

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 19:1-10; Deuteronomy 5:19; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Ephesians 4:28; Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that we should be givers, rather than takers.

Materials: Bible, "Ten Commandment Scramble" pieces, paper, colored markers (crayons)

Memory Verse: "Thou shalt not steal" (Exodus 20:15).

Lesson Summary

God commanded us: "Thou shalt not steal." If we want to obey God's Word, what should we do instead? We should be givers, not takers. Some people are selfish and greedy; they only want what is best for them. This is why they steal and take wrongfully from others. But Jesus wants us to give to others and help them. In Luke 19:1-10, Jesus met a rich man named Zacchaeus. He was a publican or tax collector, which means that he took money from the people for the government. Because publicans were known to collect too much money and keep it for themselves, the people disliked them. Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he climbed up a sycamore tree to see the Lord. When Jesus passed by and saw him, he said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to-day I must abide at thy house" (Luke 19:5). The people complained because Jesus was going to the home of a known sinner. But on that day, Zacchaeus repented and had a change of heart. He no longer wanted to be a taker. He told Jesus that he was giving away half of his things to the poor. Also, he would restore the money to any he had cheated. Zacchaeus desired to do right and to be a giver from that day forward.

**Bible Point:
I will give.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity #1: "Ten Commandment Scramble."

Activity #2: For younger children, trace each child's hands (both left and right) on a sheet of paper. On the page, print "My Hands Will Give." Have the students to color or decorate their hand pictures.

Activity #3: "Giving Project:" Enlist your students in a service project to give to others. For example, students could make cards for people who are homebound and then go visit them, items could be collected to make a basket for the sick, or students could sing at a local nursing home (be sure to check with the nursing home activities director for scheduling). This project should be completed before the last class session, "Love Your Neighbor."

Question for Class Discussion:

1. Why should I be a giver, rather than a taker?
2. How can I give to others?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 26:57-75; Deuteronomy 5:20; John 8:42-47; Ephesians 4:25

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that we should always be honest.

Materials: Bible, "Ten Commandment Scramble" pieces, paper, colored markers (crayons)

Memory Verse: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Exodus 20:16).

Lesson Summary

An old saying goes, "Honesty is the best policy." In other words, it's always best to speak the truth, even if the truth will get you in trouble. People sometimes tell fibs or little white lies, thinking that it's no big deal. They say, "A small lie will not hurt anyone." But a lie is a lie, big or small, and it is wrong. Little lies only lead to bigger lies. In Matthew 26:57-75, Peter denied Jesus Christ. When the Jewish leaders had Jesus arrested and brought him before the high priest, Peter followed him from a distance. He hid among the servants in the palace of the high priest. The Jewish court tried Jesus, bringing false witnesses against him. Although he was innocent of any wrong doing, they found him guilty. Peter was still in the palace among the servants. One of them said to Peter, "You were with Jesus of Galilee." But Peter denied it, and said, "I don't know what you're talking about." A little later, another person saw him, and said, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." But Peter denied it and said, "I don't know him." Once again, Peter was accused of being Jesus' disciple, but he began to curse and deny him. Peter lied three times and said that he did not know the Lord. He betrayed Jesus' trust. Peter knew that he failed the Lord. "He went out and wept bitterly" (v. 75).

Bible Point:

**I will speak
the truth.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity #1: "Ten Commandment Scramble."

Activity #2: Have each child to draw a person (a face, a stick figure) on a sheet of paper. Then discuss questions 1 and 2 below, while having the children to tear and shred their pictures into pieces. Finally, ask the children to put the pieces back together and discuss question 3.

Question for Class Discussion:

1. Does lying hurt others?
2. If someone told a lie about you, how would it make you feel?
3. When a lie is told, and it hurts our neighbor, is it easy to undo the damages?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Joshua 6:17-19; Joshua 7:1-26; Deuteronomy 5:21; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that we should be happy with the things we possess.

Materials: Bible, “Ten Commandment Scramble” pieces, paper plates (or paper circles), markers

Memory Verse: “Thou shalt not covet” (Exodus 20:17).

Lesson Summary

God’s Word tells us not to covet (desire) the things that belong to our neighbor. If something belongs to our neighbor, then we cannot have it, nor should we desire to have it. We should be content with our own things. Being content is being happy with what we have, with the things we possess. When a person covets after his neighbor’s stuff, this leads to even greater sins – for example, stealing. In Joshua 6 and 7, we read the story of Achan’s transgression. The army of Israel took over the city of Jericho. God commanded them to destroy everything, except “the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron” were to be given as an offering to the Lord. The people were not allowed to have anything for themselves, because it was forbidden. The army of God defeated Jericho and destroyed it. Their next battle was a place called Ai. Ai had a small army, so the army of Israel sent only 3000 soldiers to fight against it. Amazingly, Israel fled before the men of Ai. They had a great victory at Jericho, but now they were defeated by a very small army. What happened? God told Joshua that someone in Israel’s army had disobeyed and taken some of the forbidden things that belonged only to God. After he was caught, Achan confessed that when he saw a nice robe, some silver, and a piece of gold, he coveted them, stole them, and then hid them. Because he coveted, he stole from the Lord the things which were forbidden. His sin brought God’s judgment upon Israel and upon Achan and his family. If Achan had been content and happy with what he already owned, he would not have committed such a great sin against the Lord and against the people of God.

Bible Point:
I will
be content.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity #1: “Ten Commandment Scramble.”

Activity #2: “Happy Face – Sad Face.” The teacher should prepare several scenarios that describe covetousness. For example, “Little Johnny’s mother made cookies for her family to eat. But when she wasn’t looking, he ate all of them, leaving none for the rest of the family. Did this make his mother happy or sad? Have the students to smile or frown in response to each scenario. Also, allow each student to share a scenario with the class and have the class respond with a smile or frown. For an added twist, have each student make a happy face/sad face. On a paper plate or circle cut-out have each student to draw a smiling face on one side and a frowning face on the other. Use the happy face/sad face to respond to each scenario.

Question for Class Discussion:

1. What are the basic needs of life?
2. What happens if we are not happy with the things we have?
3. Are you content with the things you have?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that we should love God with all that is within us.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, and colored markers

Memory Verse: “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matthew 22:37).

Lesson Summary

In Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus taught that the first and great commandment is to love God with all that is within us. In Mark 12:41-44, we see the example of a woman who loved the Lord with all of her heart, soul, and mind. How do we know this? We know she loved the Lord completely because she gave everything she had to the Lord. Jesus was observing how the people gave their money into the treasury of the temple. Some of them were very wealthy and put a large amount of money into the offering. But then a poor widow came along, casting in only a few cents. Although others gave much more than her, she gave a greater and more meaningful gift to the Lord, because she gave her all. This poor widow gave into the offering everything she had to live on. Her gift to God was worth more than all of the others put together. If we love the Lord wholeheartedly, then we too will not hold back anything from him. Everything that we have and everything that we are belongs to God. This story is not only about money; it's also about our hearts and our affections. God sees our hearts. He sees what is inside of us. Let's hold nothing back, but rather give Jesus our lives and love him with all that is within us.

Bible Point:
I will love
the Lord.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity: Cut a sheet of paper (8 ½ X 11) into the shape of a heart – one per child. Have each child to cut his paper heart into various pieces to form a puzzle. As the children work, ask the questions below. Have the students to write on each puzzle piece the ways that they can give themselves to the Lord, for example: using talents for God, giving time to God, helping others, attending church, praying, worshiping, reading my Bible, giving offerings, and so on. Finally, demonstrate giving your whole heart by having the students to reassemble the puzzle pieces.

Question for Class Discussion:

1. What did the rich people give in the offering? (v. 41)
2. What did the widow give to the Lord? (v. 42)
3. Whose gift was greater? (v. 43)
4. Why was her gift good to the Lord? (v. 44)
5. How can you give all that you have to the Lord?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37; Romans 13:8-10

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that we should love our neighbors as ourselves.

Materials: Bible, costumes (robes, towels, sandals, bandages, coins, and so on), project photos (see below), paper, poster, colored markers or crayons, scissors, glue, scrapbook supplies

Memory Verse: “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matthew 22:39).

Lesson Summary

On one occasion a lawyer asked Jesus, “Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life” (Lu. 10:25)? The man already knew that he was supposed to love God and love his neighbor as himself. But this lawyer did not really want to keep God’s commandments, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In Luke 10:29-37, Jesus explained what it means to love one’s neighbor in the story of the Good Samaritan. A man from Jerusalem was travelling to Jericho when thieves attacked him and left him almost dead. Soon a priest from back in Jerusalem was traveling down the same road and saw him but did not stop to help. A little later, another minister from Jerusalem came along, and he also saw him but did not stop to help. Finally, a stranger, a Samaritan man, passed that way on his journey. When he saw the injured man, he felt pity for him, and stopped to help. He bandaged his wounds, put him on his animal, and brought him to an inn. He cared for the man that day. Then on the next day, he left money with the innkeeper, so that the man would be properly cared for. He even told the innkeeper that he would pay for anything else the man needed. This stranger, the Samaritan, was a true neighbor to the injured man because he showed love and care for him. Loving your neighbor means taking care of the special needs they have.

Bible Point:
**I will love
my neighbor.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity #1: Role Play. Have the students to act out the story of the Good Samaritan. Cast: narrator, victim, thieves, priest, Levite, Samaritan, and innkeeper. Optional: Provide simple costumes for the cast.

Activity #2: Classroom Display. As a follow-up, discuss the “Giving Project” from the first lesson with your students. Reflect with the students, using photographs, children’s drawings, comments from those you served, and the children’s memories of the project. Make a simple scrapbook or poster of the project to display in the classroom.

Question for Class Discussion:

1. Why was the Samaritan a true neighbor?
2. Who is your neighbor?
3. How can I be a neighbor?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Gen. 7:5, 17-18; Mt. 3:1-6, 13-17; 1 Pe. 3:21

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that blessings come through obedience to God's word.

Materials: Bible, Oreo cookies, milk

Memory Verse: "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Lesson Summary

God honors faith and obedience. When Noah built the ark, he was obedient to follow the instructions from the Lord (Gen. 6:22; 7:5). Noah prepared the vessel God's way; and when the floodwater came, he was saved from death (He. 11:7; Gen. 7:17-18). Had Noah not believed and obeyed, he would have surely perished. Many people say they believe in God, but true faith obeys his word. Jesus was obedient to God. He not only died on the cross to save us, but he also lived his life to show us how to serve the Lord and please him. When he was baptized, he was being obedient to God's instructions (Mt. 3:13-17). He also taught us to be baptized, saying, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mk. 16:16). To be saved, we must believe (or fully trust with all faith) that Jesus is our Savior. Then after we are born again, we must be baptized in water in obedience to God's word. When we follow Jesus in baptism, we are demonstrating our faith in God and our commitment to him. When we follow Jesus' example, believing and obeying, we will be saved and receive eternal life. A born again heart and water baptism are a necessary part of our salvation. Jesus said that if we do these things (believe and be baptized) we will be saved. So, faith and obedience are necessary for our salvation. Like Noah, we too should prepare our vessel (our heart) by being obedient to God' Word. If we will follow Jesus in this way, we will be saved!

Bible Point:
I have decided
to follow Jesus.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Show the children an Oreo cookie and talk about how the dark cookie covering represents sin in our heart. Dunk the cookie in milk and talk about how baptism doesn't wash away our sin. Take another Oreo and pull away the dark cookie covering to expose the white cream center and talk about how only Jesus can take away our sin. Now dunk the white cream filling into the milk and talk about a clean heart and water baptism is what God requires of us. Now enjoy a tasty snack of Oreos and milk!
2. Allow each child time to share their experience of salvation and water baptism.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Can a shower or bath wash away anger, sadness, or a bad attitude?
2. What (who) can take away our sin?
3. Why are a born again heart and water baptism so important?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Gen. 3:1-6, 16-19, 23-24; Mt. 4:1-11

Lesson Objective: The children will learn how to fight temptation.

Materials: Bible, costumes for role-play

Memory Verse: "Then Jesus told him, 'Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him'" (Mt. 4:10, HCSB).

Lesson Summary

Today we will learn how to fight Satan's temptation. We can compare the temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden and Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. In both situations, Satan made something forbidden seem desirable. He used clever words to try and make Eve and Jesus question what the Lord had commanded. Satan promised them power and life if they obeyed him. You see, Satan was thrown out of Heaven because he wanted to be God. So his main goal is to get people to listen to him, obey him, and worship him. He will tell you convincing lies to accomplish this task. Eve was strong at first and re-stated God's commandment to not eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But when Satan used his tricky words, she began to question God's word. She allowed herself to be convinced that God loves her and wants her to have the fruit. Sadly, Eve was wrong and had to be punished. Her actions also led Adam to disobey God and be punished. Because of their disobedience, we are born into sin. Jesus, on the other hand, was without sin. When he was tempted by Satan, he resisted with God's words. He did not allow himself to give in to Satan's tricks, but he overcame temptation and sin. Because of Jesus' actions, all mankind can be saved and have a strong relationship with God. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we too can fight Satan's temptations and overcome sin. God's word says, "He will never leave you, nor forsake you" (He. 13:5). So when you're facing temptation, God is right there to help you through it. Stand on the word of God; there is power in his word. Listen to his word and say, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him" (Mt. 4:10). And just like we read in Matthew 4:11, Satan will have to leave.

Bible Point:
There is power
in God's word.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Allow the children to dress up and act out the temptation of Eve in the garden and Jesus in the wilderness.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How does Satan tempt you?
2. How can we recognize Satan's temptation?
3. How can we fight temptation?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jn. 2:1-12; Mk. 7:3-4

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that they are a vessel for Jesus to fill.

Materials: Bible

Memory Verse: "Whatever He says to you, do it" (Jn. 2:5, NKJV).

Lesson Summary

Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine. The guests at the wedding ran out of wine, and Jesus' mother asked him to do something about it. She told the servants, "Whatever he tells you to do, do it." Jesus saw six water pots sitting nearby, which the Jews used for cleansing (they did a lot of washing, Mk. 7:3-4). Jesus told the servants to fill up the pots with water. They filled them to the very top. Jesus told the servants to scoop some out and take it to the one in charge of the wedding party. The one in charge was amazed at the fresh, sweet wine (like our grape juice), and said, "Usually the good wine is first, not last." Jesus performed this miracle to show everyone his glory. In the same way, the Lord takes vessels, like you and me, and miraculously fills us with his sweet Spirit. Then he commands us to share what we have with others by showing love and telling what Jesus has done in our lives. And like the one in charge of the wedding party, they too will be amazed that something so good exists. Do you want the Lord to fill your life (vessel) with his sweet Spirit? Note: Be sensitive to the Spirit of God. This could be a good time to encourage the children to pray and ask Jesus in their heart.

Bible Point:
Jesus fills us
with his Spirit.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Line the children up against the wall. The teacher will play Jesus and stand across the room, facing the children. 'Jesus' will give each child a different command (Ex. Jump 3 times, touch your toes, etc). Before the child follows the command he/she must recite the memory verse.
2. Sing the song, "Fill My Cup Lord."

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What was Jesus' first miracle?
2. No matter how good we behave, are we truly good enough without Jesus in our vessel?
3. Once we have the sweet Spirit of Jesus in our vessel, what does God command us to do?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 5:1-11

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that Jesus is our great reward.

Materials: Bible, construction paper, marker, yarn, stick, scissors, and hole punch

Memory Verse: "Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men'" (Mt. 4:19).

Lesson Summary

Simon Peter and his partners had been on the boat, fishing with their nets all night long. When morning came, they brought their boats to land and started washing out their nets. They were getting ready to go home empty-handed. Then Jesus walked by. He entered into Simon Peter's boat and asked him to go a little ways out into the water. When he did, Jesus sat down and began teaching those inside the boat and on the shore. When he was done, he told Peter to go out into the deep water and cast his net. Even though Peter had tried all night, he obeyed Jesus. The reward Peter received was great. They caught so many fish, their net began breaking. Simon Peter called his partners in the next boat to come help, and both boats collected fish until they were so full they began to sink. Simon Peter realized he was in the presence of the Lord. God's presence revealed the darkness inside of him. He said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" Simon Peter felt like he didn't deserve to be near Jesus or receive his blessings because he was sinful. But Jesus told him not to be afraid. He had a job for him to do. Jesus saved Peter's soul, and Peter then spread the gospel to others. When we come to a problem that is impossible to fix, Jesus can perform a miracle. The greatest miracle Jesus performs over and over is saving souls. When we see the light of Jesus and the darkness that lives in us, we realize we are in need of a Savior. When we ask Jesus to save our soul and take away our sin, a great miracle happens in our lives. Like Peter's net, we must first be broken. Then God can make us a new vessel that can be filled to the point of overflowing. And like Peter, we should tell others about Jesus, so they too can receive his great reward!

Bible Point:
Jesus is my
great reward.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Using construction paper and scissors, cut out a fish shape. Write the memory verse on the fish. Punch a hole through the fish and tie it to a stick with yarn as your fishing line.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Did Simon Peter doubt they would be able to catch fish? Why?
2. When did Simon Peter realize he was a sinful man?
3. Jesus is our great reward. How do we receive Jesus?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 8:5-13; Hebrews 11

Lesson Objective: To learn that faith is an essential part of being a follower of Christ, and that Jesus has authority or power over everything.

Materials: construction paper, crayons, hole punch, yarn or string

Memory Verse: "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Lesson Summary

While Jesus was on Earth, he performed many miracles (unexplainable deeds). A lot of these were healings for people who were sick or even dead. One day, after Jesus had been teaching, he entered into a town called Capernaum. Here lived a centurion, a captain in the Roman army. This man had a servant that he loved who was very sick. He heard that Jesus was in Capernaum, and he sent elders of the Jews to ask Jesus to come to his house and heal his servant. These Jewish men told Jesus how great the centurion had been to the Jewish people and asked him to please go to the centurion's house. Jesus was going with them and was almost to the house when friends of the centurion had a new message for Jesus. This mighty commander in the Roman army understood who Jesus was and told his friends to tell Jesus, "I am not worthy that thou should enter my roof." The centurion did not even feel like he was worthy to go to Jesus himself. However, what he said next was truly amazing! The centurion told Jesus (through his friends) if he will just say the word, his servant will be healed. The centurion explained that as captain of the army, if he tells a man to go, then he goes; and if he tells him to come, then he comes. He knew he had authority over these men. He understood the authority Jesus had as God's son. The Bible even tells us, "When Jesus heard these things, he (Jesus) marveled at him (the centurion)." Jesus said, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." This Roman soldier was not a Jew, but he understood and believed that Jesus was God's son. He knew Jesus had authority and power over anything, including sickness. Because of his faith, Jesus healed the centurion's servant.

Bible Point:
Jesus
Heals!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Explain to the children that writing down answers to prayers can help build our faith.
2. Have the children create a "Prayer Journal" where they record what they asked God for and how he answered their prayers.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why does the centurion ask Jesus to make his servant well?
2. Why was Jesus able to heal the sick and raise the dead?
3. Does Jesus still do these things today? How do you know?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 7:11-17; John 11:25; John 11:44; John 17:2

Lesson Objective: To learn that Jesus has power over death—both physical and spiritual.

Materials: small cups, seeds, potting soil

Memory Verse: “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

Lesson Summary

The day after Jesus had healed the centurion’s servant, he traveled to a city called Nain. The Bible tells us that Jesus traveled with his disciples and many people. No doubt, after hearing how he healed the servant of the centurion, many wanted to learn more about this man called Jesus. As the group approached the gate of the city, they saw a very sad sight. There was a funeral procession coming out of the city. The body of a man led the way, followed closely by the man’s mother (a widow) and many people from the city. The poor woman was very upset and was crying because her son was dead, and we know she already had lost her husband because she was a widow. Jesus saw the woman, and the Bible says, “And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.” Jesus felt her pain and was moved to perform another miracle. He walked over to the frame, which held the man’s body. The Bible says that he touched the bier (movable frame that holds a body or coffin), and the men that carried the body stood still. Then Jesus said, “Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.” The man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus took him to his mother. All the people that were with the woman and those that followed Jesus began to glorify and praise God. They began to call Jesus a great prophet and tell people all around what they had seen. The news about what Jesus had done spread throughout the land of Judaea and the region around it. No doubt many were asking, “Who is this man that can raise the dead and heal the sick?” We know the answer to this question! Jesus is God’s son; he was sent to Earth to save us, not just from physical death but more importantly, spiritual death.

Bible Point:
Jesus
Raises the
Dead!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Give each child a few seeds, a cup, and some potting soil.
2. Talk to them about the “new life” Jesus gives us. Remind them that even though Jesus raised the man from the dead, the greater miracle is when he gives us new life through salvation.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did Jesus feel compassion for the woman?
2. What was the reaction of the people when the man sat up and started talking?
3. Which is greater – to be saved or to be raised from the dead? Why?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 4:35-41; Daniel 7:14; John 1:49; Revelation 1:5, 17:14, and 19:6

Lesson Objective: To learn that Jesus has all authority over everything, including nature, because he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Materials: construction paper, blue tissue paper, crayons or markers, glue or tape

Memory Verse: "And they feared exceedingly, and said on to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41).

Lesson Summary

Jesus had just finished teaching a great multitude of people by the Sea of Galilee. It was evening, and he told the disciples, "Let's go to the other side of the sea" (Mark 4:35). The Bible says that the disciples took him into the ship and there were other smaller ships that went with them. Jesus had gone to the back of the ship, known as the stern. He was resting there on a pillow. The Bible tells us in verse 37, "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full." No doubt, with water filling the boat and the storm raging, the disciples became very frightened. They made their way to where Jesus was sleeping and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (v. 38). Even though the disciples knew in their heads that Jesus was the Messiah, they were not prepared for what Jesus would do next. The Bible tells us that he got up and rebuked the wind, then said to the sea, "Peace be still." Instantly, everything became calm – no more wind and waves. All was quiet and peaceful. Jesus then turned to the disciples and asked them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (v. 40). The disciples responded by asking each other, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (v.41). We sometimes forget that Jesus has this kind of authority. The Bible tells us in Philippians 2:10, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." In other words, Jesus is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Rev. 19:16) – everything must obey Him! We serve a God that is able to speak the word and things happen. Jesus is God's son, and he is all-powerful. Our God truly is an awesome God, and he can calm the storms!

Bible Point:
Jesus
Calms the
Storm!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the children take a sheet of construction paper and fold it like a book.
2. On one side, have them create the scene when the storm was raging.
3. On the other, let them draw the scene once Jesus calmed the storm.

*Blue tissue paper can be used for the water, and this will give the picture a 3D effect.

Questions for Class Discussion:

Using your illustrations of the two scenes:

1. Explain what is happening in the first scene.
2. Describe what happened for the scene to change.
3. Why do you think Jesus demonstrated his power to the disciples?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 5:24-34; John 14:14; Hebrews 11:6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus wants us to have faith in him.

Materials: Costumes or signs for characters in the story.

Memory Verse: "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Lesson Summary

Word spread around the land about the miracles that Jesus had done. People knew that he had healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out devils, and calmed even the most terrible storm. Wherever he went, many people followed and most of them needed help. One such day, many people surrounded Jesus when a woman who had been sick for twelve years came looking for him. She had been to many doctors and had tried many treatments to make her well, but none of them worked. In fact, she had gotten worse instead of better. Once she heard about Jesus and what he had done, she felt if she could just touch his clothes she would be made well. She fought her way into the crowd and just pressed through enough to touch his clothing. Immediately, the Bible tells us in verse 29, "And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague." Jesus immediately knew what had happened and asked, "Who touched me?" He looked around to see who had done this, and the woman cast herself down before him and told him what she had done (v.33). Jesus was not angry or upset with her as she might have feared. The Bible says, "And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague" (v. 34). Jesus wants us to have the same faith that this woman had. He wants us to ask believing. His word says, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14). Jesus wants us to believe him for our spiritual needs and our physical needs. He is willing to bless us if we will ask and believe. It is impossible to please God if we do not have faith and believe him (Hebrews 11:6).

Bible Point:
Jesus Says,
"Believe!"



Ideas to Illuminate:

Chose a child to be Jesus and then pick one to be the woman with the issue of blood. The other children will be the multitude gathered around Jesus. Make sure the multitude moves in close to make it challenging for the woman to touch his clothing. Have the students to act out the story multiple times allowing them to swap characters.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How do you think the woman felt when she saw all the people around Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus knew something had happened?
3. How are we supposed to go to Jesus for help?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 14:15-21; Matthew 6:8-13; Philippians 4:19

Lesson Objective: To learn that we should have faith and believe that Jesus can supply our needs.

Materials: brown paper bags, bread cutouts, coffee filters, markers, glue

Memory Verse: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Lesson Summary

Jesus had left the towns and had gone to an area where there were few people. However, as he was leaving, many people from the cities followed him. He now had a crowd following him almost everywhere he went because people needed help. Jesus looked out at the crowd that had followed him to this "desert place," and the Bible says, "And Jesus went forth, and saw the great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick" (v.14). Jesus loved the people; he knew they needed him. His disciples came to him in the evening and told him to send everyone home. They knew they were in a place where there was no town or place to buy food, and it was getting time for dinner. They also knew the multitude would not leave unless Jesus sent them away. However, Jesus had other plans. He told the disciples the people did not need to leave and for them to feed the people! The disciples were worried. They told Jesus all they had was five small loaves of bread and two fish. How were they supposed to feed thousands of people with that? However, Jesus commanded them to bring him the loaves and fishes. He then proceeded to bless it. After his prayer, the disciples began to distribute the food and could not believe what happened. There was not only enough for everyone to eat, but also twelve baskets of leftovers. Jesus had done another miracle to meet the needs of the people. He had fed 5,000 people with five small loaves of bread and two small fish. Once again, Jesus showed the disciples and the multitude nothing is impossible with God. Jesus supplied the food, so he could continue to minister to the people.

**Bible Point:
Jesus Feeds
the
Multitude!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the children prepare a "sack lunch" of 2 fish and five loaves. Give each child 2 coffee filters, a brown bag, and 5 bread loaf cutouts. Have the children use the markers to color the filters and then lightly spray them with water. Hang to dry a few minutes. Cut a small triangle from the circle (the fish's mouth) and glue it to the back for the tail. Allow the children to decorate their bags and write the memory verse on their "sack lunch."

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. In what ways did Jesus supply the people's needs?
2. In what ways does he supply our needs?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 1:14, 8:58, 17:20-21; 2 Peter 1:16-18; Mark 9:1-9; Luke 9:28-36

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus is the Son of God and he is above all others.

Materials: construction paper, colors, glitter, glue

Memory Verse: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Lesson Summary

Jesus told his disciples that soon he would suffer, be killed, and be raised from the dead on the third day. He also told them that some of them would see the kingdom of God. Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him upon the mountain to pray. While he was praying, Jesus was transfigured. The appearance of his face changed and his clothing became white and glistened. The disciples were eye witnesses of God's glory! Moses and Elijah also appeared and talked with Jesus. The disciples were truly afraid; this was something they had never experienced before. Being fearful and without understanding, Peter wanted to make a tabernacle for each of them: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. However, God wanted the disciples to have a greater understanding of who Christ is. The disciples, who had only known him in his human body, now had a much greater understanding of Jesus, the Son of God, in his glory. Moses and Elijah were great men in the Old Testament who spoke God's Word to the people, but they were not the Son of God. Peter heard God's voice on the mount: "This is my son listen to him." All that Moses and Elijah had spoken in the past was pointing the people of God to Jesus. He is the fulfillment of the law and all prophecies of the Old Testament. It was now time for everyone to hear Jesus. Let's all listen to Jesus Christ and follow him. He is above all.

Bible Point:
Jesus is
above all.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give each child a piece of paper. Fold the paper in half. On one side have them draw Jesus and the three disciples upon the mountain. Then on the other half have them redraw the picture, but this time let them use glitter to show how Jesus' appearance changed when he was transfigured. They may also draw Moses and Elijah.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What happened to Jesus when he was transfigured?
2. Who was with Jesus when he was transfigured?
3. What did God tell the disciples?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Lu. 15:10, 19:1-19; Ja. 4:8a; Mark 2:17; Mt. 20:28; Jn. 3:16-17, 10:10, 12:46; Ro. 5:8

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus came to save the lost.

Materials: construction paper, pencils, colors, green constructions paper torn into small pieces

Memory Verse: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Lesson Summary

Have you ever been to a parade or ballgame but couldn't see because of the crowd? Our lesson today is about a man who wanted to see Jesus but couldn't because he was too short to see over the crowd. Do you know who it is? Jesus had become very popular among the crowds because of the miracles he performed. Zacchaeus heard that Jesus would be passing through Jericho and was curious to see this man whom he had heard about. However, he was too short to see so he climbed up into a sycamore tree! As Jesus passed by, he saw Zacchaeus and said, "Come down for I am going to your house today." How surprised Zacchaeus must have been when he called him by name. However, this displeased the crowd. Why? Zacchaeus was a leading tax collector and a known sinner. Tax collectors became very rich by cheating people out of their money and keeping it for themselves. So he was not liked by the people of Jericho. The people could not believe that Jesus would go to the home of someone like that. Yet it was for this very reason that Jesus came. While Jesus visited with Zacchaeus, something wonderful happened. Zacchaeus repented of his wrong doing and promised to make everything right. He showed he was truly sorry that day, and Jesus saved his soul (Luke 19:9). Jesus said he came to save those who were lost. It doesn't matter how bad or sinful someone may be; Jesus died for them. God loves us all and desires that we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. It is our job as Christians to do the same – to seek the lost and tell them about Jesus. Do you know Jesus, is he calling your name? Come to Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Bible Point:
Jesus brings
salvation
to all.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have them to trace their hand to make a tree. Then give them pieces of green paper to glue on leaves. Next have them to draw Zacchaeus in the tree and Jesus below. Have them write their key verse on their paper to remember what Jesus did for Zacchaeus that day!

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb the sycamore tree?
2. What did Jesus tell him?
3. Why did this displease the crowd?
4. What happened while Jesus was visiting with Zacchaeus?
5. How can we reach the lost?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Isaiah 53:5; James 5:14; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 13:8

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that God is our healer.

Materials: blind fold, bag, several items for bag (keys, rocks, kitchen items, acorns etc.) pencils, paper.

Memory Verse: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Lesson Summary

In John chapter 9, we read of a man who had been blind from birth. How awful it must have been to be born blind, never being able to see people, colors, trees, or flowers. He was only able to see darkness. Back then they didn't have Braille books or dogs for the blind, and there was no way for a blind man to work. It was a common belief among the Jewish people that sickness was a direct consequence of sinning. However, Jesus told the disciples that this man was born blind so that the works of God may be manifested in him. After this, he spat on the ground and made clay, and he then anointed the blind man's eyes with the clay telling him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The blind man did as Jesus instructed him and received his sight upon washing his eyes! His neighbors could not believe what they were seeing. This man was born blind and now he could see. When asked how this was possible, the blind man told all that Jesus had done – to God be the glory! This was a miracle that only God could do. Although this miracle happened many years ago, God does not change. If he can heal a blind man, what can't he do for us? We all have different needs in our lives. Some of us need physical healing and some need spiritual healing. We must pray and have faith that God will answer our prayers. There is nothing too big for God!

Bible Point:
Jesus is
our healer.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have each child come forth and without looking in the bag, feel around and guess what they are feeling. Have them draw what they felt without discussing it with classmates. After each child has had a turn, discuss and reveal what they felt in the bag. Who got it right?
2. Blind drawing: With their eyes closed, have them draw what you describe – a house with a chimney on top, grass at the bottom, sun at the top, trees, birds, etc. – then have them open their eyes and view the picture.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How long had the man in our story been blind?
2. What did Jesus tell him to go do?
3. What did Jesus mean when he said "I am the light of the world?"

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 11:1-45; John 14:1; Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:26

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that God is in control of all things and there is nothing impossible with God.

Materials: several pieces of material or cloth cut into strips.

Memory Verse: "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

Lesson Summary

In John chapter 11, we read of a man named Lazarus who lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. The Bible states that Jesus loved this family, and they loved him as well. One day, Lazarus became sick. Mary and Martha sent for Jesus. They knew their brother needed help, and they believed that Jesus could heal him! However, when Jesus received the news, he didn't come to Bethany right away. He waited two days before he began his journey to see Lazarus. Did Jesus not care? Was he too busy? Lazarus died before Jesus arrived leaving his sisters very sad. When Jesus finally arrived, Mary and Martha both ran to Jesus saying, "Lord if you had been here our brother would not have died." Little did they know, Jesus was not late but he was right on time. Mary and Martha took Jesus to the tomb where Lazarus laid. It was at this very place where those standing around the tomb would behold the full power and glory of God. They would see that not only was Jesus a great teacher and healer, he also had power over death! There is nothing too big for God. Jesus is the author and source of resurrection and eternal life. God may not always answer our prayers right away, but he is always on time. What hope and joy we have in Jesus! He has promised to supply all of our needs and to give us eternal life if we live for him.

Bible Point:
God is always
on time.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Divide your class into two groups and give each group several strips of cloth. Have them wrap one member of their group in the cloth as Lazarus. Time each group to see who can complete the task the quickest. You can also have them act out the story of Jesus calling Lazarus out of the tomb and removing the cloth wrap from Lazarus.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who did Mary and Martha ask to help their brother? Why?
2. How do you think they felt when Jesus didn't come right away?
3. If God doesn't answer our prayers right away, would this mean he is powerless to do it? Would this mean he does not care about us?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 19:30-40; Matthew 21:8-9

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that Jesus is to be praised and glorified.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons, scissors

Memory Verse: "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest" (Matthew 21:9b).

Lesson Summary

When Jesus was coming close to the towns of Bethpage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent his two disciples ahead into a village to get a young donkey (i.e. a colt). He told them that as they entered they would find the animal tied there. No one had ever ridden on this donkey before. Jesus said, "If anyone asks you why you are taking it, tell them that the Lord needs it." The disciples did just as he asked. As they were untying the colt, the owners saw them and asked what they were doing. They told them that the Lord needed it, and the owners let them go. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments (or clothes) over it. Then they placed Jesus on the little donkey. As he was coming, they spread their clothes and palm branches in the road. When he was almost at the bottom of the Mount of Olives, the people began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice. They rejoiced for all the great miracles he had done, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" But some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." Jesus answered and told them that if these stopped praising him the stones would cry out.

Bible Point:
Jesus is the
highest



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Select a Scripture about praise. Share this Scripture with the class. Then have the students to write or to explain in their own words what it means to them personally.
2. Have the class draw pictures of rocks with different faces on them.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Jesus was near to what towns? And what was the name of the mountain?
2. What was important about this little donkey?
3. Why do you think they were laying down their garments in the way?
4. Why do you think they called Jesus "master or teacher?"
5. What did Jesus mean when he said that the stones would cry out?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 21:12-16; Luke 19:45-48; Psalm 8:2

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that Jesus deserves all the glory and praise, for he does great things.

Materials: Bible, writing utensils, paper

Memory Verse: "O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people" (Psalm 117:1).

Lesson Summary

Today's lesson took place in the temple of God where the Jewish people offered animal sacrifices and worshipped the Lord. The center of the temple was only for the priests (ministers). The court (area) surrounding the center was only for the Jewish people. But the outside court was a place where everyone was allowed. Jesus went into the temple, and when he arrived, there were people misusing the temple by buying and selling things. They were doing this in the outside court near the entrance of the temple. Jesus became really upset and cast them out of the temple, turning over their tables, and telling them that God's house is the house of prayer. But they had made it into a den of robbers. While Jesus was there in the temple, the blind and the lame came to him, and he healed them. When the chief priests and the scribes saw the miracles that he was doing and how the people (including kids) were praising him, they were outraged. Then they said to him, "Do you hear what they are saying?" Jesus answered and told them, "Yes." And he asked them, "Have you never read that out of the mouths of babes or infants will come praise?"

Bible Point:
Jesus is the
Highest



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the students to write down different emotions that people might have. Then have them to circle which ones they think would be the best and would be pleasing to Christ. Discuss the different kinds of emotions, as well as expressing emotions in a way that pleases the Lord.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why was Jesus upset about buying and selling in the temple?
2. How are we to behave in church?
3. What did Jesus do for the blind and lame people?
4. Who praised him for the miracles?
5. Why do you think the chief priests and scribes were outraged?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 22:19-20

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that Jesus gave His life for us.

Materials: Bible, stuff for communion

Memory Verse: "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17).

Lesson Summary

It was the time of year when the Passover (a festival of unleavened bread) was kept. The chief priests and scribes were trying to find a way to get rid of Jesus. They didn't believe that he was God's Son. They were able to convince Judas – one of Jesus' disciples – to help them. The devil entered Judas; he decided to betray Jesus and help these men take him. They offered Judas money to do this. The day came that it was time for the Passover, so Jesus told Peter and John to go and prepare the meal. They didn't know the place where they were going to prepare the Passover, but Jesus did. He told them that when they meet a man with a pitcher of water, they should follow him into the house. They should then say to the man of the house, "The Master (Teacher) asks you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover meal with my disciples?" Jesus even described how the place would look. When they went they found it just as Jesus had said. As they sat at the table, Jesus told them how important it was to him that he ate this Passover with them before he suffered. He also explained that after this he would not eat it anymore until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. He took the cup and when he gave thanks, he said, "Take this and divide it." He did the same with the bread and then told them, "This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." He then took the cup and told them that this represents the new covenant (promise) between God and His people, an agreement purchased with his blood – which was poured out as a sacrifice for us all. By accepting Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, we can be forgiven and have eternal life. [Note: Share the plan of salvation with your children.]

Bible Point:
Jesus was
our Sacrifice



Ideas to Illuminate:

This lesson would be a wonderful opportunity to give an invitation to accept Christ as Savior. Also, children who have accepted Christ as Savior could be invited to take part in the Lords Supper. But you should notify your pastor because someone who is authorized would need to administer this.

Questions for Class Discussion:

- 1) What meal were the disciples preparing for?
- 2) What did the bread represent?
- 3) What did the cup/drink represent?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 13:4-17; Matthew 22:36-40

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that Jesus was a servant to others and wants us to serve as well.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons, pencils

Memory Verse: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

Lesson Summary

In Jesus' day, when a person entered a home, washing his feet was a way of showing him kindness. Why was washing the feet so important? Since the people wore sandals and walked dusty roads, their feet were very dirty. Household servants washed the feet of guests. In today's lesson, after Jesus and his disciples ate supper, he took a basin and filled it with water, he tied a towel around himself, and then he began washing his disciples' feet. But when he got to Peter, Peter wondered what he was doing. He told the Lord that he didn't want him to wash his feet. Peter didn't feel worthy enough to let Jesus wash his feet. But Jesus told him that if he didn't allow him to wash his feet then he would have no part with Jesus. Peter then told him, "Wash all of me Lord." Peter loved the Lord! Jesus was setting an example that no matter who we are we should serve others. On one occasion, when Jesus was asked, "What's the greatest commandment," he replied, "Love God and love others." By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus was teaching them to love God and others by serving them. We should want to help people any way we can even though it may not be easy. Jesus told his disciples that they should do as he had done to them, and because of this, we still wash one another's feet today. By washing each other's feet, we remind ourselves that we should love and serve one another.

Bible Point:
We should serve
others as Jesus did



Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) This would be a great opportunity to let the class learn how to feet wash. The teacher could demonstrate this with a child participant, and/or if you have enough children, pair them up giving them directions and assistance. It would be best to have at least two adults to supervise this activity.
- 2) Have the children to trace their feet on paper and then color them.
- 3) Bringing a pair of sandals would be a good visual aid in order to talk about how dirty their feet would get.

Questions for Class Discussion:

- 1) Which disciple didn't want Jesus to wash his feet?
- 2) What was Jesus' response to the disciple that didn't want his feet washed?
- 3) Why did Jesus give us this example?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 26:36-44

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that anyone can call upon God just as Jesus did in the garden.

Materials: Bible; paper; colored pencils; or crayons

Memory Verse: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).

Lesson Summary

Jesus was with his disciples when he came to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus was feeling sad and wanted Peter, James, and John to stay awake with him. He told them to stay at a certain place, but he went a little further from them and fell facedown and began to cry out to his Father. He knew it was not going to be long before he would go through the hardest time of his life on Earth. Jesus did not want to face the hard times that were coming, but still he surrendered himself to the Father. He prayed, "Father, if you be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but your will be done." After he finished praying, he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. Jesus asked them, "Could you not stay awake with me for just one hour?" Jesus went away a second and third time to pray for his Father's will. Each time he came back, he found the disciples sleeping. When Jesus returned the third time, he woke up the disciples to tell them he was about to be betrayed. Jesus knew the time had come for him to be captured by those who did not like him. Even though Jesus came to Earth knowing what he was going to have to endure, he still wrestled with feelings like sadness and not wanting to go through it. Do you ever feel that way? Sometimes we may feel alone or sad, but we can always pray to our Father just as Jesus did in the garden. God never falls asleep, and he cares about each of you! Next time you feel stressed or overwhelmed, don't let the enemy trick you into feeling all alone. Seek God! He is ready to listen and help you with any problem you may have. He truly is a good, good Father who loves you very much!

Bible Point:
He's a good,
good Father!



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the students retell the story. As they each share portions of the story (Note: You may have to help guide them), allow each of them to draw a scene from the lesson. After the students are finished, allow time for the students to share their drawings with the class.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What was the name of the garden where Jesus went to pray?
2. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do?
3. What did Jesus find the disciples doing each time he returned from praying?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 26:14-16; 45-56

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God can help us through any situation.

Materials: Bible; paper; colored pencils; or crayons

Memory Verse: "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Lesson Summary

Jesus knew that he was being betrayed and that people were on their way to get him. Remember he told the disciples in the garden that he was about to be turned over to the people who did not like him? A big group of people with weapons like swords and clubs came to find Jesus. Jesus' betrayer had given a sign that whomever he kissed would be the person that the group should capture. Do you think Jesus' betrayer was a bad guy or maybe his friend? Jesus' betrayer was actually one of his disciples, his friend named Judas. How sad that one of Jesus' own followers was the one who betrayed him – and for only thirty pieces of silver! When the group arrived, Judas went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi" (which means teacher), and he kissed Jesus. Those who came to get Jesus laid hands on him and took him. One of Jesus' followers was so overwhelmed that he pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of one of the men who was taking Jesus! Jesus told him to put his sword in its place, because one who uses a sword perishes by the sword. Jesus told the disciples that he could call on lots and lots of angels to help him, but this had to happen for the Scriptures to be fulfilled. Jesus remained calm even though he was being taken away innocently; he knew he had to be captured. But all the disciples forsook him and ran away from Jesus. Jesus gave us a wonderful example of how we can remain calm even in a crazy situation. Sometimes life may not seem fair, we may feel all alone, or maybe a friend treats us badly. But God is even bigger than any bad stuff in our lives. If we put our trust in him, he will help us do the right thing when the going gets tough.

Bible Point:
Stay calm and
follow Jesus!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the students to draw a picture of themselves being brave and strong! Then have them to write the first part of the memory verse on the picture.
2. After the pictures are complete, encourage the students to share of a time that they felt really brave and strong.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who was Jesus' betrayer?
2. What was the sign Judas gave to show who Jesus was?
3. Why do you think Jesus could remain calm even though he was being captured?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 14:27-31; 53-72

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that he/she can be strong through Christ and stand for what is right.

Materials: Bible; paper; colored pencils; or crayons

Memory Verse: "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled" (1 Peter 3:14).

LESSON SUMMARY: Before Jesus prayed in the garden, he was talking with the disciples. Jesus told them that they would all stumble because of him that night. Peter felt sure that he would not fail the Lord. Peter let Jesus know that even if all the others stumbled, he would not. Jesus told Peter that he would deny him three times before the rooster crowed twice that evening. But Peter was so sure he would not deny Jesus. Peter told Jesus that even if he had to die with him, that he would not deny Jesus. After Jesus was captured from the Garden, he was led to the high priest. Guess who followed Jesus at a distance? Peter! Peter sat with servants at a fire to warm himself while the chief priests and council sought testimony to find Jesus guilty. While Peter sat in the courtyard, one of the servant girls saw him warming by the fire. She looked at Peter and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But Peter denied it, and the rooster crowed. (Note: Have the children to crow.) A servant girl saw Peter again, and she began to tell those who stood by that Peter was a follower of Jesus, but he denied it again. And a little while later, those who stood around Peter said to him, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." Then Peter began to say bad words and told those around him that he did not know this man. Guess what happened after Peter denied Jesus the third time? The rooster crowed a second time! (Note: Have the children to crow again.) Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him. "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times" (Mark 14:72). When Peter thought about what Jesus had told him, he cried. Peter realized he had not been brave. Because Peter was afraid, he did not take a stand with Jesus, his closest friend and teacher. Sometimes we may not do what is right because we are afraid of what others may think about us or do to us. We need to remember that we can be happy even if we suffer for doing the right thing. Philippians 4:13 tells us that we can do all things though Christ because he gives us strength. Christ will help us to stand for him as we depend on him as our friend, teacher, and guide.

Bible Point:
Stand strong
for Christ!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have each student to draw a picture of Peter's face to show how he must have felt after denying Jesus three times. Allow each student to take a turn saying what he/she thinks Peter would have said to Jesus after denying Him.
2. Reenact the story. Have some students be the crowd, one (or two) to be a servant girl, one to be Peter, and one to be a rooster.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Did Peter think he would deny Jesus?
2. Jesus said Peter would deny Him how many times before the rooster crowed twice?
3. After the rooster crowed the second time, what did Peter do?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 15:1-15; Isaiah 53:7

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus was obedient that we might be saved.

Materials: Bible

Memory Verse: "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Lesson Summary

The morning after Jesus was brought before the high priest, he was taken to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered Pilate saying, "It is as you say." The chief priests accused Jesus of lots of things, but Jesus said nothing as they accused him. Then Pilate asked Jesus if he was going to say anything because others were testifying against him, but Jesus remained silent. Pilate was amazed that Jesus did not speak. Soon after, there was a feast held where Pilate would release one prisoner over to the people. Pilate thought the crowd would want him to release Jesus to them. He asked the crowd if they wanted him to release the King of the Jews. But the crowd got stirred up by the chief priests so they told Pilate to release a murderer named Barabbas. Pilate asked the crowd, "What then do you want me to do with him whom you call the King of the Jews?" (Mark 15:12). The crowd cried out that they wanted Jesus to be crucified! Pilate asked the crowd what evil Jesus had done, but they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!" (Mark 15:14). Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he released Barabbas, and he delivered Jesus to be crucified after he whipped him (Mark 15:15). At any time, Jesus could have stopped those who were accusing him by proving his innocence. But again, he knew if he suffered and continued in obedience, we all could be saved.

Bible Point:
Jesus is the
Lamb of God!



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have each student take a turn having to remain silent. Allow all the other students to talk to the one student and to each other. Encourage the students to try to make the one talk. Discuss how difficult it is to be quiet when others are talking to you and around you. Have the students think about how Jesus remained silent even when others were saying he was guilty when he was really innocent.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Did Jesus speak when others were testifying against him?
2. Did the crowd want Jesus or Barabbas to be released?
3. What did the crowd want Pilate to do with Jesus?
4. Why do you think Jesus remained silent through this really hard time?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 27:27-54; John 3:16-17

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that Jesus gave his life so we could be saved.

Materials: Bible; paper; crayons/colored pencils

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

LESSON SUMMARY: The Roman governor's soldiers took Jesus, put a scarlet robe on him, and placed a crown of thorns on his head. The soldiers bowed before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and they beat him. After they mocked him, they took the robe off of Jesus, put his own clothes on him, and led him away to be crucified. They gave Jesus something to drink that tasted awful, and he would not drink it. Then they nailed Jesus to a cross, and there were two robbers that were crucified with Jesus, one on the right and another on the left. People passed by Jesus as he hung on the cross and mocked him telling Jesus to save himself. They said, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Mt. 27:40). The chief priests and others mocked him by saying that Jesus saved others but he could not save himself; if he would come down from the cross, they would believe him. They even said, "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God" (v. 43). Even the robbers who were crucified with him were saying some of those same things. At one point while Jesus was on the cross, the land was covered in darkness, and he cried out with a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (v. 46). Some thought Jesus was crying out for Elijah and waited to see if Elijah was going to come and save him. Jesus cried out again and his spirit left. At this time when Christ died, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, there was an earthquake, and rocks were split and graves were opened. Those who were guarding Jesus when he died became fearful when they saw the earthquake, and they said, "Truly this was the Son of God" (v. 54). Jesus suffered the beatings, mocking, carrying the cross,

Bible Point:
Jesus died
for me!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students to write a thank you note to Jesus thanking him for dying on the cross so they could be saved.
2. Have students to pick one event out of the lesson and to draw a picture of it; then have them to write the memory verse on their picture.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did the soldiers do to Jesus before they nailed him to the cross?
2. Do you think the people would have believed in Jesus if he would have saved himself?
3. When Jesus died, what happened to the guards and what did they say?

Theme: THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Lesson: Jesus Is Buried

Lesson Text: Jn. 19:31-42; Mt. 27:57-60

July 9, 2023

Faith-N-Focus

for Young Disciples

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Ex. 12:46, Nu. 9:12, Ps. 34:20, Zech. 12:10, Zech. 13:6

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus died as a normal man does and was buried.

Materials: Jumbo Popsicle sticks (craft sticks), scrap cloth, markers

Memory Verse: "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices" (Jn. 19:40).

Lesson Summary

As Jesus and the two thieves hung on the cross, evening was quickly approaching. The next day was the Sabbath, or a holy day. Jesus and the thieves had to be buried before sunset. The soldiers were ordered to break the legs of Jesus and the thieves so that they would die quickly. They broke the legs of the thieves, but when they came to Jesus, he was already dead. However, one of the soldiers pierced the side of Jesus with his spear to be sure that Jesus was indeed dead. A man named Joseph of Arimathaea asked Pilate for permission to take and bury the body of Jesus. Joseph was a very rich Jewish man, but he was secretly a follower of Jesus. He, along with another Jewish leader, Nicodemus, cleaned and prepared Jesus' body for burial. They wrapped him in linen and spices. They then laid Jesus' body in a newly carved tomb inside a huge rock. They then rolled a very large and heavy stone over the door of the tomb. The tomb actually belonged to Joseph, but Jesus would not need it for very long. Jesus told his followers he would be put to death, but then he would rise again on the third day. This was no doubt a very sad day for Jesus' disciples, but soon they would see him again just as he said. Death would not be victorious over Jesus!

Bible Point:

Jesus was
buried in a
tomb.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Let the children decorate the craft sticks to resemble Jesus at his burial. Help them to use the scrap fabric to wrap the stick to look like the body of Jesus wrapped in the linen burial cloth.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why were the soldiers ordered to break the legs of Jesus and the two thieves?
2. How did the soldier make sure that Jesus was indeed dead?
3. What were the names of the two men who buried Jesus?



Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jn. 5:21, Rom. 4:25

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus arose just as he told them he would do.

Materials: Paint, markers, or crayons, paper plates, brass paper brads

Memory Verse: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Co. 15:55).

Lesson Summary

Before Jesus was betrayed, he told his disciples he would rise again from the dead three days after he was crucified. The Jewish leaders were afraid that Jesus' disciples might try to steal the body of Jesus from the tomb so that everyone would believe he had risen from the dead. Pilate told them to set a watch or guard over the tomb. They also sealed the tomb; so if anyone were to try to move the stone, they would know it. On the first day of the week, early in the morning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb of Jesus. The earth began to quake and an angel appeared. He rolled back the giant stone and sat on it. Those keeping guard were very fearful. But the angel told the women not to fear. Jesus was no longer in the tomb because he had risen. He then told the women to go and tell Jesus' disciples that he was alive. He also told them to tell the disciples to go to Galilee and there Jesus would appear to them. The women ran, filled with great fear and joy to bring the word to the disciples. Jesus had risen from the grave! He was alive just like he told them he would be. He is alive forevermore!

Bible Point:

Jesus is
alive!



Ideas to Illuminate:

TOMB CRAFT: Cut a paper plate in half. Cut an opening along the flat edge of one piece to resemble the opening of a tomb. Using the other piece, cut out a round shape in order to make a stone to cover the opening. To decorate, paint or color it. Use a brad to fasten the stone to the tomb.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the Jewish leaders want to set a watch over the tomb of Jesus?
2. What did they see when the angel rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb?
3. Where did the angel tell Mary Magdalene that Jesus would appear to them?

Theme: THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Lesson: The Great Commission

Lesson Text: Mt. 28:16-20, Mk. 16:14-15

July 23, 2023

Faith-N-Focus

for Young Disciples

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Acts 1:8

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that the Great Commission still applies to us today.

Materials: Construction paper, paint, markers, or crayons

Memory Verse: "And he said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

Lesson Summary

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary ran to tell Jesus' disciples about the angel at the tomb of Jesus. They told them that the angel said Jesus would appear to them in Galilee. They traveled up a mountain in the city of Galilee. Just as the angel said, Jesus appeared to them. They began to worship him, but some of the disciples doubted that what they were seeing was real. Jesus began to teach them, and he convinced them that he was truly risen from the dead just as he had told them. As he taught them, he gave them a special mission. He told them that he had received all power in heaven and in earth. Jesus then told them to go and teach all nations, and to baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. This is often called the Great Commission. As followers of Christ, we also are commissioned (or commanded) to spread the gospel of Christ to every creature. If we are to be true Christians, then it is our duty to tell others about Jesus and his plan of salvation for our lives.

Bible Point:

Go and tell.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Trace each child's foot on a piece of construction paper. You may want to "stamp" their footprint on the paper using paint. Let them write the memory verse on the paper. Allow them to decorate their footprint.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be commissioned?
2. What is the Great Commission?
3. Who are we commissioned to tell about the Gospel of Christ?



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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 3:11, Ez. 36:25-27, Joel 2:28-29, Luke 24:49

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus is coming again in the clouds.

Materials: Paper plates, markers or crayons, glue, and cotton balls

Memory Verse: "And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory" (Mk. 13:26).

Lesson Summary

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he frequently appeared to his disciples. He walked with them and talked with them. He ate and drank with them. He was truly alive in the flesh. After Jesus had been resurrected for forty days, he again appeared to the disciples. He told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father. He told them that soon they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost. He told them that after they received the Holy Ghost they would receive power and would be his witnesses in all parts of the world. Jesus was then taken up into heaven in a cloud. There also appeared two angels who spoke with the disciples. They said, "In the same way Jesus was taken up into heaven in a cloud, he would someday come again in the clouds." As Christians today, we hold on to this promise. We believe that Jesus is coming again. He will come to take his people home. The Bible tells us to be watching and to be ready always because he will come like a thief in the night. We need to be saved and ready, so that we will make it to heaven with Jesus when he comes. If you do not have Jesus living in your heart, then ask him to be Lord of your life today. He is no doubt coming soon to take his children to be with him forever.

Bible Point:

Jesus is
coming soon.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Instruct the children to color a plate blue. Tell them to use glue to cover the plate with cotton balls to resemble clouds. You may either let them draw a picture of Jesus or print out a picture of Jesus from the internet that they can color and then attach to the plate to look like Jesus in the clouds.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How long did Jesus walk the earth after his resurrection?
2. Why did Jesus tell his disciples to stay in Jerusalem?
3. How did Jesus ascend into heaven?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:8-10; Joshua 24:2-3; Psalm 119:105

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that he should follow the Word of God.

Materials: Bible, two suitcases (bags/boxes), variety of clothing/shoes, paper, markers

Memory Verse: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Lesson Summary

God called Abram (or Abraham) to leave his homeland and move his family to a new place called Canaan. Why did the Lord call him to a new land? God wanted him to move away from his father's family because he was going to do something special with Abraham. The Lord promised to bless Abraham and make his family into a great nation. He also promised to bless all people through Abraham. At seventy-five years old, Abraham followed the Word of God. He moved his wife, all of his possessions, and all of the servants who were a part of his household. But at this time, Abraham and Sarah (Sarai) had no children. By faith, he did as the Lord told him to do and traveled to Canaan to start a new life. Canaan was a strange place to Abraham. He did not know exactly where he was going. But he knew that he was following the Lord. Like Abraham, we also should do what the Lord says. When we read the Bible and do what the Bible says, we too are following God's Word.

Bible Point:
I will
follow God.



Ideas to Illuminate

Relay Race: For this activity, you will need two suitcases or bags/boxes. Place an equal variety of clothing and shoes into each suitcase. Make a sign that says, "I will follow God." Divide the class into two teams. Place the sign on the opposite side of the room. For this relay, each person must empty out the contents of the suitcase, fold the clothing, repack the items in the suitcase, run with the suitcase across the room to the sign, touch it, shout "I will follow God," and then run back to the starting line. Each player must complete the relay. The team that finishes first, wins. After this activity, discuss the questions below.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Why did Abraham move away from his homeland?
2. Have you ever moved to a new town? If so, what was it like?
3. If you were taking a long journey to a new place, what one

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; Galatians 3:6-9; Hebrews 11:6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that he should believe the Word of God.

Materials: Bible, wooden craft sticks (5 per child), glue, colored markers, paints, glitter

Memory Verse: "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" (Galatians 3:6).

Lesson Summary

God spoke to Abraham and told him not to be afraid, because he would protect him and bless him. Abraham could not understand how he could be blessed or become a blessing to others, when he did not have any children of his own. God promised to give Abraham the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:5-7; 15:7-21). He also promised to make Abraham a great nation. But who would receive all of his blessings after he died? Sarah, Abraham's wife, was barren and could have no children. Would his servant, Eliezer, be the one to receive God's promises? The Lord said that Eliezer would not be Abraham's heir. He would not be the one to take Abraham's place. Instead, God would give Abraham a son. The Lord told him to look up at the sky and count the stars. That's how many children and grandchildren he would have. Abraham believed in the Lord, and his faith in God's Word made him right with God. Like Abraham, we should believe the Word of God. Why? God is true, and he always speaks the truth. The Bible is God's Word. His Word is true, and it will never fail. So we can trust the Bible, and believe all that God has said in his Word.

Bible Point:
I will
believe God.



Ideas to Illuminate

Song: Sing the *B-I-B-L-E*: "The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me. I stand upon the Word of God; the B-I-B-L-E."

Stars of Promise: Give each student 5 wooden craft sticks. Glue them in a crisscross pattern to make the shape of a star. Decorate the stars with colored markers, paints, or glitter.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Why did Abraham question God's promises?
2. Why did God tell Abraham to count the stars in the sky?
3. Have you ever tried to count the stars in the sky?
4. Why should we believe God?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22; 18:1-15; 21:1-3; Galatians 3:9,14; Hebrews 11:11-12

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that he will receive God's blessings through faith.

Materials: Bible, white paper, white crayon, dark water color, paint brush, water

Memory Verse: "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham" (Galatians 3:9).

Lesson Summary

The Lord visited with Abraham. One day, three men came to his home. He knew it was the Lord and his angels. Abraham welcomed his guests. He prepared and served them a great feast. While they were eating, the Lord again told Abraham that Sarah would give birth to a son (see Genesis 17:15-19). Sarah overheard the Lord and laughed, because she was very old, and women of her age could not have babies. But the Lord asked Abraham, "Why is Sarah laughing; is any thing too hard for the Lord?" (v. 14). About one year later, Sarah had a baby boy, just as the Lord had said. This was a miracle because Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. God told them to name him Isaac. The name "Isaac" means "laughter." When God told Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son, they both laughed. Sarah said, "God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me" (Genesis 21:6). God's Word is true. God promised to bless Abraham's family. For twenty-five years, Abraham followed the Lord, waiting for God to keep his promise. God was faithful to his Word. Abraham believed the Word of God, and he received God's blessings through faith.

Bible Point:
**I will receive
from God.**



Ideas to Illuminate

Song: Sing "Father Abraham."

Object Lesson: Before class, write the words, "God's Blessings," on a piece of white paper with a white crayon. Explain to the class that the white paper represents God's Word. Tell the students that we receive God's blessing by placing our faith in his Word. Have the students to list some of God's blessings. Finally, paint the white paper with a dark water color, such as blue or green, explaining that the paint represents our faith in God's Word. As you paint, say, "I will receive God's blessings through faith." "God's Blessings" will appear on the paper.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Why did Abraham and Sarah laugh?
2. Is anything too hard for God to do?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that faith in God's Word helps us to obey the Lord.

Materials: Bible, variety of food items

Memory Verse: "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice" (Genesis 22:18).

Lesson Summary

Abraham was a man of great faith in God. He believed the Word of God and followed the Lord. One day, the Lord tested his faith to see if Abraham truly believed God's Word. He told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and offer him as a burnt offering. How could God ask Abraham to do such a thing? Isaac was the son who God had promised to Abraham and Sarah, but now God was asking Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice. This did not make sense. Could Abraham trust the Lord? Early the next morning, he took Isaac, and they traveled for three days to the place where God told them to go. On their way, Isaac asked his father, "We have fire and wood, but where is the offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide a lamb." Although Abraham did not understand it all, he trusted the Lord, and did what the Lord told him to do. Yet he believed that God would take care of him and Isaac (vv. 5, 8). When they arrived, Abraham built an altar, prepared the wood, and placed Isaac on the altar. Just when he was ready to offer him up, the angel of the Lord called out to Abraham and stopped him. As Abraham had told Isaac, the Lord provided a ram as a burnt offering. God knew that Abraham's faith was real because he was obedient to his Word. Abraham passed the test.

Bible Point:
I will
obey God.



Ideas to Illuminate

Edible Altars: Have the students to build altars out of food items, such as graham crackers, pretzel sticks, jelly beans, and frosting or marshmallow cream (or any other food items of your choosing). Add a large marshmallow on top to represent the ram which the Lord provided. After they finish constructing their altars, have the students to recite the Bible point, "I will obey God." Then eat and enjoy.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. How did God test Abraham's faith?
2. How do we know that Abraham's faith was real?
3. How do we show God that our faith is real?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Exodus 1:8-10, 22; Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 139:13-17

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God has a plan for him/her no matter life's circumstances.

Materials: Bible, paper, colored markers or crayons

Memory Verse: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Revelation 4:11)

Lesson Summary

Pharaoh, who was the king of Egypt, did not like the Hebrew people. He felt threatened as the Hebrews multiplied and became more powerful. He was afraid the Hebrews would fight against the Egyptians (Exodus 1:10). This influenced Pharaoh to command his people to throw all Hebrew sons into the Nile River. After Pharaoh commanded this, a Levite woman had a son, and she feared for his life; so, she hid him for three months (Exodus 2:2). When she could no longer hide the baby, she prepared a basket for him and placed her son inside. She placed the basket beside the bank of the Nile River and had faith he would be found. Pharaoh's daughter came to the Nile River, found the child crying and felt sorry for him knowing he was a Hebrew boy. The baby became her son, and his name was Moses (Exodus 2:10). Even though the odds were against Moses, God protected him and preserved his life because God had a great plan for Moses. Moses became one of the greatest heroes in the Bible. Just like Moses, God has given you life and He has a plan for you too. Sometimes it may seem impossible for God to have a plan for you. Just remember, God has created everything for His pleasure, and you are His creation. He is able to help you through any situation in order to fulfill His plan.

Bible Point:

**God has a
plan for you.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give the students a piece of paper and ask them to fold each sheet in half. Tell the students to think of a plan for their lives. Have them to draw a picture of the plan on the top half of the sheet of paper. Once they are finished have each student to share his plan. Ask the students if that is their own plan or God's plan for their lives. Have them to rethink their plan. On the bottom half of the sheet of paper, either have them to draw how it could be used for God's glory, or have them to illustrate a new plan that could be God's plan for their lives. Stress the importance of following God's will when planning events in our lives.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why are we created?
2. Does God have a plan for you?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Exodus 3:1-22; Exodus 4:1-20; Hebrews 11:24-27

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God can still speak to us today just as He spoke to people in the Bible.

Materials: Bible, paper, colored markers or crayons, pieces of red and yellow tissue paper (if available)

Memory Verse: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Lesson Summary

Can God speak to us? In Exodus 3, we read about God speaking to Moses from a burning bush. God got Moses' attention through the burning bush to tell Moses what He wanted him to do. God wanted Moses to go to the Pharaoh in Egypt in order to bring the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt (Exodus 3:10). How do you think Moses felt about this command? God gave Moses specific instructions to follow. Moses had to trust in what God told him to do, in order to fulfill God's plan of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. One quality we see in a hero is showing great courage. Moses had to have a lot of courage to listen as God spoke through the burning bush and then carry out the commandments God gave him. We sometimes read about Bible heroes such as Moses and think God could never use us as he used Moses. But God still speaks to us when we are His and are following His will for our lives. We, just as Moses did, must listen for God's voice and be willing and courageous enough to follow His leading. God can specifically tell us who He wants us to witness to or give us words of wisdom to speak to someone who is hurting. God can use us in so many ways if we will put Him first and trust His leading. Let's be modern day heroes for God. Courageous Christians spreading the good news of Jesus Christ!

Bible Point:
**God still
speaks to us.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

[HTTP://DLTK-BIBLE.COM/MOSES_AND_THE_BURNING_BUSH_CRAFT.HTM](http://DLTK-BIBLE.COM/MOSES_AND_THE_BURNING_BUSH_CRAFT.HTM)

Give students a piece of paper and have the students trace their hands and part of arm to create a tree/bush. Allow students to be creative when making the burning bush. If tissue paper is available, they can add pieces to the bush to create the look of fire. If not, have them use crayons or markers. Once students are finished drawing, have them write the memory verse on their papers also. As you see students finishing up, ask questions below to create discussion.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Can God speak to us?
2. How would you react if you encountered a burning bush as Moses did?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Exodus 14:15-31; Exodus 15:1-18; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 11:29

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God is always on time.

Materials: Bible, pan, water, rocks or blocks

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid" (Psalm 27:1)?

Lesson Summary

Have you ever been to the ocean or seen a large body of water? It is amazing to stand in front of a big body of water and see how powerful God's creations can be. When reading Exodus 14, we find Moses standing before the Red Sea trying to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. It seemed impossible for Moses and the children of Israel to escape with mountains on each side, a large sea in front of them, and the Egyptians following close behind, but there was a way out. Guess who gave Moses instructions of how to escape? God did! The Lord had Moses stretch out his hand over the sea, and the Lord made the Red Sea divide while the children of Israel passed through the Red Sea on dry ground. The Lord told Moses to do the same thing in order for the sea to cover the Egyptians. Moses obeyed again, and the Egyptians were defeated in the Red Sea. Moses and the children of Israel were safely delivered out of Egypt, and the Egyptians were defeated as Moses courageously obeyed the voice of the Lord. Moses could have been upset, thinking there was no way out, and given up. But thankfully, he didn't! God spoke to him and told him what to do right on time. We must trust God in the same way today. We may find ourselves in situations where there seems to be no escape. Maybe school is tough or people aren't so nice at school. There may be tough times at home with parents or siblings. But when there seems to be no way out, there is always an escape if we will give ourselves to the Lord. He will always be on time to let us know everything is going to be okay if we will let Him take control of the situations that trouble us. Are you trusting in the Lord today? Will you let God be in charge of your life? Don't waste time! Make Jesus your leader today!

Bible Point:
**God is always
on time.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have a small pan of water prepared that you can bring into the classroom. Have students try parting the water (maybe have them blow onto the water, use their hands or rocks or blocks to try to make the water part). Have students really think about how amazing it was for God to allow the mighty waters to part and how thankful the ones who crossed must have been!

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Is God always on time?
2. Is it better for us to try to solve our problems ourselves or trust God to help us in times of trouble?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 11:1-9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we should keep God's commandments if we truly love him.

Materials: Bible, paper, colored markers or crayons

Memory Verse: "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Lesson Summary

God used Moses to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt, and then God gave his commandments to them. What is a commandment? In Exodus 20, we read where God gave instructions to his people, teaching them how they should live. These are called the Ten Commandments. They are different from rules your parents or teachers may have for you. Just as parents have rules for their children and teachers for their students, God has rules for his people. The Ten Commandments are God's rules, and he expects all people to obey them. They are very clear and if we love God, do you think we will keep His commandments? Yes, we will. His word declares we should keep his commandments if we love Him. We cannot decide in our own minds to obey God's commandments and then expect to keep them. But we must first surrender our lives to Jesus, and allow God's love to rule in our hearts and minds. If we are living for God, he gives us the strength to obey him and keep His commandments. Thankfully, we do not have to walk alone. God will be with us and bless us as we strive to live for him. Have you surrendered your heart to Jesus? Who is ruling your heart today?

Bible Point:

**We must keep
God's commandments.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Help students fold a piece of paper and use scissors to cut out a large heart. (If you prefer, already have hearts cut out.) Have the students copy the Ten Commandments onto the hearts. Explain to your students the importance of writing God's Word on our hearts.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who must keep God's commandments?
2. Can we keep God's commandments on our own?
3. Who should be the ruler of our hearts?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Exodus 32:1-35; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; I John 5:18-21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we should trust, believe, and worship the one true God.

Materials: Bible, thank-you cards or construction paper, pens, markers, or crayons

Memory Verse: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22).

Lesson Summary

Have you ever been in trouble because you broke a rule? Soon after God had given his commandments to Israel, they quickly disobeyed him by breaking one of his rules. While Moses was away, the children of Israel had Aaron to make a golden calf to be their god. While breaking God's commandment to not make idols, they continued their offerings of worship to the Lord. God did not accept this worship because of their disobedience. God still gets angry today when people try to worship him when they are breaking his commandments. God desires worship, but he looks for people to worship him in spirit and in truth. He wants our hearts to truly love and worship only him! He only wants our singing and praise when we love him and want to obey him. We cannot worship God when we have our eyes and hearts set on treasures here on earth and are putting those things before God. When we love God with all our hearts, we can stand in awe of all he has done for us and worship him because we are thankful and desire to be as close as we can to him. Is your heart ready to worship God? He is worthy to be praised!

Bible Point:
I will worship
the one true God.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have students think about things for which they are thankful to God. Explain to students that praising God for what we are thankful for is a way to worship God. Give each student a thank-you card or piece of construction paper and have them write a note to God about why they are thankful. Have the students take turns sharing their cards to the class.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who should be #1 in our lives?
2. Why should we not put anything before God?
3. How can we worship God?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Genesis Chapter 37

Lesson Objective: The student will learn about the dangers of jealousy.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him" (Acts 7:9).

Lesson Summary

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, the first son born of Rachel. Jacob favored Joseph over his other sons. Because of this, Joseph's older brothers were very jealous. Jealousy is when someone does not like the good things that another person has and envies them. God does not like jealousy. It makes someone do things that disobey God, such as: lie, hate, murder or steal (all of which are sins). Joseph's father made a special coat for him to wear. It was a coat of many colors. Joseph felt uplifted when he wore his new coat, but his brothers did not like it. They were jealous. Joseph had two dreams and told it to his brothers and his father. Their hatred grew when they heard about these dreams. Even his father was not happy to hear it. After several days, Jacob asked Joseph to check up on his brothers. They had been tending sheep. Joseph set out to find them to make sure they were okay. He found them and was happy to see them. However, Joseph's brothers were not happy to see him. They said among themselves, "Let's kill him." But then they decided to just get rid of him. So they threw Joseph into a pit. He could not escape. As the brothers were deciding what to do next, a caravan of travelers arrived. This gave the brothers the idea to sell Joseph as a slave. The men in the caravan were happy to purchase Joseph for 20 shekels (about \$228 US currency today). Reuben, the oldest of the 12 brothers, was away when the others sold Joseph. He was angry at what his brothers did because he planned on rescuing Joseph. He was worried about what they would tell their father. They came up with a heartless plan to take Joseph's coat and smear it with blood. Their father thought a lion killed Joseph. Believing he was dead, Jacob was heartbroken.

Bible Point:

God does not like jealousy.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. On a piece of paper, finish this sentence:
It is hard for me to forgive when...
2. Now finish this sentence:
When I don't forgive, I feel...
3. One more to finish:
I need help right now forgiving...

Now ask God to help you be a forgiving person, and then forgive anyone who has wronged you! Crumble up your paper and throw it down. This is the same way God forgives us of sin. He removes our sin from us – he wipes the slate clean. Now clean up your paper and throw it in the trash can.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What can jealousy lead to?
2. What does the Bible say about jealousy? (Job 5:2; Prov 6:34; Acts 8:17)

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Genesis 39:1-6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the benefits of serving others.

Materials: Bible, Paper, Crayons

Memory Verse: "... But God was with him" (Acts 7:9).

Lesson Summary

Joseph was taken down into Egypt by the Ishmaelite merchants, who bought Joseph from his brothers. Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the bodyguard, bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites. But the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. He served in the house of his master Potiphar, the Egyptian. Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in Potiphar's sight and became his personal servant. Potiphar made Joseph the overseer of his house, and he put all that he owned in Joseph's charge. From the time he placed Joseph over his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed Potiphar's house on account of Joseph. Thus, the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge. With Joseph around, he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate. Joseph, not only served Potiphar, but also, he faithfully served the Lord. Because Joseph was so faithful in everything he did, God blessed Joseph's work, as he served others.

Bible Point:
**God wants us to
serve others.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the class do or make something to remind them that God wants us to be a servant to others, just as Joseph was a good servant.

Examples: Make someone a card. Open the car door for them, or carry their stuff to the car. Have fruit or a snack to hand out after church, have them serve one another in class, etc.

2. Have them to draw a picture of how they can serve someone.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to serve others?
2. What happened to Potiphar's household when Joseph started working?
3. What do you think made Joseph care enough to be so good?
4. Do you let God work in you? If so, how?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Gen 39:20, 22; 40:8, 20-23; 41:1-8, 12, 14, 17, 25, 40-41

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God is with us and cares for us when we face trials.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencils or crayons

Memory Verse: "But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Genesis 39:21).

Lesson Summary

A lie was told about Joseph, so Potiphar had him thrown in jail. But the Lord was still with Joseph. The warden of the jail put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. The warden never worried about the prisoners because the Lord was with Joseph and helped him do everything right. After he had been in jail for some time, Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker were also thrown into the prison with Joseph. One night, each of them had a dream. They told their dreams to Joseph, and God showed him the meaning of their dreams. He told the cupbearer, "You will be released from prison and again serve Pharaoh." But he told the baker, "Pharaoh will have you put to death." Joseph wanted the cupbearer to tell Pharaoh about him. However, when the cupbearer was freed, he forgot all about Joseph. So Joseph stayed in jail for two more years. Until one day, Pharaoh had a dream, and nobody could explain it to him. The cupbearer then remembered what Joseph had done for him, and Joseph was brought before Pharaoh. After Pharaoh told Joseph his dream, God revealed the meaning to Joseph. The kingdom would experience seven plentiful years of harvest followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advised Pharaoh to store grain from the plentiful years to be used during the famine. Pharaoh agreed and put Joseph in a position of power to oversee this work.

Bible Point:
God will take
care of us.



Ideas to Illuminate:

List parts of the story of Joseph in a mixed up order and have the students to put them in the right order. (For example: You can write them on paper and then have the students number them in order.)

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What important people did Joseph meet in prison?
2. How do you think Joseph's years in prison affected him later?
3. How did God take care of Joseph's bad situation?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Gen 41:37-44; 42:3, 17-20; 43:8; 45:3

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will always take care of us if we trust him.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencils or crayons

Memory Verse: "But God was with him, and delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house" (Acts 7:9-10).

Lesson Summary

After Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant, Pharaoh put him in charge of all the land of Egypt. People came from all countries to buy grain from Joseph, because they were in need of food. Some of those people were Joseph's brothers. When his brothers came, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know who he was. It had been over ten years since they had seen him. The brothers all bowed down to him because he was an important person, just as he dreamed they would at the beginning. After a few meetings with his brothers, he could not hide it any longer, and Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers could not answer him because they were so afraid. Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving." So his father, his brothers, and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph, and they had all the food they needed.

Bible Point:
**God will take
care of us.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Play a Color Elimination Game - As the children arrive in class, write down on small pieces of paper the different things they are wearing and their colors. For example, you can write white socks, blue pants, red dress, orange hair clip, red flowers on shirt, pink shirt with blue stripes, brown shoes, and so on. You can also use the colors of their hair and eyes. Put all the pieces of paper into a bag. Have all the children stand up. Give each child a turn to pick a piece of paper from the bag and then read what it says. If a child is wearing something that is picked from the bag, he or she has to sit down. Keep playing until only one child is standing up.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did God take care of Joseph and his entire family? (Gen.45:17-20)
2. Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?
3. How do you think Jacob and Joseph felt when they finally saw each other after so many years?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 16:11; 1 Samuel 17:34, 35; Psalm 23:1-4; John 10: 11, 14, 15, 27

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus cares for us just as David cared for his sheep.

Materials: Shepherd staff and clothing (optional)

Memory Verse: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

Lesson Summary

David was a boy from the town of Bethlehem. David was the youngest of eight children. Because he was the youngest, David was most helpful in looking after his father's sheep. Although he was the youngest and smallest of his brothers, there was not a more careful or watchful shepherd than David on all the hills around Bethlehem. David knew each one of his sheep and never allowed one to stray. He always led them to the best pasture and found the coolest and freshest water for them to drink. Once, a lion and bear tried to attack his sheep, but with the help of the Lord, David defeated them both! Sheep do not know how to take care of themselves, and they cannot protect themselves. They need a good shepherd to care for them and protect them. Just as David cared for his sheep, God cares for us. We are God's sheep. He loves us and is always there to lead us and guide us in the right direction. He protects us and makes sure that we have all we need. David knew his sheep and what they needed. God knows his sheep and their needs. We must know the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and follow him at all times (John 10:14, 27)!

Bible Point:

**Jesus Is Our
Shepherd**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Listen to the Shepherd: To play this game you will need one good shepherd and one bad shepherd. Take turns having the good and bad shepherds give instructions to the children (for example: take three steps forward; hop on one foot; and so on). Have the children to close their eyes. They must listen for the voice of the good shepherd and follow his commands only. The children that listen to the bad shepherd are out of the game.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why was David's job so important?
2. Who is our shepherd?
3. What is the job of a shepherd?
4. What are we to do as sheep?
5. Why must we learn to listen to the voice of our

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 17:1-49; Psalms 18:2; Proverbs 3:5-6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we must trust God at all times.

Materials: Blind fold, chairs or any material to set up an obstacle course.

Memory Verse: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Lesson Summary

David was a shepherd and the youngest of his eight brothers. His brothers were soldiers in the king's army. One day, David's father asked him to bring food to his brothers. To his surprise, he found the army of God terrified of the Philistine army. They were all afraid of a Philistine giant, named Goliath. David asked, "Why are you so afraid? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" David told Saul that he would fight the Giant. David was not afraid because he knew God was on his side. God had delivered him from the lion and bear; and he knew that God would deliver him this day from the giant! Just as David trusted God to help him defeat Goliath, we must trust God in that same way. Regardless of the giants we face in our own lives, we must know that God is faithful to deliver his servants every time. David was victorious because he trusted God and not the things of this world. He defeated Goliath, not with armor and battle equipment, but with his sling shot and faith in God. God is always faithful. We should trust him at all times.

Bible Point:

Trust in God



Ideas to Illuminate:

Take turns blind folding the children while you lead them through a maze or obstacle course. You can lead them by the hand, or you can have them follow your commands. The purpose is to demonstrate how they must trust the one guiding them, just as we must trust God to lead and guide us.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why was David not scared of the giant Goliath?
2. Why is it so important that we trust God?
3. Name some times in your life that you have had to trust God.

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Acts 10:34-35

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God can use us regardless of our age, size, or looks.

Materials: paper, markers, crayons

Memory Verse: "For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Lesson Summary

During Saul's reign as king, he became rebellious and disobedient. Therefore, God rejected him. Now Israel needed a new king. God used the prophet Samuel to anoint him a new king over Israel. God told Samuel that he had chosen a king from the family of Jesse. Samuel told Jesse that God had chosen one of his sons to be king and he must bring them before him. The oldest was named Eliab. When Samuel saw him, he was sure that Eliab would be the chosen one. However, God warned Samuel not to look upon his countenance. God rejected Eliab. Seven of Jesse's sons came before Samuel, but Samuel told Jesse that God had not chosen any of them. Finally, Jesse brought his son David before Samuel. David was a small person, not as big and strong as his brothers. He was also the youngest. God spoke to Samuel and said, "This is whom I have chosen." Samuel anointed David that day as king of Israel. God does not care about looks, size, or age. He cares about the heart! He is looking for someone that has a desire to fulfill his will and be obedient to all he commands. Like David, when we have a heart for God, he can use us too.

Bible Point:
God can use you.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to draw a picture of themselves. Then ask them to list the things that they could offer to God. Ask them to list the talents they have that God can use.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does God care about the most?
2. Are you ever too young for God to use? Too old? Too short/tall?
3. How can God use you?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 13:13, 14; Psalms 89:20, 21; Matt. 22:37; Acts 13:22

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we must have a heart full of love for God.

Materials: poster board, glue or tape, paper

Memory Verse: "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will" (Acts 13:22).

Lesson Summary

After Saul's death, David became king of Israel. God was looking for a king that would not be rebellious and disobedient as Saul had been. He was looking for someone that would fulfill his plan and purpose. Therefore, God chose David to be the ruler over his people. David had a heart for God – pure and dedicated to the will of God. The Bible often refers to David as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22-23). David followed God with all his heart. He wanted to be obedient and pleasing to God. This is what God expects from us today. He is looking for a group of people that will love him and serve him with all their heart. We must pray and ask God to give us a heart like David: pure, full of love for God, and holy.

Bible Point:
**Love God with
all your heart.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut two large hearts out of the poster board. Label the hearts, "Pleasing" and "Not Pleasing." On several strips of paper, write different actions or thoughts that will illustrate having a heart that is pleasing to God or a heart that would not be pleasing to God. Have the children take turns placing the strips of paper where they belong. You may even want to have them list things they believe to be pleasing or not pleasing to God.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God choose David to be the king of Israel?
2. What does God expect from his children today?
3. How can we have a heart like David?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:18; Matthew 18:1-6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God desires to use children in his service.

Materials: Paper, crayons, pencils

Memory Verse: "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod" (1 Samuel 2:18).

Lesson Summary

Elkanah and Hannah were not able to have children. Hannah was very sad, because she saw that all the women around her were blessed with many children. In her sadness, she cried to the Lord, saying, "If thou wilt indeed look on thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life" (1 Sam. 1:11). The Lord did indeed bless Hannah with a son and his name was called "Samuel" which means *Asked of God*. Hannah remembered her prayer and her promise to the Lord; and while Samuel was very young, she brought him back to Eli, the priest. Hannah again cried out to God, but this time she was giving her only son Samuel back to the Lord, "As long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord there" (1 Samuel 1:28). Samuel was to stay with Eli to learn and serve the Lord in the temple. While Eli's sons were behaving badly and doing wrong, instead of helping their father in the temple, Samuel the young child served the Lord well. "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod" (1 Samuel 2:18).

Bible Point:
**God wants you
to serve Him.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Reinforcement: After completing the lesson, distribute a piece of paper to each child with the words "I CAN..." at the top. Have the students then come up with several ways they can serve the Lord both in church and in their daily lives. Have them choose several to illustrate and label. You can label the younger children's work for them.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did Samuel serve the Lord?
2. What can we do to serve the Lord at church?
3. How can we serve Him at home/school?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 2:20-36, 1 Samuel 3, Matthew 13:1-23

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we must listen and obey when God calls.

Materials: Bible, bathrobes or simple costumes, a recording of a male voice saying, "Samuel, Samuel."

Memory Verse: "And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth" (1 Samuel 3: 10).

Lesson Summary

Eli the priest continued to train Samuel to serve the Lord. However, Eli's own sons continued to do evil things throughout the land. God sent a messenger to warn Eli and to tell him that his sons' wickedness would not go unpunished. He also told Eli that He would "raise up a faithful priest" that would do God's will. One night, after serving in the temple, Samuel went to bed. Samuel heard someone call and ran to Eli, thinking it was he who had called. Eli told Samuel he had not called him and to go back to sleep. Again, Samuel lay down to sleep and soon heard a call again. He ran back to Eli, sure that Eli needed something. Eli, however, had not called Samuel. Eli sent Samuel back to bed a second time. Samuel went and heard a call a third time. He ran back to Eli, but Eli had not called. However, Eli understood now that God was calling Samuel. He directed Samuel to answer the Lord, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:9). Samuel went back to his bed and waited. The Lord came to Samuel again and this time Samuel responded as Eli had said. Samuel listened and then obeyed the Lord. God had a job for Samuel to do.

Bible Point:
We must
listen and obey.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Drama: Children love to act out this Bible story. Have two bathrobes or simple costumes and a recording of a male voice saying, "Samuel." (You can also use a live voice—the children enjoy if the person is hidden or out of sight.) Let the children act out the scene of Samuel and Eli at rest. Bath towels can be used for a bed. Take turns letting as many as want to act out the scene, but always have 'Samuel' repeat his part of the memory verse. You may narrate, or let one of the children do so.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did God speak to Samuel?
2. Does God speak to us? How?
3. Is it hard to know the voice of God? Why or Why not?
4. Why is it important to not only listen, but also to obey?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 4 – 7

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that because Samuel listened and obeyed God, he was chosen to be Israel's last judge.

Materials: Paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers

Memory Verse: "And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord." (1 Samuel 7:5).

Lesson Summary

God had told Samuel what was to become of Eli and his sons. Soon, Israel was in battle with the Philistines and things were not going well. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were sent to bring the Ark of the Covenant. The Philistines took the ark and killed Eli's sons. When word got to Eli, he fell and died. Just as God had said would happen, Samuel was now the judge over Israel. The children of Israel were very upset because the Philistines had taken the ark of God. They knew the ark represented God's presence and blessings. They finally came to Samuel to ask for help. Samuel told them of the wrong things they had done and called on them to repent and put away the strange gods they had started to worship. Samuel also told them he would pray for them. When the Philistines heard the children of Israel were gathered, they came against them in battle. The Israelites were scared and asked Samuel to continue to pray. The Bible says that "Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him" (1 Sam. 7:9). Samuel knew that God alone could return the ark and save the Israelites. God called Samuel and he listened.

Bible Point:
God uses those
who listen and
obey Him.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Story board: This lesson lends itself to having the students create a story board or cartoon strip. Take a sheet of paper and have the children create three scenes from the lesson. The students can illustrate each scene with or without words. After completion, let each student share his/her story board with the class to reinforce the lesson.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God allow the ark to be taken by the Philistines?
2. What did Samuel do to help the Israelites?
3. Why did God choose Samuel?
4. Does God still choose people today? Why?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 15 & 16; John 7:24; Matthew 23:27

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God does not always choose the most likely candidate.

Materials: 2 Boxes – one plain on the outside, the other wrapped or decorated; rocks, candy or treat

Memory Verse: "...For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b).

Lesson Summary

Samuel came to King Saul with a message from the Lord. King Saul was to go into battle and destroy Amalek completely. He was not to keep any of the spoils of battle. Saul, however, was disobedient to God's commands. His heart was no longer right before God. God knew Saul would not be able to lead the people any longer. God spoke to Samuel and sent him to anoint a new king. The Lord sent Samuel to a man named Jesse and told him that one of his sons was to be king (1 Sam. 16:1). Samuel went and obeyed God once again. However, as he saw each of Jesse's sons, he did not find the future king. Samuel asked Jesse, "Are here all thy children" (1 Sam. 16:11)? Jesse told him that there was one more son, but he was the youngest and was watching the sheep. His name was David, and he was only a boy! However, God saw David and knew that he would become one of the greatest kings to rule Israel. More importantly, God said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will" (Acts 13:22). Samuel again listened to God and not man. He anointed the boy who would be king, and through David's family tree, our Savior would come!

Bible Point:

God looks
on the heart.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Tell your students that you have two gifts. One gift is something they will really like, but the other is filled with rocks. Do not allow the students to shake the box, but tell them they have to choose based only on how the boxes look. Place the treat inside the plain box and the rocks inside the pretty box. After the students choose, explain that things are not always as they might appear. Tell them that when God looks at us, He does not look at how we appear, but rather, he looks inside – at our heart.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God's favor leave Saul?
2. Do you think Samuel was surprised by God's choice? Why or why not?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 8 – 10; 1 Peter 2:9-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how God used Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.

Materials: Poster board and aluminum foil

Memory Verse: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:" (1Peter 2:9)

Lesson Summary

Samuel had gotten much older and the Israelites were not happy to have judges any longer. The elders came to Samuel and said they would like to have a king. Samuel knew this was not God's plan, but the people continued to complain. Samuel talked to God, and the Lord answered by telling Samuel to grant their request. However, He also told Samuel to warn the people that having a king would cause them to be very sad later. Samuel was God's anointed servant; however, the people neither listened to Samuel nor the Lord. They wanted to be like all of the other countries that had kings to rule them. The Lord listened to the people and then spoke to Samuel. He told him that a man would come to him from the land of Benjamin and that he would be "the one." When Saul appeared to Samuel the next day, the Lord spoke to Samuel again so that Samuel would know Saul was the one He had chosen to lead the people. Samuel had once again listened to God and obeyed his commandments. God chose Samuel to judge his people. God chose Saul to be king. He continues to choose those who will listen to His voice and obey His word.

Bible Point:
**God chooses
a leader.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut a poster board into strips long enough to create a "crown" for each child's head. Allow the children to cover the poster crown with foil to make it look more like a crown. You could also have them decorate with crayons or markers. After the crowns are made, allow each child to have a turn being "chosen to lead." Let them lead a game of "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says." (Note: You can call it "King Saul Says" or "Samuel Says.")

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God allow Israel to have a king?
2. How does Samuel continue to know God's plan?
3. Why do you think God chose Saul?
4. Does God still choose people today? How?
5. What are important qualities in a good leader?