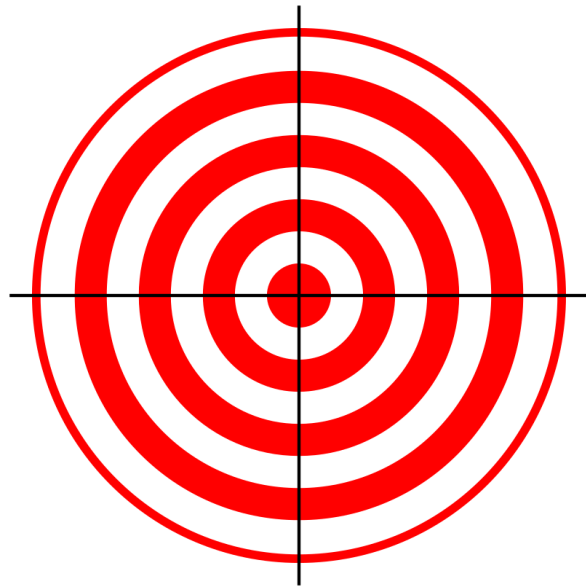


# Hunting For Jesus



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# **Hunting for Jesus**

Throughout time man has hunted for something that would fill that emptiness in the soul. Only one thing can satisfy, Jesus.

The Hunting for Jesus series is a series based on those that hunted or sought for Him. Even Satan went looking for Jesus. (We know he was no match for the master).

Some were looking for the Messiah, others were looking for healing, some were looking for truth, the church is looking for his returning.

We want to help our Sunday School children hunt for him too. When they find him they will never look for anything else to satisfy them.

The lessons are simple, fun and filled with truth.

The room décor obviously is hunting themed. We had a lot of camo on the walls; we tried to stay away from guns, but did have an archer on the wall. The teachers dressed in camo, as did all the children. Sometimes it was hard to pick people out of the crowd of camo.

Have fun as you hunt for Jesus. He made a promise that is the main theme of the lessons. Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart.



## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson One: The Hunters: Simeon and Anna**

#### **The Birth of Jesus**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

**Pre-session:** Homemade back packs (See Lesson), markers, camo duct tape (regular and pink)

**Offering:** Back Pack

**Craft:** Toilet paper rolls, two per child, glue, camo duct tape, hole punch, yarn

**Memory Verse:** Dry Erase or chalk board, Karaoke or tape player with tape and microphone

**Lesson:** Baby doll wrapped in blanket

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson One: The Hunters: Simeon and Anna

### The Birth of Jesus

#### Scripture Text: Luke 1: 21-38

**Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.



**Welcome:** Welcome each child with a warm smile.



**Pre-session:** Introduce the new series to the children. Explain that in our lessons we will be learning about people who are hunting or seeking for Jesus. Give each child one of the “back packs” that have been sewn in advance. (These can be simple muslin bags sewn on each side and a drawstring top. Perhaps someone in the church would be willing to make these as a help to the Sunday School) Let the children decorate them with markers or camo (regular and pink) duct tape.

The children will keep these at the Sunday School and add to them as they make items for hunting. At the last session they can take home their “hunting back pack”. (Keep extras on hand for new children)



**Prayer:** Pray with the children as we begin the new session that we can learn about seeking after God.



**Offering:** Let the children place their offering in a back pack today.



**Songs:** What A Mighty God We Serve, Have A Little Talk With Jesus, I've Got the Holy Ghost.



**Craft:** Make binoculars using two toilet paper rolls. Secure the rolls together with glue. Wrap decorated duct tape (camo or choice) to form the binoculars. Use a hole punch to make a hole on each side of the binoculars (on the outside of the roll). Tie the end of an 18-20 inch strand of yarn through each hole. After the kids play with these for a bit they can be placed in their back packs.



**Memory Verse:** Write the memory verse on the dry erase board. Let the children each read the memory verse into a tape recorder or karaoke and then play it back for them. By the time you have finished they will have heard the memory verse quite a few times. They will enjoy hearing their own voices. As the last recording, record the children saying the memory verse as a group.



**Lesson:** (Have a baby doll wrapped up in a blanket to use in the story). We have been learning today about hunting for Jesus. It is very important that we have a desire to hunt or search for him. We want to know everything we can about Jesus so that we can live the right way for him. In this series of lessons about Hunting for Jesus, we are going to learn about some people in the Bible who were also hunting for Jesus. Our first story is about two people that were hunting for Jesus as a baby.

In Bible times the people offered sacrifices in the temple to God. They were to take their firstborn son and offer a sacrifice of turtledoves or pigeons unto the Lord.

This is what brought Mary and Joseph to the temple this day. They brought their sacrifice to offer. They had a new baby boy. (Pick up the baby doll) His name was Jesus. There were some unique things about Jesus birth that made him different from other babies. His mother and father were told a lot of things by an angel before he was born. They knew he was a special baby.

In the temple that day were two people that had been hunting for Jesus. Actually they had been hunting for the Messiah. (That's what they called the one who they were looking for to deliver them). One of them was named Simeon. He was an older man who had studied the scriptures of the Old Testament and knew that the Messiah would come as a baby, born in Bethlehem. He had been promised that he

would not die before he saw the Messiah. He came to the temple, always looking for that special baby. Perhaps he asked questions of the parents as they brought their babies to the temple. “Where was your baby born, where are you from”

One day as he was at the temple he saw another couple with a baby boy. Simeon knew by the Spirit that this was the one he had been hunting for. He took the baby in his arms and blessed God. He knew this was the Messiah. He blessed the baby and his parents and was very joyful that God had brought salvation to the world.

The other one who was hunting for Jesus was a woman named Anna. She was 84 years old and she departed not from the temple and served God with fastings night and day. The Bible says that “she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

They both knew their search and hunt was over. They were so happy. They had found the Messiah in a tiny baby boy. Jesus satisfied their hunger to find him. He always does.

We need to be like Simeon and Anna and hunt for Jesus too. We know where to find him, (quote the memory verse with the children). He’s not far from us today. Let’s pray and ask him to come today here at the Sunday School. We want to feel his presence. Pray with the children.



**Extended Time Game and Activity:** Play Duck, Duck, and Goose with the children today. The children are seated in a circle and one child walks around the circle and taps each one on the head, saying, duck, duck, when the child says Goose that child gets up and chases the first child around the circle back to the original spot. If they catch the child. If the catch the first child, he goes to the circle and sits out for a few games.



## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson Two: The Hunters: Mary and Joseph**

#### **The Boy Jesus in the Temple**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

**Pre-session:** Building Blocks

**Offering:** Church Bank

**Craft:** Target Picture (Resources), crayons, white paper

**Memory Verse:** Deer (Resources) with memory verse written in words or phrases, tape



# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Two: The Hunters: Mary and Joseph

### The Boy Jesus in the Temple

**Scripture Text: Luke 2:41-52**

**Memory Verse: Proverbs 8:17** I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.



Welcome the children with a warm smile.



**Pre-session:** Give the children building blocks and let them build a temple (church). Explain to them that a temple is what they called the place of worship in Bible days.



**Prayer:** Pray with the children today asking God to bless our time together. We want the Lord to be in our classes each time we meet.



**Offering:** Let the children put their offering in a bank shaped like a church if possible.



**Songs:** I'm in this Church, I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, The Wise Man and the Foolish Man



**Craft:** The children will be making targets to put in their backpacks. If we're hunting we want to have good aim and it requires practice. Show the children the target picture and let them use crayons and paper to make a target. Tell them to work slowly and carefully to get their circles right. After they finish let them put the targets in their back packs.



**Memory Verse:** Write the memory verse on the dry erase board. Write the memory verse in phrases on deer that have been made. Tape the deer on the wall and let the children put the deer in order. After they get them in order, read the verse several times, turning one deer over each time. By the time the deer are all turned over the children will be reciting the verse from memory.



**Lesson:** Our lesson today happens at the temple again. That's probably because Jesus' parents Joseph and Mary loved God and wanted to please Him. They obeyed the law and its commandments. In our story today they were hunting for Jesus. Why would they need to hunt for Jesus when he was with them when they left home? Let's listen and see.

Joseph and Mary and a lot of their relatives had gone to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. The Jews remembered how God had led the Children of Israel out of Egypt and Pharaoh's cruel hands. They celebrated the Passover when they remembered this every year.

I'm sure Jesus had lots of cousins and Aunts and Uncles and they all had gone to the temple in Jerusalem together. Jesus was twelve years old when this story occurred.

His parents and relatives had celebrated the Passover and were on their way home when they discovered something. They started counting heads and one was missing. It was Jesus. Where was he? Believe it or not they had already traveled one whole day before they missed him. They assumed he was off playing of visiting with their kinfolk or acquaintances. They hunted everywhere for him and when they didn't find him, they "turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him."

They searched and searched for him. Can you imagine the dread that was filling their hearts? They were probably sure something terrible had happened to him. I'm sure his mother might have cried herself to sleep worrying about her son. Your parents would be frantic, wouldn't they? They would have the police and everyone looking for you!

The Bible says that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of other Bible scholars, both hearing them and asking questions. Everyone that heard him were astonished at his understanding and his answers. This was a twelve year old boy. How could he have such knowledge of the scriptures? We know it's because he was God in the flesh, but they didn't know that then.

His parents came rushing in. His mother was so relieved that they had found him. In our language his mother ran to him and said "Where have you been, we looked everywhere for you and were so worried, why did you get lost?" I'm sure in the midst of all that she probably gave him a few hugs and a kiss or two.

Jesus' response was not what they expected. "And he said unto them, How is it that you sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" The Bible says his parents did not understand what he was saying. They knew he was different than other children, but they didn't really understand the full meaning of what he said.

Jesus was obedient and left the temple with his parents and came to his home with them. The Bible says he was subject to them. That means he did what his parents asked and was a good son. His parents went hunting for Jesus and they found him.

Jesus had two natures. We know he was God in the flesh. He had parents that loved him and he loved them. In our story today he was both obedient to God in teaching in the temple and obedient to his parents in going home and being a good son.

We should be like Jesus. Obedient to God and obedient to our parents. We need to follow the plan of salvation and be obedient to God and his word, after that we need to be obedient to our parents and the man of God in our lives. Let's pray together today and ask God to help us. Pray with the children.



### **Extended Time Game or Activity: Hunter and Guard Game**

One fast player is chosen to be the hunter. Another player is chosen to be the guard. The rest of the children become animals. Mark out a circle about 10 feet in diameter on the ground to be the "pen" in the middle of the playing area. The guard

stands in the pen and must stay in it for the duration of the game. He may patrol around the circle and help the hunter catch any stray animals that come too close!

The animals scatter and start to run around the play area, trying to escape the hunger. If they are caught they must go to the pen. Once in the pen you cannot escape. You can stop the game at any time, but maybe set a timer at the beginning.



## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson Three: The Hunter: Satan**

#### **Jesus Temptation**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

**Pre-session:** Brown construction paper, white construction paper or card stock, markers

**Offering:** Bible

**Craft:** Brown craft paper, markers

**Memory Verse:** Dry Erase or chalk board

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Three: The Hunter: Satan

### Jesus Temptation

**Scripture Text: Luke 4:1-13, Matthew 4:1-11**

**Memory Verse: Matthew 4:4** ...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.



**Welcome:** Welcome each child with a big smile and a pat on the back.



**Pre-session:** Let the children cut out rock shapes from brown construction paper and glue them onto a white sheet of paper or cardstock. They will write on the bottom of their paper: Man shall not live by bread alone. Talk to the children about how we need bread or food for our bodies to live, but we need the Word of God for our spiritual bodies to live.



**Prayer:** Thank the Lord today for the Bible. We can use the Word of God to overcome anything Satan has to say.



**Offering:** Let the children put their offerings near an open Bible



**Songs:** The B I B L E, Jesus Loves Me, If You're Happy and You Know It



**Craft:** Today the children will make a map for their next hunting trip. Give each child a large piece of craft paper and markers. Show them a map that you have made in advance and instruct them to follow a few simple directions.

1. Draw a picture of where they want to go hunting. It can be anywhere on the page.

2. Draw a picture of their home. Make this a distance away from the hunting area.
3. Let them draw a path between the two areas and then draw pictures along the path from their home and the hunting area. Include trees, flowers; anything they think would be a good landmark.

After they finish the maps they can discuss with the class how to follow their map. These can be placed in their back packs to take home during the last session.



**Memory Verse:** Write the memory verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Using a timer give each child one minute to say the memory verse out loud while the others listen. After all have had a chance, read the verse together as a group.



**Lesson:** We are going to talk about someone else that was hunting for Jesus today. I'm going to give you some clues and see if you can guess who it was. He was an angel in heaven at one time. He was cast down out of heaven. He is the enemy of God. By now I'm sure you all know who it was. (Let the children tell you it was the devil or Satan) That's right. It was him, and he was not very nice to Jesus. He was hunting for Jesus so that he could tempt him to do wrong. What does tempt mean? (Listen to the children's answers). Tempt means to try to cause someone to do something wrong. An example would be if your mom told you not to eat a cookie before supper and I came along and said it would be okay, you should do it, it would taste so good. I would be tempting you to do wrong.

Did you know that Jesus was tempted just as we are? The Bible tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the devil. Do you know what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He answered him with Scripture!

Jesus had not had anything to eat for forty days. (He had fasted). He was hungry, and Satan knew he was hungry, so he said to him, "If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but he didn't. Instead, he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"

The devil took Jesus up to a high place and showed him the worldly kingdoms below. “All of this belongs to me,” he said. “If you will bow down and worship me, I will give it to you.”

Jesus answered, “It is written, “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”

The devil took Jesus and led him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. God will send his angels to rescue you.”

Again, Jesus quoted the Scripture, “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

Do you know what the devil did? He left and angels came and ministered unto Jesus.

Satan always has to leave when he hears the word of God, he doesn't like it. That's why we really need to read the Bible and learn the word of God. That's why we need to listen to everything our Pastor preaches and listen to what our Sunday School teachers teach us. We want to be like Jesus and be able to tell Satan what the Bible has to say. We don't want to listen to him.

Let's all pray together and ask God to help us to learn the Word of God and hide it in our hearts.



**Extended Time Game or Activity:** Let's go on a bear hunt.

Let all the children sit in circle with their eyes closed. The teacher will tap one child on the head and the “bear” will go out of the room. Tell the children to open their eyes and change places in the circle. After everyone is seated let them try to figure out who the missing “bear” is. The child who guesses correctly can choose the next “bear”.





## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson Four: A Centurion**

#### **A Centurion's Servant is Healed**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

**Pre-session:** Felt, dowel rods cut to arrow size: one per child, duct tape

**Craft:** Shields cut out of cardboard or poster board: one per child, aluminum foil, art materials

**Memory Verse:** Dry erase or chalk board, white paper, pencils

**Lesson:** Sword, shield

**Extended Game or Activity:** Make four shields from poster board and write FAITH on each in large letters, four wastebaskets, newspapers.

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Four: The Hunter: A Centurion

### A Centurion's Servant Is Healed

**Scripture Text: Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13**

**Memory Verse: I Chronicles 16:11** Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.



**Welcome:** Welcome each child with a smile.



**Pre-session:** Let the children make easy arrows today to go in their back packs. Add a little piece of folded felt at the end of a dowel rod cut to arrow size, wrap with duct tape. Cut some large oval type shapes from felt and wrap over the end of the arrow, over the folded felt, fixing them in place around the middle with a rubber band. Cut a small notch in the other end in the center. The children can put these in their back packs to take home at the last session.



**Prayer:** Thank the Lord today for his healing touch. Teach the children that God honors their faith.



**Songs:** He's Got the Whole World, A Little Talk With Jesus, The BIBLE



**Offering:** Let the children place their offering in the offering container.



**Craft:** Give each child a shield that has been cut out of cardboard or poster board. Give them aluminum foil and art materials to decorate the shield. Explain to them that the man in the story today was a centurion. He was a commander over 100 men and had a lot of authority.



**Memory Verse:** Write the memory verse on a dry erase or chalk board. Give each child a sheet of paper and pencil. Give them a few minutes to write the verse on their paper and then have them pass their paper to the person on their write. Underneath the verse that is written the next child writes the verse again. After a few minutes repeat the procedure. When this is done there should be three verses written on the paper. Let the children read the verse out loud together a few times. Some children are visual learners and this is a great way for them to learn.



**Lesson:** (Bring a sword and a shield to show the children today) What kind of man do you think was hunting for Jesus in our story today. He used these things (bring out sword and spear) when he went to work. That's right he was a soldier. A very important soldier. He was a Centurion. He had authority over 100 men. He had a very important need that he wanted to Jesus to take care of. Let's see why he was hunting for Jesus.

Jesus had finished preaching to a large crowd of people and he came down from the mountain and headed back toward the town of Capernaum. As the crowd thronged a very dear servant lay dying under his master's roof. His master was a wealthy centurion, a high ranking officer in the Roman Army. The Centurion sat beside his bed feeling helpless. No one could help his servant.

When the Centurion heard that Jesus was coming his way, not wanting to leave his servant he sent others to ask Jesus to come to his house and heal his servant. He knew if Jesus could get there everything would be alright.

It was not easy for the men to reach Jesus, the crowd was thronging him. When they finally got to him they pled the case of the Centurion's servant and asked him to come quickly. Jesus agreed that he would come. He began to follow them to the Centurion's house.

While waiting for Jesus to come the Centurion had a second idea. He knew that just the word of Jesus could make his servant well. He sent a message to Jesus that said: Don't worry about coming to my house. I know that if you just say the word my servant will be healed. He believed in the healing power of Jesus and his word.

When Jesus opened up the message he was amazed. Never had he seen such faith. When the ones who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well. Jesus healed the servant because of the Centurion's faith.

Faith is an important thing that we want to have in our life. Jesus is a miracle worker and we need to believe that he can do anything. He can heal us, protect us, and give us things that we need. He can fill us with the Holy Ghost, but the Bible says "we must believe that He is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". He will give the Holy Ghost if you hunt or seek him. Let's all pray together and if you need the Holy Ghost seek him with all your heart. Pray with the children.



### **Extended Time Game or Activity: Shields of Faith Game**

Just as the man in our story was a soldier each of you will be a soldier in game today.

Choose four children to use the large shields with FAITH that have been made from poster board to guard the wastebaskets they are standing over. They don't want doubt to get in the wastebasket.

1. The four children will stand around a wastebasket with their shields ready.
2. The rest of the class will divide into four groups and be the doubt throwers. Each group will go stand around the children with the shields.
3. The doubt throwers will wad up newspaper balls and try to throw them into the wastebaskets of the children with the shields. The faith shields will deflect the balls of doubt. Set a timer for a few minutes and let the children play the game.

Count the number of balls in each wastebasket and give four more children a turn to be the faith shields. Continue play until all children have had a turn being faith shields. Compare the number of balls in each wastebasket and announce the winner.



**Hunting for Jesus**  
**Lesson Five: The Hunter: Jairus**  
**Jairus' Daughter**  
**Lesson at a Glance**

**Welcome:** Small snack sized baggie of trail mix for each child

**Pre-session:** Bibles, notecards, pencils or pens

**Song and Offering:** Offering plate or tin

**Memory Verse:** Bible, dry erase board, dry erase marker and eraser, small candy prize

**Lesson:** Bible, binoculars

**Craft:** Art materials and construction paper to make get well cards

**Extended Time Game:** Poster board, bulls eye circles, blindfold, tape, grab bag (Grab bag could have stickers, candy, pencils, party prizes, etc.)

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Five: The Hunter

### Jairus' Daughter

**Scripture Reference:** Mark 5:21-43

**Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:12** Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.



**Welcome:** Greet each child and give them a small snack bag of trail mix to keep up their strength for their hunting lesson today.



**Pre-session:** Acts 2:38 Reminder: Give each child a notecard. Have them look up Acts 2:38 in the Bible and have them copy it on their note card. They can add this to their back pack.



**Song and Offering:** Everybody Ought to Know, We should tell everyone we can who the Lord is to us and all the wonderful things He has done. Pass around the offering plate or tin.



**Craft:** Using various art materials of their choice let the children make a get well card for someone they know who is sick. The little girl in our story today was very ill. After they make the card make sure to remind them to mail or give the card to the person they made it for.



**Memory Verse:** Write the verse out on the dry erase board. Have the children read the verse several times. Let one of the children erase one word off of the board and have the children read the verse again and say the missing word (if they cannot remember the missing word...give a reminder ☺). Repeat the process until all the words are erased and they can quote the verse without being prompted. Give candy to all those who participated.



**Lesson:** *Have the children help teach the story. Choose a Jarius, Jarius' wife, daughter, 3 family members, and Jesus.*

Our hunter for today was a man named Jairus. Now, Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue. That means that Jairus was high up in the church like a deacon or an associate pastor. (*Give Jairus a bible.*) He sure was proud of his wife and daughter. They liked to spend time together as a family and worshipped together often.

When his daughter was 12 years old, that there was talk of the man Jesus coming to town. Already people were talking about all the miracles and wonders that He had performed other places but his fellow members at the synagogue were not too happy about Jesus coming. They had heard about Jesus teaching in the temple and even healing people on the Sabbath! They were most upset that Jesus kept telling those that he healed that they were forgiven of their sins. They couldn't understand why he hadn't been punished yet for blasphemy- pretending that he was God and leading others astray. Jairus though was a man who thought for himself. He and his wife and daughter planned on going to the bank and meeting Jesus's boat and hearing him speak.

On the day that Jesus was scheduled to arrive, Jairus's world was turned upside down. He was not going to have that family outing listening to Jesus talk about the Word of God or speak parables because his precious daughter was very, very ill. She couldn't eat and couldn't talk she was very, very sick and the doctors couldn't help her. Her mother was distraught. Jairus was distraught. He had several of his fellow members from his church come pray over his daughter. Though, his precious baby girl, only 12 years old lay at death's door. She had fallen in an unnatural sleep. Jairus was scared. He was scared for his daughter's life.

As everyone in their family gathered around in his house, Jairus remembered all the things he had heard about Jesus. "Jesus is my only hope," he said to himself. And so... Jairus went HUNTING. (*Jairus uses the binoculars.*) He was serious! Hunting is serious business! He listened to the sounds and conversations around him and found out that Jesus's boat was about to land. By the time he got close to the water, a crowd had already formed. Jairus was desperate though, he hunted for openings to get past everyone and make his petition to Jesus to spare his daughter.

Jairus finally made it to the man people were calling Jesus and fell on his face before him. He cried out for Jesus to save his daughter. He was extremely worried for his girl. The man that Jairus had hunted for said that he would come and see Jairus's daughter. As Jairus tried to hurry Jesus along, Jesus stopped to heal a lady who had been sick for 12 years. As Jesus was extracting himself from

the crowd, one of Jairus's servants ran up to him with tears streaming down his face. "Don't worry Jesus, Master Jairus. Your daughter is dead. She already passed away." Jairus was broken! Jesus told Jairus, "Don't be afraid, only believe."

As they approached the house, Jairus and Jesus could hear the wailing and crying coming from the house. The people inside were very sad. Jesus didn't stop at the door but went right inside to where all the family were mourning. He told everyone that could hear him over the crying that the girl was not dead but only sleeping. All the family but Jairus's wife stopped their wailing and crying and started laughing. Jesus just told them to get out and amazingly the crowd of people moved on outside. Jairus was nervous about seeing his daughter after hearing that she was dead but Jesus took him and his wife by the hand and went in her room. There was his beautiful baby. Not breathing. But the master said she was asleep. But her chest is not moving. Jesus said to believe. Jairus gathered his strength, held his breath as he saw Jesus take his daughter's hand and say, "Damsel (girl child), I say unto you, arise." Jairus shouted! Praise God! His little girl got out of bed and started walking!!! It's a Miracle!! Jairus looked at Jesus with new eyes! He had heard of miracles but now had experienced one himself!!! My Daughter Is Alive! As Jairus's wife gave his daughter something to eat, Jesus told Jairus, "Now don't tell what happened here today." Jairus was amazed and humbled that a man who could perform the work of God would be so meek. Surely this man is the Messiah! That was a wonderful miracle. I'm Jairus was so glad he had hunted for Jesus. Let's hunt for Jesus ourselves today. He is right here and would like to hear us talk to him. Lead the children in prayer.



**Extended Time Game:** Pin the Bulls eye on the Deer: Draw a deer on the poster board. Make several bulls eye circles (enough for each child) and play. Those who get close to the shoulder of the deer get a small prize out of a grab bag.





**Hunting for Jesus**  
**Lesson Six: The Hunter: A Woman**  
**The Woman with the Issue of Blood**  
**Lesson at a Glance**

**Pre-session:** Blindfold

**Craft:** Construction paper, markers, glue

**Memory Verse:** 16-18 balloons, 16-18 slips of paper with the memory verse written in words or phrases (there will be two sets of 8-9 each), small pieces of candy for prizes

**Extended Time Game or Activity:** Small notebooks or notepads-one per child, puff paint, stickers, etc...

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Six: The Hunter: A Woman

### The Woman with the Issue of Blood

**Scripture Text: Luke 8:42-48, Matthew 9:20-22**

**Memory Verse: Luke 18:27** And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.



**Welcome:** Greet each child with a smile.



**Pre-session:** Let the children sit in a circle facing in. Place one child in the middle of the circle with a blind fold on. The teacher will choose a child to touch the child in the middle and they then sit back down. The child in the middle tries to guess who touched him/her. If they guess correctly the child who touched him/her goes to the middle. Play until all children have a turn or as time allows.



**Prayer:** Pray with the children asking God to have his way in the Sunday School today.



**Offering:** Let the children place their offering in the offering container today.



**Songs:** Jesus Loves Me, The Wise Man and the Foolish Man, It's Bubbling



**Craft:** Have children trace their hand on construction paper or card stock

- Cut out the handprint.
- Make a heart that will fit on the hand.
- Write: A Touch of Jesus Heals on the heart and glue onto the hand



**Memory Verse:** This is best played in an area where the kids can be noisy. (Would not suggest in a classroom next to the sanctuary while church service is in session.) The kids love this game. Write the memory verse in words or phrase on 8-9 slips of paper and place each one in a balloon. Make two sets. Blow up the balloons. Divide the group into teams and give each team a set of balloons. At go the teams must pop their balloons, gather their slips of paper and put the papers in order to make the memory verse and then read the verse out loud as a group. The first team done wins. Have a small piece of candy for each player and two pieces each for the winning team. (Clean-up is easy when the children know that the person with the most pieces of balloon and paper to put in the trash can wins another candy.)



**Lesson:** The woman who was hunting for Jesus in our story today was also in the story last week . Remember Jairus was hunting for Jesus and Jesus stopped to heal someone. That's who we're going to learn about this week. A big crowd followed Jesus, that always happened because people knew Jesus loved them and was willing to help each one. In this crowd was a woman. The Bible doesn't give us her name, but it does tell us that she had an issue of blood for twelve years. That's along time to be bleeding. Besides the discomfort and pain she was going through, she also was considered unclean by society. She had to keep away from everyone.

She went to many doctors and spent a lot of money to try to get well. But instead she only got worse. Nobody could make her well.

One day she saw a large crowd and in the midst of that crowd was a man named Jesus. She had heard that he could heal the sick. He could make her well. Even though she wasn't supposed to go out in public, she decided to go see Jesus. She thought if she could just touch His clothes she would be healed. He wouldn't even have to know she was there.

She crept closer and closer, pushing her way through the crowd and touched the edge of his garment. Something started happening in her body. I'm sure she felt the warm touch of the Healer and immediately she was healed. Her bleeding stopped, and she knew she had been healed.

Even though there were so many people around them Jesus knew something had happened too. He turned around and asked “Who touched me?” The woman knew she couldn’t hide and she came and fell at Jesus’ feet and she told everyone what had happened to her.

The woman was very glad I’m sure that she hunted for Jesus. She went away whole and healed of her illness. After 12 years she could live a normal life again.

Let’s pray and thank God that He is a healer and that he cares for each of us.

Lead the children in prayer.



**Extended Game and Activity:** Give each child a small notebook and puff paint, stickers, etc... to decorate it with. They could also use camo duct tape if they choose. They will use the notebooks to record their best hunting locations and other hunting information. Place the notebooks in their back packs.



## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson Seven: The Hunters: Ten Lepers**

#### **Ten Lepers are Healed**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

**Pre-session:** Art materials to make thank you cards, clothespins

**Craft:** Brown construction paper, pencils, markers, crayons

**Memory Verse:** Dry erase or chalk board

**Extended time game or activity:** Two jump ropes

**Small prize for Thank you game**

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Seven: The Hunters: Ten Lepers

### Scripture Text: Luke 17:11-19

**Memory Verse: Psalms 107:1** O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.



**Welcome:** Welcome each child with a warm smile, be sure to thank them for coming today. Let the children know this is Thankful Sunday. All of our activities will be centered on being thankful.



**Pre-session:** Our story today is about someone who was hunting for Jesus, but only one came to back to say thank you. We should always remember to say thank you. We made get well cards a few weeks ago. Today we are making thank you cards. Give the child construction paper and art materials to make the cards. Encourage them to make a card for someone that they need to thank. It could be a friend, parent, Pastor, etc...

Start a game from the beginning of this session. Have clothespins ready and give a clothespin for the children to clip on every time they say thank you to someone that has done something nice for them. They will be surprised how often they could say thank you and don't. Don't give the pins out for silly thank yous but honest ones that you hear.



**Prayer:** Let the children give praise unto the Lord today. Teach them to lift up their hands and say thank you. We have a lot to be thankful for. God is good to each of us.



**Offering:** Let the children put the offering in the offering container.



**Songs:** Thank You Lord, Thanks, Thanks,



**Craft:** The children will make a thank you tree today. Give each child a large piece of brown construction paper. Instruct them to lay their forearm on the paper with their palm down on the paper. Have the children draw around their arm or they can have a friend draw around it. The forearm will be the trunk of a tree and the hand will be the branches. Give them markers or crayons to write the things that they are thankful for on the tree branches (fingers). On the bottom of the sheet they can write My Thankful Tree. They can keep the tree to remind them to be thankful or can give it away to someone as a gift.



**Memory Verse:** Write the memory verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Turn the verse today into a song of thanks. Put a tune to the words and teach the new “song” to the children. (This is a very effective way of teaching the memory verse. We often have children singing their verse to us even after the lesson is over).



**Lesson:** Have you ever heard your mom say "Now, what do you say?" when someone does something nice for you. You knew what to say, didn't you? We all know what to say, but unfortunately, we sometimes forget to say it. That is what happened in our Bible lesson today. Ten men were hunting for Jesus and Jesus did something wonderful for them. But...nine of them forgot to do something.

Our Bible story today is about ten lepers. Do you know what a leper is? No, it is not an animal with spots on it. That's a leopard! However, a leper does have spots. A leper is a person who has a disease called leprosy. This disease causes sores all over the body. Leprosy was very common in Jesus' day, and people who had this disease were thought to be unclean. They were required to stay away from other people because of the fear that they might infect them with their disease. They could not live in their homes with their families, like the woman with the issue of blood that we learned about, they were outcasts. Even worse they had to stand outside of the city and call “Unclean, Unclean, and every time anyone came near them. What an awful way to live.

One day, Jesus was walking through a small village when he saw a group of ten lepers. They stood far away from Jesus and called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us." Obviously, they knew who Jesus was and that he had the power to heal them. When Jesus heard them, he called back to the lepers and said, "Go, show yourself to the priest."

As the lepers went on their way to see the priest, they looked at their skin and the sores were gone. Jesus had healed their disease. They were so happy that they ran up and down the streets singing and dancing. Suddenly, one of them stopped and went back. Praising God with a loud voice, he threw himself at Jesus' feet and said, "Thank You." Jesus said to him, "Weren't there ten who were healed? Where are the other nine?" Only one out of ten remembered to say, "Thank You." You would have thought the other nine would have gone back to say Thank you too!!

Sometimes I wonder if we get so excited about what someone has done for us that we forget to say Thank You to them.

God does so much for us! Every day he provides everything we need: food, clothing, and a place to live. Do we ever forget to say, "Thank You?" Let's stop right now and say "Thank You" and ask God to help us remember to thank Him every day. We don't want to be guilty of taking all the good things from God and never giving him any praise for them. Praise the Lord with the children naming things that God has given. Let them worship for a bit. Let's not rush in thanking God today. God inhabits the praises of His people and we want God to deal in our children's hearts.



**Extended Time Game or Activity:** Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a jump rope. One team is the Please team, the other the Thank You team.

Let each child jump until they miss recording how many jumps they did. The next child begins jumping until they miss until all the children have had a turn. Add up the Please and Thank You jump totals and see which team has the most jumps.

Let the children count how many clothespins they have accumulated today and return them to the teacher. Give a small prize for the child that has said the most Thank yous.





## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson Eight: The Hunter: Nicodemus**

#### **Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

**Welcome:** Pinwheels-purchased or homemade-one per child

**Pre-session:** Meat trays or shoe box lids, brown tempera paint, markers,

**Craft:** Ziploc baggies, spring type clothespins, black pipe cleaners, google eyes, goldfish crackers, M&M's

**Memory Verse:** Dry erase or chalk board, white construction paper, crayons, markers, art materials

**Lesson:** Stand up fan, pinwheels

Extended Time Game or Activity: Pinwheels, container

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Eight: The Hunter: Nicodemus

### Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night

#### Scripture Text: John 3

**Memory Verse: John 3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.



**Welcome:** Welcome each child with a smile .Give each child a small pinwheel to be used during the story. (These can be purchased or homemade)



**Pre-session:** This is a messy project but is worth the effort. The children will be making hand print deer. Each child will need a small flat container to put their brown tempera paint in. Meat trays work really well for this, also shoe box lids work but will absorb some of the paint. Each child will dip their hands in the paint and then put their hands down onto white finger paint paper. They will complete their by adding antlers with a black marker. When dry these will go in their hunting backpacks.



**Prayer:** Pray for the session today with the children. We want the children to learn the truth of being born of water and of the Spirit.



**Offering:** Let the children put their offering in the offering container



**Songs:** I've Already Been to the Water, I've Got the Holy Ghost, Father Abraham



**Craft:** Just as a caterpillar is born again into a butterfly the man in our story today needed to be born again. We are going to make butterflies. Give each child a sandwich size baggie (must be Ziploc top) , spring type clothespin, small black pipe cleaner, small google eyes and a small amount of goldfish crackers mixed with M& M's . The children will put the crackers and M&M's into the snack back and seal it up. They will use the clothespin to divide the bag in two and make the two wings of the butterfly. Glue on the google eyes and glue on pipe cleaner antlers. The children can take these home at the end of the day.



**Memory Verse:** Write the memory verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Give each child a white piece of construction paper and let them design their own memory verse sheet. They will write the memory verse on the sheet and use stickers, crayons or other art materials to decorate it. Read the memory verse several times with the children.



**Lesson:** (Have a stand up fan available to use in the story today and the children will be using the pinwheels given to them at Welcome)

The man who was hunting for Jesus in our story was a very smart man and was hunting for Jesus so that he could find truth. He didn't understand everything he had heard about Jesus and had questions he wanted answered.

I want you to lay your pinwheels beside you and I will let you know when you need to pick them up. We will need them to tell part of the story.

The man's name was Nicodemus and he was Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews. That means he was in charge and people looked up to him. He came to Jesus one night to ask some questions. Jesus already knew what he was wanting to know and he was prepared with the answers. Jesus immediately cut to the chase and told Nicodemus that "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus was thinking he wouldn't fit back into his mother's stomach and be born again, but Jesus let him know that "that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Jesus was letting him know that the being

born again was a work of the spirit, not of the flesh. Only God can give us the Holy Ghost. Jesus said that being born of the Spirit was like the wind. The wind goes wherever it wants to, we hear the wind, but we can't where it comes from or where it goes to. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit. When someone receives the Holy Ghost we hear the sound –they speak in other tongues. Let's see if we can hear the wind turning your pinwheels. (Let the children gather around the fan and hold their pinwheels up) You can see the evidence of the wind but you can't see the wind itself can you. You can hear the evidence of the wind but you can't see it.

We hear someone receiving the Holy Ghost but we don't see the Holy Ghost, only the changes it makes in someone's life.

Jesus said we must be born of the water-baptized in Jesus Name and born of the Spirit-receiving the Holy Ghost. Nicodemus went away that night with truth. He knew the plan of salvation. Let's pray together, if anyone wants the Holy Ghost God is willing to give it to you today. Pray with the children.



### **Extended Time Game or Activity: Run Like the Wind**

Divide the children into two teams and place two pinwheels in a container at the opposite end of the room. Let the children race each other to the other end pick up a pinwheel and race back. They will give the pinwheel to the next child and they will put it back in the container and race back. The first group to complete the race wins. If time allows take the children outside and let them watch the pinwheels move in the wind.



## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson Nine: The Hunter: Rich Young Ruler**

#### **The Rich Young Ruler**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

Welcome: Disposable painter's hats or inexpensive ball caps

**Pre-session:** Caps, camo colored paints

**Offering:** Fake gold coins

**Memory Verse:** Dry erase or chalk board

**Lesson:** Make or purchase a For Sale sign

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Nine: The Hunter: A Rich Young Man

### Jesus Talks to the Rich Young Ruler

**Scripture Text: Mark 10:17-22**

**Memory Verse: Luke 9:23** And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.



**Welcome:** Welcome each child today with a warm smile. Give each child an inexpensive disposable painter's hat or inexpensive ball caps.



**Pre-session:** The children will use paints to decorate their caps in camo style. Only a hunting design will be allowed on the caps. Provide paints in appropriate colors and paint brushes. The children will put the caps in their back packs when they are dry to take home at the last session.



**Prayer:** Pray with the children today asking God to help them to learn about Him today.



**Offering:** Let the children put their offering among a sack of fake gold coins.



**Songs:** Bless That Wonderful Name, All God's Children Love the Holy Ghost



**Craft:** Give the children family magazines and let them make a need/want picture. On one side of a piece of card stock they will label it Wants; on the other side they will label it Needs. Let them cut or tear out pictures of things that are

wants and things that are needs. Explain to them the difference between the two. The young man in our story today had everything he wanted but he walked away from Jesus without what he needed.



**Memory Verse:** Play a game of Hangman using the memory verse. After the children have completed the verse read aloud several times with the children.



**Lesson:** (Make or purchase a For Sale sign to use in the lesson today.)

There was a young man hunting for Jesus in our story today. He had been blessed in life with everything that a young man could want or need. He had probably worked hard and had achieved a lot of respect in the community. After all he was young and he was rich. He had everything he ever dreamed he could have. Unfortunately there was something that he lacked and Jesus knew what it was.

As Jesus was getting ready to go and teach one day a young man ran up to him and knelt before him. The young man truly had hunted for Jesus and he truly had a desire to do right. He asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. In his mind he thought he had everything he needed to inherit it. When Jesus gave him the next answer he was really feeling good about himself. Jesus told him he needed to keep the ten commandments. He told Jesus that he had kept these things from his youth up. He really was a pretty good guy. Jesus must have felt the sincerity in the young man, the Bible says “Jesus beholding him loved him,” Jesus knew the young man’s heart. Things can look really good on the outside, but inside where no one else sees, God sees.

Jesus told the young man what he needed to do, because Jesus knew what the young man loved more than anything. (Hold up the For Sale sign). “One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross and follow me.

The young man had a very hard choice to make. He could sell everything he had, give it away and follow Jesus, or he could continue the way he was living in a big home, and keep all of his riches and prosperity.

The Bible says, “he was sad at that saying and went away grieved: for he had great possessions”.

Was the one thing that the rich young ruler could not give up really the riches? Not really, it was his love of the riches. Jesus was asking him to love Him more than anything. If we have anything in our lives that we would not be willing to give up to follow Jesus we are as wrong as the rich young ruler. We can keep his commandments and still have things in our hearts that we aren’t willing to give to Jesus. Let’s all pray together today and ask God to search our hearts. We want to have a willing heart to serve Him. We don’t want anything in our life to be more important to us than Him. Pray with the children.



**Extended Time Game or Activity:** Have a quiet time with the children letting them work on activity sheets or coloring pages. Talk with them about the story, letting the concept sink into their hearts.





## **Hunting for Jesus**

### **Lesson Ten: The Hunters: The Church**

#### **The Second Coming**

##### **Lesson at a Glance**

**Welcome:** Recipe for Trail Mix (Resources)

**Pre-session:** Ingredients for trail mix, sandwich size Ziploc baggies, disposable gloves, bowls for ingredients

**Offering:** Play trumpet

**Craft:** Clock face (Resources), paper plates, metal brads, question marks and clock hands cut out of black construction paper-enough for each child

**Memory Verse:** Dry erase or chalk board

**Lesson:** Clock, play trumpet from offering, Bible

# Hunting for Jesus

## Lesson Ten: The Hunters: The Church

### The Second Coming

**Scripture Text: Matthew 24, 25:31-46, Rev:1:7,Rev. 19:11-16**

**Memory Verse: I Thessalonians 4:16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first,



**Welcome:** Welcome each child with a smile and give them a recipe for trail mix, they will be using it a pre-session.



**Pre-session:** Bring ingredients for the children to make trail mix. Use Ziploc baggies and give each child a pair of disposable gloves to wear. Let them mix their own trail mix using the ingredients that you have brought. They will place the trail mix in their back packs to take home next week.



**Prayer:** We want to instill in the children today a looking for the Lord's return, the importance of being ready. Pray with the children today asking God to help with the session today.



Let the children put their offering in a play trumpet.



**Songs:** He's Coming Soon, I've Got the Holy Ghost, I'll Fly Away



**Craft:** Give each child a clock face, a paper plate, a metal brad, two question marks, two clock hands. Let the children cut out the clock face and glue it on the paper plate. The children can glue the question marks onto the clock hands and use the metal brad to put the clock hands on the clock. They can then write: No one knows the hour at the bottom of the paper plate. Talk with them about Jesus coming back and how no one knows when He is coming, we always need to be ready.



**Memory Verse:** Write the memory verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Seat the children in a circle. Give the play trumpet used in the offering to a child and start the trumpet around the circle. The teacher will turn his/her back to the children. When the teacher says Rapture the child holding the trumpet will stand and read the memory verse. Continue play until the majority of the children have said the memory verse. Read the memory verse as a group.



**Lesson:** (Use a clock, the trumpet from offering, and a bible to tell the story today inserting them at the appropriate times)

There are a lot of people who are hunting for Jesus in our story today. Maybe millions. There are a lot more that need to be hunting for Jesus.

Our story today is about a promise that Jesus made when He was on earth. He made us a lot of promises and He has kept every one of them. He promised He would send the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost. He kept his promise, I know because I have the Holy Ghost. He promised to never leave us nor forsake us. I know, because I can feel him every day. He is a good promise keeper! He made another promise that we have not seen or felt yet. We know it will come to pass because, (let the children say, “Jesus keeps His promises”).)

Jesus told us in His word that he would come back to take us to heaven to live with Him. Wow!! What a promise. He also said we needed to be looking (hunting) for him. The Bible tells us (use the clock) that no man knows the hour that He will come back. We just have to be ready all the time. Can you help me say our

memory verse today? (Quote the verse with the children and then read from the bible the following verse I Thessalonians 4:17.) There's going to be a trumpet sound and those that have already died and had the Holy Ghost are going to rise from their graves and then those of us that are alive and remain are going to be caught up in the clouds to meet Jesus and we will live forever with Him.

That is a wonderful promise that we need to make sure we are ready for. How do we get ready?

Jesus gave Peter the plan of salvation to preach on the Day of Pentecost in the book of Acts. Let me read it to you. Read Acts 2:38. It's so important that we follow and obey the plan of salvation. Let's go over it together. We need to repent-tell God we're sorry for all of our sins, the bad things we have done. Be baptized in Jesus Name for the remission (forgiveness) of sins and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

We have to have the Spirit of God living in our hearts if we want to be able to meet him when he comes back. Read Romans 8:11.

If any of you do not have the Holy Ghost today and have not followed the plan of salvation you need to pray today and obey His word. Remember Jesus could come back at any time and you don't want to be left behind.

Give an altar call and really pray with the children today. Feel after God in this prayer service. We don't want it be just another altar call to the children. Jesus really is coming back and we want them all to be ready.



**Extended Time Game and Activity:** There is no activity planned today as we want the prayer service today to be the focus of the lesson. If you need filler time spend it with the children talking about the second coming and the plan of salvation.

# **Hunting for Jesus**

## **Party**

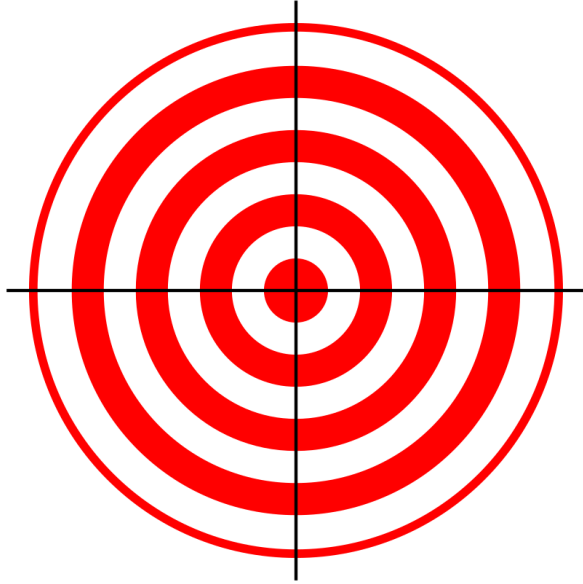
Plan a hunting party for the children. Prepare sandwiches, chips, cupcakes, drinks for the party. Purchase camo table cloths and napkins and cups if possible.

After or before the party have a scavenger hunt with the children. You may prefer to have this outside. For the children, have a list or pictures of the items you want them to find. (Before class place items on the children's list around the area you are using). To make it easy, when they find the item on their list-have them write down where they found the item, leaving it there for others to find. Tell them not to tell others where they found things so as not to ruin the fun for everyone. Have the children work in groups of two or three and set a time limit for the hunt. The group that comes back with the most items found will be the winners. You could award a bow and arrow set or a camo cup to each winner.

Give the children their backpacks with their hunting items. Talk about each story as they take out items and remind them of the memory verses.

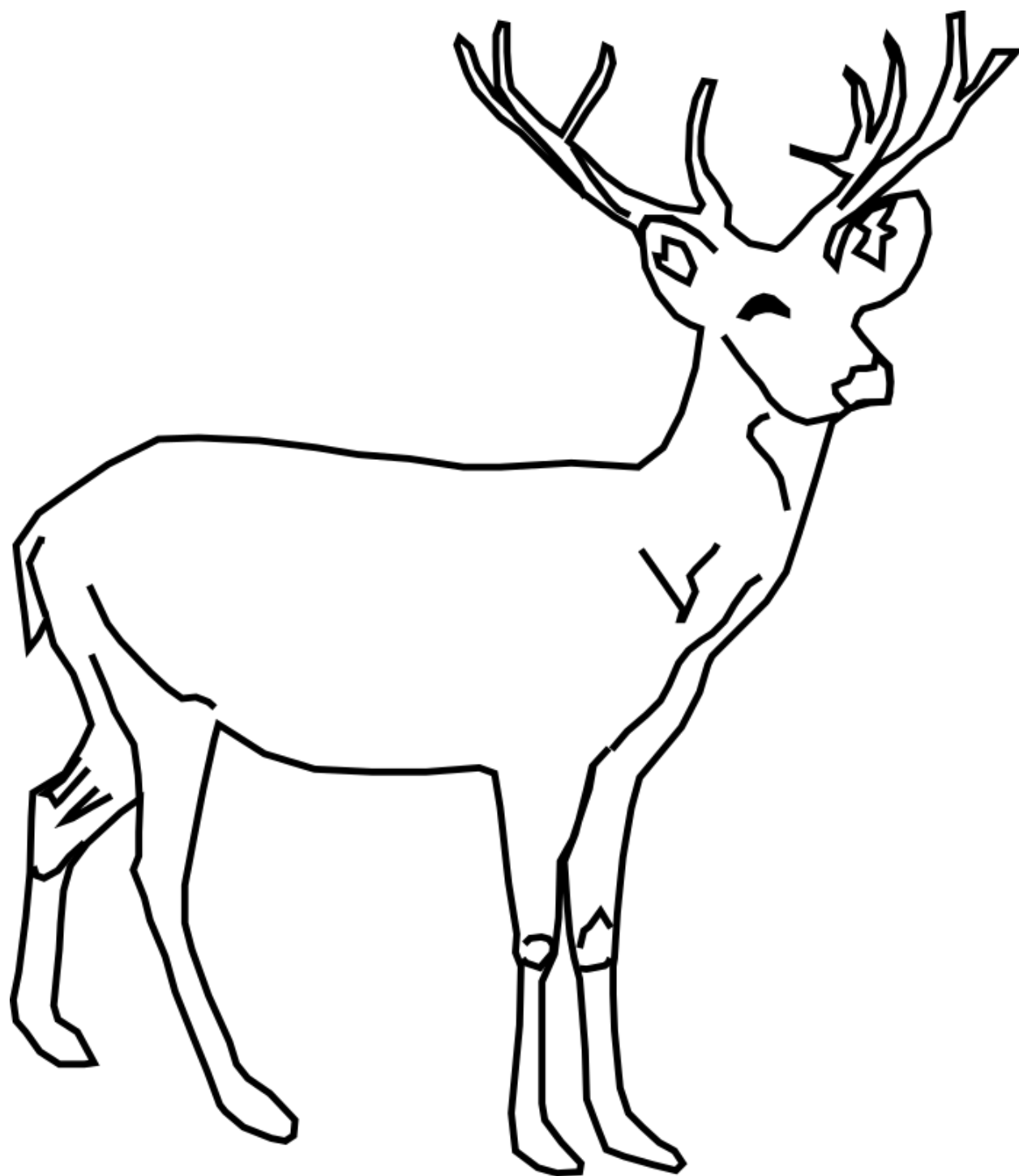
Let them take home their backpacks at the end of the day.

Do a small introduction of the next series (We use the following week to do puppets, skits and introductions to the next series; we call it Holy Ghost Sunday and pray with the children during this time).



# Resources







# Trail Mix Recipe

## Ingredients

- 2 cups Raisins
- 2 cups Peanuts
- 2 cups Chocolate Coated Candy
- 1 cup Sunflower Seeds (shelled