enemies.
2. Praise Jesus for being God.
3. Trust Jesus to be able to protect him when he is afraid.

1. Teacher Direction

Mark wrote his gospel account to answer the question, "Who was Jesus of Nazareth?" Mark's answer was "Jesus is the Son of God," and his gospel piled up evidences for his answer. Mark filled the pages with one story after another of Jesus' power over all things: leprosy, blindness, disease, nature, even death. In this story, Mark shows us Jesus' power even over God's most bitter foes, Satan and his demons.

2. Introduction

Spend some time reviewing the last three stories with the children: the story of the healing of the leper (Mark 1:40-45), the story of Jesus walking on water (Mark 6:47-56), and the story of the healing of the blind man (Mark 8:22-26). Remind them that Jesus' power over these things shows us that Jesus is God. Ask them if they know who is God's worst and most powerful enemy. Tell them that today's story shows us that Jesus has all power, even over that enemy.

3. Bible Story

Long ago, in the Garden of Eden, there were only two people--who were they? (Adam and Eve.) Only two people, but they still had an enemy--do you know who he was? (Satan.) Satan was Adam and Eve's enemy, because he was God's enemy. God had made Satan as a glorious angel, but Satan had turned away from God. Satan had led other angels in turning away from God, too, and these became his demons. As soon as God made people, Satan and his demons became their enemies, too, because God loved these people. Whatever God loved, Satan and his demons hated.

There is a story in the Bible about a man who had a boy he dearly loved. The father was sad, though, because there was a demon who had been troubling his boy

ever since the boy was very little. The demon would make the boy fall on the ground and roll around, sometimes hurting himself. The demon would not let the boy talk. The father was very upset about this, but there was nothing he could do. He was not as strong as a demon. He could not help. There were no doctors who could help his son, because his son really wasn't sick. The priests had not been able to help his son. What could the poor father do?

Then, one day, the father heard of Jesus. Jesus had been traveling from town to town, healing hopelessly sick people. He had made blind eyes see and deaf ears hear. He had even been known to help people who were troubled by demons, like the boy. So, the father set out to take his son to Jesus. When they came to the place where Jesus had been, He was no longer there! The people told the man that Jesus had gone up on a nearby mountain, with some of His disciples. The father was so disappointed; now who would help his boy?

"Not all of Jesus' disciples went with Him," people told the father. "Maybe the disciples that are still here could help your son." The father took his son to the disciples, asking them to help his son and make the demon go away. He quickly saw, however, that the disciples could do nothing to help.

Just as the father was about to give up, he heard noise, and, looking around, he saw people coming. "It's Jesus," someone said. "He's coming back." When Jesus had come near, the father stepped forward.

"Teacher," the father said to Jesus. "I brought You my son, who is troubled by a demon that won't let him speak. Whenever the demon troubles him, my poor boy falls to the ground and becomes very stiff and still. I asked Your disciples to make the demon go away, but they could not."

Jesus asked the father to bring his son to Him. The father did so. When the demon saw Jesus, it knew who He was. It made the boy fall on the ground and roll around. "How long has your son been like this?" Jesus asked the father.

"Ever since he was a little child," he answered. "Sometimes he falls into the fire or into the water. He could be hurt, or even killed. If You can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"If You can?" Jesus said. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

"I do believe!" the father answered. "Help me believe in You even more."

Then Jesus told the demon to leave the boy alone. "I command you, "Jesus told the demon. "Leave this boy and never trouble him again."

The demon did not like that! It made the boy scream, then it made him shake all over---but the demon left, just as Jesus had said it must. The boy lay so still then, that people thought he had died. But Jesus leaned down and took the boy's hand, and helped pull him to his feet. The boy stood up, and went to his father. His father was overjoyed. All their troubles with the demon were over forever. Jesus had said so, and Jesus has power even over demons. Jesus is truly the Son of God.

4. Application

Encourage the children to praise Jesus, who is God and has power over all things. Ask them if they think the boy or his father were frightened when the demon bothered the

boy. Ask them what kinds of things make them frightened. Encourage them to remember that Jesus has all power, even over His strongest enemies and even over the things that frighten us the most. Lead them in asking Jesus to help them remember His great power the next time they feel afraid.

5. Review Questions

- A. Who is God's worst and strongest enemy? (Satan)
- B. Who are Satan's helpers? (The demons)
- C. What was troubling the boy in the story? (A demon)
- D. What kinds of things did the demon do to trouble the boy? (Made him fall on the ground, sometimes in the fire or in the water; would not let him speak.)
- E. Where did the boy's father take him? (To Jesus.)
- F. Were Jesus' disciples able to help the boy? (No.)
- G. What did the Jesus tell the demon? (To leave the boy and never bother him again.)
- H. Did the demon obey? (Yes)
- I. Does Jesus have power even over Satan and the demons? (Yes.) Why? (Because He is God.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Make copies of the attached page with four pictures on it (Page A), and cut out all four pictures for each child. Have them glue each picture to Page B, as illustrations of the verse written at the top. ("Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever! Amen.") The children may also color the pictures.
- B. Play a Review Game to review the last four lessons. (It is an adaptation of "Mother, May I?") Have the children stand side by side, facing you, in a line across the room. Their goal is to get to where you are. Each time a child answers a question correctly, you will tell them how many steps and what kind of steps they may take toward you. (Two baby steps, one giant step, one ordinary step, etc.) Use the questions below, taken from the last three lessons, as well as the review questions from this lesson.

Lesson 3 questions

- A. We had a story about a blind man. What kinds of things could the blind man *not* do because he could not see? (Enjoy the things we see with our eyes, look in the mirror to make sure he looked fine, work at a job.)
- B. What could his friends do for him? (Help him do things, take him where he needed to go.)
- C. What could his friends *not* do for him? (Heal his eyes.)
- D. To whom did the friends take the blind man? (To Jesus.)
- E. Could he heal the blind man's eyes? (Yes.) Why? (Because He is God.)
- F. What happened the first time Jesus touched the man's eyes? (He could see, but not clearly; people looked like trees to him.)
- G. What happened the second time Jesus touched the blind man's eyes? (He became able to see perfectly.)

Lesson 2 questions

- A. We had a story in which Jesus had His disciples get into a boat to cross a lake. Did Jesus get into the boat with them? (No)
- B. What did Jesus stay behind to do? (Pray.)
- C. Why did the disciples have a hard time rowing, so they could not get very far? (Because there was a strong wind they had to row against.)

- D. When the disciples looked up, what did they see that surprised them? (They saw Jesus walking on the water.)
- E. What did the disciples think they were seeing? (A ghost.)
- F. How did the disciples feel? (Afraid.)
- G. What did Jesus tell them? (Don't be afraid; it is I.)
- H. Then what did Jesus do? (He got into the boat.)
- I. What happened to the wind when Jesus got into the boat? (It stopped.)
- J. Why could Jesus walk on water and make the wind stop? (Because He is God.)
- K. What is the memory verse? (Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever! Amen. Romans 9:5b)

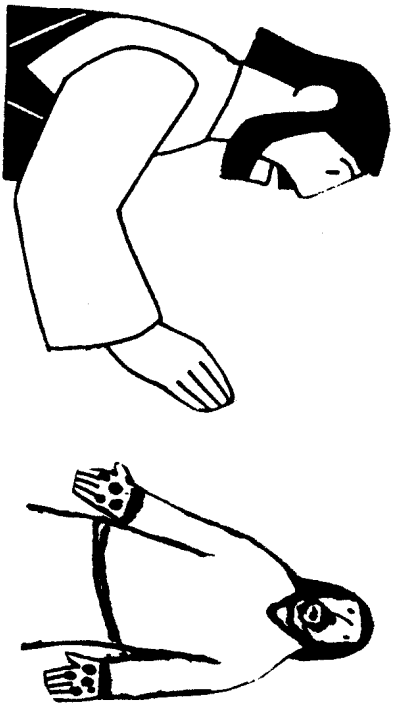
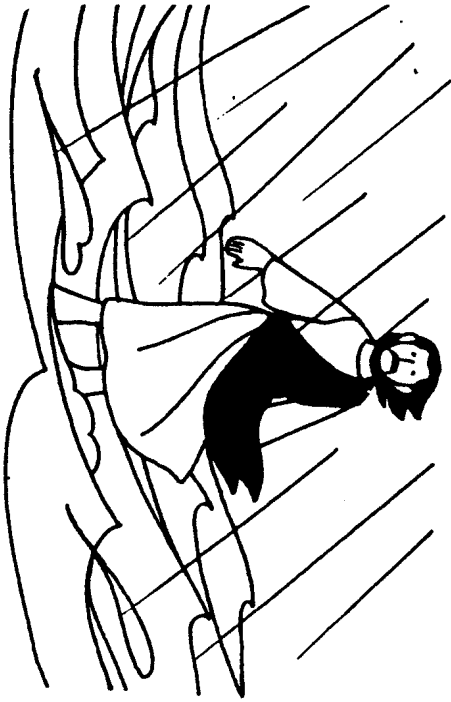
Lesson 1 questions

- A. We had a story about a man with leprosy. Why were people with leprosy often lonely? (Because they could not be around people who were well.)
- B. Why did lepers have to shout "Unclean" when well people were coming their way? (To warn others to stay away from them.)
- D. Once the man with leprosy believed Jesus had the power to heal him, what did he still worry about? (Whether or not Jesus would want to heal him.)
- E. The man said, "If you want to, you can heal me." What did Jesus answer? ("I do want to.")
- F. What did Jesus do when He healed the leper that no one had done for a long time? (Jesus touched the man.)
- G. How soon did the man's leprosy go away? (Right away.)
- H. Who has power over leprosy and all sickness? (Jesus)
- I. Who has power over all things? (Jesus)
- J. Say the memory verse. (Christ is God over all. Praise Him forever. Amen! Romans 9:5b)

Christ is God over all.

Praise Him forever! Amen.

Romans 9:5b





CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - SPRING QUARTER

LESSONS 4*- 6

(*Lesson 4 is part of this unit if taught after Easter Lessons)

THEME: Lessons from the life of Jesus – His miracles

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Romans 13:8b "The person who loves others has obeyed all the law."

HYMN

Doxology

CHORUS

Great is the Lord

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

God is So Good

I Will Sing Unto the Lord

I am the Light of the World

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Lesson 5

Title: Jesus Heals a Sick Man
Text: Luke 14:1-6
Theme: Jesus shows us the intent of God's law: to guide us in showing love for God and for others.

Memory Verse: *Romans 13:8b* *The person who loves others has obeyed all the law.* International Children's Bible

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

1. Understand that he or she is a sinner who breaks the laws God gave us.
2. Understand that Jesus shows us how God wants us to keep His laws.
3. Trust in Jesus as the One who makes us able to keep God's laws and who forgives our failures to do so.

1. Teacher Direction

We are beginning a series of lessons on Jesus' miracles. Two of the miracle stories involve Sabbath healings which angered the Pharisees because they incorrectly saw the healings as violations of God's command to honor the Sabbath. Our sinfulness is such that, like the Pharisees, we even corrupt God's law in the way we use it. As the Word of God, Jesus shows us the *intent* of God's law, *and* demonstrates perfect obedience to it. In addition, as our Easter emphasis will remind us, Jesus died so our failures to keep God's requirements could be forgiven, and rose to give us power to obey.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Ahead of time, make a copy of the attached Ten Commandment page for each child, and cut out the Ten Commandments. Bring glue and assorted colors of construction paper. First, show one of the Ten Commandment pages to the children and ask them if they know what it is. Ask if anyone knows any of the Ten Commandments. Explain to the children that Jesus said one way to be sure you are keeping all ten of the commandments is by doing these two things: loving God and loving your neighbor. Read through the shortened version of the ten commandments on the page, asking the children, on each commandment, if this one tells of a way to show love to God or to a neighbor. (Of course, we show love to God *by* showing love to our neighbors, but, traditionally, the first four commandments are considered to deal especially with love for God and the last six with showing love to your neighbor.) Allow each child to choose a piece of colored construction paper. Cut it into a large heart for him, then have him glue

a copy of the Ten Commandments to the heart, to show that they are summed up in love for God and for others.

3. Bible Story

One of the Ten Commandments tells us to honor the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day was the seventh day of the week. The Bible tells us that God created the world in six days. Do you remember what *God* did on the seventh day, after He had created everything? (He rested.) God told His people in the Old Testament that the seventh day was special. They were to rest from their work on that day, too, as He had done. Instead of doing their usual work of plowing fields or picking grapes on the Sabbath, they were to set aside the day to worship God. In Jesus' time, God's people would gather at the synagogue to listen to God's word. They would hear someone read it and talk about it, and they would pray together.

One Sabbath, when the meeting was over, a Pharisee invited Jesus to come to his home for dinner. Pharisees were people who tried very hard to make sure they never disobeyed any of God's laws. In fact, they were so careful that they even made up extra laws to help them obey God's laws. Sometimes, they became confused about which laws were God's and which ones laws they had made up. Sometimes, they failed to do what *God* wanted them to do because they were so busy keeping the laws they had made up. The Pharisees had many laws about the Sabbath. All *God* had said was that His people were not to do their regular work on that day, but to spend the day specially honoring Him. The Pharisees had made up many other Sabbath rules, like how far you could travel, how heavy something could be if you were going to pick it up, how many steps you were allowed to take, and so on.

On this Sabbath day, when Jesus went to the Pharisee's house, He saw another one of the guests, a man who had been sick for a long time. This man had a disease called dropsy. Dropsy caused one to become swollen and puffy and was very uncomfortable. Jesus knew the Pharisees were watching Him carefully to see what He would do, since it was the Sabbath. Jesus asked the Pharisees, "Are you keeping God's law if you heal someone on the Sabbath?" The Pharisees did not answer. To them, healing someone would be *breaking* God's law, because it would be work. Jesus knew, though, that it would really be *keeping* God's law, because loving someone and healing him honors God, and that is what the Sabbath was for. So Jesus healed the sick man. He showed the Pharisees what God really wanted when He gave a law about the Sabbath. He wanted us to use the Sabbath to show love to Him and to others.

Then Jesus asked the people watching Him what they would do if their cow or their child fell into a well on the Sabbath. In those days, people got their water by pulling it up from holes in the ground, or wells. If the well had no wall around it, an animal or a child could fall into it. What would you do if that happened on the Sabbath day? Jesus asked the people. Of course, they wouldn't say, "Oh, we can't work today. It's the Sabbath." They wouldn't leave the animal or the child in the well until the next day before they helped him get out of it. That would be mean! No, right away, they would hurry to pull their child or their cow out of the well.

Jesus wanted them to see that, even though God's law said not to work on the Sabbath, doing something loving for someone who needed it was not breaking the law.

Sometimes, we're like the Pharisees. God has given us His law to show us how to live for Him. Because we're sinful, we look for ways other people are breaking God's law, instead of letting that law show *us* how to love God and others as we should.

Jesus came to do three things for us. First, He showed us how to obey God's law by obeying it Himself. Then He died to pay for the times we have broken God's law and have not loved God and others. Third, He rose from the dead and is alive now to help us obey God's law and love God and others.

4. Application

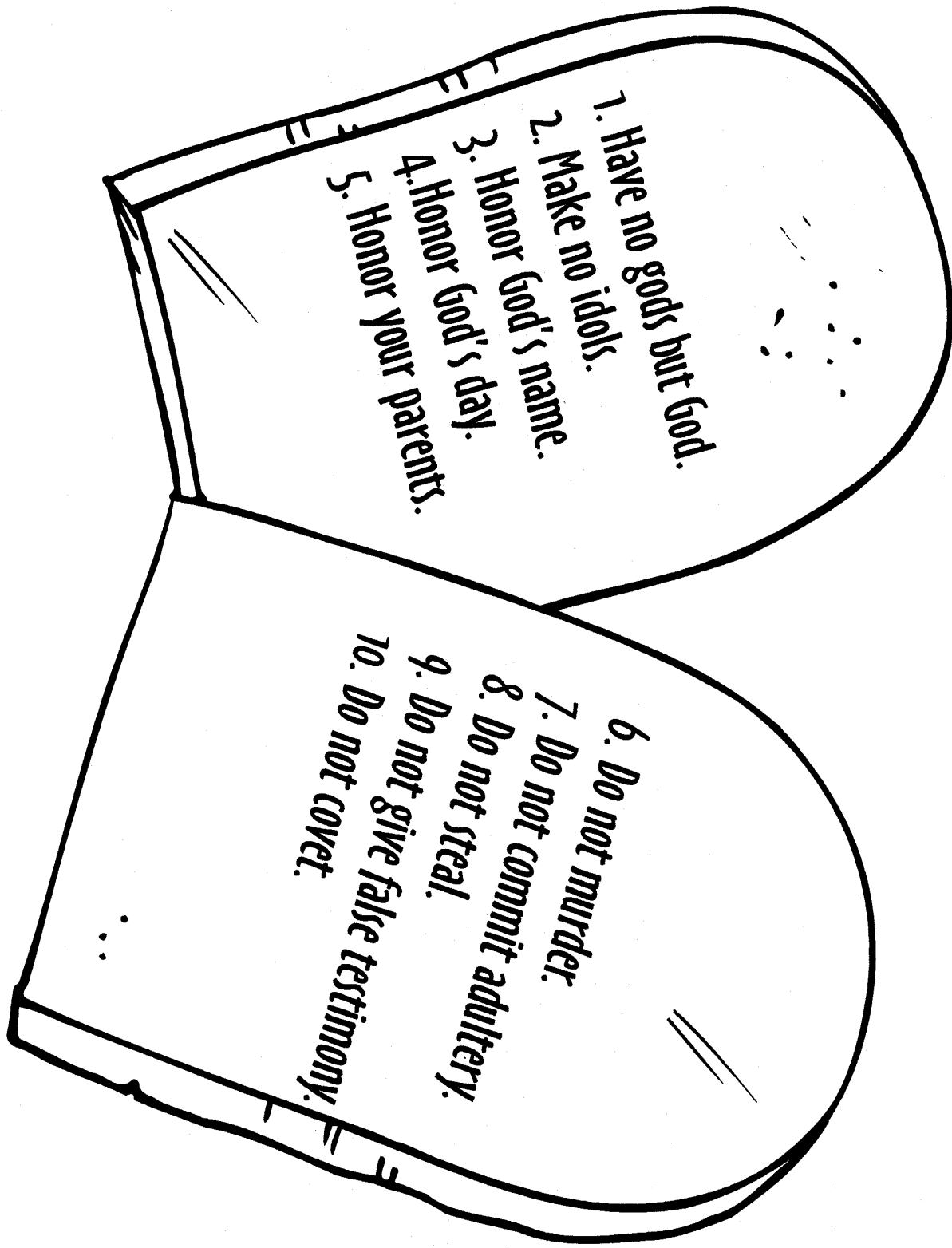
Remind the children of the times they point out what others are doing wrong. Help them to see that God wants us to look at our own attitudes and actions to see if *we* are loving the way He wants us to love. Encourage them to admit to God that they do not always keep His laws. Encourage them to put their trust in Jesus as the One who died so they could be forgiven and who lives so they can have the power to love and to obey.

5. Review Questions

- A. What day was it when Jesus went to the Pharisee's house for dinner? (The Sabbath)
- B. What did the Ten Commandments say God's people were not to do on the Sabbath? (Their work.)
- C. Whom did Jesus see at the Pharisee's house? (A sick man.)
- D. Why were the Pharisees watching Jesus? (To see if He would heal the man.)
- E. Why did the Pharisees think it was wrong to heal a man on the Sabbath? (Because it would be working.)
- F. What did Jesus do? (He healed the man.)
- G. Jesus said if the Pharisees had a cow or a child who fell into a well on the Sabbath, they would pull him out. This would be the loving thing to do. Why was it okay to heal a man on the Sabbath? (Because it is the loving thing to do.)
- H. How could you say all ten of the Commandments in a short way? (Love God and love others.)

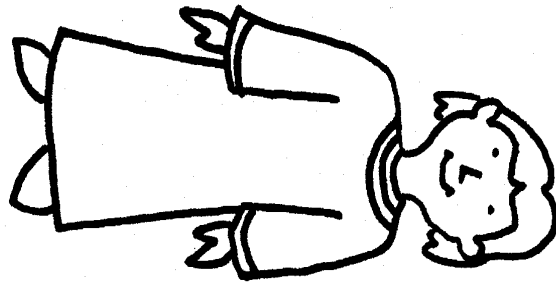
6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make enough copies of the attached page for all the children and cut out the little child. The children will color the child (and the well, if they like). Cut a wide slit where it is marked on the inside of the well. With tape, attach a piece of thread or string to the child so he can be placed down inside the well, then pulled back out again. As the children make and use their craft, remind them that it is always honoring to God to love others by helping them when they have needs.

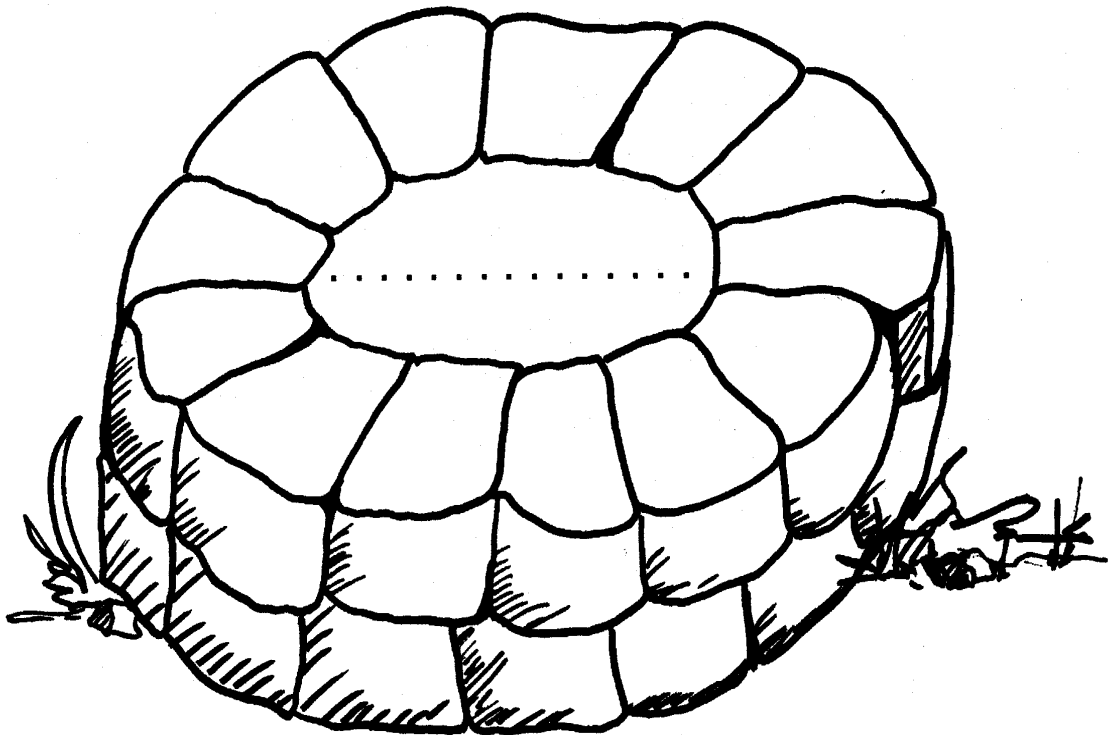


1. Have no gods but God.
2. Make no idols.
3. Honor God's name.
4. Honor God's day.
5. Honor your parents.

6. Do not murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not give false testimony.
10. Do not covet.



Cut across dotted lines.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Lesson 6

Title: Jesus Heals a Withered Hand
Text: Mark 3:1-6
Theme: Jesus treats people with love and compassion, showing us the true intent of the law of God.

Memory Verse: *Romans 13:8b* The person who loves others has obeyed all the law. International Children's Version

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

1. Give thanks to Jesus for His love and compassion that provide for all the needs of His people.
2. Desire to show the love and compassion to others that Jesus has shown to them.

1. Teacher Direction:

Watching Jesus interact with His disciples--and with us--we see that Jesus is the epitome of patience. Yet in this story, we see Jesus react with anger to the attitudes of His contemporaries. Our Scripture for this lesson says that He was "distressed by their stubborn hearts." God gave His law to guide us in love toward Himself and toward others, but these people were misusing God's law to condemn Jesus for meeting someone's need. For this reason Jesus was distressed about them.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Give children a number of everyday tasks to do, but tell them they must use only one hand. Tasks could include: buttoning a button, taking off and putting on a sock and/or a shoe, picking up and carrying several different items at once, writing letters on a piece of paper, etc. Point out how good God was to give them two healthy hands so they can do the things they need to do. Tell them that today's story is about a man who only had one healthy hand and could not use his other hand.

3. Bible Story

Do you remember the commandment in the Ten Commandments that is about the Sabbath? It says not to do any work on the Sabbath, but to keep it holy--to set it aside as a special day to honor God. When Jesus was on earth, people used the Sabbath as a day to go to the synagogue. That was something like going to church. At the synagogue, someone read to the people from God's word and then talked about what it said.

One Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue. Among the many people who had come to the synagogue that day was a man with a shriveled hand. Maybe he had been in some kind of accident, or maybe he had been born with a shriveled

hand. At any rate the hand was much smaller than his other, healthy hand, and it was curled up. He could not hold things with this hand or use it for very many things.

Other people were at the synagogue, too. Some of the other people were people who did not like Jesus. They wished He would do something wrong so they could complain about it to others. On this day, they were watching Jesus closely to see what He would do about the man's shriveled hand. Would He heal it? If He did, they could say Jesus was breaking one of the Ten Commandments, because they incorrectly thought that healing a hand on the Sabbath would be working on the Sabbath.

Jesus knew they were watching Him. He told the man with the shriveled hand to stand up where everyone could see. Then He asked the people who were watching, "Would God's law have you do good on the Sabbath, or do evil?" He wanted them to see that if He healed the man, it would be a loving thing to do, and would be honoring to God. These people though, who were watching Him in order to complain about Him, were doing what was evil on the Sabbath. The people did not answer Jesus.

The Bible tells us that Jesus looked around at them in anger. He was troubled that their hearts were so stubborn. They would not understand that God's law was given to help us love others. They stubbornly continued to believe that it would be wrong of Jesus to show love, if it meant doing something on the Sabbath.

Jesus told the man to stretch out his shriveled hand. He stretched it out, and, right away, it was completely well. Jesus had used the Sabbath in a way that honored God and God's law. He had met someone's need. He had shown God's love to someone.

4. Application

Lead the children in thanking God for the many ways He has shown love to them. He has given them healthy hands and bodies, families, houses, a beautiful world to live in. He died on the cross to pay for their sins so they could be right with God. He lives to give them what they need so they can live for God. Encourage them to use for Jesus what He has given them. Encourage them to ask Jesus to help them show love and meet the needs of others, as He did.

5. Review Questions

- A. What was wrong with the man at the synagogue? (His hand was shriveled. It was smaller than the other one and could not do as much.)
- B. Why did some people think Jesus should not heal the hand? (Because it was the Sabbath day and healing it would be working.)

- C. Those people were watching Jesus because they wanted to catch Him doing something wrong. Was that a good thing to do on the Sabbath or a bad thing? (A bad thing.)
- D. Is healing someone on the Sabbath a loving thing to do? (Yes.)
- E. What is God's law supposed to help us show to people? (Love.)
- F. What did Jesus do about the man's hand? (He healed it.)
- G. How did Jesus feel about the people who didn't want the man to be healed? (Angry or troubled.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Remind the children that Jesus has done many loving things for them, including giving them two good hands to use. He wants us to use those hands to show His love to other people. Hold up construction paper cut in the shapes listed below. As you hold up each one, let the children tell you something they could do with that thing, with their hands, that would show love to someone else. Shapes could include: a door, a dish, a pet, a toy, a trash can, a flower, a child, a crayon, etc.

B. Using tempera paint in a shallow pan and construction paper, have the children make prints of their hands to remind them to use the hands God gave them to show His love to others. Encourage them to thank God for giving them hand(s) that do so many wonderful things.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - SPRING QUARTER

LESSONS 7 - 10

THEME: Jesus teaches about what it means to follow Him

MEMORY VERSE SONG

John 8:31 "Jesus said, 'If you continue to obey My teaching, you are truly My followers.'"

HYMN

Doxology

CHORUS

Great is the Lord

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

God is So Good

I Will Sing Unto the Lord

I am the Light of the World

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2 SPRING**

Lesson 7

Title: Jesus Calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John
Text: Matthew 4:18-22
Theme: When we follow Jesus, the things that are important to Him will be important to us.

Memory Verse: *John 8:31* "Jesus said . . . , 'If you continue to obey My teaching, you are truly My followers.'" (*International Children's Bible*)

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

1. Understand that Jesus calls people to follow Him.
2. Realize that following Jesus means being concerned about the things that are important to Jesus.
3. Ask Jesus to help him to follow Jesus and to help him care about the things that are important to Jesus.

1. Teacher Direction:

"Trust and obey," the old hymn admonishes. Obedience is often a matter of trust. If I do whatever it is that Jesus calls me to do, or if I obey that particular command, what will be the consequences? What will happen to this or that important concern or important person? Peter and his fishermen friends could have wondered how they would live and provide for their families if they gave up fishing to obey Jesus' command, "Follow Me." Fishing for men is certainly a worthwhile pursuit, but could it pay the bills? Part of following Jesus is trusting Him enough to obey when you are not sure of the consequences. Following Jesus means caring the most about the things that matter to Jesus.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Cut some sponges into fish shapes of different sizes and let the children sponge paint an underwater fish scene. You could also provide pieces of net (like the sacks potatoes come in) to glue over the painted fish as you explain how fish were caught in New Testament times.

3. Bible Story

Peter and Andrew were the best of friends. They were brothers, so they had grown up and played together. Their father was a fisherman. He went out on the lake in his boat every night, threw his net over the side, and pulled it up, full of fish. He did this over and over, all night long, then brought the fish to the shore and sold

them to people, who took them home for dinner. While they were still little, Peter and Andrew had begun to help him. They would help him clean his nets each day after he had brought in the night's catch. They would help him fix the little holes in his net, so the holes would not become big enough for fish to fall through. When Peter and Andrew were big enough to stay up all night, they would go out in the boat with their father and help him pull in the heavy net when it was full of fish. Peter and Andrew were grown men now, and fishermen like their father. They worked together to catch fish to sell so their families would have money for the things they needed.

Peter and Andrew had two other friends, and they were also brothers. James and John had a father who was a fisherman, too. James and John had also grown up catching fish and now they, too, worked as fishermen. They were partners with Peter and Andrew in the fishing business. Peter and Andrew and James and John had always supposed that they would be fishermen all their lives. After all, fishing was what they did best. Fishing was the best way for them to earn money to take care of themselves and their families. Surely they would be fishermen as long as they lived.

One day, they met someone who was different from anyone they had ever met before. John and Andrew met Him first. John and Andrew had been listening to a preacher called John the Baptist. This preacher said Someone very important was coming soon, Someone sent from God. One day, John the Baptist pointed to a certain man and said, "Look, the Lamb of God." John and Andrew realized that this must be the Someone special, so they followed Him. They learned that His name was Jesus. They went to the home where Jesus was staying and spent a long time talking with Him. When they left, John and Andrew were sure that Jesus *was* Someone special sent by God.

Because Peter was not only Andrew's brother, but also his good friend, Andrew hurried to find him. He wanted him to know that Jesus had come and that He was Someone special God had sent. Over the next few days, Peter learned more about Jesus.

Then, one day, Jesus came walking on the shore of the lake. Peter and Andrew were just casting their net into the sea, hoping for some fish, when Jesus said to them, "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus meant that they were not to work as fishermen anymore. They were to spend their days learning about Jesus and learning from Jesus. They would tell others what they learned and more people would come to believe in Jesus as Someone special sent by God.

Peter and Andrew had thought they would fish all their lives. But when Jesus called them to follow Him, right away, they set down their fishing nets and walked away from them, following Jesus. How would they earn money? How would they provide for their families? They did not know the answers to these important questions, but they knew Jesus had called them to follow Him. Somehow, He would take care of these other things. So they followed Jesus.

Together, they walked on down the beach. Soon, they saw James and John, sitting with their father in the fishing boat, working on the nets. They were getting

them ready to be used that evening. Jesus called them, too, and just like Peter and Andrew, James and John got out of the boat, and left their father and his fishing business so they could follow Jesus. From now on, fishing for fish would not matter to these four fishermen. The things that mattered to Jesus would be what mattered to them.

4. Application

Help the children to see that Jesus calls all His people to follow Him, whoever they are, and whatever their age or occupation. Jesus calls the children to be concerned about the things that are important to Him. They should be learning all they can about Jesus so they can help others learn about Him, too.

5. Review Questions

- A. Who was Peter's brother? (Andrew)
- B. What did Peter and Andrew do for a job? (They were fishermen, too.)
- C. What were the names of Peter and Andrew's friends who were fishermen with *their* father? (James and John)
- D. What did Peter and Andrew and James and John do best? (Catch fish.)
- E. What did the fishermen do with the fish they caught? (They sold them for money to take care of their families.)
- F. What was the name of the preacher who was saying God was about to send Someone special? (John the Baptist)
- G. Who heard John the Baptist say a certain man was "The Lamb of God?" (Andrew and John)
- H. Who was the man that John the Baptist called the Lamb of God? (Jesus.)
- I. After Andrew had spent time visiting with Jesus, he hurried to tell someone else about Jesus. Whom did he tell? (Peter.)
- J. When Jesus came walking on the beach and saw Peter and Andrew casting their net out to catch fish, what did he tell them to do? (Come follow Him.)
- K. What did Jesus say Peter and Andrew would fish for from now on? (Men)
- L. What did Peter and Andrew do when Jesus said, "Come, follow Me?" (Right away, they left their nets and followed Him.)
- M. Who else left their nets and boats to follow Jesus when He called them? (James and John.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make a review game based on the idea of the fishing booth at a carnival. Provide a stick with a string on it. Let children come up and "cast the line" over a large box or a sheet you have hung up. Have someone behind the sheet who fastens a paper fish to the "line." Each paper fish has a question on it. Once the child has caught his fish, a teacher will read him its question. If he can answer the question, he keeps the fish. Otherwise, he throws it back in.

Who was Peter's brother?
(Andrew)

What did Peter and Andrew
do for a job?
(Fishermen)

What were the names
of Peter's and Andrew's
friends who fished with their
father? (James and John)

What did Peter, Andrew, James,
and John do best?
(Catch fish)

What did the fishermen do with
the fish they caught?
(Sold them for money to
care for their families)

What was the name of the
preacher who told about
God sending Jesus?
(John the Baptist)

Who heard John the Baptist
say a certain man was
"The Lamb of God"?
(Andrew and John)

Who was the man John
called "The Lamb of God"?
(Jesus)

Who did Andrew rush off to
tell about Jesus?
(Peter)

What did Jesus tell Peter
and Andrew to do when he
saw them casting their nets?
(Come follow Him)

What did Jesus say they
would fish for from now on?
(Men)

What did Peter and Andrew do
after Jesus said to follow Him?
(Right away, they left their nets
and followed Him)

Who else left their nets and
followed when Jesus called?
(James and John)

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2 SPRING**

Lesson 8

Title: Jesus Calls Matthew
Text: Matthew 9:9-13
Theme: Following Jesus means following His example

Memory Verse: *John 8:31* "Jesus said . . . 'If you continue to obey My teaching, you are truly My followers.'" *International Children's Bible*

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

1. Understand that Jesus calls His people to follow Him.
2. Realize that part of following Jesus is following His example of loving all kinds of people.
3. Ask Jesus to help him follow His example to love and care about others--even hard-to-like others.

1. Teacher Direction

Jesus' priority was people. The Pharisees were more concerned about rules than people. In fact, some of their rules required excluding certain people. In this story, their rules about what kinds of people to associate with bring them to criticize Jesus for associating with the "undesirable" kinds. Tax collectors were not even concerned about something as worthy as rules. Tax collectors were concerned with money and things. Matthew answers Jesus' call to follow Him, leaving his means of making money, and learns to follow His example of loving and reaching out to all kinds of people.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Provide each child with a thin sheet of paper, a coin, and several crayons (preferably with the paper peeled off). Show the children how to place the coin under the paper and rub the crayon over it to make the outline of the coin show through on the paper. As they work, discuss with them the value of money. What can you do with it? What would *they* do if they had some money? Is money a good thing to have? Are there any important things that you cannot buy with money? Tell them that today's story is about a man who thought money was the most important thing there was until He met Jesus. Then he began to follow Him and learned of things more important than money.

3. Bible Story

Matthew did not have very many friends. At least, he didn't have many friends among the nice people and the good people and the important people. Matthew's friends were like Matthew--people to whom the "nice people" wouldn't talk. Matthew and his friends had learned to stay away from the good people and

the important people, because they knew those people would quickly move away from them if they should get too near.

Everywhere Matthew went, he heard people talking about him. “Here comes Matthew, the tax collector,” they would say. “Here comes Matthew, the sinner. Let’s get out of here.”

You see, Matthew was a tax collector. He worked for the hated Romans, collecting the money that the Romans said the Jews had to pay to them. That was bad enough, but like all tax collectors, Matthew collected more money than he was supposed to, so he could keep some for himself. There was nothing the people could do about it. They had to pay whatever Matthew said to pay. But they could hate Matthew, and hate him they did.

Of course, Matthew had chosen to collect taxes. He knew people would hate him, but it was worth it to him if he could get a lot of money. Money was Matthew’s favorite thing. Having money was more important to Matthew than having friends or respect or being a good man. So Matthew collected taxes and Matthew cheated.

Then one day, Matthew met Jesus. Jesus was different from anyone Matthew had ever met. Jesus knew Matthew was a tax collector. He knew no one liked Matthew, but that did not seem to matter to Jesus. He treated Matthew just like He treated everyone else. He was just as kind and friendly to Matthew as He was to anyone. Matthew listened to Jesus teach about God and about how we should love others and, little by little, Matthew’s heart began to change. Matthew began to think about other things besides money. Making money was not so important to him anymore. When he was at work, he really didn’t feel right about cheating people. So, one day, when Jesus came up to his tax collector’s table and said, “Follow Me,” Matthew did. He didn’t even have to think about it. He stood up, walked away from the table and all that money, and began to follow Jesus.

From then on, Matthew would not cheat people. He would not collect taxes. He would listen to Jesus and try to do what Jesus said to do. He would watch Jesus and try to do what Jesus did. He would learn to be like Jesus. One of the first things Matthew did was to have a dinner party for Jesus at his home. He invited all his old friends--the ones “good” people didn’t like. They were other tax collectors and cheaters, like Matthew had been. They were people who did things they shouldn’t do, people the “good” people called “sinners.” Matthew invited them all, knowing that Jesus would eat with them and love them anyway, no matter who they were.

Jesus did come, and so did many of Matthew’s old friends. The house was full of people. None of the people who thought of themselves as “good people” came, of course. Instead they complained. “What kind of teacher is this Jesus?” they asked. “He eats with sinners, tax collectors, and bad people.”

Jesus heard what these people were saying. His answer was that He had come for bad people. He had come to find sinners and bring them back to God. They were the people who needed Him and who knew they needed Him. As for the “good people,” Jesus said that they needed to learn that what God wants is love for people--*all* kinds of people.

Matthew would spend years following Jesus and learning to be like Him. He would learn to love people, as Jesus loved people. He would learn to love people more than things (like money) and he would learn to love all kinds of people, no matter what they were like. Jesus would show him how to love and would make him able to love, too.

4. Application

Help the children to see that Jesus calls all His people to follow Him by learning to be like Him. One of the most obvious ways Jesus would want us to be like Him would be in learning to love people, as He loved people. Ask them if they can think of someone that it is not easy for them to like--maybe someone who is not kind to them, or someone they don't enjoy playing with who still likes to play with them, or maybe a younger brother or sister who messes up their things. Tell them that it is often impossible to love these people until Jesus changes their heart. Encourage the children to ask Jesus to change their heart. Also encourage those who know the Lord to follow Jesus by trying with God's help to be loving to all.

5. Review Questions

- A. What was the name of the tax collector in today's story? (Matthew)
- B. What did tax collectors do when they worked to try to get some extra money for themselves? (They cheated *or* made the people pay more money than they should have.)
- C. How did most people feel about tax collectors? (They did not like them.)
- D. What kind of friends did Matthew have? (Other tax collectors and people the "good" people did not like.)
- E. What was the most important thing to Matthew before he met Jesus? (Money.)
- F. When Jesus came to Matthew's tax collector's table, what did he say to him? ("Follow Me.")
- G. What did Matthew do when Jesus said, "Follow Me?" (Left his tax collecting to follow Jesus.)
- H. What was the first thing Matthew did after he started to follow Jesus? (He had a dinner party for Jesus.)
- I. Besides Jesus, who did Matthew invite to his dinner party? (Other tax collectors and "sinners.")
- J. What did the "good people" think about Jesus going to Matthew's party? (They said He should not go because of all the sinners and bad people who were there.)
- K. What kind of people did Jesus say He had come to help? (Sinners.)
- L. What did Jesus say these people needed to learn? (That God wants them to love.)
- M. What kind of people does Jesus love? (All kinds of people.)
- N. What kinds of people does Jesus want us to love? (All kinds.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make rubbings again, but this time with hearts cut from heavy cardboard instead of with coins. Talk to the children about how Jesus can change our hearts so that we will

love people the way He loves people. Remind them of how important love for others is to Jesus.

7. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Let several children pretend to be Matthew. Give coins to the remaining children and have them line up to come by “Matthew” and give him their money. Tell the “Matthews” that Jesus says, “Follow Me.” The Matthew children should get up and walk away from the coins. They can set a few paper plates, napkins, and cups out, to prepare for the dinner party. Other children can come as guests. Do this again, allowing different children to play the part of Matthew.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2 SPRING**

Lesson 9

Title: "Would-be Followers" of Jesus
Text: Matthew 8:18-22
Theme: Jesus calls us to follow Him, even when it costs us something or is not comfortable.

Memory Verse: *John 8:31* "Jesus said . . . 'If you continue to obey My teaching, you are truly My followers.'" *Children's International Bible*

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

1. Understand that Jesus calls all who believe in Him to follow Him.
2. Realize that following Jesus sometimes means giving up things he would like to have or doing things that make him uncomfortable.
3. Ask Jesus to help him to follow faithfully, even when it is hard.

1. Teacher Direction

Jesus never tried to make following Him sound easy, so He would have more followers. He was always faithful to point out that there is a cost involved in following Him. In today's story, two people are interested in following Jesus, and Jesus makes sure they both understand that following Him may be uncomfortable and it may mean giving up old priorities for new ones.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Use the pictures of animals' homes (attached). Hold up a picture and ask what kind of an animal lives in this home. Have the children move like that animal and come to the picture (bees fly, buzzing, to a hive; fish swim to the goldfish bowl; horses prance to the corral, etc.). Finish with the picture of a house. Talk about how nice it is to have a home to go to at the end of the day, with a comfortable bed to sleep in. Ask them if Jesus had his own house when He was here on earth. Point out to the children that He did not. He either slept at friends' homes or out under the stars with His disciples.

3. Bible Story

Do you remember what Peter and Andrew, James and John left so they could follow Jesus? (Their fishing business.) Do you remember what Matthew left so he could follow Jesus? (His money and his tax collecting business.) Today, two more people were interested in following Jesus. What they did not think about, though, was that it is not always fun to follow Jesus. It is not always easy. When we follow Jesus, sometimes we have to give up things we would like to have. Sometimes,

following Jesus means doing things we would rather not do. Jesus is always willing and able to help us, so that we can do the things that are hard about following Him, but He wants us to stop and think about what we may have to do when we say we will follow Him.

One day, Jesus had been healing people all day long. He had healed sick people, blind people, people with fevers, people bothered by demons. A certain teacher of the law had been watching Jesus all day. How wonderful it would be to be with Jesus always, he thought. How wonderful it would be to see such miracles every day. Maybe, if he followed Jesus, he would even be able to heal people himself sometimes. So the teacher of the law made his way through the crowd to Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "I want to follow You, wherever You go." Jesus wanted this man to think about more than just the wonderful things about following Him. He wanted the man to realize that sometimes it would be very hard to follow Him. So Jesus said to this man, "The foxes have holes to live in. The birds of the air have nests to go home to at the end of the day. I have no home. I have no bed to lie in at the end of the day." Jesus was telling the man that if he followed Jesus, he would have to do without the comforts of *his* home, too. It would not all be fun and watching sick people get well. There would be hard things about following Jesus.

Another man had been listening to Jesus, day after day. He had heard Jesus' teaching and he wanted to follow Jesus, too. He didn't want to follow Him just yet, however. He wanted to wait until he had taken care of all the responsibilities he had for his family members. Our families *are* important. To His true followers, though, Jesus is more important than anything or anyone else. Jesus told the man this. "Follow Me," Jesus told the man. A true follower of Jesus would follow Jesus *first*, not after he had taken care of everything else.

Sometimes, following Jesus will be hard for us. Not all followers of Jesus have to do without a home, but some may have to. Some people have been put in jail for obeying Jesus, and have to live where it is uncomfortable or where they don't have enough food. Sometimes obeying Jesus may mean doing things to help other people that are dangerous for us. People have helped the sick out of love for Jesus and become sick themselves. Sometimes, people have obeyed Jesus by protecting helpless people against people who want to hurt them, and have ended up getting hurt themselves. Missionaries may go to poor countries so they can tell people about Jesus, and will have to live without many of the things we enjoy here. Sometimes, following Jesus may just mean that we don't say that mean thing to someone that we really want to say. Or following Jesus may mean we let someone play with our toys when we really would rather play with them ourselves.

There are all kinds of ways that following Jesus may be hard sometimes. Even so, there is nothing better than following Jesus. If we ask Him, He will give us all we need to help us to be strong when it is hard to follow Him.

4. Application

Encourage the children to consider whether they think it is worth following Jesus, even if it will be difficult sometimes. Encourage them to ask Jesus to prepare them for

times when it will be hard to follow Him and to make them able to follow Him faithfully even when it is hard.

5. Review Questions

- A. What had the first man in the story seen Jesus doing that made him think he would like to follow Him? (Heal people.)
- B. Where did the man say he would follow Jesus? (Wherever Jesus went.)
- C. What did Jesus say that animals have, but He (Jesus) did not have? (A home.)

- D. What did the other man want to do before he followed Jesus? (Take care of his family.)
- E. What is most important: following Jesus or taking care of other things? (Following Jesus.)
- F. What might be some times when it would be hard to follow Jesus? (See examples above, or maybe the children have other ideas of examples.)
- G. Who will help us follow Jesus if we ask Him? (Jesus Himself.)
- H. What did Peter and Andrew give up to follow Jesus? (Their fishing jobs.)
- I. What did Jesus tell Peter and Andrew he would make them into if they followed Him? (Fishers of men.)
- J. What did Matthew give up to follow Jesus? (His money and his tax collecting.)

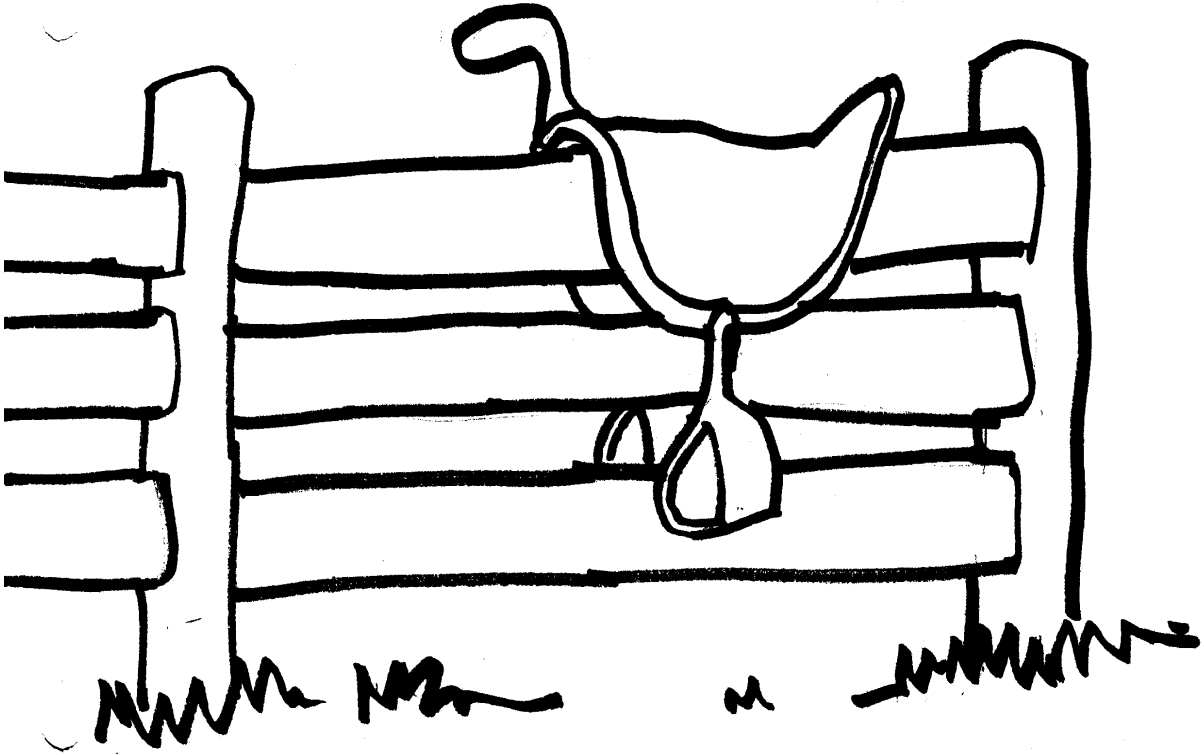
6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Choose two of the animal's home pictures. Designate one child to be the animal that lives in one of those homes and another child to be the animal that lives in the other home. Half of the children are trying to get the one "animal" home and the other half of the children are trying to get the other "animal" home. Each time a question is answered correctly, that team's animal may move a step toward its home. Every two or three questions, ask someone to say the memory verse.

hive



corral

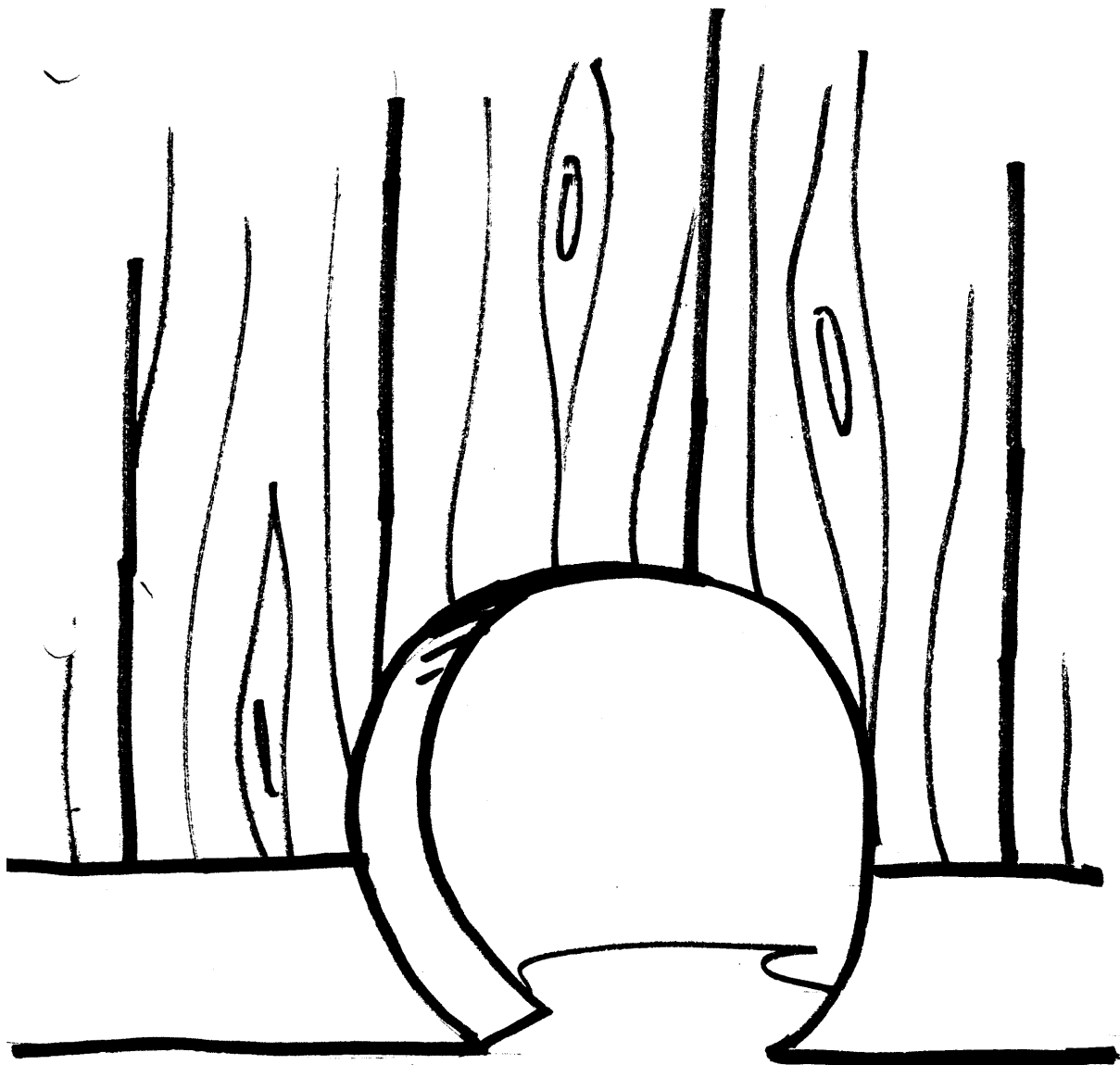


nest



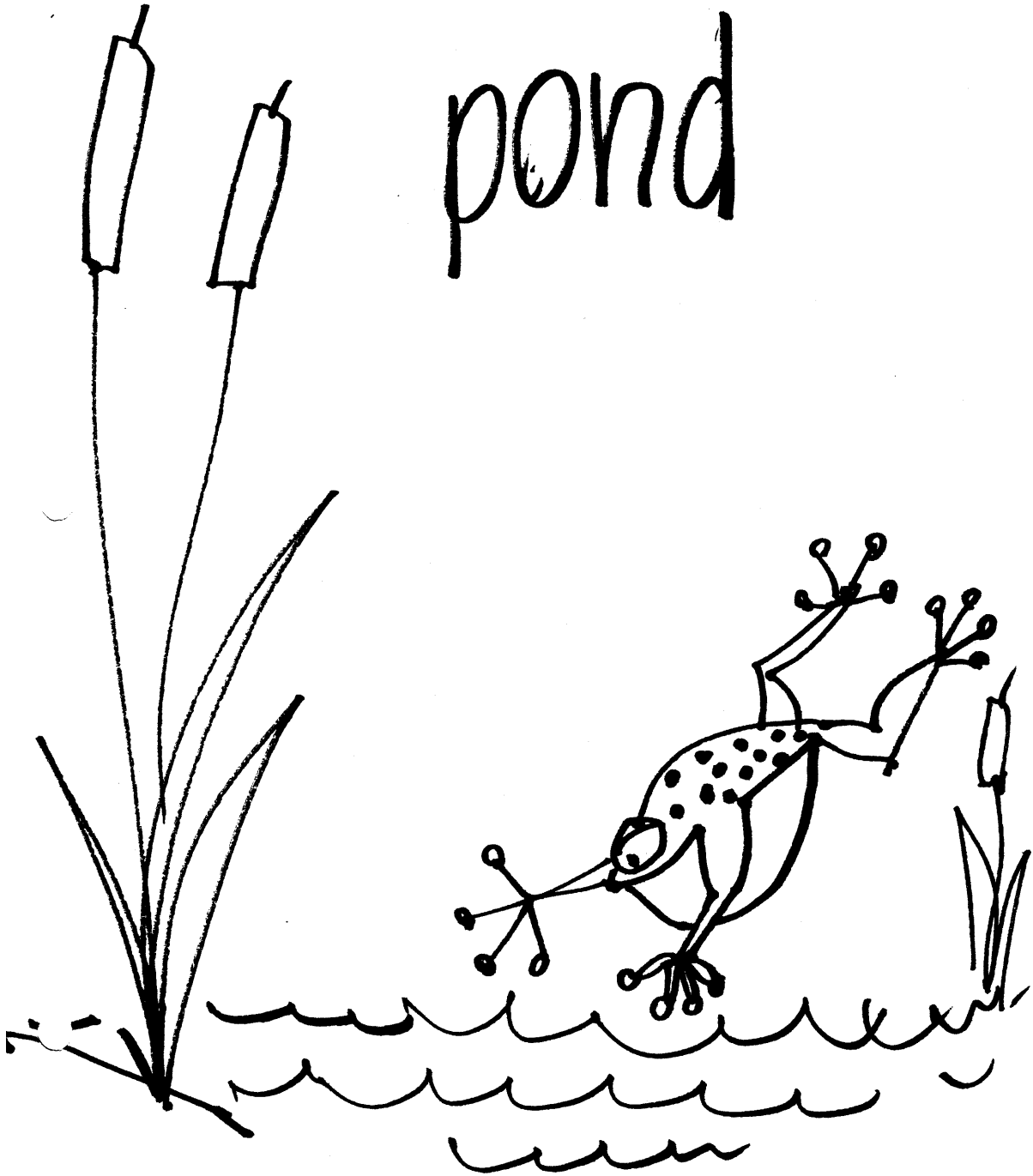
bowl





hole

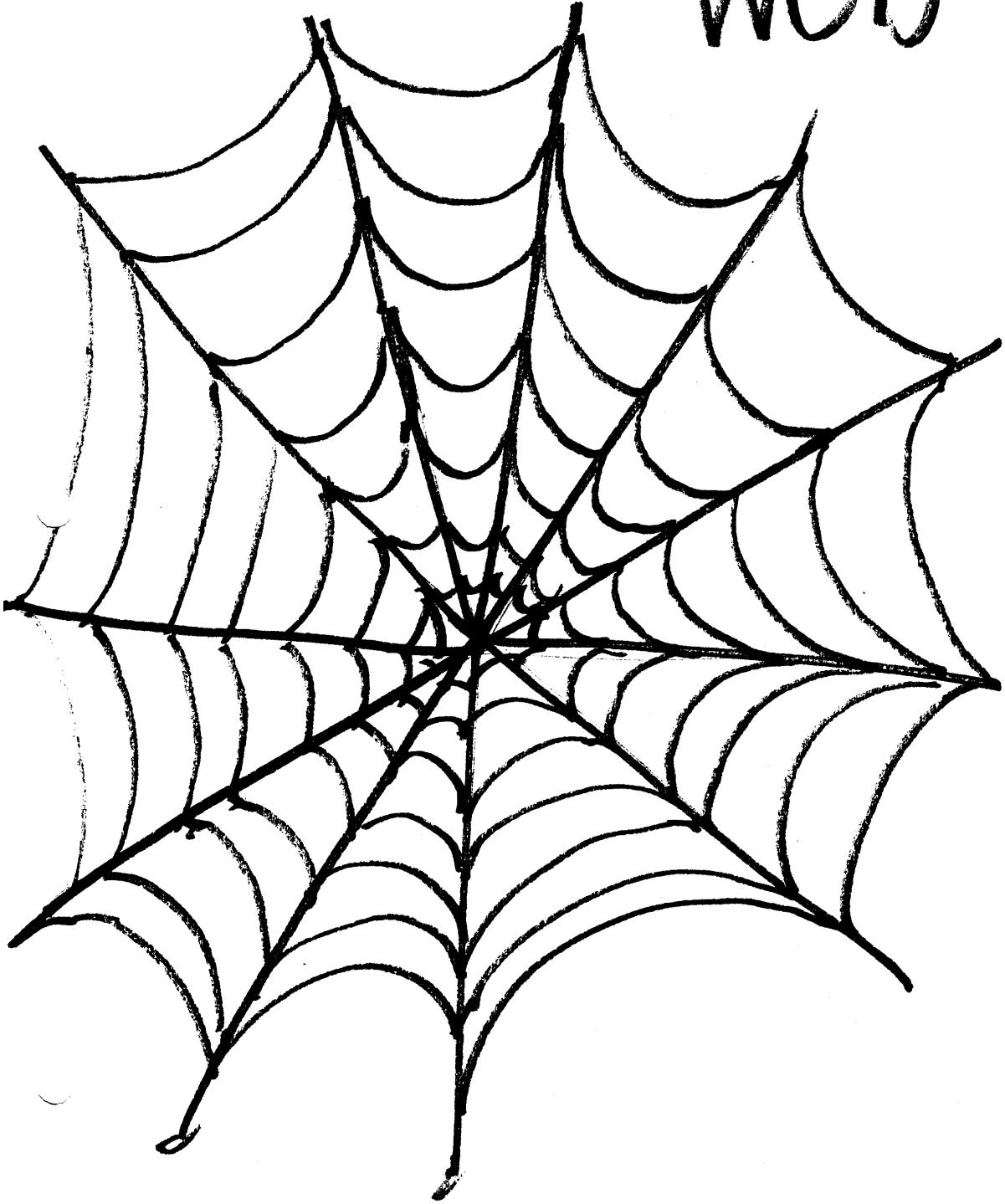
pond



den



web



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2 SPRING**

Lesson 10

Title: Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Text: Matthew 10

Theme: Even when it is hard to follow Jesus, Jesus will provide for our needs and will care for us and protect us.

Memory Verse: *John 8:31* "Jesus said . . . 'If you continue to obey My teaching, you are truly My followers.'" *International Children's Bible*

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

1. Understand that Jesus calls him to follow Him by telling others about Him.
2. Realize that some people do not like Jesus and may treat him badly for sharing Christ with them.
3. Ask Jesus to give him all he needs to be able to follow Him by telling about Him.
4. Trust Jesus to provide for and protect him when he follows Him.

1. Teacher's Direction

Jesus calls us to follow Him by telling others about Him. Because fallen human beings have a natural hatred of God and of His Son, that is not always easy to do. It sometimes results in Jesus' followers being mistreated. Jesus promises to care for us and give us all we need to follow Him.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring a Jesus figure and twelve men from the flannelgraph set. Tell the children that Jesus wanted twelve men to be His special followers and to help Him in His work. Have them count out loud with you as you put each of the twelve figures up on the board. Tell them their names: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, another James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas.

3. Bible Story

After Jesus had appointed these twelve men to be His special helpers, He gave them the power to heal sick people and to help people troubled by demons. He sent them out into the different cities and villages to tell everyone that He had come and that the kingdom of God was near. Before they went, though, Jesus spent some time telling them things they would need to know.

Jesus said they should be busy with preaching and teaching and not worry about where they would get money or the things they needed. He would provide it for them. Jesus said that some people would listen to them, but others would not. Those who would not listen would be judged by God some day.

Some people do not like Jesus. Jesus told these twelve men they would meet people like that and because such people did not like Jesus, they would not like His followers either. Jesus warned them that some people would treat them badly because they were Jesus' followers. They might be put in jail or hurt. "Don't worry," Jesus told them. "I will be with you and help you know what you are to say. Even if they threaten to kill you, do not be afraid. God will take care of you. Look at how He takes care of the little birds. Two sparrows are sold for only one penny, and yet, as unimportant as they are, they don't fall to the ground without God knowing about it. Surely God will protect and take care of you. You are much more important to Him than the birds are."

Jesus told His followers that they must be sure that the most important thing to them is Jesus Himself and following Jesus. They must be sure to follow Him even when it would be very hard. He would always protect and provide for them.

The same thing is true for us. If we are Jesus' followers, there may be times when people who do not love Jesus make it hard for us. We are not to keep quiet then and pretend that we do not know Jesus. We are to be faithful to speak up for Him and let people know how wonderful He is. He will make sure that we have all we need and will take care of us in this life and when we go to be with Him in Heaven.

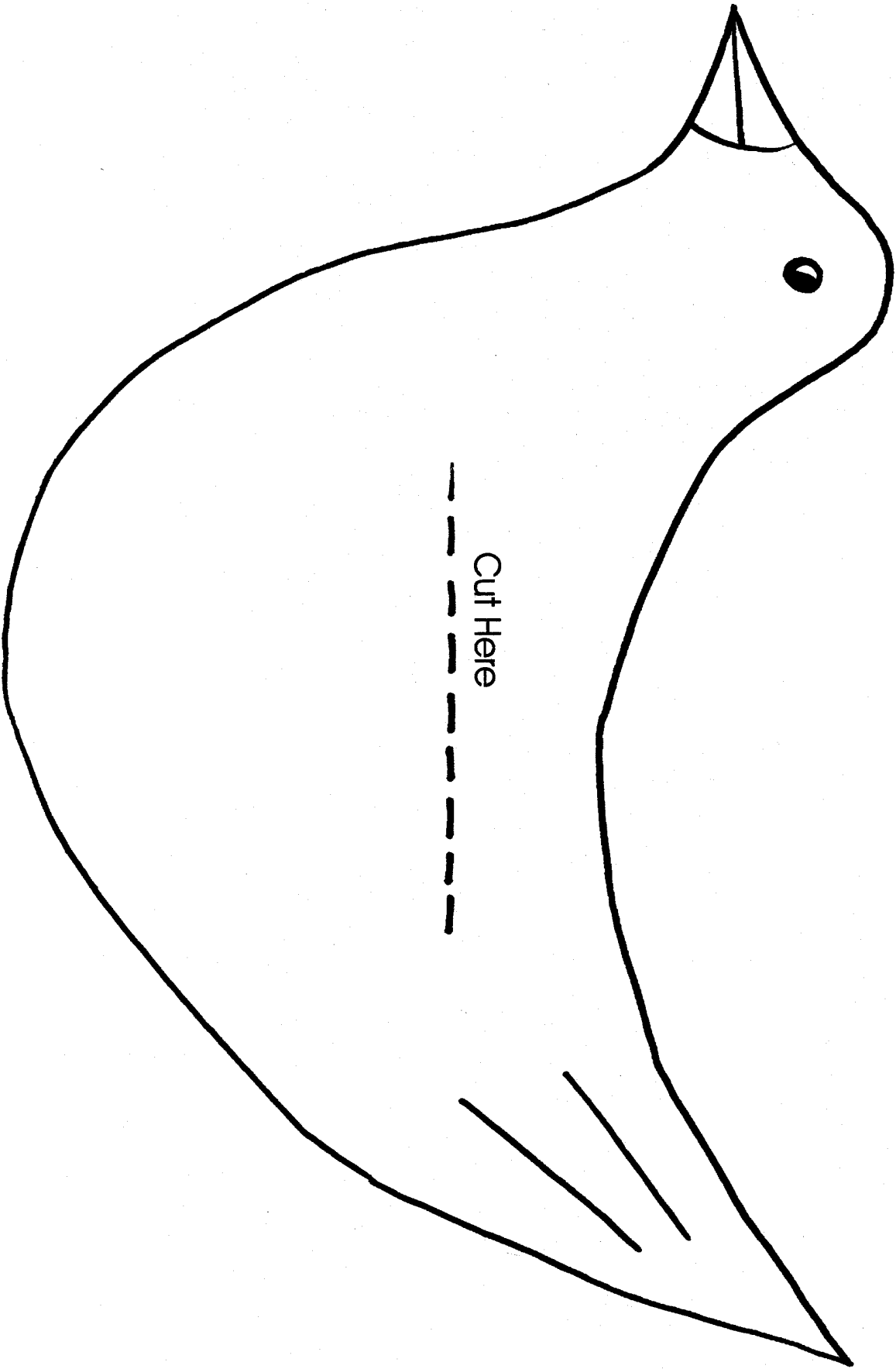
4. Application

Lead the children in asking Jesus to help them to be strong to continue obeying Him and following Him even when it is hard. Lead them in asking Jesus to make them brave to tell others about Him.

5. Learning Reinforcement Activity

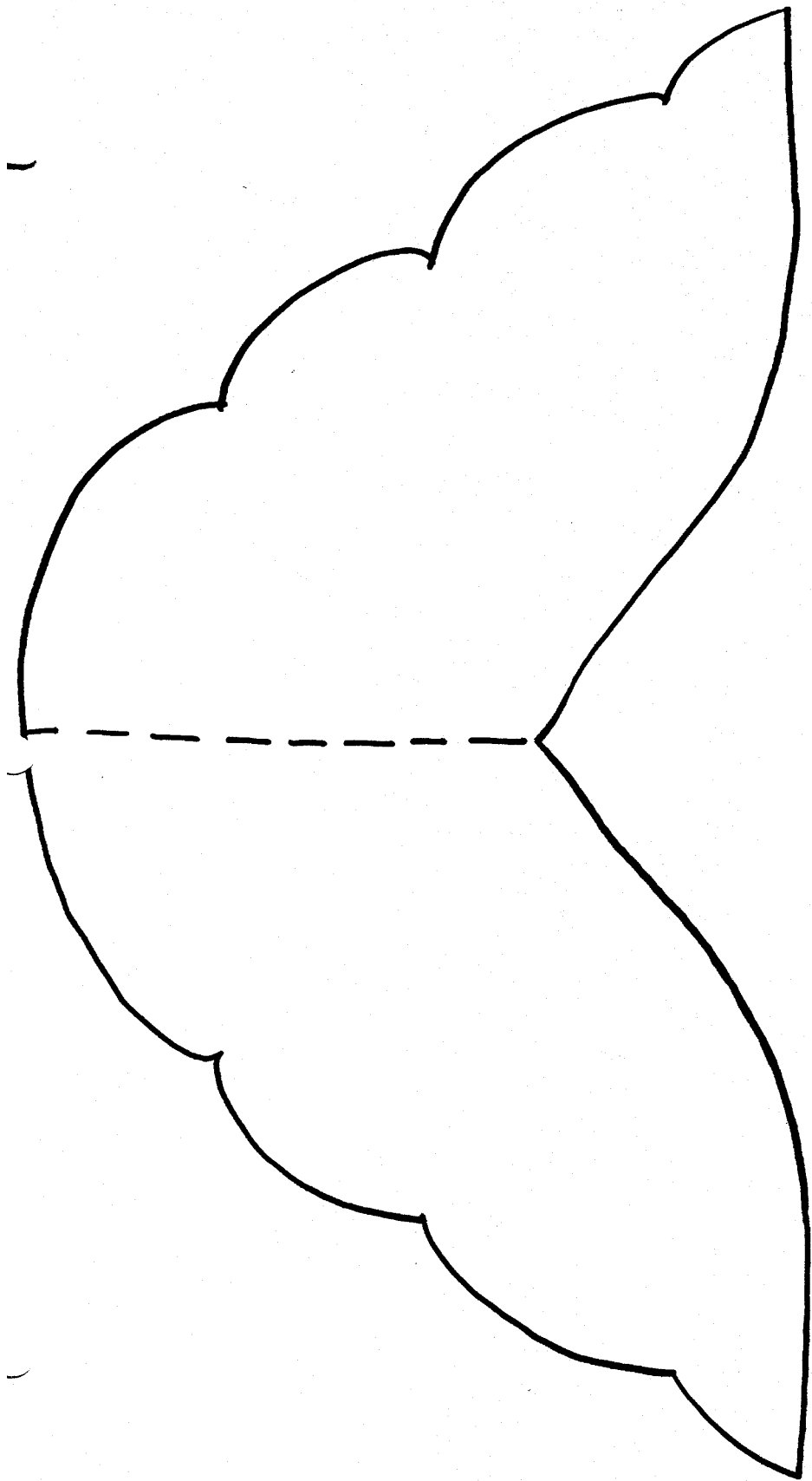
Use the attached pattern to make and cut out copies of one bird and one set of wings for each child. Cut a slit in the bird's body where the dark line is. The children color the bird and the wings. Help them insert and tape the set of wings so they can gently flap them.

As the children work, remind them that Jesus told His followers that if God cares even for the little birds, surely He would care for them as well.



Cut Here

Assemble bird by
sliding wings through
cut slot as shown.



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 YEAR 2 - SPRING QUARTER

EASTER LESSONS 1 - 3

THEME: The life of Jesus - His Resurrection

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Romans 4:25 "Jesus was given to die for our sins,
And He was raised to life (to make us right with God)."

HYMN

Were You There?

CHORUS

Lift High the Cross

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus
It Was God's Plan
All We Like Sheep

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Easter 1

Title: A Woman Anoints Jesus with Expensive Perfume

Text: Mark 14:3-9

Theme: What we give to Jesus in worship is not wasted.

Memory Verse: *Romans 4:25* Jesus was given to die for our sins, and He was raised from death (to make us right with God). International Children's Bible

Children will work on this verse for five weeks. If you think it is still too long, leave out the words in parentheses.

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

1. Appreciate what Jesus has done for him.
2. Desire to give worship to Jesus in return.

1. Teacher Direction

This story contains an example of sinful criticism, this time directed against the woman who "wasted" her perfume by pouring it on Jesus. Jesus said this woman did a beautiful thing, anointing Him for His burial before He died. That death, of course, paid the penalty for sins like those committed by the self-righteous critics of Jesus' day and like those we commit. The woman seems to have understood that Jesus had done great things for her, things so great that the most costly thing she had was not to be withheld, but poured out freely for Him.

2. Introduction

Ask the children if they ever have money of their own which they may spend as they choose. Ask them to tell you of things they could do with their money that would be wasting it. After hearing their answers, tell them that someone in today's story had something that was worth a lot of money. What she chose to do with it, many people considered a waste. Ask them to listen and see if they think she wasted what she had.

3. Bible Story

Simon had invited Jesus to his house for dinner. While Jesus was there, a woman came into the house. She was carrying a beautiful jar. Inside the jar, was something very expensive, that had cost a great deal of money. What do you think it was? It was perfume! Now, you boys think of perfume as something for girls. In Jesus' time, there were perfumes that anyone could use, men or women, and everyone liked them. Many times these perfumes came from faraway and so they

cost a lot of money. People only used little bits of the perfumes at a time, because it cost so much money to buy more. So everyone was surprised when the woman came in, opened her box, and poured *all* of the perfume on Jesus. “She’s *wasting* it!” they thought. “And it’s so expensive!”

Some people were more than surprised. They were angry. “Why is she wasting that perfume?” they said to each other. “It cost as much as a person could earn if he worked for a whole year. And she poured it all out on Jesus! She should have sold the perfume and given the money to poor people!”

Jesus knew what the people were saying and He did not agree with them at all. He said, “Leave this woman alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing. She has done what she could for me. She has poured perfume on me, like people do for someone who has died. She has done it before I died. The good news of the gospel will be told everywhere in the world, and everywhere it is told, people will remember this woman for the beautiful thing she has done for Me.”

What do *you* think? Did the woman waste the expensive perfume by using it all for Jesus? To help you answer that question think about this question: what has Jesus given to us? (He gave His life for us.) The woman knew how much Jesus had done for her and wanted to give the best she had to thank Him. She knew He was worth all she had and the best that she had. She was *worshipping* Jesus by pouring out the perfume on Him.

Some people think that worship is a waste. Some people think that sitting in a church building, singing praise, praying, and listening to God’s word is a waste of time. It doesn’t get anything done. Why, people could be out earning money or getting school work done or cutting the grass in the yard, but instead, there they sit, worshipping Jesus. However, people who understand what Jesus has done for them *want* to be there. They know He died to pay for *their* sin and they want to give Him what they can.

4. Application

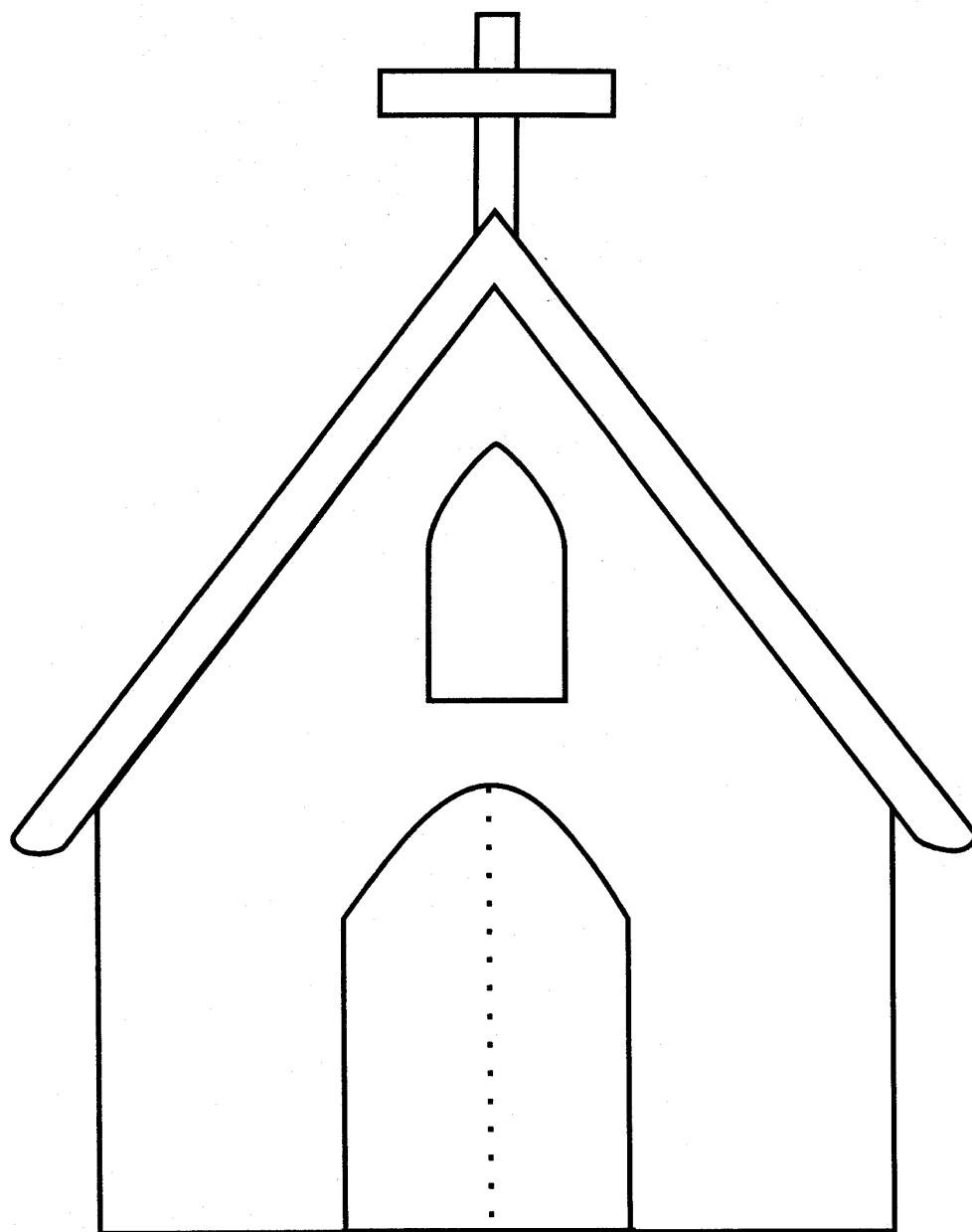
Lead the children in brainstorming a list of things Jesus has done for us, then lead them in a time of worship when they can thank Jesus for these things and worship Him for His great goodness and love.

5. Review Questions

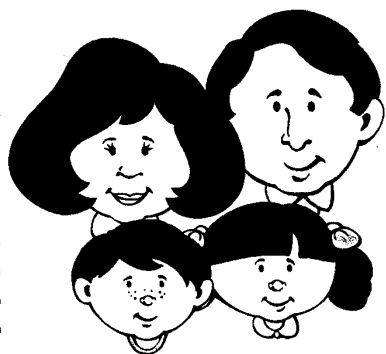
- A. What was in the woman’s box? (Expensive perfume)
- B. What did she do with her perfume? (Poured it on Jesus’ head.)
- C. How much of the perfume did the woman use for Jesus? (All of it.)
- D. What did the people think about this? (They were angry and said she had wasted it.)
- E. What did Jesus think of what the woman had done? (He said it was a beautiful thing she had done for Him.)
- F. Why would the woman be willing to give all of the best she had to Jesus? (Because of all He had done for her.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make enough copies of the attached church page for each child to have one to color. Before class, photocopy and cut out the pictures of people, taping a picture of people to each church, behind the doors. After the children have colored the church, help them to cut on the solid line between the doors and fold on the dotted lines so that the doors open, showing the people inside. As they work, remind them that people who understand what Jesus has done for them are happy to come to church to worship Him. They are happy to worship and serve Him all the time. They are happy to give the best they have for Him because He is worthy.



Cut church door on dotted line.



Cut out and tape behind church doors.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Easter 2

Title: Jesus Died for our Sins
Text: Mark 15
Theme: When Jesus died on the cross, it was in the place of His people, to pay for their sins.

Memory Verse: *Romans 4:25* Jesus was given to die for our sins. And He was raised from death (to make us right with God). International Children's Bible

This is the second of three weeks the children have had this verse. A shortened version of it would omit the words in parentheses.

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

1. Understand the reason for Christ's death.
2. Put his faith in Christ as the offering God provided to take our place and pay for our sin.

1. Teacher Direction

The four gospel writers devoted a much larger portion of their narratives to the account of Christ's death than to anything else in their writings. There are, consequently, many details that could be told when telling the story. Today's story will focus on three details from Mark's account: the release of guilty Barabbas while an innocent Jesus was condemned, Jesus' cry on the cross of "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" and the tearing of the temple curtain. These things will be emphasized to stress to the children that Jesus' death was in our place, to pay for our sins. Like Barabbas, we go free while Jesus is punished. Jesus endures being abandoned by God so we will never have to endure it. Jesus' death does away with the separation between us and God (represented by the temple curtain) because our sins have been paid for.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

If you do this activity first, the paint can dry while the children listen to the story. Each child gets a copy of Page A. Cover the verse at the bottom of the page with the piece of blank paper from Page B and secure it with a piece of tape on the back. Allow the child to choose where on Page A to place the cross from Page B (which you have cut out ahead of time). Secure the cross with a couple of pieces of tape on the back. Use one of the following ideas (or one of your own) as a way for the children to cover all of Page A with different colors of tempera paint. Once most of the paint has dried, remove the cross (a white cross shape will stand out from all the background paint) and remove the paper covering the verse so that it will show. As children work, recite and discuss the memory verse with them.

Ideas for painting: (a) Bring boxes and lids from home (shoe boxes or boxes of similar size). Place Page A into a box or lid. With plastic spoons, gently drop a marble into a cup of paint. Take the marble out and drop it into the box or box lid (lined with Page A). Tip the box or lid to cause the marble to roll around, leaving paint trails. Do this repeatedly with several different colors. (b) Use small bits of sponges held by clothespins to dip into different colors and daub around on the page.

3. Introduction

Discuss with the children the idea of a substitute. If they are involved in preschool or kindergarten classes, they may know what a substitute teacher is. If they know much about sports, they may understand the idea of sending in a “sub” to play in the place of a hurt player. Make the point that a substitute take someone else’s place. Tell them that Jesus was a substitute for His people. He took their place. Ask them if they know when that was. Remind them of the verse they were discussing in the previous activity. Why was Jesus given? To die for our sins. This was when He was a substitute for His people--when He was punished for what His people had done wrong.

4. Bible Story

Jesus did not begin His life when He was born in the stable at Bethlehem. Jesus is God. He has always been alive. When He was born, He became human, too. Jesus was born as a human for a reason. It was so He could be a substitute for His people. He wanted to do something in their place--something they could not do for themselves. God’s people were separated from God by their sin--all the wrong things we do that God does not like. God punishes sin, but God gave Jesus to take His people’s punishment in their place. It was not pleasant for Jesus to die in the place of His people, but it was something He wanted to do because He loved us.

Even though Jesus did only good, there were people who did not like Him. They were jealous of Him. These people had Jesus arrested and they told lies about Him so other people would be angry at Jesus, too. They took Jesus to Pilate, the man in charge in their city, and asked Pilate to have Jesus put to death because He had broken the law. Of course, Jesus had not broken any laws. Pilate knew that and he wanted to help Jesus. So he reminded the people that, at this time of the year, he always let a prisoner go free. “I will set Jesus free,” Pilate said. There was another prisoner in the jail, a man named Barabbas who really *had* broken laws. He was guilty and waiting to be punished. The people were so jealous of Jesus and so angry at Him that they asked Pilate to let *Barabbas* go free, not Jesus. “Then what would I do with Jesus?” Pilate asked. “Crucify Him!” the people answered. In those days, bad people who had broken laws were put on a cross to die. That is what the people were asking for when they said to crucify Jesus. So Pilate let Barabbas go free, and gave Jesus to the soldiers to be crucified. This story of Barabbas is like a picture of what Jesus did for us. Barabbas had really done wrong, but he went free. Jesus had done nothing wrong, but He was punished, as Barabbas should have been.

So the soldiers took Jesus to a hill and put Him on a cross to die. While Jesus was on the cross, the sky became very dark, even though it was early afternoon.

Late in the afternoon, the people standing around Jesus' cross heard Him call out something loudly. He said, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Dying on the cross was painful, but much worse to Jesus was feeling God's anger. *Jesus* never did anything to make God angry, but when He was on the cross, He had taken on Himself all of *our* sins. God the Father had to turn away from His Son Jesus when He had all our sins on Himself. Jesus was being our Substitute. He was feeling God's anger in our place. God turned His back on Jesus for awhile, while He was on the cross, so that God would never have to turn His back on His people. Because Jesus took our place and paid for our sins, we can be friends with God and not feel His anger.

Finally, Jesus died. At the moment Jesus died, something very strange happened in the temple. In the temple, there was a *huge* curtain. It was hung from very high, where no person could possibly reach. It was a very thick curtain, impossible to tear with human hands. This curtain was the wall between two rooms in the temple. One room was called the Most Holy Place. It was the place where God said He would live to be near His people. However, because God was in that room and God is so holy, no one was allowed to go in. The big curtain was up to keep people out of that room. Only the High Priest could go behind that curtain and only time each year, to offer a sacrifice. Sinful human beings were not allowed to go in the Most Holy Place where God was. When Jesus died, though, He had paid for all the sins of His people. Those sins were no longer there for God to be angry with. The sins of all who believed in Jesus could no longer separate them from God. So when Jesus died, the tall, thick curtain in the temple ripped from the top to the bottom. No human ripped it--no human could reach that high or tear such a thick curtain. God ripped it, to show that His people were no longer separated from Him, but could come right in where He was. God was showing everyone that Jesus had done what He came to do. He had taken His people's sins and died in His people's place. He had been their substitute and paid for their sins.

5. Application

Help the children to see that *their* sins must be paid for before they can be right with God. *They* need a Substitute to take their punishment in their place. Encourage them to give thanks to God for providing a Substitute in Jesus. Encourage them to put their faith in Jesus as the One who does, in their place, what needs to be done to make them right with God.

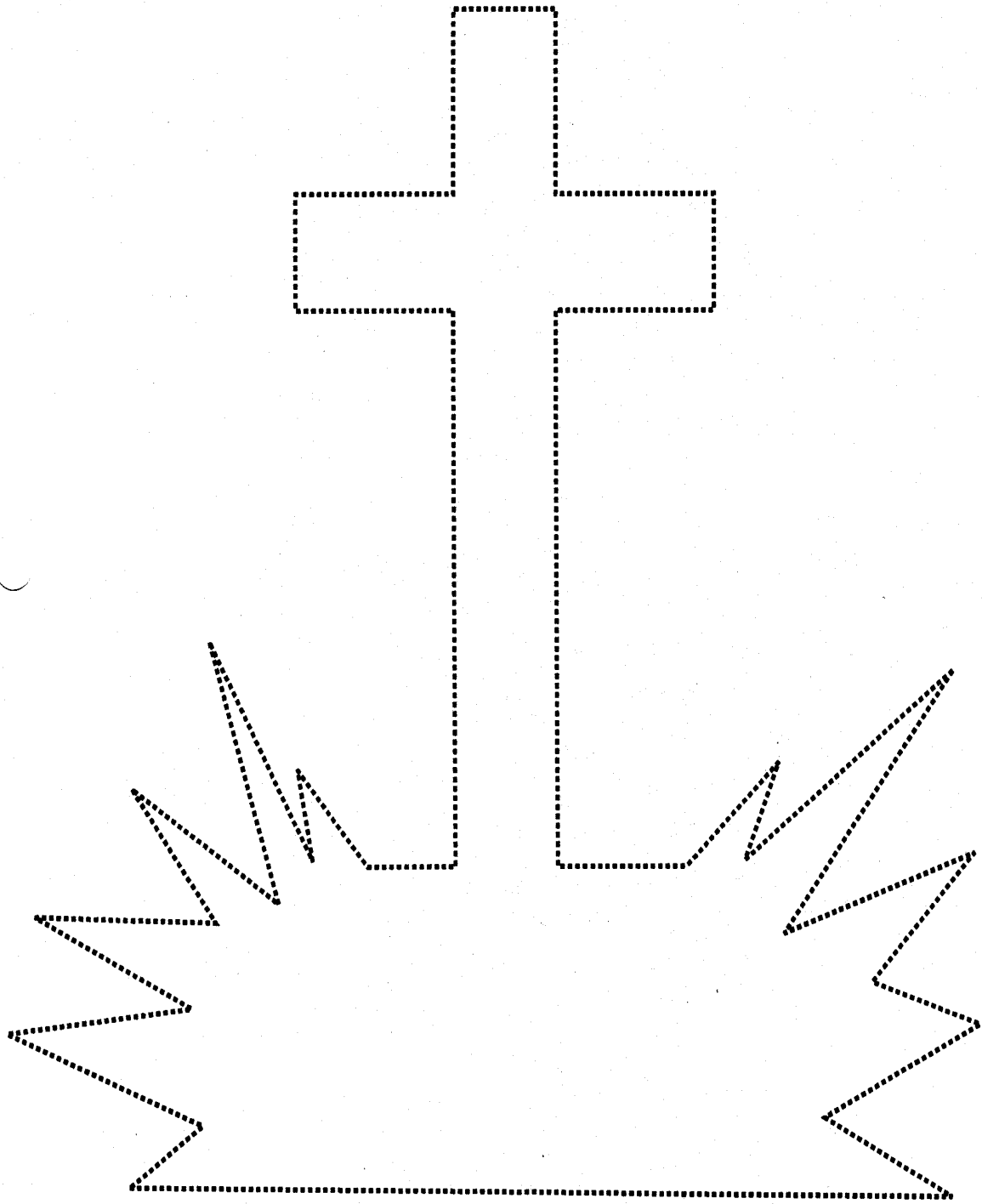
6. Review Questions

- A. What is a substitute? (Someone who does something in another's place.)
- B. Jesus had been alive as God forever. Why was He also born as a human being? (So He could be a Substitute for His people.)
- C. Who was Barabbas? (A man who had broken laws and was in prison for it.)
- D. Say the memory verse. (Jesus was given to die for our sins. And He was raised from death [to make us right with God]--Romans 4:25.)
- E. Why did Barabbas get to go free? (Because the people asked for him to be set free instead of Jesus.)
- F. What did they want done to Jesus? (They wanted Him killed or crucified.)

- G. While Jesus was dying on the cross, what happened to the sky? (It became very dark.)
- H. Say the memory verse. (See D.)
- I. When Jesus was dying, He said, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Why was Jesus feeling God’s anger, when Jesus had never done anything wrong? (Because he was carrying the sins of His people.)
- J. What was the curtain in the temple for? (To keep people out of the Most Holy Place, where God was.)
- K. What happened to the temple curtain when Jesus died? (It tore from top to bottom.)
- L. When did Jesus take the place of His people? (When He died to pay for their sins.)
- M. Say the memory verse.

7. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Have the children sit in a circle. Say the memory verse together several times. Then go around the circle, having each child say one word of the verse. After going through the verse several times this way, begin to pass a bean bag around the circle as music plays. Someone occasionally stops the music. When the music stops, the child holding the bean bag says the memory verse.



Cut out cross and rays. Cover over verse by using tape on back of cross. Paint or color over cross shape. Remove after finished.

Jesus was given to die
for our sins. He was raised from
death to make us right with God.
Romans 4:25

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, SPRING**

Easter 3

Title: Jesus Rose from the Dead

Text: Mark 16:1-7

Theme: Jesus' tomb was empty because He did not remain dead.

Memory Verse: *Romans 4:25* Jesus was given to die for our sins. And He was raised from death (to make us right with God). Children's International Bible

This is the third and last week that the children are working on this verse. The shortened version omits the words in parentheses.

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

1. Understand that Jesus was different from every other great man who ever lived because, when He died, He did not remain dead. His tomb is empty!
2. Know that God raised Jesus from the dead to show us that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice of Himself for us.
3. Put his faith in the risen Lord as the only Savior from sin.

1. Teacher Direction

It is a wonderful thing that Jesus rose from the dead. If anyone who was loved by others rose from the dead, those who loved him would rejoice, just to have that person alive again. With Jesus, however, His resurrection means much more than mere joy that He is fine again. Romans 1:4 tells us that it is by the resurrection that we know Jesus really is the Son of God. Romans 4:25 tells us that it is by the resurrection that we know that Jesus' death did truly secure our right standing with God. The empty tomb is more than a happy ending to an otherwise sad story. It is essential for our salvation.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Have a supply of plastic Easter eggs on hand (the kind that come apart into two halves), filled before class with the following items: a magazine picture of nice Easter clothes, jelly beans, flowers (real or otherwise), a toy bunny, chick, or lamb, a picture of a family, and one empty egg. Set the empty egg aside. Ask the children what special day it is. Tell them that you have things in the Easter eggs that remind us of some of the special things about this day. Call on children to come up one at a time to open an egg and show everyone what is inside it. Discuss special Easter clothes, Easter baskets full of candy, beautiful springtime flowers, Easter bunnies or cute baby animals born in spring, and special family times as each egg is opened and these things are shown. When all other eggs have been opened, call on a child to open the empty egg, after telling the children that in this egg is a reminder of what is the most wonderful thing of all about Easter. Once it is seen that the egg is empty, ask them if they know why this is a reminder of the best thing about Easter. The egg is empty--like Jesus' tomb was empty on the first Easter morning. This is *what* we really celebrate on Easter and enjoying all

the other things are just the *ways* we celebrate. The best thing is that Jesus did not stay dead, but came back to life and left the tomb. When people came to look inside for His dead body, all they found was an empty tomb!

3. Bible Story

In our story last Sunday, we saw that Jesus was our substitute. He died in our place, to pay for our sins. Of course, His friends were very sad when He died. One of Jesus' friends, Mary Magdalene, and several other women watched as Jesus was taken down from the cross. They watched as He was wrapped in the cloths used to bury people. Then the women followed as Jesus' body was taken to a garden where there was a tomb. A tomb was a hole in a big rock, like a very small cave. Jesus' body was placed inside the tomb. Then, to close up the opening, a very large stone was rolled into the doorway. By then, it was night time and the women had to hurry home before dark.

The next day was the Sabbath and the women had to stay home. All the time, though, they were thinking about Jesus' body in the tomb. They had not had the time to put all the good-smelling oils on it that they wanted. They were eager to go back to the tomb as soon as they could, to put those oils on Jesus' body. This would be one last way of showing their love for Jesus.

As soon as it was daylight on the day after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and her friends got their good-smelling oils and headed for the garden and the tomb. As they walked, they talked about that big stone in the doorway of the tomb. How would they move it? It was such a large stone that even a strong man would not be able to move it by himself. How would they get in?

When the women arrived at the tomb, however, they were very surprised to find that the stone had already been rolled away. The tomb was open. "How could that be?" they may have wondered. "Was this the wrong tomb?" But they were sure it was the right tomb, for all of them had watched carefully when Jesus was buried, just because they had wanted to be sure to come back to the right place with their oils. Maybe some of Jesus' disciples had come to see Jesus' body, too, and they had moved the stone so they could go in. The women drew near to the tomb. They looked in. What do you think they saw?

They saw an angel sitting in the tomb. More importantly, what did they *not* see? They did *not* see Jesus' dead body. It was not there. An angel was not at all what the women expected to see and they were frightened. "Don't be afraid," the angel said to them. "You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See, here is the place they laid His body. But go, tell His disciples and Peter. You will see Him soon."

The women were frightened and ran away. Later, Mary Magdalene came back and looked into the tomb again. Jesus' body was still not there. As she turned away from looking in the tomb, she saw Jesus Himself there in the garden. He was not dead at all, but very much alive. Jesus spoke to Mary; then Mary hurried and told the disciples she had seen Him. The disciples went to see for themselves, but the tomb was empty. Jesus' body was not there. He had risen from the dead.

There have been other great men besides Jesus who have lived good lives, done important things, and died. Only Jesus did not stay dead once He had died. Only Jesus came back to life again. This is because only Jesus is the Son of God.

In last week's story, we said Jesus came to be our substitute. He died in our place. When God raised Jesus from the dead, He was showing us all that He had accepted Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. Our sins had been paid for and Jesus' work was finished. We can be so glad that Jesus' tomb was empty. He is risen and we know that our sins can be forgiven!

4. Application

Lead the children in prayers of thanksgiving and worship to Jesus for having risen from the dead. Help them to see that Jesus' empty tomb should encourage them to trust in Him, because it shows us that His death really paid for sins.

5. Review Questions

- A. Who carefully watched as Jesus was taken down from the cross and laid in a tomb? (His friends, or the women, or Mary Magdalene and her friends.)
- B. The women could not go to the tomb the next day because it was the Sabbath. What did they do on the day after Sabbath, as soon as it was daylight? (They hurried to the tomb.)
- C. What did the women want to do at the tomb? (Put more good-smelling oils on Jesus' body.)
- D. As the women walked to the tomb, what were they worrying about? (How to move the stone in the doorway.)
- E. When they got to the tomb, what did the women notice about the stone? (It was already rolled away from the door.)
- F. When the women looked inside the tomb, what did they *not* see? (Jesus' dead body.)
- G. Why not? (He had risen.)
- H. When the women looked inside the tomb, what *did* they see? (An angel.)
- I. What did the angel tell the women about Jesus? (That He had risen.)
- J. How is Jesus different from other great men who lived, did good things, and died? (He did not stay dead, but rose.)
- K. How do we know that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice for our sins? (God raised Jesus from the dead.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Have the children pretend they are Jesus' friends, watching as Jesus is taken down from the cross and buried in the tomb. Encourage them to use their body language to show what they would have been feeling. Then have them pretend they are Mary hurrying to tell the disciples she had seen Jesus or that they are the disciples hurrying to look in the empty tomb. Again, encourage them to show with their body language what they would have been feeling.

B. Use the attached tomb pattern to trace and cut out white construction paper tombs the children can color. Help the children tape or glue a piece of black construction paper behind the doorway to the tomb. Let them color a (pre-cut) stone for the doorway. Help them tape it on just one side, so it can open, showing the empty tomb inside.

Cut out around tomb and stone.
Tape the stone on one side in front
of the tomb opening.

