



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 1

UNIT 1: TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD **God's Creation and His First Families**

LESSON 1: The Bible: God's Amazing Book

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105; Matthew 7:24

Story Overview: The Bible is God's Word, given by God to help people know how much He loves them. Through stories, songs, commandments, letters and prayers in the Bible, God shows love for His people and His desire for every person to be part of His forever family.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that the Bible is God's special book.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that the Bible is God's special book that tells them how much He loves them.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God gave them His special book, the Bible, that tells them how much He loves them.
- understand that the Bible can help them learn more about God and how He wants them to live.
- respond by spending time in God's Word every day.

Memory Verse: "I trust in Your Word." Psalm 119:42
(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Additional Verse: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

Key Word: BIBLE

Craft: Lamb Magnets

Life Application: Is the Bible "make believe"? No, it's not. Every Bible story we hear is true because it comes from the Bible, God's Word. Thank God for giving us the Bible that tells us how much He loves us.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Bible Story Introduction

Consider using one of these Bible rhymes each week at the beginning of story time:

Here is Our Bible

Here is our Bible	<i>(hold hands together like an open book)</i>
Its stories are true!	
God gave us these stories	<i>(point up)</i>
For me, and for you.	<i>(point to self, then another)</i>
Quiet, so quiet	<i>(finger to mouth, "Shhhhh")</i>
We all now will be.	
Listen! A story!	<i>(cup hands to ears)</i>
And pictures to see!	<i>(point to eyes, hold hands out like a book)</i>

The Bible

This book is the Bible	<i>(put hands together like a book)</i>
It is God's holy Word;	<i>(point up)</i>
I open its pages	<i>(hands open)</i>
To stories I've heard.	
I like to hear stories	<i>(listen, hand to ear)</i>
Of Jesus, God's Son.	<i>(poke the palm of one hand with the middle finger of the other hand and do the same with the other hand)</i>
I thank God for giving	<i>(pray)</i>
His Word to each one.	<i>(point to children)</i>

*From 202 Things To Do At Home, Church, School by Margaret M. Self.
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Baby Bible Story

The Bible is a very special book. It is God's Word. Everything in it is true. God had special men write the Bible. The Bible has many words in it. God gave us the Bible so we can learn about Him. The Bible tells us that God loves us. The Bible is God's true Word.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Who can tell me where we learn about God? We learn about God in church, in Sunday school, and here in our own Bible study. But there is one very special place that tells us ALL about God. It's not really a place we go, but it's in a very special book. This special book is called the Bible *(hold up and open your Bible)*. The Bible is like a letter that God wrote to you and to me. It's the only book that God has written for us. God chose very special people to write the Bible for Him. Some people even call it "the Word" because it has God's words, which were written for you and for me!

Who can tell me what the Bible tells us? The Bible tells us things about God and what He has done. It tells us about Jesus. It also tells about you and me and how much God loves us and what God wants us to do. Everything that God has written in His Bible, or His Word, is true. When we know something is true, then we can say we believe in it or we trust in it. If we believe that God's Bible, or His Word, is true, then we can say, *"I trust in Your Word."* Let's all say this verse.

Would you like to see where that verse is written in the Bible? We can find it in a part of the Bible called Psalms—in Psalm 119:42. We could say that Psalm 119:42 is the address of the verse, *"I trust in Your Word."*

If I wanted to know where you live, I would need your address. I couldn't drive around town looking for your house, could I? No, first of all, I would need to know the name of your street, and I would also need to know your house number. Then I would know where to look for your house!

Bible verses are the same way. Every Bible verse has an address just like each one of us has an address. The Bible looks so big, doesn't it? But it's easy to find our way around in it. The Bible is divided into two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. And then each of these parts is divided into books. These are called the books of the Bible. If we look in the very front of the Bible, there is a list of all the books in the Old Testament, and the back part lists all the books in the New Testament. Let's see if we can find where the book of Psalms is located (*run your finger down the books of the Old Testament until you come to Psalms.*) Here it is. Psalms is located at about the middle of the Bible. Let's turn to that in our Bible. Here it is. Now let's look for 119:42. And here it is, Psalm 119:42. It says, *"I trust in Your Word."*

Who remembers what *"I trust in Your Word"* means? It means that everything I read in the Bible is true. Did you know that God chose very special people to write the Bible for Him? And everything God told them to write is true. God wanted to be sure we could believe His Bible. Everything we read from it is true!

Can you believe everything you read in other books? No, you can't. Not all books are true, are they? (*Hold up fictional children's books such as Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, or The Lion King.*) Look at my *Cinderella* book. Do you think that a pumpkin could really turn into a carriage, and that mice could turn into horses? No, not really. That is what we call "make believe." There are many "make believe" books, and they are fun to read. But when we read God's Word, we know these words are true.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Provide a visual aid for each paragraph of the story. For example: paragraph 1: a Bible; paragraph 2: a picture of Jesus; paragraph 3: a bookmark; paragraph 4: a picture of teacher's house; paragraph 5: the Bible; paragraph 6: men; paragraph 7: a modern make-believe storybook.
- Tell the story using a puppet that wants to learn about the Bible.

- Show the children a compass. Explain that like a compass that tells which direction we are facing, the Bible provides direction for our spiritual journey and helps us navigate the roads of life.
- Explain the difference between stories that are made up and the stories in Scripture that explain who God is and what He has done. Perhaps tell a short fairy tale. Explain that fairy tales are fun and exciting, but they are not real. Then share a short story from Scripture. Explain that the story is real, just like they are real.
- **The Bible is like a:** *LETTER – God’s personal letter to us; STORYBOOK – exciting, true stories; POEM – beautiful poetry; SHEET OF MUSIC – full of songs; INSTRUCTIONAL MANUAL – tells us how to live our lives.*

Interest Centers

- Provide a variety of Bibles, including Bibles for babies, young children, youth, and adults. Invite the children to look at the different Bibles and guide the conversation so the children will understand that the Bible is the Word of God, and that everything in the Bible is true.
- Prior to class, use a white candle to print “*I trust in Your Word*” (Psalm 119:42) on large pieces of paper. Thin poster paint with water, and let children paint over the verse. The words appear, and the children will begin learning the verse.
- Print “B I B L E” on squares of felt (one letter per square) and have the children arrange squares correctly.

Games

- **Bible Hunt:** Hide several books and one Bible. Have the children find the Bible.
- **True/False Game:** The teacher reads sentences, one at a time. The children stand if a sentence is true; they remain seated if it is false. *Examples:* I have purple hair. The Bible is also called God’s Word. I have 15 fingers, etc.
- **Get Acquainted:** Place chairs in a circle, one for each child. Decorate one chair with ribbons or crepe paper. Bring a music CD or play music from a mobile device such as a smartphone or an iPod. As music is played, the children march around inside the circle of chairs. When the music stops, they must sit in the nearest chair. The child in the decorated chair will be the center of attention. The rest of the group will sing (to the tune “Are You Sleeping?”):

Hello, friend. Hello, friend.

How are you? How are you?

We’re so glad to see you. We’re so glad to see you.

Our friend (insert child’s name). Our friend (insert child’s name).

Remove a chair from the circle, and have that child sit in it. Continue the game until each child has had a turn.

Action Rhymes & Songs

God’s Word, The Bible

God’s Word, the Bible, is true.

God wrote it

Because He loves you.

(pretend to hold book)

(point up)

(hug self or child)

God Loves Me

God loves me,
 God loves you,
 And He wants us
 To love Him, too.

(point to self)
(point to child)
(point up)
(hug self)

Where Is (Jonathan)?

Sung to the tune of *"Are You Sleeping?"*

Where is (Jonathan)?
 Where is (Jonathan)?
 Here (he) is. Here (he) is.
 God loves (Jonathan).
 God loves (Jonathan).
 We do, too. We do, too.

Teacher touches each child's head
 when their name is mentioned.

I'm So Glad We Have the Bible

Sung to the tune of *"Did You Ever See a Lassie?"*

I'm so glad we have the Bible,
 The Bible, the Bible.
 I'm so glad we have the Bible
 To learn about God.

I'm so glad God's Word is true,
 Is true, is true.
 I'm so glad God's Word is true
 For us today!

So, let's just thank God,
 Thank God, thank God.
 So, let's just thank God
 For giving us His Word.

The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E
 Yes, that's the book for me!
 I read and pray and then obey.
 The B-I-B-L-E. (Shout: Bible!)

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Look through your Bible this week. Begin to become familiar with the books of the Bible. Write down in your journal the names of two Old Testament books and two New Testament books.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "The Holy Bible" puzzle.
- **Flannel board:** As an ongoing activity, the teacher may want to prepare a flannel board. On 66 strips of felt, write the books of the Bible. The children can place the names of the books in order and learn the Old Testament and New Testament songs. They can use the Table of Contents in their own Bible as a reference.

- **Pocket Folders:** Provide a pocket folder for each child with approximately 35 sheets of paper. (Alternatively, the teacher can provide a composition notebook for each child.) Children can write “Young Elementary CBS” on the cover and decorate it. Each week, the children can write the challenge for the week and are encouraged to do the assigned activity during the week. (The teacher can write the weekly challenge on a dry erase board/chalkboard so the children can copy easily. For children who are not able to write, the teacher can print out the challenge for the children to glue in the notebook or folder. Children are expected to bring their journal each week and share at a designated time. The memory verse and additional verse can also be copied weekly.
- **Bible Hunt:** The teacher calls out the name of a book of the Bible. Working in pairs, the first team to find that book in their Bible gets a point. Continue as long as interest is high.
- **Bookmark:** The teacher may want to give each child an inexpensive bookmark or card (found in Christian bookstores or make your own) listing the books of the Bible.
- **Placemats:** The teacher supplies a paper placemat for each child or use construction paper (approximately 17” x 12”). Each child divides the mat/paper into four equal, numbered sections.

Section 1: Draw a picture of the Bible you use.

Section 2: Draw a picture of you and your family.

Section 3: Draw a picture of what you want to be when you’re older.

Section 4: Draw a favorite free-time activity.

Children do not write their name on the placemat. The teacher will collect all the placemats. As a fun, get-acquainted activity, let the children try to guess which placemat belongs to which child. Share and discuss similarities of families, activities, when the Bible is read, etc. The teacher may want to laminate the placemats and use them during snack time each week.

Additional Visuals



Bibles, Bibles and more Bibles: Set out a variety of Bibles (Bibles for children, teens, adults, etc.) and use them in your storytelling.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 2

UNIT 1: TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD **God's Creation and His First Families**

LESSON 2: God Created Everything

Scripture: Genesis 1-2

Story Overview: God created the world and all that is in it, including the first man and woman. God loved all He created and spent time with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God created the world and everything in it.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God created the world and everything in it, and He talks to them through the Bible and prayer.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God created the world and everything including them!
- understand God created them to be His forever friends and talks to them through the Bible and prayer.
- choose to spend more time learning the Bible and talking to God in prayer.

Memory Verse: "I trust in Your Word." Psalm 119:42
(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Additional Verse: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

Key Word: CREATED

Craft: Paper Plate Creation Wheel

Life Application: Because we have the Bible, we can read all about how God created the world and everything in it. Think about some of your favorite parts of creation and thank God for them.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God made everything! God made the heavens. God made the earth. God made day and God made night. God made the sky. God made the water. God made trees, flowers, and green grass. God made the sun, the moon, and the stars. God made fish and birds. God made animals: dogs, cats, cows, elephants. God made people: a man (daddy) and a woman (mommy). God made you! Everything God made was good and beautiful.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Who remembers the Bible verse we learned last week? It was from Psalm 119:42. That's right, *"I trust in Your Word."* We learned that everything in the Bible is true. Today we're going to hear the very first words God wrote.

The very first words God wrote to us were, *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1) To create means to make something. There was no world as we see it today. There was no sky, no flowers, no grass, no trees, and no animals or birds or even people. There was only darkness. **God chose to make something very beautiful. He decided to make a beautiful world.**

If God was going to make a beautiful world, then there needed to be light to see it. **"God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."** (Genesis 1:3) **God was pleased with the light and said, "It is good."** He called the light day and the darkness night. Together the night and the day formed the very first day of creation.

The next thing God created was the sky, and He separated it from the waters. God called this the heavens. Then there was nighttime and daytime, which made the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water come together, and let dry land appear." And that is just what happened. God called the dry land earth, and He called the water seas. God then said, "Let there be grass, and plants, and trees." God made green grass and all kinds of pretty flowers in different colors.

God made different kinds of trees. Some were tall, some were short, and some even had fruit growing on them. Now, the earth was a beautiful place. When God looked at this beautiful place He said, "It is good." There was nighttime and daytime, which made the third day.

Then God said, "Let there be bright lights in the sky to give light to the earth." God made a light for daytime and one for the nighttime. What did God make to shine over His beautiful earth during the day? That's right, God made the bright sun. Who can tell me what He made to shine at night? Yes, the moon. Is that all that shines at night? No, God made stars to shine with the moon at night. Once again God said, "It is good." This made the fourth day.

God looked up at His beautiful blue sky and said, "Let there be birds." He made many different kinds of birds that were different sizes and colors. Some were big like the eagle,

and some were small like the hummingbird. God was happy with the water animals and the birds He made, and He blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the water of the sea and let the birds fill the earth.” **God finished making all this during the fifth day.**

On the sixth day, God made more and more animals. God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of animal—cattle, and reptiles, and wildlife of every kind.” God made the bears, cows, donkeys, elephants, ants, bees, and caterpillars (*go on with list*). The Bible says, “God was pleased with everything He made.” God decided there was something missing, though. Only it wasn’t a something. It was a someone.

So, God decided to make a person—a man! God wanted a friend to live in His beautiful world. He wanted someone He could talk with, someone He could enjoy, and someone who would be a friend to him. **The first person God made was a man, and He called him Adam. God wanted Adam to have a friend, so He made the first woman and called her Eve.** (*Add more details, depending on the age and attention span of the children.*) Adam and Eve were very happy in God’s beautiful world. They enjoyed being friends with each other, but most of all they enjoyed being friends with God.

The next day would be the seventh day. Let’s count to seven. What do you think God decided to make on the seventh day? Nothing! God had finished making His beautiful world, and what do you think He did? The Bible tells us that He rested! God had provided all that was needed for man and the animals to live in His world.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Prepare Creation Day Bags to involve the children in today’s story. Use a lunch bag for each day of creation, with the number of the day and the things God created written on the front. Put items of creation in each bag, such as:
 - Day 1:** Day and night—foam ball painted black on one side and yellow on the other.
 - Day 2:** Sky—blue piece of paper for sky and cotton or polyfill for clouds.
 - Day 3:** Land, seas, plants—small, sealed plastic bag of dirt or sand, perhaps with small rocks; small bottle of blue colored water; artificial flowers or greenery.
 - Day 4:** Sun, moon, stars—small yellow foam ball for sun; foam cut in half-moon shape; foil star stickers.
 - Day 5:** Sea creatures, birds—any small birds, fish, whales, etc. that you can find, such as party favors.
 - Day 6:** Land creatures, man—any small land animals, men and women you can find (plastic toys).
 - Day 7:** Nothing written on the bag—show children there is nothing in the bag because God rested on the 7th day.



Creation bags

- While telling the story, form modeling clay into a person/child. This will illustrate that God “formed” and created everything.
- Use finger puppets of animals and flowers.
- Use various colors of construction paper to tell the story. Black and white for dark and light, blue for the sky, brown for the earth, green for the grass, yellow for the moon and sun, etc.
- Make a creation booklet similar to a Baby Bible for each child. Give each child stickers that represent things God made each day. As the story is told, give children stickers for each day.

Interest Centers

- Have as many objects as possible to illustrate the story (birds, fish, Adam and Eve, etc.) Hold up each item as you say what God made. Let babies touch the items.
- Have a “Surprise Box” for children to reach in to pull out objects representing things God made.
- Creation floor puzzles.
- Let the children look in a mirror to see something God has made—they!
- Use modeling clay or Play Dough to create snakes, bugs, animals, etc.
- Make thumbprint animals using washable paint or a stamp pad. Explain that no two thumbprints are alike and that each person has special fingerprints.
- Set out a magnifying glass for children to closely examine different objects like shells, feathers, pinecones, etc. Explain God created all these items.
- Day/Night Sorting Activity: Cover a large bulletin board with flannel—one half navy blue for night, the other half yellow for daytime. Cut out pictures that represent each (sun, breakfast foods, outdoor play activities, pajamas, stars, etc.). Put Velcro on the back of each picture. Let toddlers sort the pictures according to day or night and place them on the correct side. Remind the kids that God made everything.
- Trace each child’s body on butcher paper and let them color or decorate themselves.

Games

- **What Color Bird Are You?** Pretend each child is a bird. Ask these questions: “What color bird did God make you? How many red birds are in this class?” Any child wearing red will fly to the other side of the room. Continue this with different colors until all children have a turn. Play again as fish swimming across the room.
- **Charades:** Have children play charades, acting out different animals. When the animal is guessed, others jump up and act out the same animal together. The child who guessed correctly will get to act out the next animal.

- **God Made the World:** Children hold hands to form a circle. The teacher recites or sings to a familiar tune (such as “Farmer in the Dell”): “God made the world. Can’t you see? God made you, and God made me!” Walk around in a circle while the teacher sings. The teacher will stop walking and ask, “Who did God make?” As all answer, “ME!”, the children fall to the floor. Repeat several times.
- **Ball Roll:** Children sit in a circle on the floor. Teacher rolls the ball to one child, and that child says one thing God created. That child then rolls the ball to another child; continue until all children have a turn. (For a faster game, play it like Hot Potato.)
- **What’s Missing? Game:** Lay out on a tray items to represent the 7 days of creation. Day 1 (light)—flashlight; Day 2 (sky/water)—a wet cotton ball; Day 3 (land/seas/vegetation)—soil in a baggie, a twig or leaf, a small covered container of water; Day 4 (sun/moon/stars)—a yellow and black bouncy ball and a star shape (can be made out of clay); Day 5 (fish/birds)—fish toy and a feather; Day 6 (animals/people)—an animal and person puppet or pictures of a person and a stuffed animal; Day 7 (rest)—a toy chair or picture of a royal throne. Pass each item around, discussing what the item is and which day of creation it represents. Cover them with a towel. Have the children close their eyes while you remove one item. Uncover the tray and see if they can discover what is missing and which day it represents.
- **Roll the Die Game:** Let each child take a turn rolling a die. See if they can tell you what God made on the day that matches the number they rolled.
- **Animal Tag:** Players stand on one goal line. Person appointed “It” stands in center of play area. Give names of animals to the runners. When “It” calls out an animal name, the player with that name attempts to get to the goal at the opposite end of the area without being tagged. When “It” tags a runner, he or she changes places with runner. As a variation, when a player is tagged, he or she joins “It” to help in tagging other players.
- **Animal Barn:** Children are scattered in an open area. A leader whispers the name of an animal to each player (two or three are designated the same animal – sheep, dog, cow, duck, etc.) When the leader says “Animal Barn!” all players make their animal noise and try to find the same animal as themselves. The first group to get all together wins. Some animals may include, pig, sheep, cow, dog, cat, duck, horse, monkey, elephant, lion, etc. For a challenge, have the children close their eyes.

Action Rhymes & Songs

God Made Our World

God made our world, our big, big world;	<i>(arms outstretched)</i>
He made the mountains high.	<i>(hands above head, fingers together)</i>
He made the trees, the tall, tall trees;	<i>(measure above head)</i>
He made the birds that fly.	<i>(wiggle fingers)</i>
God made the sun, the bright, round sun	<i>(fingers together to form ball)</i>
That shines and keeps us warm.	<i>(arms folded and crossed over chest)</i>
God made our world, our big, big world.	<i>(arms outstretched)</i>
Yes, God has made it all!	<i>(arms outstretched wide)</i>

God Made Me

God made the birds that fly above,	<i>(wave arms)</i>
The fish that swim beneath the sea,	<i>(pretend to swim)</i>
The animals that crawl and run!	<i>(run in place, slowly first and then faster)</i>
And God made me!	

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God Created Sung to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

God created, God created
 Night and day, night and day.
 That was on the first day,
 That was on the first day.
 It was good! It was good!

God created, God created
 Sky and clouds, sky and clouds.
 That was on the second day,
 That was on the second day.
 It was good! It was good!

God created, God created
 Land, sea, plants; land, sea, plants.
 That was on the third day,
 That was on the third day.
 It was good! It was good!

God created, God created
 Sun, moon, stars; sun, moon, stars.
 That was on the fourth day,
 That was on the fourth day.
 It was good! It was good!

God created, God created
 Birds and fish, birds and fish.
 That was on the fifth day,
 That was on the fifth day.
 It was good! It was good!

God created, God created
 Creatures on land; people, too.
 That was on the sixth day,
 That was on the sixth day.
 It was good! It was good!

Then God rested, then God rested
 From His work, from His work.
 That was on the seventh day,
 That was on the seventh day.
 All was good! All was good!

Let's sing praises, let's sing praises
 To our God, to our God.
 He is everywhere
 Giving loving care.
 God is good! God is good!

*From Piggyback Songs in Praise to God by Jean Warren.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Think about your favorite things in life that God created (parents, pets, trees, etc.) and draw pictures of some of them in your journal. Say a prayer thanking God for all His creation.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Creation" puzzle, "Thumbprints" and "Garden of Eden" activities.
- **Thumbprint Animals Booklet:** Children make thumbprints (use stamp pads). Children should be encouraged to be creative whether making true-to-life animals or "invented" animals. Make one animal per page. Children may want to write about their animals. Let children use construction paper or wallpaper for cover and back. Fasten together with colorful yarn.
- **Egg Carton Caterpillar:** Children might enjoy painting their caterpillar with bright-colored paints. Be creative!
- **"God Created Us" Get Acquainted Game:** Divide children into pairs. Have each child draw a picture or sketch his or her partner. Display pictures (no names) and see if classmates can identify.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 3

UNIT 1: TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD **God's Creation and His First Families**

LESSON 3: Noah and the Great Flood

Scripture: Genesis 6:1–9:17

Story Overview: God was sad that His creation had turned away from Him. Noah was the only one who loved and obeyed God. Although people made fun of him, Noah obeyed God and built an ark. God then brought two of every kind of creature onto the ark. The flood came, but God saved Noah, Noah's family and a remnant of His creation from being destroyed by the flood.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Noah obeyed God and built an ark.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to obey Him just as Noah did.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Noah loved God and obeyed Him by building an ark.
- understand that God wants them to obey Him, even when things don't make sense.
- ask God to give them courage to obey Him in all things.

Memory Verse: "I trust in Your Word." Psalm 119:42
(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Additional Verse: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

Key Word: OBEY

Craft: Sewing Ark with Animal Crackers

Life Application: It is sometimes hard to obey God. He asks us to do many things, such as help the poor, share with others, memorize Scripture and love our enemies. Some of these things might seem foolish to others, but God has a reason for asking us to do them. Be willing to obey God, even if what He asks doesn't seem to make sense.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Noah was a good man. He loved God, and God loved him. God told Noah to build a big boat, called an ark. Noah obeyed God. He did what God told him to do. God told Noah to have animals come into the ark. Noah obeyed God and the animals came into the ark. Noah filled the ark with food for the animals. God told Noah to have his family come into the ark. Noah obeyed God, and his family came into the ark. Then God shut the door. God sent a lot of rain. It rained, and it rained, and it rained! God took care of the animals, the family, and Noah in the ark. God loved Noah . . . and God loves you!

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Who can tell me the names of the very first man and woman that God created? The Bible says that God was happy with Adam and Eve and all that He had created. God told Adam and Eve to have children. And they did. And then Adam and Eve's children grew up and had children of their own. These children grew up and had children. Before long, the beautiful world that God created had many, many people living in it.

Did you know that in the Bible God tells us about all these many people? Do you think that God was still happy about all He had created? No! God was very sad when He watched all these people He had made. You see, the people enjoyed eating the food God made and drinking God's water, but they had forgotten that God had made all this just for them. They never talked to God to thank Him. They did not live the way God wanted them to live. And they never even thought about God. That's why God was so sad when He watched all the people.

As God watched the people, He saw only one man who was good. This man's name was Noah. Noah was special to God because he thought about God, and he even talked to God in prayer. He obeyed God. That means he did what God told him to do. In everything that he did, Noah wanted to do good.

One day God told Noah how sad He was because His beautiful world was filled with people doing bad things. God told Noah He was going to use a big flood to wash the earth clean. God said He wanted to save Noah and his family. He also wanted to save two of each animal He had created. The Bible tells us Noah believed God. Noah trusted in God's Word.

"Noah," God said, "I want you and your sons to build a very special boat so you and your family will be safe." Do you know what this special boat would be called? That's right, it was called an ark. Then God told Noah exactly how to build the ark. Noah very carefully listened to all that God said. Then Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth started to work. Noah obeyed God and built the ark exactly as God said.

It took many, many years to build the ark, and Noah's neighbors watched as he worked. They probably laughed when Noah told them God was going to send enough rain to cover all the land with water. You see, there had never been a flood, and they probably had never seen a boat since

there was no large body of water close to where they lived. While he worked on the ark, the people would laugh and make fun of Noah and all his hard work on such a useless boat.

Because Noah had trusted and believed God, Noah obeyed God in all He said. The ark was finally finished. Now God told Noah and his family to gather enough food for many, many days. They had to carry enough food on the ark to feed all the animals as well as themselves.

Noah again trusted and obeyed God by doing all God told him to do. God told Noah to bring a father and mother of every kind of animal, bird, and insect into the ark. God made the animals willing to come quietly and peacefully. Noah led the animals into the ark, two by two – a father and mother lion, a father and mother bunny rabbit, a father and mother elephant, and so on, until two of every animal, bird, and insect had entered the ark.

After all the animals went into the ark, God told Noah it was time for him and his wife and his three sons and their wives to go into the ark. When all were safe in the ark, God closed the door. Then guess what happened! That's right. The rain came, just as God said it would. It rained all day and it rained all night. It rained and rained and rained for 40 days and 40 nights. It rained so much that nothing could be seen except water. All the treetops and even the tallest mountaintops were covered with water. While the ark floated on top of the water, Noah and his family and all the animals were safe and dry inside the ark.

Noah believed God's promise about the great flood that would cover the earth. Noah trusted God's promise about keeping his family and all the animals safe. Next week we will hear about what happens to all the water and how Noah knew when it was safe for them to leave the ark. We will also hear about the very special promise God made to all the families that would live on His once-again beautiful earth.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Mark off a boat on the floor using masking tape. Give each child a stuffed animal to hold and have them sit in the "boat" while you tell the story.
- Tell the story from Noah's perspective. "Build" an ark as the story is being told, using a box, upside down table, or sheet. Glue cardboard or strips of paper on the ark. Show other items that Noah and his family would have needed (food, water, clothing, etc.).
- Give each child a picture of an animal, and as the story is told, name the animals and let the children glue the animals on a large paper drawing of the ark.
- Tell the story using a puppet; have the puppet narrate from the ark.

Interest Centers

- Build an ark out of blocks. "Walk" toy animals into the ark.
- Make an origami boat.

- Create an interest center of things that sink and things that float.
- **Noah's Interview:** After the story, teacher interviews a child selected as "Noah." Teacher asks questions of Noah (good review of lesson.) It would also be fun to interview various animals.
- Provide pictures of an ark or boats on tables for children to see and discuss. Let children draw around animal-shaped cookie cutters.
- Draw the outline of a large ark on butcher paper, and let children glue pre-cut animal pictures on the ark.

Games

- **Animal Chase:** Form two teams, facing each other. Give each child the name of an animal. Position the teams about 20 feet apart. Mark a circle in the exact center (use string or chalk), and place a beanbag or similar object in the circle. The leader calls out the names of two animals. The players run to the center of the circle; each child tries to grab the beanbag and get back to his or her own line before being tagged by the other. If one succeeds, he or she scores a point for the team; if he or she is caught, the other team gets a point. (Be sure the leader writes down the names of animals assigned so everyone will have a chance to play.)
- **Noah's Ark Charades:** Make an ark from construction paper or poster board. Fill the ark with all sorts of animal names written on slips of paper. Divide children into teams of three or four. During each team's turn, the child picks an animal from the ark and has 30 seconds to act like that animal as team members try to guess the animal. If the animal is guessed, the team gets to keep the slip of paper. After all teams have had a chance to play five times, the team with the most slips of paper wins.
- **Name That Animal:** Print pictures of animals using clipart or cut out pictures from a magazine. Mix up the pictures and put them in a bag. Children take turns drawing an animal and acting like that animal.
- **Noah Obeyed:** Play this game (similar to "Simon Says"). One player takes the role of "Noah" and issues instructions to other players, preceding their instructions with "Noah says . . ." (i.e. "Noah says, 'Jump on one foot.'"). Players are eliminated if they either don't follow the instruction preceded by "Noah says" or follows the instruction *not* preceded by this phrase.
- **Pin the Animals on the Ark:** Draw a big boat on butcher paper and tape it on a wall and provide different pictures of animals to the children. Blindfold one child at a time to "pin" the animals on the ark. (To make it more challenging, draw a door on your picture of the ark and see who can get "into" the boat.)
- **Animals into the Ark:** Have children pretend to be animals going into the ark, two by two. Use space under a table for the ark. Have the children go through two chairs placed in front of the table—this will be the doorway. Make up verses and sing to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell." For example, "The tigers went into the ark. The tigers went into the ark. Growling, growling as they went, the tigers went into the ark." Repeat, with each pair of children having a turn representing different animals.
- **Animal Mix-up Game:** Lay out a pile of pairs of plastic animals. Tell the children it is their job to sort out the animal pairs and put them back into the "ark" (a box).
- **Animal Matching Game:** Create your own (or purchase inexpensively) a deck of cards with several sets of matching animals. Mix them up and lay out on the table or floor. Let the children take turns flipping over two cards at a time, trying to make matches.

Snacks (*Check for allergies.*)

- Animal crackers.
- A slice of cheese or a piece of bread cut in the shape of animals using animal cookie cutters.

Action Rhymes & Songs**Noah Built a Wooden Ark** *Sung to the tune of "Old MacDonald"*

Noah built a big, big ark, E-I-E-I-O.
 And on this ark, he
 brought two cows, E-I-E-I-O.
 With a moo, moo here,
 and a moo, moo there.
 Here a moo, there a moo,
 everywhere a moo, moo.
 Noah built a big, big ark, E-I-E-I-O.

For additional verses, add other animals and their sounds.

The Big Boat

Before Noah's big, big boat	<i>(stretch arms out wide)</i>
Started on that long, long float,	
Animals went marching in!	<i>(march with fingers)</i>
Some were fat, and some were thin!	<i>(make big motion with arms; then put hands close together)</i>
Some were short, and some were tall,	<i>(stoop down, then stand tall)</i>
Some could hop, and some could crawl!	<i>(hop one hand on other; crawl fingers on palm of other hand)</i>
Some birds flew, some walked inside	<i>(flap arms and walk fingers)</i>
To build their nests and to hide.	<i>(cup hands together)</i>

*From 85 Creative Fingerfun by Margaret M. Self.
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Two by Two

Here is Noah's big ark;	<i>(hands flat, one 6" above the other)</i>
Here is Noah, too.	<i>(hold up index finger)</i>
Here come the animals,	<i>(walk fingers along arm)</i>
Two by two.	

*From Through the Bible with Finger Plays by Marian White.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Draw a picture of what you think Noah's ark looked like, including some of your favorite animals.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Noah's Ark" puzzle and pattern ideas for balloon animals.

- **Noah's Balloon Zoo:** Provide several balloons for each child (purchase various shapes). Children blow up balloons and tie. Decorate balloons as animals, using scraps of yarn and tape. Use balloon animals to tell the story or let the children write their own script. (Pattern ideas found on **Puzzles & Patterns**.)
- **Mark it Out:** Go outside or into a fellowship hall or gym and let children measure and mark with a string the dimensions of the ark as given in Genesis 6:15.

Additional Visuals



Build an Ark: Build Noah's ark using newsprint or butcher paper. Cut out holes at a height that allows the children to look out. Draw the features of various animals along the border of the holes. Take pictures!



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 4

UNIT 1: TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD **God's Creation and His First Families**

LESSON 4: God's Promise to His First Families

Scripture: Genesis 8:1-9:17

Story Overview: When the rain stopped, God sent a wind to dry up the water. Noah sent out a raven that went back and forth while the water receded. Then he sent out a dove three different times until he was sure the land was dry. When Noah and his family were able to leave the ark, they built an altar and worshiped God. Then God blessed Noah and placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise never to flood the earth again.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise to Noah.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to keep their promises just as He kept His promise to Noah and all mankind.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God promised Noah and all mankind that He would never again destroy the earth by flood.
- understand that God can be trusted to keep all of His promises to them.
- ask God to help them be promise keepers, too.

Memory Verse: "I trust in Your Word." Psalm 119:42
(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Additional Verse: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

Key Word: PROMISE

Craft: Tissue Paper Rainbow or Rainbow Ribbon Bookmark

Life Application: Think about a promise you made. Did you keep that promise? Ask God to help you be a promise keeper.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Noah loved God, and God loved him. Noah obeyed God and built an ark. Animals came into the ark. Noah's family came into the ark. Then God shut the door. It began to rain, and it rained, and rained, and rained! God took care of Noah, his family, and all the animals. When the rain was over, God told Noah that he and his family and all the animals could come out of the ark. They all left the ark. Then God put a rainbow in the sky. It was beautiful—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and purple. God loved Noah and took care of him. God loves you, and God takes good care of you.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Can you remember who we talked about last week? That's right, Noah! And what did God tell Noah to build? An ark—a big boat that would hold all of Noah's family and lots and lots of animals.

Remember, God told Noah to take his family and a mother and father of every kind of animal, bird, and insect and go inside the big ark. Then God closed the door. Can you remember what happened next? Yes, it started to rain, just as God said it would. It rained and rained for 40 days and 40 nights until everything was covered with water. God made sure that Noah and his family and all the animals were safe and dry inside the big ark.

God didn't forget about Noah and all the animals in the ark. God sent a wind to blow across the water to dry it up, but this would take a long, long time. Do you think Noah and his family got tired of sitting inside the ark for so long? Well, they had a lot to do taking care of all those animals. It probably took a long time just to feed them, and they also spent time with the animals, talking to them so they would stay happy. Noah and his family were happy, too, that God had watched over them and kept them safe and dry.

When Noah thought the water was just about gone, he opened a small window in the ark and let a dove fly out. He wanted to see if the dove could find dry ground. There was still too much water, and the dove couldn't find a place to rest. So, it flew back to Noah and the ark. After waiting for seven days, Noah once again let the dove fly out the window. This time the dove was gone almost all day. Around nighttime it flew back to Noah, and guess what was in its beak? An olive branch! This meant that the water was nearly gone. Once again Noah waited for seven days and let the dove fly off again, but this time it didn't come back. This made Noah happy, because now he knew the water was dried up!

Then God spoke to Noah, "It's time for you to take your wife and family out of the ark. Also take all the animals, birds, and insects so they can be fruitful and multiply on the earth." I'm sure the animals were very happy as they came out of the ark. They probably rushed out as fast as they could. Can you see the rabbits hopping out, the ducks waddling out, and the birds spreading their wings as they flew into the beautiful blue sky?

How do you think Noah felt as he walked out of the ark? He probably looked up at the bright warm sunshine and breathed in the fresh air! As he looked around, he saw that all the water was gone, and there was God's beautiful earth again. Noah was happy he had trusted in God's Word.

Because he believed God and obeyed (or did as God said), God kept His promise to Noah and kept him and his family safe.

Then Noah took some stones and built an altar. An altar is a place to worship God. Noah and his family knelt down and thanked God for keeping them safe. They thanked God that they were in His beautiful world again.

This pleased God, and **He said, “I will never again cover the earth with a flood.” Then God put something in the sky to show He would always keep this promise. Do you know what that sign was? It was a beautiful rainbow. A rainbow is full of bright colors—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Whenever it rains and we see a rainbow, it reminds us that God will never flood the earth again.**

God made this promise to Noah and his family and then He said, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” This meant for Noah’s sons to have many children to fill the earth with people again. God carefully planned and cared for these families. So Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives had many children. And these children grew up and had children. This went on until the earth had many, many people living on it once again. Next week we are going to hear about one of these special families.

Now, let’s thank God for His Word and for His great love for us.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Tell the story from an animal’s perspective.
- From a bag, pull out one item at a time to represent each paragraph of the story. For example: boat, door, animals, window, dove, family, rock, etc.
- Use sunglasses as you tell the story and discuss how good it must have felt to see and feel the sun after all those days of rain.
- Re-enact today’s Bible story from Genesis 8:1-12. Assign each child a part to play, using the following suggestions:

Ark: Sing, “Sailing, sailing, over the ocean blue.”

Noah: Stand and say, “I’m Noah!”

Wind: Sway from left to right and say, “Whoosh-sh-sh.”

Rain: Clap hands to make raindrop sounds.

Waters: Stomp feet.

Dove: Flap arms and softly say, “Coo, coo.”

First read the Scripture passage aloud without actions. Read a second time with children adding the appropriate actions. (This would be a fun activity to video.).

Interest Centers

- Finger paint a rainbow.
- Collect stuffed animals, preferably two of a kind. Say the name of each animal; let babies touch them.
- Show pictures of animals; say their names clearly.
- Provide a "Surprise Box" for children to reach in to pull out objects relating to the ark: animals, rainbow and sunshine cutouts, dove with branch in beak, etc.
- Provide pictures of rainbows and the sun shining for children to see and discuss.
- Cut magazine pictures of animals into four or five pieces (try not to cut across face of animal). Put into envelopes, and let children put puzzles together.
- Play games with a rainbow parachute.
- **Rainbow Dancing:** Give the children strips of colored streamers. Play fast and slow music and encourage the children to move to the beat and speed of the music.
- For younger children, provide a variety of medium-sized plastic animals and a box decorated to look like Noah's ark. Empty all the animals onto a table, let the children find the matching animals, and then encourage them to place the animals in the "ark."

Games

- **Rainbow Colors:** Cut seven strips of felt or paper, one for each color of the rainbow. Place strips on a tray and show children all seven strips. The children close their eyes as you remove one color. The children guess which color is missing. (Easy way to remember colors of the rainbow: ROYGBIV or **R**atting **O**n **Y**our **G**rouchy **B**rother **I**s **V**ile.)
- **Rainbow Prayer:** Have rainbow color strips in a bag. Have the children take turns pulling out a strip and pray for something that is of that color.
- **Noah's Dove:** Bring a small leafy branch to show to the children. The children can pretend they are the dove flying out from the ark to look for dry land. Demonstrate how to tuck hands up next to shoulders and flap arms as if they are wings. The children close their eyes as you hide the branch somewhere in the room, making sure the children will **not** be able to find it. The children open their eyes and begin looking for the branch. After they have "flown" around the room for a few minutes, tell them their wings are getting tired, and they must return to the ark. The children rest a few seconds with eyes closed, and you hide the branch in an easy-to-find spot. This time explain that Noah is opening the window for the second time, and he is sending out the dove again. The children should easily locate the branch. When they find the branch, they "fly" back to the ark.
- **Animal Sound Game:** Download an animal sound app on a mobile device and have the children identify the animal that is making the sound.
- **Animals Out of the Ark:** Use space under a table for the ark. Make a doorway by placing two chairs in front of the table. Have children pretend to be animals going out of the ark, two by two. Make up verses and sing to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell." For example, "*The tigers went out of the ark. The tigers went out of the ark. Growling, growling as they went, the tigers went out of the ark.*" Repeat, with each pair of children having a turn representing different animals.

Snacks (*Check for allergies.*)

- Serve animal crackers.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Rainbow Promise Sung to the tune of “*Mary Had a Little Lamb*”

The rainbow is a promise,
A promise, a promise.
The rainbow is a promise,
Sent from God above.

He says, “The storm is over,
Over, over.”
He says, “The storm is over.
I’m painting you my love.”

*From Piggyback Songs in Praise to God by Jean Warren.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Think of a promise you have made. Did you keep your promise? God gave many promises that can be found in His Word. Thank Him for keeping His promises, and ask for His help in keeping yours.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Noah’s Ark” word search.
- **Promises of God Research:** The teacher reads the promises of God from the Bible (Romans 8:28, 10:9, 11:29, 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 1:6; etc.) The children can write or draw the promises on cloud shapes cut from construction paper or cardstock and attach them to the rainbow with yarn or string.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 5

UNIT 1: TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD **God's Creation and His First Families**

LESSON 5: God's Promise to Abraham

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-5, 13:14-18, 15:5; Hebrews 11:8-12

Story Overview: God asked Abram (Abraham) to leave his family and home and go where He would lead. God promised to make Abraham a great nation. Even though Abraham had no children, God told him his descendants would be as many as the stars in the heaven and the grains of sand by the seashore.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God had a plan for Abraham's life.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God has a perfect plan for their lives just as He did for Abraham's life.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God had a plan to make Abraham the father of a great nation.
- understand that God has a plan for their lives as well.
- trust God to reveal His plan for their lives in His perfect timing.

Memory Verse: "I trust in Your Word." Psalm 119:42
(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Additional Verse: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

Key Word: PLAN

Craft: Abraham Counting Stars Picture

Life Application: It can be fun to make plans—plans to play with a friend, plans to go on a vacation, plans to buy a special gift for someone you love—even plans to come to CBS today! We can make our own plans, but we need to be ready to say "Yes!" when God shows us His plan for our lives that may be different from our plans.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God loved Abraham, and Abraham loved God. One day God told Abraham to leave his home and move to a different place. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, packed all their clothes and everything they owned. They took their animals, too. God told Abraham where to go, and God showed the way. Abraham and Sarah walked, and walked, and walked. Then God said, "Look at all this land. I will give it to you. And I will give you a big family. I will bless you, and you will bless many." Abraham loved God and the new home God gave him. God loved Abraham and took care of him in his new home.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Remember, last week we talked about all the new families that came from Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth? Today we're going to talk about one very special family from Noah's son, Shem. This was the family of Abraham. God had a very special plan for Abraham's life.

God had been good to Abraham and had made him a very rich man. Abraham loved God and wanted to do whatever God wanted him to do. Abraham was living in a land where the people did not know God. They thought the moon was God. Isn't that silly? The moon can't see us or hear us or even talk to us. The Bible tells us there is only one true living God. God wanted Abraham to leave this land and go to a new land to start a nation where everyone worshiped only God.

One day God told Abraham, "Leave your own country, and your own people, and go to the land which I will show you." Do you think Abraham argued with God and said, "Why?" or "I don't want to leave my home and all those I love here"? No! **Abraham trusted God to take care of him and his family.**

God continued by saying, "If you do leave your country and your people, I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing to many people."

God said, "Look up into the heavens, and count the stars, if you can. Your family will be like that—too many to count." Have you ever been outside on a clear night and looked up to see all the many, many stars in the sky? Have you ever tried to count them? You could start by counting them, one, two, three, four, and so on, but after a while you would probably get pretty tired and quit. No one can count them all. Imagine a family that big! Can you count the people in your family? Let's try.

Abraham was 75 years old, and he and Sarah had no children yet. Do you think Abraham told God he was getting too old to have that many children? No, the Bible says that Abraham trusted God.

Abraham believed God and obeyed Him—he did what God told him to do. He prepared for the trip God had planned. Because Abraham was a very rich man, he packed all he owned. He had many sheep and cattle and servants to get ready for the long trip. After he packed, Abraham started on his trip, not knowing where he was going. He may even have traveled at night when it

was dark and hard to see. The stars God made would help him see the way. God was leading him. He trusted God to show him the right way to go.

Abraham brought his wife, Sarah, his nephew, Lot, their sheep and cattle, and all they owned. After the long, long trip, they finally arrived at the place where God led them. God said to Abraham, “Look. All the land your eyes can see in every direction—this way, this way, this way, and this way—I choose to give to you as far as you can see. It will belong to you and your family. And I am going to give you so many descendants (family members) that like sand, they can’t be counted!” Wow, that’s a lot. Let’s see if we can count how many grains of sand there are in this spoonful. *(Have a spoonful of sand ready to show to children.)* Just think, Abraham’s family would have so many people that he couldn’t even count them. Abraham trusted God’s plan for his life, and Abraham became the father of a great nation.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Set up a small tent in the classroom, or use a sheet draped over a table. “Camp out” as you tell the story in or around the tent.
- Use a timer and have the children wait for 30 seconds. Don’t tell them how long they will be waiting but have them be quiet until they hear the bell of the timer. It will seem like forever to them! After the timer goes off, talk to them about waiting and how hard that can be. Explain that Abraham had to wait a very long time before God’s promise was fulfilled.
- As the story is told, let children act it out. Working together, pack a suitcase. Children can take turns carrying the suitcase as everyone travels from one place in the room to another, ending at the tent area.

Interest Centers

- Provide books about stars or pictures of stars in the sky for children to see and discuss.
- Let the children look at sand with a magnifying glass.
- Poster of stars: Give the children pre-cut stars; decorate stars with glitter. Glue stars on a black poster board. (Instead of glitter, use salt or sugar to create a glistening effect.)
- Cut apples in half to show the “star” in the middle.

Games

- **Star Hunt:** If the children aren’t afraid of the dark, hide glow-in-the-dark stars or hide paper or felt stars and let the children go on a hunt.
- **Treasure Hunt:** Have clues at different places about where to go for another item for a traveling bag (backpack), items such as food, water, stuffed animals, baby blankets, etc. The last clue leads them outside where a tent is set up for story time.

- **Abraham's Children:** Use various colors of masking/painter's tape to outline different sizes of stars on the floor. (Or cut out star shapes from foam core sheets.) Mark a starting place. The children gather together at the starting place; when teacher says, "Go!" the children hurry to step inside a star. If the star is filled, they must find another star. They may not step on a line, and they may not move once they're inside the star. The teachers may want to count to 10 or 20 before the children must be completely still inside a star. Repeat, as long as the children are interested and time allows. Caution the children not to push their friends.
- **Follow Abraham (like Follow the Leader):** The children line up in single-file formation behind one player chosen as "Abraham" (leader). The leader performs an action such as skipping, running, twisting, turning, etc. The children follow "Abraham" whenever and however he or she leads. Set up obstacles to make following more difficult.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Abraham

Abraham, Abraham,
I love you.
Abraham, Abraham,
Trust Me, too.

(arms crossed over heart)

*From Through the Bible with Finger Plays by Marian White.
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[Baby's name, Baby's name,]
I love you.
[Baby's name, Baby's name,]
Trust Me, too.

(touch baby)

[Baby's name, Baby's name,]
I love you.
[Baby's name, Baby's name,]
Trust Me, too.

(touch baby)

God in heaven,
I love you.
God in heaven,
I trust You, too.

(point toward heaven)

God Made Families

Some families are big.
Some families are small.
But God made our families,
One and all!

*(Spread arms out wide)
(Bring arms close together)
(Point up in the air)*

Some families are big.
Some families are small.
But God loves our families,
One and all!

*(Spread arms out wide)
(Bring arms close together)
(Cross arms over chest)*

Some families are big.
Some families are small.
But God keeps our families,
One and all!

(Spread arms out wide)
(Bring arms close together)
(Cup hands in front)

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Write or draw in your journal some things you hope to do some day, such as vacations you would like to go on or a job you might like to have. Understand that God has a perfect plan for you. Ask God to show you how He would like you to use your gifts and talents.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Abraham’s Journey” puzzle.
- **Option:** Have the children work together in pairs. The children press out modeling dough to flatten. Place map on top of dough and trace outlines of countries, water, and then Abraham’s journey. Other items can be added, such as a great tree, aluminum foil for bodies of water, and blue yarn for rivers. This project will help the children see how far Abraham traveled with no map, but with complete faith in the Lord’s leading. (Map available in **Puzzles & Patterns**.)
- Those who are able to write may want to write a travel diary, imagining all the happenings and events as they traveled with Abraham (supplies, how many miles traveled, weather, people, etc.).
- The children can draw desert pictures.
- Draw a family tree on a poster board. Explain what a family means. Have the children talk about their families and create their own family tree.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 6

UNIT 1: TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD
God's Creation and His First Families

LESSON 6: Abraham Trusts in God's Promise

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-8, 18:1-15, 21:1-8

Story Overview: God promised Abraham that He would make him the father of a great nation even though he didn't have any children. Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time to see God's promise fulfilled. When Abraham and Sarah were very old, three visiting angels told Abraham that he would have a son. This made Sarah laugh, but a year later their son, Isaac, was born. (Isaac means "laughter".)

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God's gift of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah brought them joy.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God's gifts should bring them joy just as the birth of Isaac gave Abraham and Sarah joy.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Isaac was God's gift to Abraham and Sarah and his birth brought them great joy.
- recognize that God has given them many blessings to bring them joy.
- tell others about the things that give them joy.

Memory Verse: "I trust in Your Word." Psalm 119:42
(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Additional Verse: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

Key Word: JOY

Craft: Pop-Up Tent Scene

Life Application: Joy is contagious. Our grateful heart for all of God's blessings leads to joy. Let your grateful heart spread joy to those around you this week.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God loved Abraham, and Abraham loved God. God told Abraham that one day he and his wife, Sarah, would have a baby. Abraham and Sarah were very old, but they wanted a baby very much. They waited, and waited, and waited. One day God came to Abraham and said, "Next year Sarah will have a baby." Abraham and Sarah were surprised. They laughed. But God did give Abraham and Sarah a precious baby boy. They named him Isaac. They hugged their baby. They rocked their baby. They sang to their baby. They loved him and took good care of him. Abraham and Sarah were happy God gave them a son.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Last week, we learned from the Bible that Abraham trusted in God's Word when God promised to make him the father of a great nation. He also trusted God to show him the way to the new land, where he would raise his children, his grandchildren, and many, many great-grandchildren.

Now, Abraham really loved God, and he loved Him so much that he did everything God told him to do. He even moved away from his friends and family to a land, where he didn't know anyone. He wasn't even sure where this land was, or what was in the land. That really is trusting God, isn't it?

God promised Abraham a long time ago that he would be a father. Abraham waited and waited and waited, but he and Sarah still did not have a baby. Sarah was beginning to wonder if God had really promised this to them. Abraham was probably wondering how much longer he would have to wait for this promised baby.

When Abraham was almost 100 years old, he was sitting outside his tent one day. He looked up and saw three men. Out in the desert, you don't expect to see three men coming toward you, so he knew they were special. When Abraham saw these three men coming toward him, he recognized one as God and immediately said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by Your servant." He was really saying, "Stop here and rest for a while." Then **Abraham quickly ran to his tent and told Sarah they had three visitors.**

After they had eaten, Abraham was talking to these men, and they said something that made Abraham want to laugh. They said, "Abraham, your wife Sarah is going to have a baby this time next year." Abraham looked at them with big eyes, and he thought, "How can that be? I am too old, and my wife is too old." Remember, the Bible says that Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old.

Do you know what Sarah was doing all this time? She was standing behind the door of the tent, where she could listen to what these men were saying to Abraham. When she heard them say that she would have a baby, she laughed to herself and said, "How can I have a baby? After all, I am too old and so is Abraham." She didn't say this out loud, but do you know what happened next? The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Do you know what happened a year later? That's right. Sarah had a baby boy. She and Abraham gave him the name Isaac, because God told them to. Isaac means "laughter." Remember, Sarah had laughed when she heard she was going to have a baby.

Abraham trusted in God's Word and believed everything He said. God wants us to be just like Abraham. He wants us to trust in His Word.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Dress as Sarah; tell the story from her perspective.
- Use toilet tissue figures for Abraham, Sarah, and the three men.

Interest Centers

- Doll center.
- **Collage:** Collect pictures of old women and babies. Let the children glue pictures on a large piece of paper to make a collage.
- To help familiarize the children with tents, provide sporting catalogs, camping illustrations, and tents from a flannel board set. Explain how we use tents today for fun, camping, etc. Explain that in Abraham's time, people *lived* in tents.
- Make a tent in your room with sheets covering classroom tables or set up a small pop-up tent.
- Prior to class, prepare a maze or obstacle course in the classroom, using a table, chairs, pillows, etc. Blindfold one child; ask another child to lead the blindfolded child through the course. Or, for younger children, simply lead the children through the maze. Explain that Abraham and his family had to travel across rivers and streams and through the desert. Say, "We are pretending to travel, just like Abraham."
- Bring in some baby name books or research the Christian meaning of each child's name on the internet and discuss the meanings with the children.

Games

- **Laughing Game:** The children sit in a circle; choose one child to leave the room with a teacher. The teacher helps that child change as much of his or her appearance as possible. Examples: Put a sock on hand; put ribbon or bows on a shoe; un-tuck shirt; put shoes on head or on the wrong feet; tie a jacket around legs, etc. The child and the teacher return to room; the child stands in the center of the circle. The children look at the child in the center of the circle and name the "silly" items that are different about his or her appearance. The children will laugh as the child enters the circle—a reminder of how Sarah laughed at God's words. Repeat the game with another child.
- Reinforce the story by reviewing how Abraham trusted God and obeyed Him by leaving his homeland. Review how he and Sarah lived in tents. Let the children play in the tent you have set up as an interest center. Use the tent to act out the story.

- Record sounds of laughter and play the recording. The children dance when they hear the laughter and “freeze” when the laughter stops.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Trust God's Word Sung to the tune of *"The Mulberry Bush"*

The Bible says to "Trust God's Word,"
Trust God's Word,
Trust God's Word.
The Bible says to "Trust God's Word,"
Trust God's Word today.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: God brings joy into our lives. During the week, write or draw times you feel the Lord gave you joy. Was it during prayer time? When you were playing with a friend? At church? Thank Him for JOY!

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Isaac’s Birth” puzzle.
- **Banner:** As the children arrive, let them write on a large paper or chart as many “JOY” words as they can think of (happy, laugh, smile, love, excitement, etc.). As they are writing, discuss why people feel joy. Let each child make a JOY banner. Provide felt, scraps of material, scissors, glue. (Use solid color felt for background; cut letters from patterned material.)
- Bring a “Baby Name” book from the library. Let the children find out what their own names mean. Do they know why their parents gave them their names?
- **Newspaper:** Give each child a piece of paper with a pre-printed headline (use different headlines for each newspaper), such as: Three Visitors Surprise Abraham; Sarah is Caught Laughing, etc.). Let the children draw and color an illustration of that headline. Then have them share pictures with each other.
- **Abraham Question Box:** Prepare questions from Lesson 5 about Abraham. Put questions into a box. Have the children pull out questions, one at a time. The person who answers the question correctly will pull out the next question. Use this for play and review.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 7

UNIT 1: TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD **God's Creation and His First Families**

LESSON 7: God's Abundant Blessings to Isaac

Scripture: Genesis 25:20-26, 26:1-6, 12-13

Story Overview: Isaac married Rebekah and after many years God blessed them with twins, Esau and Jacob. When there was a famine in the land, God appeared to Isaac and promised that He would bless Isaac and all of his descendants. God kept His promise and blessed Isaac with a rich harvest and many possessions.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God gave Isaac many blessings.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that all of their blessings come from God just as He blessed Isaac.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that all of Isaac's blessings came from God.
- understand that all their blessings come from God, too.
- thank the Lord for loving them and blessing them.

Memory Verse: "I trust in Your Word." Psalm 119:42
(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Additional Verse: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

Key Word: BLESSINGS

Craft: Paper Cup Garden

Life Application: God loves each one of us and wants to bless us just as He blessed Isaac. He also wants us to be a blessing to others. Think of some ways you can show God's love and do something kind for someone in your family, church or neighborhood.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God loved Isaac, and Isaac loved God. God gave Isaac and his wife Rebekah twin baby boys. It was Isaac's job to get food for his family. He had to grow the food. God told Isaac that he would take care of him and his family. Isaac obeyed God. He planted seeds. God made the seeds grow into big plants for food. Isaac had food for his family and all his animals. God gave Isaac lots of food. God took care of Isaac and his family. God loves you and takes care of you.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Who can tell what it means to trust in God's Word? That's right. It means to believe what God says! Who did we talk about last week who trusted God? Yes, Abraham. Abraham trusted that God would make him the father of a great nation. Although Abraham and his wife Sarah had to wait and wait for many years to have a baby, God kept His promise and gave them a son. Can you remember his name? That's right. It was Isaac. And what does the name Isaac mean? Yes, "laughter!" Abraham and Sarah enjoyed Isaac as a boy, and as he grew into a man.

When Isaac was 40 years old, he married a girl named Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah were very happy all the while they were married except for one thing. They had no children, and they both wanted a baby to love. Isaac was faithful and prayed to God, asking Him to give Rebekah a baby.

How do you think God answered Isaac's prayer? That's right. Isaac and Rebekah had a baby. But it wasn't just a baby—it was twins. God gave them more than they asked for; He gave them two baby boys. Their names were Esau and Jacob. Now Isaac and Rebekah had been doubly blessed by God!

Isaac, Rebekah, and the twins lived in the land of Canaan. There was a great famine in this land. A famine is a time when the rains stop and the crops can't grow anymore. When the crops don't grow, there is no food for people to eat. Isaac became worried and wondered where he could take Rebekah and the twins to be able to grow enough food for them to eat. Isaac heard there was plenty of food in the land of Egypt, so he decided to go to Egypt to live.

But God spoke to Isaac and said, "Don't go into Egypt. Stay here in Canaan, and I will take care of you. This is the land I promised to your father, Abraham. Don't worry, I will take care of you just as I did for your father. I will give you the food you need." Isaac was faithful, and he knew God loved him and would keep His promise to take care of his family. He also knew he could trust God to keep all of His promises. Isaac obeyed God and stayed in the land of Canaan.

Although there were no crops growing, and the fields were very dry and dusty, Isaac began to plant seeds in the fields. God made the seeds grow into small plants that grew into tall healthy plants. Then kernels (pieces) of grain grew at the top of the tall plants. When it was

time for Isaac to cut down his grain, he had a hundred times as much grain as he had planted. God had given Isaac enough grain for food for all his family, for his servants, and even enough for all his animals. Again, God had abundantly blessed Isaac.

Isaac's father, Abraham, obeyed God by leaving his home and going to a strange land. Now, his son Isaac obeyed God by not leaving his home and going into a strange land. Isaac trusted God, and God blessed him by giving him an abundant crop of grain. Just as Isaac was given one more baby than he asked for, God gave him more grain than he had asked for. He was abounding with blessings from God.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Using the Children's Home Papers, review what the children have learned about Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac. Then use puppets to introduce the story of Rebekah, Isaac, Jacob, and Esau. (Use dolls, decorated paper bags, decorated plastic spoons, etc. for puppets.)
- Use two dolls to represent Jacob and Esau.
- Show how to plant seeds using large seeds, dirt
- Show a growing plant.
- Color and cut out the characters from the Children's Home Paper. Glue them to popsicle sticks. Fill a plastic container with beans and stand the characters up in the container. Use to tell the story.



Interest Centers

- Create a display of a variety of seeds and the fruit of the seeds (e.g. pumpkin seeds and a pumpkin, apple seeds and an apple). Encourage the children to compare seed sizes and to think about what the seeds will develop into. Use a magnifying glass.
- Let the children watch as you cut folding paper dolls of Esau and Jacob. Write names on the dolls.
- Provide pictures of fields of grain, fields being harvested, or pictures of twins for the children to look at.
- Plant seeds.
- Prior to class, find some pictures of twins (Google images). Display those pictures and/or print two of each picture; let the children match the sets in a "concentration-type game."
- Encourage the children to draw a picture of their family.

Games

- **Grain/Rice/Corn Relay:** Divide the class into two teams. Use masking/painter's tape to mark beginning and ending lines. Teams line up; have the children walk to the ending line without spilling the kernels of grain/rice/corn in their spoons. The first team to complete the relay wins. Instruct the children to walk backward, walk with one hand behind their back, hop, crawl, etc.
- **Seed-Fruit Memory Game:** Make picture cards of seeds and their fruit. Put the cards on the table face down and have the children take turns flipping two cards to try to match the seed with the fruit.
- **Twins Matching Game:** Print off pictures of twins and play matching game.
- **Where is the Seed? Game:** Put a seed under one of three cups and shift them around. Have the children guess which cup has the seed under it.
- **Bible Verse Game:** On a clear plastic lid from a food container, use a permanent marker to print the words of Psalm 144:15. Punch a hole in the lid. Use a string long enough to go around the children at a table or standing in a circle. Place the string through the lid and tie the ends of the string. All children must place their hands on the string. They pass the lid from child to child, as fast or as slowly as they desire, but it must keep moving. Music may be played and then stopped suddenly, or a bell may be sounded. The child caught with the lid must say the verse. For the first three times, the child may read it from the lid. Then the child say the words without looking. Try to let everyone have a turn saying the verse. Use this game with other verses throughout the year.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Count Your Blessings

Sung to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

County your blessings,
(Count your blessings)
One, two, three
(One, two, three)

*(Hold up fingers on both hands and wave
back and forth)
(Count on fingers 1, 2, 3 ...)*

God gives many blessings
(God gives many blessings)
To you and me
(To you and me)

*Open and close fingers repeatedly as if
counting many numbers
Point to others and then to self.*

God's Garden

I would like to be in God's garden,
So He could plant in me
The seeds of faith and joy and love,
For all about to see.

*(spread arms out wide)
(point to self)
(pinch fingers together as if holding seeds)
(point to eyes)*

Planting Seeds

You plant a seed;
The rains come down;
The sun keeps it warm;
And God makes it grow.

*(pretend to plant)
(wiggle fingers down to floor)
(make circle with fingers)
(point up)*

Trust God's Word Sung to the tune of "*The Mulberry Bush*"

The Bible says to "Trust God's Word,"
Trust God's Word,
Trust God's Word.
The Bible says to "Trust God's Word."
Trust God's Word today.

Isaac Trusted in the Lord Sung to the tune of "*Mary Had a Little Lamb*"

Isaac trusted in the Lord,
In the Lord, in the Lord.
Isaac trusted in the Lord
And he was richly blessed.

God gave Isaac twin sons,
Twin sons, twin sons.
God gave Isaac twin sons;
Their names were Jacob and Esau.

God took care of Isaac's family,
Family, family.
God took care of Isaac's family
And made the grain to grow.

God takes care of you and me,
You and me, you and me.
God takes care of you and me
And loves each one of us!

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Look for ways to be a blessing to other people such as your neighbor, siblings, parents, grandparents). Be ready to share next week how those people responded to your kindness. Remember to bring your journal next week! ☺

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Jacob and Esau" puzzle.
- **Shower of Blessings picture:** The teacher leads a discussion about being blessed. The children describe what they think blessings are. (Pair older and younger children together.) On a sheet of paper, the children write all the blessings provided through their parents. From this list make a Shower of Blessings picture. Cut out clouds from the pattern. In the center of the cloud write: "*You've Been a Shower of Blessing to Me.*" For each blessing listed earlier, cut out a blue raindrop and write a blessing on it. Use blue yarn and tape droplet so it hangs from the back of the cloud. Glue the cloud to a piece of blue construction paper. Let the children take it home and give it to their parents. (Cloud pattern available on **Puzzles & Patterns**.)
- **Coupon Books:** The children create a booklet of coupons redeemable by parents for chores, jobs, or good behavior. (Pattern available in **Puzzles & Patterns** to copy on cardstock.) They can write or draw what they will do.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 8

UNIT 2: TRUSTING GOD AS OUR HELPER **Joseph and His Family**

LESSON 8: Jacob's Special Love for Joseph

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-10

Story Overview: Jacob loved his 12 sons, but he had a special place in his heart for Joseph because Joseph had been born when Jacob was old. Jacob showed his love for Joseph by making him a special coat of many colors. Joseph loved and obeyed his father.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Joseph's father, Jacob, loved Joseph and made him a coat of many colors.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God the Father shows loving care to them just as Jacob did for Joseph.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Joseph's father, Jacob, showed loving care when he made Joseph a special coat of many colors.
- understand God the Father shows them loving care in many ways.
- respond by showing loving care to a friend.

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." Hebrews 13:6
(Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Additional Verse: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." John 14:16

Key Word: LOVING CARE

Craft: Coat of Many Colors

Life Application: Life is so much better when we have people in our lives who love us and care about us, like your parents, grandparents or friends. This week, take time to give them a hug and tell them how much you love and appreciate them.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Joseph took care of his father's sheep. Joseph had a lot of brothers. Sometimes they did not treat him nicely. Joseph's father loved him very much. He gave Joseph a beautiful, special coat. It may have been red, blue, yellow, and green. Joseph liked to wear his coat even though it made his brothers jealous. Some of the brothers did not like Joseph. But Joseph's father loved him very much and God loved Joseph and took care of him.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Let's count to 12 (*count, using your fingers*). That's how many sons Jacob had. Do you remember who Jacob was? He was Esau's twin brother. When Jacob was a grown man, he had 12 sons. One of these sons was Joseph.

As a boy, Joseph loved God and wanted to do just what God wanted. Joseph lived with his father, Jacob, and his 11 brothers. This family lived in tents in the land called Canaan. God told Jacob to live there with his children, his servants, and all his sheep. Jacob had many sheep. Joseph and his brothers had to take care of them. They had to find grass for the sheep to eat, and water for them to drink. Sometimes they had to travel a long way from home with the sheep to find grass for them.

Do you think this was a happy family? No, it wasn't. You see, **Joseph's older brothers did not love and obey God. Joseph would go to his father Jacob and tell him about the bad things his brothers were doing. This caused Joseph's older brothers to be angry with him. They thought he was a tattletale.**

Jacob had a special love for his son Joseph. One day he gave Joseph a coat he made just for him. It was a coat made of many beautiful colors. None of his brothers had a coat as beautiful as Joseph's. When the brothers saw Joseph's coat, it made them think their father liked Joseph more than any of them. This made them jealous, and it also made them angry! They were so angry, and they couldn't say a nice word to Joseph anymore.

The brothers became even angrier when Joseph told them about the two dreams he had. In Joseph's dream, his brothers and even his whole family bowed down to him, just as if he were a king. Now, his brothers were so mad they wouldn't even speak to him anymore! Their father Jacob even remembered the dreams and wondered what they meant.

One day, Joseph's brothers took their sheep far away to find greener grass for them to eat. They had to go far off in the hills to find just the right grass. His brothers were mad, because Joseph didn't have to go with them. Instead, he stayed home with their father Jacob.

They had been gone for many, many days. **One day Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers have been gone for a long time with our sheep. I want you to go and see how they are doing. Go and see if they are all right, and then come back and tell me."**

Joseph put on his coat of many colors and started off to find his brothers. Now, Joseph could have been afraid to go so far away from his father all by himself, because his brothers might be mean to him when he is away from their father. Joseph knew how much his brothers hated him. But **Joseph obeyed his father and did what he was told to do. He knew that God would be his helper.**

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Prior to class, draw a simple figure of young Joseph wearing a coat. As the story is told, paint bright colors on the coat.
- Use plastic cups to illustrate the brothers. Draw faces on the cups and bring them out one by one. A small cup can be used for Joseph.
- Use plastic spoons to depict the brothers. Draw faces on the back of the spoons and insert the spoons into an upside-down egg carton.
- Involve the children in the story-telling process. Whenever the word "brothers" is mentioned, the children make an angry face. When "Joseph" is mentioned, the children hug themselves. When "Jacob" is mentioned, the children say, "He's the father."
- Role play the stories about Joseph. Set up tent homes (sheet over tables); use large towels for robes for Jacob, Joseph, and brothers; use large branches as shepherds' staffs.

Interest Centers

- Provide pictures of coats for the children to look at (cut pictures out of clothing catalogs). Talk about beautiful colors. Encourage younger children to name the colors.
- **Coat Picture:** Use a piece of cardstock to make a simple coat pattern. Using that pattern, cut pieces of felt to fit inside the coat. The children will glue the fabric inside the coat pattern.
- **Coat Puzzle:** Using a simple pattern, cut the coat into several pieces. The children put the puzzle together to form the coat.

Games

- **Button Up Relay:** Divide the class into two teams; each team lines up in single file. Give the first child in line a coat or sweater with the same number of buttons. The first child puts on the coat, buttons it completely, unbuttons, then hands it to the next child in line. Continue until each child has had a turn. The team to finish first wins.
- **Colors Game:** Ask the children to look around the room and at each other to see various colors. Then say: "I see someone wearing red." Or say, "I see something red." The children take turns guessing.
- **Action Colors:** The teacher names various actions and colors. For example, "Stand up if your favorite color is blue." "Spin around if your favorite color is red." "Jump up and down if your

favorite color is green.” “Raise your hand if your favorite color is yellow.” Then explain we all have favorite colors, and Joseph had a coat with all these favorite colors.

- **Parachute Play:** Use a colorful parachute to illustrate all the colors of Joseph’s coat and play various parachute games. Play the parachute game where all those who have red go under, then all those who have yellow, green, etc. go under.

Snacks *(Check for allergies.)*

- Colorful Trix cereal.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Joseph's Coat

Joseph had a special coat—

Yellow, blue, and red.

(hold up a finger for each color)

Joseph liked to wear his coat—

Even in his bed.

(pretend to sleep)

Joseph's Coat Sung to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush"

Joseph's father loved him so,

Loved him so, loved him so.

Joseph's father loved him so,

He made him a beautiful coat.

Joseph's coat had many colors,

Many colors, many colors.

Joseph's coat had many colors,

Red and blue and yellow.

*From Through the Bible with Finger Plays by Marian White.
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Joseph's New Coat

See Joseph's new coat?

(pretend to hold up coat)

How pretty it is!

He puts it on—so.

(put it on)

He's glad it is his.

Who gave it to him?

(touch coat)

His grandmother? No!

(shake head)

Jacob, his father

Who loved him so!

(hug coat)

*From Through the Bible with Finger Plays by Marian White.
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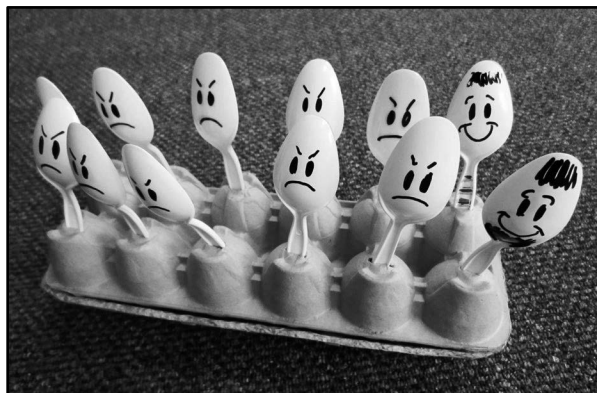
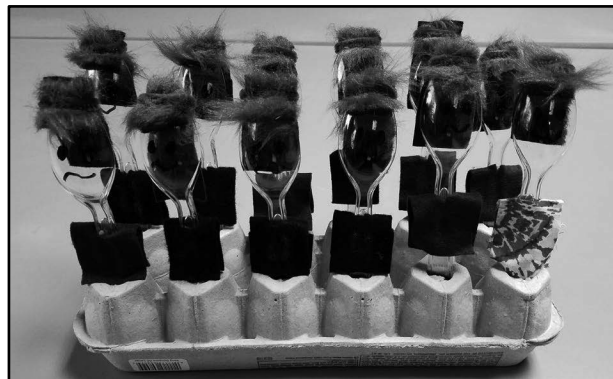
YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Think about how your family shows you loving care. Write or draw those ways in your journal. Have you told them recently how much you appreciate their kindness? Take time to do that this week. Bring a shoebox to class next week.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Young Joseph” puzzle.
- As the children arrive, share journals. Talk about being a blessing to others. Review what it means to be a blessing. How did the parents respond to the Shower of Blessings picture and coupons? Today we’ll be a blessing to our CBS preschoolers as we prepare and serve a snack to them. The Young Elementary CBS-ers can put the snacks in a clean kitchen towel tied together with yarn (1 pouch per class). Joseph may have carried his food in a similar pouch when he went to search for his brothers. Young Elementary CBS-ers may want to go into the classes in costume (old bathrobes, scarves, ties, etc.) and sit and share the snack with the class as they talk about Joseph and his brothers.
- As a review of the five lessons in this unit, encourage the children to make a movie of Joseph’s life, drawing scenes in the movie frames sheet provided (available in **Puzzles & Patterns**) or teacher can provide sheets each week. The first frame has the title and the remaining eight frames show scenes from Joseph’s life. Using today’s Scripture, the events might be:
 - (1) Title
 - (2) Young Joseph as a shepherd
 - (3) Old father Israel
 - (4) Coat
 - (5) First dream
 - (6) Second dream
 - (7) Brothers, grazing sheep
 - (8) Joseph going to Shechem
 - (9) Finding his brothers at Dothan. The teacher collects the papers each week and keeps until Lesson 12 is completed; fasten each child’s movie together.
- **Joseph’s Trip:** Make a large circle on the floor with tape. Tape down a piece of construction paper somewhere on the circle. Play music while the children walk around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is on the paper must go to the front of the line. Continue playing as long as the children are interested.

Additional Visuals

Joseph and His Brothers: Using plastic spoons or popsicle sticks, create Joseph and his 11 brothers. Draw simple faces on the spoons or on round pieces of paper. Add hair and clothing or keep it simple by drawing with a permanent marker. Remove the top of a cardboard egg carton, flip it over and stick Joseph or a brother into each spot.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 9

UNIT 2: TRUSTING GOD AS OUR HELPER **Joseph and His Family**

LESSON 9: Joseph Sold into Slavery

Scripture: Genesis 37:12-36

Story Overview: Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, especially after he told them of his dreams in which they were bowing down to him. One day, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers as they cared for their father's flocks. When they saw Joseph from a distance, they decided to kill him. Instead, they took his coat, threw him in a pit, and then sold him as a slave to a caravan headed to Egypt.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God protected Joseph.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God will protect them just as He protected Joseph.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God protected Joseph, not only in the pit, but on his way to Egypt.
- understand that God protects them just as He protected Joseph.
- respond by thanking God for His protection.

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." Hebrews 13:6
(Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Additional Verse: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." John 14:16

Key Word: PROTECTED

Craft: Pop-Up Joseph Puppet

Life Application: Joseph prayed to God when he was afraid, and God heard his prayer. God protected Joseph. Have you ever been in a place where you were afraid? Have you ever been afraid in a storm, in the dark, or when you couldn't find your parent? Know that God is your helper, and He will protect you.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God loved Joseph, and Joseph loved God. One day Joseph walked to where his brothers were taking care of the sheep. He was wearing his beautiful coat that his father Jacob had given him. He saw his brothers caring for the sheep. The brothers were unhappy with Joseph. They wanted to hurt him. They took his coat away and they put him in a hole in the ground. But some men came along, got Joseph out of the ground, and took him to a faraway country. God was with Joseph. God loved Joseph. God took care of Joseph and kept him safe.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Who can tell me the name of the shepherd boy in the Bible who had 11 brothers? That's right, Joseph. Were Joseph and his brothers nice to each other? No. Remember, Joseph's brothers were jealous. Why? Because their father Jacob had given Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors, and he hadn't given beautiful coats to the other brothers. Can you think of another reason? Yes, Joseph had dreamed that someday his brothers would bow down before him, as if he were a king!

Today, we're going to finish hearing about the trip Joseph's father sent him on to find his brothers and their sheep. Joseph walked and walked and walked until he reached the place his father told him to go. There was no one to be seen anywhere. Do you think Joseph turned around and went home? No. He knew his father Jacob would be waiting to hear if his brothers and sheep were safe and doing well.

As Joseph kept looking, a man noticed him wandering in the fields. "Who are you looking for?" he asked. "For my brothers and their sheep," Joseph replied. "Have you seen them?" The man answered, "Yes, but they are no longer here. I heard your brothers say they were going to Dothan." Dothan was a lot farther away. Joseph was probably really tired. Do you think he gave up? No, he kept on because he knew his father would want to know about his brothers. Remember, Joseph was all alone and so far from his home. Joseph could have been afraid, but he trusted God to be his helper.

Joseph kept on walking until he reached Dothan. And there in the far distance he could see his brothers and all the sheep. Joseph was tired but happy to see his brothers were safe.

But Joseph's brothers weren't so happy to see him! They saw his coat of many colors as he came across the field. "Here comes the dreamer," they said. Before Joseph got much closer they said, "Let's throw him into a well, and tell Father that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see if his dreams come true!"

So when Joseph walked up to them, they grabbed him, pulled off his coat, and threw him into a well. A well is a big hole in the ground with water in it. But this particular well had no water in it. Still, Joseph couldn't get out. Joseph cried out to his brothers to help him out, but they wouldn't answer him! What a terrible thing for his brothers to do! Joseph cried out to God, "Help me, God, help me!" God heard Joseph.

After the jealous brothers thought they were rid of their “dreamer brother,” they started to eat their supper. They looked up quickly as they heard the tinkling, tinkling sound of bells in the distance.

(Teacher, bring bells to ring at this point in the story.) **The brothers saw a line of camels coming down the road, with their bells ringing. Men rode on the camels. They were traders who were taking spices and herbs to sell in a faraway land called Egypt. (Before or at the end of the story, let children smell and feel herbs and spices.)**

One of the brothers said, “Let’s sell Joseph to these men. Then we won’t be responsible for his death. They can take him with them to Egypt and sell him as a slave. Then we will never have to see him again or hear about his dreams of ruling over us as a king.”

His brothers agreed. So Joseph was quickly pulled out of the well and sold as a slave. The traders tied Joseph’s hands, put him on a camel, and took him off to the land of Egypt.

Then the mean brothers took Joseph’s coat of many colors and ripped it to make it look as if a wild animal had killed Joseph. They took the coat and showed it to their father. Jacob was upset and very sad to lose Joseph, his very special son.

Jacob thought Joseph was dead. He didn’t know Joseph was on a camel riding to Egypt. Joseph’s brothers did a very cruel and mean thing to their brother. But they didn’t know that God had a very special plan for the rest of Joseph’s life!

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use bells, spices, and herbs at designated spots in the story.
- Act out story. Create a well using a hula hoop with a trash bag taped around it. Have a child stand in the center of the hula hoop and lift up as if dropping into the well. You could also use a big box and put “Joseph” into the well.
- Review Lesson 8 by showing the coat of many colors and the plastic spoon figures of Joseph’s brothers.

Interest Centers

- Display pictures of camels.
- Provide herbs and spices for children to smell and touch.
- On cardstock or heavy paper, print the word “protect.” Let the children form the letters from Wikki Stix or modeling dough. Emphasize the fact that God protected Joseph.

Games

- Encourage the children to pretend they are riding camels in the desert. Pretend the camel is lowering itself to the floor, child gets on, and then the camel stands back up. Talk about how

high they would be sitting on the tall camel, and how strange it would feel as the camel walked around on its long legs.

- **Coat of Many Colors Race:** Have one white coat and one colored coat. Wear one coat, run to the other side, switch coats, run back and give the coat to the next person on the team.
- **Drop Joseph into a Well Game:** Using a small wooden or plastic figure and a tin can or plastic cup, try to drop the figure into the cup, standing with arm held out in front. How many times does it take to get the figure in the cup?
- **Joseph in the Pit Bean Bag Toss:** Make a “pit” out of masking tape on the floor. Let the children take turns throwing bean bags into the pit to represent Joseph going into the pit.
- **Pin the Tail on the Camel:** Play during game time or as the children come in.

Action Rhymes & Songs

God is So Great

God is so great,	<i>(spread arms wide)</i>
I am so small.	<i>(crouch down)</i>
But God is with me.	<i>(point to self)</i>
He's with us all.	<i>(point to everyone)</i>

God Is with Me Sung to the tune of “London Bridge”

God is with me all the time, All the time, all the time. God is with me all the time, He is with me.	<i>(Two children form a bridge by joining hands and holding their arms up while other children walk under. On the last line, the bridge should come down gently around one child. That child should name a place where God is with him or her.)</i>
God is with me everywhere, Everywhere, everywhere. God is with me everywhere, Everywhere I am.	

*From 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Look up in your Bible and write in your journal at least one verse about God’s protection. (Or draw the picture of God’s protection.) Write the same verse on a small card or draw a picture and this week, give it to someone you know who can be blessed by the verse.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Joseph’s Trouble” puzzle.
- **Two Truths and a Fib:** Have each child tell two things that are true and one that is not, keeping a straight face while doing so. See if the other children can guess which is the fib. Discuss the consequences of telling fibs like Joseph’s brothers did.
- **Diorama:** Use shoe boxes to create a diorama scene. (A diorama is a small 3-dimensional scene in a box.) The children choose a segment of today’s Scripture to illustrate. (Pair an older child with a younger child.) Place a shoe box on its side. Cut plain paper to fit the inside “walls.” Make background scenes. Glue these to the inside of the box or use tape or staples. Prepare

figures or objects by using clothespins, wire, pipe cleaners, clay, cloth scraps, cardboard, or paper. To make trees, houses, etc., use twigs, rocks, pebbles, cardboard, sponges, etc. The teacher provides an assortment of items. Tape figures and objects to the bottom of the box. Reinforce if necessary. (Teacher: Be sure to have extra shoe boxes available for any children who may have forgotten to bring one.)

- **Role Play:** This is a wonderful story to act out. Costumes and simple props will make it more meaningful for the children.
- Make the second page of movie of Joseph's life. The children select major events from Genesis 37:19-36. Example of frames:
 - 1) Reuben and his brothers
 - 2) Joseph's clothes stripped from him, and Joseph thrown in well
 - 3) Caravan
 - 4) Pulling Joseph out of the well
 - 5) Reuben's grief
 - 6) Joseph's robe with blood
 - 7) Brothers taking the robe to Jacob
 - 8) Sadness of Jacob
 - 9) Joseph sold to Potiphar.

(These are only suggestions. The children choose the key ideas they want to illustrate.)



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 10

UNIT 2: TRUSTING GOD AS OUR HELPER Joseph and His Family

LESSON 10: Joseph Interprets a Dream

Scripture: Genesis 39:1-6, 20-23, 41:1-43

Story Overview: Joseph was brought to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers. He was put in charge of Potiphar's household but was wrongly put in jail. While there, Joseph interpreted two fellow prisoners' dreams. Several years later, Pharaoh had a disturbing dream that God helped Joseph interpret. This pleased Pharaoh, and Joseph was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt. Joseph collected food during the seven years of abundance to prepare for the seven years of famine.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God helped Joseph understand Pharaoh's dream.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God will help them understand hard things just as He helped Joseph understand the meaning of Pharaoh's dream.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God helped Joseph understand Pharaoh's dream.
- realize that God is able to help them understand difficult things.
- ask the Lord for His help to understand any questions they may have.

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." Hebrews 13:6
(Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Additional Verse: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." John 14:16

Key Word: UNDERSTAND

Craft: Necklace from Pharaoh

Life Application: Some things can be hard to understand, but God knows everything and He can help you understand difficult things. You just need to ask Him!

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God loved Joseph, and Joseph loved God. God took care of Joseph. Joseph was now in a faraway land ... far away from his brothers. The king was having bad dreams. The king asked Joseph to tell him what the dreams meant. Joseph could not do this, but God could. God helped Joseph tell about the dreams. The king listened to Joseph, and the king believed Joseph. The king gave Joseph an important job. He gave Joseph special gifts. God helped Joseph and took care of him. God loved Joseph. God loves you. God takes care of you.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Shh! Do you hear bells? Those are the same bells we heard last week. Those are the bells on the camels of the traders! Remember, Joseph's jealous brothers sold him, and then he rode away on a camel with the traders who bought him. In Egypt the traders sold Joseph to a really important man who worked for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Joseph had no family or friends in this strange land, but he wasn't alone. God was with him, and he knew God would be his helper.

God helped take good care of Joseph. Joseph worked hard for his new master, and before long he was put in charge of his new master's home. Everything seemed to be going just right for Joseph until one day someone told lies about Joseph. Then Joseph was sent to prison.

Even though Joseph was in prison, he wasn't afraid. You see, God was his helper there, too! Joseph was so good in prison that he was soon put in charge of all the other prisoners. Many bad things had happened to Joseph, but he knew God was with him always and would be his helper wherever he was. Joseph remembered this for the next two years while he was kept in prison.

Do you think God forgot about Joseph? No, God had a very special plan for Joseph to help Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was very worried. He had two dreams, and these dreams bothered him because he didn't know what they meant. Pharaoh remembered these dreams and he couldn't think of anything else! He just had to know what these dreams meant.

Everyone in Pharaoh's palace (or house) was upset because no one understood the meaning of the dreams. Pharaoh had called for all the wise men in Egypt to see if they understood his dreams. But no one could help the worried king.

Then one of Pharaoh's workers remembered Joseph. This man remembered that Joseph had helped him with his dream while he was in prison, and that what Joseph said had come true. Pharaoh called for Joseph to be brought out of prison to him after Pharaoh heard what Joseph had done for his worker.

Joseph was brought before Pharaoh. "I had a dream last night," Pharaoh said to Joseph, "and no one can tell me what it means. I have heard that you can tell the meaning of dreams." "I can't do it by myself," Joseph said, "but God will help me tell you what they mean." Pharaoh then told Joseph all about his dreams. Joseph listened very carefully. God helped

Joseph understands the meaning of the two dreams. Joseph said there would be seven years of abundance all through the land, and there would be more than enough food for everyone to eat. Then there would be seven years of famine. This meant that the crops would not grow. Then there would be nothing for any of the people to eat.

Joseph told Pharaoh what he needed to do to save all the people in Egypt from the famine. Pharaoh listened to Joseph and believed him. Pharaoh decided that Joseph was the wisest man in Egypt, and then he put Joseph in charge of all of Egypt. Only Pharaoh was more important than Joseph. Pharaoh put a royal golden chain around Joseph's neck and dressed him in beautiful clothes. Now Joseph looked just like a king, too!

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- For visual aids in telling this story, prepare four bags with the following items in them:
 - 1: money (Joseph being sold)
 - 2: chains (in jail)
 - 3: pillow (Pharaoh's dream)
 - 4: crown or necklace (Joseph in charge)
- Create a story wheel. Show the children the story out of order. Explain that it doesn't make sense out of order. You have to know where to start and end in order to understand the story.
- Use play food to explain plenty and famine and storing some food away for lean years.

Interest Centers

- Costume jewelry (inexpensive pieces you can easily find at a secondhand store) for the children to try on.
- **Mural:** The teacher draws stalks on mural paper. The children either tear or cut green construction paper leaves and glue onto mural. This project illustrates the harvest of plenty.

Games

- **What's My Dream?** Act out a made-up dream and let others guess what the dream is.
- **What's Missing?** Place numerous items (pertaining to Joseph's story) on a tray. Remove one item and have the children guess what is missing. *Suggestions:* bells; sheep; necklace; play food; the number "7"; pictures of coat, king, Joseph, camel, etc.
- **Memory Game:** Play a memory game and talk about times when we dream but don't remember.

Action Rhymes & Songs**Joseph and the King**

Here is Joseph,
 Here is the king.
 God loved Joseph
 And took good care of him.

(hold up pointer finger—left hand)
(hold up pointer finger—right hand)
(hug self)

God Takes Care of MeSung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

God takes care of me.
 God takes care of me.
 He will help me to be brave.
 God takes care of me.

(point to self)
(point to self)
(reach arms high in praise)
(point to self)

God takes care of me.
 God takes care of me.
 He hears me when I pray to Him.
 God takes care of me.

(point to self)
(point to self)
(fold hands in prayer)
(point to self)

God Takes Care of JosephSung to the tune of *"London Bridge"*

God takes care of Joseph,
 Joseph, Joseph.
 God takes care of Joseph,
 Even in a jail.

God takes Joseph out of jail,
 Out of jail, out of jail.
 God takes Joseph out of jail,
 He helped interpret a dream.

Pharaoh believed Joseph's dream,
 Joseph's dream, Joseph's dream.
 Pharaoh believed Joseph's dream,
 And made him be his helper.

Pharaoh gave Joseph a necklace,
 Necklace, necklace.
 Pharaoh gave Joseph a necklace,
 Along with beautiful clothes.

God Takes Care of MeSung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

God takes care of me.
 God takes care of me.
 He will help me to be brave.
 God takes care of me.

(point to self)
(point to self)
(reach arms high in praise)
(point to self)

God takes care of me.
 God takes care of me.
 He hears me when I pray to Him.
 God takes care of me.

(point to self)
(point to self)
(fold hands in prayer)
(point to self)

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Is there something about God that you don't understand? Write down a few questions in your journal. Pray for God's wisdom and ask someone you trust to help explain it to you.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Jacob's Sons" word search.
- Help the children understand famine and drought by showing pictures of appropriate land and people. (*National Geographic* is a good resource.) Discuss what we can do today to help distressed people and lands. Allow the children to be "dreamers" and think of possible solutions. List ways we can prepare now for scarcity in the future; what we can do to preserve our natural resources; how you would help poverty-stricken countries today, etc.
- **Harvest of Plenty Mural:** The teacher draws stalks on mural paper. The children either tear or cut green construction paper leaves and glue on the mural. This project illustrates a harvest of plenty.
- The children add a third page of movie frames of Joseph's life.
- Review of Joseph's Life: As a review (to this point), print the word "Joseph" vertically on a chalkboard. Give a clue or hint for each letter, such as:

J	ealous	(brothers' attitude toward Joseph)
O	bedient	(how Joseph was toward his father)
S	heep	(Joseph was sent to look for his brothers and _____)
E	gypt	(country where Joseph was sent)
P	haraoh	(Joseph was a servant in his house)
H	elped	(what God did for Joseph)

Review a second time:

J	acob	(Joseph's father)
O	ldest	(the brother who did not want to kill Joseph)
S	lave	(Joseph was sold as a _____)
E	leven	(number of brothers Joseph had)
P	it	(where brothers put Joseph)
H	arm	(what brothers planned for Joseph)



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 11

UNIT 2: TRUSTING GOD AS OUR HELPER Joseph and His Family

LESSON 11: Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Scripture: Genesis 41:46-57, 42-43, 45:1-15

Story Overview: Joseph was made governor of the land of Egypt, managing all of the food gathered and given out during the years of plenty and famine. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food for their hungry families. They didn't recognize Joseph, but he recognized them. After putting them through several tests to see if they had changed, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and showed them kindness and forgiveness.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Joseph forgave his brothers.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to forgive others just as Joseph forgave his brothers.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Joseph forgave his brothers for what they had done to him.
- understand that God wants them to forgive others.
- choose to forgive someone who has wronged them or to ask for forgiveness of someone they have offended.

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." Hebrews 13:6
(Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Additional Verse: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." John 14:16

Key Word: FORGIVE

Craft: Happy Face, Sad Face Stick Puppet

Life Application: Sometimes people do things to us that make us sad or even mad. We have a choice to stay mad or to forgive them. Which do you think God would want us to do? Even when it's hard, God can help us when we choose to forgive.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God loved Joseph, and Joseph loved God. God took care of Joseph. Joseph was a special helper to the king. Joseph helped give food to all the people. Joseph's brothers needed food. They came to buy food. They didn't know Joseph was there. Joseph saw his brothers ... the ones who had taken his beautiful coat and tried to hurt him. Joseph was not angry with his brothers. He still loved his brothers. Joseph wanted to help his brothers—to give them food. God loved Joseph and took care of him. Joseph would take care of his brothers.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Do you remember last week's story when Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had a dream and wanted to know what it meant? Who was able to tell him? That's right. It was Joseph. Joseph told Pharaoh that after seven years of good crops, there would be seven bad years with no crops. There would be a famine—with no food to eat in all the land. **Joseph was put in charge of collecting food and putting it away to save for these seven bad years. He helped the people collect grain to put in big barns, so there would be plenty of food for them to eat during the seven bad years.**

In the land of Canaan where Joseph's father and his 11 brothers lived, there was no food either. One day Jacob called the brothers together and said to them, "I have heard there is food in Egypt. Go down there to buy some." So, all the brothers went, except Benjamin, the youngest brother. Jacob didn't want Benjamin to go because he was afraid something might happen to him. You see, he still remembered what happened to Joseph many years ago.

It had been 20 years since Joseph had seen his father or brothers. **Joseph was the person in charge of selling food to the people, and it was Joseph whom the brothers would have to see in order to buy food. As the brothers came before Joseph, they did as everyone else was doing—they bowed down low. Whenever people came before Pharaoh or his helper, they would bow down low to show respect. The brothers had no idea they were bowing down to Joseph, their very own brother!** But Joseph recognized them, and knew that they were the angry, jealous brothers who had sold him many years ago. Joseph's childhood dream was now coming true. His brothers were bowing down to him as if he were Pharaoh!

Joseph asked his brothers some questions. He wanted to find out if they were still mean or if they had changed. Joseph spoke roughly to his brothers. "Where are you from?" "From the land of Canaan," they answered. "We have come to buy grain for food." Joseph said, "You are spies!" "No, no!" they said. "We are not spies. There are twelve of us brothers. Our father is in Canaan. Our youngest brother is there with him, and our other brother is dead."

"I still think you are spies, and this is the way I will see if you are telling the truth. Leave one of your brothers here with me, take grain for your families, and go on home. But bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know whether you are spies or honest men. If you prove to be what you say, then I will give you back your brother and you can come as often as you like to purchase grain."

The brothers turned to each other and said, “This has happened because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We heard him crying to us not to sell him, and we wouldn’t listen to him.” They thought they were being punished for the bad thing they had done.

Joseph heard all of this as he was standing nearby. **He realized his brothers were sorry for the mean things they had done to him many, many years ago. Even though his brothers had done mean things to him, Joseph was willing to forgive them. Joseph still loved his brothers.**

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- For older children, use a dry erase board to write many letters of the alphabet. Be sure to include only one of each letter for the word “FORGIVE.” Ask a child to erase all the letter A’s; ask another child to erase all the letter T’s, etc., until the only letters remaining are the letters “FORGIVE.” The teacher then prints the letters in the correct order and emphasizes today’s lesson is a story of forgiveness.
- Use a chalkboard or dry erase board to demonstrate forgiveness. Scribble on the board, then erase the scribbles. Explain that the scribbles are like hurt feelings and God helps us “erase” them away when we forgive. If we keep adding scribbles without erasing them, things can get very messy and ugly.
- Use the plastic spoon or cup figures from lesson 8.

Interest Centers

- Display a variety of seeds and grains for children to see and touch. If you have a large enough bag or container of seed, hide a few small objects in the seed.
- Provide activities relating to the number seven. For example:
Prior to class, collect seven large coffee cans and seven small beanbags. Use a permanent marker to number the cans with dots (one through seven). The children try to toss the correct number of beanbags into the appropriate can. Or,
Print the numbers 1 through 7 on cards. Hide the cards around the room. When the children find the cards, they try to put the cards in the correct order.

Games

- **Carry the Seed:** Divide the children into teams. Give the first player on each team a plastic spoon with a pumpkin seed or popcorn kernel on it. At a given signal, the child with the spoon walks or runs to a designated area and back without dropping the seed. The next player does the same. *Adapt for younger children:* Let each child have a seed and walk over to a container and drop them in.

Action Rhymes & Songs**Helping**

I can sometimes help my daddy;	<i>(pretend to push lawnmower)</i>
I can sometimes help my mommy;	<i>(pretend to stir a bowl)</i>
But in each and every way,	
God's my helper every day.	<i>(point up)</i>

The Lord Wants Me to Forgive Sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

The Lord wants me to forgive,
 To forgive, to forgive.
 The Lord wants me to forgive,
 He has forgiven me.

Help Me to Forgive Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"

Jesus help me, Jesus help me,
 To forgive, To forgive.
 Even when I'm sad, Even when I'm sad,
 Please help me, Please help me.

Additional verses:

Even when I'm mad.
 Even when I'm hurt.
 Even when I'm bad.

By Janet Kroon

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Find a small box, wrap it with gift wrap and write "FORGIVENESS" on it. Place it someplace where you will see it often, like by your bedside, as a reminder of what a gift forgiveness is. Whenever you see the gift-wrapped box, think about someone you might need to forgive or ask for their forgiveness—and do it!

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Joseph's Brothers Visit" puzzle.
- As the children arrive, provide a chalkboard eraser, pencil eraser, bar of soap, and "forgiveness" printed on a card. Begin a discussion: How are these things alike? What do they have in common? What does forgiveness mean? (When you forgive someone, it's like erasing the past.) Help the children draw or make a list of: 1) Things God has forgiven you for; 2) Things you need to forgive others for.
- **Chain of Forgiveness:** Let the children cut strips of construction paper about 1" x 4". Ask the children to think about times when family or friends may have hurt them. Instruct them to write one name per strip of paper. Help the children who are just learning to write. Glue strips together to make a chain for the whole group. As each loop is attached, encourage the children to forgive that person. Take the chain apart later in the day and give loops to individual children to take home.
- Make the fourth movie page of Joseph's life.

- Cut 16 footprints out of paper. On first nine footprints, write (1 word per footprint): *“Be-kind-to-one-another,-forgiving-each-other-Ephesians 4:32.”* On other seven footprints, write (1 word per footprint): *“Forgive-and-you-will-be-forgiven-Luke 6:37.”* As you read the first verse slowly, place the footprints in order on the floor. Re-read several times. Give each child an opportunity to remove one footprint while the others’ backs are turned. Then ask others to look and try to guess which word/footprint is missing. When the children are very familiar with verse, scramble the words and let the children place them in correct order. Follow the same procedure for the Luke verse.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 12

UNIT 2: TRUSTING GOD AS OUR HELPER Joseph and His Family

LESSON 12: Joseph Unites His Family in Love

Scripture: Genesis 45–47

Story Overview: After Joseph forgave his brothers, he sent them to Canaan to bring his father, Jacob, to Egypt. Jacob rejoiced to see his beloved son again, and Pharaoh allowed all of Joseph's family to settle in Egypt.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Joseph was thankful to be with his family again.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that they should be thankful for their families just as Joseph was.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Joseph was thankful to be reunited with his family.
- realize that they should be thankful for the gift of family that the Lord has given them.
- show their thankfulness by being kind and loving to their family members.

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." Hebrews 13:6
(Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Additional Verse: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." John 14:16

Key Word: THANKFUL

Craft: Thanksgiving Apron or Thanksgiving Prayer Turkey

Life Application: The holidays are a special time of the year to remember how much we have to be thankful for, especially the blessing of family. Think of ways to show those you love how much they mean to you.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Joseph was excited. His brothers were coming to buy more food. When his brothers arrived, he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph. You wanted to hurt me. You put me in a hole in the ground, but God took care of me." He hugged his brothers. He kissed his brothers. God loved Joseph, and God took care of him in this faraway land. God loved and took care of Joseph's brothers, and his whole family. God loves and takes care of you.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Who are those ten men bowing down to Joseph? Look, they are his brothers! Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy grain for food. They came and bowed down before Joseph, not knowing that he was the brother they had been jealous of, and had sold to traders many years ago.

Remember, at first Joseph was rough with his brothers. He had told them they were spies, but he began to see they were sorry for what they had done. Once they were angry and mean, but now Joseph could tell they were thinking and caring about their family.

Joseph told the brothers he would keep their brother Simeon in Egypt with him, while they went back to the land of Canaan to get their younger brother, Benjamin. This would prove they weren't spies. They knew their father would not want to let Benjamin leave him, but they had no other choice.

When the brothers arrived home, they told their father everything that had happened. Jacob was afraid and said, "First, Joseph is gone, Simeon has been left in Egypt, and now you want to take Benjamin, too. I will not let you. He will not go!"

But soon all the food they had brought back from Egypt was gone. So Jacob said, "Go to Egypt again and buy us some more food." Judah said, "This man wasn't fooling one bit when he said not to come back unless our youngest brother is with us. We can't go back, unless you let Benjamin go with us."

Jacob thought and thought about it, and finally he said very sadly, "Very well. You take Benjamin and also load up the donkeys with gifts to take to the man. May God make him kind so he will let Simeon go and then return Benjamin to me."

So they took the gifts and went back to Egypt. The brothers were again bowing before Joseph, but this time Benjamin was with them. When Joseph saw them, he said to his servant, "These men will eat with me at my house today. Take them home and prepare a huge dinner." The brothers were frightened when they were taken to Joseph's house. You see, they didn't know what he was going to do to them.

Simeon was brought to be with the rest of his brothers. They probably were surprised when they were treated as guests instead of prisoners. Joseph had the servants seat them at the table beginning with Reuben, the oldest, and on down to Benjamin, in the order of age. I'm sure they were amazed that this man knew their ages. Joseph asked about Jacob, "How is your father? Is

he alive?" "Yes," they said. "He is alive and well." Looking at Benjamin Joseph asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" **Joseph looked at his brothers with love but they still didn't realize Joseph was their brother. They all had a wonderful meal together. It was a happy time!**

Finally, Joseph couldn't keep from telling his brothers who he was. "I am Joseph," he said to them. The brothers couldn't say a word. They were so surprised and probably afraid of what he would do to get back at them for being so mean to him all those years ago.

"Come over to me!" Joseph said. As they came closer he said, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Don't be angry with yourselves that you did this to me. For God did it. You meant to hurt me, but God brought me here ahead of you to save your lives. These two years no food will grow into seven years with no food. God brought me here to keep you and your families alive, so that you will become a great nation."

Joseph was filled with joy as he hugged all his brothers. He wasn't angry with them for what they had done. He was glad to be together with them again. You see, Joseph knew that God had been his helper and was working out His plan all along.

Joseph sent his brothers back to Canaan to tell their father that Joseph was still alive. He said, "Tell father that God has made me the ruler of all the land of Egypt. Come down to me right away. You shall live near me with all your children, your grandchildren, your flocks and herds of cattle, and all that you have. I will take care of you!"

God had turned into good what Joseph's brothers meant for evil, when they put him in the well and then sold him. God was Joseph's helper and made him a ruler in Egypt, so he could save the lives of many people, including his own family.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Tell the story with simple stick figures drawn on a dry erase board or large pad of paper. The first picture could be the ten men bowing down to Joseph. Draw sacks of food, and then erase the sacks. Draw Benjamin and some donkeys. Conclude the story by printing the words forgive, love, joy.
- Use the plastic spoon or cup figures from Lesson 8.

Interest Centers

- Children may make the craft (Thanksgiving apron) as an opening activity and then wear aprons as they prepare a Thanksgiving feast. See the Craft Manual for apron directions. Encourage the children to wear their aprons at home as they help with Thanksgiving dinner.
- Teachers can wear aprons.

- Create a poster with the words “Thank you, God, for . . .” at the top. The children say what they are thankful for and the teacher writes it on the poster board. Review together and put the poster up in the hallway.

Snacks *(Check for allergies.)*

- Prepare a Thanksgiving feast. Let each child add one ingredient. Mix raisins, pretzel sticks, cheerios, marshmallows, etc. and pour into small cups for snack time. Gather together and talk about what they are thankful for.

Action Rhymes & Songs

God Loves Us All

God loves the daddies tall,	<i>(reach high)</i>
God loves the babies small,	<i>(stoop low)</i>
God loves the ones in between;	<i>(hand out straight)</i>
Oh, how God loves us all!	<i>(point to all)</i>

Jesus Helps Me Say, “I’m Sorry” Sung to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush”

Join hands and walk in a circle while singing:

Jesus helps me say, “I’m sorry,”
Say, “I’m sorry,” say, “I’m sorry.”
Jesus helps me say, “I’m sorry”
When I’ve hurt someone.

Jesus helps me say, “I forgive,”
Say, “I forgive,” say, “I forgive.”
Jesus helps me say, “I forgive”
When someone hurts me.

From 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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I’m Glad I Have a Family Sung to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie”

I am glad I have a family,
A family, a family.
I am glad I have a family,
A family to love.

Additional verses: Substitute words for “family” such as
mommy, daddy, sister, brother, grandma, grandpa.

From Piggyback Songs in Praise to God by Jean Warren.
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I Love All My Family Sung to the tune of *"Mary Had a Little Lamb"*

I love all my family,
My family, my family.
I love all my family,
They are good to me.

I love all my family,
My family, my family.
I love all my family,
They take care of me.

By Janet Kroon

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Draw pictures of things you are thankful for. Be creative, using lots of colors.

- Before class, the teacher prepares slips of paper containing facts about Joseph (one fact per slip of paper). Ideas: Joseph's father gave him a beautiful coat; Joseph had interesting dreams; Joseph's brothers sold him; Joseph went to prison; Joseph explained Pharaoh's dreams; there was a famine; Joseph's family moved to Egypt; Joseph forgave his brothers; etc. Place the slips of paper in a container. Each child draws one, and then acts it out for the group. The group must determine which segment of Joseph's life that person is acting out.
- Make the fifth movie page of Joseph's life. Teacher may tape or glue all the frames together today to make one long strip of each child's pictures. Turn a small box into a "TV" and pull all the frames through slits in the sides for: "TV Special: The Life of Joseph."
- **Deliver Grain to Joseph's Grainery:** Divide children into teams of five or six players. One person (Joseph) on each team sits on the ground at the end of the playing area. Use aluminum pie plate as a hat for each "Joseph." Punch holes on two sides and string with yarn, so the pie plate sits on top of the head with yarn tied to secure it. Give each team a large serving spoon and a bag of dried beans. At the teacher's signal, the first person on each team scoops beans into the spoon and walks or runs to "Joseph" and dumps the beans into the pie plate. "Joseph" must sit very still to keep the beans in his or her hat. If a child drops beans along the way, he or she cannot stop to pick them up. The team with the most beans at the end of the race is the winner.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 13

UNIT 2: TRUSTING GOD AS OUR HELPER

LESSON 13: Jonah Learns to Obey God

Scripture: Book of Jonah

Story Overview: God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh, but Jonah didn't listen to God. Instead, Jonah tried to run away from God by getting on a ship. As a result, Jonah was tossed overboard and swallowed by a large fish. Jonah was sorry for not listening to God and doing what God asked. God saved Jonah from the belly of the whale, and Jonah went to the city of Ninevah just as God had told him to do.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jonah needed to listen to God when He told him to go to Ninevah.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to listen to Him and obey Him just as He wanted Jonah to do.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jonah was swallowed up by a great fish because he did not listen to God.
- understand how important it is to listen to God and do what He asks, even if they are afraid.
- listen to God and ask Him for His help to do hard things.

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." Hebrews 13:6
(Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Additional Verse: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." John 14:16

Key Word: LISTEN

Craft: Paper Fish with Jonah in the Mouth

Life Application: How does God speak to us? He might speak through prayer, Scripture, a friend or a pastor. He might also speak through circumstances that clearly point the way in which you should go. There are many ways to listen to God—what is most important is that you do what He asks.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jonah was a man who did not obey God. He did not do what God told him. Jonah went on a big boat. A big storm came. The wind blew. It rained. Jonah went into the water. A big fish opened his mouth and gulp ... swallowed Jonah! Jonah went inside the big fish. Jonah prayed to God. God heard his prayer, and God made the fish cough ... and out popped Jonah! Jonah was so happy. He did what God told him. God loved Jonah and took care of him. God loves and takes care of you.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Our Bible tells that once there was a man named Jonah. Jonah did not do what God wanted him to do. God loved Jonah and wanted him to learn to do right. So God used a great big fish to teach Jonah a lesson. Jonah needed to learn to obey God. To obey means to do what you are told to do.

One day, God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people there that God was not pleased with what they were doing. They were doing wrong things. Jonah was afraid to go because of the wicked people who lived there. Instead of doing what God told him, he tried to run away from God. Down at the seashore, he found a ship that was ready to sail across the sea. Jonah paid his fare and went on the ship, and it sailed out to sea.

Soon a terrible storm came up. The winds blew hard, and the lightning flashed. Very high waves crashed down on the ship. The storm was so strong that there was danger that the ship would break up into pieces. The men on the ship were afraid. Somehow the men knew that somebody on the ship had done something wrong, and they were all being punished for it.

The captain of the boat went to every man to try to find out who had caused all this trouble. When they came to Jonah, who was fast asleep, he awoke and told them what he had done. He told them he had not obeyed God.

The men said to Jonah, "What shall we do to you so the storm will stop and the wind and sea will be calm again?" Jonah answered, "Put me overboard right into the sea with its huge waves, because it's my fault there is a storm." The men did not want to do that but the storm became much worse. It became so bad that the sailors finally tossed Jonah into the sea.

At that very moment, the wind stopped blowing, the waves calmed down, and the sea became calm. And at that very same time God caused a great big fish (like a whale) to swim by. God made the fish swallow Jonah with one big gulp—*not* to hurt Jonah, but only to swallow him. Down he went into the big fish's stomach. Jonah spent three days and three nights inside the big fish.

Jonah was frightened and felt all alone. He told God he was very sorry he had not done what God told him to do. Jonah prayed and asked God to forgive him. God heard Jonah's

prayers. (God also hears us when we say we are sorry for doing wrong things.) God spoke to the fish, and had the fish cough Jonah out onto dry land. Jonah wasn't even hurt. God again told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to talk to the people. Do you think he listened to God this time? Yes! This time, Jonah did exactly as God told him.

God used a great big fish to teach Jonah that it is good and right to do what He tells us to do. God loved Jonah and wanted him to obey.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- This story is full of action words, so involve the children in the storytelling process. For example: shake head for Jonah not wanting to obey; imitate running away from God; make the fierce sounds of the wind blowing; move hands for waves; rock back and forth to show the boat tossing in the sea, etc.
- Make a whale by covering a table with a blue plastic tablecloth or sheet. Tape two giant eyes and a tale made of construction paper to your "whale." Let the children sit under the table to pretend to be in the stomach of the whale as you tell the story.
- Draw the outline of a whale or boat on the floor with masking/painter's tape. The children sit inside the outline while story is told. (Or spread an old sheet on the floor and pretend it is the boat.)
- Read aloud the story of Jonah. As the children listen, ask them to think of motions to portray actions in the story. (The teacher can list the motions.) Re-read the story, and let the children do the motions. Suggestions: When the Lord speaks: cup hand to ear, walk or run in place, blow, rock back and forth, or cough out Jonah.

Interest Centers

- On large paper, draw a picture of a whale (large fish). Let the children color.
- Water play.
- Use various fishing games.
- Use modeling dough to create fish, sea creatures, etc.

Games

- **Whale Toss:** Use a bucket or large box, and pretend it is the whale's mouth. The children take turns tossing bean bags (or other small soft objects) inside the whale's mouth.
- **Big Fish, Big Fish game:** (played like Duck, Duck, Goose) The children sit in a circle and choose one child to be "It." "It" walks around the circle, tapping the top of each child's head saying, "Big fish, big fish in the sea. You caught Jonah, but you can't catch me!" The child whose head is tapped on "me!" runs around the circle, trying to catch "It" before he/she sits down in "Me's" empty spot.

- **Fishing Game:** Have the children go fishing. Cut out fish from different color construction paper and put a paper clip on each fish. Make fishing poles by tying a string on a dowel or sturdy tree branch and then tying a small magnet on the string on the other end.

Snacks *(Check for allergies.)*

- Whale crackers.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Jonah and the Fish

Here is Jonah,	<i>(pointer finger, left hand)</i>
Here is the big fish.	<i>(swimming motions with right hand)</i>
The big fish opened his big mouth	<i>(open hand)</i>
And gulped poor Jonah in!	<i>(left pointer finger inside right hand)</i>
Here is the big fish	<i>(with left pointer inside right hand,</i>
Swimming along.	<i>make swimming motions)</i>
God made the big fish cough,	<i>(open the right hand wide)</i>
And Jonah came swimming out!	<i>("swim" with left pointer finger)</i>

Jonah Sung to the tune of *"Mary Had a Little Lamb"*

Thank You, God, that Jonah learned,
Jonah learned, Jonah learned.
Thank You, God, that Jonah learned,
To listen and obey!

Jonah Sung to the tune of *"Mary Had a Little Lamb"*

Jonah had to learn to obey,
Learn to obey, learn to obey.
Jonah had to learn to obey,
What God told him to do.

Jonah prayed and said, "I'm sorry,"
Said, "I'm sorry," said "I'm sorry."
Jonah prayed and said, "I'm sorry."
God heard Jonah's prayers.

Jonah went to Nineveh,
Nineveh, Nineveh.
Jonah went to Nineveh
And did as God told him.

Thank you, God, for Jonah,
Jonah, Jonah.
Thank you, God, that Jonah,
Learned to listen and obey!

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Listening is an important skill to have, especially when it comes to listening to your parents, but it's even more important to listen AND obey. Write down in your journal at least one time you listened to your parents and did what they asked.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Jonah” dot-to-dot picture, “Seek and Find” word search and “Jonah” puzzle.
- **Create a Sea Picture:** Using a white crayon or candle, draw a picture of Jonah at sea. Then brush blue watercolor paint over the entire picture and let it dry.

Additional Visuals



The Whale: Create a whale to use in telling the story or for the children to play in during other class activities. Tape black garbage bags together and drape over chairs. Add eyes and a mouth and tail. Use small pop-up tent in the same way.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 14

UNIT 3: TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISE **Jesus's Birth to Baptism**

LESSON 14: Jesus Is Promised

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56

Story Overview: The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, telling her she would be the mother of God's Son. Mary knew that this impossible thing was a gift from God and sang a song of praise to the Lord for this honor. The angel of the Lord also appeared to Joseph in a dream, confirming that the baby to be born of Mary would be Immanuel, "God with us."

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God promised Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus, God's Son.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God promised Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus, God's Son.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God promised Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus, God's Son.
- understand that God's promised Son was also our Savior.
- thank God for sending Jesus to save all who put their Trust in Him.

Memory Verse: "God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10
(Sung to the tune of "The Muffin Man")

Additional Verse: "And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life."
1 John 2:25

Key Word: SON

Craft: Angel Ornament or Paper Plate Angel

Life Application: Mary believed God's promises. Do you? Can you name some of God's promises? Promise to do one job at home this week and keep your promise.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God loved Mary. God sent an angel to talk to Mary. Mary was surprised. The angel said: "Do not be afraid, Mary." The angel told Mary God was with her and that she would have a baby boy. The angel said to name him *Jesus*. The angel said that Jesus would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High. Mary thought about what the angel said. What a wonderful promise—a baby—God's Son, Jesus. Mary loved God. She was happy. She sang a song of praise to God.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

What is a promise? If I say to you, "I promise to give you a present today," what would that mean? It means that I would give you a present today. A promise means I will do what I say I will do. Sometimes people make promises they cannot keep, but God *always* does what He says He will do. He keeps all His promises. Today we'll hear about God's most wonderful promise of all — the gift of His Son, Jesus.

For many years, God promised His people He would send them a Savior — someone who would show them how much God loved them. Long, long ago, there was a lovely woman named Mary and a kind man named Joseph. They were the first people to know when God would send Jesus.

One day in the town of Nazareth, where Mary lived, an angel appeared beside her and spoke to her. Mary was surprised to see the angel. The angel told her not to be surprised or afraid because he had a message to give her from God. Mary listened very quietly. The angel told Mary God would send His very own Son to be her baby boy. The angel said to name Him Jesus, because He was the Son of God.

The angel left, and for a long time Mary thought about what he told her. "Oh, what a wonderful promise God gave me," she thought. "I am going to be the mother of God's Son." She could hardly believe it, but she knew God always keeps His promises, so she was glad to receive the angel's news. She sang happy songs to God.

One night when kind Joseph was sleeping, an angel came to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph about God's promise to send a baby boy to Mary. The angel said, "*You shall call His name Jesus.*" (Matthew 1:21) Early the next morning, Joseph hurried to find Mary to tell her what the angel said. He was glad he could help Mary take care of God's Son. He was happy he would be Mary's husband. Mary was grateful for kind Joseph. But most of all, Mary was glad that God loved the world so much that He would send His Son, Jesus — His very best gift of love.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use figures from a nativity set.
- Tell the story from Mary's or the angel's point of view.
- Costumes for the angel and Mary and Joseph could be used by a team of teachers. Mary's costume could consist of a towel over head and a bathrobe.
- Let the children join in as the familiar Christmas story is retold. Sit in a circle with the children. The teacher begins the story by saying, "Mary was a young girl living in the town of Nazareth." The child seated to the teacher's left adds a phrase to the story. Continue around the circle with each child adding a phrase. Key words from the story (Gabriel, angel, Joseph, Elizabeth, etc.) can be printed on 3" x 5" index cards to help the children remember events.
- Use magnetic figures on a cookie sheet.
- Using Velcro, attach small finger puppets on a work glove.
- Have wrapped package and talk about gifts – the greatest gift of love being Jesus.
- Talk about what a promise is, how it is important to keep promises, how it might feel if someone fails to keep a promise. Ask, "Who will always keep a promise?" God. God made a promise to Mary and He will keep His promise

Interest Centers

- Provide a table with angels (unbreakable) or angel ornaments for the children to look at and talk about, or have pictures of angels for them to see.
- Place a wrapped package in the center of one table, and talk about gifts. Tell the children that next week you will *open* the package and show them God's greatest gift of love. ***(Next week, open the package and have a manger with Baby Jesus as the gift.)***
- Provide angel cookie cutters for the children to draw around or use to cut out modeling clay.
- Make halos out of Christmas tinsel for each child.
- Provide craft paper or construction paper, paint with angel-shaped cookies cutters to make wrapping paper or cards.
- Sing Christmas carols. Then encourage the children to share their answers to the question: "If you could have been anything you wanted to be on Christmas night, what would you have been and why?"

Snacks *(Check for allergies.)*

- Angel food cake.

Games

- **He Was Named Jesus:** Similar to "Duck, Duck, Goose." The children sit in circle. One child is "It." "It" goes around circle tapping the children on the head saying, "He was named." When "It" taps and says "Jesus", that child chases "It" to try and sit in the empty spot, first.
- **Expression Game:** Play an expression game by asking the children to show their happy face, sad face, mad face, scared face, then end with showing a surprised face. Explain that Mary was very surprised by the angel's message.
- **Name Game:** Make a train of kids. The first child says his name 5 times and makes a sign like waving his hands in the air. The next child says her name 5 times and comes up with a different motion and they begin to make a train. Finally, all the children will be part of the train and will be making different signs for their names.
- **Feather Toss:** Call out an action such as laugh, jump, rub your tummy, etc. Have the children do the action as you toss a feather or tissue in the air. When the feather hits the ground, the children must freeze in place. Toss the feather again and call out another action.
- **Feather Tug-of-War:** Place a feather between two children on a table. Whoever blows the feather to the other side is the winner.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Jesus Is Coming Sung to the tune of "Go Tell Aunt Rhody"

Jesus is coming,
Jesus is coming,
Jesus is coming.
That's what the angel said.

Mary was happy,
Mary was happy,
Mary was happy.
She sang praise songs to God.

Mary's Secret

Mary was praying. *(hands together praying)*
A bright angel came.
"You'll soon have a baby,
Lord Jesus His name."

"And who is His father"
"The Lord God above. *(point upward)*

He's sending dear Jesus
To show His great love." *(arms outstretched)*

Oh, wonderful secret!
The good news was true.
For God sent dear Jesus *(arms outstretched)*
To love me and you!

*From 85 Creative Fingerfun by Margaret M. Self
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Mary's Happy News Sung to the tune of "London Bridge"

Mary heard some happy news,
 Happy news, happy news.
 Mary heard some happy news.
 Oh, what was it?

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Happy Words Sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Mary heard some happy words,
 Happy words, happy words.
 Mary heard some happy words,
 Her baby would soon be born.

The angel said to call Him Jesus,
 Jesus, Jesus.
 The angel said to call Him Jesus,
 Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Good News Angel Sung to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush"

The angel came to bring good News,
 To bring good News, to bring good News.
 The angel came to bring good News
 To Mary and to Joseph.

(Children walk in a circle while singing. "Angel" is in the center of circle. After the first verse is sung, the angel goes to children and says their names.)

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Pray that the elderly in nursing homes will experience joy this Christmas season.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Jesus Is Born" sheet, "A Wreath of Letters" puzzle and bookmarks.
- **Joy Letters:** The Children can write or draw a personalized letter to give to a loved one.
- **Christmas Ornament:** The children make a Christmas ornament to give to parents. Each child unwraps six hard peppermint candies and arranges them on a cookie sheet to form a wreath. Bake at 250° until candies melt together. (Time depends on the kind of candy used.) Allow to cool slightly, then carefully remove from the pan. Add a bow, and glue the child's photograph behind the opening. Glue felt piece to the back. The teacher may provide wrapping paper and bows and let each child wrap his or her present.
- **Memory Verse Christmas Tree:** Use green construction paper to create a tree. Make a piece of tree for each word. Beginning with the tree top, write one word of the lesson verse, I John 4:10, on each piece. Cut a brown trunk and write the reference. Practice the verse by laying the parts together and saying the verse aloud. When the child can say the verse without looking, cut a gold star and place it on top of the tree. Glue tree, trunk, and star (overlapping edges slightly) to cardboard or heavy paper. Punch holes on the top and string with ribbon or yarn to hang in the child's room.

- **Sing!** Sing favorite Christmas carols. Let the children choose favorites. Bring a CD player and have a “sing along.”
- Work as a class to write the story of Christmas using all the words listed below:

A	angels	M	manger
B	baby, Bethlehem	N	Nazareth, near
C	camels, came	O	ox, open
D	donkey, dove	P	Prince of Peace
E	East, entered	Q	quietly
F	firstborn, frankincense	R	Ruler, ran
G	Glory to God!	S	shepherds, stable, slept
H	Herod, hosanna	T	tidings, time
I	innkeeper	U	unto us (a child is born)
J	Joseph, joy	V	virgin, visit
K	kings, kneel	W	wonder, worship
L	lambs, love	Y	young (child)

Additional Visuals



The “Reveal”: Act out the story. Put a blue “It’s a Boy!” balloon in a bag. At the appropriate time in the story, the angel pulls it out and reveals to Mary that she is having a son, Jesus.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 15

UNIT 3: TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISE **Jesus's Birth to Baptism**

LESSON 15: Jesus Is Born

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Micah 5:2

Story Overview: When Mary was pregnant, she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. While there, Mary gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger because there was no room at the inn for them. An angel appeared to some nearby shepherds, and a heavenly host sang praises announcing Jesus's birth. The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem to worship baby Jesus.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies to know the joy of Jesus's birth and celebrate.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children to know the joy of Jesus's birth and celebrate.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jesus, our Savior, was born in Bethlehem.
- understand how important Jesus's birth was to mankind.
- respond by sharing the story with others and celebrating His birth.

Memory Verse: "God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10
(Sung to the tune of "The Muffin Man")

Additional Verse: "And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life."
1 John 2:25

Key Word: FULFILL

Craft: Nativity Wreath

Life Application: Jesus wasn't just any baby. He was the promised Savior. The news of His birth caused great rejoicing, both in heaven and among the shepherds on earth. When you hear the story of Jesus's birth this Christmas, take time to celebrate.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Clippety-clop, clippety-clop. Mary was riding on a donkey. Step, step. Joseph was walking beside her. Mary was going to have a baby. When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, there was no place to sleep. Joseph knocked on the door (*knock on floor*) of an inn. A man opened the door. Joseph asked if they could sleep there. The man said there was no room, but they could stay with the animals in the stable. Mary and Joseph were glad to stay there. That night, Mary had her baby boy. He was God's Son. She named Him *Jesus*. Mary wrapped Him in warm clothes. She kissed her baby. She hugged her baby. Mary put baby Jesus in a straw bed. Mary and Joseph loved Jesus. Jesus was the most wonderful baby ever! Jesus is God's Son.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

What is a promise? What did God promise Mary? Yes, He promised to send her His own Son to be her baby boy. He promised to send Jesus—His love gift for everyone in the world.

Mary waited and waited for the dear little baby to be born. She made everything ready for Him. Then **one day Joseph came to Mary. “We must go to the city of Bethlehem,” he told her. “The king said we must go to write our names in his book.” So Mary and Joseph packed their belongings. When they were ready, they began their journey to Bethlehem.**

Mary rode on a little donkey. Clippety-clop, clippety-clop, clippety-clop, the donkey’s hooves sounded on the dusty road. Joseph walked along beside the little donkey that slowly carried Mary. For many days they walked until finally they came to Bethlehem.

Oh, what a great crowd of people there was in Bethlehem. More and more people were coming. **Every place in Bethlehem was crowded. Mary and Joseph went to many places where travelers could stay. But every place was already taken by other people. Where could tired Mary and Joseph stay?**

Finally, Joseph knocked on the door of an inn—a place where travelers stay. The innkeeper opened the door. “May we stay in your inn?” Joseph asked. “No, there is no room here,” the innkeeper said. “But wait—there is a place in the stable with the animals. If you want to, you may stay there.” And that is just the place Mary and Joseph stayed that night. How glad they were for a place to rest.

That night in the innkeeper’s stable, God’s promise came true. Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in the soft warm clothes she had ready. And she laid Him—oh, so carefully—on the clean, sweet-smelling hay in the manger. A manger is a wooden trough where cows and horses get their food. (Show different manger pictures.) Because God loves us, He sent His son Jesus to be His best gift of love. God kept His promise. He always does.

That same night shepherds were out on the hillside. Everything was quiet. The shepherds were watching their sheep and talking in soft voices. **Suddenly there was a bright light—a very bright light—in the nighttime sky. And right before them was an angel. The shepherds could hardly believe what they saw. “Do not be afraid,” the angel said to them, “for I have**

good news. Jesus, the Savior, is born.” The shepherds listened as the angel told them more. “Tonight in the city of Bethlehem, Jesus is born. You will find Jesus lying in a manger.” What wonderful, wonderful news.

“How can all this be true?” the shepherds wondered. **Then the sky was suddenly filled with more and more angels. The shepherds heard the angels saying, “Glory to God in the highest.”** The angels were thanking God that Jesus had come into the world.

Soon all the angels left and the sky was quiet and dark once more. **Quickly the shepherds decided, “Let us hurry to Bethlehem to see if what the angel said is true.”** They hurried down the hillside and along the road to Bethlehem.

The shepherds looked for the wonderful baby Jesus. Then they came to the stable. There was Mary and there was Joseph close by. And there was a baby lying in the manger. The shepherds came near to see Jesus. They saw Him and loved Him. Then the shepherds hurried back to their sheep. And they told the good news to everyone they saw. “Jesus is born! Jesus the Savior is born in Bethlehem!” Mary treasured all these things and kept them in her heart.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Join classes together to have teachers act out the story (narrator, angel, Mary, Joseph).
- Use figures from a nativity set.
- Dress as Mary and tell the story from her perspective.
- Have a nativity scene with straw and a baby doll in a bassinet set up in a central location. Travel down the hallway to find Jesus in the nativity scene.
- Dim the lights and use a flashlight to illustrate “a great light shining in the darkness.”
- All the children can act as angels, sheep, shepherds and wise men and go see Jesus.
- Have the children sit in a circle. Tell the story to the children. Then, pick an arbitrary point in the story and tell something that is true or false (use picture if available.) Have the children vote true or false by touching their mouth for TRUE and touching their nose for FALSE.

Interest Centers

- Set up Christmas nativity scenes on tables and let the children move the pieces as they tell the story of Jesus’s birth to each other.
- Draw a large Christmas tree on butcher paper and have the children decorate the tree with crayons, stickers or collage materials.
- Use old Christmas cards to make puzzles by cutting the pictures into pieces. (Try to avoid cutting through the faces.)

- Using old Christmas cards (with religious pictures), punch holes around the edges. Use yarn for sewing. Make a “needle” by taping one end of the yarn. Encourage children to tell the story as they are sewing. If old Christmas cards are not available, cut out shapes from cardstock. Cut the shapes such as: angel, star, manger, donkey, etc.
- Cut out a large star for each child and punch a hole at the top to make a star ornament, decorating them with confetti, foil, tissue, wrapping paper or other materials.
- Let the children make birthday cards for Jesus.
- Sing Christmas songs and enjoy clapping or using jingle bells.
- Provide props for acting out the story.
- Create a hand-modeled nativity scene using self-hardening clay, clay purchased at a ceramic shop, or home-made modeling clay. Guide a group discussion about the Christmas story while children’s hands are busy.

Recipe for Modeling Clay: (*prepare before class*)

2 c. baking soda
1 c. cornstarch
1-1/4 c. cold water

Stir together baking soda and cornstarch in a saucepan. Add water and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. When mixture is consistency of moist mashed potatoes, place it on a plate and cover with a damp cloth. When cool enough to handle, knead the dough. Dough is now ready for children’s use. After the nativity scene is finished, let it dry until next week.

Games

- **Wrapped Package Guess:** The children can guess what is in the wrapped package from last week. Let the children open the package. Talk about Jesus being God’s greatest gift of love.
- **Nativity Hide-and-Seek:** Hide a picture of the manger scene, a miniature one-piece nativity set, or a small baby Jesus doll in the room. Let the children pretend they are shepherds looking for baby Jesus.
- **Stick Donkey Race:** Cut out the head of a donkey from construction paper and tape onto the end of a yard stick. Let the children take turns (or provide a stick donkey for each child) moving from one location to another and have them recite their memory verse.

- **Obstacle Relay:**

Supplies (for each team)

Box with straw	Ornament
Doll	5 pieces of tinsel
Scarf	Santa hat
Hat	Toys
Mittens	Bag
Christmas carol songbook	Crown
Small Christmas tree	Jewelry
Housecoat	Towel

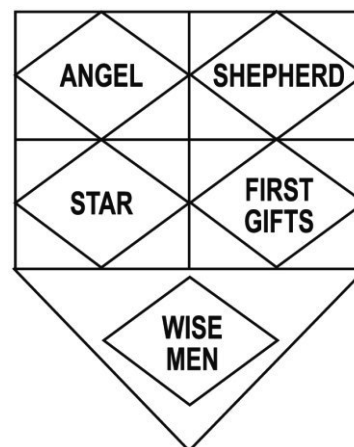
Divide the class into two teams. Use one of the following relay activities according to ages and size of the class. At the signal, each child must:

1. Empty the straw and baby doll, then replace.

2. Become a Christmas caroler by putting on scarf, hat and mittens, picking up songbook and singing "Away in a Manger." Return items.
3. Decorate tree with ornament and 5 pieces of tinsel; un-decorate.
4. Become Santa by putting on red hat, putting toys in a bag, and saying, "Merry Christmas"; return items.
5. Become a Wise Man by wearing a crown and jewelry, and saying, "Follow the star"; return items.
6. Become a shepherd by wearing a housecoat, towel on head, and looking for sheep.

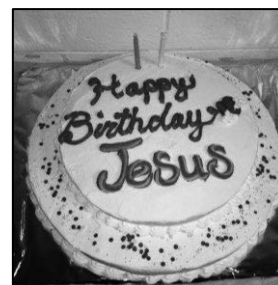
First team to finish wins.

- **Beanbag Game:** Mark off five spaces on the floor with tape. Make five labels: Shepherd, Angel, Star, First Gifts, Wise Men and tape a label in each section. To play: Have a child stand at a designated spot (about 3' back) and toss a beanbag. The child tells one fact about the subject of the section where the beanbag landed. Continue as long as interest remains.
- **Jesus is Born:** The children are seated in a circle on the floor. The child who is "It" stands in the center and points to someone in the circle saying, "A baby is born." The child pointed to must say, "And His name is Jesus" before "it" finishes. If the person fails to do this, he becomes "it."



Snacks (Check for allergies.)

- **Birthday Party for Jesus:** Provide cupcakes to frost and decorate. Put a candle in each cupcake. Light candles and sing "Happy Birthday, Jesus." (May substitute a healthier muffin in place of the cupcake.) *Alternate:* Make a birthday cake for Jesus.



Action Rhymes & Songs

A Baby Jesus

This is Baby Jesus
Sleeping in the hay.
Wrapped up with swaddling clothes;
He's warm and snug that way.

(hold up pointer finger)
(lay finger in palm of other hand)
(cover thumb and other fingers)
(hug hand)

Here's His mother, Mary,
And this is Joseph, too,
Watching while He's sleeping.
They're glad He came—aren't you?

(raise forefinger of clasped hand)
(raise tall finger of same hand)
(clap)

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Baby Jesus Sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Mary rode to Bethlehem,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Mary rode to Bethlehem
On a little donkey.

Joseph walked by Mary's side,
 Mary's side, Mary's side.
 Joseph walked by Mary's side.
 He led the little donkey.

Shepherds heard the angels sing,
 Angels sing, angels sing.
 Shepherds heard the angels sing
 And ran to see the King.

Wise men saw a shiny star,
 Shiny star, shiny star.
 Wise men saw a shiny star.
 They said, "God's Son is born."

Christmas Is a Happy Time Sung to the tune of *"Mary Had a Little Lamb"*

Christmas is a happy time,
 Happy time, happy time.
 Christmas is a happy time,
 Because it's Jesus's birthday.

God's Promise Sung to the tune of *"Happy Birthday to You"*

Baby Jesus was born,
 Baby Jesus was born.
 He came as God promised.
 Baby Jesus was born.

How Jesus Was Born

Here is Joseph and here is Mary,	<i>(hold up two index fingers)</i>
They come to an inn, so tired and weary.	<i>(walk fingers)</i>
Knock, knock, knock!	
"Please open your door."	<i>(pretend to open door)</i>
But the innkeeper says,	
"There's room for no more."	<i>(shake head no)</i>
So they walk and they walk,	
till the end of the day.	<i>(walk fingers)</i>
When they find a stable and a bed of hay.	<i>(form roof with fingers)</i>
There in the stable on Christmas morn.	<i>(hold arms to form cradle)</i>
Jesus, the Son of God, was born!	<i>(rock cradle)</i>
Knock, knock, knock! I'll open my door.	<i>(knock and point to heart)</i>
And Jesus will stay with me evermore.	<i>(hug self)</i>

Jesus is God's Son Sung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

Jesus is God's Son,
 Jesus is God's Son.
 Sent to be the Savior,
 Jesus is God's Son.

I'm Glad That He Was Born Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

I'm glad that He was born,
I'm glad that He was born.
I'm glad that Jesus came to us.
I'm glad that He was born.

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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Read the story of Jesus's birth (Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20,) or have the story read to you. Find one new fact about the Christmas story that you did not know. Be ready to share that fact with the class next week.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Jesus Is Born" and "The Birth of Jesus" puzzles.
- **Living Pictures:** The children pose as living pictures to show the events in today's Scripture. Read the Scripture and ask the children to decide which scene they want to portray. (Provide props such as scarves, yarn, robes and sashes). Group the children according to what scene they choose. Arrange each group according to the sequence of events in Scripture. Each group can share one or two sentences about their scene. Present these pictures to the preschool children. (This would be a fun activity to photograph or video.)
- Provide Lite-Brights and design paper sheets. The children can write out today's verse using the plastic pegs. (Have the verse printed so children can copy it.)
- **Christmas Ornaments:** Let each child cut three 4" circles from old Christmas cards. Encourage the children to cut the circles so an appropriate picture is showing. Fold each circle in half. Glue half of two circles back-to-back. Glue each half of third circle to remaining halves of first two circles. Flatten ornament and punch hole at top. Insert yarn or cord for hanger. "Fan out" circles to make the ornament three-dimensional.
- **Round Robin Story:** The teacher displays a Christmas picture. One child begins the story by saying something like, "This is the story of the birth of Jesus." Each child adds one sentence in sequence to the story. Continue until the entire story has been told.
- **Picture This:** Form two teams. Make identical lists of pictures to be found by each team. Put piles of old magazines on the far side of the room. The first child on each team runs to search in the magazines for a picture that represents the first item on the list, tears it out, and runs back to the team. Explain that the pictures will not be actual pictures of the Christmas story. (For example, find a picture of any man to represent Joseph, a picture of any woman for Mary, etc.) The second child finds the second item on list, etc., until all pictures have been found. The first team with complete set of pictures wins. Picture List:
 1. Joseph
 2. Mary
 3. Baby Jesus
 4. A place that looks like Bethlehem
 5. A type of transportation in Jesus's time
 6. Animals that may have been present at Jesus's birth

- 7) Wise men
- 8) Something Mary, Joseph, and Jesus may have eaten

Adapt pictures if desired. Be available to read the list for nonreaders. *Note: Use or adapt this game with any Bible story.*

Additional Visuals

Night box: create a night box by lining the inside of a large square box with black plastic garbage bags. Hang stars from the ceiling of the box and use glue or poster putty to attach glow-in-the-dark or other stars on the walls and ceiling of the box. Set out a nativity scene inside the box. This night box can be used for many other stories.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 16

UNIT 3: TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISE **Jesus's Birth to Baptism**

LESSON 16: Wise Men Visit Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Story Overview: The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem. They first went to see King Herod to ask him where the "king of the Jews" could be found. He did not know but told them to report back to him when they found Jesus. They then found Jesus with Mary and Joseph and brought special gifts to honor Him. In a dream, God warned them not to go back to Herod, so they left by another way.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that the wise men worshipped Jesus.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to worship Jesus just as the wise men did.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that the wise men worshipped Jesus by bringing Him wonderful gifts.
- understand that they should worship Jesus, too.
- look for opportunities to worship Jesus, both on their own and with other people.

Memory Verse: "God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10
(Sung to the tune of "The Muffin Man")

Additional Verse: "And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life."
1 John 2:25

Key Word: WORSHIP

Craft: Wise Men Banner or Paper Plate Crown

Life Application: The wise men knew Jesus was a very special child. That is why they gave Him such wonderful gifts and worshipped Him. Jesus is God and worthy of our praise. He wants us to worship Him through songs, prayers, praises and the gift of our lives. Worship God today!

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

The wise men looked up. They saw a big, beautiful star. The star was a sign that God's Son, Jesus, was born. The wise men went on a long trip. They followed the star. They found the place where Jesus was. They were happy to see God's Son, Jesus. The wise men got down on their knees. They gave gifts to Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus, because He loves us. Jesus is God's Son.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Have you ever stayed outside until it became very dark? Did you look up in the dark sky and see the stars shining brightly? It's fun to watch the many, many stars twinkling in the sky.

The Bible tells us that a long time ago there was a very big, beautiful star that was very, very bright. In a land far from where baby Jesus was born, there lived some men who were very wise. These wise men knew many things—especially about the stars.

One night the wise men looked up in the sky and saw a big, beautiful star that was shining brighter than any star they had ever seen. “This must be a sign from God to tell us that the Savior has been born,” said one wise man.

“Let’s follow the star, so we can find the baby and tell Him we love Him!” said another one. So they loaded supplies and wonderful gifts onto their camels, climbed on, and started off on their long journey, following the bright star.

They followed the star for many, many nights until they came to Jerusalem. Surely this is where their King and Savior would be born. “Where is the new King of the Jews?” they asked the people in Jerusalem.

King Herod was a wicked king and became worried when he heard there was to be a new king. Herod secretly sent for the wise men to ask them about this newborn king. He learned that this new king was to be born in Bethlehem. So Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find the child. “Come back and report to me about this baby so I will be able to worship him, too,” said King Herod.

The wise men climbed on their camels again and followed the star to Bethlehem. The star stopped over the house, where the child was. They quickly jumped off their tired camels and went into the house where they saw baby Jesus and Mary, His mother. They fell down on their knees to worship baby Jesus and gave Him the gifts they had brought—gold, incense, and myrrh. How happy they were to find the Son of God, their Savior.

When the wise men were returning to their own home, they didn’t go through Jerusalem to report to wicked King Herod. God had warned them in a dream to go home another way.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Tell the story from the wise men's perspective.
- Make the wise men from three tall potato chip cans. Decorate the robes lavishly.
- Make crowns for each child and let them wear them while the story is told.
- Use toilet tissue figures dressed in velvets and fancy trims.
- Gift wrap a few different-sized boxes. Have one gift inside one gift. Some gifts should be good and some funny (a lollypop, one unmatched sock, a small toy, and empty toilet paper roll, etc.). Let the children take turns opening the gifts until all are opened. Finish with one last box that contains a picture of Jesus. Discuss how God gave the very best gift of Jesus.
- Bring wrapped gifts. Use a necklace or bracelet for the gold; use incense for the frankincense; use perfume for the myrrh (or spices tied in a cloth).
- Begin story by showing an already-packed suitcase and asking the children what they would need to pack in a suitcase for a trip. Then open the suitcase and explore the items. Lead into the story by suggesting that there were some very wise men who took a trip and may have needed some of these items.
- Use a gold coin or gold jewelry, incense, and a drop of cologne on a cotton ball as examples (object lessons) for today. Or use a printed card for each item: 1) gold; 2) frankincense (which is incense); 3) myrrh (which is perfume).
- **Explanation of gifts:**

Gold: Given only to kings in those days. No one else could afford it. The visitors from the East knew Jesus was the King of kings and gave gold.

Frankincense: A special mixture of plants and oils that smelled very good when burned in a lamp. Priests would use this incense when they were praying in the temple. Incense helped the people remember that their prayers rose to heaven, just like smoke from the incense. The gift showed that someday Jesus would be our priest and offer prayers to God on our behalf.

Myrrh: A spice used when preparing someone who has died for burial. The gift showed that Jesus would die as a sacrifice for our sins.

Interest Centers

- As the children arrive, have one table set up for them to make nighttime sky scenes. Give each child a dark blue piece of construction paper and star stickers to place on the paper. Have a large star cut out of heavy aluminum foil to represent the star the wise men followed. Explain to the children that their Bible story today will be about a very special star that the wise men followed.
- Using a medium- to large-sized box, line the inside with black garbage bags. Punch small holes on the top and feed fishing line through. Hang glow-in-the-dark stars from the fishing lines and on the ceiling and walls of the box. Shine a flashlight or a lamp on the stars for a few minutes and then take it away. Let the children take turns looking in at the night scene. (Maybe even let one or two at a time lay on the ground and look up at the "sky" of the box.)

- Display pictures of nighttime sky.
- Bring in perfume, a pine bough, cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon. Make scent cards with glue sticks and index cards and a dab of each of these items.
- Provide old Christmas cards showing pictures of the wise men. Turn them into puzzles or sewing cards.
- Bring glow-in-the-dark stars. Hide them around the room. Turn off lights and let the children count the stars.
- Provide star-shaped cookie cutters for modeling dough.

Games

- **Star Search:** Before class, cut large stars out of yellow poster paper. Hide stars around the classroom, and let the children find them. After all the stars have been found, encourage the children to help count them. Complement them on how fast they found all the stars. Ask them if they were happy when they found a star. Ask if they thought the wise men were happy when they finally found the star over Jesus's home.
- **Follow the Light:** Dim the lights in a room and turn on a flashlight to represent the star that the wise men followed. Shine the flashlight on the floor, have the children walk over and stand on the light, then move it to another place and have them crawl to the light. Continue moving the light around the room and having the children follow the light by hopping, crawling or any other movement.
- **Follow the Leader with the Star:** Give one child a star to hold above his or her head while walking around the room. Have the children follow and sing to the tune of *"Farmer in the Dell."*

We're following the star,
We're following the star,
Afar, a long, long way we are,
We're following the star.

After that verse is finished, give the star to the next child in line as everyone follows him or her. Vary the verses with "We're jumping/hopping/running to the star," etc.

From 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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- **Star Toss:** Put star stickers on bean bags and toss them in a basket.
- **Wise Men Relay:** For each team, tape a 20" piece of Christmas tree garland into a circle to use as a crown. For each team also provide: a bathrobe, a foil-covered box (to represent a gift), and a small, empty plastic bottle (to represent perfume). Specify start and finish lines. Hang a large foil or construction paper star at the finish line.

Form two teams, with the children lining up behind the starting line. The first player in each team must put on the bathrobe and crown, and then carry the gift and perfume to the finish line and back. Because the mode of travel in Bible times was on camelback, have children gallop. The first player must remove garments and give all items to next player. Continue until all the children have had a turn. The first team to complete the journey wins.

Action Rhymes & Songs**His Star**

The wise men came from afar.
Guess what led them?
Jesus's star!

*(hold right hand out flat; move hand
slowly from right to left)
(left hand above right; wiggle fingers)*

Count Them

Gifts from the wise men—
Come and see.
Count the gifts with me:
One - two - three!

*(hold hands out, palms up)
(beckon with fingers)
(count on fingers)*

*From Through the Bible with Finger Plays by Marian White.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Draw a big star in your journal. When you look at it, remember Jesus, and then do something loving for your family or friends just as the wise men did for Jesus.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “The Wise Men” dot-to-dot picture and “Find the Baby” maze.
- **Gift Picture:** As the children learn about the gifts the wise men brought to baby Jesus, allow them to share about the gifts they have given or received. Let them draw a picture of a specific gift they have given or received. (Drawing sheet available in **Puzzles & Patterns**.)
- **Wise Men from the East Sheet:** The teacher re-reads today’s Scripture. Let the children add their own drawings of wise men, gifts, camels, etc.; color the picture. Enhance picture with gold glitter or gold foil for the star. Provide fancy fabrics for the wise men’s clothes. Mount the picture on cardboard or cardstock.
- The children make a large gold star (cardstock spray-painted gold, a yellow star with glitter added, etc.). The children take the star home, and put it in their room. As the wise men were led by a star to worship Jesus, this star will be a reminder for them to worship Jesus, too.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 17

UNIT 3: TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISE **Jesus's Birth to Baptism**

LESSON 17: Young Jesus

Scripture: Luke 2:40-52

Story Overview: Jesus, at the age of 12, went with His parents to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Instead of leaving with Mary and Joseph when the feast was over, He stayed behind. When Mary and Joseph realized He was missing, they searched and found Him in the temple talking with the teachers. Jesus went back to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary and grew in wisdom and in stature (height) and in favor with God and man.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus grew to a young boy and went with His parents to worship God at the temple.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that Jesus grew to a young boy and went with His parents to worship God at the temple.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that even as a young boy, Jesus showed great wisdom as He talked with the teachers at the temple.
- understand they are just like Jesus and are growing and learning, too.
- ask God for wisdom as they are growing.

Memory Verse: "God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10
(Sung to the tune of "The Muffin Man")

Additional Verse: "And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life."
1 John 2:25

Key Word: WISDOM

Craft: Stained Glass Window

Life Application: Jesus grew just as you are growing. As He was growing, Jesus was learning about God. That's just what you are doing at CBS. What have you learned about God? Thank God for loving you and teaching you about His Son, Jesus.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus was a young boy. One day, Jesus went with His mother and father to a special place—a temple. A temple is like a church. Sometimes it is called "God's house." At the temple, Jesus listened to teachers talk about God. Jesus asked them questions about God. The teachers were surprised that Jesus knew so much about God. Jesus liked to be in God's house and talk about God. In God's house, we learn about Jesus and God, His Father.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Do you think Jesus was always a little baby? No, the Bible tells us He grew and grew, just as all of you are doing. Jesus grew, played, and learned, just as you are doing.

In today's story, the Bible says, *"And the child (Jesus) grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him."* Jesus grew just as you are growing. Do you know what it means when we read, "Jesus was filled with wisdom?" It means that Jesus learned more and more every day, knowing what is right and good. The Bible also says Jesus grew and became strong, too. He grew taller and taller just as you are growing taller and taller every year. Do your parents measure you year by year to see how much you've grown? When we read in the Bible, "And the favor of God was upon him" it means God was pleased with all that Jesus was doing.

Today's story is about a time when Jesus was 12 years old. Every year his family went to God's temple in Jerusalem for a celebration called Passover. The trip was like a big holiday because many of Jesus's friends and relatives from his town of Nazareth also went. The trip took about three days and Mary, Joseph and Jesus stayed in Jerusalem for seven days.

After the feast of Passover, everyone left Jerusalem to go back home. But Jesus stayed behind and his parents did not know that! At first, Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus was with some friends or relatives, but then when they didn't see Jesus for a whole day they realized he was missing. They were so worried and they looked and looked for Jesus. When they couldn't find him they left the big crowd and decided to go back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

What would you do if someone close to you were missing? You probably would ask anyone around you if they have seen your loved one. I bet Mary and Joseph did that too, asking everyone in the crowd, "Have you seen Jesus? We thought He was with the older boys but now we can't find Him!" But no one had seen Jesus.

So, they went back to Jerusalem. They looked everywhere for Jesus. Finally, they went to the temple, God's house, and guess what? Jesus was there! He was sitting with the wise teachers in the temple listening to them talking about God! Jesus was asking many questions, too! The teachers were amazed at the questions Jesus asked. "How could such a young boy know so much about God?" they thought.

Mary rushed up to Jesus and said, "Oh, Jesus, why have You done this? We were so worried. We have looked everywhere for You!" Jesus looked a little surprised and said, "Mother, didn't you know I would be in My Father's house?" At first she didn't know what He meant but she knew there was something very special about what Jesus was doing. **The wise teachers who had never heard someone so young speak so wisely and with such deep understanding knew He was not an ordinary boy. Later they would find out that this small boy was God's own Son and that He would grow up and teach the whole world about God's love.**

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Lay out mats and let the children sit or lay down on them while you tell them about Jesus being a little boy who would lay on a mat like they are.
- Use puppets of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.
- Make a scroll using Popsicle sticks and a sheet of paper. Write "Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52" Explain what a scroll is and how it was used in Jesus's time in the temple.
- Talk about differences in growing up in Jesus's time vs. now (i.e. toys, what homes looked like, where they take a bath) and how different long-distance travel is now compared to Jesus's time.

Interest Centers

- Display items that could be found in a carpenter's shop: saw, pieces of soft wood, nails, wood shavings, hammer, broom, water jar, mat for sleeping, curls of wood, sawdust, etc. Talk about each item and how it is used. Provide several brooms for children to use for sweeping the floor similar to what Jesus might have done to help Joseph in his carpenter's shop.
- Provide pieces of Styrofoam or cardboard boxes, golf tees and toy (plastic) hammers for the children to pound.
- Provide pictures of the temple or churches for the children to look at and discuss.
- The teachers bring pictures of themselves as babies, young children and teenagers. The children try to guess which picture belongs to which teacher.
- Make an I-Spy Jesus bottle. Fill an empty water bottle with rice and a variety of small objects like beads, buttons, pompoms, sequins and foam shapes. Cut out a few small pictures of Jesus (lamine or cover with clear tape). Add the pictures of Jesus to the bottle and shake. Let the children shake the bottle and see if they can find Jesus.
- If the host church has stained glass windows, take each class to see them when the sanctuary is empty. Explain how the temple in Jesus's day differed in structure and details from our churches today. This would be a good time to talk about how they should act in church. Each class may want to stop for a short prayer.

Games

- **Pebble Toss:** Let the children toss pebbles or small rocks into a circle or hula hoop on the floor. (This is similar to a game Jesus might have played when there were no fancy toys.)
- **Simon Says:** (Play this game to stress the concept of listening and being obedient.) One player takes the role of “Simon” and gives instructions to other players, preceding their instructions with “Simon says . . .” (i.e. “Simon says, ‘Jump on one foot.’”). Players are out if they either don’t follow the instruction preceded by “Simon says” or follows the instruction *not* preceded by this phrase
- **Helping:** Have the children join hands and walk in a circle as they sing these words to “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

Helping shows our love, you see.
I help you, and you help me.

Put a piece of tape on the floor. When the music stops, ask the child nearest to the tape how he or she will help at home this week. Then sing the following verses:

Helping, helping, can’t you see?
I am helping; look at me.
Sweeping, sweeping, sweeping floors
I am sweeping, sweeping floors.

Fit the verses to children’s suggestions of how they will help.

From 100 Action Songs for Preschoolers.
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- **Hot Potato:** Play music while the children pass a ball, beanbag, or tool around the circle. When the music stops, the child holding the object tells how he or she helps at home.
- **Make a Map:** With the children’s help, the teacher will make a map from Nazareth to Jerusalem. On a large sheet of paper (butcher paper or poster paper), draw a Bible-times house in the upper-left corner to represent Nazareth. In the lower-right corner, draw a temple to represent Jerusalem. Draw a winding road from Nazareth to Jerusalem. Have the children name things Jesus probably saw on His long trip (trees, houses, flowers, sheep in fields, a farmer). Draw these things along the winding road. Designate where they stopped to sleep by drawing stars and moon. Allow the older children to draw the map, if desired.
- **Scroll Relay:** Divide the class into two teams. Members from each team will put their scroll in the team stack. The children line up at the opposite end of the room. Each child takes a turn hopping on one foot, picking up the scroll, and hopping back to the starting line. The next player takes his or her turn. The first team to finish wins. Repeat with skipping, crawling, walking backwards, etc.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Helping Sung to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”

As a little boy
Jesus liked to help.
Hammer, hammer, hammer, saw,
Helping Joseph build.

I can be like Him
Helping Mom and Dad.
Helping all my family,
Doing what I can.

Jesus Was a Boy

When Jesus was a little boy
 He liked to saw and pound
 To make mud pies and gather stones
 And race and run around.
 When Jesus was a little boy,
 He liked to stop and see
 And look and listen, touch and taste,
 The same as you and me.

(measure with hands)
(make motions)
(pat "pie," gather stones)
(run in place)
(measure with hand)
(stop, hands to eyes, looking)

(point to others, then self)

Walking to the Temple

Here is Jesus.
 Here are Mary and Joseph.
 They're walking to the temple
 To worship, to pray, and to learn.

(hold up pointer finger, left hand)
(hold up two fingers, right hand)
("walk" fingers)
(praying hands)

Jesus in the Temple Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"

Here is Jesus. Here is Jesus.
 Growing up. Growing up.
 Going to the temple. Going to the temple.
 He is 12. He is 12.

(make up motions for the song)

Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?
 Is He lost? Is He lost?
 Everyone is looking. Everyone is looking.
 Where is He? Where is He?

In the temple. In the temple.
 He is there. He is there.
 Talking to the teachers. Talking to the teachers.
 In God's house. In God's house.

Jesus Grew

Jesus was born a baby,
 A baby quite small.
 He grew bigger and bigger
 Until He was tall.

(stoop down)

(gradually stand)
(reach up)

I Am Growing Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"

I am growing, I am growing,
 Wise and tall, wise and tall.
 See what I can do now.
 See what I can do now.
 Do it, too. Do it, too.

(Children show things they can do: clap, fold hands to pray, march, etc.)

Wise and Tall Sung to the tune of "London Bridge"

I can grow like Jesus grew,
 Jesus grew, Jesus grew.
 I can grow like Jesus grew,
 From a baby to a boy.

(pretend to measure height)

(cradle arms, measure)

I can learn like Jesus learned, (point to your mind)
 Jesus learned, Jesus learned.
 I can learn like Jesus learned,
 About God, our Father. (point up to heaven)

Jesus Went to Jerusalem Sung to the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush”

Jesus went to Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem.
 Jesus went to Jerusalem, to worship in the temple.

We will come to CBS, CBS, CBS.
 We will come to CBS, to hear our Bible stories.

Here we are at CBS, CBS, CBS.
 Here we are at CBS, so early in the morning.

(Emma’s) here at CBS, CBS, CBS, (sing a verse for each child present)
 (Emma’s) here at CBS, Hearing Bible stories.

Thank you, God, for CBS, CBS, CBS.
 Thank you, God, for CBS, so we can see our friends!

Helping

Children join hands and walk in a circle Sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

Helping shows our love, you see,
 I help you, and you help me.

Put a piece of tape on the floor. When the music stops, ask the child nearest the tape how he or she will help at home this week. Then sing the following verses:

Helping, helping, can't you see?
 I am helping; look at me.

Sweeping, sweeping, sweeping floors,
 I am sweeping, sweeping floors.

Fit the verses to the ways the children suggest they will help.

*From 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

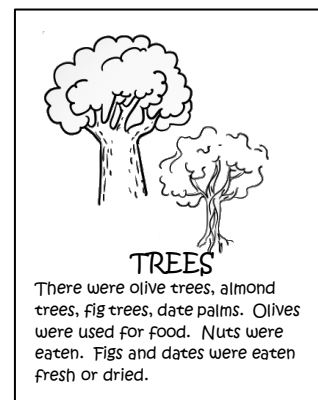
Challenge: Take a few minutes each day this week to ask God for wisdom in all that you do. In your journal, write or draw ways you see God guiding, protecting, and providing for you.

- **Puzzles & Patterns** “Jesus in the Temple” and “Jesus at the Temple” puzzles.
- **My Day, Jesus’s Day:** Place 2 boxes on a table. Each child makes a list of things (or draws pictures) he/she does during the day (such as make bed, brush teeth, go to school, etc.) and places the list in Box 1. The child makes another list of things Jesus might have done during the day (as a child) and places the list in Box 2. Read the lists, noting similarities and differences. Talk about Jesus’s attitudes: How did He respond to His parents? Did He ever get angry? Share today’s story.

- **Picture Dictionary:** Prepare a large book from poster board or purchase a large pad of paper (approximately 18" x 24"). This activity will acquaint the children with the time in which Jesus lived. Provide references and resources.

Possible pages to include (depending on number of children in class):

Animals	Fisherman	Sabbath
Carpenter	Food	Shepherd
Clothing	Furniture	Synagogue
Cooking Vessels	Marketplace	Trees
Farmer	Rabbi	Well



The children illustrate each page and/or write one or two sentences. When complete, read the book together. Make the book available each week for early arrivals to review.

- **Shoebox Temple:** Provide references so that the children can research what a temple might have looked like in New Testament times. Work alone or in pairs to create a temple. Large shoeboxes or similar boxes work well. Glue brown wrapping paper to the outside of boxes; then use markers, crayons, or poster paints to add stone designs, windows, and doors. Use pipe cleaners or play dough to make people. Recipe for play dough:

3 c. flour	5 tsp. oil
1-1/2 c. salt	3 tsp. cream of tartar
3 c. water	food coloring, as desired

Mix all ingredients in a big pot. Cook on medium heat. The dough will stiffen when cooked. Divide the dough in half and add different food coloring to each batch. Store in airtight containers.

- **Wooden Scroll:** Have small dowels and long pieces of paper ready. Have the children write or draw what story Jesus might have been listening to from the wise teachers in the temple. Roll one end of the paper onto one dowel stick and glue. Repeat on the other side. When the glue is dried, roll the dowels from both sides to make a scroll.
- Discuss the meaning of the words *wise* and *wisdom*. Ask the children to think about the wisest person they know. Think about *why* this person is wise. Each child writes 3 or 4 sentences about their person and draws a picture of person. Older children can copy James 1:5: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."* Share with each other. Let the children make a scroll by writing today's Bible verse with cotton swabs and diluted food coloring. Decorate as desired.
- **Review:** The teacher makes a list of questions with obvious answers (from today's lesson). Give each child a 9" x 12" piece of construction paper and a bowl of alphabet macaroni. The children spell answers on paper. The first child to do so wins.
- If time allows, take the children into sanctuary. Help them observe and explore (carefully). Take time to count candles, name colors and look around for different items. Remind them that this is a special place to worship God.

Additional Visuals

Train up a Child: If space is available at the host church, create a visual wall of growth with each child's height measured on a strip of paper. Measure again at the end of the year and remind the children that they are growing just as Jesus did as a young boy.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 18

UNIT 3: TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISE **Jesus's Birth to Baptism**

LESSON 18: John the Baptist Tells of Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 1:5-24, 57-80, 3:1-22;
John 1:6-34

Story Overview: Even before he was born, God had a special plan for John the Baptist to tell others about Jesus and prepare their hearts for Him. John lived in the desert region and preached to the crowds that they should repent of their sins and be baptized. He also baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that John the Baptist told people about Jesus and helped prepare their hearts for Him.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to prepare their hearts for Jesus just as John the Baptist told people to do.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that John the Baptist came to tell others about Jesus and prepare the way for Him.
- understand that they need to be sorry for their sins and prepare their hearts to accept Jesus as their Savior.
- help others understand their need for Jesus.

Memory Verse: "God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10
(Sung to the tune of "The Muffin Man")

Additional Verse: "And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life."
1 John 2:25

Key Word: PREPARE

Craft: Messenger Puppet

Life Application: John the Baptist had a wonderful message for all people and for us! He told them they needed to be sorry for their sins. He wanted their hearts to be clean for Jesus. Ask Jesus to forgive your sins so you can have a clean heart, then tell others that they can have a relationship with Jesus, too.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

John had a special job to do. God told John to tell everyone that Jesus was coming. Jesus wasn't a baby now. He wasn't a little boy now. He was a man. So, John told people, "Get ready. Jesus is coming." John also told the people to be sorry for the wrong things they had done, and to stop doing bad things. Many people came to John and told him they were sorry for the bad things they had done. Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized. They went into the river, and John baptized Jesus. Suddenly a dove came down from heaven and landed on Jesus. Then God spoke and said, "This is my Son. I love Him." Jesus is God's Son and our Savior.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

In our Bible we read about a special messenger from God. His name is John the Baptist, and he had a very special message from God for the people. John the Baptist lived out in the desert. Who can tell us what a desert is like? *(Show pictures and explain.)*

While John the Baptist lived in the desert by himself, he wore clothes made of camel hair and ate insects and wild honey that the bees made. Other people thought that was a strange way to live! But in the desert, all by himself, John was told by God what the very special message was for all the people. He was to go and tell the people that Jesus was coming and that Jesus was the Savior God had promised to send.

So John left the desert and went near a river. He told the people that a wonderful man was coming, Jesus, the promised Savior, God's very own Son. Everywhere John went people came to hear him. John told the people to get ready for Jesus.

How should they get ready for Him? John told them to get ready by being sorry for the wrong things they had done and not do those wrong things anymore. Most of the people had not been doing the things that God had told them to do. They had not been obeying God.

Many people said they wanted to change their wrong ways and do only what was right. They would walk to the edge of the river and then walk into the river with John the Baptist. Then John would baptize them. That is why he is called John the Baptist.

One day a very special person came to John. It was Jesus! Jesus was no longer a baby and no longer a little boy. He was a man—all grown. Jesus said to John, "I want you to baptize Me." John and Jesus walked into the river and John baptized Jesus. As they came out of the water, something wonderful happened! God spoke in a voice from heaven and said about Jesus, "This is My Son, Whom I love." At the very same time the voice of God spoke, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descended on Jesus like a dove. That dove was a sign that Jesus is the Son of God and was ready to do the work God sent Him to do. Jesus was sent to be the Savior of the people and to show them the way into God's forever family.

When we are sorry for the wrong things we do and tell God we are sorry, He forgives us. He wants to do this for us because He loves us so much. He wants us to be part of His family as His children. Jesus is the way into God's family because He is our Savior.

We must believe in Him—to be sure deep down in our hearts that Jesus died for us. We must also believe that when we ask God to forgive us for the wrong things we have done, He forgives. Even though Jesus once died, He came back to life again and is with God, loving us and watching over us. When we are in God's forever family, we will someday go to live in heaven with Him and Jesus forever.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Dress like John the Baptist and tell the story in first person.
- Use puppets or Barbie/Ken-type dolls.
- Use pictures of deserts and visuals such as plastic insects and faux fur.
- Give each child a short blue crepe paper streamer. Each time the word “water” or “river” is mentioned, the children wave the streamers in the air.
- Use a megaphone during the story and call out “Jesus is coming!” at the appropriate time.
- Show a jar of live crickets (these can be purchased at most pet stores) to demonstrate types of insects John the Baptist might have eaten.
- Explain what a messenger is by giving a child a note that says, “Jesus loves you” and have them pass that message to another child.

Interest Centers

- Set up blocks to form riverbanks. Place a blue sheet or blanket between the blocks for the river. Make a bridge with blocks.
- On craft paper, draw a large river outline and have the children draw river items such as fish, stones, gravel, etc. on the inside of the river outline.
- Use a long piece of blue material that can be laid down in a hallway to serve as the Jordan River. (This can also be used for many other Bible stories.)
- Provide books and pictures of insects. Let the children draw pictures of insects. (The teacher could draw the body and the child adds legs, antennae, eyes, etc.)
- Put plastic insects in a sand or rice box for the children to find.
- Show desert pictures.
- Have toy phones available so the children can pretend to telephone people and tell them that Jesus is God's Son.
- Draw on sandpaper to get a feel for what the desert might be like.
- Provide a magnifying glass so the children can look at bugs, sand, leaves, etc.
- Buy a piece of faux fur from the fabric store and let the children touch it.

- If available, bring in a piece of honeycomb for the children to touch and smell.
- Use sandpaper to draw on to get a feel for dessert.
- Talk about texture for camel hair, sandpaper. Talk about things that sink or float.
- Make thumb print bugs.
- Use sticker bugs.

Games

- **Messages:** Use magazine pictures and/or objects to illustrate different ways of sending messages (cell phones, email, radio, television, walkie-talkie, etc.). Put pictures and objects in bag. Each child pulls out one item. (Be sure to include a few items that would not send messages.) Ask: "Is this a way to send a message?"
- **Bug Toss:** Draw or glue pictures of bugs (including a grasshopper) onto a poster board. The children take turns tossing pompoms or beanbags onto the game board. They earn points by landing on the grasshopper and answering the question correctly.
- **Throw Your Trash Away:** Wad up pieces of newspaper or grocery ads and place them around the room. Set a timer. Have the children pick up the paper and put it in the trash can before the timer goes off. Explain that the trash is like our sins. We need to "clean up" our sins by asking for God's forgiveness.
- **Bug Hunt:** Hide plastic insects around the room for the children to find.

Snacks *(Check for allergies.)*

- Honey Comb cereal and gummy bugs/worms.
- Honey and pita bread (or graham crackers). Cut pita into bite-size pieces. Dip pieces into a bowl of honey and eat.

Action Rhymes & Songs

John the Baptist

John the Baptist was his name. *(hold up pointer finger)*

Dressed in camel hair and leather,

He came to prepare the way

To tell of our heavenly Father! *(point up)*

John's voice was heard in the desert, *(hand cupped to mouth)*

"You must change your hearts and minds."

The people from all the countryside came *(arms outstretched)*

To be baptized in the River Jordan.

Jesus Is Coming Sung to the tune of "Go Tell Aunt Rhody"

Jesus is coming,

Jesus is coming,

Jesus is coming,

He's coming very soon.

Stop doing wrong things,
 Stop doing wrong things,
 Stop doing wrong things,
 Be sorry for your sins.

Jesus is God's Son,
 Jesus is God's Son,
 Jesus is God's Son,
 The Savior of the world.

John

John was big,	(measure)
John was strong.	(show arm muscle)
He told the people	(hand to side of mouth)
They were wrong.	(point finger)

"Get ready, get ready,"	
Was John's call.	(hand to mouth)
Jesus is coming	
For one and for all.	(hold up finger, then point to all)

I Have Good News for You

Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

I have good news for you.	A voice from heaven spoke,
I have good news for you.	A voice from heaven spoke,
Jesus Christ is coming soon.	"This is My special Son,
I have good news for you.	Whom I love so much!"
John baptized Jesus.	Jesus is God's Son.
John baptized Jesus.	Jesus is God's Son.
In the Jordan River,	Sent to be the Savior,
John baptized Jesus.	Jesus is God's Son.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Write or draw some ways you and your family prepare your home when company is coming over. What would you do if that company was Jesus? Prepare your heart and welcome Christ in!

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "John the Baptist" word search and "Riverwalk" and "Guess Who?" activity sheets.
- **Friendship Pin:** The children create a Friendship Pin as a means to share the Gospel. Small colored beads are representative of each aspect of the salvation plan:
 YELLOW: Reminds us of heaven
 CHARCOAL: Sin
 RED: Jesus's blood that washes away sin
 WHITE: Clean, pure heart
 GREEN: New life and growth in Jesus

Supplies:

Small safety pins; small beads in colors indicated above

The children string one of each color bead onto safety pin in order listed. As the children are making the pins, talk with them about being messengers to share the Gospel, like John the Baptist. The children may make several pins to share.

- **Prepare the Way Bracelet:** To provide a “hands on” tool for sharing, let each child make a bracelet to use when sharing the gospel message. Prior to class, the teacher will dye macaroni in these colors: yellow, charcoal, red, green. (Or children can use magic markers to color macaroni.) *Directions:* Put a small amount of rubbing alcohol in four dishes. Add appropriate liquid food coloring to each dish. Place macaroni in a dish for a few seconds, stir, and then let it dry on wax paper. Each child will need to paint a piece of macaroni white, using tempera paint. String the macaroni on pipe cleaner in the following order:

yellow: signifies holiness and love of God, heaven

charcoal: we all sin and need Jesus

red: Jesus’s blood, the way God provided to take away sin

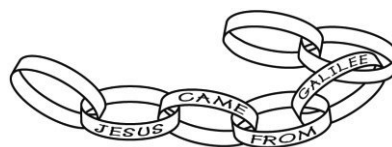
white: being made clean

green: growth

Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together to form a bracelet.

Re-emphasize how to use this bracelet in telling others the gospel message.

- **Let’s Get Acquainted with John:** Have each child lie down on a large piece of craft paper. Carefully outline their body with a marker or crayon. Read Matthew 3:4-6 and ask the children to listen for descriptive words. The children list the words (or say words for the teachers to write) inside their body outline. The children draw and color features and clothing.
- **Memory Verse Balloons:** Write each word of the unit verse (John 4:14) on a separate slip of paper. Place one slip of paper into each balloon; then blow up the balloons. The children form a circle and bat the balloons around. When the teacher yells, “Stop and pop!” each child grabs a balloon, pops it, and retrieves the slip of paper. The children work together to put words in the correct sequence.
- We want to be prepared to tell the good news of Jesus Christ. This would be an excellent opportunity to share the “Four Spiritual Laws”:
 - 1) God loves me and offers a wonderful plan for my life.
 - 2) I am sinful and separated from God. Therefore, I cannot know and experience God’s love and plan for my life.
 - 3) Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for my sin. Through Him, I can know and experience God’s love and plan for my life.
 - 4) I must personally receive Jesus Christ as Savior; then I can know and experience God’s love and plan for my life.
- Draw stick-figure pictures of everything you do as you prepare to come to CBS (wake up, shower, eat, brush teeth, etc.). Next, draw stick-figure pictures of ways we prepare our hearts for the Lord Jesus (praying, reading Bible, singing praises, etc.). Our Bible tells how people long ago prepared for the coming of Jesus.
- **Scripture Necklace:** Cut sixteen 8” x 1” strips of construction paper. Write one word of the Matthew 3:13 Scripture on each strip – “*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.*” Put the verse reference on the last strip. Place the words in proper order, then glue or staple them together in links. Share your verse with family and friends.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 19

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD **Jesus's Ministry**

LESSON 19: The Calling of Matthew

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13; 10:2-4; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32, 6:12-16

Story Overview: As Matthew was sitting at his tax collector's booth, Jesus called him to follow Him. Matthew got up and followed. He invited Jesus to dinner with his tax collector friends. This upset the Pharisees. They didn't like that Jesus was having dinner with "sinners," but Jesus explained that those were the people He came to save.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Matthew followed Jesus when Jesus called him.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to follow Jesus and be His disciples just like Matthew did.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Matthew left everything and followed Jesus when Jesus called him to be His disciple.
- understand that Jesus loves them and wants them to follow Him.
- put their trust in God and become a follower of Christ.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: FOLLOW

Craft: Happy Helper Chart

Life Application: Jesus loved Matthew, and Matthew responded to Jesus's unconditional love by repenting and following Him. Look for ways that you can love and accept people just the way they are and help them to follow Jesus.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

People gave tax money to Matthew. Most people did not want to give money to Matthew. Most people did not like Matthew. One day, Jesus saw Matthew. Matthew was sitting by himself. Jesus said, "Matthew, follow Me." Matthew got up and went with Jesus. Matthew became Jesus's friend. Matthew had a special dinner for Jesus and Matthew's friends. Matthew became a special helper to Jesus. Jesus loved Matthew. Jesus loves all people. Jesus loves you. Jesus wants to be your friend.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Do you have a special friend? Who is it? Isn't it nice to have friends to play with, friends to laugh with, friends to sing with, and even friends to sit with when you listen to a Bible story? When we look around our room here, we see lots of friends, don't we? God is so good to give us friends. God gave Jesus to us to be our very best friend! Our Bible tells us Jesus was a friend to all kinds of people. Jesus wants each and every person for a friend.

Some of Jesus's friends were His special helpers. They were called disciples. Let's see if we can say that word—disciples. It means that these helper friends went with Jesus wherever He went. They were with Him to learn from Him about God. Later they would go and tell other people what they had learned from Jesus. They would tell people that Jesus is the only way to God. What kind of people do you think Jesus chose to be His special helpers? Those who were the nicest? No. Those who had the most money? No. People who were most popular? No. Who were they? **Jesus chose 12 ordinary men to be His special helpers. There was nothing special about them. One of those 12 men was Matthew, and that's who we're going to talk about today. This is how Jesus chose Matthew.**

Matthew was a tax collector, and he had a special place to work beside the street. He would sit there all day, collecting taxes. That meant he would take money from the people to give to the king. Most people didn't like tax collectors because they would usually take more money than they were supposed to. Tax collectors would keep this money for themselves, even when it didn't really belong to them. Matthew would do this, too, so the people didn't really like him. Do you think that Matthew had very many nice friends? No, I don't think he did, either.

One day as Jesus was walking down the road, He passed where Matthew worked. He saw Matthew sitting all by himself as he was counting his money. It didn't matter to Jesus whether Matthew had friends or not. It didn't matter if Matthew was a tax collector. **As Jesus passed by He called to Matthew, "Follow Me." Matthew jumped up and followed Jesus.** Matthew had probably heard about Jesus and knew He was someone really special. He quickly stopped counting his money and got up and followed Jesus. Can you imagine Matthew leaving all that money behind?

Matthew wanted to talk to Jesus so he asked Jesus to come to his house for dinner. Matthew also asked many of his friends to come to dinner, too. Can you guess who his friends were? They were tax collectors and other people who did bad things. But Matthew was excited and wanted his friends to meet Jesus. Some other people heard about this. They just

could not understand why Jesus was eating with Matthew, the tax collector, and all his bad friends. Actually, it made these people very angry.

Jesus knew how these people felt. But Jesus said He invited all to be His friends and to eat with Him. **And that day Matthew became Jesus's friend. He also became one of His special helpers.** Matthew learned that Jesus is the way into God's forever family. Jesus accepted Matthew just the way he was so Matthew wanted to accept others, just like Jesus did.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Introduce your team teacher as your friend, and tell why you are good friends. Talk about the many different kinds of friends we have—CBS friends, neighborhood friends, etc.
- Have puppets of Jesus and Matthew; also have coins.
- Role play a tax collector, perhaps using favorite CBS toys instead of money.

Interest Centers

- Cover cardboard circles with aluminum foil to create “coins.” (Use juice can lids or play money, if available.) Let the children pretend they are counting their money. Have a drawstring bag for them to put the coins in after they are counted. Be sure the circles are large enough for the children to handle easily.
- Provide two sets of matching pieces of ribbon, stickers, and cards. Let each child draw one item from a bag. The children find the person with the matching item, and they become special friends for the day.
- Draw pictures of friends or cut pictures from magazines; make a collage.

Games

- Play a game of hide-and-seek with the foil-covered “coins” used earlier today.
- Play “Follow the Leader” with the leader doing different motions. Explain that we want to follow and imitate Jesus. Let the leader hold up a picture of Jesus.
- **Come Follow Me:** Choose one child to be in the middle and have other children join hands and walk in a circle around him/her, singing to the tune of “*Mary Had a Little Lamb*.”

Jesus said, “Come follow Me, Follow Me, follow Me.”

Jesus said, “Come follow Me, And be My special friends.”

The child in the middle picks a friend to come join him/her in the middle. The friend says, “Yes, I will!” and steps into the middle.

Continue playing, with the second child picking a friend, and so on. When the circle isn't big enough to go around all the children in the middle, start all over again. Everyone should have a chance to be in the middle.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Jesus Is My Friend Sung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

Jesus is my friend,
 Jesus is my friend.
 I'm so very happy that
 Jesus is my friend.

How Can They Help You, Lord?

I have two hands that I can raise up high;	<i>(raise hands)</i>
How can they help You, Lord?	
I have two eyes that can see the sky;	<i>(look up)</i>
How can they help You, Lord?	
I have two legs that can walk a mile;	<i>(walk in place)</i>
How can they help You, Lord?	
I have a smile, a happy smile;	<i>(smile)</i>
That can help You, Lord!	

I'll be a Helper Sung to the tune of *"Jesus Loves Me"*

Even though I am quite small,
 I can be of help to all;
 I can use my hands and feet
 And my mouth to sweetly speak.
 I'll be a helper;
 I'll be a helper;
 I'll be a helper;
 And I will please the Lord.

I'm a Little Helper Sung to the tune of *"I'm a Little Teapot"*

I'm a little helper, Small and Sweet!
 Here is my dust cloth and broom to sweep.
 When I get all ready, watch me go,
 I work for Jesus, don't you know!

I'm a little helper, Yes, it's true!
 Here's an example of what I can do.
 I can clean my room or help fold cloths,
 I work for Jesus, don't you know!

God's Helpers Sung to the tune of *"Frère Jacques"*

God wants helpers, God wants helpers,
 Yes, He does; yes, He does.
 Let's be special helpers, let's be special helpers.
 For God, for God.

From Piggyback Songs in Praise to God by Jean Warren.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: For fun, watch someone in your family and follow everything they do—when they stand up, you stand up; when they smile, you smile; when they walk into another room, you walk into another room. Think about what it would have been like to be a follower, or disciple, of Jesus and be able to spend time with Him every day. Thank God that Jesus has called you to be His follower and try to do things that He would do. (Serve others, be kind, show love, etc.)

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Matthew, The Tax Collector” and “The Calling of Matthew” worksheet and “Let’s Follow Jesus” list.
- Read these Scriptures with the children: Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:14-17; Luke 5:27-32. Then complete “The Calling of Matthew” sheet. Jesus also called 11 other men to be His disciples. Look in Luke 6:12-16 to find their names. Each child draws around his or her own foot, making a pattern. Use the pattern to draw 12 feet and cut them out. Write one disciple’s name on each foot. Encourage the children to memorize the names of the 12 disciples.
- **Bible Verse Scramble:** Before class, the teacher writes one word per 3” x 5” card (22 cards per set) of today’s Scripture verse (John 14:6). Make two sets. Then form two teams; each team has a set of cards (placed face down). Each team forms a circle on opposite sides of the room. At a given signal, teams throw the cards into the air. The children scramble to gather the cards, and then put them in correct order. The first team to arrange them in correct order wins. Repeat as long as the children are interested.
- **Twelve Disciples Song:** (sung to tune of “*Bringing in the Sheaves*”). The children may want to learn the names of the disciples by singing this song:

There were twelve disciples
 Jesus called to help Him:
 Simon Peter
 Andrew
 James
 His brother John
 Philip
 Thomas
 Matthew
 James, the son of Alphaeus
 Thaddaeus
 Simon
 Judas
 and Bartholomew

Chorus:
He has called us, too. (Yes!)
He has called us, too.
We are His disciples.
We His work must do.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 20

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD Jesus's Ministry

LESSON 20: Jesus Calls the Children

Scripture: Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17

Story Overview: People were bringing children to see Jesus to have Him lay His hands on them and pray for them. Jesus's disciples tried to send them away, but Jesus told them not to stop the children from coming to Him. He explained how special children are to the kingdom of God.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that children are special to Jesus.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that they are special to Jesus and that He wants them to be part of His forever family.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jesus showed love to the children who were brought to Him.
- understand that Jesus loves each of them and wants them to be part of His forever family.
- tell their friends that Jesus loves them and they are special to Him.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: LOVE

Craft: Valentine Visor

Life Application: Picture yourself getting a sweet hug from someone you love. How does that make you feel? Picture that sweet hug is from Jesus Himself! Wouldn't that make you feel so special? Remember that feeling and help others know how special they are to Him as well.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

"Hurry, Mommy! Hurry, Daddy!" The boys and girls were happy. They were going to see Jesus! Jesus was their best friend. Jesus's helpers told the mommies and daddies that Jesus was busy. That made the children very sad. Then they heard someone calling—it was Jesus! Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me." Jesus smiled at the boys and girls. Jesus hugged the boys and girls. Jesus talked to the boys and girls. Jesus prayed for the boys and girls. Jesus loved the children. Jesus loves you.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Get ready. Get your jackets! Let's go see Jesus! **Would you be excited if your mother said she was going to take you to see Jesus? You would probably be just as excited as the children who were in our Bible story today.** They had heard how wonderful Jesus was—how He made blind people see and crippled people walk. They knew Jesus taught people all about God and how much God loved them. Now they were going to get to see Jesus and maybe even talk to Him!

Lots of people were bringing their children to where Jesus was teaching. As they got closer the children became excited about being able to talk to Jesus. The people looked forward to having Jesus bless their children and maybe even pray over them. As the mothers tried to move their children through the crowd to get closer to Jesus they were turned away.

"Wait there. Come no farther. Don't you see that Jesus is teaching some very important things?" said a man in the crowd. **Jesus's helpers agreed that the children shouldn't bother Jesus when He had work to do.** Jesus was too busy and didn't have time to see the children today. So the helpers told the children to go away.

The people were so sad to hear this! The children were sad, too! They had come all this way and now Jesus was too busy for them. So they turned to go back home. Wait, someone was calling them. As they looked around they heard Jesus calling them! "Do not go away," Jesus said. "Children come, children come."

Then Jesus said to His helpers, "Let the little children come to Me; don't send them away." As Jesus said this, the people in the crowd made a pathway so the children could come to Jesus. Jesus smiled as the children quickly ran to Him. He took each one of them in His arms and hugged them. He let them sit in His lap as He talked to them. Jesus put His hands on the children and prayed for them, too.

Jesus loved these little children. Jesus loves all the children of the world, and do you know that He loves you? *(Teacher—make this very personal by calling each child by name: Jesus loves you, Emma; Jesus loves you, Jack, etc. Remember to name every child in the classroom.)*

Jesus wants children to be a part of His forever family. He loves each one of you, and God loves each one of you. Jesus loves all of us so much that He came to this earth to be our Savior.

When we do wrong things (which are called sins), we are not following God's way—not living in the perfect goodness of God. When we are born, we really are not part of God's forever family yet. But we can choose to be in His forever family by believing in Jesus. He died for all the wrong things we do, and He came to life again for each of us so that one day, we can be in heaven with Him.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Tell the story from the perspective of a child going to see Jesus.
- Bring a mirror to use during the story. When the teacher gets to the part of the story where Jesus holds and loves the children, hold the mirror in front of each child and say “Jesus loves _____.”
- Act out the story with one teacher as Jesus, another as the narrator who explains the story, and several children as the disciples.

Interest Centers

- Provide magazines with pictures of children. Have the children cut out pictures of children from around the world. Create individual pictures or a collage. Have a picture of Jesus that they can paste in the center.
- Provide puzzles showing friends.
- Make hearts using modeling clay and heart cookie cutters.
- Draw several hearts on a large sheet of paper. Let the children glue the pictures of children (cut out of the magazines) inside the hearts.
- The children make “I love you” cards for friends and family.
- With a washable red marker, write on each child’s palm: “I love you! Xo Jesus”
- Make heart cards. On a half sheet of cardstock, pre-print John 15:12. Fold the sheet in half to make a card. On the front of the card, create a heart made of each child’s fingerprints—one print pointing left and one print pointing right. Write a message on the inside. Add small red heart stickers to decorate the card, if desired.
- Tell the babies how special they are to Jesus and then let each one make their thumb prints on a piece of paper using a washable ink stamp pad or water based paints. They can then be made into thumb print animals or insects using markers.
- Sing *Jesus Loves the Little Children* song with the children then show them pictures of children of different nationalities that can be found on the internet. Tell the children that Jesus loves us no matter what language we speak or how we look or dress.

Snacks (*Check for allergies.*)

- Heart-shaped cookies.

Games

- **Musical Hearts:** Tape hearts on the floor all around the room. Play music such as “Jesus Loves Me” while the children walk around the room. When the music stops, the children must find a heart to stand on. Make sure there are enough hearts for every child.
- **Hide & Seek Hearts:** Hide cut out hearts around the room. Let the children look for hearts and upon finding a heart have them shout, “Jesus Loves Me!”
- **Heart Throw Game:** Place a hula hoop or make a circle on the floor using rope or masking tape. Throw hearts or heart-shaped bracelets or candies from a specified distance into the circle. Let each child have a turn trying to throw into the circle. (Option: have each child or the class as a whole recite the week’s memory verse before throwing.)
- **Jesus, May I?:** Played like “Mother, may I?”
- **Pass the Heart:** The children sit in a circle, passing around a heart as the music plays. When the music stops, the one holding the heart recites one of the memory verses.
- **Red Light, Green Light:** Have the children stand on one side of the room, side-by-side, while you stand on the opposite side of the room. When you say “green light,” they can walk toward you. When you say “red light,” they need to stop and freeze. When they reach you, they can high-five you and say “Jesus loves you!” (Use red and green signs for “stop and “go” for smaller children.)

Action Rhymes & Songs**Jesus Loves the Children**

God made many children
Different as can be.
Some are tall and some are short,
And some look just like me!

(hold up ten fingers)
(shake head)

Jesus dearly loved the children,
He held them on His knee.
He said to all the big tall men,
"Let the children come to Me."

(point to self)

(pat knee)
(hold up ten fingers)
(hold hands out invitingly)

Jesus loves all the boys and girls,
The little ones quite small.
Babies whom you rock to sleep,
And children very tall!

(hold up ten fingers)
(use hand to indicate “small”)
(form cradle with arms and rock)
(hand high overhead)

*From Nursery Children Sing, new edition.
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The Children's Friend

The children ran to see Jesus
But men said, "No! You cannot come."
Then Jesus said, "Such talk must end."
He really is the children's Friend!

(run fingers along arm or lap)
(shake finger)
(place hand over mouth)
(nod head and smile)

Jesus Loves All

Jesus loves all boys and girls
 And little ones so small,
 Babies who are just like you,
 Oh, how He loves them all!

(arms outstretched)
 (use hand to indicate small child)
 (pretend to hold baby in arms)
 (hug self)

To Jesus We Will Go Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

To Jesus we will go; To Jesus we will go. (skipping, hopping, smiling)
 Up and down and 'cross the town,
 To Jesus we will go.

You must go away; You must go away. (push hands away from body)
 Jesus sees important men, (stand tall and "important")
 You must go away.

(Sing the following stanza slowly)

So homeward we will go, (drag feet slowly)

So homeward we will go.

Feeling bad and oh, so sad, (droopy, sad posture)

Homeward we will go.

(Sing at original tempo)

Oh children, do come back, (beckoning motions)

Oh children, do come back.

Jesus's arms now wait for you (hold arms out)

So children, please come back.

To Jesus we will go, To Jesus we will go. (skipping, hopping, smiling)

Jesus loves and cares for us,

To Jesus we will go.

(Children pantomime how friends help, share, play together, etc.)

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: You are so special to Jesus! Do you know someone else who needs to hear how special they are to Him? Share it with them.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Jesus Said," "Children of God" and "Jesus and the Children" activity sheets.
- **Collage:** Make a collage with a picture of Jesus in the center, magazine pictures of children surrounding Him. The children can draw a picture of themselves in the collage, too..
- **Valentine Love Gift:**

Supplies:

Fun Foam (various colors)
 Scissors
 Hole punch
 Yarn or ribbon
 Stickers, markers



Procedure:

1. Cut a 6" heart from Fun Foam.
2. Cut the bottom half of another heart from a different color of foam.
3. Punch holes evenly around the heart.
4. Lay the heart over the half heart, mark the holes, and punch out holes from the half heart.
5. Place the half heart on the whole heart; use a ribbon or length of yarn to stitch the 2 pieces together (in and out of each hole).
6. Decorate with stickers and/or markers. (Let it dry before touching.)

Use the heart to hold messages, Scripture, prayers, etc.

- The children fill out the "All About Me" sheet (available in **Puzzles & Patterns**.) The teacher collects them, reads one or two statements aloud (without child's name), and the children try to guess who it is.
- **Love Necklace:** Each child draws ten handprints, using different colors of construction paper and write his/her name on each handprint. Have the children cut out and exchange handprints. Staple handprints together to form a necklace. Help the children write one word on each handprint as follows: LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. JOHN 15:12. Encourage the children to wear their necklace and share God's Word.
- **Puppet Show:** Today the children will present a puppet show for each preschool class (arrange prior to class). Read the Scripture first; then the children can record as they sing, "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Each child will create his/her own puppet on one hand. The teacher provides liquid makeup foundation, lipstick, markers, yarn (yellow, red, black, brown), etc. Choose one child to be "Jesus." For a stage, drape a sheet between two chairs. The children hide behind the sheet, holding hands. Allow time for rehearsal before going to individual classes. As the children go into each classroom to perform, they will share the good news of how much Jesus loves each child.

Additional Visuals

Hearts Everywhere: Using masking tape or painter's tape (not duct tape), create hearts on the floor of your classroom—one for every child. Let them be "surrounded by love" while listening to the story.



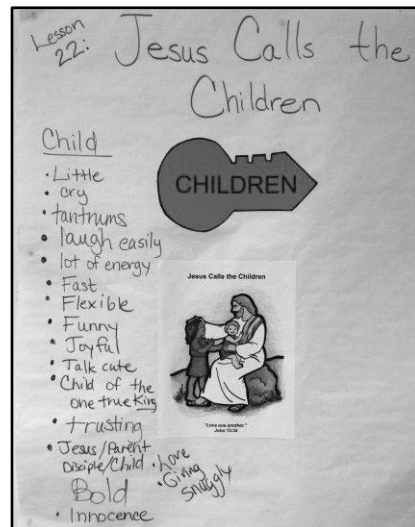
Hearts craft: Fold a toilet paper holder in half and tape into a heart shape. Dip the end into paint and make hearts on paper.



Jesus and Children: Make a Jesus and children drawing on a large cardboard box with cutouts for children's face to peek through and take photos for children.

Application of the Key Word:

On a large sheet of paper, tape the week's key word and colored Children's Home Paper in the center. Use it as a discussion prompt during story or snack time. Introduce the meaning of the key word to the children and discuss the life application of that key word in their personal lives.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 21

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD Jesus's Ministry

LESSON 21: Jesus Heals Bartimaeus

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

Story Overview: Bartimaeus, a blind beggar from Jericho, heard that Jesus was passing by and began shouting to get Jesus's attention. People tried to make him be quiet, but he shouted even louder. Jesus stopped and healed Bartimaeus because of Bartimaeus' great faith.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Bartimaeus had faith that Jesus could heal his blindness.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God can do mighty things when they have faith just as He did for Bartimaeus.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that blind Bartimaeus was healed because of his faith in Jesus.
- understand that God can work powerfully when we have faith.
- pray each day for more faith.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: FAITH

Craft: Flip-Face Picture of Bartimaeus

Life Application: Faith is both a gift from God and something we have to put into action. Bartimaeus had faith that Jesus could heal him. Do you have that kind of faith? Ask God for the gift of faith and put it into practice, especially as you pray for others.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Bartimaeus was a man who could not see. One day, Bartimaeus heard many people talking. As the people walked by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Bartimaeus knew Jesus could help him to see. Bartimaeus asked Jesus to help him. Jesus came to him. Jesus made Bartimaeus's eyes to see! Bartimaeus could see people, trees, flowers...and Jesus! Bartimaeus followed Jesus. Bartimaeus thanked Jesus. Jesus loved Bartimaeus.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Let's all close our eyes really tight. Now keep them closed. No peeking! I'm going to pretend that a funny clown just walked into our room. Oh, I wish you could see him. He has a big red nose and curly bright orange hair. He has on a polka dot suit with a really big purple flower in his top pocket. In his hand, he is holding lots and lots of big balloons. Now, open your eyes. How would you feel if you never got to see this funny-looking clown? You can imagine what the clown looks like from what I described because you have seen a clown before, but a blind person has never even seen a clown. He or she isn't able to see anything we can see. A blind person would feel as if he or she had missed out on a lot.

Today our Bible story is about a man named Bartimaeus. He was different from most men because he was blind. Because he couldn't see, he wasn't able to get a job. Nearly every day Bartimaeus sat by the roadside near the city of Jericho. As people walked by, he would ask them for money so he could buy food to eat. Sometimes people gave him money, and sometimes they stopped and told him stories. Some people told him about Jesus and how He made people well. Whenever blind Bartimaeus heard about Jesus, he wished that Jesus would come to Jericho on this road. If only he could ask Jesus to help him see!

One day as Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside, he could hear many voices and the sounds of many feet. The sound was coming closer and closer. "What is it? What is it?" he asked excitedly. He couldn't see, but he could hear that something exciting was happening. "It's Jesus! He's coming along this road!" someone said to him.

How wonderful, he thought, but how was Jesus going to see him? There were so many people crowding around to see Him. **Bartimaeus decided to shout. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me," he cried out. Would Jesus hear him? It didn't seem that He would. So Bartimaeus kept on shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."** People in the crowd told him to be quiet. But Bartimaeus shouted even louder, "Jesus, help me, please help me!"

Suddenly the crowd became quiet and Bartimaeus heard a kind voice saying, "Bring him here to me." Someone near Bartimaeus said to him, "Jesus is calling you. He wants you to come to Him!" Jesus had heard him! Bartimaeus jumped up and threw off his coat. He held out his hands in front of him and hurried toward the kind voice.

Jesus asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" "Oh, Lord, I want to see!" Bartimaeus answered. He knew Jesus could make him see so he asked Him to make his

eyes well. The kind voice of Jesus spoke again: “Go on your way; your faith has made you well.” Jesus was saying, “Because you believe in Me, you will be able to see!”

Suddenly Bartimaeus could see! He could see the beautiful trees, the flowers, the blue sky, and people. The darkness was gone. The most wonderful thing of all for him to see was the kind and loving face of Jesus. How he loved Him! **Bartimaeus followed after Jesus, telling everyone the wonderful things God had done.**

Jesus had made Bartimaeus well and now he could see. Jesus was able to heal the sick because He was the Son of God and God gave Him special power. God wanted Jesus to heal sick people so they would know God loves them and has provided a way through Jesus for them to be part of God’s forever family.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- One teacher tells the story while the other is blindfolded and places figures on the felt board. (Be sure the pieces are in order, so they will be placed correctly on the board.)
- Consider introducing story with the teacher being blindfolded, and a child comes to the teacher. The teacher touches the child’s face and guesses who it is.
- If available, tell the story wearing a doctor’s lab coat. Talk about Jesus being the Great Physician who heals us and helps the doctors know how to help us heal, too.

Interest Centers

- Have Braille cards or books for the children to look at and feel. Your local library may have these available.
- Have one child act as a “guide dog” for another who is blindfolded. Each holds one end of a rope, and the “guide dog” leads the blindfolded child around the room.
- Prior to class, spell out each child’s name on cardstock or cardboard. Then glue peas, lentils, dots of glue, or fabric paint over each letter. Have the children blindfolded and trace the letters with their fingers.
- Fill a large bowl with uncooked rice. Hide a number of objects in the rice. Let each child reach in and try to identify what they are feeling.
- Place two chairs about 5 to 10 feet apart. Tie a rope between the chairs, about waist high for a child. Blindfold the children one at a time, and let them try to walk between the chairs, using the rope as a guide.

Games

- Make a “feely bag.” Put a comb, pencil, crayon, ball, etc. in a bag. Let a child reach in without looking and tries to guess an object. This activity helps children realize the importance of touch to a blind person.

- Play a sound game similar to the “feely bag” game. Using a mobile device, download, or use ringtones and play familiar sounds (bells, telephone ring, doorbell, coins jingling, etc.) and have the children guess what the sound is.
- Create “blind drawings.” Have the children take turns drawing a face (or a smiley face) while blindfolded.
- Try to do everyday things without looking. (i.e. tying shoes, eating, zipping their coat, etc.)
- Use paper shapes, two of a kind, prepared by the teacher. Place one set around the room in plain view. Hold up one shape at a time. Let one or two children find matching shapes, while the teacher says:

Look around the room.

What do you see?

If you find something like this,

Bring it here to me.

- **Blind Balance Game:** Have the children stand an arm’s length apart from one another in an open space. Explain that they are going to find out how important their sight is for their ability to walk around. Ask the children to stand on both feet and balance for 15-30 seconds. Next, have them repeat the activity, only this time closing their eyes while balancing. Compare the difficulty of both tasks. Challenge them to stand on one foot and balance for 10-15 seconds without touching anything for support. Then do the same activity with their eyes closed. Explain that our balance is partly dependent on our ability to see our surroundings. God created all of our senses to work together. This is why it is especially difficult for a person who does not have the use of one of his or her senses.
- **Blind Shoe Relay:** Have the children take off at least one of their shoes and put them in a pile in the center of the room. Blindfold one child at a time. Guide them to the shoe pile and let them try to find their own shoes.
- **Blind Bag Game:** Put various items in two large bags. Some can be duplicates. Divide the class into two teams. Blindfold the first one on each team. On “go” each one reaches into the bag, pull up an item and tries to guess what it is. After the guess, the next person in line goes. The winning team is the one with the most correct guesses. Ideas for the items include soap, sock, fruit, coins, eraser, candy, crayon, marker, etc.
- **Blindfold Challenge:** Give a child or a team of children a set of blocks and challenge them to build a tower while blindfolded. While they build, have the other children cheer them on. (Focus on teamwork and not on who can build the tallest tower.) Explain that in the story of Bartimaeus, everyone told the blind man to be quiet and leave Jesus alone, but that isn’t the kind of attitude God wants us to have. Instead, He wants us to encourage each other just as they did while building the tower.
- Take a walk outside. Look and see all the pretty things God has made. Go back inside and draw pictures of the things the children have seen. Or draw pictures of the things the children see in the room.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Bartimaeus

Bartimaeus was poor;
Bartimaeus was blind.
But Jesus loved Bartimaeus
And made his eyes to see.

(hold out hands, palms up)
(close eyes)
(hug self)
(point to open eyes)

Bartimaeus saw people;	<i>(hand motion indicating people)</i>
Bartimaeus saw trees;	<i>(look upward)</i>
Bartimaeus saw flowers;	<i>(pretend to hold a flower and smell)</i>
And Bartimaeus saw Jesus!	<i>(smile)</i>

I Can See Sung to the tune of "*Frère Jacques*"

I can see, I can see.
 Jesus made me well; Jesus made me well.
 Now I can see; Now I can see.
 Thank You, Jesus; Thank You, Jesus.

Jesus Made the Blind to See Sung to the tune of "*Mary Had a Little Lamb*"

Jesus made the blind to see,
 Blind to see, blind to see.
 Jesus made the blind to see;
 He healed Bartimaeus' eyes.

The Man Who Couldn't See

The Bible tells us of a man	<i>(hold hands like open Bible)</i>
Whose eyes were blind, and so	<i>(cover eyes)</i>
He couldn't see the sunshine	<i>(shake head "no")</i>
Or watch the flowers grow.	<i>(bring hands up)</i>
He couldn't see the raindrops	<i>(hands down, fingers moving)</i>
Or bright birds in the tree.	<i>(thumbs together, fingers jiggling)</i>
Till Jesus gently touched his eyes,	<i>(point to eye)</i>
And then the man could see!	
He saw the flowers, and birds, and rain,	
And saw the sun's bright light.	<i>(big round circle)</i>
And then he smiled at Jesus,	<i>(smile)</i>
And thanked Him for his sight.	<i>(hands together prayerfully)</i>

*From 202 Things to Do at Home, Church, School by Margaret M. Self.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Write the word FAITH down the left-hand side of your journal page. For each letter, write or draw something about yourself that helps you be like Jesus to other people (for example, F=friendly, A=amazingly kind, etc.) This is called an acronym. After you create your acronym, decorate your page and show it to the class next week.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Jesus Heals the Blind Man" sheet.
- Draw a picture of what you would miss if you couldn't see.
- Today would be a wonderful opportunity to invite a blind person with a guide dog to visit your class. Let this person tell about his or her life, the trust between man and dog, etc.

- To help children realize what a loss it would be not to be able to see, provide items for the children to identify by touch only. Blindfold the children and take them to an enclosed area. Have them touch each item and try to guess what it is. Suggestions: peeled grapes, cooked noodles, miniature marshmallows, cooked vegetables, pretzels, raisins, etc.
- Set up five centers with items to represent each of the five senses: taste, see, smell, touch, and hear. Have the children explore each center.
- **Trust Walk:** Prior to class, teacher sets up obstacle course with objects children must walk around, climb over, or crawl under, etc. (Use whatever is available in your room: chairs, tables, boxes). Form pairs; one child is blindfolded while the other child is the guide and leads the blindfolded child safely. Talk about the faith that the blindfolded person needs to have as the guide leads. Relate that to today's lesson.
- Let each child create a picture expressing his or her joy about having sight. Suggestions: "The most beautiful thing I have seen which God created is ...," or "My eyes see ..."

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 22

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD Jesus's Ministry

LESSON 22: Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Story Overview: Jesus was having dinner with a Pharisee when a sinful woman came in. She showed how much she loved Jesus by washing His feet with her tears, drying them with her hair, and pouring expensive perfume on them. Jesus was pleased by what she had done.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus forgave the sinful woman.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that Jesus will forgive their sins when they come to Him in love just as He did for the sinful woman.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that the sinful woman was sorry for her sins and showed her love for Jesus.
- understand that they can show Jesus how sorry they are for their sins by loving Him and others.
- respond by asking God to forgive their sins and showing love to others.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: FORGIVENESS

Craft: "Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman" Booklet or Forgiveness Bracelet

Life Application: How does it make you feel when you forgive someone or someone forgives you? Forgiving and being forgiven pleases God and is a wonderful way to show love. Practice forgiveness this week.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus was eating dinner. A woman came into the room. The woman went to Jesus. She was crying. Her tears fell on Jesus's feet. She dried His feet with her long hair. She kissed His feet and poured perfume on His feet. The woman loved Jesus. The woman had done bad things. She was sorry. Jesus said, "Because you love Me, I forgive you." The woman felt better. She stopped crying. Jesus can help us feel better. When we say, "I'm sorry" Jesus forgives us.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Isn't it fun when you are invited to a friend's house for lunch or dinner? Usually, your friend greets you at the door, invites you to come in, and warmly welcomes you as you walk in. **Jesus was invited by an important man to come to his house for dinner. Simon was not sure how he felt about Jesus, so he invited Him to his house to get to know Him better.**

Simon may have been an important man, but he didn't treat Jesus as nicely as he should have when Jesus entered his house. Usually, the hosts would greet their guests and offer water to wash their feet. Back then, people wore sandals instead of shoes, and their feet got really dusty from walking on the dirt roads. Jesus acted as if He did not notice that Simon had been unkind. Jesus just took His seat with the other guests at the table.

As they were eating, a woman whom Simon had not invited entered the room. The Bible says that she was a sinful woman. She knew that an important man like Simon would never invite her to his house, but she wanted to see Jesus. She had brought something very special for Jesus.

She quietly walked over to where Jesus was seated. Then she started to cry. You see, she was sorry for the wrong things she had done. Her tears were falling down on Jesus's feet. Then she did a very strange thing. She knelt down and used her long hair to wipe her tears from Jesus's feet as she kissed them. Then she poured perfume from a small jar she had brought. It was as if she was washing Jesus's feet with her tears and perfume. Because she didn't have a towel, she used her hair to dry His feet. She did this to show her love to Jesus and to show she was sorry for all the bad things she had done.

Simon could not believe this sinful woman was even in his house, not to mention making such a scene with his guest! Simon probably had a big frown on his face. The Bible says that Simon thought to himself, "If Jesus were a prophet (a man from God,) He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is—a sinner!"

Jesus knows all things, doesn't He? Jesus knew exactly what Simon was thinking. He said, "Simon, I have something to tell you. Look! Do you see this woman kneeling here? When I entered your home, you didn't bother to offer Me water to wash My feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You refused Me the customary kiss of greeting, but she has kissed My feet again and again. She has covered My feet with rare perfume. This woman has been bad, but I have forgiven all her sins."

Jesus said to the woman, “Because you love Me, I forgive you. You may go home in peace.” Simon and his other guests knew that only God could forgive sins. Jesus was showing them that He really was the Son of God.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use dolls or puppets for the central characters.
- Use props (water basin, sandals, perfume, sad face, happy face).
- Draw a cross on a poster board. Talk about what it means to sin. Write examples of sins on the cross. Talk about how we all need forgiveness and that God can forgive us because Jesus died on the cross.

Interest Centers

- Have a table set up with many small bottles (like medicine bottles). In the bottles, place cotton balls saturated with different fragrances for the children to smell. Use a strong perfume, a weaker perfume, shaving lotion, baby oil, lemons, limes or kitchen spices. Ask, “What smells best to you?” Explain that sometimes we give sweet-smelling gifts to the people we love.
- **Flannel Board:** Cut out a large oval-shaped face from flannel. Cut out flannel mouths and pairs of eyes with varied expressions. Let the children place these features on the face to express different emotions. Talk with the children about feelings as they are choosing features.
- Provide a mirror; ask the children to make faces (happy, sad, excited, mad, silly, frightened, etc.) Guide the conversation, mentioning that in today’s story, there are many emotions that are similar to the faces they made.
- Bring in two drinking glasses—one dirty and one clean—to demonstrate what it is like to have sin in our lives vs. having our hearts washed clean through forgiveness.
- Make two roads on the floor with masking/painter’s tape. At the end of one road, tape a happy face. At the end of the other road, tape a sad face. When the child chooses the sad route, explain that God forgives us when we ask Him for forgiveness. Then let the child try again.

Games

- Provide a variety of shoes (sandals, slippers, loafers, dress shoes, etc.) and place them in a big pile. Have each child run to the pile and select a shoe. *(Explain how people in Bible times wore sandals, and their feet got dirty.)* Call the children by name, and encourage them to place their shoe in a designated pile according to whether that shoe would keep their feet clean or let their feet get dirty. See which pile ends up the larger—the shoes that keep feet clean, or the shoes that allow feet to get dirty. Repeat the game if time allows—this time, the children will understand the results of wearing different types of shoes.
- **Who Touched the Hem of Jesus’s Robe? Game:** The teacher will begin the game by naming a child:

"(Name) touched the hem of Jesus's robe."

Child: "Who, me?"

Children: "Yes, you!"

Child: "Couldn't be!"

Children: "Then, who?"

Child: (Names another child.)

Children: "(Name) touched the hem of Jesus's robe."

Continue until all children have been named.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Jesus Wants Me to Forgive

Sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Jesus wants me to forgive,
To forgive, to forgive.
Jesus wants me to forgive,
He forgives me.

I will say "I am sorry,"
"I am sorry," "I am sorry."
I will say "I am sorry,"
Please forgive me now.

*Help babies kneel, fold hands,
and say with you, "I'm sorry, Jesus."*

Jesus Does Forgive

When I do something good,	
then I make Jesus glad.	(smile)
When I do something wrong,	
then I make Jesus sad.	(frown)
But when I say, "I'm sorry,	
so please forgive my sin,"	(pray)
Then Jesus does forgive me,	
and He is glad again!	(smile)

Jesus Helps Me

Sung to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush"

Jesus helps me say, "I'm sorry,"
Say "I'm sorry," say "I'm sorry."
Jesus helps me say, "I'm sorry"
When I've hurt someone.

Jesus helps me say, "I forgive,"
"I forgive," "I forgive."
Jesus helps me say, "I forgive"
When someone hurts me.

*Both from 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: It takes courage to ask for forgiveness. Ask God for His help to forgive someone or ask for someone's forgiveness. Draw a picture of what it looks like to be a strong and courageous person.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "The Woman's Tears" puzzle.
- Prior to class, the teacher and a child (who arrives early) plan a role-play incident in which the teacher becomes angry (obviously overacting), and then needs to ask the child for forgiveness.
- **Fragrance Banner:** Each child has a rectangle of fabric, such as burlap or felt. Each child also has two small squares of lightweight material into which the potpourri will be placed. Tie each with yarn or ribbon. Let each child copy the verse and glue it to center of the rectangle. Either tie or glue potpourri bags to the rectangle. Glue a bamboo skewer to the top and attach yarn or ribbon for hanging.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 23

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD **Jesus's Ministry**

LESSON 23: Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Scripture: John 3:1-21

Story Overview: Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of Jews. He went to see Jesus at night when he wouldn't be seen and asked Jesus many questions. Jesus answered them and explained that a person had to be born again to have eternal life.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus told Nicodemus how to be in God's forever family.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that they can be in God's forever family through faith in Jesus just as Jesus explained to Nicodemus.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Nicodemus learned that he needed to be born again through faith in Jesus to have eternal life.
- understand that they can have eternal life and be in God's forever family, too.
- respond by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and be their Savior.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: ETERNAL LIFE

Craft: Picture Puzzle

Life Application: God wants us to be part of His forever family. When you tell Jesus you're sorry for the wrong things you have done, you can then ask Him to come into your heart. He will come into your heart and you will be part of God's forever family.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

One night a man named Nicodemus went to see Jesus. He wanted to talk to Jesus. Nicodemus asked Jesus many things about God. Jesus told him about God's love. Jesus told him that God wants everyone to be part of His family. Jesus told Nicodemus how to be part of God's family. Jesus is God's Son. Jesus wants us to love Him. Jesus wants us to be part of God's family.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Our Bible teaches us about a man named Nicodemus. **Nicodemus was one of the wisest teachers in Jerusalem, but he still wanted to know more about God.** Nicodemus heard about Jesus and how Jesus was teaching the people about God. He heard that Jesus made sick people well. He heard about many of Jesus's miracles. Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus about all the things he heard. He wanted to learn more about Him and about God.

Nicodemus went to the place where Jesus was staying. Nicodemus knew that Jesus was a teacher sent by God, but many of his friends didn't think so. He didn't want his friends to see him visiting Jesus, so he decided to go at night when it was dark.

Nicodemus came to the door and knocked. He went in and was taken to Jesus. Jesus may have been up on the roof, resting from the busy day. As they sat under the stars, Nicodemus said to Jesus, "Sir, we all know that God has sent You to teach us. No one could make the sick people well, and the blind to see unless God had sent Him." Because Jesus was the Son of God, He knew what Nicodemus was thinking, and He knew exactly what Nicodemus needed.

Jesus said, "Nicodemus, God wants Me to tell you all about His love. He wants you and everyone else to be part of His family, His forever family. He wants you to become His child. If anyone wants to go to heaven, he must be born a second time." "How can that be?" thought Nicodemus. "Only little babies are born. How can an old person be born?" he asked out loud.

Jesus knew it was hard for a person, even a wise man like Nicodemus, to think of being born a second time. He tried to explain to Nicodemus how people start a new life when they turn from their bad ways, just as a baby starts a new life when he or she is born.

"Look, Nicodemus," said Jesus. "Look at those olive trees waving in the wind. The wind is blowing through those leaves. Do you know where that wind came from or where it is going?" "No," Nicodemus answered. "I don't know." "That's the way it is when you are born of God's Spirit," said Jesus. "You do not know all about it, but you know it is true." Jesus wanted Nicodemus to know that many things are true even if we do not understand all about them.

But Nicodemus wanted to know more. "How can these things be?" he asked. So Jesus taught him more wonderful things about God and about heaven. Jesus told Nicodemus that if he believed Jesus was the Son of God, then he would live forever. Later in the Bible

Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6)

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use a male doll or puppet for Jesus or Nicodemus.
- This would be an easy story to use to create a puppet script, and include lots of action, and let the children participate.
- Involve the children in the story by asking them to point to their forehead every time the word "Nicodemus" is mentioned (representing the wise man). When the name Jesus is mentioned, the children fold their hands over their hearts.

Interest Centers

- **Pinwheel:** Have the children make their own pinwheel. (Concept: We can't see the wind or God's Spirit.) Instructions:

Cut a square of paper (about 6" x 6").

Lightly draw diagonal lines from corner to corner.

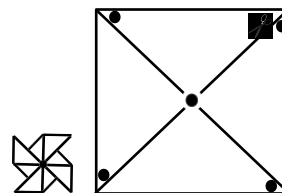
Using a penny, draw around the coin in the center of the square.

Cut diagonal lines to outside of circle in the center of the square.

Punch a small hole at each of the 4 corners.

Bring all corners to the center and push a brad through the holes.

Push brad through a hole in the top of a straw and loosely fasten.



- **Mural:** Create a simple nighttime scene using stars (draw them or use stickers) and moon.

Games

- **Only One Way:** Divide the class into two teams. Using masking/painter's tape, mark straight pathways for each team. Provide a ping-pong ball for each team, and a straw for each child. The teacher signals the beginning of the game, and players take turns blowing through their straw to propel the ball inside the pathway. If the ball rolls out of the pathway, the player must return to the beginning of the path. After players reach the end of the path, they bring the ball to the next person in line. Continue until everyone has had a turn. *(Emphasize there is only one way to God—through Jesus.)*
- **Quick Change Game:** Form two teams (If you have an odd number of kids, one can be the referee. Otherwise, a teacher serves as the referee.) Line up teams at one end of the room and place a set of clothing for each team at the other end of the room (each set should include 1 large shirt, 1 hat, 1 pair of socks, 1 pair of gloves, etc.) One member of each team races to the end of the room and puts on the clothing. Once the referee decides the player had successfully put on the articles of clothing, the child can take the set of clothing off and race to tag the next team member. Explain that what you wear on the outside is not nearly as important as what you are like inside. Jesus can change us on the inside (we can be born again) when we ask Him into our heart.

Action Rhymes & Songs**I'll Choose God's Family** Sung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

I choose God's fam-i-ly;
 I choose God's fam-i-ly,
 I love Him, and He loves me;
 I choose God's fam-i-ly.

Nighttime Visit

Bright stars twinkling in the sky, *(fingers moving)*
 Nighttime breezes blowing by. *(make breezes with hands)*
 Nicodemus took a walk,
 Came to Jesus for a talk. *(walk fingers)*

Nicodemus said:

"You came to us from God, I know, *(point up)*
 To heal the sick, and blind, 'tis so.
 Are you the One God said He'd send *(hands outstretched)*
 To be our Helper, Savior, Friend?" *(point to self)*

Then Jesus said:

"If you believe that I'm God's Son
 Who came to show love for each one,
 Then you can be in God's family, *(point)*
 And God's own child you'll ever be."

*From 85 Creative Fingerfun by Margaret M. Self.
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Nicodemus

Nicodemus, Nicodemus, he locked his door— *(pretend to lock door)*
 And he stepped out into the night. *(walk in place)*
 He walked to Jesus's house— *(walk in place)*
 There was no one in sight. *(shade eyes with hand, look around)*

Knock, knock, knock, knock. *(pretend to knock on door)*
 "May I come in?"
 "Surely, Nicodemus," said Jesus, *(arms outstretched wide)*
 "I want all to come in."

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Draw a picture or write out some words describing what you think heaven might look like.
 Thank God for His promise of eternal life.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Nicodemus" word puzzle and "Nicodemus" word sheet.
- **Key Ring with Keys to Eternal Life:** (Pattern available in **Puzzles & Patterns**)

Keys: Use cardstock to make five keys per child. Copy each of the five Bible verses listed on the pattern page onto a separate key.

Key Ring: Using a plastic lid (from a margarine or cream cheese container, etc.,) cut a ring wide enough to be able to punch holes without ring tearing easily around them. Punch a hole in each key and attach it to the ring with string, wire, yarn, etc.

- Paraphrase today's story in a series of multiple-choice statements. Let the children help develop true statements. For each statement, two of the choices should be ridiculous, and the third obviously correct. Children will laugh at the ridiculous and then easily choose the correct response, reviewing the story in the process.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 24

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD Jesus's Ministry

LESSON 24: Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Scripture: John 11:1-44

Story Overview: Jesus's friend, Lazarus, had been sick and he died. Jesus waited several days before going to see Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, who were very sad. Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. He commanded Lazarus to come out, and he did! Even though Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days, he was alive and completely healed.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus had the power to bring Lazarus back to life.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God has the power to do amazing things in their lives just as He did when He brought Lazarus back to life.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
- understand that God has power to do amazing things in their lives just as He did when He raised Lazarus.
- trust God to work in power in their lives.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: POWER

Craft: Paper Plate Tomb

Life Application: Jesus could have healed Lazarus when he was sick, but it was an even bigger demonstration of Jesus's power when He raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus didn't ignore Mary and Martha's prayers. He just answered them in His own way and His own timing. Trust Him to do the same for you.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus had some very special friends. They were sisters. Their names were Mary and Martha. Their brother was Lazarus. Jesus loved His friends. His friends loved Him. Sometimes Jesus stayed at their house. Jesus ate with His friends. Jesus talked about God when He was with these special friends. These friends knew Jesus was God's Son. One day, Lazarus became very sick and then he died. His friends wrapped his body in white clothes and put him in a tomb. When Jesus came, He prayed to God, and then told Lazarus to come out. Lazarus walked out! He was alive again! Only God's Son, Jesus, could make Lazarus alive again. Jesus is God's Son!

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

As Jesus traveled around teaching people about God, He was never sure where He would stay. You see, Jesus didn't have His own home like most people do. He usually stayed in the homes of friends. Jesus always knew whose home He would stay in while visiting in the town of Bethany. Jesus had very special friends there who loved Him and always welcomed Him.

In this home lived three people. Two sisters, Martha and Mary, lived with their brother, Lazarus. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were such a happy family. They loved each other very much and liked to do kind things for each other. Jesus loved them and He loved to be in their home. The two sisters enjoyed cooking meals for Jesus. After eating, they enjoyed talking with Jesus and listening to Him teach.

One day Lazarus became very sick. Jesus and His helpers were traveling in another part of the country. The two sisters knew Jesus could make their brother well. So they sent someone to find Jesus. Their message was, "Lord, Lazarus, whom You love, is sick." They waited and waited for Jesus to come but Jesus did not come. Lazarus died, and Jesus still had not come. Martha and Mary's friends came to comfort them. They helped wrap Lazarus's body in white grave clothes and then placed his body in a tomb. A tomb is like a cave. Then they rolled a big stone in front of the tomb's opening.

When Jesus received Mary and Martha's message, He said, "The purpose of his illness is not for death but for the glory of God. I, the Son of God, will receive glory." Now Jesus really loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. But when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was. Wasn't that strange? Why didn't Jesus hurry to Lazarus to make him well? After the two days had passed Jesus said to His helpers, "Lazarus is dead and for your sake I am glad I was not there so that you may believe."

When Jesus and His helpers came to Bethany, they were told that Lazarus had been buried in his tomb for four days. Martha and Mary were very sad. Many friends were at their house trying to help them feel better. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him while Mary sat in the house.

Martha cried to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You." Jesus said, "Your brother will

come back to life again." Then Martha went back to the house and called Mary aside, saying very quietly, "Jesus is here and wants to see you."

Mary quickly ran to Him. Jesus was still outside the town, and when Mary came to where Jesus was, she fell on her knees and cried to Him, "Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her crying and so upset, Jesus felt sad and wept.

Some of their friends said, "See how much Jesus loved him." But others said, "He healed a blind man. Why couldn't He have kept Lazarus from dying?" **They all went to the tomb where Lazarus's body had been placed. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." As some men took away the stone Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed in a voice so everyone could hear Him, "Father, thank You for hearing Me. I know You always hear Me. But I want all of the people here to know that You sent Me."**

After Jesus had prayed, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" As everyone watched the tomb Lazarus suddenly walked out. His body was still wrapped in the white grave clothes but he was alive again! Jesus made him come alive! Then many people believed that Jesus was sent to earth by God. Only the Son of God had the special power to bring a dead person back to life. That's why Jesus allowed Lazarus to die and did not heal him right away when he was sick. Jesus wanted all to believe that He was the Son of God. How surprised and happy Martha and Mary were to see their brother, Lazarus, alive again!

Many people believed in Jesus after this happened. They believed the things He was teaching and they knew He was the Son of God. Jesus wanted them to know He was the only way to come to God. That's what our Bible is teaching us. Jesus said, "I am the One who raises the dead and gives them life again."

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Color and cut out figures from coloring books or the Children's Home Paper. As the story is told, ask individual children to glue the appropriate figure on a mural (long piece of shelf paper or butcher paper).
- Act out the story, having one person play Lazarus and wrap him in toilet paper.
- Use four puppets as teaching tools.

Interest Centers

- **Happy/Sad Cards:** Draw happy faces on some index cards and sad faces on others. Have the children take turns selecting a card. The children share something which makes them happy or sad, depending on the card they choose.
- **Happy Face Puzzle:** Draw happy faces on paper plates. Cut the plates into several pieces (try not to cut through eyes). Let the children put the puzzles together.
- Prior to class, cut out pictures of happy and sad faces (from magazines or the Internet). Label two boxes with "Happy Box" and "Sad Box," or draw happy and sad faces on boxes so the children can easily identify them. Have the children place pictures in the correct box.

Games

- **Freeze Tag:** Find an open area to play this game. Designate someone to be Jesus. Select one or two children to be “it” to chase others for a tag. If a child is tagged, he or she freezes but Jesus can go around and tag the frozen ones to bring back to life. Have the children take turns being Jesus and “it.”
- **Jesus Can! Game:** Have the children line up at one end of the room. Each time the teacher makes a true statement, they take 2 steps forward. When the statement is false, they stand still. If they move at the false statement, they have to take 2 steps backward. Use statements like “Jesus made the fish fly,” “Jesus can heal the sick,” “People can walk on water,” “Jesus made Lazarus come alive again,” etc.
- **Lazarus Come Forth! Game:** Have a contest to see who can be the first to wrap Lazarus completely. Divide class into teams; each team has one roll of toilet tissue. At a signal, each team completely wraps one child as “Lazarus.” The team that finishes first wins. Second contest will be to see how quickly teams can unwrap “Lazarus.”

Action Rhymes & Songs

In This House

In this house	<i>(touch fingertips together to form roof)</i>
Who lived there?	
Mary, Martha, Lazarus.	<i>(hold up 3 fingers, 1 at a time)</i>
Who knew them?	<i>(hold out hands, palms up)</i>
Who loved them?	<i>(hands over heart)</i>
Jesus, their friend, of course!	<i>(hug self)</i>

Friends Sung to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”

_____ *(name of the child in center of circle)* is our friend,
 _____ is our friend.
 Hi, ho, we like him (her) so,
 _____ is our friend.

Repeat with each child taking a turn in the center of the circle.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Lazarus had been sick before he died. Think about someone you know who is sick and make a get-well card for them.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Mary and Martha” puzzle.
- **Interview:** Have a live interview with Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and Jesus—with one child acting as each person. The teacher can be the interviewer, or choose a child to be the interviewer.
- **Mary, Martha and Lazarus book:** Use five or six sheets of 21” x 27” tag board or poster board. Have two or three children work on each page. Decide which portion of the story each page will depict. Encourage the children to draw pictures large enough to fill the entire page. Staple along the left edge to form a binding. Share the picture book with the younger classes.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 25

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD **Jesus's Ministry**

LESSON 25: The Widow's Mite

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

Story Overview: Jesus watched as people put money into the offering box. While some who were rich put in large sums of money, a widow put in two small coins (mites). Jesus explained to his disciples that the widow gave more than anyone, because she gave to God everything she had while the rich gave only a small portion of their wealth.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that a widow gave all her money to God.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God is pleased when they are willing to give up all they have out of love for Him just as the widow did.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that the widow gave all she had because of her love for God.
- understand that God is pleased when they are willing to give of their money, time, talents, etc. to Him and to others.
- think of ways they can give to God and others.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: GIVE

Craft: Bank

Life Application: God doesn't care about the amount you give, but rather the attitude of your heart when you give. Do you give just a little of your time, talents or money? Be willing to give all that you have out of love for your Savior.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

This is money. (*Show coins.*) We use money to buy things. Your mommy and daddy use money to buy your shoes, your shirt, and your juice. Your mommy and daddy give money to God at church and at Bible Study. One day Jesus saw a woman come to the temple church. She was very poor. She took two small coins and put them in a box. (*Drop coins into a box/container.*) The woman was happy to give all her money to God. She knew that God would take care of her. The woman gave her money because she loved God. Jesus, God's Son, was pleased that the woman gave her money to God. When we give to God, it shows we love Him.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Can anyone tell me what an offering is? An offering is the money a person brings to Sunday school or to church. This money helps buy new Bibles, songbooks, pictures, and other things that are needed by a church. When we bring our offering to church, we usually put it in a basket or an offering plate, like this one (*have a basket or some container and drop some pennies into it*).

In Jesus's day, people would put their money in offering boxes as they came into the temple. A temple is something like our church. These boxes had small openings at the top but they were wide at the bottom. The money in those days was coins, and you could hear them as they dropped into the boxes. Coins like this one (*hold up a quarter*) made a loud 'clunk' sound (*drop large coin into a box, preferably metal.*) Small coins like this one (dime) made a little 'clink' sound (*drop small coin into box.*)

One day Jesus and His helpers were sitting close to the door of the temple. As they rested they watched the people come in and put their money in the offering boxes. Jesus noticed a rich man with a large bag of coins in his hand. He reached in his bag and put a large handful of coins into the offering box. Even though Jesus heard all the noise his large coins made as they hit the bottom of the box, Jesus wasn't really impressed with his offering. The man still had many, many more coins left in his bag, and he probably had more bags full of money at home. He would never miss what he had just put in the offering box. As this man left he looked all around to see if the people were watching while he put in so many large coins.

Then Jesus watched as a woman came into the temple. Jesus could tell she wasn't rich like the other people because her clothes were old and worn. She was a poor widow woman. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. **Jesus knew she was very poor and didn't have much money. She quietly came in when she thought others were not looking at her. Jesus heard the sound of two small coins as they fell into the box. These coins were called "mites." It would take eight of them to equal one of our pennies. This was probably all the money she had but she was happy to give it all to her Lord God. She knew that God would take care of her and give her everything she needed for her family.**

Jesus smiled as He watched her leave the temple. He told His helpers that her small gift of two coins was greater than what the rich people gave because the rich people gave only a small part of their money but she gave all she had!

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use simple props to tell the story (container, coins, etc.) Have the children listen for the difference in sound as two pennies are dropped in a container versus many coins being dropped.
- Have the children sit in a circle while the teacher tells the story to the children. At several arbitrary points, tell something that is true or false. Have the children vote TRUE by touching their mouths and FALSE by touching their noses.
- Talk about things they can give—money, clothes, toys, our time and talents. Explain to the children that they may not have money to give as they are too young to have jobs and may not get an allowance, but that there are many things they can give. They can give their time to help others or use their talents like drawing, singing and making things.

Interest Centers

- Have the children make coins and an offering plate out of modeling dough.
- Set out a container and let the children toss coins into it. See how many coins land inside the container.
- Sort coins into different bowls (or muffin tins).
- Show coins and ask which has more value—a penny, dime, quarter, etc.
- Show coins from different countries if available.
- Provide coins, paper, and crayons. Let the children make coin rubbings.

Games

- **Treasure Hunt:** Have a treasure hunt with foil-covered coins, juice lids or pretend money.
- **Coin Toss:** Make a small circle with masking tape. A few feet away from the circle, make a straight line with masking tape. Give each child two coins and have the children take turns tossing the coins into the circle.
- **Penny, Penny, Who Has the Penny?:** (Played like “Button, Button, Who Has the Button?”) One child takes a penny from the middle of the circle while person who is “It” covers his/her eyes. “It” gets three guesses to find the person with the penny.

Action Rhymes & Songs**Two Coins**

Count: one coin, two coins, *(circle fingers for coins)*
 Were all the woman had.
 She gave them both to God, *(drop in box)*
 And then she was so glad. *(clasp hands in joy)*

Two Little Coins Sung to "Ten Little Indians"

1 little, 2 little copper coins, *(Let babies drop coins in box.)*
 1 little, 2 little copper coins,
 1 little, 2 little copper coins,
 The lady gave to God.

Ten Little Pennies Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians"

One little, two little, three little pennies, *(do appropriate motions as you sing)*
 Four little, five little, six little pennies,
 Seven little, eight little, nine little pennies,
 Ten pennies I will give.

I will bring my ten little pennies,
 I will bring my ten little pennies,
 I will bring my ten little pennies,
 'Cause sharing pleases God.

Put the pennies in the basket,
 Put the pennies in the basket,
 Put the pennies in the basket,
 To show God that we love Him.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Using a permanent marker, write out the words "Widow's Mite" on a sealable plastic baggie. Set a goal of money you would like to give to your church or someone you know who is in need. Ask your parents if you can do chores or other activities to earn money and fill up your baggie until you reach your goal.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "The Widow's Coins" maze and "Funny Money" word search.
- **I Can Give Picture:** Create pictures of things we can give to God besides money (for example, talents, abilities, acts of service.)
- **Treasury Toss:** Place a basket or box about eight feet from children. Give each child five coins; see how many he or she can toss into the "treasury."
- **Individual Banks:** Have each child make a bank from a frozen juice can covered with contact paper or construction paper. Tape a circle of plastic or cardboard over the open top (cut a slit in it first.) Decorate with stickers. Save money for church, missionaries, etc.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 26

UNIT 4: TRUSTING JESUS AS OUR WAY TO GOD **Jesus's Ministry**

LESSON 26: Jesus Teaches Us to Be Servants of God

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Story Overview: During Jesus's last supper with His disciples, He rose and began to wash the feet of His friends. This was a job a lowly servant would have done, but it was Jesus's way of teaching His disciples how important it was to be a servant.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus showed His friends how to serve by washing their feet.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to serve others just as Jesus did when He washed His disciples' feet.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jesus set an example of serving others when He washed His disciples' feet.
- understand what a blessing it is to serve.
- look for ways to serve others.

Memory Verse: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
(Sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Additional Verse: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Key Word: SERVE

Craft: Helper Picture or Servant's Towel

Life Application: Another word for "serve" is "help." Are there things you do to help others? Maybe you help your parents by doing chores or playing with your little brother or sister. Perhaps you have done kind things to help a neighbor or someone from church. Look for ways to imitate Jesus by serving others.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus and His helpers were eating together. Jesus got up from the meal, took off His outer coat, and wrapped a towel around His waist. Then He poured water into a bowl (*have bowl and towel*) and began to wash His helpers' feet (*pretend to wash.*) After He had washed their feet, He dried them with a towel (*dry feet*). Jesus wanted His helpers to be just like Him. Jesus wanted them to love others. Jesus wanted His helpers to do kind things. Jesus loved His helpers. He did kind things to all people. Jesus wants us to be kind and show His love to others.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

In today's story the Bible teaches us to serve others. To serve means to do something for another person. I serve you when I give you water and crackers. You serve me when you help pick up the toys and put them away. **Our story tells about a special job that needed to be done—the job of washing dirty feet. It was usually done by a person who wasn't very important.** That doesn't sound like much fun, does it?

In Jesus's day, most people wore sandals (*show or wear a pair of sandals*); their feet got really dirty in sandals. Do you know why their feet got really dirty in sandals? In those days, there were no sidewalks or paved roads to walk on. Their roads were made of dirt and were dry and dusty and their feet got really, really dirty. The polite thing (the right thing) to do was to wash a visitor's feet when he or she came into your home. A person who wasn't very important would bring a large bowl of water, take off the visitor's sandals, and wash his or her feet. This was a messy job and no one who was important ever wanted to wash another person's feet.

Our Bible story today is about some men who had their feet washed. Let's see who these men were, and who washed their feet. **Jesus was going to have a special supper with His twelve helpers. As Jesus and His helpers came into the room they all sat down. They were probably tired from their busy day and their long walk along the dusty roads. How good it would have felt to have their dirty feet washed but no one was there to wash them.**

Jesus knew how they felt. So, Jesus got up from the table and took off His outer coat. Then He took a towel and wrapped it around Himself. He took a large bowl and poured water into it. Jesus then got down on His knees and started washing His helpers' feet.

Jesus's helpers didn't know what to think! Jesus was the Son of God. No one was more important than Jesus and here He was doing a messy job like this. They just sat there as Jesus continued to wash their feet. Peter was one of Jesus's helpers. When Jesus started to wash Peter's feet Peter said, "Lord, You shouldn't be washing our feet like this." Jesus answered, "You don't understand now why I am doing this but you will later."

After Jesus finished washing all of His helpers' feet, He put His coat back on and sat down at the table. Jesus asked His helpers, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call Me Lord, for this is true. And since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should do the same." Jesus was saying that He had served them by doing something nice. Now,

He wanted them to do the same—to serve others. He said they should never think they were better than or more important than someone else. Jesus wanted His helpers to be just like Him and serve other people. Our Bible says the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve.

Jesus had already taught His helpers He was the only way into God's forever family. Now, He was teaching them how to serve others. He wanted them to be just like Him; He wanted them to love others and do kind things for them.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- At the appropriate time in the story, the teacher could wash the feet of his or her team teacher.
- At the conclusion of the story, let each child step into a flat container of sand, and then into a container of water. Teacher washes and dries each child's feet to demonstrate what Jesus did in today's Bible story.
- At the end of the lesson, give each child a small bar of soap (like those available at hotels) to take home with a note saying, *"Remember to love and serve others."*

Interest Centers

- Let the children create a "Happy Helper" badge. Encourage the children to wear their badges at home as they help their families.
- Display pictures of people/children working and helping.
- Have the children draw pictures of the ways they help at home. Display the pictures and let the children share how they help.
- Pre-cut shapes of feet from card stock. Provide bowls of paint and sponges for the children to paint the feet with a sponge. Or draw an outline of each child's feet and have them sponge paint each other's foot drawings.
- Create a "café" in your classroom and let the children serve one another at snack time.

Games

- **Shoe Game:** Prior to class, collect various pairs of shoes. Put only one of the pair in a pile and see how quickly the children can find the matching one from a second pile. Discuss how we all wear shoes; the ones we wear depend on what we are doing. (Example: sandals, boots, sneakers, etc.)
- **Charades:** Try to guess what activities a servant/helper could do at home.
- **Missing Shoes Game:** Have the children remove their shoes and put them in a pile. Blindfold the children, one at a time. Each child tries to find his or her own shoes in the pile.

Action Rhymes & Songs**Jesus Loved His Friends**

Jesus loved His friends.	(hug self)
He washed their feet.	(pretend to wash)
He dried their feet.	(pretend to dry)
Jesus loved His friends.	(hug self)

I Can Learn to Help at Home Sung to the tune of "London Bridge"

I can learn to help at home,
 Help at home, help at home.
 I can learn to help at home,
 Jesus helps me.

*From 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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Helping Sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Help, help, help your friend.
 Help your friend today.
 Helping, helping, helping, helping
 Helping is the way.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Be a "Secret Service Server." Without making it known, find ways to do a kind service for others this week. How did people react? Write or draw in your journal what you did and how they reacted.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "For God So Loved the World" sheet.
- Children act out (mime) times when they could be servants at home, at school, with friends, and with someone they don't like. Others try to guess the situation.
- As children gather together, begin discussing what it means to be a servant. Let the children express ideas, and then read today's Scripture. Give each child one piece of 8-1/2" x 11" paper and half of a paper towel. Have the child glue or staple the paper towel to paper, and then write statements or ideas about being a servant (helping, obeying, giving, etc.) Encourage the children to be specific.
- **Children make cardboard sandals:** Draw around feet. Punch holes around edges. Lace yarn through holes. Tie "sandals" on the children's feet. Let the children walk around with these sandals on their feet. Weather permitting, go outside and walk where feet might get dusty. Come back inside and wash each other's feet.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 27

UNIT 5: TRUSTING JESUS AS GOD'S SON **Jesus Is Alive**

LESSON 27: Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-38; Zechariah 9:9

Story Overview: As Jesus approached Jerusalem, He sent two of His disciples ahead with instructions on where to find a donkey. They brought the donkey back to Jesus and laid their coats on it. Jesus then rode into Jerusalem while crowds waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna in the highest!" and other praises.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus loves to hear their praises.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that singing songs of praise is a way of honoring Jesus.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that the crowd of people honored Jesus by singing songs of praise when He rode into Jerusalem.
- understand that singing songs of praise is a way of honoring Jesus as God's Son and their Savior.
- sing songs of praise whenever they can.

Memory Verse: "Jesus is alive!" Luke 24:23 (NLT)
(Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Additional Verse: "And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'" Acts 7:56

Key Word: HOSANNA

Craft: Stick Donkey

Life Application: Jesus is our forever friend, our brother, our Savior. He is also the King of Kings and worthy to be praised. You can praise Jesus when you pray and when you sing. When you offer praises, you are telling Jesus that He is ruler over your life and you love Him. Praise Jesus anytime and anywhere.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus told His helpers to go into town and bring a special donkey to Him. The helpers obeyed Jesus. They brought the donkey to Jesus. They put their coats on the donkey and Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem. Clippety-clop, clippety-clop. Lots of people saw Jesus riding on the donkey. They praised Jesus by singing songs. Some people put their coats on the road and some people waved palm branches when Jesus went by. They were happy to see Jesus. Daddies, mommies, boys and girls—all sang praises to Jesus.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Have you ever been to a parade? Maybe you've seen one on TV. At a parade, crowds of people stand on both sides of the street as bands march by. There are usually floats or open cars with people waving from them. There is a lot of cheering and clapping. Everyone looks happy and excited because they are honoring someone important.

Jesus was in a parade once. Only His parade was different. A long, long time ago in the Bible, God promised that the King of His people would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. And this is just what Jesus did. He rode into the city of Jerusalem on a colt—a little donkey. He was the promised King!

This is how it happened ...

Jesus and His helpers were walking to Jerusalem. Before they got to the big city, Jesus stopped and told His helpers to go to the village ahead. "You will find a colt. No one has ever sat on this colt. Untie it and bring it to Me." Jesus said, "If anyone asks why you are untying it tell him that the Lord needs it. The owner will let you have it."

The two helpers did just as Jesus said. On their way they wondered what the colt's owner would think. They quickly found the colt just as Jesus said they would. They started to untie the colt. "What are you doing?" a man asked as he walked up to the helpers. "That is my colt!" "The Lord needs to use it," said the helpers. The man said, "Oh, if He needs it you are welcome to it. Be careful, though. This colt has never been ridden before."

They took the colt to Jesus. They took off their coats and put them on the colt's back for Jesus to sit on. Jesus then rode the colt into Jerusalem. He looked just like a king riding in a parade as He sat straight and tall on the little colt.

As Jesus rode into the city, many people saw Him coming. They shouted, "Here comes our King!" The people loved Jesus, and they wanted to tell Him so. They started singing, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is our King!" "Hosanna" means praise Jesus.

There was much excitement as the people gathered in the streets, and they began to follow Jesus as He slowly passed by on His colt. Everyone wanted to praise the man who healed the sick, the man who made the blind to see and the deaf to hear. He had even brought the dead back to life. Jesus had forgiven sins and taught the people all about God. They were sure He would be their next king!

The people got very dusty from the dirt on the roads. They didn't want their next king to get dirty so they took off their coats and put them on the ground. Other people cut branches from palm trees and laid them on the ground. It was like a carpet. It seemed as though everyone was singing, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" The children waved palm branches and sang as Jesus passed by. It was such a wonderful parade.

This was a way of showing Jesus how happy they were. All of the people—men, women, girls and boys—wanted to praise Jesus.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use this wonderful story to involve all of the children in Children's Ministry. Children march in a parade through the church sanctuary or through the children's area. Have one child be Jesus and another child or a teacher be the donkey. Have the other children spread coats and jackets on the ground and/or wave palm branches (real or paper).
- **Act out the story:** Use a broomstick as a donkey. Bring old shirts or sweatshirts to lay at the feet of the donkey. Give the children branches to wave at Jesus as He passes by. Have a praise parade with the children saying or singing "Hosanna." Allow each child to play the part of Jesus if he/she wishes.

Interest Centers

- Share pictures of various parades with the children. Compare a parade we might see today with what a parade must have been like in Jesus's day.
- Tape butcher paper on a table and draw coats on the road and have the kids color the coats.
- Provide palm branches on a table for the children to see and touch. Purchase real or artificial branches from local florists. They can also be made from green construction paper.
- Set up a flannel board and allow the children to place palm branches and cut-out clothes on the board. If possible, provide several donkey cutouts, too.
- Make leaf impressions in modeling dough.
- Prepare cardstock donkeys. Punch holes around the edges. Let the children stitch around the edges with yarn.
- Make a curvy path with masking tape. While the teacher stands at one end, the children take turns walking, hopping, etc. from one end of the room to the teacher. The teacher whispers "Jesus loves you," "Jesus is alive," "Jesus rose from the dead," etc. to the child. The child runs to the group and announces the message. The next child takes a turn.
- Make donkey ears. Have the children hold them up to their ears whenever they hear the words "donkey" or "colt" in the story.

- Cut a picture of Jesus riding into Jerusalem (from Children's Home Paper) into puzzle pieces. Have the children answer review questions about the story. Every time they answer a question correctly, they can add a piece to the puzzle.
- Involve the children actively while telling the story. Each time they hear the following words, they respond as indicated:

Jesus	fold hands in prayer
Friends, Disciples, or Followers	shake hands with the person next to them
Jerusalem or Town	make roof over their head with hands
Donkey	use hands as ears
King	make crown with the hands
Hosanna	wave imaginary palm branches
Crowd	extend arms to indicate lots of people

Games

- **Donkey Race:** Choose two teams and have the children stand on one side of the room. Set up two cones on the other end of the room. At the signal, the first person on each team holds a palm branch and rides the stick donkey to the cone. Upon returning to the team, he/she passes the palm to the waiting teammate who will then ride the donkey. The first team to finish wins. (Variation: Have the children recite their memory verse when passing the palm.)
- **Pin the Tail on the Donkey:** On butcher paper, draw a picture of a donkey without a tail. Give each child a paper tail with tape on the back of it. Blindfold one child at a time and have the child try to put the tail closest to the target. Variation: draw a palm tree on butcher paper and draw a bullseye. Tape the palm tree on a wall. Give each child a palm with some tape or a piece of poster putty on the back. Blindfold the child and have him/her try to put the palm on the bullseye.
- **Praise Parade:** Use the palm branches and donkeys the children made earlier to have a "praise parade" through the halls of the Children's area or even outside. Sing songs of praise while walking.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Jesus and the Donkey

The donkey said, "Hee-haw"
As Jesus sat on his back.
"I will carry you safely
Into the town and back."

(Use a donkey puppet while saying this rhyme)

Jesus Is Coming Sung to the tune of "Go Tell Aunt Rhody"

Jesus is coming
Riding on a donkey.
Hear all the people
Sing Hal-le-lu-jah!

Even Little Donkeys Sung to the tune of "Sweetly Sings the Donkey"

Even little donkeys Praise the Lord above.
Even little donkeys Praise the Lord above.
Hee-haw, hee-haw, Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw.

Even little children praise the Lord above
 Even little children praise the Lord above
 Hosanna, hosanna, ho-sa-a-a-an-a.

This is a fun song to sing with paper-bag donkey puppets, or puppets made from paper plates.

The Happy Parade

Here is the donkey	
Clip-clopping along.	<i>(hands clap)</i>
Here are the children;	
They're singing a song.	<i>(wiggle fingers)</i>
Here are the branches;	
Oh, see how they sway!	<i>(wave arms)</i>
Here is Lord Jesus	
On this happy day.	<i>(arms outstretched)</i>

Hosanna

HO, HO, HO, Hosanna,
 AL, AL, Alleluia,
 HE, HE, HE, He saved me.
 I have the joy of the Lord.

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Oh, We Can Praise Jesus Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

Oh, we can praise Jesus,	<i>(skip in circle)</i>
Praise Jesus, praise Jesus.	
Oh, we can praise Jesus	<i>(stop)</i>
This way and that.	<i>(sway left, then right)</i>
By clapping, by clapping.	<i>(clap)</i>
By clapping, by clapping.	
Oh, we can praise Jesus	
This way and that.	<i>(sway left, then right)</i>

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord Sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Praise, praise, praise the Lord
 Everywhere you go.
 Tell your friends about the Lord
 And how He loves them so!

Here Comes Jesus Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"

Here comes Jesus, here comes Jesus.
 Let's praise Him, let's praise Him.
 Wave the palms and sing
 Hosanna to the king.
 Let's praise Jesus, Let's praise Jesus.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Whenever you hear praise music this week, (in church, your car, at home) sing along as an offering of praise and worship to Jesus.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Palms for Jesus” sheet and “Palm Sunday” dot-to-dot.
- Read today’s Scripture to prepare a video dramatization. With props provided by the teacher (old shirts, bathrobe, scarves, etc.), the children plan, rehearse, and videotape today’s story. Then watch their video, and show it to the preschoolers and/or parents.
- Make donkeys and palm branches.
- **Tape the Palms to the Palm Tree:** Divide the children into teams. Each team chooses a child to be a “palm tree.” One at a time, children are blindfolded; they must find their way to the tree and then tape a palm branch to it. “Tree” may call out directions for the children.
- **Holy Week Timeline:** Children make a time-line of the Holy Week after hearing the story. Illustrations for each day may include a written summary. A roll of shelf paper can be used for this activity or seven pieces of paper taped or glued together.
Monday: Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-17).
Tuesday: The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with questions (Matthew 21:23-32, 46).
Wednesday: Judas promised to betray Jesus (Matthew 26: 14-16).
Thursday: Jesus ate the Last Supper with His friends and was arrested (Matthew 26:17-56).
Friday: Jesus was tried by Pilate and crucified (Matthew 26:57-27:61).
Saturday: Jesus was laid in a tomb; Pilate posted guards at the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66).
Sunday: Mary Magdalene and Mary found the tomb empty (Matthew 28:1-9)

Additional Visuals

Jesus’s Triumphant Entrance into Jerusalem: Using masking tape or painter’s tape (not duct tape), create a pathway that Jesus rides on as He enters Jerusalem. Bring extra pieces of clothing to place along the path as well as palm branches made out of construction paper.



Palm Leaves and Coats: Take the children outdoors. Lay a long piece of craft paper for the road and put coats and palm branches on the “road.” As the story is told, have the children wave their palm branches as Jesus comes down the road.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 28

UNIT 5: TRUSTING JESUS AS GOD'S SON Jesus Is Alive

LESSON 28: Jesus Is Alive

Scripture: Matthew 27:57–28:10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 23:50–24:10;
John 19:38–20:18

Story Overview: After Jesus's death on the cross, His friends placed His body in a tomb. Pilate had a large stone rolled in front of the tomb and ordered soldiers to guard it. After the Sabbath, Jesus's friends returned to find the tomb empty! Jesus appeared to some of His friends and all were filled with joy when they realized Jesus was alive.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus's friends were happy Jesus was alive.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that they can rejoice knowing Jesus is alive today and forever.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jesus's friends rejoiced on Easter morning when they saw the empty tomb and realized Jesus was alive.
- understand that Jesus is alive today and lives in the hearts of believers.
- rejoice that they can live forever in heaven because Jesus rose from the dead.

Memory Verse: "Jesus is alive!" Luke 24:23 (NLT)
(Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Additional Verse: "And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'" Acts 7:56

Key Word: RESURRECTION

Craft: Paper Plate Cross or Silhouette Picture by the Cross

Life Application: Easter is the time we celebrate that Jesus is alive. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, we have the hope of living with God forever in heaven. Celebrate the Good News of Jesus's resurrection this Easter and every day!

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus's friends were very sad. Jesus had died. His friends thought they would never see Him again. Jesus's friend Mary went to the garden where they had taken Jesus after He died. Mary was crying. Mary saw two angels. The angels said, "Jesus is not here. He is risen!" Mary was very excited! Then Mary saw a man near her. He said, "Mary." Mary recognized His voice and knew it was Jesus. Mary looked and saw Jesus. Jesus is alive! Mary went and told Jesus's friends, "I have seen Jesus! Jesus is alive!"

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

It was Easter Day. It was a very happy day—so happy that we remember it in a special way every year.

But the first Easter Day didn't begin happily. It began sadly for all of Jesus's friends. Why do you think it was sad? It was sad because Jesus had died. Some of the leaders of the Jews became very angry and jealous when everyone wanted Jesus to be king, so they had Jesus arrested and crucified. That means they had Jesus put on a wooden cross and that is where Jesus died.

After Jesus's death, two friends who loved Him, Nicodemus and Joseph, wrapped His body in linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb in a garden. A tomb in ancient times was like a cave that is cut out of a big rock. After they laid Him in the tomb a huge, heavy stone was rolled across the opening. Then two guards were placed on each side of the tomb. Jesus had said He would rise three days after His death. The guards were placed there because they didn't want anyone to come and steal Jesus's body and say He had risen from the dead.

Very early on the third day after Jesus died, some women went to the tomb. Their names were Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary. They were taking sweet-smelling spices to put on His body. Even though Jesus was dead, they wanted to do something to show they loved Him. As they walked to the garden they wondered who would roll back the heavy stone from the door of the tomb. They remembered that it took several strong men to roll it in place.

Imagine how surprised they were when they saw that the stone had already been rolled away—and even more surprised when they looked in the tomb! Jesus's body was not there! Instead, they saw an angel. He looked like lightning, the Bible says. His clothes were as white as snow. These women had never seen an angel before, and they didn't know what to do. **He said to the women, "Don't be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was dead. He is not here, for He has come alive. Come and see the place where His body has been. Then go quickly and tell His helpers that He has risen from the dead. He has gone before you, and you will see Him."**

Oh, how happy the three women were! They were so excited that Jesus was alive again. They ran from the tomb, quickly found Jesus's helpers, and told them that Jesus was alive.

Later that day Jesus showed Himself to His special helpers. They were so excited when they saw Him. Jesus came alive on that first happy Easter Day, and He is alive today and forever. Jesus said to all His friends, "I am alive!"

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Tell the Easter story with an Easter basket filled with numbered plastic eggs. The teacher decides the main points of the story and then fills each egg accordingly. Some suggestions are: donkey, coins, praying hands, piece of leather, crown, nails, a die (from dice), a spear, cross, piece of linen, a stone, and an empty egg to represent the empty tomb. After telling the story, encourage the children to use these eggs to retell the story.
- Make a cave using a blanket and a table. Let the children see that the "cave" is empty. Tell the story next to or in the cave.
- Use Happy/Sad faces for different events in the story.

Interest Centers

- Provide different symbols of new life (eggs, caterpillars, butterflies, flowers, dried bulbs, etc.) for the children to look at while the teacher explains each symbol.
- Bring in objects for the children to distinguish whether they are alive or not alive. (Examples may include plants, pictures of people, chairs, toys, rocks) Talk about what it means to be alive. Then share how Jesus came back to life. Explain the reason behind celebrating Easter: Jesus is alive!
- Discuss joyful times and compare them with the joy of Jesus's Resurrection.
- You'll need squares of colorful tissue paper, silk flowers, and a simple cross made from scrap lumber. Attach U-shaped brads to the cross or cover it in chicken wire.

Gather the children in a circle. Hold up the cross and say, "There's nothing beautiful about a cross. The Romans used it to execute their worst criminals. But Jesus turned the cross into a beautiful thing when he gave his life for the sins of the world. We're going to turn this cross into a beautiful thing with our prayers. You may take turns adding flowers and tissue paper to the cross. Each time you add something pray, "Thank you, Jesus, for your love."

Let the children decorate the cross. Gather the children around the finished cross and pray. "Thank you for turning the ugly cross into something beautiful. Help our lives to be beautiful as we live in your love. Amen."

- On a piece of construction paper, draw symbols of new life such as a butterfly, crown, cross, flowers, etc. Talk about how these relate to our lives today (i.e. a flower must be rooted in good soil, watered, and nourished well in order to grow). Cut crepe paper 8-10" long and staple or glue them as streamers to the bottom of the decorated construction paper. Curve the construction paper and overlap the edges, stapling the top and bottom to make a windsock. Attach a string to the top.

- Put a couple bean seeds in a Ziploc bag with a wet paper towel. Let the children take them home, tape the bag to a window and watch the seeds “come alive” with new growth.
- Print and cut out paper eggs. Let the children color them, then glue them onto a poster board that is cut out in the shape of a cross.

Snacks (*Check for allergies.*)

- **Empty Tomb Rolls**

Note: This can be a fun snack activity if the kitchen is available for use. These can also be made ahead and brought class ready to eat. For each child, provide a small piece of aluminum foil with the child’s name written on it for their “Empty Tomb Roll.”

Ingredients and what they represent:

A large-sized marshmallow - Jesus

Melted butter - oil to anoint Jesus’s body

Cinnamon mixed with sugar - spices to anoint Jesus’s body

Crescent roll triangle - Jesus’s burial cloths



Roll the marshmallow in a bowl of melted butter, and then in a bowl of cinnamon sugar. Place it in the center of the crescent roll and pull the corners together and seal the edges. Place it on the aluminum foil on a cookie sheet. Put the cookie sheet in the “tomb” (the oven) set at 350 degrees. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden brown. When you open the tomb (bite into the roll) the tomb will be empty because Jesus is alive (the marshmallow has melted).

- **Cheese Ball Resurrection Cave:** Material needed: 1 plastic frosting container, (or similar container) 1 flat stone, (or a piece of heavy cardboard covered with foil) white construction paper, toothpicks, marker, glue, scraps of yarn.

Ingredients:

2 - 8 oz. packages of cream cheese, pretzel sticks, (about 4 per child) 2 Shredded Wheat biscuits (shredded very finely), crushed corn flakes.

On the plastic container, at about 1” from the top, cut a 2” x 4” doorway. With cream cheese, form a large ball around the plastic container (leaving the doorway open). Place on flat stone or cardboard. From the remaining cheese, form a small ball to cover the doorway. Mix together shredded wheat and corn flakes. Cover the cheese ball with this mixture.

Fold a piece of construction paper in half and cut two identical angels. Color, if desired. Glue the front and back pieces together, except for the wings. Insert toothpick, making it extend 1-1/2” below the bottom. Children roll the ball away from the doorway and stick angel on top of it. Tie four pretzel sticks together (for each child) to use as dip sticks. Serve fruit juice with the cheese ball.

Games

- **Bible Verse Game:** Supplies: Large plastic eggs, index cards, scissors, pen
The teacher prints each word of John 3:16 on a separate strip of an index card. Place inside egg and close egg. Shake, then open egg and pour out words. Put the words in order. (The teacher displays John 3:16 so children can use it as a reference.) After several tries, form teams and play as a relay.

- **Happy Face/Sad Face:** Read the Scripture to the children. Have them practice making the happiest face they can, then the saddest. The teacher reads a sentence and the children respond. If the sentence is true, they smile happily. If the sentence is not true, they make a sad face and take turns correcting the sentence.

Suggestions for sentences:

1. Jesus walked into Jerusalem.
 2. The people were glad to see Jesus.
 3. The people cut pine branches to put on the road.
 4. The people showed honor to Jesus by putting their hats on the road.
 5. The people praised Jesus by shouting to Him, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord."
 6. Jesus went to heaven and stayed there right after He died on the cross.
 7. Mary saw angels in the tomb of Jesus.
 8. After the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took Jesus's body.
 9. Many people were buried in the same tomb with Jesus.
 10. Mary did not tell anyone she had seen Jesus.
- **Easter Message:** Place a piece of tape on the floor. Have the children join hands and walk in a circle as they sing. When the music stops, the child standing closest to the tape tells something special about Easter that was learned in class.
 - **Easter Eggs:** Hide plastic eggs with different Easter symbols inside them. After the children find the eggs, gather them in a circle and have them open the eggs one at a time and tell the meaning of the symbols inside them. *(Make sure every child has at least one egg.)*
 - **Surprise Balloon Popping:** Before class begins, the teacher will have enough balloons blown up for each child. Inside the balloon will be small items from the story (i.e. things found in resurrection eggs—oyster crackers (bread), dime (silver), scrap of purple cloth, string (rope), foam cross, small nail, foam crown, cloves (spices), scrap of gauze, pebble (stone), and nothing (empty)). One by one, pop the balloons and see what's inside. Explain the significance of each item.
 - **Who's Got the Stone?** Have one small rock ready. One child is picked to be "It". All the children (except "It") put both of their hands together and form a cup with just a little hole up on top. The teacher walks around and pretends to put the stone in someone's hand. One child will actually get the stone. The child who is "It" is then asked by the teacher, "Who's got the stone?" "It" tries to guess. Whoever has the stone gets to be the next "It."
 - **Find Jesus:** Hide a picture of Jesus and have the children find it. Upon finding, shout, "Jesus is alive!"
 - **Easter Scavenger Hunt:** Go on an Easter scavenger hunt with the children trying to find items that symbolize Easter. For example, a rock for the tomb, two sticks to make a cross, something red for the blood, leaf for the palm branches, etc.

Action Rhymes & Songs

Mary and Jesus

Mary walked in the peaceful garden,
Looking all around,
Early in the morning,
But no Jesus could be found.

(hand to forehead, looking)

(shake head "no")

Then Mary heard a voice. (hand to ear)
 "Mary," the voice said.
 She knew it was the Lord Jesus Christ (hands up, in praise)
 Risen from the dead!

Jesus Is Alive Sung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

Jesus is alive,
 Jesus is alive,
 Jesus, God's only Son,
 Jesus is alive.

The First Easter

Mary walked to the garden.
 She looked all around. (turn head around, as if looking)
 But her dear friend Jesus
 Could nowhere be found. (arms outstretched)
 Then as Mary was turning
 A kind voice she heard. (cup hand to mouth)
 "Mary!" said the man,
 And it was the Lord!
 Mary was very happy! (smile)
 She ran all the way
 To tell, "Jesus is living" ("run" fingers)
 That first Easter Day.

Easter Is a Happy Time Sung to the tune of *"Mary Had a Little Lamb"*

Place a piece of tape on the floor. Have children join hands and walk in a circle as they sing. When the music stops, the child standing closest to the tape tells something special about Easter that was learned in class.

Easter is a happy time,
 A happy time, a happy time.
 Easter is a happy time,
 To sing and praise the Lord.

*From 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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I'm H-A-P-P-Y Sung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

I'm H-A-P-P-Y,
 I'm H-A-P-P-Y,
 I know that Jesus is alive,
 I'm H-A-P-P-Y.

Sing Hosanna to the King Sung to the tune of *"Ten Little Indians"*

One little, two little, three little children, (count with fingers)
 Four little, five little, six little children,
 Seven little, eight little, nine little children,
 Ten little children sing.

Sing Hosanna to the King,
Sing Hosanna to the King,
Sing Hosanna to the King,
Ten little children sing.

I'm Glad for Easter Day

Sung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

I'm glad for Easter Day!

(point to self, then clap)

I'm glad for Easter Day!

I'm glad that Jesus is alive!

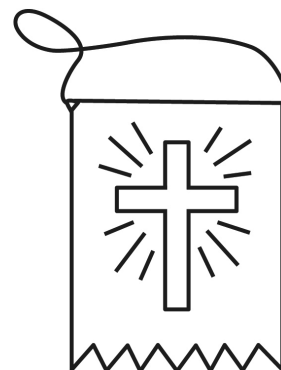
(clap hands; point finger up)

I'm glad for Easter Day!

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: "Rejoice" means to feel joy or great delight. Write down several things that bring you joy or great delight.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Easter" word scramble.
- **Cereal Cross:** spray their cross with acrylic spray. (This should be done in a well-ventilated area. Teacher should spray for younger children.) Attach picture hanger to the center back. Paint with tempera, if desired. Let dry, then spray one more coat of acrylic.
- As each child arrives, ask him/her to quietly think about "What Easter Means to Me." Help the children to write on a 3" x 5" index card one or two sentences that express their thoughts and feelings. The teacher tapes the cards on a large chart titled "What Easter Means to Us." Decorate the chart with Easter symbols (cross, butterfly, crown, flowers, etc.).
- Make individual Easter banners. Have the children make Easter designs, then provide shelf paper or fabric approximately 9" to 12" wide and 24" long. Outline edges with markers. Color the bottom of the banner and cut a fringe. Fold over at the top and insert yarn for hanger.



Additional Visuals



Empty Tomb Diorama: create a diorama of an empty tomb. This can also be used for the story of Lazarus.

**Resurrection Eggs:**

- Use purchased or home-made Resurrection Eggs to tell the story.
- Use small items such as a piece of gauze, stone, thorns, picture of a donkey, etc. which represent parts of the Easter story. Be sure to leave one egg empty for the empty tomb.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 29

UNIT 5: TRUSTING JESUS AS GOD'S SON Jesus Is Alive

LESSON 29: Jesus Visits His Friends

Scripture: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

Story Overview: Jesus's friends were gathered together in a locked room. Suddenly, Jesus was there among them! He showed them His hands and side and ate some food. He explained to them the Scriptures about His crucifixion and resurrection and promised them the Holy Spirit.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Jesus appeared to His friends after He came back to life.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that Jesus is happy when they share the Good News of salvation with others just as He asked His disciples to do.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jesus appeared to His friends and asked them to spread the Good News of salvation to the world.
- understand that God wants them to share the Good News with others.
- ask God for the opportunity to tell others about Jesus and the courage to do so.

Memory Verse: "Jesus is alive!" Luke 24:23 (NLT)
(Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Additional Verse: "And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'" Acts 7:56

Key Word: GOOD NEWS

Craft: "Thumbody" Special Flowers or
"How to be in God's Forever Family" Card

Life Application: Jesus's friends were in hiding when He appeared to them. Seeing Jesus alive and receiving His promise of the Holy Spirit gave them comfort and courage to share the Good News with the world. Have courage to share the Good News with others.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus loved His special friends and helpers. He wanted them to know He was alive. Jesus went to see His friends. His friends were surprised. His friends could see Jesus. His friends could touch Jesus. His friends could hear Jesus talk. They were happy Jesus was alive. Jesus loved His friends. Jesus loves you, [Baby's Name]; Jesus loves you, [Baby's Name]; Jesus loves you, [Baby's Name]. *(Be sure to say the name of each baby.)*

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Some of Jesus's closest friends and helpers had gathered together in a locked room. They were all talking about everything that had happened that very morning, the first Easter morning. So many unusual things had taken place. First, the tomb where Jesus's body was laid was now empty—Jesus was not there. The heavy stone had been rolled away.

Then there was news that Jesus had risen! Was Jesus really alive? The angels told this to the three women at the tomb! Then Mary had seen Jesus alive that morning, and Peter had seen Him, too! Two men walking along the road to Emmaus had even walked and talked with Jesus! As they were talking about all these things, Jesus suddenly was standing there in the room with them!

Jesus said, "Peace be with you." Jesus didn't want His friends to be afraid. Now they were seeing Him, they were hearing Him speak, and they were happy because Jesus was alive. They could actually say, "Jesus is alive!"

Jesus sat and talked with His friends. He even asked them for something to eat. After eating some fish, Jesus told His friends important things they needed to know. He was their Friend, and He told them He wanted them to be friends with others. He wanted them to tell others He was alive because He was going back to heaven to be with His Father. How would they be able to tell people about Him when He was gone? "I'll put a special love in your hearts," Jesus told them. "People will be able to see you love Me because you love each other."

Jesus did put a special love (the Holy Spirit) in their hearts. They loved Jesus, they obeyed Jesus, and they loved each other. They knew they were somebody special because Jesus had put His special love in their hearts.

We, too, can know this because Jesus promised to put His special love in our hearts. When we believe Jesus is the way into God's forever family, then we can be sure His special love will be in our hearts, too. With Jesus's love in our hearts, we can be sure He is with us today, tomorrow, and always.

The Bible tells us Jesus left His disciples as He ascended into heaven. Now, Jesus is alive in the hearts of all His believers.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Draw the faces of Mary, Peter, two men, and Jesus's friends on paper plates. Use these props when telling the story.
- Use story props: key for locked room, big rock, fish, hearts—one for each child (to represent the special love Jesus puts in their hearts.)
- Talk about things that make us feel peaceful—a favorite blanket, doll or toy, sitting on mommy's lap, a warm cup of hot chocolate. Relate these to the peace Jesus gave His disciples and gives us, too.

Interest Centers

- Let the children cut out paper hearts. Talk about the heart as a symbol of love. Have the children write on the paper hearts things they love.
- Collect and wash small, smooth rocks. Let the children paint or color them with markers.
- Write or draw a different emotion word on index cards (i.e. fear, joy, sadness, love, trust, etc.) Have a child choose a card and pantomime that emotion for others to guess. This can lead into a discussion of the emotions found in this week's story: fear, joy amazement.
- Spray perfume into a jar. Ask the children if they think the jar is empty. (They should say "yes.") Open the jar so they can smell the perfume. Talk about how we can't see the Holy Spirit (the special love in our hearts); yet, the Holy Spirit does live in the hearts of those who believe Jesus died on the cross for their sins and came back to life.

Games

- **I'm Here:** The children close their eyes; the teacher tiptoes around the room saying, "Peanut butter and strawberry jam. Can you point to where I am?" Continue playing as long as children are interested. Emphasize that they knew you were there even though they couldn't see you, just as the Holy Spirit is with us even though we can't see Him.
- **I Spy:** Play the game of "I Spy" and talk about seeing and believing versus not seeing and believing.
- **Clothespin Drop:** Give each child several clothespins. Have them stand over a "Love Jar" and try to drop their clothespins into the jar one at a time. The child who gets the most clothespins in the jar wins.
- **Jesus in the Cloud Game:** This game is like Pin the Tail on the Donkey, except you use a picture of Jesus and cotton balls with tape on them.
- **Friendship Circle:** Make a circle. Choose one child to begin. He or she says, "May I present my friend _____ (names the child to his or her right; that child bows or curtsies). He or she then presents the friend on his or her left; that child bows or curtsies. Repeat with other children presenting friends on the right and the left.

- **“Let Us Hold Hands Together”**: The children all hold hands, stand in a circle, and sing to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?”

Let us hold our hands together, together, together.
 Let us hold our hands together, good friends all are we.
 Let us go this way, and that way, and this way, and that way.
(swinging hands back and forth)
 Let us hold our hands together, good friends all are we.
(repeat and sway back and forth in circle)

Action Rhymes & Songs

Joy, Peace, Love

Joy, joy! Jesus is alive!	<i>(happy face)</i>
Peace, peace! Jesus is alive!	<i>(touch heart)</i>
Love, love! Jesus is alive!	<i>(hug self)</i>
Yes!	

Jesus Rose Sung to the tune of “Wheels on the Bus”

Jesus rose and saw his friends,
 Saw his friends, saw his friends.
 Jesus rose and saw his friends
 For many days.

Jesus ascended in heaven,
 Into heaven, into heaven.
 Jesus ascended into heaven
 To be with God.

Jesus Is Alive Sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”

I'm very, very glad! I'm very, very glad!
 I know that Jesus is alive! I'm very, very glad!

Jesus is Alive

Here is Jesus,	<i>(hold up pointer finger, right hand)</i>
Here are the disciples.	<i>(hold up fingers of left hand)</i>
Jesus stood among them saying,	<i>(bring right finger close to left hand)</i>
“Peace-be-with-you.” <i>(say slowly)</i>	<i>(outstretched hands)</i>

He showed them His hands,	<i>(point first to right hand, then left)</i>
He showed them His side.	<i>(point to side)</i>
The disciples saw their beloved Lord,	<i>(hands point to eyes)</i>
And they were filled with joy!	<i>(big smile, hands at sides of mouth)</i>

I'm Happy Sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”

I'm H-A-P-P-Y, I'm H-A-P-P-Y,
 I know that Jesus is alive,
 I'm H-A-P-P-Y.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Pretend you are a newspaper reporter. Think about what you would say in your newspaper about Jesus's resurrection. Write in your journal an exciting headline that you would use, such as "Women and Angels" or "Son of God Rises from the Grave!"

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "Name of Jesus" puzzle (2 pages.)
- Prior to class, the teacher makes "emotion cards." Using 3" x 5" cards, write a different emotion on each card (such as fear, joy, sadness, excitement, surprise, love, trust, etc.). The teacher can also draw faces to show these emotions. Give one card to each child. Children do not show their card to others. One at a time, they pantomime that emotion. Others try to guess the emotion. This activity leads into the emotions found in today's story: fear, joy, amazement.
- **Painted Rocks:** The teacher collects and washes small, smooth rocks. Spread newspapers on table and let each child paint a rock with tempera paint or nail polish, or use felt-tip markers. Children might want to write a portion of today's verse: "Peace be with you!" Use rocks as paperweights, pocket rocks, or plant-pot rocks. As children are working, guide a conversation about how today's Scripture can be applied to each life. What does it mean to be "sent" today?

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 30

UNIT 6: TRUSTING GOD TO BE WITH US ALWAYS **The Life of Peter**

LESSON 30: Peter and John Heal a Lame Man

Scripture: Acts 3:1-16; Matthew 28:18-20

Story Overview: A man who was lame since birth was laid each day at the temple gate to beg for alms. He asked Peter and John for money as they passed by, but instead, he received healing and could walk for the first time. People were amazed and wondered how this could happen. Peter explained that it was by the power of Jesus's name and the man's faith in Jesus that he was healed.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that through the power of Jesus, Peter and John healed a lame man.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God has the power to heal today just as He did when He healed the lame man.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that it was by Jesus's power that Peter and John healed a lame man.
- realize that God has the power to heal, even in ways we may not see.
- trust that God can answer their prayers for healing.

Memory Verse: "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."
Genesis 28:15 (*Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"*)

Additional Verse: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

Key Word: HEAL

Craft: Lame Man and His Mat

Life Application: God is often called the "Great Physician." Like a doctor, He heals people in many ways. Some things needing healing are obvious like a broken bone while others can't be seen, like a lonely, broken heart. Know that there isn't one thing in our lives that God's power can't heal.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Peter and John were going to church to pray. They saw a man who could not walk. The man asked for money. Peter told him they did not have any money, but he had something better to give him. Peter said to him, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Peter helped the man stand up. His feet and ankles became strong. The man was surprised! He jumped to his feet and began to walk. He walked, and jumped, and praised God. The man thanked God.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His helpers, "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore, go and make disciples in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given to you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world. **I want you to go and teach others about Me so they will believe that I am the Son of God and the only way into God's forever family. Then these people will go and tell others the same thing."**

That's just what Jesus's special helpers did. Every chance they had, they would tell others about Jesus. Our Bible story today is about just that. Peter and John were two of Jesus's special helpers. They had the chance to help one man, and when they did—many, many people learned to believe in Jesus.

One afternoon Peter and John were walking together. They were going to the temple to pray. As they walked toward the temple gate, they saw a lame man. He had been carried along the street and laid beside the gate of the temple.

This man had been lame since he was a baby. "Lame" means he could not walk as you and I can walk. When he was a baby, his mother had to carry him everywhere. When this baby grew to be a boy, he couldn't walk and had to be carried. As the boy grew to be a man, he still couldn't walk.

Every day this man's friends would carry him to the temple gate where he would sit on a mat. Because he couldn't walk, he wasn't able to work. Kind people going into the temple would give him money, so he could buy food and clothes. He was known as the lame beggar—the lame man who begged for money.

As Peter and John were passing by, the lame man reached out his hand and asked them for money. "Please, kind sirs, I have been lame since birth, and I have no money. Please help me," the man pleaded.

Peter and John stopped and looked at this man. In a kind voice Peter said, "Look at us." The lame man looked up, hoping that Peter and John would give him some money. Peter said, "We don't have any money to give you. But I'll give you something much better! In the name of Jesus Christ, stand up and walk!"

Then Peter took the lame man by the hand and pulled him to his feet. As he did, the man's feet and ankle bones were healed. He came up with a leap, stood there for a moment, and

began walking! The lame man who had never been able to walk was so surprised! He could hardly believe he was standing and walking. As he jumped into the air, the man shouted, “I can walk, I can walk!” He ran as he followed Peter and John into the temple, praising God that he could walk.

When the people inside saw and heard this man praising God and realized he was the lame beggar they always saw outside the temple gate, they were so surprised! They all wanted to see Peter and John, the two men who had healed this lame man.

Peter decided this was a great chance to tell all these people about Jesus! Peter told the people it was Jesus who was in his heart. It was Jesus who healed this lame man. Peter and John told the people how Jesus had died for them. That day almost 5,000 people became Christians. They believed that Jesus was the way—and the only way—into God’s family. Peter and John were able to do this because they trusted that Jesus was with them always.

God wants us to tell others what we have learned about Jesus. He wants us to tell our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, our grandparents, and all our friends. God promises to be with us and help as we tell others what we have learned about Jesus.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use puppets or dolls for Peter, John and the lame man.
- Involve the children in the story, having them be Peter, John, and the lame man with a mat. Provide a mat, money, money jar or basket.

Interest Centers

- Provide strips of cloth, bandages, crutches, and canes. Let the children pretend they have leg or arm injuries.
- Find pictures on the Internet of the temple gate called “Beautiful.” Let the children draw and create their own pictures of the beautiful gate. Decorate with gold and silver foil.
- Draw a picture or write down the names of people they can tell about Jesus.
- Trace footprints on paper and color. Talk about God making feet for walking, hopping (two feet, one foot), jumping, running and tiptoeing. Form a circle and have the children do all those activities.

Games

- **Peter, May I?:** (Play game the same as “Mother, May I?”) The “Mother” (It) stands on one side of the room while the children line up shoulder to shoulder on the other side of the room. The Mother then chooses a child at random or in order and gives directions such as “Amy, you may take one giant step forward.” The child responds with “Mother, may I?” Mother says, “Yes,

you may" or "No, you may not." If the child forgets to ask for permission, he/she goes back to the starting line. The first one to touch "Mother" wins. The actions may include such things as baby steps, giant steps, crawling, jumping jacks, etc.

- **Walk, Skip and Leap:** Play the game of "Red Light, Green Light" using different actions – walk, crawl, skip, hop, etc. Have the children stand on one side of the room, side-by-side, while you stand on the opposite side of the room. When you say "green light," they can walk (or skip or crawl, etc.) toward you. When you say "red light," they need to stop and freeze. When they reach you, they can high-five you and say, "Jesus can heal!" (Use red and green signs for "stop and "go" for smaller children.)
- **Obstacle course:** do a variety of physical activities (walk, crawl, skip, etc.) through an age-appropriate obstacle course you set up before class.
- **Lame Man, Lame Man, Walk!:** (played like Duck, Duck, Goose) Have the children sit in a circle and choose one child to be "It." "It" walks around the circle, tapping the top of each child's head saying, "Lame man, lame man. Walk!" The child whose head is tapped on "Walk!" runs around the circle, trying to catch "It" before he/she sits down on the empty spot.
- **Children, Children, What Do You See?:** Say to the children, "Children, children, what do you see? I see a happy face looking at me!" Hold a mirror in front of a child's face as he or she makes a happy face. Repeat with different facial expressions that would tie into the story (i.e. angry, sad, surprised, ignored, etc.)
- **No Longer Lame game:** On index cards, write things a child can do with their legs such as run in place, walk in a circle, march, hop or stand on one foot. Place the index cards face down in a pile and let each child choose one card and complete the activity.
- **Lame Man Relay Race:** Create start and finish lines on either side of your play space. Place chairs, toys, books or other objects between the start and finish to create an obstacle course. Have the children (individually or on teams) take turns running the relay race. The catch is they cannot run or walk to complete the race. Instead, they may do things such as roll, crawl or scoot.
- **Who Can Do It? God Can! Game:**
 Ask the children: Who can make the birds fly? Who? Who?
 (cup hands around mouth and make a blowing sound)
 Shout together: God can!
 Who can make the plants pop from the ground? Who? Who? (jump up) God can!
 Who can make the sun shine? Who? Who? (make a sunshine face) God can!
 Who can heal a lame man? Who? Who? (walk energetically in place) God can!
 (Ask the children to come up with other things God can do.)

Action Rhymes & Songs

A Crippled Man

A crippled man,
 Begging for money.
 Peter said, *(right hand out)*
 "In the name of Jesus—
 WALK!"

*(hold out left hand, palm upward;
 motion toward self)*

(pretend to pull man to feet)

I Can Walk Sung to the tune of "*Frère Jacques*"

I can walk, I can walk *(walk in circle and sing)*

Thank You, God; Thank You, God.

Now I can walk; Now I can walk.

Thank You, God; Thank You, God.

Silver and Gold Have I None

Peter and John went to pray;

They met a lame man on the way.

He asked for alms and help out his palms

And this is what Peter did say:

“Silver and gold have I none

But such as I have give I thee.

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

rise up and walk.”

He went walking and leaping and praising God,

Walking and leaping and praising God.

“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

Rise up and walk.”

© 1974 Celebration

I Can Walk Sung to the tune of “*The Mulberry Bush*”

I thank God for my strong legs, (shake one leg)

I thank God for my strong legs.

I thank God for my strong legs, (shake other leg)

See how high I jump. (jump in place)

I thank God for my strong hands, (clap hands)

I thank God for my strong hands,

I thank God for my strong hands, *(continue clapping)*

See how fast I clap. (clap hands faster)

I thank God for my fast feet, *(run in place)*

I thank God for my fast feet,

I thank God for my fast feet, *(continue to run in place slowly)*

See how fast I run. *(run in place faster)*

*From 100 Action Songs! For Preschoolers.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Do you know someone who is sick? Are you praying for God to heal them? Tell them that you are praying for them and that God loves them.

- As children arrive, the teacher is dressed as the lame beggar sitting on the floor. Dialogue briefly with the children, and then tell the story in first-person.

- After the story, write a PRAISE PRAYER together. Each child then copies the prayer onto construction paper or cardstock. Punch holes around the edges and insert yarn to make fringe. (Cut pieces of yarn 4" or 5" long. Fold piece in half so that ends are together. Push folded end through punched hole. Slip ends of yarn through yarn loop and pull tight to make fringe.)
- **Story Review:** Retell today's story. Tell the children that they will be asking the review questions. (Provide paper and pencil to jot down questions as you retell the story.) Divide the class in half for a competition. Explain that points are given when a team asks a question that the other team cannot answer. When a question cannot be answered, the child asking the question should give the answer.
- **Who am I?:** The teacher has slips of paper with the names of Bible figures in this year's lessons. Tape a paper on each child's back. The children ask questions which can only be answered with a "yes" or "no." The children must identify the Bible person's name on their own backs.

Additional Visuals



Peter and John: For many stories, "Ken" and "Barbie"-type dolls can be adapted to make those Bible characters come alive as the story is being acted out. Simply use scraps of material to create clothing and a permanent marker to add in facial hair that would be more appropriate to the time period.



TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 31

UNIT 6: TRUSTING GOD TO BE WITH US ALWAYS **The Life of Peter**

LESSON 31: Peter in Prison

Scripture: Acts 12:1-17

Story Overview: King Herod had Peter arrested and put in prison with many soldiers guarding him. One night, an angel of the Lord appeared in Peter's cell and woke him. Miraculously, the chains fell off Peter's hands, the guards stayed asleep as the angel led Peter out of prison, and the city's iron gate opened on its own. When free, Peter ran to where his friends were meeting, but at first they didn't believe it was Peter who was at the door!

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God sent an angel to help Peter escape from prison.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that they can trust God to help them when they are in need just as Peter did.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God sent an angel to help Peter miraculously escape from prison.
- understand that God will help them when they are in need.
- trust God to help them in difficult situations.

Memory Verse: "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."
Genesis 28:15 (*Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"*)

Additional Verse: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

Key Word: TRUST

Craft: Peter in Prison Lacing Card

Life Application: God has the power to do miracles, and the story of Peter's release from prison sure is a big miracle! The Lord loved Peter and knew the difficult situation he was in. The Lord loves you, too, so trust Him to help you through any hard situation in which you find yourself.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Peter was telling people about Jesus. A mean king wanted Peter to stop. The mean king caught Peter. Peter was chained to two men, so he could not get away. While Peter was sleeping, an angel from God touched Peter. The angel said, "Quick, get up!" The chains fell off Peter's hands. The angel said, "Put on your clothes and sandals and follow me." Peter obeyed the angel from God. He followed the angel out of the prison. He hurried to his friend's house. God loved Peter and took care of him. God loves you and takes care of you.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Last week we learned about Peter, and how he helped to heal the man who couldn't walk. **Peter was one of Jesus's special helpers**, and he still remembered the last thing Jesus told His helpers: "Go into all the world telling people about Me." Jesus then promised, "I will always take care of you." Peter believed Jesus when He said He would be with him and would care for him in all places. So **everywhere Peter went, he told people all about Jesus and His great love.**

The king did not like to hear about Jesus, and he did not like Peter teaching the people about Jesus. So the king wanted to stop Peter from doing this. One day the king had his soldiers catch Peter and put him in prison. Then the king told his soldiers to guard Peter so he could not escape (or get away). He even had soldiers chained to both of Peter's hands. This kept Peter from moving. The king wanted to make sure Peter did not run away. Soldiers also guarded the doors of the prison.

Remember, Jesus promised to take care of Peter wherever he was. Jesus had not forgotten about His friend Peter. Peter had not been forgotten by his friends, either. They knew Peter was in prison, and they did not want something bad to happen to Peter so they prayed for his safety.

One night Peter's friends gathered in John Mark's home to pray for Peter. While they were praying for him, God was helping Peter to escape. God heard the prayers of His people and answered them in a very special way. What do you think God did? He sent an angel into the prison to help Peter escape.

That night Peter was chained between two soldiers. **While he was sleeping, an angel from God touched Peter to wake him up and said, "Quick! Get up!" Suddenly the chains fell off his hands. Peter didn't know what to think as he saw the bright light from the angel. He thought he must be dreaming!**

Then the angel ordered, "Get dressed, and put on your shoes and coat. Now follow me!" As Peter followed, he still wondered if he was dreaming, or if this was really happening. They passed by the first soldier and then the second soldier guarding the prison. These soldiers must have been sleeping because they didn't see Peter and the angel quickly pass through the doors. Then the great big iron gate that led to the street just opened by itself. Can you imagine a gate opening by itself? Peter and the angel slipped through the gate and hurried together down the dark city streets.

Suddenly Peter was all alone—the angel disappeared! Peter finally realized he had escaped! “It’s really true!” Peter said to himself. “The Lord has sent His angel and has saved me from the king.” Peter thought for a moment and then decided to go tell his friends what had happened. **Peter hurried to a friend’s home.** Guess whose home it was? It was John Mark’s home—that’s where his friends had all gathered and were still praying for him.

Peter quietly knocked on the door, and a girl named Rhoda came to see who was knocking. When she heard Peter’s voice, she was so excited that she ran to tell the others Peter was standing outside in the street. But she forgot one thing—she forgot to let him in! So Peter kept on knocking.

The others said, “No, it can’t be Peter. It must be his angel.” Peter kept on knocking and knocking until finally his friends came and opened the door. There stood Peter! They just couldn’t believe it! Peter was standing right there!

After Peter came into the house, he told them everything that had happened. He told them how God had sent an angel to help him escape from prison. He said, “Please tell the others what God has done.” Then he left to find a safer place to stay.

LET’S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Act out the story with the children. Characters needed: Peter, the king, two soldiers, group of friends, an angel, girl named Rhoda. Provide simple costumes and props: chain, flashlight, halo or wings for the angel, shoes and coat so Peter may get dressed.
- Demonstrate God’s protection with a big umbrella. Choose several children to come under the umbrella with you. Explain that the umbrella represents God’s protection. Whenever we are afraid and need God’s protection, we only need to pray and ask God to protect us. God assures us that He will always be there to protect us just as He protected Peter in prison.
- Talk about how some people can be imprisoned by fear, sadness, prejudice, hate, etc. and how Jesus wants to set us free from these things, too.

Interest Centers

- Display different types of chains or pictures of chains: bike, necklace, padlock, dog leash, etc.
- Build a “jail” with blocks.
- On a large piece of butcher paper, draw Peter’s face. Let the children glue one-inch strips of black construction paper on his face (to show Peter behind jail bars).
- Chain children together with construction paper chains, string or strips of material. Have them do several activities while chained together such as walk down the hallway or eat snack. Demonstrate the power of prayer by having the chains fall off while praying.
- Have “jail partners.” Pick partners and “chain” them together using paper chains or soft yarn or rope. Have them try doing different activities, like play with toys, eat snack or clean up, without breaking their chain.

Games

- **Who's Knocking?:** Have the children close their eyes. Choose a child to be Peter and quietly take him to the other side of the door. Let the children pray while "Peter" knocks on the door. Have the children guess who is knocking. Once the guess is made correctly choose another Peter and continue the game.
- **Bible Verse Ball Toss:** The children sit in a circle. The teacher says first word of the Bible verse, then throws a soft ball to a child. The child who catches the ball says the next word and then throws the ball back to the teacher. Continue in the same manner to the end of the verse.

Action Rhymes & Songs

God Is So Great

God is so great,	<i>(spread arms wide)</i>
I am so small.	<i>(crouch down)</i>
But God is with me;	<i>(point to self)</i>
He's with us all.	<i>(point to everyone)</i>

Jesus is with Me

Jesus is with me	<i>(point up)</i>
When I walk.	<i>(walk in place)</i>
Jesus is with me	<i>(point up)</i>
When I talk.	<i>(make talking gestures with hand)</i>
When I stand,	<i>(stand straight)</i>
When I climb,	<i>(climbing motion)</i>
Jesus is with me	<i>(point up)</i>
All the time.	
Jesus is with me	<i>(point up)</i>
When I sleep.	<i>(lay head on hands)</i>
Jesus is with me	<i>(point up)</i>
When I weep.	<i>(pretend to cry)</i>
When I'm home or away,	<i>(form roof over head with hands)</i>
At night or in the day,	<i>(hands over eyes; form sun with arms)</i>
Jesus is with me	<i>(point up)</i>
All the way.	

God is with Me Sung to the tune of "London Bridge"

God is with me all the time,	<i>(Two children form a bridge by joining hands and holding their arms up while other children walk under. On the last line, the bridge should come down gently around one child. That child should name a place where God is with him or her.)</i>
All the time, all the time.	
God is with me all the time,	
He is with me.	
God is with me everywhere,	
Everywhere, everywhere.	
God is with me everywhere,	
Everywhere I am.	

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: “TRUST” means “a belief in the honesty or reliability of a person.” Are there people in your life who are honest and reliable? People whom you trust? Write down their names. Thank God that He can be trusted and that He has given you people you can trust.

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** “Peter Escapes” sheet.
- **Postage Stamp:** Create a postage stamp that Peter might have used if he were to send a letter from prison. Sketch with pencil on an 18” x 24” piece of paper; then color with markers or crayons. Scallop the edges to look as if the stamp has been torn from a sheet of new stamps.
- **Write a Letter:** Pretend you are Peter, writing from prison.
- **Video:** This is an excellent story to role play. Video the children as they act out the story. Have the children watch themselves and/or show the video to the preschoolers.
- **Thank You Prayer:** List circumstances when you might call on God because you don’t feel secure. Write a prayer of thanks to God for the security we have in Him.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 32

UNIT 6: TRUSTING GOD TO BE WITH US ALWAYS **The Life of Peter**

LESSON 32: Peter and Dorcas

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

Story Overview: Dorcas loved God and did many kind things to help others. She became ill and died. At the urging of the disciples, Peter went to see Dorcas. When he arrived, he was brought to the upper room where Dorcas's body lay. After he was left alone with her, Peter commanded Dorcas to arise. God's miracle of bringing Dorcas back to life caused many to become believers.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that Dorcas was a helpful person and God raised her from the dead.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God is pleased when they help others just as He was with Dorcas.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Dorcas was a helpful person and God raised her from the dead.
- understand that God is pleased when they are helpful.
- look for ways to be kind and helpful to others.

Memory Verse: "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."
Genesis 28:15 (*Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"*)

Additional Verse: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

Key Word: HELPFUL

Craft: Dorcas Spoon Doll

Life Application: Dorcas was a great example of a kind and helpful servant. In her own quiet way, she blessed others, especially through her talent of sewing. What are your talents? Are you an artist? A good baker? Do you like to read to others? Think about ways that you can use your God-given talents to be helpful to others.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Dorcas loved Jesus. Dorcas showed her love for Jesus by helping people. Dorcas was kind. Dorcas helped mothers and their children. Dorcas helped very old people. Dorcas made clothing for babies. Dorcas made shirts and dresses for boys and girls. Dorcas made dresses for mummies. She was kind. People loved Dorcas and thanked her for helping them. Dorcas was happy being kind and helpful. Dorcas knew that Jesus wants us to be kind and helpful.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

The Bible teaches us to always be kind to everyone, especially our Christian brothers and sisters. God is pleased (or happy) with those who help others. Our story today is about someone who was always doing good for other people. Then one day, God's special helper Peter did something especially kind for her.

The Bible tells us about a woman named Dorcas who lived in the town of Joppa. Dorcas probably knew everyone in the town because she was always looking for ways she could help others. More than anything else, Dorcas wanted to please Jesus by showing love to others. She believed and understood Jesus had died for her and for others. What better way was there to show her love to Jesus than by being kind to others?

The people in Joppa loved Dorcas. She helped mothers take care of their sick children, and she spent many long hours with them. When the mothers were sick, she would come to their homes to cook dinner for the family and to clean for them. She would take food and clothes to old people who couldn't care for themselves.

One of the very special things Dorcas did for other people was to make clothes for them. She spent hours and hours sewing by hand with a needle and thread. There were no sewing machines then, so it took a long, long time to make a coat or even a shirt. Dorcas would make clothes for babies, shirts and dresses for children, dresses for women, and robes for men. The people were so thankful to God for a helpful friend like Dorcas. When people thanked her, Dorcas would say, "I am happy when I'm doing what Jesus wants me to do—help others!"

One day Dorcas became very sick. She was so sick that the little children couldn't go to visit her. Dorcas's friends tried to help her, but there wasn't anything they could do. Then one day a very sad thing happened—Dorcas died.

The people in the town cried because they loved Dorcas so much. Then her friends remembered Peter was in a town nearby. Peter loved Jesus, too. They had heard how he helped the lame beggar walk. Maybe there was something Peter could do to help Dorcas! **So, two men from Joppa quickly left to find Peter and ask him to come to their town to help.**

As soon as Peter heard about Dorcas, he hurried to her home. Many of the people whom Dorcas had helped were there in her home. Some were crying, and others started to tell Peter how kind Dorcas had been to them. They showed him the clothes she had sewn for them.

Peter looked at their sad faces and kindly asked them all to leave the room, so he could be alone. Peter knelt down beside Dorcas's bed and prayed to God. Then Peter stood up and said, "Get up, Dorcas." What do you think happened? Dorcas opened her eyes! And when she saw Peter, she sat up! He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. Then Peter told all of her friends in the other room, "Come in!"

Her friends were so excited to see Dorcas alive again! They were so thankful Jesus had helped Peter make Dorcas well.

Before long, other people in Joppa learned about Dorcas being brought back to life. These people wanted Peter to tell them more about his friend Jesus. So, Peter stayed awhile in their town, and because he did, many more people believed in Jesus.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use fabric, needle, and thread to introduce the story. Begin sewing.
- Tell the story from the perspective of Peter, Dorcas, or the two friends who asked for Peter's help.

Interest Centers

- Have a table with spools of thread, needles, and fabric. Talk about how clothing is sewn together. Older children may even want to try sewing buttons on fabric.
- Lay out cleaning items such as a small broom and dustpan, dusting Swiffer, sponge and small bucket of water, etc. Let them help clean up and talk about other ways they can help others like Dorcas did.
- Provide two simple coat outlines for each child. With the yarn "needle" (wrap the end in tape,) let the children sew the front and back of the coat together. Glue small patches of fabric on the front of the coat. (For younger children, have them glue fabric on the outline of one coat.)
- Let the children make handprints out of washable acrylic paint. Label pictures "I Can Be a Helper." Encourage the children to do at least one helpful activity this week at home.
- Thread beads onto a long shoelace.

Games

- **Dress the Baby Game:** Bring in a doll and doll clothing or small children's clothing. Tell the children that the doll needs help getting dressed. Have the children put the clothing on the doll. Have them practice buttoning, zipping, snapping and tying shoes.

Action Rhymes & Songs**This Is the Way That Dorcas Sewed**Sung to the tune of "*The Mulberry Bush*"

This is the way that Dorcas sewed,
 Dorcas sewed, Dorcas sewed.
 This is the way that Dorcas sewed,
 To show her love for Jesus.

*(pretend to sew)***Dorcas**

This is Dorcas;
 One day she died.
 All her friends were sad.

*(hold up index finger)**(lay finger on open hand)*

Then Peter prayed;
 God made her live.
 All her friends were glad!

*(bow head)**(raise index finger)**(clap hands gladly)*

*From Through the Bible with Finger Plays by Marian White.
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YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Each day this week, think of at least one way you can be helpful to another person (i.e. help a neighbor bring in their groceries, help your brother or sister with their homework, help your parent do the dishes, etc.) Share in class next week some of the ways in which you were helpful.

- **Make Helpful Hands:** Help the children individually decide on one person they would like to help this week. Give each child a 9" x 12" piece of construction paper. Fold the paper to 9" x 6." Working in pairs, one child places the right hand on the folded piece of paper so the right side of the little finger is along the fold. His or her partner traces around the hand. The other child then has his/her hand traced on his/her piece of paper.

With paper still folded, cut around the hand outline. Do NOT cut the folded edge or the bottom edge. Turn the paper over, so the fold is on the left.

On the front of the card print "(child's name)'s Helping Hands." Under that print: "I promise to help by ..."

Inside the card, child draws or lists things he or she will do to be helpful. The Bible verse may also be included.

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 33

UNIT 6: TRUSTING GOD TO BE WITH US ALWAYS **The Life of Peter**

LESSON 33: Peter as a Missionary

Scripture: Acts 10:1-48

Story Overview: Through a vision, God told the centurion, Cornelius, to meet with Peter and gave him instructions on where to find him. At the same time, Peter fell into a trance and saw a large sheet descend from heaven holding all sorts of animals, reptiles and birds—many of which were forbidden for a Jew to eat. This was God's way of showing Peter that the Good News of salvation was not just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. Peter went to see Cornelius, and many Gentiles came to know Christ that day.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that God called Peter to be a missionary and Peter told Cornelius about Jesus.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to be missionaries and tell others about Jesus just as Peter did.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that God called Peter to be a missionary and showed him that the Good News is for everyone.
- understand that God wants them to be missionaries wherever they are.
- look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

Memory Verse: "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."
Genesis 28:15 (*Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques"*)

Additional Verse: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

Key Word: MISSIONARY

Craft: Wallpaper Suitcase

Life Application: Remember, a missionary is someone who tells another person about Jesus. You don't have to go to a faraway place to be a missionary. Be a missionary to people in your life who don't know Jesus.

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

God had a special job for Peter. Peter was to tell a man about Jesus. The man's name was Cornelius. Cornelius knew about God, but he did not know about Jesus. God told Peter that all people should know about Jesus. Peter went to Cornelius' house. Cornelius and his family were all in the house. Peter told them about Jesus. He told them that Jesus is God's Son. He told them that when we love Jesus, we are part of God's family. Cornelius was happy to hear about Jesus. He loved Jesus and became part of God's family. Jesus wants you to be a part of God's family.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

Can anyone tell me what a missionary does? A missionary is a person who tells others about Jesus. There are children who have never even heard about Jesus. Some of these children live far, far away in other countries. Some live so far away you can't get there by car. You would have to go by boat or fly in an airplane. God wants all children and adults everywhere to know about Jesus. That's why He sends missionaries as His special helpers to people who live far away.

Our Bible story today is about a missionary sent by God to another city. God wanted the people in this city to learn about Jesus. This missionary is someone we've already talked about. Who remembers the name of the man who escaped from prison, with an angel's help? This same man healed a lame beggar and also brought Dorcas back to life. Who was it? That's right, his name is Peter. God planned for Peter to go to the city of Caesarea, so he could tell the people there about Jesus.

Cornelius was an important soldier who lived in the city of Caesarea. He was also a man who loved God very much, as did the rest of his family and all who lived with him. Even though Cornelius loved God, he still did not know about Jesus. One day when Cornelius was praying, God sent an angel to tell him to send for Peter. Cornelius did not know Peter, but the angel told him where he could be found.

Cornelius sent for two of his servants and a God-loving soldier. He told them to go and find a man named Peter staying at the house of Simon, who lived by the seashore in the town of Joppa.

At the same time, God was preparing Peter for the visit from these three men. Peter went up on the flat roof to pray while his lunch was being prepared. While Peter was praying, God showed him He wanted all people everywhere to know about Jesus being the way into His forever family. God told him to go with the three men who would soon come to visit him.

Peter was still on the roof when the three men came to his house. As they were asking to see him, Peter came down and said, "I'm the man you're looking for. Why have you come?" They told him Cornelius was a Roman soldier who was a good and godly man. They also told him an angel had instructed Cornelius to send for Peter to come and tell him what God wanted him to do.

Peter invited the men to spend the night. The next day Peter left with these three men for the trip to Caesarea. He also took some of his Christian friends to go meet Cornelius.

As they arrived at Cornelius's house, a crowd of people was waiting to meet Peter. Cornelius invited Peter in to meet his relatives and close friends. Cornelius said, "Peter, God has sent you to us." Then he said, "Now, here we are, waiting before the Lord, anxious to hear what He has told you to tell us!"

As Peter spoke, he told Cornelius and his friends how much God loved them by sending His Son, Jesus. He told them Jesus taught that He was the only way into God's forever family. Our Bible tells us everyone there that day believed in Jesus Christ. Cornelius was so thankful to Peter for telling him about Jesus!

Peter was not afraid to go to a strange country because he trusted Jesus would be with him in all places. Peter knew God wanted him to go and tell these people about Jesus. And he did what God wanted him to do!

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Tell the story once; then divide the children into two groups. Let one group dress up and go as missionaries to act out the story for the second group; then reverse the groups. Remind the children they can be missionaries in their own homes and neighborhoods.
- Talk about missionaries who take trips away from home. Talk about the items missionaries would need to pack to take with them. Consider bringing in a suitcase full of clothes and other items needed when traveling.

Interest Centers

- Bring in several suitcases or backpacks; allow the children to open them and pretend they are packing for a trip.
- Prior to class, obtain some CBSI Children & Youth newsletters showing children around the world being taught about Jesus.
- Have the children draw pictures or write a group or individual letter of encouragement to the class CBSI Country Link Children & Youth ministry.
- Set up each classroom as a country. Put up pictures of that country (print them or use old calendars) and a country banner on the door, plus other props (i.e. a sombrero, maracas, a colorful blanket for Mexico.) Create passports for each child. Sometime during class time, have each class go on their missionary journey to each of the other classrooms (countries.) When the door is opened, have the children shout "Jesus is alive!" and tell that class something about Jesus. Let the host classroom (country) put a "stamp" in their passport. This can be stamped with ink, a special sticker, or a label that's been printed with the name or symbol representing that particular country.

- Provide a map, globe, or issues of *National Geographic* for the children to see the many places missionaries are sharing about Jesus.

Games

- Pretend with the class that they are going on a missionary journey for a week. Help them pack their suitcase, lock up their house, drive to the airport, fly away on a plane, visit a foreign country, share about Jesus, and then fly back home. They can also pretend to be traveling with Peter to Cornelius's home.
- **Transportation Game:** Have the children act out different modes of transportation (car, boat, airplane, bus, train, walking).
- **Pack Our Missionary Suitcase:** The first person will say, "I'm going on a trip and I'm taking _____." The second person will say, "I'm going on a trip and I'm taking _____ and _____." Each person must name all the preceding items that have been mentioned and then add their item to the list. Continue around the circle until everyone had a turn.

Action Rhymes & Songs

I'll Choose God's Family Sung to the tune of "*The Farmer in the Dell*"

I choose God's fam-i-ly,
I choose God's fam-i-ly,
I love Him, and He loves me.
I choose God's fam-i-ly.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Does your church or your family support a missionary? Draw them a picture or write them a letter. Let them know you are praying for them and thank them for the work they do to help others know and love Jesus.

- Prior to class, the teacher records the Bible story. Let the children listen to the recording. Then the teacher interviews Cornelius, the two servants who were sent to get Peter, Peter, and members of Cornelius's family and friends. Video these interviews and let the children watch their "Biblical News Reports."
- Take the video interviews to share with the younger classes. Afterward, tell the Young Elementary CBS-ers: "Now that you have been missionaries to the younger classes by using our video, go as missionaries and share your Roman Road Booklet with friends."

TRUSTING IN GOD

*Baby, Preschool & Young Elementary
Teacher Lesson*

Year 1 - Lesson 34

UNIT 6: TRUSTING GOD TO BE WITH US ALWAYS **The Life of Peter**

LESSON 34: Peter Heals Aeneas

Scripture: Acts 9:31-35

Story Overview: Peter taught in the city of Lydda where he met Aeneas, a paralyzed man who had been bed-ridden for eight years. Peter healed Aeneas, and all who saw this believed in Jesus.

Baby Aim: To teach the babies that many people turned their hearts to Jesus when they saw that Aeneas was healed.

Preschool Aim: To teach the children that God wants them to give their hearts to Jesus, just as the people did when they saw that Aeneas was healed.

Young Elementary Aim: To help the learners:

- know that many people turned their hearts to Jesus after they saw that Aeneas was healed.
- understand that Jesus wants them to give their whole heart to Him.
- pray and ask Jesus into your heart and become part of His forever family!

Memory Verse: “I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”
Genesis 28:15 (*Sung to the tune of “Frère Jacques”*)

Additional Verse: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:20

Key Word: HEART

Craft: “Jesus Loves Me” Necklace

Life Application: Since before you were born, Jesus has been wanting to be your forever friend and live in your heart. He doesn’t just move in though—you need to ask Him in. He’s knocking at the door of your heart. Will you welcome Him in?

The following is to be used only as a guide. Pray for creativity as you prepare to tell the story using various storytelling methods to engage the children rather than reading from the text.

End the story time with a simple prayer that focuses on the aim of this lesson.

Baby Bible Story

Jesus's special helpers had a job to do. They were to tell other people about Jesus, God's Son. Jesus's helpers went to many places. They told men, women, boys, and girls about Jesus. Jesus's helpers made sick people get better. Peter told a sick man that Jesus had made him well. He told him to get up and make his bed. The man believed, and he was healed right away. Jesus's helpers told many people about Jesus. They wanted the people to love Jesus and become part of God's family. Jesus loves you. Jesus wants you to love Him. Jesus wants you to be a part of God's family.

Preschool & Young Elementary Bible Story

(The highlighted text indicates portions that can be used for shorter storytelling.)

The Christian church in all Judea and Galilee and Samaria was growing and enjoying peace. All throughout the land, in the cities and villages, there were many believers who were meeting to worship the Lord. As they met, there were more and more people coming to believe in Jesus Christ.

Jesus's special helpers were traveling from city to city, spending time in the new churches or with groups of new believers. In each church, they would spend time teaching and encouraging the new Christians to serve the Lord.

As Peter was traveling from place to place to visit, he came to the believers in the town of Lydda near the Great Sea. While visiting believers in the town, Peter met a man named Aeneas. Aeneas was sick with palsy. Palsy means that the man was paralyzed—he could not move his body. Aeneas had spent the past eight years in bed. That's a long time to spend in bed, isn't it?

Peter felt sorry for the man. As he looked at him, Peter said, "Aeneas! Jesus Christ has healed you! Get up and make your bed." Now, can you imagine how you would feel if someone told you to get up and make your bed? Remember, Aeneas had spent the past eight years in his bed, not able to move!

What do you think Aeneas did? Aeneas was so surprised to hear these words! But, because he believed, he was healed. The Bible says he arose immediately. His body became strong, and as he got up from his bed, he was perfectly well.

Word spread quickly throughout Lydda and the surrounding towns about how Aeneas had been healed. Many, many people wanted to come to see Peter. They wanted to hear him teach about Jesus Christ. The Bible says that all who lived in Lydda and the town of Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, and they believed in the Lord.

Peter was doing exactly what Jesus wanted him to do. He was traveling all around telling people about Jesus and how He was the way into God's family. These people, in turn, were telling others the good news about Jesus.

LET'S PRAY . . .

TEACHING IDEAS

(Please select ideas and activities suitable for the ages and ability levels of the children in your class.)

Storytelling Ideas

- Use toilet tissue puppets for Peter and Aeneas. Make a bed from a shoe box or tissue box.
- Dress as Peter and have team teacher be Aeneas. Act out the story.

Interest Centers

- **Picture Review:** Show a complete set of Children's Home Papers with all the pictures colored. Hold up one picture at a time, and let children review the story.

Games

- **Bandage on the Boo-Boo Game:** Draw an outline of a person on a sheet of butcher paper and hang it at children's eye level. Ask the children what part of the person may be sick or hurt (scraped the knees or elbows, tummy aches, earaches, etc.) Mark the "hurt" spots with red crayon. Have the children line up and give a bandage. Have the children take turns closing their eyes and trying to put bandages on the marked "hurt" spots. Point out that we have medicine and bandages to help us when we are hurt and remind the children that Jesus can make us feel better when we're sick, too.
- **Peter Says Game:** Have everyone lay on the floor as if paralyzed. Say such things as "Peter says, 'Paralyzed man, move your fingers!'" or "Peter says, 'Paralyzed man, move your toes!'" Just like in the game Simon Says, catch the children by leaving off "Peter says" and saying things like "Paralyzed man, touch your head." Play for a couple minutes. Ask if it was difficult to be "paralyzed?"

Action Rhymes & Songs

I'll Choose God's Family Sung to the tune of *"The Farmer in the Dell"*

I'll choose God's fam-i-ly,
I'll choose God's fam-i-ly,
I love Him, and He loves me.
I'll choose God's fam-i-ly.

YOUNG ELEMENTARY SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Challenge: Look back in your journal and see what you have learned this year. What lesson was your favorite? Why did you like it so much? This summer, think about what you've learned about Jesus and how He wants you to live and put it into practice!

- **Puzzles & Patterns:** "The Greatest Commandment" sheet.

- **Memory Game:** Choose 15 items or pictures from this year's curriculum. Place them on a table and cover them with a cloth. Uncover the items/pictures for two minutes. Have the children look at them carefully. Cover items/pictures and encourage children to try and list as many of them as they can remember. The child who correctly lists the most items/pictures wins.
- **Year-end Review:** Have a review and sharing time today. The teacher begins by holding a beanbag in his or her hands. The teacher may share a favorite Bible verse from this year, a favorite Bible story or person, favorite activity, etc. Then the teacher tosses the beanbag to a child for his or her sharing. Continue until everyone has had a turn.
- **Love Awards:** Allow the children to develop individual awards (coupons, certificates, pictures, etc.)



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