



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - WINTER
QUARTER

LESSONS 1- 4

THEME: Christ's Birth

MEMORY VERSE SONG

1 John 4:14 "The Father has sent His Son to be the
savior of the world."

HYMN

Joy to the World

CHORUS

Abba Father

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Away in the Manger

Tip-Toe

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

Lesson 1

Title: Jesus' Birth Announced to Joseph
Text: Matthew 1:18-25
Theme: God kept His promise when Jesus was born.

Memory Verse: *1 John 4:14 The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.*

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

1. Be able to explain that the best thing about Christmas is that we celebrate God sending His Son.
2. Be able to tell that one of Jesus' names, "Immanuel," means "God with us."
3. Thank God for sending His Son and believe in Jesus as his or her own Savior.

1. Teacher Direction

We have just finished a thirteen week series on the kings of the Old Testament and have seen that God kept pointing to a better, perfect King who would come to rule His people. Our last story in the series focused specifically on God's promise to send a child whose kingdom would never end (Isaiah 9:6-7). This series on Jesus' birth begins with Joseph's dream of an angel announcing the birth of a Savior to Mary, and the reminder that this was in fulfillment of the promise of God.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring an assortment of old Christmas cards from home, or magazine pictures featuring things that have to do with Christmas. As you show the cards and/or pictures, let the children volunteer ideas of things people have and do at Christmas time: snow, special foods, music, decorations, nativity scenes, caroling, gifts, special church services, etc. Ask them what the most important thing about Christmas is. Help them to see that all the other things are ways that we let everyone know how happy we are about this most important thing: God has sent His Son to be our Savior. Let them come up one at a time to select one card or picture to add to a pile that *only* depicts things having to do with the coming of Jesus.

3. Bible Story

How do you feel about Christmas? Do you get excited when you think that it's coming soon? Is it hard to wait? Do you wish it would hurry up and come? It's hard to wait for a good thing that has been promised to us and we get really excited and wish it were here now. That is how people in Bible times felt about the One God had promised to send. God had been promising for a long time--hundreds and thousands of years. Do you know when God made the very first promise that He would send Jesus? Show a picture of Adam and Eve in the garden. When Adam and

Eve first sinned and brought so much trouble into God's perfect world, God promised them that some day a baby would be born who would change what had happened because of their sin. All through the Old Testament, God kept promising that He would send Someone. Every time He gave the promise, He told a little more about what this Someone would be like. Flip through your Bible a little at a time to illustrate where God made these different promises, or show pictures representing the people mentioned. God promised Abraham that all the people of the earth would be blessed because of someone who would come from his family. God promised Moses that He would raise up a leader for His people who would be an even better leader than Moses had been. God promised King David that a king would come from David's family who would be King over God's people forever. God promised the prophets that the One who would come would be able to forgive sins and to change people's hearts so they could love and serve God faithfully. God promised the prophet Isaiah that one of the names of the One who would come would be "Immanuel," which means "God with us."

People waited and waited--like you waiting for Christmas, only people waited much longer than you have to wait. Finally, one night, a man named Joseph, who was getting ready to marry a young lady named Mary, had a dream. God gave Joseph this dream. In the dream, an angel spoke to Joseph. The angel told Joseph that Mary, the girl he was going to marry, was going to have a baby. This was a special baby, because this baby's father was God. This baby would be the Son of God. "You are to give him the name 'Jesus,'" the angel said, "because He will save His people from their sins." Then Joseph knew the One who had been promised for so long was finally coming! God was getting ready to keep all those promises. Do you think Joseph was excited? I'm sure he was.

What name did the angel say to give to the baby? (Jesus.) Do you remember why the angel said the baby should have that name? "Because He will save His people---" (from their sins). The name "Jesus" means God Saves. Jesus is the One God had promised all the way back in the Garden of Eden, when the world first became damaged because of sin. So this baby would be called "Jesus" because He would save people from sin.

Then the Bible story goes on to tell us about another of Jesus' names and another of God's promises. It tells us that all this was happening because it was God keeping His promise that a baby would be born who could be called "Immanuel." Do you remember what "Immanuel" means? (God with us.) Mary's little baby would be a real human baby in every way, just like every other baby ever born, except for one thing. This baby would *not* be born with a sinful heart. Not only would this baby be a completely human baby, though, this baby would also be God. Jesus is the Son of God who became man so He could come be with us, to save us and to die for us. That is why another of His names can be "Immanuel." He is "God with us."

At Christmas time, many people celebrate by giving each other gifts. The best gift anyone ever gave was when God gave His Son to be the Savior of the world.

4. Application

Christmas time is a fun time for many people, but not all of them celebrate for the right reason. Many people have fun at Christmas without knowing what Christmas is really about--God sending His Son to be the Savior of the world. Do you know Jesus as *your* Savior? Are you trusting in Him to make you right with God and make you able to live for Him? Remember, as you celebrate Christmas, to thank God often for His wonderful gift of a Savior.

5. **Review Questions**

- A. When did God first promise to send a Savior? (In the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve sinned.)
- B. How long did people wait for God to keep His promise? (A long, long time.)
- C. Who had a dream in our story? (Joseph)
- D. What was Joseph getting ready to do? (Marry a girl named Mary.)
- E. Who spoke to Joseph in his dream? (An angel.)
- F. What did the angel tell Joseph about Mary? (She would have a baby boy.)
- G. Who would the baby's Father be? (God.)
- H. What was Joseph supposed to name this baby? (Jesus)
- I. Why was Joseph supposed to name the baby Jesus? (Because He would save His people from their sins.)
- J. What other name could Jesus be called? (Immanuel)
- K. What does the name Immanuel mean? (God with us.)
- L. What is the best gift anyone ever gave and who gave that gift? (God gave Jesus.)

6. **Learning Reinforcement Activity**

Provide each child with a piece of white construction paper, folded in half. On the inside of each, letter the words: "The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world." Provide the children with star stickers and Christmas stickers to decorate the outsides of their cards. Encourage them to think of someone to whom to give or mail their Christmas card.

*The Father has sent
His Son to be the
Savior
of the world.*

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

Lesson 2

Title: Jesus' Birth Announced to Shepherds
Text: Luke 2:1-20
Theme: Good news for all people: the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world!

Memory Verse: (continued)

***1 John 4:14** The Father has sent His Son
to be the Savior of the world.*

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

1. Be able to explain in their own words the good news the angels announced to the shepherds.
2. Respond with praise to God for His gift of a Savior.
3. Trust in Jesus as his or her own Savior.

1. Teacher Direction

Our memory verse for the month gives the *meaning* of the Christmas story and the reason for all the celebrating: God giving a Savior. In last week's story, an angel announced to Joseph that the baby who would be born to Mary would save His people from their sins. In this week's story, a multitude of angels announce to shepherds what they call good news for all people: a Savior has been born.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring several baby dolls and old sheets torn in strips or towels or baby blankets. Tell the children to pretend the dolls are real babies who will get cold if they are not warmly wrapped. Allow each child to wrap a doll in some of the cloths or towels.

3. Bible Story

In last week's story, who saw an angel in a dream? (Joseph) Who was Joseph going to marry? (Mary.) What did the angel tell Joseph about Mary? (She was going to have a baby.) Who would be the baby's Father? (God) What was Joseph supposed to name the baby? (Jesus.)

It was almost time for Mary's baby to be born, when suddenly, she and Joseph had to go on a journey. The king of the country ordered everyone to go to the town they had come from so they could be counted. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem, so he and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem. When they got there, many other people had also traveled to Bethlehem. All the hotels were full. There were no rooms left for people to stay in. Mary and Joseph went to a stable to spend the night. See if anyone knows what a stable is; if not, explain. While they were there in the stable at Bethlehem that night, Mary's baby was born. She wrapped her baby in cloths, like you did with the dolls. (Demonstrate with one of the dolls.) There were

no beds of any kind in the stable, and certainly no little baby beds, so where do you think Mary put her new baby to sleep? If someone answers “in the manger,” be sure children understand what a manger is.

Mary’s baby had just been born. Was this important? It certainly was, because this was the Savior God had been promising for so long. Except for Mary and Joseph, no one knew God’s promise had just been kept. No one knew the Savior of the world had been born. God didn’t let it stay that way for long.

Out in the fields, outside of the walls of Bethlehem, shepherds were spending the night, taking care of their sheep. Have you ever gone camping and slept in a tent or out under the stars? That is how these shepherds lived, so they could always be with their sheep, watching them and taking care of them. The shepherds may have been talking quietly and staring into their campfire. Or they may have been looking up at the bright stars in the sky. Suddenly an angel appeared to them, along with the glory of the Lord. We don’t know what the glory of the Lord might have looked like, but the Bible says it shone around them, so it must have been very bright. The shepherds were very frightened. It was *so* bright, and they had never seen an angel before. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I’m bringing you good news, not just for you, but for everyone. Today, over in Bethlehem, the Savior has been born for you. He is Christ the Lord. Here’s how you can know which baby is this special baby: you will find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a great crowd of angels, all of them praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.” If you had been one of the shepherds, as soon as the angels had gone, what would you have wanted to do? The shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see what has happened, this thing that God has told us about.”

So the shepherds hurried away and searched the stables of Bethlehem until they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. Once they had seen the baby for themselves, the shepherds hurried through Bethlehem, telling everyone they met about the angels. They told everyone that the angel had said a Savior had been born and that this good news was for all people. They told everyone that they themselves had seen the baby the angel spoke of. Finally, when there was no one left to tell, the shepherds went back to their sheep. The Bible says that as they went, they were glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard.

4. Application

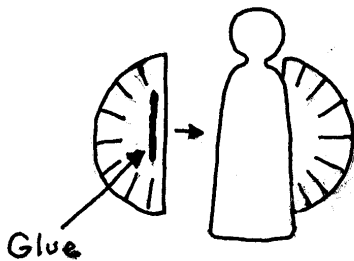
Remind the children that the good news the angel announced was that *a Savior* had been born. Help them to see that this is such good news because all of us--Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and you and I--are born sinners and cannot please God by ourselves. A Savior forgives sin and changes people so they can live to please God. Help them to see that although Jesus is a Savior for all people, not all people are saved, but only those who turn away from their sin and believe in Jesus as their Savior. Encourage them to ask God to help them to turn from their own selfishness to believe in the Savior He sent.

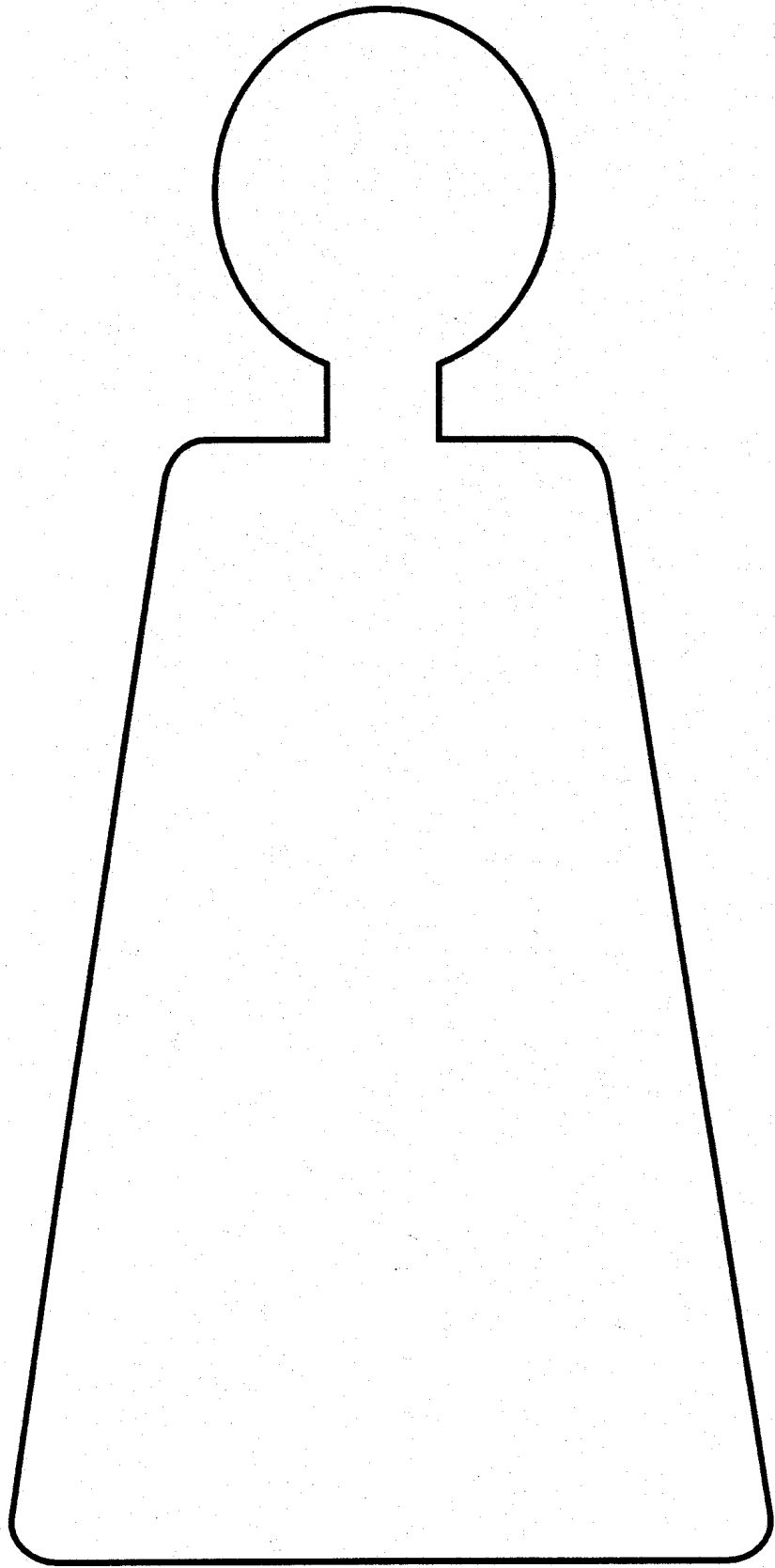
5. Review questions

- A. Where did Joseph and Mary have to go? (To Bethlehem.)
- B. Where did they stay when they got there, and why? (They stayed in a stable because there were no hotel or inn rooms left.)
- C. What happened while they were there? (Jesus was born.)
- D. What did Mary do to keep the baby warm? (Wrapped him in cloths.)
- E. What did Mary use for a bed for the baby? (A manger.)
- F. Where were the shepherds and why were they there? (They were in the fields outside of the city keeping watch over their sheep.)
- G. What appeared to them? (An angel.)
- H. How did the shepherds feel about this? (Frightened.)
- I. What was the good news the angel had? (The Savior had been born.)
- J. Who joined the angel? (Many other angels.)
- K. What did the shepherds do? (They went to Bethlehem to see the baby.)
- L. After the shepherds had seen the baby, what did they do? (They told people what they had seen and heard.)
- M. When they went back to their sheep, what were the shepherds doing? (Praising God.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Choose two children to be Mary and Joseph. Assign everyone else to be shepherds or angels and act out the story, maybe using Christmas songs the children know for the praise of the angels and for the praise of the shepherds.
- B. Make an "angel craft." On white construction paper, make and cut out copies of the attached angel body for students to decorate with crayons or markers or glitter. Provide one fluted coffee filter for each child. Cut this filter in half and glue the edge of each half to the back of the angel to form wings.





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

Lesson 3

Title: The Wise Men Worship Jesus
Text: Matthew 2:1-12
Theme: Those who understand who Jesus is rejoice and want to worship Him.

Memory Verse: (continued) ***1 John 4:14** The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.*

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

1. See the difference between the wise men, who understood who the baby Jesus was, and Herod, the chief priests and teachers of the law, who did not.
2. Understand that Jesus is the Savior of the world whom God had promised.
3. Trust in Jesus as his or her own Savior and praise Him with joy.

1. Teacher Direction

Several different reactions to the birth of Jesus are contrasted in this story. The wise men understood something of who Jesus was and went to a great deal of trouble to find and worship Him, and that with "exceeding great joy." Herod understood Him to be a potential political leader and feared and hated Him. The chief priests and scribes must have understood Him to be simply another baby and were indifferent to Him. At Christmas time, many people speak of Jesus or sing about Him, but only those who truly understand who He is--the One God sent to be the Savior of the world--will know true joy and be able to worship.

2. Bible Story

In last week's story, what happened while Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem? (Jesus was born.) Who found out about it? (The shepherds.) How did they find out? (Angels told them.) What did angels say was the good news that was for all people? A --what--had been born? (Savior)

The shepherds were not the only people who found out that the Savior God had promised had finally been born. Far away, in another country, men called magi--we sometimes call them "wise men--" found out, too. They found out by studying the stars. These wise men often studied the stars in the night sky. God put a star that was somehow special into the sky when Jesus was born. These wise men saw it and knew that a very special baby had been born, a baby who would be an important King.

The wise men thought this was important enough that they dropped everything they were doing, packed their things for a long journey, and went looking for this newborn King. They did not know exactly where to look, though, so first they went to the big city of Jerusalem. There, they went through the streets, asking people, "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star and we

have come to worship Him.” The people of Jerusalem did not know what the wise men were talking about.

King Herod lived in Jerusalem and he heard about the wise men. He did not like the idea of a newborn king. He thought that meant this baby would grow up and take *his* kingdom away from him. King Herod sent for the people who would know the most about God’s word. He asked them if the Bible said anything about *where* a king might be born. The men who knew God’s word knew there is a verse that says a King would come from Bethlehem.

Then King Herod sent for the wise men. He told them about the verse. “Go look for the newborn King in Bethlehem,” he told them. “If you find Him, come back and tell me about Him.” So the wise men left Jerusalem and headed for Bethlehem. As they traveled, they again saw the same star they had seen before. This time the star moved ahead of them until it stopped over the house in Bethlehem where Jesus was living with Mary and Joseph. The Bible tells us that when they saw the star, the wise men were very, very happy. That is because they knew Jesus was not just any baby. He was the King and the Savior God had promised.

The wise men went into the house to see little Jesus. When they saw Him, they bowed down and worshiped Him. They gave Him rich, expensive presents: gold, frankincense and myrrh (frankincense and myrrh were things that smelled good and were very expensive). These may seem like funny gifts for a little child, but, in those days, they were very good gifts for a King--worth a great deal of money. After they gave their gifts, the wise men went back home.

King Herod did not come to worship Jesus and give Him gifts because he did not understand who He was. The men who knew God’s word and told Herod a King would be born in Bethlehem did not go worship Jesus, either, because they did not understand who Jesus was. The wise men understood that God had sent Jesus as King and Savior. They alone were filled with true joy because of His birth and worshiped Him as He should be worshiped.

3. Application

Help the children to see that many people celebrate Christmas, but not all of them trust Jesus as their Savior and obey Him as their King. Help them to see that the only way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and to know true joy is by knowing Jesus as the One God sent to save them from their sin and make them able to live for Him.

Lead the children in praising the Father for sending the Son to be the Savior of the world.

4. Review Questions

- A. Besides the shepherds, who found out that the One God had promised had been born? (The wise men.)
- B. How did the wise men know? (Because of a special star.)
- C. Where did the wise men live? (In a faraway country.)
- D. What city did the wise men go to first, looking for the baby Jesus? (Jerusalem)
- E. How did King Herod find out what city the wise men should look in for the baby? (By asking the men who knew God’s word.)
- F. What did God’s word say about where the King would be born? (In Bethlehem)

- G. When the wise men left Jerusalem to go to Bethlehem, what did they see again? (The star.)
- H. How did the wise men feel when they saw the star? (Very happy.)
- I. When did the star stop? (When it was over the house where Jesus was.)
- J. What did the wise men do when they went into the house? (Worshiped Jesus and gave Him expensive gifts.)
- K. Why were the wise men happy about Jesus' birth and why did they worship Him, when other people did not? (The wise men understood that Jesus was special. They knew He was the King God had promised.)

5. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Cut construction paper stars from four different colors of construction paper. (A star-shaped cookie cutter makes a good pattern.) Each child will have four stars, one of each color. On the four stars in each set of stars, write a number and a portion of the memory verse. (1: The Father; 2: has sent His Son; 3: to be the Savior; 4: of the world.) Hide the stars around the room before children's church begins. Remind the children that the wise men had to go looking for the Baby Jesus and a star led them to Him. They are going to go looking for stars. Instruct the children that they are to find four stars, each a different color. Once they have stars of four different colors, they are to glue them in order (1 to 4) on a piece of white construction paper.

B. Cut sponges into small, star-shaped pieces and into small square pieces. Attach clothespins to the sponge pieces for handles. Put some tempera paints in shallow dishes and show the children how to dip the sponge into the paint, then stamp it on the paper to make star and square shapes on a piece of construction paper. After the paint dries, ribbons or bows can be drawn on the squares to make them look like gifts. Remind the children that the wise men followed a star so they could give their gifts to Jesus. Remind them that the best gift is God's gift of His Son to be our Savior.

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

Lesson 4

Title: Jesus Escapes to Egypt
Text: Matthew 2:13-23
Theme: God protects the Savior He sent.

Memory Verse: (continued) ***1 John 4:14** The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.*

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

1. Review the Christmas story.
2. Thank God for protecting the Savior He had provided.
3. Trust in Jesus as his or her own Savior.

1. Teacher Direction

One of the themes running through all of Scripture is that of God's constant oversight of His plan for redeeming His people. Many times God's plan for sending a Savior seemed threatened, but always God intervened to protect His plan and accomplish His purpose. In this story, King Herod makes a brutal and thorough attempt to destroy the newborn King. Escape was humanly impossible, but, again, God intervened to protect the Savior and His plan of salvation.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Tape a piece of newsprint on the wall. Across the top, write "Christmas: Jesus' Birthday!" Bring old Christmas cards or pictures. As the children come in, have them choose several pictures of the Christmas story or of families and/or churches celebrating Christmas and glue them to the paper to create a class mural.

3. Bible Story

In last week's story, who came from a faraway country looking for the baby Jesus? (Wise men.) How did they know He had been born? (They saw a different star in the sky.) Where did they go first to look for Him? (Jerusalem) There was a king in Jerusalem. Do you remember his name? (Herod.)

When King Herod heard that wise men had come looking for a newborn King, he was worried. He was the king. He didn't want any other kings. Whoever this new baby was, what if he grew up and tried to take Herod's kingdom away from him? Herod decided that he must find out if there really was such a newborn king. If there was, he had to do something about it.

So Herod asked the people who knew God's word to look and see if it said anything about *where* a king might be born. The men told him of a promise God had made in His word that a ruler would come from Bethlehem. Now Herod knew where to look. He also knew how to look. Herod called the wise men to him.

“Bethlehem is the place where you should look,” he told them. “Go there and look very carefully. As soon as you find the newborn King, let me know exactly where He is. Then I can go and worship Him, too.” Do you suppose King Herod really wanted to worship the baby Jesus? Of course not. He wanted to harm Him. He wanted to make sure He would never grow up and be a king. He lied to the wise men so they would tell him where they found the baby.

The wise men left. Do you remember what they saw as soon as they left Jerusalem? (They saw the star again.) How did they feel when they saw that star? (They were very happy.) Where did the star stop? (Over the house where Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph.) What did the wise men do when they went into the house? (They worshiped Jesus and gave Him expensive gifts.) Then it was time for them to make the long journey home. However, the wise men did *not* go back the same way they had come. They did not go back through Jerusalem and they did not tell King Herod where they had found the baby Jesus. God warned them in a dream that Herod really wanted to hurt the baby. So they went home by another way and did not see King Herod again.

Back in Jerusalem, Herod waited and waited for the wise men to come back. They didn’t come and they didn’t come and finally King Herod realized they were not coming at all. Somehow, they must have found out that he was planning to hurt the baby and they were not going to tell him where the baby was. “Fine,” Herod thought. “I have a whole army! We’ll find this baby. He won’t ever get to be king!” Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem. It seemed there would be no escape for Jesus.

However, as the soldiers were coming, someone else had a dream. This time it was Joseph. Joseph saw an angel in his dream and the angel said, “Get up, take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is searching for the child to kill Him.” Joseph obeyed at once. He rose in the middle of the night, took Mary and Jesus, and traveled to Egypt.

Mary and Joseph stayed in Egypt while Jesus was a little boy. Some time later, King Herod died and Joseph had one more dream. This time, an angel told him it was safe to take Jesus back to His own country, because the king who had wanted to kill him was dead. Joseph took Mary and Jesus back to their country, to the town of Nazareth. There Joseph worked at his job of being a carpenter and making things out of wood and Jesus grew up.

4. Application

Encourage the children to praise God for giving us Jesus to be our Savior and then for protecting Him so He could grow up to do the work God had for Him to do. Remind them that God’s whole purpose in sending His Son was so that His people would trust in Him and be saved from their sin in order to live for God. Encourage them to trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

5. Review Questions (These are from all four of the Christmas lessons and can be used for the review game.)

- A. Before Jesus was born, who came to Joseph to tell him that Mary would have a baby? (An angel.)
- B. Who did the angel say was this baby's Father? (God)
- C. What did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby? (Jesus)
- D. Joseph was to name the baby "Jesus" because He would save His people from-- what? (Their sins.)
- E. Another name of Jesus is "Immanuel." What does "Immanuel" mean? (God with us.)
- F. Mary and Joseph had to make a long trip, right before Jesus was born. Where did they have to go? (To Bethlehem)
- G. What happened while they were in Bethlehem? (Jesus was born.)
- H. Where did Mary put her baby and why? (In a manger; there was no room in the inn.)
- I. Who found out that Jesus had been born? (Shepherds)
- J. How did the shepherds find out? (Angels told them)
- K. What did the shepherds do? (They came to see the baby, then they told everyone what they had seen and heard, then they went back to their sheep, praising God.)
- L. Who were the people who lived in a faraway country and knew that Jesus had been born? (The wise men.)
- M. How did they know? (Because of a special star in the sky.)
- N. Where did they look first for the newborn King? (In Jerusalem)
- O. Who was worried because a King had been born? (King Herod.)
- P. How did Herod know to tell the wise men to go look in Bethlehem for the new king? (He asked people who knew God's word where it said a king would be born.)
- Q. What did Herod ask the wise men to do? (Go find the baby, then tell him where He was.)
- R. Why did he *say* he wanted to know? (So he could go worship Him, too.)
- S. Why did Herod really want to know where the baby was? (So he could harm Him.)
- T. When the wise men found Jesus, what did they do? (Worshiped Him and gave Him gifts.)
- U. Why didn't the wise men tell Herod where Jesus was? (God warned them not to in a dream.)
- V. What did Herod send to Bethlehem to find and harm the baby Jesus? (His soldiers.)
- W. When the soldiers got there, Jesus was already gone. Why was that? (An angel had warned Joseph in a dream to run away to Egypt with Mary and Jesus.)
- X. Why did God send His Son and protect Him? (So He could be the Savior of the world.)
- Y. What does someone need to do if Jesus is going to be his or her Savior? (Turn from his selfishness and sin; trust in Jesus to forgive him and change him so he can live for God.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. **Praise with homemade tambourines.** Ahead of class, make simple tambourines for the children to use in singing praise songs. For each tambourine: cut out the centers from two paper plates and glue the rims together. Attach a few jingle bells by stringing them through a piece of yarn, then lacing the yarn through a few holes you have punched in the edges of the rims. The children could use markers or crayons to decorate these, then use them to sing songs praising God for giving a Savior and for keeping that Savior safe.

B. **Review Game.** On the board, draw a pyramid and explain that pyramids were built in Egypt. From a Christmas card or magazine picture, cut a picture of Joseph with Mary and Jesus (or draw a simple one yourself.) Label the side of the board opposite the pyramid "Bethlehem" and tape the Mary/ Joseph/Jesus cut-out there. Each time a child answers a review question correctly, he may come up and move the family a little farther from danger in Bethlehem and closer to safety in Egypt.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - WINTER QUARTER

LESSONS 5 - 8

THEME: Jesus' Parables

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Luke 11:28 "Blessed are those who hear the word of God
and obey it."

HYMN

Amazing Grace

CHORUS

Abba Father

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

I am the Light of the World

A Farmer Went Out

The Wise Man and the Foolish Man



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

Lesson 5

Title: The Parable of the Soils
Text: Matthew 13:1-23
Theme: Only a heart prepared by God can receive His word.

Memory Verse: *Luke 11:28 Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*

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

1. Understand that simply *hearing* God's word is not enough; we must let it change us.
2. Ask God to work in his own heart so that he hears, understands, and obeys God's word.

1. Teacher Direction

Today we begin a series of lessons on some of Jesus' parables. For several weeks, we will be looking at parables that divide mankind into two classes: those who respond to God's word in the gospel and those who do not. Today's story is a good place to begin the series because the story focuses on the heart. The parable shows us four responses to the gospel, all depending on the condition of the hearer's heart. Only one response is one of understanding that results in fruit for God. Jesus explains to His disciples that the inability to see and understand the truth is the result of a hardened heart. Only a heart that God has freed from its natural blindness and hardness can see how wonderful is the love of God in Christ and can embrace Christ by faith. A genuine fear of God and obedience to Him can only arise from such a heart.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

If you have a small plant you don't mind uprooting, bring it with you to class. If not, you can draw a simple picture on the board, showing a plant and its underground roots. Ask the children what they see when they look at a plant (stem or trunk, branches, leaves, possibly flowers, fruit or berries). Ask them if there is any more of the plant that they cannot see (roots). Lead the children in a discussion of the purpose of roots: they draw water up out of the ground to water all the parts of the plant, as well as drawing up the food from the soil that the plant needs to grow and be healthy. Ask them what would happen to a plant if you pulled its roots out of the ground and did not plant them back in. (It would wither and die.) Explain to the children that when you plant a seed, the seed begins to send out little roots into the ground from which the plant can get what it needs so it can begin to grow. Explain to the children that we call the dirt in which seeds are planted "soil." Discuss with the children the kind of soil a seed needs to fall into if it is going to produce good roots and a healthy plant: it must be soft enough for the seed to fall down in and for the roots to be able to work their way into it, there must be the kinds

of things in the soil that the plant will need, and there must be enough room in the soil for the roots to grow.

3. Bible Story

When Jesus was on earth, what kinds of things did He do? (He healed the sick, performed miracles, taught the people about God.) **As Jesus taught, He told many stories. Each of His stories had a lesson to teach. They were usually stories about ordinary things His listeners would see every day, but the stories had important meanings. Jesus' stories are called parables. One day, Jesus told a parable about a farmer, his seeds, and soil.**

Jesus said the farmer went out to sow his seeds. (Demonstrate how a man would have walked, sprinkling seed from his hand with wide arm motions.) **The farmer was hoping to plant a field this way. He hoped his field would produce a large amount of food that his family could eat. Some of the seeds the farmer scattered fell right on the path where people walk. That ground was hard and packed down from so many people walking on it. It was so hard that the seeds could not fall down *into* the dirt at all. So the seeds just lay there on top of the ground. Along came some birds. Do you know what birds eat? They eat seeds! So the birds stopped and gobbled up the seeds. *Those* seeds gave no food at all.**

The farmer kept walking and kept scattering. Some of his seeds fell on places that were very rocky. There was not much soil there at all, just a little bit on top of the rocks. The seeds fell on this soil and sent their little roots down into the soil--but the roots quickly ran into the rock and could not go any farther. Little plants quickly grew from the roots in their little bit of soil, but when it got hot, the plants could not get enough water from the ground. Their roots were just too small. The hot sun quickly withered the little plants. *Those* seeds gave no food at all.

The farmer also scattered seed that fell in patches of weeds. These seeds put their roots down into the soil and began to grow, but the weeds would not let them get very far. The weeds pushed their larger, stronger roots down into the soil and took all the room. The little plants could not get the food and water they needed from the soil and soon the weeds had choked them out completely. *Those* seeds gave no food at all.

As the farmer walked and scattered, some of his seeds fell into good soil. Those seeds went down into the soil, put down roots, grew into big, healthy plants, and produced a good crop of healthy food for the farmer and his family.

Jesus' disciples asked Him what this parable meant. Jesus said that the seed is like God's word and the different kinds of soil are like the different hearts of people who hear God's word. Some people may come to Sunday School or church and hear God's word, but they don't understand it and they don't pay much attention to it. This is like the seed falling on the hard path. Just as these seeds did not even get down into the dirt before the birds snatched them away, a person who doesn't understand God's word pays no attention to it and Satan immediately snatches it away so that the person forgets all about it.

Another person may hear God's word and seem to love it and believe it. But God has not really changed this person's heart, so as soon as any troubles or problems come up or it is hard to obey God, this person gives up and doesn't want

to follow God anymore. He is like the seed that fell on top of rocks. The little plants started to grow, but they didn't get very far before the sun withered them.

Others hear God's word and start to obey on the outside, but their hearts have not changed on the inside, so other things choke out their obedience to God. They want more money or things or they get too busy, so they have no more time for God. These people are like the seeds that fell in the weeds, and began to grow, but were choked out by the weeds.

But some people hear God's word, love it, and keep it in their hearts. These are the people whose hearts God has prepared to understand His word. God's word changes these people and they live by what His word says. These are the people who produce fruit by living lives that are pleasing to God.

4. Application

What kind of soil is your heart for God's word? When you hear it, do you not understand and not pay attention? Or do you start to obey God, but give up when it gets hard? Or do you mean to obey God, but then you get too busy with other things? Or do you love God's word when you hear it? Does it change you so that you are becoming more like Jesus? Ask God to work in your heart to make it the kind of soil that His word can grow in, producing fruit for Him.

5. Review Questions

- A. What do we call the stories that Jesus told? (Parables)
- B. What was today's parable about? (Seeds and kinds of soil)
- C. What kind of soil does a seed need? (Soil soft enough to push roots down into, with food in it, where there is room to grow.)
- D. What happened to the seeds that fell on the hard path? (The birds ate them.)
These are like the people who hear God's word but pay no attention and forget it.
- E. What happened to the seeds that fell on top of rocks? (They started to grow but their roots could not grow very large, so when the sun came up, they withered.)
These are like the people who start to obey God's word but give up when it becomes hard.
- F. What happened to the seeds that fell among weeds? (They started to grow, but the weeds took all the room and choked them out.) These are like the people who mean to obey God, but who get busy with other things and end up with no time for God.
- G. What happened to the seeds that fell on good soil? (They grew into healthy plants and produced food.) These are like the people whose hearts God has prepared to understand and love His word.
- H. Who can change your heart so it is the right kind of soil for God's word to take root and grow in? (God.)

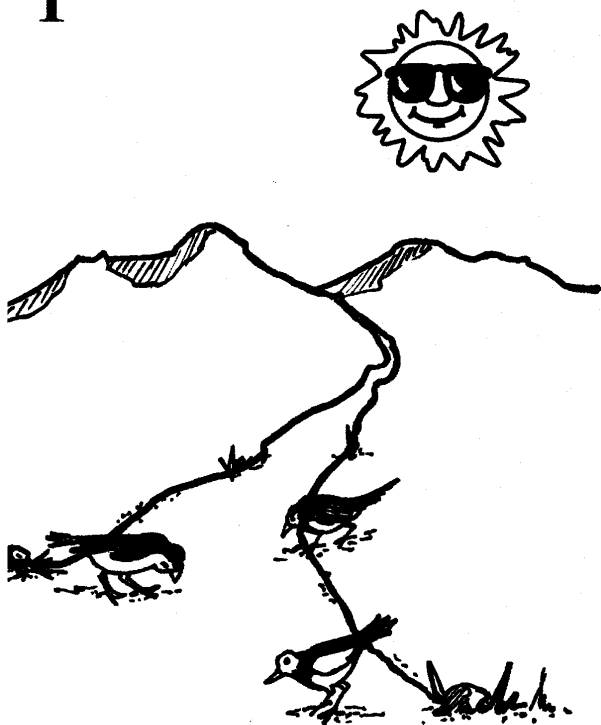
6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Let the children pretend they are the seeds/plants. As you retell each part of the story, they can lie flat like seeds on a hard path, grow up quickly on the rocks then

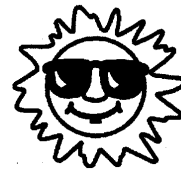
wither from the sun, begin to grow then have less and less space because of weeds, and finally grow tall and strong.

B. Make copies of the attached pages. Each child gets a copy of page A and glues the following items in the following spaces: square 1: seeds on the road (bring any kind of seed from home); square 2: small rocks (from your yard?); square 3: weeds from page B (attached) that you have cut out ahead of time; square 4: healthy plants, also from the page B. As children work on each square, remind them of the kind of heart it represents.

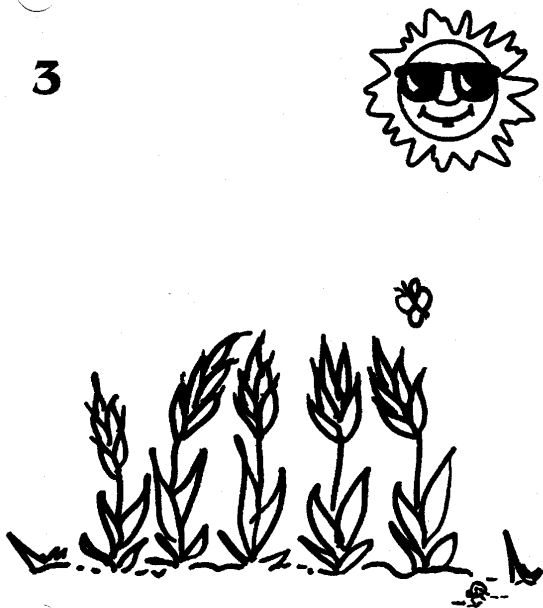
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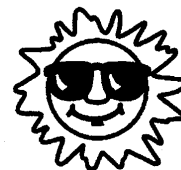
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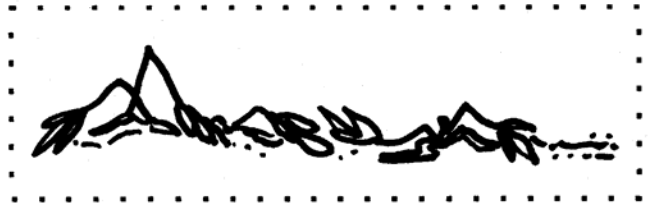
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Glue real seeds onto the square from page one marked 1.

2

Cut out and glue onto square 2 of page one.

Also, glue small, real rocks in the same square.



3

Cut out and glue onto square 3 of page one.

4

Cut out and glue onto square 4 of page one.



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

Lesson 6

Title: The Parables of the Treasure in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price
Text: Matthew 13:44-46
Theme: When God changes our hearts, we understand that His kingdom is of greater value than anything else.

Memory Verse: *Luke 11:28 Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*

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

1. Understand that when God changes a person's heart, that person values God and His kingdom more than anything else.
2. Ask God to help him to see the true value of God and His kingdom.

1. Teacher Direction

Last week's parable examined the kind of heart in which God's word can take root and produce fruit. God requires certain conditions in our heart, but, in His grace, He Himself provides what He requires. On our own, we could never change our hearts so that they are soft and open to God's word. God Himself changes our hearts so we can understand the gospel, see our need of a Savior, and love and cling to Christ by faith. One evidence of a changed heart is that a person comes to value what is truly of value: the Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom. That is what the parables in today's lesson illustrate.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Let the children go on a simple hunt for "hidden treasure" - little treats hidden before class. Tell the children that someone in today's Bible story found a treasure that had been hidden.

3. Introduction

Help the children to understand the concept of value by showing them different things of obviously disparate values and asking them which is more valuable. Compare such things as a toy car with a picture of a real car, several dollar bills with a penny, a piece of toy jewelry with something you have told them is real gold or a real diamond, asking them each time which one is worth more. Help them to see that when a person values something, he would trade other things in order to get the thing he values most.

4. Bible Story

Last Sunday, we talked about stories Jesus told, stories about ordinary things, but stories that had important meanings. Do you remember what we call

those stories? (Parables) **Do you remember what last Sunday's parable was about?** (Seeds and different kinds of soil.)

Today we're going to hear two parables Jesus told. See if you can tell what is the same in these two parables. Once there was a man who was working in someone else's field. As the man worked, he suddenly discovered something that had been hidden in the field. Maybe it was a lot of money. Maybe it was a box of valuable jewels. Maybe it was gold. The Bible just says it was a treasure, hidden in the field. When the man found it, he knew it was very valuable. He wanted to have it for himself. So the man hid the treasure again. He didn't want anyone else to get it. He hurried home and got together everything he owned: his furniture, his clothes, his tools, even his house, and he sold all of it. Then he took the money and bought the field. Now it was his field and the treasure hidden in it belonged to him.

The other parable was about a man whose job was buying and selling pearls. Oysters make pearls inside their shells. Some pearls are better than others, depending on how round they are, how large they are, how perfect they are. One day, the man who bought and sold pearls saw a pearl that was the largest, most beautiful pearl he had ever seen. He knew this pearl had more value than any other pearls. So the man hurried home, sold all his other pearls, sold the things he used in his store, sold the store itself, and used the money to buy the large, beautiful pearl.

What was the same in both parables? (Someone sold everything he had to buy something he valued more.) **If the man in the first story had lost everything he had in a fire, if all his clothing and furniture and house had burned, he would not have been at all happy. But in the story, he did not mind losing everything. Why?** (Because he wanted the treasure in the field more than he wanted all his things. He knew the treasure he had found was more valuable than all his things.) **This is the way God's people feel about the Lord Jesus and His kingdom. They know it is more valuable than anything else. That is because God has changed their hearts so they know how wonderful Jesus is. God's people would give up anything for Jesus and His kingdom.**

In the second story, if robbers had broken into the man's pearl store and stolen all his pearls and everything in his store, he would have been very unhappy. But in the story, he did not mind giving up all his pearls, his store, and everything. Why? (Because he wanted the one large, beautiful pearl more than he wanted everything else. He knew that one pearl was more valuable than everything else he had.) **God's people are like the man with the pearl. They know there are things they may not be able to have or things they may not be able to do if they belong to Jesus' kingdom, but Jesus and His kingdom are more valuable to them. God has worked in their hearts so they understand that the best thing of all is to be in Jesus' kingdom. They want this more than anything else.**

5. Application

On our own, we are sinful and we do not value the things that are best. Our sinful hearts keep us from understanding that the most valuable thing in the universe is the Lord Jesus Christ. On our own, we do not really believe that the best thing for us is to obey God by believing in the Lord Jesus and becoming part of His kingdom. God is the One who changes people's hearts so they will understand how

valuable Jesus is. God is the One who makes us want to be a part of His kingdom. Ask God to work in your heart so you will believe that Jesus is worth more than anything else and that being in His kingdom is the very best thing for you.

6. Review Questions

- A. What are Jesus' simple stories with important meanings called? (Parables)
- B. How many parables were in today's lesson? (Two)
- C. In the first parable, where was the man working? (In a field.)
- D. What did the man find in the field? (A hidden treasure)
- E. What did the man do? (He hid the treasure again, then went and sold everything he had so he could buy the field with the treasure in it.)
- F. Why didn't the man mind giving up everything he had? (Because he valued--or wanted--the treasure more.)
- G. What was the job of the man in the second parable? (He bought and sold pearls.)
- H. What did the man see one day? (A pearl larger and more beautiful than any he had ever seen.)
- I. What did the man do? (He sold everything he had so he could buy the pearl.)
- J. Why didn't the man mind losing everything he had? (Because he knew this one pearl was more valuable than anything he had.)
- K. Who is more valuable than anyone in the universe? (The Lord Jesus.)
- L. What do God's people value more than anything else? (The Lord Jesus and His kingdom)
- M. We don't value these things by ourselves because we are sinful and don't see how wonderful they are. How do our hearts change so we value Jesus and His kingdom? (God changes them.)

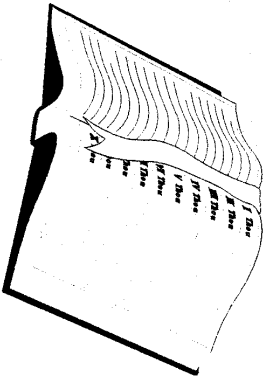
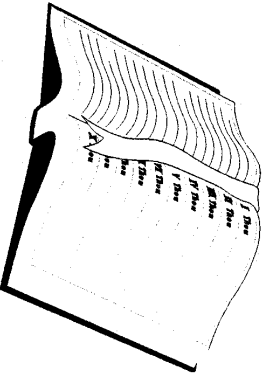
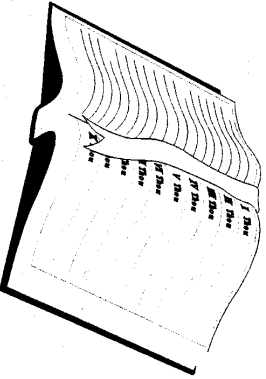
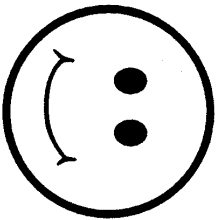
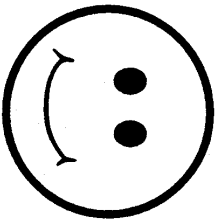
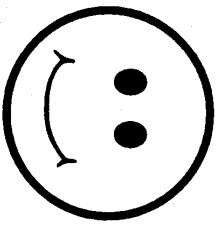
7. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Review Game. For this game place toy jewelry or pretend money under a pile of blocks or papers. The children are searching for the treasure. Each time they answer a review question correctly, they may remove one block or paper from the pile to help uncover the treasure.
- B. Verse craft. Copy the attached Bible verse page to give copies to the children. Copy and cut out enough happy faces, ears and Bibles for each child. Children are to glue these in the appropriate places on the memory verse page. They can then color the letters of "obey." Explain that many people hear God's word, but not many want to obey it. The person who obeys God's word when he hears it is the person who understands how valuable Jesus and His kingdom are. The person who hears and obeys is the person whose heart God has changed.

Blessed are those who
hear the Word of God

and **OBEY IT.**

Luke 11:28



sample



Blessed are those who
hear the Word of God



and **OBEY IT.**

Luke 11:28

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

Lesson 7

Title: The Parable of the Ten Minas
Text: Luke 19:11-27
Theme: Those who belong to Christ's kingdom use what they have to serve Christ while they wait for Him to return.

Memory Verse: *Luke 11:28 Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*

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

1. Understand that Jesus will return again and that those who belong to Him should use the lives He has given them to serve Him while they wait for Him.
2. Ask God to help them to grow and to learn about Him so they will be ready to use their lives in His service.

1. Teacher Direction

We are in the middle of a series of lessons based on the parables of Jesus. The first lesson in the series was from the story of the sower and the four kinds of soil. In that lesson, we considered the importance of a heart prepared by God to receive His word and act upon it. Last week's parables highlighted the story of the man who sold all he had to purchase a field in which was hidden a treasure and the story of the pearl merchant who sold all he had to buy one pearl of supreme value. We saw that a heart that has been changed understands the value of the Lord Jesus and His kingdom. That is why the person with such a heart obeys God's word when he hears it. Today's lesson focuses on serving Christ our King while we wait for Him to come again. The person with a heart changed by God understands the value of Christ's kingdom and uses all his life to serve in that kingdom.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring an assortment of items from home that could be combined to make things to sell or could be used to do work that would earn money. (Examples: baking ingredients; hammer, nails, and wood; cleaning supplies; gardening tools and seeds, etc.) Tell the children that they have enough money to buy some of these things, but they want to make more money. Ask them what they would choose to buy from the things you have with you and how they would use those things to earn more money. Let each child share his or her ideas with the class.

This is what it is like when people start a business. At first, people have to spend money to buy things they can use to make more money. They use the things they buy to make more money than they had to start with. Jesus told a parable about people who had money they were to use so they could make more money.

3. Bible Story

Jesus told this story because people thought He was going to set up a kingdom on earth right then. They thought He had come to be an earthly king like any other king and to fight all the enemy countries for them. Jesus wanted them to know that, after He died on the cross and rose again, He would go back to Heaven for a while. Later, He would come back as King. While He was in Heaven and while His people waited for Him to come again, there were things His people were to be doing.

Jesus said there was a man who needed to make a trip to a faraway country. Before the man left, he called ten of his servants and gave each one piece of money called a mina. "Put this money to work while I am away," he said. He wanted his servants to use the money to earn more money. Then he went away.

After some time, the man returned. He called the ten servants to him. "What did you do with the money I gave you?" he asked the first servant.

"Look," the first servant said. "I used your one mina and bought things with which I earned ten more minas."

"Well done, good servant," the man said. "You have been faithful to take care of the little thing I gave you. I will put you in charge of ten cities."

The man asked the second servant, "What did *you* do with the money I gave you?"

"Look," the second servant said, "I used your one mina to get things with which I earned five more minas."

"Well done, good servant," the man said. "You have been faithful to take care of the little thing I gave you. I will put you in charge of five cities."

Then another servant stepped forward. "What did *you* do with the money I gave you?" the master asked.

"Well--," the third servant answered. "I was afraid something might happen to the mina you gave me, so I just wrapped it up in a cloth and laid it away somewhere. Here is your mina back."

The man became angry with the third servant. "You did not do what I told you to do. You didn't do *anything* with the money I gave you!" Then the man said to his other servants, "Take that servant's money away from him. Give it to the one who earned ten minas."

Jesus told this parable to show His people that they should be busy working for Him and His kingdom while they wait for Him to return. Jesus Himself is like the man in the story, because He left this earth and went to Heaven but He will come back again. The man gave His servants money to use to work for him while they waited for him. In the same way, Jesus has given each of His people a life they are to use to serve Him until He comes back. On our own, we are like the lazy servant. We don't want to serve Jesus. But when God has changed our hearts, we *want* to use what we have to serve Jesus. We want to know from God's word what Jesus wants us to do. Then, like our memory verse says, we go on to *obey* what God's word says. To the person with a new heart from God, living for Jesus by serving and obeying Him is the thing he really wants to do.

4. Application

Encourage the children to ask God for new hearts that love Jesus and want to live for Him. Encourage them to think of this time when they are young as a time to get ready for work in Jesus' kingdom. They should be learning all they can about Jesus, but about many other things as well, so they can be effective workers while they wait for Jesus to return.

5. Review Questions

- A. What was the man in the story getting ready to do? (Go away on a trip.)
- B. What would the man do when the trip was finished? (Come back home.)
- C. How is that like Jesus? (Jesus went to Heaven and will come back again.)
- D. What did the man in the story give his servants before he went away? (Money.)
- E. What were the servants supposed to do with the money while they waited for the man to come back? (They were to use it to buy things that would help them make more money for the man.)
- F. How many servants in the story earned more money for their master? (Two.)
- G. What did the other servant do? (He hid the money in a cloth and did nothing.)
- H. How did the master feel about that? (He was angry.)
- I. What has Jesus given each of His people to use for Him while they wait for Him to come back? (A life.)
- J. What are God's people supposed to do with their whole life? (Serve Jesus.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Retell the story, after assigning parts so that one child is the man who went on a trip, and other children represent servants. As you tell the story, they are to enact their part. The master should give them each a coin. One servant should go wrap his coin in a cloth, while the other two servants go to different parts of the room where they pretend to buy things, then work to earn more money. They then go back and present it to their master.
- B. Using magazine pictures, show children people involved in different activities, from showing acts of kindness to working at various occupations and encourage them to think about how the person in the picture could be serving Jesus by this particular activity. Let children suggest other activities people could do to use their lives for Jesus, or even come up and pantomime the activities for others to guess.

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

Lesson 8

Title: The Parable of the Two Sons
Text: Matthew 21:28-32
Theme: Knowing the gospel does not make you right with God; obeying God's call to repent and believe does.

Memory Verse: *Luke 11:28 Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*

Teaching Objectives:

1. Children will understand that to hear God's word and to know what He wants us to do is not enough.
2. Children will obey the gospel by repenting of their sin and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Teacher Direction

We have looked at three other parables so far: the parable of the soils, the parable of the treasure in the field with the parable of the pearl of great price, and the parable of the ten minas. We have seen that only those whose hearts have been prepared by God can receive the gospel, that those whose hearts have been so changed will value Christ and His kingdom more than anything else, and that those who value Christ will spend their lives in His service. Today we will see that knowing what the gospel says does not make a person pleasing to God; obeying the gospel by repenting of sin and trusting in Christ make a person right with God. This is one more application of the verse we are working on this month: blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Another parable ties in well with this lesson and with the memory verse. That is the parable of the wise man building his house on rock while the foolish man built on sand. Bring sand in one container and a large rock in another. Using blocks or Legos, build a little house on the sand and one on the rock. Demonstrate what a great rain storm and flood would do by pouring water on the house. Explain to the children that any builder knows you must build a house on something solid and firm that will not wash away. Only a very foolish person would build on sand. Explain that Jesus said some people hear what God's word says and do nothing about it. This is very foolish. Other people hear God's word and do the only wise thing--do what God says to do. Sing the song "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Sand" with the children.

3. Bible Story

Jesus came to save people from their sins. Ever since Adam and Eve first disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, all people are born as sinners and do things that God doesn't like. God hates sin, so we cannot be friends with God while our sins are in the way. Jesus died to pay for our sins so we could be forgiven and live new lives that are pleasing to God.

Some people who knew Jesus when He was on earth knew very well that they needed a Savior. These were the people who had done such bad things or so many bad things that everyone knew they were bad people. These people were very happy when Jesus came to them, telling them they could be forgiven and have new lives. They repented of their sin. This means they said they had done wrong and wanted to stop doing what was wrong. They trusted in Jesus as the One who could forgive them and change them.

Other people who were alive when Jesus was on earth did not think they needed a Savior. They had known about God all their lives. They knew what God's word said. The trouble was that, because of their sinful hearts, they were not obeying God's word. They needed a Savior who would forgive them and make them able to obey. These people did not think they needed to be forgiven and they did not want a Savior.

The people who didn't think they needed a Savior did not believe in Jesus and did not repent. To these people Jesus told another parable, this time to show that they were not pleasing to God just because they knew *about* Him and His word. They needed to do what God told them to do, and repent and believe.

Jesus said there was one father with two sons. The father went to the first son and said, "Son, I want you to go out to the vineyard today and work in it." (Stop here to explain what a vineyard is and what kinds of work might be done in it.) The son answered, "I will not." Is that a good answer for a son to give to his father? Later, though, the son repented. He changed his mind and realized he needed to do what was right. He needed to obey his father. So that son went out to the vineyard and worked all day.

The father also went to his other son and told him the same thing. "Son," he said, "I want you to go out to the vineyard today and spend the day working." This son answered, "I will, sir," but he did not do it. Maybe he meant to go, but he got busy with other things and never went. Or maybe he never planned to go at all and lied to his father. For whatever reason, the son who answered so politely did not obey his father. He did not do what his father wished.

When Jesus came to the end of this parable, he asked the people who were listening to Him, "Which of the two sons did what his father wanted?" The people answered, "The first one."

Jesus wanted them to see that even if people begin by *not* obeying God, if they repent and do what God wants them to do, they will be pleasing to God. People who *think* they are pleasing to God but who never repent and turn from their sin are not doing what God wants. They are not obeying God.

Jesus said that when the bad people--the people who had done terrible things that everyone knew about--heard that God wanted them to repent of those things,

they *did* repent. Those people, Jesus said, were now in God's kingdom and were pleasing to Him. "But you," Jesus said, "do not believe you need to repent. You do not think you need a Savior to forgive and change you, so you are not in God's kingdom."

4. Application

Sometimes children think they are right with God because they know about Him. They go to church and they know Bible verses and stories. They know Jesus died to save people from their sins. They think they are God's children and are pleasing to God, just because they know these things. But the Bible tells us that not those who *know* what God's word says, but those who *do* what God's word says are pleasing to God. Any person who wants to be pleasing to God must repent. He must tell God he is a sinner who is *not* pleasing to God. He must trust in Jesus as the only One who can forgive his sin and give him new life. Do you only *know* this is the right thing to do? Or have you obeyed God by doing it? "Blessed are those who hear God's word *and obey it.*"

5. **Review Questions**

- A. What did the father in the story ask both his sons to do? (Go out and work in the vineyard.)
- B. What did the first son answer? (I will not.)
- C. Then what did that son do? (He changed his mind and went to work after all.)
- D. What did the second son say? (I will, sir.)
- E. Did he go work? (No.)
- F. Which one did what the father wanted? (The first son.)
- G. Some people heard Jesus' message and repented of their sin and believed in Him. What did other people do? (They did not repent and believe in Jesus because they thought they were already pleasing to God.)
- H. Which of these people were doing what God wanted them to do? (The ones who repented and believed in Jesus.)
- I. What did Jesus say that a man who builds his house on rock is like? (Someone who hears God's word and obeys it.)
- J. What did Jesus say that a man who builds his house on the sand is like? (Someone who hears God's word but does not obey it.)

6. **Learning Reinforcement Activity**

- A. Copy the attached pages on to construction paper. Cut out the shape patterns to make cut-outs that will go together to make houses. Each child should receive enough pieces to make two houses. On the blank side of the divided page, have the children spread a wash of diluted white glue, over which they will sprinkle sand. On top of the sand, they will assemble and glue the pieces of one house. On the other side of that page, they may color the "rock," then assemble and glue the other house on top of it. As the children work, talk with them about the foolishness of building a house on sand and of the foolishness of knowing about Jesus the Savior without repenting and trusting in Him.
- B. Draw a rock on the board. Tape large construction paper pieces on the rock each time a child answers a review question correctly, until a whole house is built.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - WINTER QUARTER

LESSONS 9 - 13

THEME: Jesus' Parables

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Luke 18:13c "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

HYMN

Amazing Grace

CHORUS

Abba Father

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

I am the Light of the World

A Farmer Went Out

The Wise Man and the Foolish Man



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

Lesson 9

Title: Parable of the Ten Virgins
Text: Matthew 25:1-13
Theme: Those who belong to Christ are ready for His return.

Memory Verse: *Luke 11:28* *Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*

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

1. Understand that Jesus will come again and wants His people to be ready for His return.
2. Trust in Christ and live for Him in order to be ready for His return.

1. Teacher Direction

This is the fifth parable in our series. All have had as their emphasis the kind of person who is a true citizen of Christ's kingdom. We have seen that those who are in God's kingdom have changed hearts (parable of the soils), value what God values (pearl of great price), use their lives in Christ's service (parable of the ten minas), and have obeyed God by repenting and believing the gospel (parable of the two sons). Today's parable shows us that those who are truly members of Christ's kingdom have made all the necessary preparations for His return. Today is the last day we will work on the same memory verse that has tied all these parables together for us: Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.

2. Learning Readiness Activities

- A. Try to find an oil lamp to bring to class so you can demonstrate the way oil in a lamp burns and so the children can see that if you run out of oil, the lamp will go out. Explain that in Bible times, people did not know how to use electricity for lights, so they had to use oil lamps.
- B. Use Play-doh to make small lamps. Show the children how to make a ball with the Play-doh, slightly flattening it on the bottom so it will stand. Show them how to use their thumbs to hollow out an indentation in the center where they would put the wick and the oil if it were really a lamp. They could also attach a small Play-doh rope by working in both ends to the side of the lamp, as a handle. Explain that lamps in Bible times were made of clay, (like Play-doh) that would harden when it dried, and they were small enough to easily carry about, like we might carry a flashlight.

3. Bible Story

What do we call the stories Jesus told, stories about simple things that had important meanings? (Parables) Jesus told a parable about ten young women and their oil lamps. In Bible times, not only were lights different than the ones we use today; wedding celebrations were also quite different from today's weddings. In Bible times, a wedding was a huge party that would last for days. The party was always at the home of the bridegroom--that's the man who is getting married. When everything was ready at his house, the bridegroom and his friends would go to the bride's home to get the bride--that's the woman getting married. They would bring the bride back to the bridegroom's house so the wedding and the party could begin. No one was ever exactly sure when everything would be ready at the bridegroom's house, so no one was exactly sure when the bridegroom would come for the bride or when the wedding celebration would begin.

Jesus said that ten young women had been invited to a wedding. They got dressed and all ready, took their oil lamps (in case it grew dark before the bridegroom came), and went out to wait for him. Jesus said that five of the women were wise; they took extra oil for their lamps in case they should use all the oil that was in their lamps. Five of the young women were foolish and did not bring any extra oil. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and sure enough, it soon grew dark and all the girls lit their lamps. Still the bridegroom did not come and all the young women grew sleepy. One by one, they all fell asleep as they sat there waiting.

Finally, at midnight, all ten of the women were awakened by the sound of someone shouting, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" The women jumped up to tidy their clothes and comb their hair. They checked their lamps and found that all the lamps were running out of oil and needed more. The foolish young women, who had brought no extra oil, called out to the others, "Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out."

"We can't," answered the women who had brought the extra oil. "We don't have enough for our own lamps and for yours, too. You will have to run to the store and get more oil for your lamps."

So the five foolish women hurried off to buy more oil, but while they were away at the store, the bridegroom came. The wise young women, who were ready and whose lamps were ready, went with him and went into his house for the wedding celebration. Then the door to the house was shut.

Later, the five foolish women came back. They pounded on the door and cried, "Open for us!" But it was too late. The door was shut. They had not been ready and now it was too late.

Jesus ended this parable by saying, "So keep watch. Be ready. You do not know the day or the hour." Jesus meant that we do not know when He will come back for us. We need to be ready for Him to come, because, once He has returned, it will be too late to get ready. The most important thing to do to be ready for His return is to be sure we have listened to God's word when it says we must repent of our sin and believe in the Lord Jesus so our sins can be forgiven and we can live new lives for God. God's word has been telling people for hundreds of years that this is what they must do. If people do not obey, they will not be ready for Jesus when He comes back. They will not be able to go to Heaven with Him, like the foolish young

women were not able to go to the wedding with the bridegroom because they were not ready. Once Jesus returns, people will want to get into Heaven, but if they are not ready when He comes, it will be too late. Like the foolish women, they will not be able to get in.

4. Application

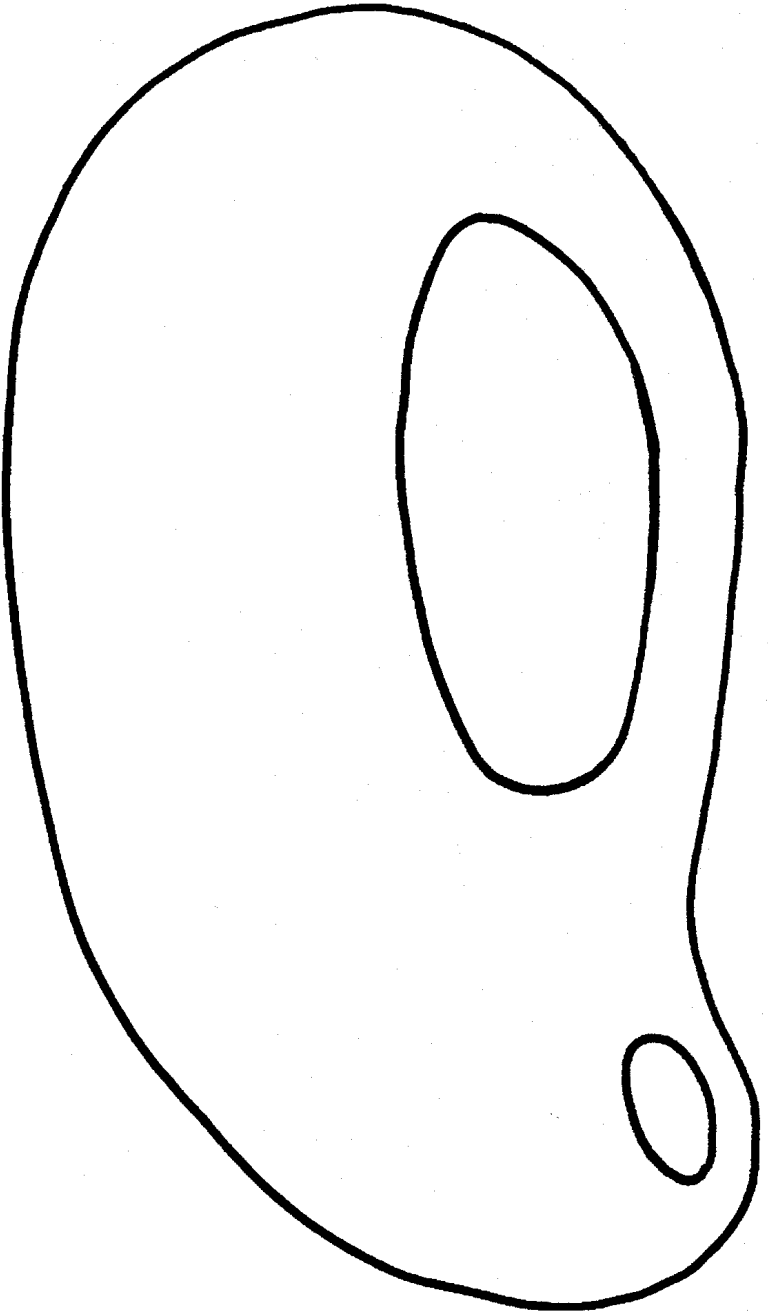
Encourage the children to be sure they are ready for Jesus' return by turning from their sin and turning to Jesus in faith as the only One who can forgive their sin and change their hearts so they can live new lives of obedience to God. Remind them that not those who simply hear, but those who hear *and obey* God's word are the ones who are blessed.

5. Review Questions

- A. In Bible times, what did people burn in their lamps for light? (Oil.)
- B. In Bible times, when everything at the bridegroom's house was ready for the wedding, what would happen? (The bridegroom would go get the bride.)
- C. In the parable, how many young women went to wait for the bridegroom? (Ten)
- D. How many were foolish and how many were wise? (Five and five)
- E. What did the foolish ones do that was foolish? (They did not bring extra oil for their lamps.)
- F. What did all the young women do while they waited for the bridegroom to come? (They went to sleep.)
- G. What time was it when the bridegroom finally came? (Midnight)
- H. What had happened to all the oil lamps? (They had run out of oil.)
- I. The wise young women had extra oil. What did the foolish young women have to do? (Go to the store for more oil.)
- J. What happened while the foolish women were gone? (The bridegroom came and all who were ready went into the house with him.)
- K. What did the young women do when they got back? (They knocked and tried to get in but it was too late.)
- L. What does Jesus want *us* to be ready for? (His return.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Divide the class into two groups, one representing the wise young women and another representing the foolish young women and act out the story. Switch parts and act it out again.
- B. Make copies of the attached lamp picture for all the children. Let them tear and glue colored construction paper to cover the lamp itself (this gives a mosaic effect). Have them crumple and glue small pieces of blue and red or orange tissue paper for the flame.



Glue
flames
here

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

Lesson 10

Title: The Parable of the Loving Father
Text: Luke 15:11-31
Theme: God welcomes and rejoices over each sinner that repents.

Memory Verse: *Luke 18:13c God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

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

1. Understand that God longs for sinners to repent and return to Him and welcomes them when they do.
2. See his own need to repent and turn to God as to a loving Father.

1. Teacher Direction

Many of our Lord's parables emphasize the need sinners have for a Savior, probably because part of having a fallen sinful nature is being blind to our own fallenness and sin. The next four parables we will look at have an aspect of that emphasis. The Parable of the Banquet describes those who, not seeing their need, fail to accept God's invitation. The Parable of the Good Samaritan was told to a man who thought he could do whatever it took to earn eternal life. The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican contrasts the proud and self-righteous with the humble and penitent, stating it is the latter who will be justified before God. Today's parable was told as a rebuke to those who muttered against Jesus for welcoming sinners. In it, we see the heart of God toward those who repent and return to Him, however grievously they have sinned against Him. Through Jesus' parables, we see that there is no better response to make to God's offers of mercy than the words of our memory verse: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring a variety of magazine pictures from home, all clearly depicting emotions of gladness or emotions of sorrow. Either have children choose pictures to make a "happy/sad" collage or make one large collage together, having children take turns choosing pictures to add. As they work, discuss with the children the causes of joy or sadness for the people in the pictures. Talk to the children about what makes *them* happy or sad. As you finish this project, ask the children what they think makes *God* happy. Tell them that today's story will answer that question.

3. Bible Story

What was Jesus' #1 reason for coming to earth? (To die for the sins of His people.) **So do you think Jesus was glad to have people who were sinners come to Him? Of course He was! Some people, though, believed that God did not like people who had done bad things. They thought that if Jesus were really from God, He would not want people who were sinners to come to Him. He would not want to**

be around people who had done wrong. Jesus told them that God is very happy when someone who has done wrong repents. What does it mean to repent? (Listen to children's ideas.) When we repent, we turn *from* doing what is wrong and turn *to* God, asking Him to forgive us and help us to do what is right. God is happy when people repent and come to Him, even if they have done many bad things.

Jesus told a parable to show what He meant. Once there was a father who had two sons. Both sons knew that, some day, the father's farm and all he owned would belong to them. One son, the younger one, did not want to wait for these things. He wanted his share now, because he wanted to leave home.

The father did not want his youngest son to leave home. He loved his son and wanted him to stay at home with him. Besides, the father knew his son was not ready to leave home. He knew there were things that could hurt him, so he did not want him to go. But the son really wanted to leave. So the father gave him money for the part of his farm that would some day have been his.

As soon as he had the money, the younger son left home. He went to live in a faraway country and began spending the money his father had given him. The son did not use the money wisely. He wasted it on foolish things he didn't need, and even spent it to do things that were wrong to do. Very soon, all the son's money was gone. Just then, a famine began in that land. A famine is when there is not enough food and people don't have enough to eat. The young son began to find out what it is to be poor and hungry. To try to earn some money, the son took a job taking care of pigs. As he worked, he was so hungry that he would have even liked to eat the food the pigs were eating!

That made the son realize how foolish he had been. He said to himself, "My father's servants have all they need and more. Here I am, starving to death. I will go back to my father. He will probably be angry with me; he should be! But I will tell him, 'Father, I have sinned and I have hurt you. I'm not good enough to be your son anymore, but if I could just work for you and be one of your servants, I will be happy.'"

So the son started home. Now, what do you think--was the father so angry that he never wanted to see the son again? After all, the son had not wanted to be around his father. He had taken half of the father's money and wasted it. Do you think the father was saying, "So... he's having a hard time? - Tough! - That's what he gets for what he's done!"

No, the father was longing for his son to see how foolish he had been and to repent and come back. The father was watching every day to see if today was the day his son might come home. So as the son walked and while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. The father ran to him, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him.

The son began to tell his father what he had prepared to say. "Father, I have sinned and I have hurt you," he began. "I'm not good enough to be your son anymore." That was as far as the son could get. His father interrupted him by calling for the servants. "Quick!" he called. "Bring the best clothes we have and put them on him. Bring a ring for his finger and new shoes for his feet! Make a big feast with wonderful food and let's celebrate! My son is back! It's like he was dead

and has come back to life! Or it's like he was lost and has been found! Let's have a party!"

So a great party began in the house, full of music and dancing and good food. While the party was going on, the other son, the older brother of the one who had been gone, came home from working in the field. "What's going on?" he wanted to know. One of the servants told him it was a party for his younger brother who had come home. This made the big brother angry so he would not go in to the party. So the father came out to talk with him. "I've always been a good son," the big brother said. "But this other son of yours left home and wasted your money on doing things that were wrong. Why have a big party for him?"

"Because he has come back," was the father's reply. "It is like he was dead, but now he is alive. Or it is like he was lost, but now he has been found. We *have* to celebrate! I'm so happy!"

Jesus wanted sinners to know that it is a good thing when they repent and come back to God. God will not be angry at them. Rather, He will be filled with joy that they have turned from the wrong things they were doing and have come to Him.

4. Application

Help the children to see that they, like all of us, are sinners, too. They choose to waste the good things God has given them by using them for themselves instead of using them for God. They wander from God when they do things they know He doesn't want them to do. God wants them to repent and come back to Him. He wants them to ask Him to forgive their sin and to help them live for Him. Discuss the memory verse here as a verse that shows what our attitude should be when we come to God.

5. Review Questions

- A. How many sons did the father in the story have? (2)
- B. What did the younger son want? (The part of his father's farm and other things that would someday be his.)
- C. When the younger son got his part of the money, what did he do? (He left home.)
- D. Did the father want his son to leave home? (No.)
- E. Where did the son go? (To a faraway country.)
- F. What did the son do with his money in the faraway country? (He wasted it on things he didn't need, even spending it on things that were wrong to do.)
- G. Then what happened in the land where the son was living? (A famine.)
- H. What did the son *not* have? (Food)
- I. What job did the son get? (Caring for pigs.)
- J. What did the pigs have that the son thought he would like to have? (Pig food.)
- K. What did the son decide to do? (Go home to his father and tell him he was sorry.)
- L. What happened while the son was still a long way off? (His father saw him and ran to meet him.)
- M. Was the father angry? (No.)
- N. What did the father tell the servants to do for his son? (Bring the best clothes, a ring, shoes, and prepare a big party.)
- O. How did the older brother feel about all this? (He was angry.)

- P. Why did the father say they were celebrating? (Because his son was back.)
- Q. Why did Jesus tell this story? (To show how happy God is when someone who has done wrong repents and returns to Him.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Tell the children that as you retell the story, they are to use their faces and their bodies (not any words!) to show how each of these people felt in the story:

- . . . the son leaving home.
- . . . the father watching their youngest son leave home.
- . . . the son when his money ran out and he was so hungry.
- . . . the son walking home.
- . . . the father looking down the road and seeing his son.
- . . . the older brother seeing the party for his younger brother.
- . . . the father rejoicing that his son was back.

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

Lesson 11

Title: The Parable of the Great Banquet
Text: Luke 14:15-24
Theme: To enjoy fellowship with God in His kingdom, we must accept the invitation He gives.

Memory Verse: *Luke 18:13c God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

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

1. Understand that God invites all who hear the good news about Jesus to enjoy friendship with Him now and in Heaven.
2. Realize that only those who respond by faith in Christ will be a part of His kingdom.
3. Accept God's invitation by putting his faith in Christ.

1. Teacher Direction

The Jews of Jesus' day considered themselves right with God because they were God's special people. That made them uninterested or even resistant to Christ's claims to be the Savior. They saw no need for a Savior. They were like the people in this parable, simply uninterested in the wonderful opportunity they were offered. They would find, too late, that they were excluded from enjoying what they had refused to receive. The "poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame" who were invited in their place represent the unlikely sinners and Gentiles, who, upon being offered a Savior, received Him and were welcomed into fellowship with God. The Jew-Gentile distinction is not what it was in Jesus' day, but there are still plenty of people who are indifferent to God's offer of salvation. They must come to see their poverty and need before they will gladly accept God's invitation.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Tell the children to pretend they are preparing a party for their friends. Each child may think of two people they will invite. Make a guest list, writing down the two names each child gives you. The party will have decorations--listen to the children's ideas for how to decorate or actually let them make banners or drape crepe paper around and set out paper plates, cups, and napkins. The party will have good food--listen to the children's ideas for things to eat and drink at the party, or let the children actually help prepare party cookies or snacks and drinks. Tell the children to imagine that all the preparations have been made and the invitations have been handed out, and you have begun to hear back from the people who were invited. One by one, read back each of the names the children gave you, saying that person says he cannot come. Once you have read the entire list, none of them being able to come, ask the children how they would

feel if this happened to them. What would they do? (Hopefully, someone will say, “We could invite other people instead--” which, of course, is what happened in the parable.)

3. Bible Story

Jesus came to save people from their sin so they could live forever with God as His friends. Many people then and many people today don't think they need Jesus' help to be friends with God. So when they hear the good news about Jesus dying for our sin, they do not put their faith in Him as the Bible says to do. God is offering them salvation but they do not receive it. Jesus said this was like being invited to a wonderful party and saying, “I'm not coming!” Jesus told a parable about this.

A man was preparing a big, wonderful dinner party. He would serve all the very best foods, the decorations would be beautiful, the music would be wonderful. The man sent out many invitations. Then he spent a great deal of time and money getting everything ready for his guests. At last everything was ready and he sent his servants around to see how many of the people he had invited would be coming.

All the people he had invited said they would not be coming! One said he had just bought some new land and wanted to go look at it. Another had work he wanted to do instead. A third said he had just gotten married and couldn't come. No one really understood what a wonderful party the man had prepared. They didn't realize what they would be missing if they did not go. So none of the invited guests came to the party!

The man who had planned the party was angry that no one wanted to come to his party. However, he had planned to have a party and he would have it anyway. He told his servants to go out into the streets and invite all the people you would not expect to get an invitation to a party like this one. “Invite all the poor people,” the man said. “Invite the blind and the lame and the crippled. I'm having a party and I want a house full of people to enjoy it! And as for all those people who did not want to come to the party, even if they change their minds and try to come later, I will not let them in. Their places are taken!”

The Bible tells us that when all God's people are with Him in heaven, it will be like a big, wonderful party in honor of His Son, Jesus. Now God is inviting people to the party. He tells people in His word and through parents and teachers and pastors and missionaries about the party. He gives them an invitation when He tells them they must turn from their sin and selfishness and put their faith in Jesus to save them from their sin. When people do what God tells them to do and trust in Jesus, it is like they are accepting His invitation. People who do not trust in Jesus to save them are like the people in the story who said “No” to the dinner party. They do not realize what they are missing. They will want to change their minds later, but it will be too late.

4. Application

Encourage the children to accept God's invitation. Help them to see that none of us is right with God on our own, but we need to trust in Jesus and what He did for us to make us right with God. Encourage them to see their need for a Savior and put their trust in the only One God has provided. Point out that telling God the words of our memory verse (God, be merciful to me, a sinner) and meaning it, is a way of accepting the invitation.

5. Review Questions

- A. What kind of party was the man in the parable preparing? (A dinner party)
- B. When everything was ready, what kinds of answers did he get from the people he had invited? (They were all planning to do something else instead of come to his party.)
- C. How did the man feel about that? (Angry.)
- D. What did he do then? (He invited other people.)
- E. What kind of people did he invite? (Poor, lame, crippled, blind.)
- F. What would happen if the first people changed their minds and wanted to come to the party after all? (They would not be allowed in.)
- G. Where will there be a big, wonderful celebration for God's people, in honor of God's Son? (In Heaven.)
- H. How does God invite people now to that party? (They hear about Jesus in the Bible or from someone who tells them.)
- I. What will happen to the people who don't accept God's invitation now? (They will not be part of the celebration in Heaven.)
- J. How do people accept God's invitation? (They believe in Jesus.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make enough copies of the invitation for each child to have one. Help them to find the letters "RSVP" on the inside. Tell them that most invitations have RSVP on them and it means that the person is supposed to send back an answer, telling whether or not they will be coming to the party. Usually, there is a phone number written there. Point out that this invitation has "Believe in Jesus" by "RSVP," because the way we accept God's invitation is by believing in Jesus.

*God invites you to
a celebration in Heaven
for His Son Jesus.*

RSVP: Believe in Jesus.

Come to the
Party!

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

Lesson 12

Title: The Parable of the Good Samaritan
Text: Luke 10: 25-37
Theme: Jesus calls us to a supernatural love for others that we cannot attain on our own.

Memory Verse: *Luke 18:13c God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

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

1. Understand that God requires from us a love for others that is greater than any we could have on our own.
2. Know that Jesus is the only One who can make us able to love with that kind of love.
3. Call on Jesus to help Him to love as God would have him love.

1. Teacher Direction

This parable was told in answer to the questions of a lawyer who was deliberately seeking to test Jesus. His first question was, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered with a question that should have shown the lawyer he could not *earn* eternal life; it must be given. Jesus' answer was, "What is written in the Law?" The lawyer replied with the two commandments which Jesus Himself said sum up the whole Law: love God, and love your neighbor. The lawyer still did not see this as out of his reach. Of course, he didn't show love to *everyone*; but surely it could be said that he had always loved his neighbor. So, *wanting to justify himself*, the lawyer went on to ask, "Who is my neighbor?" In response, Jesus told a parable that shows that our neighbor is anyone at all who has a need and that real love holds back nothing in the way of time, energy, and money to meet that neighbor's need. At the end of the story, Jesus said, "Go and do likewise." Now if the lawyer went out and tried, for even a day, to love every needy person who crossed his path with that great a love, surely he would have been driven to despair and would have come to see his need for a Savior from his selfishness and sin.

2. Bible Story

Some people who saw and heard Jesus when He was here on earth did not really believe He was the Savior sent from God. Not only that, but they did not really believe they needed a Savior. They thought they could earn their way to heaven by obeying God's laws. One day, Jesus was talking with one of these people. This man knew that God calls us to love God and to love our neighbors, but he thought he could love God and his neighbor well enough by himself.

Then Jesus told a parable to show the man that loving people was not as easy as the man thought. A man was traveling from one city to another. Now, in Bible

times, how did people travel from one city to another? (On foot or on horses or donkeys.) So if you were traveling alone and several robbers jumped out and attacked you, it would be hard to get away. That is just what happened to this man. A band of robbers attacked, took his money, tore his clothes, beat him up, and left him lying by the road, badly hurt. A priest came along; he saw the man, but he didn't stop. Perhaps he was late to something important and he didn't have the time. He may have felt badly about not stopping, because he crossed to the other side of the road, where he could not see him as well, and went on his way without stopping. Later, another man came by. He did not stop either. Perhaps he was afraid that the robbers were still nearby and that, if he stopped, they would harm him, too. Whatever the reason, just like the priest, this second man crossed to the other side of the road and went on by without stopping.

Finally, a Samaritan man came by. Samaritans were people everyone hated. If the hurt man saw the Samaritan, he did not expect any help from him. The Samaritan man, however, *did* stop to help. When he saw the hurt man, he felt sorry for him. He went to him and used up some of his own oil to pour on all the hurt places, to help them to heal. Then he bandaged all his wounds. The Samaritan had been riding a donkey. He lifted the hurt man onto his donkey, and he walked alongside. He went out of his way to take the hurt man to an inn where he could rest in a bed until he was better. By now, the Samaritan was late to wherever it was he had been on his way to--maybe he had even missed something very important. But it was more important to him to show love to this poor man--a man he had never met before and who probably hated Samaritans. The Samaritan spent the night at the inn, taking care of the hurt man. In the morning, the Samaritan prepared to go on his way again. Of course, the injured man could not travel yet, so the Samaritan gave a large amount of money to the innkeeper and asked him to take care of the man and let him stay in a room at the inn until he was well enough to leave. "And if you spend more money taking care of him than I am giving you," the Samaritan added, "when I come back this way again, I will pay you more money."

When Jesus got to the end of this parable, He said, "Which of these three--the priest, the other man who went on by or the Samaritan--was a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

The man answered, "The one who showed mercy and helped him was a neighbor to him."

"Go and do the same thing," Jesus told him.

Jesus knew that, left to ourselves, we do not love like the Samaritan man did. He gave up his money, his time, his energy to help someone he knew nothing about. We often do nice things for people who are our friends or family, but *usually* we don't give big gifts or spend a lot of time helping strangers. We don't mind sharing *some* of what we have, but we don't give as much as this Samaritan man did. We don't love like he did, because we are sinful. The sin inside us makes us selfish, so we care more about ourselves than about other people.

Jesus wants us all to see that we need a Savior to forgive our selfishness. He wants us to see that we need a Savior who can change us and make us able to love the way God wants us to love; the way Jesus loved us when He died for us on the cross.

3. Application

Encourage the children to consider how often they choose what is best for *themselves* instead of choosing what God would want or what would be best for someone else. Help them to see that this shows that they are sinners who need a Savior from sin. Encourage them to call on Jesus to forgive them and change their selfish hearts so they can love as God wants them to love.

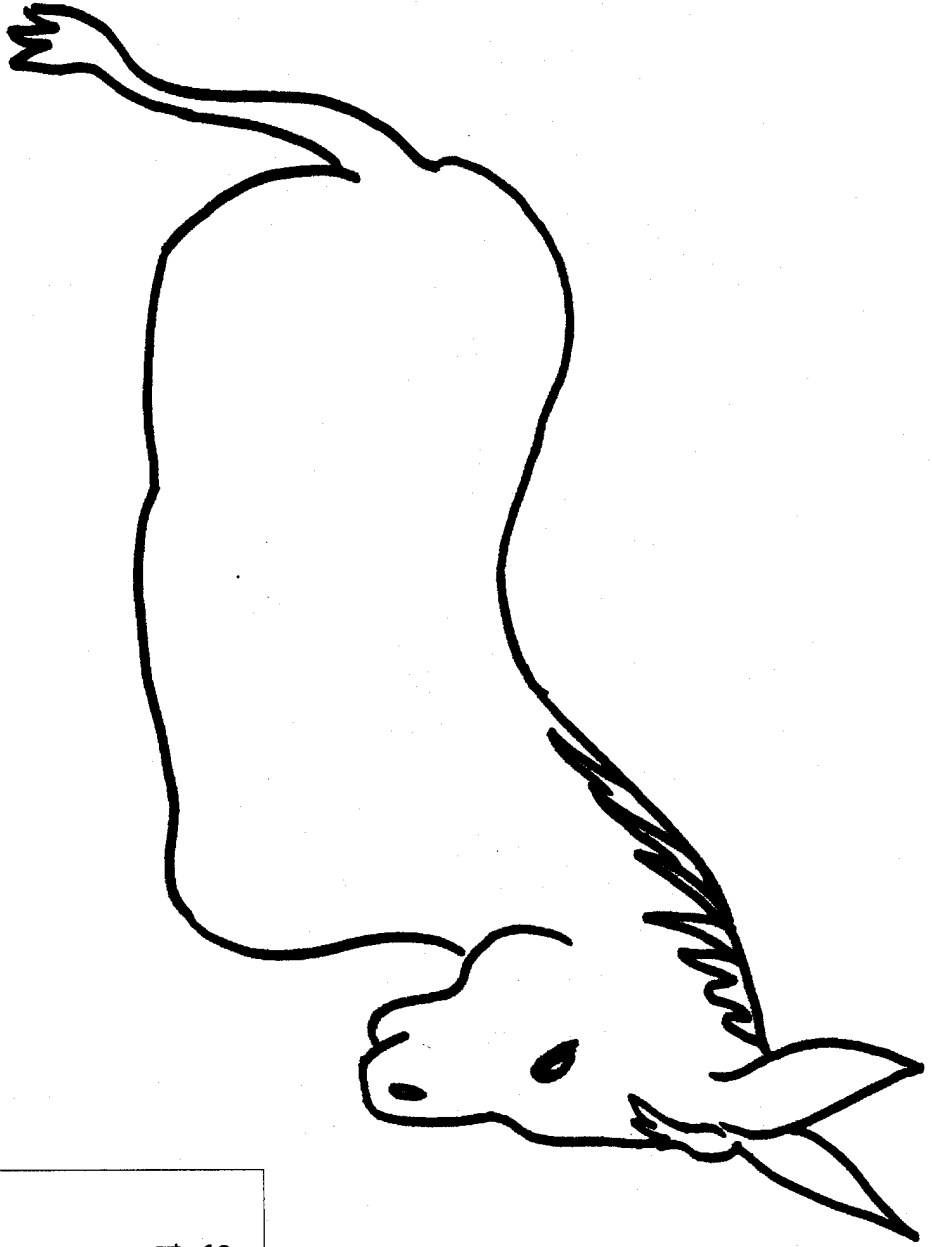
4. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Donkey Story Reminders. Make one copy of the attached page for each child. You may want to use a little thicker stock. Allow them to color the donkey, then help them cut it out. Give each child two clothespins that they attach to the donkey for legs. Follow the diagram on the donkey page to use pipe cleaners to make a “Good Samaritan” man to go with the donkey. As the children work on the donkey, discuss the story with them. Ask them how the Samaritan used the donkey to show love to the hurt man.

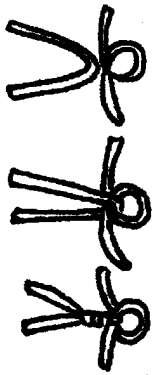
B. Review Game with Review Questions

To play the game, have a doll or action figure covered with Band-Aids. This is the hurt man in the story. The children are going to help him get well. Each time a child answers a question correctly, he or she may remove a Band-Aid.

- A. What happened to the man who was traveling between two cities? (He was attacked by robbers.)
- B. How many people went by without helping him? (Two)
- C. What was the man called who stopped to help him? (A Samaritan.)
- D. How did people in Jesus’ time feel about Samaritans? (They did not like them.)
- E. What did the Samaritan do right away about the man’s wounds? (Put oil on them and bandaged them.)
- F. How did the Samaritan use his donkey to show love? (He let the hurt man ride him while he walked.)
- G. Where did the Samaritan take the hurt man? (To an inn.)
- H. How long did the Samaritan stay with the hurt man? (All night.)
- I. When the Samaritan left in the morning, what did he give the innkeeper? (Money.)
- J. What did the Samaritan ask the innkeeper to do? (Take care of the man and let him stay there until he was well.)
- K. What did the Samaritan say he would do if the innkeeper ran out of money? (Pay him more later.)
- L. Why can’t we love people this much on our own? (Because we are sinful and selfish.)
- M. Who can change our sinful hearts so we can love as God wants us to love? (Jesus)



Sample instructions
for pipe cleaner man.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEARS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, WINTER**

Lesson 13

Title: The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican
Text: Luke 18:9-14
Theme: Only those who see their sin and their need for a Savior can become right with God.

Memory Verse: *Luke 18:13c God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

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

1. Understand the difference between pride and humility.
2. Realize that God does not like pride, but He forgives and saves those who come to Him ashamed of their sin and sorry for it.
3. Come to God in humility, seeking His mercy because he is a sinner.

1. Teacher Direction

This is the last in our series of lessons from Jesus' parables. It sums up the response Jesus sought to awaken in people. Then, as now, sinful people's natural attitude was that God would be pleased with them as they were. They were better than other people; surely they were good enough for God. This parable calls us to a right relationship with God through a right assessment of our own moral stature: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Call on the children to show you, with faces and bodies only (no words), a variety of emotions: sorrow, anger, happiness, discouragement, and especially, feeling proud and feeling ashamed. Then name a variety of things that would cause either pride or shame, asking the children to show you, with their body language, what each thing you name would make them feel. You could use: winning a ball game, getting a sticker at pre-school for being good, dropping someone's fancy dish and breaking it, singing in front of people and doing such a good job that everyone claps and claps, swimming a long way across the deep end, missing the ball in a ball game so that your team loses a point, getting in trouble and having to spend time in time out, being good, being very naughty....

3. Bible Story

In today's story, Jesus tells a parable about two men, one who was very proud of what he had done and one who was ashamed of himself. Listen to see which one God was pleased with.

Two men went into the temple to pray, a Pharisee and a tax-collector. The Pharisee came in like this (demonstrate the strut of a proud man). Pharisees spent a lot of time studying God's laws and taught other people about them. This Pharisee was

known by everyone to be a man who tried hard to obey all God's laws. When he prayed, he stood up and said this: "Thank you, God, that I am better than other men. I'm not like them. I'm not a robber or an evil-doer. I'm not like that tax-collector over there. I'm a good man and I do good things. I go without things to prove how good I am. I give away some of my money every week."

But the tax collector came in like this (demonstrate a person looking ashamed). He would not even stand by other people and when he prayed, he would not even look up at Heaven. Instead, he beat his breast like this. (Demonstrate and explain that this was a way of showing that you were very sad and troubled about something.) The tax collector's prayer was very short. All he said was, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Then Jesus said, "I tell you, this man, not the other one, went home right with God." All of us are sinners who cannot please God by trying to be good. We can never be good enough. People like the Pharisee, who think they can be good enough for God on their own, and who are proud of how good they are, displease God. We can only please God by admitting that we are sinners who have done many bad things to be ashamed of. When we come to God, sorry for our sin, like the tax collector, and tell Him we need His mercy, then we are pleasing to Him. He will forgive us and change us so we can live for Him. That is the way to be right with God.

4. Application

Help the children to see that, although they do good things, these things don't make up for the things they do that are not good. Remind them that they do bad things because they are sinners who need a Savior. Explain that when you deserve to be punished because you have done wrong and someone does not give you the punishment you deserve, that person is showing you mercy. Encourage the children to admit to God that they are sinners who do wrong and to ask Him for His mercy.

5. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Review Game. Write the words below on small cards. Sort the cards into four piles for the four parables the words come from. Use all the cards in one pile before going onto the next parable. Divide the class into two teams. Children take turns coming up to choose a card. Read the word on the card to the child. If he can tell you anything about that word from the parable it comes from, he keeps the card for his team. Each team tries to get as many cards as they can.

1. Words from The Prodigal Son: younger son; wasted money; pigs; hungry; "Father, I have sinned;" best clothes and ring; party; older son; joy.
2. Words from The Parable of the Great Banquet: dinner party; invitations; poor, crippled, lame, and blind; too late; celebration in Heaven.
3. Words from the Parable of the Good Samaritan: robbers; priest; passed by; Samaritan; donkey; inn; money; love.
4. Words from the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican: temple; proud; ashamed; Pharisee; tax collector; right with God.

Party

Dinner party

Invitations

Poor

Crippled

Lame

Blind

Too late



Love

Temple

Proud

Ashamed



Pharisee

Tax collector



Right with God



Younger son

Wasted money

Pigs

Hungry



"Father I have sinned"

Best clothes and ring



Older son

Joy

Celebration in Heaven

Robbers

Priest

Passed by

Samaritan

Donkey

Inn

Money

