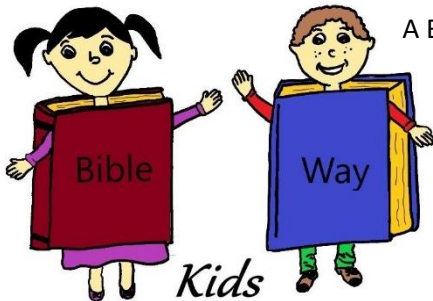


ZOOBILEE



A Bible Way Kids curriculum compiled by:
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ZOOBILEE

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Zoobilee

If the animals could talk the tales they could tell. That's what we're looking at in the Zoobilee series. The lessons are being told from the animal's point of view. Granted, some of the points of view are rather skewed (we'll make sure the kids know what really happened).

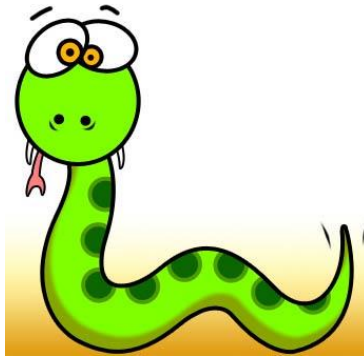
The sessions will be very animal oriented. If you love to go to the zoo, you'll enjoy this series.

The costumes are safari type outfits. The men will wear khaki shirts or jackets or khaki pants. The ladies will wear khaki shirts and khaki skirts. Everyone will have an official zoo keeper badge.

The room is decorated as a zoo. You can make cages for the walls and put the animals behind, make free standing animals with the face cut out for photo ops. Monkeys can hang from the ceiling. You could make a bus out of boxes that travels through the zoo. A farm area, etc... the ideas are limitless.

For each lesson you will need to have a puppet or a stuffed animal like the animal in the lesson. This reinforces the lesson to the children and they love the interaction. The stories are written without the insertion of the animal at any specific area. In other words the story is there, you insert the animal when you feel it works best. Everyone tells a story differently.

Have fun at the Zoo!!



Zoobilee

Lesson One: The Serpent in the Garden

Lesson at a Glance

Welcome: Plastic sun visors-one per child

Pre-session: Sun visors from Welcome, stickers, markers

Offering: Stuffed snake or puppet

Craft: Jumbo craft sticks, marker, construction paper, glue, google eyes

Lesson: Stuffed snake or puppet

Zoobilee

Lesson One: The Serpent in the Garden

Scripture Text: Genesis 3:1

Memory Verse: Proverbs 13:13 Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

Welcome: Welcome each child today to the zoo. Give each one a plastic sun visor, in case it gets hot at the zoo.



Pre-session: Give the children stickers and markers to decorate their sun visor. Talk to them about the new décor. Ask how many of them have been to the zoo.



Prayer: Pray with the children as we begin a new series asking God to help them learn about Him.



Offering: Let the children place their offering near the stuffed snake or puppet you will be using in the lesson.



Craft: Make craft stick snakes today. Give each child a few jumbo craft sticks, markers, google eyes and construction paper. The children will paint their sticks with the markers and draw designs as they wish. They will then glue on google eyes and cut out fangs and glue them on.



Memory Verse: Write the memory verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Seat the children in an S shape on the floor. S for snake! The first child will say the first word of the memory verse, the second child the second word and so on down

the line until the verse is completed. Begin the second time at the other end of the snake. Read the verse several times together as a group



Lesson: (Use the snake puppet or stuffed animal that was used for offering)

Welcome kids to the first lesson in Zoobilee. I love living at the zoo. I live in the area of the zoo called the herpetarium, that's where all the cool lizards and alligators and snakes like me live. As you can see I'm a beautiful creature. I've always been very handsome, even as a small snake people always commented on how handsome I was. Any of you want to pet me? I love it when people appreciate my beauty. But, enough about me. I'm here to set a lot of you straight about snakes. We are not the evil creatures that everyone thinks we are!

I think that all started a long time ago in the Garden of Eden. That's the garden where God placed the first man and woman. They had it made in the shade-get it-in the shade? Ha, Ha, I kill me. Anyway, they did have it good. God took care of every need that they had. They were even able to talk to God every day when He came in the cool of the day to visit with them.

There was only one thing that seemed to be a problem for them. God had set a tree in the garden called The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He had set up a pretty good deal for them. They could eat of every tree in the garden except that one. He told them if they ate of that tree they would die.

Sounds like a deal to me. You get to eat all that other yummy stuff in the garden except one and you live like a king. But, you know humans, no put down to you guys, but they wanted to eat of that tree. Well.... This is where the snakes start getting a bad rap. One of my ancestors maybe great, great, great, great, great, great (is that enough greats) Uncle Slippery knew they really wanted to eat the fruit and he came along and was talking to Eve about it. He just made some suggestions to her and before he knew it she was pulling down some fruit off that tree. Uncle Joe was shocked! Guess what she did then? She ran and got her husband and you know how wives are, she convinced him to try it too. I understand when they ate the fruit their eyes were opened and they were ashamed. They went and hid in the garden so God couldn't find them. Hah! Uncle Joe didn't hide, he knew God

knows everything. When God came to talk to them that day, things really hit the fan. From what I understand, when it was all said and done poor Uncle Joe took the fall for everyone and was told he would had to slink around on his belly the rest of his days and that there was going to be hate between woman and him. That seemed so unfair to poor Uncle Joe. Maybe there's another side to the story, but that's the way I heard it. Anyway, let's be friends. Come see me the next time you come to the Zoo. (Snake exits)

Teacher: That's a little bit different story than what we read in the Bible, right kids. Sounds like our friend the snake got parts of the story right and left out the parts he didn't like. The Bible says that the serpent in the Garden was very subtil, that means tricky. He told Eve some things that weren't true, changing the word of God. We want to be sure we know the word of God and aren't tricked by the devil into believing a lie.

Let's pray and ask God to help us love truth and read the Bible and listen to our pastor when he preaches. Pray with the children.



Extended Time Game or Activity: Catch the Snakes Tail

Line up the children in a straight line with the children holding each other's waist. Boys with boys, girls with girls. Everyone is to follow the head of the "snake" while the head tries to catch the tail. The tail tries to avoid being caught. If the "snake" breaks the game has to start over.



Zoobilee

Lesson Two: The Dove in the Ark

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Pinecones-2-3 per child, yarn, peanut butter, disposable knife, wild bird seed

Offering: Stuffed dove or dove puppet

Craft: White cupcake liners-2 per child, blue card stock, yellow construction paper, glue

Memory Verse: Dry erase or chalk board, Timer

Lesson: Stuffed dove or dove puppet

Zoobilee

Lesson Two: The Dove in the Ark

Scripture Text: Genesis 8:8

Memory Verse: Luke 16:10a He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:



Welcome: Greet each child with a warm smile.



Pre-session: Make simple bird feeders to hang in the tree. Gather pinecones- two to three per child. (If you have a tree with pine cones near your location let the children go out and pick up their own). Give each child a small cup of peanut butter, a disposable knife, a small cup of wild bird seed and a piece of yarn. They will tie the yarn to the pine cone as a hanger. They will then use the knife to put the peanut butter on the pine cone, then sprinkle them with the bird seed. They can take them home at the end of the session and hang them in trees near their homes.



Prayer: Thank the Lord today for his faithfulness.



Offering: Place the offering near the dove puppet or the stuffed dove you are using for the lesson.



Craft: Give the children materials to make a dove. Flatten one of the cupcake cases and cut in half. Glue one half to the blue card to form the dove's body. Cut a piece of the fluted part of the cupcake case from the remaining half and glue to the body to form the tail. Flatten the second cupcake case and cut in half. Glue both pieces on to form the wings. Cut a beak from yellow paper and glue on. Finish by drawing on an eye.



Memory Verse: Write the memory verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Set a timer and allow each child one minute to read the memory verse. When the timer goes off they stop if they have not completed the verse. Read the verse together as a group making sure the children understand the meaning.



Lesson: (Use the dove puppet or stuffed dove that was used for the offering) Dove: Hello boys and girls, I'm glad you came to Zoobilee today. I am a dove and I live in the Aviary at the zoo. That's the place where I and my feathered friends live. I really like my life here at the zoo. We get fed and taken care of and even better than that we get to meet all kinds of new friends like you.

Since this is Sunday School I'd like to tell you a story that's been handed down in my family from generation to generation. We doves are very proud that we are mentioned in the Bible. One of my ancestors actually was the one that let Noah know he could go out of the ark. Pretty cool, huh? Let me tell you what I've been told.

My great greats tell me that Old Grandpa Dove and Grandma Dove were on the Ark. It was quite an amazing place to be they say. Animals of every kind were gathered on the boat. They said it was kind of nice to be a bird instead of a four footed animal, because they could leave the different areas of the boat and fly around in fresher air when things got a little stale-if you know what I mean. Noah's sons were not always on their toes about getting things cleaned up. Anyway...

The rains fell and fell for forty days and forty nights and the boat finally came to rest. After they were in the boat, seemed like forever I'm sure, Noah sent out a raven. Personally, I don't think the raven is the brightest bulb in the bunch, just my opinion. Anyway... the raven kept flying back and forth until the water dried up.

Then Noah sent Grandpa Dove out to check things out. The first time he went out, no luck, still too much water. He came back and got in his cozy nest with Grandma Dove. No flying back and forth for Grandpa Dove, he knew when he had a good place to lay his head at night. Seven days later Noah sent Grandpa Dove out again. This time Grandpa was looking for a place to make a nest. It was getting pretty unbearable in that Ark, I understand. This time when Grandpa came back he had an olive leaf in his beak. He showed it to Noah and then flew to tell Grandma it

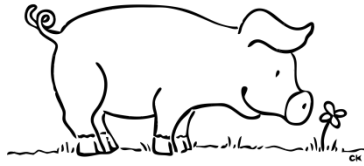
was almost nest building time. He told her the next time he flew out he'd set up housekeeping and she could meet him when Noah opened the door. Sure enough, seven days later Grandpa Dove was sent out and he did not return. Noah knew it was getting time to open the doors. When God gave him the word he came out with his family and the all the animals came out of the ark. I'm told Grandma Dove met up with Grandpa Dove and they lived happily ever after. Doves marry for life you know! Hope to see you soon at the Zoo.

Teacher: That was a great story wasn't it. I think the dove stuck to the facts of the story better than our friend the snake last week. The dove was faithful to go back to Noah with his findings, the raven seemed more interested in just flying around.

God blesses faithfulness, that means being loyal. We can be faithful to our Pastor, faithful to our parents and faithful to God. That means they can trust us. We want God to be able to say enter in my good and faithful servant. He won't say that unless its true because God doesn't lie. Let's pray and ask God to help us to be faithful. Pray with the children.



Extended Time Game and Activity: Children stand in a circle. Each time the teacher says “the birds are flying”, the children flap their arms like wings. Give various instructions such as “the dog is flying” or “nobody move”. Children only move when the bird directive is given. If the children move when they shouldn't they sit out until there is only one child left in the game.



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Lesson Three: The Pig in the Prodigal Son Story

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Ear of raw corn, microwave popcorn, small cups, drink for each child

Offering: Piggy bank

Craft: Empty water bottles with lids-one per child, pink construction paper cut to fit water bottles-one per child, tape, glue pink construction paper

Memory Verse: Dry Erase or Chalk board

Lesson: Stuffed pig or pig puppet

Extended Time Game or Activity: Pink balloons with pig faces drawn on them, 2-3 brooms, 2-3 boxes

Zoobilee

Lesson Three: The Pig in the Prodigal Son Story

Scripture Text: Luke 15: 11-32

Memory Verse: Luke 15: 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee,



Welcome: Welcome each child with a warm smile and a hand shake.



Pre-session: Show the children what corn looks like and then let them eat some of the popcorn that you have popped. Talk about how pigs like to eat corn (not the popped kind). Make sure you have a small drink for each child.



Prayer: Pray with the children that God will instill in us a desire to stay in the Father's house.



Offering: Let the children put their offering in a piggy bank today.



Craft: Make piggy banks out of empty water bottles that have had a slit cut for the change to go in. Give the children the bottles and a pink construction paper body to tape on the bottle. Let them glue on ears and use a marker to make the eyes. Glue a pink circle on the lid for the nose and add two nostrils. Add a curly tail and glue on four pink legs.



Memory Verse: Write the memory verse on a dry erase or chalk board. Seat the children in a circle. The first child will start passing the pig that will be used in the lesson today. When the teacher says stop the child holding the pig will stand and read the memory verse out loud. The play will continue until each child has had a chance to read the verse. Read the verse aloud as a group several times.



Lesson: (Use the pig puppet or stuffed animal that was used for the memory verse) Pig: Thanks for coming to Zoobilee today. I live in the Farm area at the zoo. I'm sure you've seen me there, it's a popular place for the kids to go when they visit. The story I'm going to tell you today was passed down to me from my ancestors also. It's not a pretty story, but it has a happy ending. Everyone has the impression that pigs are very dirty, smelly animals. Look at me, am I dirty-want to smell me? That's not true for those of us pigs that take care of ourselves. I have to admit the relatives in the story today might have been like the ones you always hear about. I don't think they lived in a place that was very well taken care of. They ate old corn cobs and leftovers. Can you imagine them feeding us that in the Zoo? No way!! On with the story:

My relatives come into the story kind of near the end. There was a young man that decided to leave home and the Father's house and go find his fortune. From what I heard he took his inheritance and threw it away on wrong living. Oink, Oink. Not a good choice! By the time he got to the farm where my relatives lived he was in dire straits. He was so hungry that he climbed into the pig pen and was eating the corn cobs and leftovers just like my relatives. I understand that some of the pig relatives got a little touchy about this, after all he was eating their food and not paying any rent. They kind of told him to hit the road. He did! The Bible says that "He came to himself". He realized that the servants at his Father's house had plenty to eat and here he was starving. What a shame. He picked himself up, told my relatives good bye and started to the Father's house. Good authorities told my relatives it was a good thing they did boot him out of the pig pen, it got him thinking. They might have even saved his life. Pig heroes!!! The son went home and found his father waiting for him, still loving him, ready to welcome him home. I told you it wasn't a pretty story, but I just love happy endings. Well, see you at the Zoo. Bye.

Teacher: That was a happy ending, and that's the kind of ending that we all have when we as sinners come home to Jesus. When we lay down our sins and ask God to forgive us-repent, and get baptized in Jesus name and are filled with the Holy Ghost, the Father welcomes us home. We all need Jesus, lets pray and ask God to help us to come home and stay in the Father's house.

Extended Time Game or Activity: Blow up a few pink balloons and draw on pig faces. Divide the children into two to three groups depending on your class size. Have two to three boxes at one end of the room. The children will use a broom to

push a ‘pig’ down to the end into the pig pen and then push the pig back to the next child in line. The first group to complete the game wins.



Zoobilee

Lesson Four: The Lion in the Den

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Library books about lions,

Offering: Stuffed lion or lion puppet

Craft: Card stock with lion face drawn on it: one per child, two boxes wheat or regular dry spaghetti noodles, glue

Memory Verse: 8x10 white paper with the memory verse written on it: one per child, art materials, ribbon

Lesson: Stuffed lion or lion puppet

Zoobilee

Lesson Four: The Lion in the Den

Scripture Text: Daniel 6

Memory Verse: Daniel 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me

Welcome: Welcome each child with a smile.



Pre-session: Bring library books about lions and read to the children about some of the characteristics of lions.



Prayer: Pray with the children today thanking God that he answers and honors prayer.

Offering: Let the children place their offering around the stuffed lion or lion puppet that will be used in the lesson today.



Craft: Give each child a piece of white card stock with a lion face drawn on it. Give each child a handful of whole wheat or regular uncooked spaghetti noodles. They can glue on the spaghetti to make the lion's mane.



Memory Verse: Give each child an 8x10 sheet of white paper with the memory verse written in large letters. Have available art materials for them to make a frame around the memory verse. They can add a ribbon at the top to hang it on the wall. Read the memory verse several times. The memory verse can remind them that God can help us in bad situations.



Lesson: (Use the stuffed lion or lion puppet used for the offering)

Lion: GRRRRROWL, oh, sorry, hope I didn't scare anyone. I was just yawning. I usually sleep during the day and wake up at night. Glad you could come visit the zoo today. I live in the Lion Habitat at the zoo. Being the king of the jungle we have quite a reputation for being great hunters and umm.....eating people. I can tell you right now, none of you look that great. I mean in an eating kind of way. You all look like good looking kids, just not appetizing. Well... if you're not too scared to listen to my story I have a good one to tell you. It has to do with a man that was put into a den of lions. My great cousin seven times removed was involved in it.

Old Leo told this story and it was passed down over the years. There was a man named Daniel that lived in a foreign land. He had been brought there when his people were captured by another country. Even though Daniel was essentially a servant he was treated well. In fact the King cared a lot for Daniel. Some of the men in the king's service were jealous of Daniel and wanted to get rid of Daniel.

They knew that Daniel prayed to his God three times a day, they also knew Daniel was very committed to his God. They went to the king and asked him to write a decree that anyone who bowed down to anyone other than the king would be put into the lions' den. The King thought this was a great idea. He liked being worshiped and he also didn't know about Daniel.

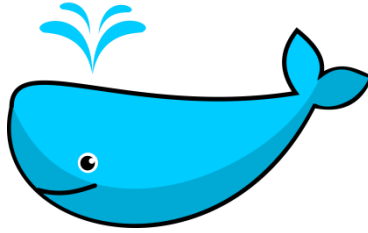
This is where the story gets weird, really weird. Cousin Leo said the men brought Daniel before the king and though the king was sorrowful he couldn't go against his own word. The guards led Daniel down to the lions' den knowing they would never see him again. Cousin Leo and his friends were waiting down below. They were not fed very well I heard. They wanted to make sure the lions were hungry and would eat whatever they sent into the den. I'm sure otherwise Cousin Leo wouldn't have touched the man. Cousin Leo said just as he was getting ready to, pardon me, munch down on a drumstick, something shut his mouth, almost as if it was glued shut. He couldn't even open it to growl. Amazing, huh?

The next morning the king came to get the remains of Daniel, but Daniel came walking out of the den. He told the king what had happened. Well, that's my story, I need to get back and finish my nap. See you at the zoo.

Teacher: That was a great story. God really took care of Daniel didn't he? God will always take care of his people. Let's pray and thank God for his care for us. Lead the children in a time of worship.



Extended time game or activity: Play lion freeze. Play the music as the children move around the room like lions. When the music stops the children should drop to the floor and pretend to sleep. The last child down when the music stops sits out. Play until only one child is left.



Zoobilee

Lesson Five: The Whale That Swallowed Jonah

Lesson at a Glance

Welcome: Small bags of goldfish crackers: One per child

Pre-session: Juice: one per child, goldfish crackers from Welcome

Offering: Stuffed whale or whale puppet

Craft: Pictures of whales from magazines or books, white paper, crayons

Memory Verse: Side walk chalk, alternate: q-tips, watercolors

Lesson: Stuffed whale or whale puppet

Extended Time Game or Activity: Cupcakes, blue frosting, disposable knives, gummy fish

Zoobilee

Lesson Five: The Whale that Swallowed Jonah

Scripture Text: Jonah 1

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



Welcome: Welcome each child with a warm smile. Give each child a small bag of goldfish crackers.



Pre-session: Let the children eat their goldfish crackers and drink a small juice. Talk to them about the times they might have gone fishing. Our story today is about a fish that would be hard to catch.



Prayer: Pray with the children asking God to help them learn to obey Him.



Offering: The children can place their offering near the puppet or stuffed whale that will be used in the lesson.



Craft: Show the children pictures of whales in nature magazines or books. Let them draw a picture of their own whale and add the water and other features as they choose. They can add a boat if they'd like.



Memory Verse: If possible take the children outside to write the memory verse with sidewalk chalk. Find a spot that is not too obvious for them to work. It can be hosed off later if needed. If this is not a possibility, let the children write the memory verse in an unusual medium. Ideas could be watercolors, write with q-tips, etc... This is an easy verse and lends itself to other mediums.



Lesson: (Use the whale stuffed animal or puppet that was used in offering to tell the story)

Whale: Hello boys and girls, welcome to Zoobilee. I'm so glad you came today. I live in the Aquarium area of the Zoo. That's where all the fishy type folk live. I am probably the biggest animal there. I am really a mammal like you instead of a fish. I breathe air and give live birth to my babies. They don't hatch from eggs like fish do. Enough about me, I have an interesting story to tell you today. The story I'm about to tell you has been told for many, many years now. It's as old as the seas, but still very interesting. Can't say I've ever been sick enough to cough up a man, but that's what happened to old Ben the Whale.

There was a man named Jonah that God told to go to the city of Ninevah and Jonah said no and ran the other way. The men in Ninevah were very wicked and were said to hang people to rot on the outside walls of the city. Not a great way to go.

Jonah got on a boat and headed the other way. While he was on the boat a great storm came and threatened to kill all that were aboard. Jonah told the men to throw him over board to save their lives. The men didn't want to, but finally did and the storm stopped. You would expect Jonah to immediately drown right, didn't happen. God sent Old Ben around to take care of him. As soon as Jonah hit the water there was Old Ben following God's command. He took a big gulp and down went Jonah. Probably wasn't the best smelling place around, Uncle Ben really enjoyed a good fish dinner every once in a while and that had been tonight. Burp. Excuse me. So... He carried Jonah around in his belly for three days and three nights before God had him cough him up on the sea shore. Jonah had lots of time to repent and tell God he would obey him.

As soon as he hit dry land he did just that. Smelly clothes and all he went to the king and told his story and told him God wanted the people of Ninevah to repent. The king was moved and immediately set about making things right.

I'm glad Old Ben obeyed God aren't you. Too bad Jonah had to go through all that before he obeyed, but I'm glad he finally did. I better get back, I don't want to be like a fish out of water as they say. See you at the Zoo.

Teacher: I'm glad the whale and Jonah were obedient in the end too. God puts a premium on obedience. Even the animals obey him. We want to be obedient to him too. Let's quote Acts 2:38 and then pray that we can be obedient to the plan of salvation. Pray with the children after quoting the verse.

Extended time game or activity: Give each child a cupcake and blue frosting. Let them use a disposable knife to ice the cupcake and then add a gummy fish to the water. They can eat them after they are done making them.



Zoobilee

Lesson Six: Two Bears and Elisha

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Teddy Grahams and juice: enough for all the children

Offering: Stuffed bear or bear puppet

Craft: Corn flakes, gummy bears, paper plates

Memory Verse: Dry erase or chalk board, Index cards with one word or phrase on each card-make two sets (different colored cards would help keep sets together)

Lesson: Stuffed bear or bear puppet

Extended Time Game or Activity: Two laundry baskets, two stuffed bears

Zoobilee

Lesson Six: Two Bears and Elisha

Scripture Text: II Kings 2:23-25

Memory Verse: I Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.



Welcome: Welcome the children today with a warm smile



Pre-session: Give the children a handful of teddy grahams and a cup of juice. Talk about bears, have some facts on hand to discuss with the children.



Prayer: Pray with the children asking God to help us have respect for Him and those in authority in our lives.



Offering: Place the offering near the puppet or stuffed animal that will be used in the lesson.



Craft: Instead of a craft, we will be playing a fun game called Hide the Bear. Letting 4-5 children play at a time, place a plate of corn flakes with two or three gummy bears hidden in them in front of each child. The children will put their hands behind their backs and use only their mouths try to find the gummy bears. The first child with a gummy bear between their teeth is the winner. Play until all the children have a turn. (Those watching have as much fun as the ones that are playing).



Memory Verse: Write the memory verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Tape the index cards that have been made onto two sections of the wall making sure the memory verse is mixed up. Divide the children into two groups. At go, the children will take down the cards and work on putting the memory verse together

in order. When they have it in order they will read it aloud together. The first group done is the winner.



Lesson: (Use the puppet or stuffed bear that was used for offering for the story) **Bear:** Hey there, I'm Yogi Bear. Not really, but I've always wanted to say that. Hah, Hah. Really though, I'm glad you're here at Zoobilee. I live in the Bear Habitat at the zoo. Habitat is a fancy name for house, I think. Nothing fancy about my home though. I have a place to sleep, water to play in, food to eat, heh, I'm happy. I better get on with the reason I'm here today. I'm going to tell you a short but not so sweet story about a distant relative of mine. Now, personally I hope you won't think badly about my relative when I get done with my story. She was just doing what bears do when someone has insulted a Man of God. They eat them. I hope none of you are planning on doing that today, I don't think I could stomach any of you, hah, hah. Okay, enough of the funny stuff, let's get serious.

There was a prophet of God named Elisha and one day as he was walking along he began to be insulted. It's one thing to insult someone, but these were kids that were doing the insulting. They were insulting a Man of God, if you can imagine that. Of all things they were calling him a baldhead. I'm assuming he didn't have any hair. Not everyone can have a fabulous head of hair like me, right. I guess God was not too happy with the young lads. The Bible says that two she-bears, that was Susie, my relative and her friend Mary, came out and ate 42 of the lads. I imagine they were stuffed, they could have had a party-not really just joking again.

Sue said that she was told to go get em. I told you earlier I hoped you wouldn't think bad about her, she just did what she was told. She knew her cubs would never be allowed to insult someone in authority, much less a Man of God. Those kids were taught a very serious lesson that day. My mother taught me the same lesson, I'm always respectful to the zookeepers and the folks who take care of me. Speaking of which, I better get back, it's almost feeding time, don't want to miss lunch. See you at the zoo.

Teacher: That was a very sobering story today wasn't it. We want to make sure that we are always respectful to our Man of God. He is the man sent by God to save our souls. In church we are respectful when we listen to the word of God. God takes our attitude towards the Man of God very seriously, as we can see from our story today. Let's pray together and ask God to help us be respectful and honor the Man of God in our lives.



Extended Time Game and Activity: Teddy Bear Race

Divide the class into two teams. Have two laundry baskets at the opposite end of the room. Give the first person on each team a stuffed bear. They must race down with the bear in their arms and put the bear in the basket and race back with the bear and the basket and give it to the next person. The next person races back and play continues until all the children have had a turn. The fun is in doing the race not just in the winning. This is a good game to wind down the morning.



Lesson Seven

Zoobilee

Lesson Seven: The Raven That Fed Elijah

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Books about birds-preferably black birds or ravens

Offering: Stuffed black bird or black bird puppet

Craft: Empty water bottles with lids-one per child, yarn, two pencils or wooden spoons per child, scissors, wild bird seed

Memory Verse: Memory Verse written on card stock: one per child, glue, bird seed

Lesson: Stuffed black bird or black bird puppet

Zoobilee

Lesson Seven: The Raven That Fed Elijah

Scripture Text: I Kings 17:4

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



Welcome: Welcome each child with a warm smile.



Pre-session: Bring books about birds today. Read a story to the children about black birds if you happen to find one. If not just a book about birds would be fine too.



Prayer: Pray with the children today thanking him for the food He provides for us.



Offering: Place the offering near the stuffed black bird (raven) that you will be using for the lesson today.



Craft: Make bird feeders out of empty water bottles. Give the children the materials needed to make the feeders. Empty water bottle with lid, yarn, two pencils, bird seed. Poke holes in the water bottle where the pencil or spoon will go through. Then cut a small hole above that one so the birds can perch on the pencil and reach into to get the seeds. You will need to cut two additional holes for each pencil. Add the pencils and fill with seed. Tie the yarn around the lid to hang.



Memory Verse: Write the memory verse on card stock for each child. Let them use glue from the bottles to outline the words of the verse with bird seed. Read the verse out loud several times with the children as a group.



Lesson: (Use the bird puppet or stuffed animal that was used for the offering for the lesson today)

Raven: Hello, boys and girls. How are you all doing today? I'm so glad you could come to Zoobilee today. I am a Raven and I also live in the Aviary at the zoo. Someone told me the Dove was here telling a story a few weeks ago, is that true? Well, I've got an even better story for you today, at least I think its better, it may not be, well I guess every story in the Bible is good, so I better just tell you my story.

This is the story of my relatives that were heroes. They were so smart. They were instruments of God to feed one of the prophets. The prophet's name was Elijah. He was king of worried because he had just given some bad news to King Ahab about rain in the area. There wasn't going to be any, and that did not make the King happy. God told Elijah to go eastward and hide himself by the brook Cherith, near the Jordan. He would have water there and believe it or not God said he had commanded ravens to feed him there. That's why I say my relatives were heroes. Poor Elijah could have starved to death. You know what else, my relatives did it up right. They brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening. No sir, not just one meal a day. Not just a piece of bread. They did their job twice a day and brought him meat also. If anyone ever tells you that ravens are not the brightest bulbs, you tell them you know some ravens that were pretty smart. They listened to God and obeyed him. I'd say that's being pretty smart. Well, I better be getting back. They were putting up new bird feeders at the Aviary and I don't want to miss that. See you at the zoo.

Teacher: I think the raven was right, those were some pretty smart birds. They were obedient and it sounds like they did the job that they were asked to do in a great way. That's the way we want to be. The kind of boys and girls that people can depend on to do a good job. We don't want to be lazy.

Let's pray together today and ask God to help us to be diligent and obedient.



Extended Time Game and Activity: Play a game of duck, duck goose.



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Lesson Eight: The Nativity Sheep

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Cupcake liners, black construction paper, scissors, glue, google eyes, markers,

Offering: Stuffed sheep or sheep puppet

Craft: Blue cupcakes, juice, baby shower napkins and cups

Memory Verse: Dry erase or chalk board

Lesson: Stuffed sheep or sheep puppet

Zoobilee

Lesson Eight: The Nativity Sheep

Scripture Text: Luke 2: 1-20

Memory Verse: Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord.



Welcome: Greet each child with a warm smile.



Pre-session: The children will make cupcake liner sheep today. Give the children the needed materials. They will flatten the cupcake liner and glue it on to make the body. Use the black construction paper to make legs, head, ears and tail. Glue on google eyes and make facial features.



Offering: Place the offering near the stuffed animal or puppet that will be used in the lesson today.



Craft: Have a mini baby shower today. Serve blue cupcakes and juice on baby shower napkins and cups. Tell the children that there will be a new baby boy in our lesson today. Let them guess who they think it is.



Memory Verse: Word Wipe Out. Write the memory verse on the chalk board or dry erase board. Read the verse with the children the first time and erase the first word or phrase. Continue reading the verse, each time erasing a new section. When completely erased the children will be saying the verse by memory.



Lesson: Hello, welcome to Zoobilee. I'm glad you could come today. I am a sheep and I live in the farm area of the zoo. Lots of boys and girls come to visit me every day, because, most kids love farm animals. I like it when the children put their quarters in and give us treats from that little machine. Some of the bigger guys get kind of greedy and push people, I mean sheep around. I'm that little sheep

in the back that doesn't get very many treats, just remember that when you come visit. I have a great story to tell you. It's about my great how many evers, Uncle Ben. He was just a little sheep when this happened.

It was just an ordinary night out on the hills around Bethlehem. That's where the shepherds kept the flocks of sheep. Uncle Ben woke up and looked around. All the other sheep and lambs were sleeping. The shepherds were around the edges of the flock to watch for wolves sneaking around or for naughty sheep that might try to take a midnight stroll. He didn't see anything unusual but he had a jittery feeling inside, like something special was about to happen. He wasn't afraid. His shepherds were very brave and would never let anything happen to them. As he snuggled up to his mama, he noticed the sky began to get really bright!! They had just gone to bed; it couldn't be morning yet!

Then he saw, in the sky, the most glorious creature he had ever seen. It looked like a man dressed in bright white clothes with wings that spread out behind him. Was this what an angel looked like? It had to be an angel. He had never seen a man with wings and light shining around him so that it was almost like looking at the sunrise. The light shined down on the shepherds, and the little lamb saw that those really brave shepherds were trembling like the sheep at sheering time.

Then the angel said to them, "Fear not, for I bring to you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. "Then he told them they would find this baby lying in a manger.

Wait a minute!!! A manger was where they put the feed for the animals. That seemed like an odd place to put a baby as special as this!! While Uncle Ben was thinking about this, the sky became filled with angels, singing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men"

And do you know what those shepherds did? They said, Let's go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has let us lowly shepherds know about. They went so quickly that it seemed they forgot all about the sheep. It was a good thing they weren't watching too carefully, because Uncle Ben snuck out and followed them. That's how he knew what happened next. They found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. This was the baby that God had promised for such a long time! How wonderful that Uncle Ben got to see the new baby. I better get back to the Farm, I don't want to miss any of those yummy treats I was telling you about. See you at the zoo.

Teacher: That was a wonderful baby that was born. We know what that baby's name was don't we? Yes, it was Jesus. Let's lift up our hands and thank God that the messiah came to save mankind.

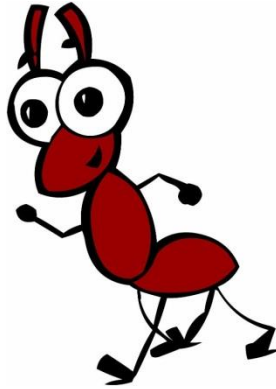


Extended Time Game and Activity: Shepherds and Sheep

To play this game form two teams. Have teams form two lines facing each other in the center of the room. Designate one team as the shepherds and one team as the sheep. When the leader calls "sheep," have the sheep run to tag the shepherds before they can run to the "safe" wall behind them. If "shepherds" is called, the shepherds chase the sheep to their safe wall.

Anyone caught must join the opponent's team. The game continues until all have become shepherds or sheep.

To add excitement, draw out the first sound of the team names like this "shhhhhe-perds!"



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Lesson Nine: The Ant

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Peanut butter, cream cheese, celery, raisins, Ritz crackers, plates, disposable knives

Offering: Stuffed ant or ant puppet

Craft: Three sections of egg cartons: one per child, black and red markers, toothpicks: four per child, google eyes

Memory Verse: Dry erase or chalk board, dominos with memory verse words or phrases taped on one end, (make several sets)

Lesson: Stuffed ant or ant puppet

Game: Two boxes wrapped with five layers of paper with an index card taped on each layer. The index cards will each have a task written for the children to do. Example: Do three jumping jacks, etc...Place candy in the last box that is wrapped.

Zoobilee

Lesson Nine: The Ants

Scripture Text: Prov. 6:6-8, Prov. 30:24-25

Memory Verse: Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise:



Welcome: Welcome each child with a warm smile.



Pre-session: Make ants on a log. Let children spread peanut butter or cream cheese on a celery stick and put raisins on top. Have Ritz crackers available for those that don't like celery.



Prayer: Pray with the children that they will learn to be diligent and learn to work of God.



Offering: Let the children place their offering near the stuffed animal or puppet that you will be using during the lesson.



Craft: Using the provided materials let the children make ants. Color the egg carton section black or red and the toothpicks the same color. Break the toothpicks in two and poke them in for legs and antennae. Add google eyes and facial features.

Memory Verse: Write the memory verse on a dry erase or chalk board for a reference. Give the children several sets of the dominos with the memory verse words taped on them. The children will put the dominos in order standing them on end. After they put them together say the verse several times together as a group and then let the children topple the dominos.



Lesson: (Use the stuffed animal or puppet that you used in offering to tell the story today)

Ant: Welcome everyone to Zoobilee. Can everyone hear me? I'm so small sometimes people don't even know I'm there. I live at the zoo, near the concession stand. It's a great place, people always drop crumbs that I can take back to the colony. I don't have a story to tell you today but I do want to tell you a little bit about ants, since we are mentioned in the Bible even though we are small.

(Read Proverbs 6:6-8) God seems like he is very proud of the ant. This scripture tell us that the ant has no one to tell her what to do, yet she works diligently. In this ant colony or farm each ant has a specific job to do.

Soldier Ants-protect the colony

Scavenger Ants-provide food for the colony

Carpenter Ants- build the colony

Worker ants-work inside the colony

Nursery ants- work in the nursery with the baby ants

Queen ants-lays the eggs in the colony

Every one of them has a job to do and they do it without being told. The success of the ant colony depends not just on one ant, but all of them working together. No wonder God is so proud of the ant. When bad weather comes, the ant is safe in the ant hill because he worked hard and stocked up for winter. God says that we should consider the ant if we are lazy, that what a sluggard is. They always have to be told what to do and when to do it. God wants us to be ready to work without having to be told. Our moms and dads and teachers shouldn't always have to be after us to get our work done. Our Pastors shouldn't always have to preach to us about being lazy in living for God. We should pray, read our Bible, witness and live for God without someone having to keep telling us. A sign of a mature person is when they can take care of themselves and living for God without being told. Shame on you if you always need to be told to "brush your teeth" or "pick up your clothes" or be reminded to pray. Sometimes we do forget to do these things, but we

should always feel bad and be diligent to do them. Wow! For such a little person I sure can preach when I want to. I better get back to the zoo, it's almost lunch time and I can pick up some good stuff. See you at the zoo.

Teacher: Let's pray and ask God to help us to be like the ant and do what we are supposed to do without being told.



Extended Time Game and Activity: Divide the children into two teams. Give each of them one of the wrapped gifts. At go, the children unwrap the first layer, take out the index card and complete the task and then continue to unwrap the gift following the cards instructions on each layer. The children should bring the last gift to the teacher and unwrap and get a piece of candy out of the box. All children are winners in this game.



Zoobilee

Lesson Ten: The Wolf

Lesson at a Glance

Offering: Stuffed wolf or wolf puppet

Craft: Wolf mask (Resources) one copy per child, yarn, crayons, scissors, hole punch

Memory Verse: 2-3 poster boards, write the memory verse on the poster boards and cut them into puzzle pieces, tape

Lesson: Stuffed wolf or wolf puppet

Zoobilee

Lesson Ten: The Wolf

Scripture Text: Matthew 7:15

Memory Verse: Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.



Welcome: Welcome each child with a warm smile.



Pre-session: Talk to the children about the noise that wolves make at night it is called howling. Let them practice howling and see if they can make different types of howls (low pitched, high pitched etc...)



Prayer: Pray with the children thanking God for the truth



Offering: Place the offering by the stuffed animal or put that you will be using in the lesson today.



Craft: Give each child a wolf mask and yarn and follow the directions on the mask.



Memory Verse: Give the children the poster board puzzles that have been made, have them work in groups of 3-4 putting the puzzle together and taping it to the wall. Read the verse with the children several times.



Lesson: (Use the stuffed animal or puppet that was used in the offering to tell the story today)

Wolf: Hey you guys!! So glad to meet you, glad you like made it to Zoobilee today. I live in the open range part of the zoo. We wolfs are really cool guys, we know how to do things right, you know what I mean. But down through time we have really gotten a bad rap. I have a friend that is a snake and he says the same thing. Something about a garden or something in the Bible. Well, anyway, I do want to at least tell my side of the story.

I think wolves started getting a reputation based on a kids story. Ever hear of the Three Little Pigs?? People really believe stuff like that I guess, like a wolf would huff and puff and blow a house down, just to get a pig or two to eat. That's ridiculous, know what I mean?

Let's get back to the Bible since this is Sunday School. The Bible says that wolves could even dress up like sheep to try to lure the sheep away from the shepherd. I say that's silly. Why would I want to put on a stinky sheep skin to catch a sheep, they are easy prey, unless....that pesky shepherd gets involved. That guy comes out with all guns loaded, or bow and arrow, or slingshot or.... Whatever he can get his hands on to protect his sheep. Hmmm. Maybe the sheep's clothing would be a good idea, I could sneak around and get one on the edge away from the other sheep and oh, hey, I was just thinking out loud, I wouldn't really do something like that but I can see where other types of animals might try that. But not wolves! I hope I've convinced you of the goodness of wolves with my little talk today. I better get back to the Zoo, don't want to miss any lunch. See you at the zoo.

Teacher: I have a feeling the snake and the wolf have been talking together don't you. Neither one of them sound very sincere. The one thing that the wolf said that is very true is that the shepherd will protect this sheep, even to the death. Our Pastor is our shepherd and he protects us by preaching the word of God. When men try to tell us the wrong way to go and don't preach the word of God right he steps in and takes care of us. There are people that do things just like the wolf suggested, they get people away from their church family and starting telling them lies and leading them astray, if the shepherd (pastor) doesn't step in they might be lost. I'm thankful for the man of God in my life, aren't you? Let's thank God right now for our Pastor and all the time and prayer he puts into each of us. Pray with the children.



Extended Time Game or Activity: Play: What time is it Mr. Wolf?

How to play:

One child stands apart with his back to the other children, who should be a good distance away. He or she is Mr. Wolf.

The group calls out "What's The Time, Mr. Wolf?"

He replies with a time - for example, ""its 2 o'clock"

The group then takes 2 steps forward, towards Mr. Wolf, and asks again, "What's The Time, Mr. Wolf?"

This time he might say "its 10 o'clock", in which case the group would take 10 steps forward.

The group is attempting to reach Mr. Wolf without him first catching them. When Mr. Wolf senses that somebody is close, he can call out, instead of a time like before, "It's Dinner Time!", at which point he can finally turn around and see where everybody is, then try to catch somebody before they can make it back to the starting line. There is usually much screaming and excitement at this point!

Zoobilee Party and Review

The children have learned about a lot of different animals and how they all had some mention in the Bible. Some were good influences, others were not.

For the party, decorate the tables with zoo tablecloths and zoo tableware.

Serve slider sandwiches, chips and cookies with drinks. You can make animal cupcakes if you choose.

Play some of the games that the children enjoyed and review the memory verses. See how many of the animals that the children remember (unfortunately, most will remember the snake and the wolf first-the squeaky wheel gets the grease idea).

Have all the stuffed animals available at the tables and review briefly what each story was about.

Go outside and play if time allows and let the children play tag, relays and outdoor type games.

Give a brief introduction of the next series. (We always do puppets, a skit and a bible lesson next week and call it Holy Ghost Sunday and come expecting children to receive the Holy Ghost-this also gives the teachers another week to work on room decorations)

Resources

Adult Wolf

Print this page, then
color in the wolf. Cut on the
dotted lines to make a mask!
(if you need help, ask an adult)
Attach a string through the two
side holes and tie your mask on.
What kind of wolf are you?

