

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: 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: 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 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: 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: 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 item would you pack in your suitcase?

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?
3. Will you be willing to fulfill God's plan for your life?

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? Would you be surprised?
3. Would you be willing to do what God asked you to do?

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; 1 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 shepherd?

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 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:" (1 Peter 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?

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?
3. Why do you think God chose David?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 16:28-34; 1 Kings 17:1-6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will provide.

Materials: Goldfish crackers / loaf of bread, pitcher of water, and cups

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

Lesson Summary

At this time in the history of Israel, Ahab, the son of Omri, began to reign. He led the children of Israel into worship of the false god Baal. Wicked Ahab did more to provoke the Lord to anger than any of the other kings before him. God sent the prophet Elijah to inform Ahab of the punishment for all of his wickedness. There would be no rain in the land until God said. Afterward, the Lord told Elijah to go hide by the brook Cherith. God would send ravens to feed him, and he could drink from the brook. Elijah did as the Lord commanded. He went and lived by the brook. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and also bread and meat in the evening. Elijah got water to drink from the brook. Even though there was a drought in the land, Elijah's needs were taken care of. Just like Elijah, when we obey the Lord, God will provide.

Bible Point:
God
will
provide.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids to act out the story of Elijah being fed by the ravens. Let the kids take turns being "Elijah" and have the other students be the "ravens." The ravens will "fly" to Elijah with a cracker or a pinch of bread. As they give their food to Elijah they will say the Bible Point: "God will provide." As an option you can have water for Elijah if he gets thirsty.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God get angry with Ahab?
2. What punishment did God send to Ahab and the Israelites?
3. How did God provide for Elijah's needs?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 17:7-16

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God does the impossible.

Materials: Small jar with oil or water, two small bowls, flour for one bowl, spoon for stirring

Memory Verse: "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

Lesson Summary

The brook where Elijah was hiding had dried up because there had been no rain in the land. God commanded Elijah to leave that place and go to the city Zarephath. A widow woman was going to be the source of God's provision for Elijah just as the ravens had been for him at the brook. Again, Elijah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to the city. As he entered the gate of the city, a widow was gathering sticks. Elijah called out to her and asked her for a drink. As she was going to get him something to drink, Elijah also asked her for some bread to eat. She replied that she had only enough flour and oil to make one last meal for herself and her son. After that, she figured that she and her son would die for lack of food. But Elijah told her not to be afraid, asking her first to make him a small cake, and then to make one for herself and her son. Elijah said that the LORD God of Israel would make her flour and her jar of oil to last, until the LORD would send rain again. The widow did as Elijah instructed her. Because of her faith and obedience, her little bit of flour and small amount of oil did not run out. God did the impossible and provided for them all.

Bible Point:
God
does the
impossible.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Demonstrate to the class how ingredients are normally used up when baking. Pour the small amount of oil/water and flour into one of the bowls. Stir the ingredients. Explain that, under normal circumstances, once the items are used, they are gone. Talk about the miracle that God performed by having the flour and oil last continuously, even after it was used.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did Elijah leave the brook? Where did God tell him to go?
2. What did Elijah ask the widow woman when he first saw her?
3. How did God reward the widow woman for taking care of God's servant?

Faith-N-Focus Theme: Bible Heroes for Young Disciples

Lesson: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
Lesson Text: 1 Kings 18:17-46
August 19, 2012

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 18:1-46

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that the Lord is the true God.

Materials: Paper, markers or crayons

Memory Verse: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:4-5).

Lesson Summary

After three years of no rain, God sent Elijah to show himself to Ahab. Elijah told Ahab to gather all the Israelites and the prophets of Baal together on Mount Carmel to test who the true God was. He questioned the people about their trying to serve God and Baal (1 Kings 18:21). Elijah challenged the 450 false prophets to build an altar, and whichever god answered by fire was the true god. Even after crying out, dancing around, and cutting themselves, the prophets of Baal did not hear one sound from their god. Elijah then repaired the altar of the LORD with twelve stones to represent the twelve sons of Jacob, and he dug a deep trench around the altar. He poured water upon the altar three times so that the water filled up the trench. Elijah then called on the name of the LORD, asking Him to hear his prayer, so that the people would know that the Lord is God and would turn back to Him. The fire of the LORD fell on the altar, consuming the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water in the trench. When the people saw it, they proclaimed that the LORD is the God! Elijah told Ahab to get ready for rain. At first, there was only a small cloud; but then God sent a great rain!

Bible Point:
The LORD
is the true
God.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the students to draw different scenes from the Bible story. Examples: Elijah confronting Ahab; Elijah gathering the Israelites; the prophets of Baal and their altar; Elijah preparing his altar; God sending down fire on altar; Elijah on Mt. Carmel; the raincloud; the great rain. Then have them retell the story with their pictures arranging them in chronological order.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How long had it been since it rained?
2. What was the test to determine who the real God was?
3. Did it matter that there were 450 prophets against 1 prophet?
4. Whose God proved that He was the true God?
5. Who caused it to rain?

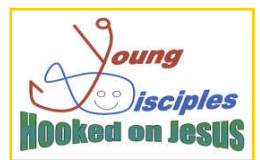


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Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9-21, 2 Kings 2:1-12

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how the LORD takes up Elijah and blesses Elisha.

Materials: none

Memory Verse: "The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust him shall be desolate" (Psalm 34:22).

Lesson Summary

God showed Elijah that he was to anoint Elisha to be the next prophet. When the time came for the LORD to take Elijah up into heaven, Elisha went with Elijah and left Gilgal. Elijah told Elisha to stay because the LORD had sent Elijah to Bethel. But Elisha did not want to leave Elijah. Prophets from Bethel told Elisha that God was going to take Elijah today. From there, Elijah went to Jericho. Again Elisha would not leave him. Prophets from each place warned Elisha that God was going to take Elijah today. God then sent Elijah to Jordan. Elijah hit the water with his coat, and the two men walked over on dry ground. Elijah then asked Elisha, "What do you want from me, before I am taken away?" Elisha said that he would want a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah told him it would be granted if he saw him taken up. As the two of them walked together, there appeared a chariot of fire with horses of fire. Elijah went up into heaven by a whirlwind, and Elisha saw it. God then used Elisha and blessed him with His Spirit.

Bible Point:
God
blesses
us.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Let the students think of something that God has blessed them with, but don't tell what it is. Have them take turns playing a "20 Questions" game. The class will try to guess what one child's blessing is by asking questions. The child answers with a simple "yes" or "no." For example: Is it a toy? Is it something to eat? Can you ride it? Is it alive?

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What blessings has God given you?
2. If you could ask God for just one thing, for what would you ask Him?
3. What blessing did Elisha ask of Elijah?
4. How was Elijah taken up to heaven?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 1:1-17; John 14:15

Lesson Objective: The student will learn why we should obey God.

Materials: Bible, paper, colored markers, stapler, glue, or yarn

Memory Verse: "If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

Lesson Summary

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to Nineveh. Since Nineveh was a very bad city, Jonah did not want to go there, not even for a visit. But God was asking Jonah to go and preach to the people of the city about the terrible way they were living. Instead of doing what God asked, Jonah decided to disobey God and go his own way. Jonah went down to Joppa where he could get on a ship headed to Tarshish. Jonah paid the fee and purchased a ticket to go to Tarshish which was the opposite direction of Nineveh. As the ship set sail, the Lord sent a violent storm on the sea. The ship began rocking back and forth and was about to break. The sailors were terrified and began to pray to their gods. They threw the food and supplies into the water to lighten the load. What was Jonah doing? He was in the lower level of the ship sound asleep. The sailors woke him up and asked him to pray to his god. Jonah explained to the crew that he worshipped the God who created the sea and land. The men were very scared when they realized Jonah was running away "from the presence of the Lord" (Jonah 1:3). Jonah knew he had disobeyed God's commands and this storm was his own fault. If Jonah had not disobeyed God, none of this would have happened.

Bible Point:
**I will
obey God.**

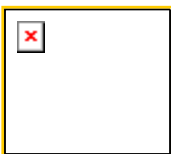


Ideas to Illuminate:

Travel Journal: Sailors often kept a journal in which they described their voyages and the weather. Make a travel log. Staple, glue, or tie several pieces of paper together to make a booklet. Allow students to write about the trip to Tarshish from Jonah's perspective. Decorate the cover with colored markers. Use this journal throughout the entire study of Jonah to record personal reflections on each lesson.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
2. What did Jonah decide to do?
3. What happened when Jonah got on the ship going to Tarshish?
4. Was Jonah afraid?
5. Do you think there would have been a storm if Jonah had gone straight to Nineveh like God asked him to?

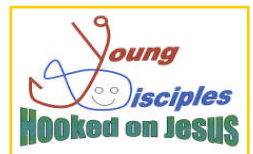


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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 1:1 - 2:9; John 3:16

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that salvation comes from the Lord.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, colored markers, green crepe paper or yarn, can of sardines.

Memory Verse: ". . . Salvation is of the Lord." Jonah 2:9b

Lesson Summary

When Jonah tried to run away, God sent a great storm on the sea. The sailors tried to row against the storm but it was too strong. Something had to be done. The crew cast lots to see who caused the storm. The lot fell on Jonah. After Jonah confessed of his guilt, the men threw him overboard into the sea. But God had a plan for saving Jonah from the raging waters. God sent a huge fish up from the deep to swallow Jonah in one big gulp. Inside the fish's stomach, Jonah was safe. Even though the conditions inside the whale were nothing like a nice hotel, Jonah had time to think about his actions, to talk with God, to repent, and to praise God for saving him. Just as Jonah knew that the storm was no accident, he also knew that whales don't usually swallow men whole. This was all God's plan for turning Jonah around so he could see things God's way. Now, Jonah realized that God is merciful and that "salvation is of the Lord".

Bible Point:
**Jesus is
my Savior!**



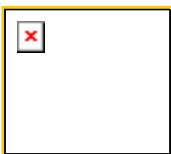
Ideas to Illuminate:

Inside the Whale: Hang pieces of green crepe paper or yarn along the front edge of a table to create the belly of the whale. After you tell the Bible story, invite the children to sit underneath the table as you discuss the questions below. You may also open a can of sardines for the children to smell.

Where is Jonah? Cut a piece of paper into the shape of a whale for each child. Have each student to draw what it would be like inside of a fish's stomach. They should also draw Jonah as he was praying to God.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did it look like in the belly of the whale?
2. How did it smell?
3. What did it feel like?
4. What was Jonah thinking while he was in the fish's belly?
5. What did Jonah do while he was inside the whale?

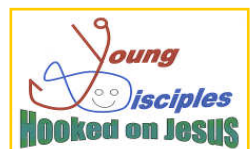


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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 2:10 - 3:10; Mark 16:15

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that each of us should share God's Word with others.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencils, robes, towels, sheets, sandals, toy microphone

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

Lesson Summary

After the great fish spit Jonah out on dry ground, the Lord spoke to Jonah again. God said the same thing as before, "Arise, go unto Nineveh that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee" (Jonah 3:2). This time, Jonah obeyed God. Jonah had learned his lesson the hard way. Now he would do exactly as God commanded. Jonah would not choose where to go or what to say. He traveled to Nineveh and began preaching as soon as he entered the gate of the big city. He preached, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4). This was not an easy message to preach. It was hard for Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh about God's judgment. But God would forgive them if they would stop sinning. Each one of us must tell others about God's salvation plan. God's Word is Good News!

Bible Point:
**I will
tell the
Good News!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

News Flash: Man preaches on the city street corner.

Assist the students in writing a script for today's story from a news reporter's perspective. Have the reporter to interview Jonah about what he is preaching and several townspeople about what is happening in their city. Allow the students to act out the script as a play..

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did God tell Jonah to do?
2. Did Jonah obey God?
3. Where did he go?
4. What did he say?
5. Are you willing to tell your family and friends about the Good News of salvation? Who will you tell?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; 1 John 1:6-10; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the meaning of true repentance.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, pencils, colored markers, travel journals

Memory Verse: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Lesson Summary

When Jonah reached the city gate of Nineveh, he immediately began to tell the people that God would judge the city in 40 days. If they continued to live wickedly, God would destroy the whole city. The people of Nineveh believed Jonah's message. Even the king of Nineveh felt sorry for the way he had been living. Every person, from the richest king to the poorest man, repented of their sins. Repenting is when someone realizes that he is a sinner (someone who disobeys God's laws) and that he must make a change in the way he is living. To show their true repentance, all of the citizens of Nineveh took off their nice clothes and put on scratchy, itchy clothes called sackcloth. Every time the cloth would scratch their skin, it would remind them not to do bad things anymore. They even sprinkled ashes (bits of burnt wood) on top of their heads to show they were sorry for their sins. The people spent time in prayer asking God for forgiveness. "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (Jonah 3:10). God forgave their sins because He does not want any to "perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Bible Point:
**Repent
and
believe!**



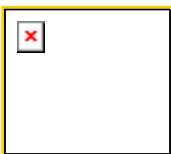
Ideas to Illuminate:

Charades: On small pieces of paper, write key words from the Bible story such as: dirty, clean, scratchy, soft, bad, good, hate, love, forgive, destroy, etc. Allow one student at a time to choose a paper and make gestures and actions to demonstrate the word. The other students must guess the word from the actions.

Travel Journal: Allow the students to write about the response of the people of Nineveh to Jonah's preaching.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What message did Jonah preach to Nineveh?
2. Did the people of Nineveh listen and believe?
3. How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message?
4. Have you repented of your sins and started living God's way?



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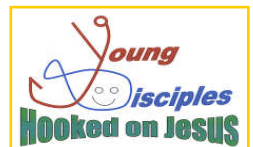
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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 4:1-11; John 13:34-35; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn why we should love others.

Materials: Bible, travel journals, colored markers, pencils, small Styrofoam cups, dirt, flower or vegetable seeds, water

Memory Verse: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

Lesson Summary

Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh and the entire city repented. What a great revival! Jonah should have been happy, but instead he went out to watch what would happen to Nineveh. He waited to see how God would destroy them. God saw that the people were truly sorry for their wicked ways so He had compassion on them and did not destroy their city. Jonah became angry. He felt betrayed. He preached that the city would be destroyed but God forgave them instead. While Jonah sat and pouted, God caused a vine to grow up over his head to shade him from the sun. Jonah felt some relief under the cool shade. Then a little worm crawled out and ate a hole through the plant causing it to shrivel and die. Jonah became angry again. What was God doing? The Lord looked down at Jonah and said, ". . . Thou hast had pity on the gourd. . . And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand (120,000) persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand. . ." (Jonah 4:10-11). If Jonah felt sorry for a plant which died, how much worse would God feel for one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know right from wrong (2 Peter 3:9)? If God loves everyone and wants them to repent and be forgiven, shouldn't we love them, too?

Bible Point:
**Love
one
another.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Travel Journal: Complete the travel journal from Jonah's perspective describing the plant, the worm, and the city of Nineveh.

Seeds of Love: Give each child a few flower or vegetable seeds to plant in a Styrofoam cup of dirt. On the cup, write: "Let Love Grow." As the students tend the growing plant, they will be reminded of Jonah and the vine.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What happened when Jonah preached to Nineveh?
2. Was Jonah happy about what happened?
3. What did Jonah seem to care most about?
4. What does God care about?
5. What does God want us to care about?

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Faith-N-Focus Theme: Bible Heroes for Young Disciples

Lesson: Daniel- A Reputation of Strength

Lesson Text: Daniel Chapter 1

October 7, 2012

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 1:1-21

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that choosing to honor God will give them a holy reputation.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."
Proverbs 20:11

Lesson Summary

When Daniel and his three friends were in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to a man named Ashpenaz. He wanted Ashpenaz to go to the young men who had been taken as prisoners from Judah and look for those who were good looking, smart and were quick learners. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted the best of these young men to work for him in his kingdom. Ashpenaz chose Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah along with many other young men who were good looking, smart and quick learners. The king didn't want them to have their Jewish names anymore so he renamed Daniel and his three friends. Their Babylonian names were Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king took good care of all these men. He gave the young men delicious meals from his table. They were allowed to eat the rich, delicious foods that the king liked to eat. They could also drink the wine that he drank. Because he was a Jew, Daniel knew that he could not eat that food. Daniel wanted to obey God and eat the foods that God said he could eat. The Babylonians ate meat from pigs and Jewish people were not allowed to eat that meat. There were other foods that the Babylonians ate that Daniel knew he should not eat, especially if the food had been offered to idols. Daniel would not sin against God by eating food that God did not want him to eat. It took courage for him to take a stand to go and speak to Ashpenaz about his decision. This decision could have cost him his life but God had worked in Ashpenaz's heart and caused him to like Daniel. Ashpenaz put a man named Melzar in charge of Daniel. Daniel asked Melzar if he could take a test. He asked if he and his three friends could eat vegetables and drink water for ten days. If at the end of the ten days they looked worse than those who were eating the king's food, then he could punish him however he wanted. Melzar agreed to the test and at the end of the ten days the Bible says that Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than those who were eating the king's food. Since Daniel and his friends passed the test they didn't have to eat the king's food and were allowed to obey God.

Bible Point:

God gives us strength
to live a holy life



Ideas to Illuminate

- 1) Bring the children a snack, maybe fruit and then explain how their reputation reflects whether they have good fruit or bad.

Questions for Class Discussion:

- 1) "In Daniels time", certain foods were considered unclean and forbidden. What kind of things do we have in our life today that might be considered unclean and forbidden?
- 2) How can you have a pure/holy reputation in school or around family and friends?



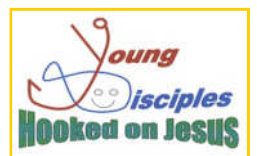
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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 3:10-30

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God gives them the courage and the encouragement they need even during hard times, peer pressures, and when they are being mistreated (persecution).

Materials: Bible, popcorn or something light that can be tossed (cotton balls, etc.)

Memory Verse: "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

Lesson Summary

Now Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, friends of Daniel, were acting as administrators over the province of Babylon when King Nebuchadnezzar decided to make a golden image that was about 9 stories tall. He had a ceremony announcing that everyone must bow down and worship the image when they hear the music being played. If they didn't, they were to be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would only bow down to the one and only real God (our God). Because they wouldn't bow down, the King had his soldiers to make the furnace hotter then, bind them, and throw the three men in. It was so hot that it even burned up the soldiers. Then the King saw that there were not 3 but 4 men walking around and they were loose. The fourth man's image was like the son of God. He let them out and when he did the three men were not burned nor did they smell like smoke. King Nebuchadnezzar knew that the God that they served was the true and living God.

Bible Point:
**God is with
His children.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the kids pair up and then stand across from one another (a little far). With one piece of popcorn and use only one hand, have them toss the popcorn back and forth, each time they toss have them step a little closer. The closer they get the easier it becomes. Compare this to how the closer we get to God the easier it is to serve and the easier it is to trust that He will protect us.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When were the people supposed to worship the golden image?
2. What would happen if someone didn't worship/bow down to the image?
3. How can we find the courage we need to remain faithful to God during hard times, peer pressure or when someone mistreats us?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 5:1,4-6,11-13,16-17,25-30

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that when we honor God, He rewards us with many blessings.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:10

Lesson Summary

After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego survived the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing vision. Daniel interpreted the vision for the king, and told him that he would live like a wild animal for many years unless or until he gave up his sinful life by acknowledging God as Lord of all. Just as Daniel said, the vision came true and he lived as a wild animal until he finally changed his ways. But sometime afterwards, his son, Belshazzar became king. He did not honor God, nor humble himself. Instead, he did his best to fight against the Lord. He was having a great feast and in that same hour a man's hand appeared and starting writing on the wall. The King was afraid. He calls for Daniel who then interprets the writing. He interpreted it to say, "the king's reign is at an end and his kingdom will be given away." Then Daniel was rewarded with clothing, jewels and was made the third ruler in the kingdom. That night King Belshazzar was slain and then Darius became King. It pleased Darius and he set Daniel as a ruler under him.

Bible Point:
**God rewards those
who honor Him**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the children each write down a prayer. Their prayer should be one of honoring. Let them know that all good things come from God, and He alone is worthy of our praise.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the king ask Daniel to come to him?
2. What did the writing on the wall say?
3. How and why was Daniel rewarded?

Faith-N-Focus

Theme: Bible Heroes

Lesson: Daniel-A Reputation of Faith

for Young Disciples

Lesson Text: Daniel Chapter 6

October 28, 2012

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 6:6-24

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that by having faith in God all things are possible.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Lesson Summary

Many of the king's subjects were upset by the favor Daniel received. Moreover, many people in the kingdom were already jealous of Daniel because of his high position within the kingdom as he was only a captive from Judah. Therefore, the people of King Darius' knew that they couldn't find any reasons of why the king would fire Daniel. So they came up with a plan that would have Daniel disobey the king by making a law against his god." They went to king Darius and said, "O great king, you are so wonderful that no one should pray to anyone but you." The king liked the idea. So if anyone was caught praying to any god other than the king then they were to be thrown into the lions den for 30 days. They knew that Daniel would still pray to his god so they spied on him and then went and told the king who knew that he had to honor his word. So Daniel was thrown in the lions den. The king liked Daniel though and was displeased with what he had to do so he fasted all night. The next day he went to check on Daniel and found that Daniels God had shut the lions mouth. Daniel was released but the men that tricked the king were thrown in the den along with their families.

Bible Point:
With God all
things are possible



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. By Faith (Game)
Write each of the clues shown below on index cards. Divide the class into two teams. Following the rules of Charades, have the kids act out the situations shown below. Tell the kids that all of the answers are about events in the Bible that took great faith. (All of these examples of faith can be found in Hebrews chapter 11.)

The walls of Jericho fell down
David killed the giant Goliath
Daniel survived the den of lions
Moses Parting the Red Sea

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did Daniel show he had faith in God after he heard the decree?
2. How did the evil men know that Daniel would not give up praying to God?



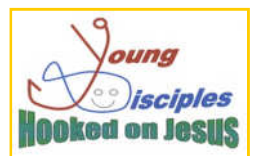
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Lesson: Joshua Obey God

Lesson Text: Joshua 6:1-27

November 4, 2012

Teacher Preparation

Reading: Joshua 1: 1-9; Joshua 1:16; Joshua 3:7; Joshua 6:1-27

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that victory comes by faith in God and not by military power or might.

Materials: Bible, paper towel tubes, wax paper, rubber bands, pencil, crayons, stickers

Memory Verse: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1: 9)

Lesson Summary

Joshua was chosen to lead the children of Israel after the death of Moses. God promised Joshua he would possess the land which was promised to his fathers. God also promised that He would be with him every step of the way. He promised Joshua victory over every place the soles of his feet walked. One of these cities was Jericho. The city of Jericho was surrounded by two gigantic walls. The walls were approximately 60 feet tall and over 6 feet thick!! To anyone looking upon this wall, it seemed impossible to conquer. However, Joshua was not discouraged. He trusted God completely! He remembered what God had promised him. God had given him specific instructions concerning Jericho. (Joshua 6) Joshua followed God's instructions and victory was won by the children of Israel that day. The walls of Jericho came crashing down just as God had promised. The people of Israel learned a crucial lesson under Joshua's leadership---VICTORY COMES BY FAITH IN GOD AND NOT BY MILITARY POWER OR MIGHT!! Just as Joshua trusted God for victory, we must trust God for victory in our lives. We must obey all He commands!! Faith brings obedience and obedience brings victory over Satan!

Bible Point:

Faith and
obedience
brings
victory!!



Ideas to Illuminate:

Jericho horns: let each child decorate a paper towel roll tube with markers, crayons, stickers, etc. Take the wax paper and cut into squares to cover one end of the paper towel tube. Attach the wax paper to one end using a rubber band. Poke a small hole in the wax paper with a pencil. Pretend to march around Jericho and let the children blow their horns.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What were the instructions that God gave Joshua about Jericho?
2. What happened when Joshua and the children of Israel obeyed God's instructions?
3. What might have happened if Joshua would have disobeyed God's instructions?
4. What are some commandments/instructions that God has given us?

Faith-N-Focus **Theme: Bible Heroes** for Young Disciples

Lesson: God Keeps His Promise to Joshua
Lesson Text: Numbers Ch. 13 & 14
November 11, 2012

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Numbers Ch. 13 & 14; Hebrews 3: 8-11; Hebrews 3:14

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God's promises are for those who trust God and obey His Word.

Materials: Bible, construction paper, Pencil

Memory Verse: Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1: 9)

Lesson Summary

Joshua was one of the twelve spies that Moses sent to search the land of Canaan. He and Caleb were the only two who came back with a good report. The others brought slander against the land. This caused the people to murmur and complain against God. They stated they would rather have stayed in Egypt than to have been brought out in the desert to die! Despite all the miracles they witnessed, they still rebelled against God and doubted Him. Because they failed to hearken to the voice of the Lord, God told them that they would not see the land which was promised to their fathers! Only their children, Joshua, and Caleb would inherit the land. Therefore, the children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years unto all the older generation passed. Because Joshua trusted the Lord and remembered the promise God made to him, he was able to enter in into the promise land. God has many promises for His children, but we must be obedient to His Word to see them. God has promised that one day He is returning to bring His people home. We must accept Him as Lord and Savior to make it to heaven. Will you see the promised mansion He has for you?

Bible Point:
**God keeps
His
promises.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Trace the children's feet or have cut outs of footprints to give the children. Label one side "Standing on the Promises of God." On the other side have them list several promises that they have read in the Bible.
2. Sing the Hymn- Standing on the Promises of God.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How many spies came back with a good report after searching out the land of Canaan?
2. What were the names of these two spies?
3. Why did God not allow the original generation that he brought out of Egypt to see the promise land?
4. Why did Joshua get to see the promise land?
5. Name some promises that God has made to you.

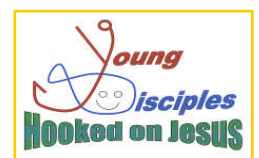


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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Joshua 24; Ezekiel 20:7, 18, 39, 40

Lesson Objective: The students will learn they must choose to serve God.

Materials: Bible, large poster board, scissors, markers

Memory Verse: "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth."(Joshua 24:14).

Lesson Summary

Joshua gathered all of the people of Israel to a place called Shechem. He spoke to the people and reminded them of all the ways God delivered their fathers from bondage and danger in order to lead them to the land He promised them. Then he reminded the Israelites they were living in the promise land without having to fight for it or build it with their own hands. Joshua warned the Israelites to turn away from their false Gods and to "fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth" (Josh 24:14). Otherwise God would withdraw the good that had been given to them. Joshua told the Israelites, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve". He then stated boldly, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh 24:15).

Bible Point:
We will
serve God.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut a poster board into large squares. On the front of each square write the name of a category such as friends, school, home, etc. Then on the back of each square write a scenario of a challenge that might arise in that category. Have the students take turns drawing a card and deciding how he/she would choose to serve God in each situation.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to choose whom they would serve?
2. Who did Joshua choose to serve? How do you know?
3. How do you choose to serve the Lord?
4. Will you choose to serve God even when no one else will?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Joshua 22:5; Joshua 23

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God fights our battles and will use those who are faithful to carry out His work.

Materials: Bible, heavy poster board, scissors, crayons, stickers, two bags of adult clothing

Memory Verse: "And ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the Lord your God is he that hath fought for you." (Joshua 23:3).

Lesson Summary

There is a constant spiritual battle going on and God is the Commander-In-Chief. He chooses and uses those He can trust to carry out His commandments. Joshua was a faithful servant and leader to the Israelites. God spoke to Joshua and gave him instructions on how to defeat the enemy and re-assured Joshua before the battles began, they were already won. Time after time, the enemy was delivered into the hands of the Israelites because it was God who did the fighting (Joshua 23:3). God warned the Israelites to be faithful and not turn to the right or to the left and serve other gods (Joshua 23:6-7). Joshua instructed the Israelites to cling to the Lord and love Him because not one thing He has said has ever failed (Joshua 23:8, 11, 14).

Bible Point:
Jesus
gives us
victory.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Craft/Activity: Before class, cut small shields and swords from heavy poster board. Have the students color and decorate their battle gear with crayons and stickers. Allow the students to dress up for battle. Lead them in a march around the room and sing "I'm on the Battlefield for my Lord" and "I'm in the Lord's Army".

Game: Divide students into two teams. Give each team a bag of adult clothing such as coat, trousers, hat, shoes, etc. Each team should have the same amount of similar items. Give a signal to begin. Allow each team member to put on the clothes, run to the opposite end of the room, shout the Bible Point, and then return to the team. He should remove the clothing and give the items to the next member who will repeat the process. Cheer as each team finishes.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God choose Joshua to lead His people?
2. Is God faithful to His Word?
3. In what ways are you on the battlefield for the Lord?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-18; Luke 5:1-11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus called Peter to leave everything and follow Him.

Materials: Bible

Memory Verse: "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
(Matthew 4:19)

Lesson Summary

Wherever Jesus preached many people followed him. Jesus was walking by Lake Gennesaret and saw two fishing boats. The fishermen were cleaning their nets after a long night of unsuccessful fishing. Jesus got into Peter's boat and asked him if he would go out in the water a little way so he could teach the crowd of people. After Jesus had finished teaching the people, He told Peter to row out a little deeper and cast his nets into the water. Peter explained to Jesus that they had been fishing all night without catching anything, but since Jesus said to do it, he would. The men did as they were told, and were surprised at how many fish there were. Their nets were so full they were breaking from the weight of the fish. They called to the other fishermen in the second boat to come help them. Both boats were so heavy with fish they were sinking. When Peter saw the great catch, he came to Jesus and dropped to his knees and said, "Lord, I don't deserve to be around you. I'm a sinful man." Jesus told him not to be afraid to follow him. He was going to make them "fishers of men." Peter left his job and all he knew to follow after Jesus.

Bible Point:
Follow Jesus
when He
calls.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids take turns being "Jesus" and play a follow the leader game. Sing the song "I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men. I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me."

Questions for discussion:

1. Why was Peter surprised when they caught so many fish?
2. Do you think Peter was happy that he obeyed Jesus even though he didn't understand Jesus' command?
3. What does it mean to be a fisher of men?
4. How can you follow Jesus?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-51; John 6:16-21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Christians should not be fearful.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencils or crayons

Memory Verse: "But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid." (John 6:20)

Lesson Summary

After Jesus fed the five thousand men, he wanted to spend time alone to pray. He told his disciples to go ahead of him to the other side of the lake while he sent the multitude (large group) of people away. The disciples were in the middle of the lake when a terrible storm started. The winds were blowing hard making the waves crash against the sides of the boat. Jesus walked out on the water toward their boat. When the disciples saw him they were afraid. They thought it was a ghost! Jesus spoke out to them and told them to "Be of good cheer, it is I; don't be afraid." Peter wanted Jesus to ask him to come out on the water. Jesus told him to come. Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water to walk toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind fiercely blowing all around him, he became afraid. He started to sink and cried out to the Lord. Immediately Jesus reached out his hand to save Peter. Jesus asked him why he doubted and had just a little faith. The storm stopped as soon as the two got back in the boat. The disciples worshipped Jesus proclaiming the truth that he was the Son of God.

Bible Point:
Keep your
eyes on
Jesus.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Take a piece of paper for each child and fold in half and then in half again. This should make a book. Have the kids label the front PRAYER JOURNAL. Write down requests on the inside and check them off as God answers.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why wasn't Jesus in the boat with the disciples in the first place? Is it important for us to be alone to pray?
2. Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the storm?
3. How was it possible for Peter to walk on the water? Why didn't he sink right away?
4. I love Peter's excitement when he saw Jesus. He wasn't thinking about the storm when he was looking at Jesus. We will all have "storms" or troubles in our life. How can we make it through our storms? What are some storms you have experienced?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 16:13-20

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God uses us to build His Church.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, colored markers, adhesive tape, empty cereal boxes or wooden blocks, glue, craft sticks or wooden toothpicks

Memory Verse: "... upon this rock I will build my church; ..." (Matthew 16:18).

Lesson Summary

Jesus had been performing miracles in the area. He had just fed four thousand men with seven loaves of bread and two fish. When Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea he asked his disciples "Who do men say that I am?" His disciples answered him that some thought he was John the Baptist; some said that he was Elijah; others said he was Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Jesus asked them directly, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter spoke right up and answered "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus responded by saying that Peter was blessed, because man did not reveal this to Peter but the Father in heaven. Jesus then declared that Peter was like a rock. On that rock Jesus was going to build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. He gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven, along with the power to bind and loose. Jesus told his disciples to not yet reveal to man that He was the Christ.

Bible Point:
**I will
build
God's church.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity: Write the following words on pieces of paper: Jesus, love, faith, truth, grace, forgiveness. Tape the words onto empty cereal boxes or wooden blocks. Discuss each word with the children and how it is important in building God's Church. As you talk, have the students arrange the blocks to form a building with the "Jesus" block being the foundation for the structure.

Craft: Give each child a piece of paper and a handful of craft sticks or toothpicks. Allow the students to glue the sticks on the paper in the shape of a church building. Have the students to print the Bible point on the top of the paper.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Do you know who Jesus is?
2. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior?
3. How can you help in building God's Church? (Clean, give offerings, invite friends, love and forgive others, etc)

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Acts 3:1-26

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God gave Peter boldness to pray for the healing of a lame man.

Materials: Bible, costumes (robes, towels, sandals, etc.)

Memory Verse: "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:5).

Lesson Summary

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. There was a man who had been crippled all his life and he was sitting by the gate. He had to be carried there every day to beg for money. When he saw Peter and John going into the temple he asked them for some money. Peter looked directly at him and told him he didn't have any silver or gold to give him. But then Peter said he would give him something; he commanded him in the name of Jesus to get up and walk. Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him up. Immediately his feet and ankle bones were strengthened. He went into the temple with Peter and John walking, and leaping, and praising God. He had never walked before. Can you imagine that? He was so excited! All the people in the temple recognized him as the lame man who begged at the gate. They gathered around him amazed at this miracle. Peter explained to the people that it wasn't his power that healed the man. He preached to them about Jesus and urged them to repent of their sins. Jesus used Peter to glorify His name through the healing of the crippled man.

Bible Point:
Healing
comes in
Jesus' name.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Let the kids act out this Bible story. If you have costumes, let the kids dress up. This is a dramatic event! Choose a child to be Peter, one to be John, another to be the crippled man, and the rest to be the amazed people. Peter can preach at the end of the story!

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Where were Peter and John going when they saw the lame man?
2. What was the crippled man doing by the gate? How long had he been unable to walk?
3. What gift did Peter give to the cripple man?
4. Are you surprised that the man was jumping around excitedly? How would you feel if you were him?
5. Jesus never changes. Can God still work through us like he did with Peter? Are you willing to let God use you?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Acts 12:1-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how God miraculously frees Peter.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencil or crayons

Memory Verse: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Lesson Summary

Herod the king was persecuting the church. He had just killed James the brother of John. When he saw the Jews were happy with this, he planned to arrest Peter. Herod put Peter in prison with four guards. Meanwhile the church was in constant prayer for Peter. On the night before Herod was going to bring Peter before the people, an angel of the Lord appeared to Peter with a shining light. The angel told Peter to get up quickly. He instructed Peter to get dressed and follow him. Peter's chains fell off. Peter didn't know if he was dreaming or not. They passed the first two guards and came to the iron-gate going into the city. The gate opened by itself and they walked out into the street. The angel then disappeared. When Peter realized he was outside the prison he knew that it was the Lord that had sent the angel to deliver him. Peter went to the house of Mary, John's mother. Many people were gathered together to pray for him. As Peter knocked on the door a girl named Rhoda came to answer it. When she heard Peter's voice, she was so excited she ran to tell the praying Christians. They thought she was crazy and told her it must be his ghost. Peter was still knocking at the door. They finally opened the door, and Peter explained to them how he had been delivered by an angel of the Lord. The next day when Herod found out Peter had escaped, he was furious. He ordered the guards to be put to death. God had protected Peter from the wicked king and rescued him from great danger.

Bible Point:
Jesus
brings
deliverance.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the students draw their favorite scene from this Bible lesson. Let them take turns sharing their picture with the class.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who had put Peter in prison? Why?
2. How did Peter escape from prison?
3. What was the church doing for Peter while he was captured?
4. What was the reaction to seeing Peter freed?
5. Do you think the believers' prayers had any effect?
6. What is something that you've been praying about that seems like only God can answer?