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Lessons one through five tell us that our families help us learn how to serve others.

- Being kind at home helps us learn how to serve others.
- God helps us serve others faithfully and patiently.
- Loving service is done well, even without a reward.
- We serve God when we share His blessings with others.
- God helps me serve my family.

Lessons six through ten tell us that God's love is a free gift.

- God's love changes us.
- By keeping our eyes on Jesus we are saved.
- Jesus gives His love and grace freely.
- Jesus invites us to be with Him in heaven.
- Jesus sees our needs and helps us.

Lessons eleven through fourteen help us praise God for the gift of Jesus.

- We worship God when we sing joyful songs of praise.
- We worship the God who guides us.
- We worship Jesus when we give gifts to Him.
- When Jesus comes again, we will live with Him and worship Him forever.

God's grace. Grace is a word that helps explain God's love in action toward people, who don't deserve it.

- Grace is God's love providing Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for our sins.

- Grace is God's love encouraging us to accept that sacrifice.

- Grace is God's love inspiring us to respond in praise and worship.

- Grace is God's love giving us the wisdom and strength to treat one another with love and respect, just the way He treats us.

So, God's grace is power. It's the unlimited, for-sure, forever power that finds you and fills you up with everything you need to live a full and wonderful life in Him.
To the leaders/teachers,

These guides were developed to:

A. Introduce the lesson on Sabbath, inspiring students to study that same lesson throughout the following week.

B. Focus the entire Sabbath School time on one message, one point about God’s grace, the response of worship we make to that grace, or how that grace empowers our loving relationships with one another and our service to a world God’s love created and sustains.

C. Give students active learning experiences so that they can more readily internalize the truths being presented. These experiences are followed by debriefing sessions in which you ask questions that lead the students to reflect on what they experience, interpret the experience, and apply that information to their lives.

D. Reach each student in the way he or she learns best. By following the natural learning sequence on which these outlines were based, you will also connect students with “the message” for the week in a way that will capture each one’s attention and imagination.

The Readiness Activities give the students a reason to want to learn the lesson. This section appeals to imaginative learners, who ask, “Why should I learn this?”

The Bible Lesson lets you teach the students the content in a way that involves them. This section appeals to the analytical learners, who ask the question “What do I need to learn?”

The Prayer and Praise section is the time-honored “business” of Sabbath School and may be used at any point during the lesson; however, it is recommended that you begin with Readiness Activities, even while some students are still arriving.

Applying the Lesson gives the students a chance to explore how the lesson can be applied in a practical way in their daily lives. This section appeals to commonsense learners, who ask, “How does it work in my life?”

Sharing the Lesson gives the students a chance to develop ways that they can teach their new concept to others. This section appeals to dynamic learners, who ask, “What can this become? What can I do to share this idea with others?”

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E. Involve the adult Sabbath School staff in new and flexible ways. A very small Sabbath School can be managed by one adult.

A larger Sabbath School can be managed by one leader/teacher with other adult volunteers to facilitate the small group interaction. This gives small group facilitators a maximum involvement with the students and their dynamic learning while requiring a minimum of preparation on the facilitator’s part.

A creative alternative is to enlist leaders/teachers with different personal learning styles to lead different segments of the program.

(For more detailed information about the natural learning sequence, the learning styles, and other dynamics of teaching and learning, contact your conference Sabbath School or Children’s Ministries director.)

To use this guide . . .

Try to follow the natural learning sequence outlined, but adapt activities as necessary to make the program work in your particular situation.

Look ahead at the Program Overview for each week so you can be prepared with the simple materials suggested.

Always have available regularly used supplies such as:

- aluminum foil
- art supplies (glue sticks, fabric glue, glitter sticks, craft sticks, etc.)
- bags (paper, plastic, sealable plastic; large and small)
- balloons
- baskets, bowls, jars for collecting offering
- beanbags
- Bibles
- blindfolds
- boxes, large and small
- cassette tape and/or CD player
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- cotton balls or fiberfill
- costumes (Bible-times: robes, headdress, sandals, rope or heavy yarn, large T-shirts)
- cups (disposable, paper/plastic/Styrofoam)
- electrical extension cord
- flashlight
- gifts (small, inexpensive)
- hole punch
- index cards
- Jesus stickers and pictures
- magazines and catalogs (old—for cutting)
- magnets
- nature specimens
- paper clips (steel)
- paper plates, large and small
- papers, large and small (newsprint, rolls of brown paper, poster board, construction paper [various colors], lined and unlined)
- pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils
- ribbon
- rhythm instruments
- rubber bands
- scissors
- self-stick notes (Post-it notes)
- stapler and staples
- stickers
- string
- tape (masking, cellophane, double-stick)
- yarn (several colors)
Additional Supplies Required for This Quarter

Lesson 1  
- empty thread spools  
- chenille wires or pipe cleaners

Lesson 2  
- guest speakers  
- corsage and boutonniere (optional)  
- small rocks  
- gift wrap  
- bedsheets or large tissue paper or toilet paper rolls  
- books  
- small disposable containers  
- colored tissue paper  
- coins of equal value  
- poster paper

Lesson 3  
- small trash cans  
- plastic spoons  
- colored napkins  
- yarn or rubber bands  
- offering container  
- puppets made in Readiness C (optional)  
- stones or rocks (optional)  
- broom (optional)  
- heart coupon pattern (see p. 33)

Lesson 4  
- modeling dough (see recipe)

Lesson 5  
- variety of household objects  
- occupation cards (see activity)  
- empty food and beverage containers such as cereal boxes, egg cartons, milk cartons, etc.  
- washcloths or 6-square-inch (15-square-centimeter) pieces of fabric to represent a washcloth

Lesson 6  
- nature book  
- live caterpillars or butterflies (optional)  
- baby pictures of class  
- gift box  
- butterfly pattern (see p. 150)  
- heart pattern (see p. 150)

Lesson 7  
- world map or globe  
- blue fabric or sheet

Lesson 8  
- tombstone pattern (see p. 151)

Lesson 9  
- party decorations  
- fresh fruit  
- napkins  
- small wrapped gifts  
- invitation pattern (see p. 97)

Lesson 10  
- crutches or canes, or “walking” sticks  
- blue sheet  
- adhesive bandages  
- light-colored craft foam or cloth

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**Lesson 11**
- angel pattern (see p. 151)
- *The SDA Hymnal* (optional)
- picture of a herald (optional)
- angel costumes
- blanket
- star pattern (see p. 154)
- sticks
- doorknob hanger pattern (see p. 152)
- note to send home (see activity)

**Lesson 12**
- sheep pattern (see p. 152)
- sheep ornaments from Readiness A or other offering device
- J-shaped pattern (see p. 153)

**Lesson 13**
- star pattern (see p. 154)
- perfume and/or spices
- star ornaments from Readiness A or other Christmas-theme offering device
- heart pattern (see p. 137)

**Lesson 14**
- crown pattern (see p. 154)
- strips of cloth
- dowels or sticks
- palm branches (optional)
- modeling clay
- gold-covered offering container
- white “robes,” crowns (see Readiness A)
- palm branches or festal banners (see Readiness B)
- toy or rhythm musical instruments
- picture of heaven
- pictures of or real musical instruments (optional)
- audio playback device such as CD, MP3 with recorded praise songs or downloaded praise songs.
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<th>References</th>
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<td>2 Corinthians 6:6, ICB</td>
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<td>Colossians 3:23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WORSHIP:</strong> We praise God for the gift of Jesus.</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
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Jacob’s Journey Ends

Monthly Theme
Our families help us learn how to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Jacob has continued on his journey to find his mother’s family and is nearing his uncle’s home when he stops at a place where shepherds water their sheep. He inquires about his uncle Laban and then meets Rachel, Laban’s daughter. Jacob rolls away the stone from the well and waters Rachel’s flocks, then tells her who he is. Rachel runs home to get her father, who hurries to greet Jacob and invites him home.

This is a lesson about service.
Principles of service are first learned in the family, then are applied later as we work for others. Consider that Jacob recognized Rachel’s need—to water her sheep—and, without being asked, met that need by rolling the stone away from the well and watering her sheep for her. Only then did Jacob reveal who he was and why he was there. We too can introduce ourselves and our God to others as we help meet their daily needs.

Teacher Enrichment
“Parents should keep the atmosphere of the home pure and fragrant with kind words, with tender sympathy and love” (The Adventist Home, p. 434).

The watering custom of the shepherds from the north was different from what Jacob was used to. These shepherds waited until all had gathered their flocks near the well before they began drawing water for the sheep to drink. The stone well covering was so heavy that it needed many strong hands to remove it. This was a way of protecting their water rights. But Jacob himself, displaying incredible strength, removed the heavy stone to water Rachel’s sheep. He was demonstrating thoughtful kindness toward his relative. (See The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times [Chicago: Moody Press, 1987], pp. 134, 135.)

While we usually think of shepherds as men, it is noted that Rachel was a shepherd. It was the custom that everyone, including young girls or women, work for the benefit of their families in whatever capacity needed. Even those from wealthy families were expected to help. Honest labor was not beneath those of high class. Every family member was to contribute to the needs of the whole family. (See The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 386.)
Room Decorations

Use outdoor scenery such as trees, bushes, flowers, etc. Large stuffed toy animal sheep or sheep cutouts can be placed around. Set up a small tent in a corner, or drape a sheet over chairs or a table, or pin the ends of a sheet to the wall to make a canopy. If room, place a small table with a piece of pottery on it, a stool, and mat inside the tent.

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<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Readiness Options</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>A. Helping Habits</td>
<td>empty thread spools, chenille wires or pipe cleaners, cotton balls, liquid glue</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Make-a-Sheep</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Sheep-Sheep-Goat</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any Time Prayer and Praise*</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Songbook</td>
<td>Sing for Joy</td>
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<td>Mission</td>
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<td>Offering</td>
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<td>Prayer</td>
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<td>2 Bible Lesson</td>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>Experiencing the Story</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td>Memory Verse</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>small cups, water, Bibles</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Applying the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>Kindness</td>
<td>chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sharing the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>Blueprint for Kindness</td>
<td>paper, pencils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Review last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Helping Habits
Ask for volunteers to act out a “helping habit” such as washing dishes, feeding a pet, sweeping or vacuuming, etc. The rest of the class guesses what they do.

Debriefing
Allow responses as you ask: **How do you usually respond when your mom or dad asks you to do something?** **How do you feel when you do something helpful for someone without being asked?** Our Bible story today is about Jacob and how he was kind to a family member he had never met. He must have learned kindness at home. Our memory verse tells us that “we show that we are servants of God . . . by our kindness” (2 Corinthians 6:6, ICB). Today’s message tells us that:

BEING KIND AT HOME HELPS US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.

Say that with me.

B. Make-a-Sheep
Provide help as needed as you give the children the following directions.

Say: **Put three chenille wires or pipe cleaners through the hole in the spool and twist the wires together at both ends of the spool. Bend two wires down at each end of the spool to make legs.**

**Now place two or three drops of glue on a cotton ball, then glue the ball to the spool. Add balls to cover the spool. Glue one ball to the neck wire and another to the tail. Cut and glue small paper circles on the “head” for eyes and ears.**


Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: **If you were a shepherd, what would you need to do to care for your sheep?** Today’s Bible story is about how Jacob showed kindness to a shepherd. Jacob learned to be kind in his own family. The Bible says: “We show that we are servants of God . . . by our kindness” (2 Corinthians 6:6, ICB). Our message for today is:

BEING KIND AT HOME HELPS US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.

Say that with me.
C. Sheep-Sheep-Goat

Have the children, except one “shepherd,” sit on the floor in a circle. The “shepherd” walks around the outside of the circle, placing a hand on each person’s head as they call each child a “sheep.” When the shepherd comes to the person they want to be “it,” they say “goat” as they tap that person’s head. The goat then chases the shepherd around the circle until the shepherd sits down in the empty spot. If the “goat” tags the shepherd before the shepherd sits down, then the shepherd is still “it.” If the “shepherd” reaches and sits in the empty chair, the “goat” is “it.”

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: What is the difference between sheep and goats? Who takes care of both? Our story today is about Jacob helping a shepherd. The Bible says that “we show that we are servants of God . . . by our kindness” (2 Corinthians 6:6, ICB). Today’s message is:

**BEING KIND AT HOME HELPS US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.**

Say that with me.

---

Prayer and Praise

**Fellowship**

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

**Suggested Songs**

“A Happy Home” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 136)
‘Love at Home’ (*Sing for Joy*, no. 137)
“God Bless Families” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 138)
“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 126)
“We Are His Hands” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)
“The Lord Is My Shepherd” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 48)

**Mission**

Talk about how the children can be missionaries in their own homes by showing kindness, love, and helpfulness to family members. Share a story from *Children’s Mission*.

**Offering**

Explain that their money helps send missionaries to teach and feed people who are hungry.

**Prayer**

Pray that each child will feel the desire to help others as Jesus did.

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Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

When you say: The children say:
sheep baa

Also ask the children to cheer and clap when Jacob removes the heavy stone from the well.

Read or tell the story.

The morning after Jacob saw the angels going up and down the ladder, he continued on his journey to find his uncle Laban. His was a long journey, about 450 miles altogether, and would take about three weeks of walking. Finally, Jacob neared the city of Haran. He hoped to find his mother’s family there. He was glad that his journey was almost over.

On the outskirts of Haran, Jacob spotted a well. It was about noon, and three flocks of sheep were gathered there. “I wonder why these flocks of sheep are at the well in the middle of the day?” he said to himself. This well was different from those near Jacob’s home. He saw that a huge stone covered the well’s opening, and there were no troughs from which the sheep could drink. Jacob approached the well and spoke to the shepherds gathered there.

“My brothers, where are you from?” he asked.

“We’re from Haran,” one shepherd replied.

“Do you know a man named Laban who lives there?” Jacob questioned.

“Yes, we know him,” the shepherds answered.

Then Jacob asked, “Is he well?”

“Yes, he is,” replied one of the shepherds. “In fact, here comes his daughter Rachel with some of his sheep.” The man pointed toward a young woman leading a flock of sheep, still some distance away.

Jacob continued his conversation with the shepherds as he waited for Rachel to arrive at the well. “Tell me, why don’t you water your sheep and then take them back to pasture since there is so much daylight left?” he asked.

“We can’t,” they replied. “It’s our custom to wait until all of the flocks are gathered before the stone is removed from the well. Then all the animals can drink before we cover the well again,” one of the shepherds explained.

While Jacob and the shepherds talked together, Rachel and her sheep arrived at the well. Jacob kindly went over to the well and rolled the heavy stone away from the opening. [Cheer and clap!] Then he led his uncle Laban’s sheep to the water and cared for them.

He spoke kindly to Rachel and said, “I am Jacob, and I am one of your relatives. I’ve come a long way to meet your family! Your father’s sister Rebekah is my mother.” Then he kissed his cousin. He was so grateful and glad to finally meet one of his relatives that he began to cry! His long journey was over. He was with family again.

“Please, wait right here!” Rachel said to Jacob. “I want to let my father know that you are here,” she called over her shoulder as she ran toward home.

When Rachel told her father about Jacob, Laban hurried back to the well with her. “How wonderful to meet you, Jacob!” he exclaimed as he hugged his nephew and kissed him. “We’re so glad you’re here! Come, let’s go home so we can visit!”
When Jacob reached Laban’s house, he told his uncle all the news about the family he had left behind. He talked about his mother, Rebekah, and how she had sent Jacob to be with Laban for a time. Uncle Laban welcomed his nephew Jacob into his home, and Jacob became a part of Laban’s family.

You can serve others too. Jacob saw that he could help Rachel by removing the heavy stone from the well and watering the sheep. No one had to ask him to help. He showed courtesy and kindness when he removed the stone from the well.

**Debriefing**

What do you think Jacob learned about helping others?

How do you think Rachel felt when a stranger helped her at the well?

Why was Jacob kind to her?

Is it nice to surprise someone with kindness? Has anyone ever done that for you?

What do you do at home to learn about being kind? Is it easy or hard?

Why is it important?

Our message tells us about that.

Let’s say it together:

**BEING KIND AT HOME HELPS US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.**

**Memory Verse**

Have the children repeat the verse and the actions until they know it.

**We show that we are servants of God by our kindness.**

Hands out, palms open as if serving something.

Point upward.

With palms facing inward, rotate hands in a circle.

2 Corinthians 6:6 Palms together, then open.

**Bible Study**

Give each child a small cup of water to drink, telling them to pretend it is from Jacob’s well. Say: *Let’s read about Jacob’s well as it was used later in Jesus’ time.* Have everyone find John 4:6-15 in their Bibles and take turns reading a verse.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: Do you think this well was the same as the one in our story for today?

What kind of help did Jesus offer to the woman at the well?

How were Jacob and Jesus alike as they met Rachel and the Samaritan woman?

Do you think the Samaritan woman and Rachel had any of the same feelings about being shown kindness by a stranger? What were their feelings?

Where did Jesus and Jacob first learn to serve others? Remember...

**BEING KIND AT HOME HELPS US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.**

You Need:

- small cups
- water
- Bibles
Applying the Lesson

**You Need:**
- chalkboard or whiteboard
- chalk or marker

**Kindness**

Ask students to think of ideas for showing kindness to someone at home this week. Encourage them to think of specific needs someone has such as playing with baby brother while Mom cooks supper, finding Grandma’s glasses for her, helping Dad rake leaves, praying for someone who needs Jesus, etc.

Then write vertically on a chalkboard or whiteboard in large letters: K I N D N E S S.

Ask students to use the letters on the board to think of ways they can help people. List their ideas beside the appropriate letter. For example, for “K” someone may suggest “kind words for my brother” or “knead bread for my mom.” For “N” someone may suggest “nice words to Mom about dinner,” etc.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask:

What do you think when someone shows you kindness, especially when it is just what you needed? Do you appreciate it when someone pays attention to your needs?

How will you show kindness this week to your family?

When you learn to be kind at home, do you think it will be easy to be kind to other people as well?

Is it sometimes easier to be kind to people we don’t know than to those we live with? (yes) God can help us treat our family with kindness even though sometimes it’s hard.

We can also share our kindness with others outside our family. We can introduce ourselves and our God to others as we show them kindness. Let’s say our message together again:

BEING KIND AT HOME HELPS US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.
Sharing the Lesson

Blueprint for Kindness

Give each child paper and pencil. Ask them to draw an outline of a house with the names of the people who live in their house written inside of it, or a floor plan of their house and write their family members’ names in their bedrooms.

Have the children put these in their Bibles and take them home with them. This week they are to secretly do something helpful for each person in their house. When finished, they should make a check mark on that person’s name.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What do you think the people you show kindness to this week will think when something nice is done for them? How do you think they will react? Try to keep it a secret. Don’t tell anyone what you have done.

Remember:

BEING KIND AT HOME HELPS US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.

Closing

Say a short prayer, asking God to help all to see ways to show kindness to family members this week.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils
Jacob’s Journey Ends

Think of a time someone in your family helped you without being asked. What did they do for you? Did their kindness surprise you? Our story this week reminds us of something important: we learn how to serve others by being kind at home.

It was morning, and Jacob woke up to continue on his long journey to Haran. He had left his home because his brother was very angry with him. Jacob had tricked his father and had gotten a special blessing that should have gone to his brother. Because of this, his mom thought it was a good idea for him to go and stay with her brother Laban for a while. She also hoped that Jacob would find a wife there.

The night before, while he had slept with a stone for his pillow, he had had a dream. He had dreamed that he had seen a ladder and angels going up and down on the ladder. Then God had spoken to him and had promised to be with him. Jacob worshipped God when he woke up and had promised that God would be his God. Now he was ready to continue on his journey.

It was a long journey, about 450 miles altogether, and it would take about three weeks of walking. Finally after many days and nights of traveling, Jacob neared the city of Haran. He hoped to find his mother’s family there. His journey was almost over, and he was glad.

On the outskirts of Haran, Jacob saw a well. It was about noon, and three flocks of sheep were gathered there. Why are these flocks at the well in the middle of the day? he won-
dered. This well was different from those near Jacob’s home. He saw that a huge stone covered the well’s opening. There were no troughs from which the sheep could drink. Jacob approached the sheep and spoke to the shepherds gathered there.

“My brothers, where are you from?” he asked.

“We come from Haran,” one shepherd replied.

“Do you know a man named Laban who lives there?” Jacob questioned.

“Yes, we know him,” the shepherds answered.

Then Jacob asked, “Is he well?”

“Yes, he is,” replied one of the shepherds. “In fact, here comes his daughter, Rachel, with some of his sheep. She is a shepherd.” The man pointed to a young woman coming toward them. Jacob looked and saw Rachel coming to the well. She was leading a flock of sheep, but was still some distance away.

Jacob continued talking with the shepherds. “Tell me, why don’t you water your sheep and take them back to pasture?” he asked. “There is still a lot of daylight left.”

“We can’t,” they replied. “It’s our custom to wait until all of the flocks are gathered. When all are here, we remove the big stone from the well. Then all the animals drink, and we cover the well again.”

While Jacob and the shepherds talked together, Rachel and her sheep arrived. Jacob went over to the well. He kindly rolled the heavy stone away from the opening. Then he led his uncle Laban’s sheep to the water and cared for them.

He spoke kindly to Rachel. “I am Jacob, and I am one of your relatives. I’ve come a long way to meet your family! Your father’s sister Rebekah is my mother.” He was so glad to finally meet a relative that he began to cry! His long journey was over. He was with family again.

“Please, wait right here!” Rachel
exclaimed, "I want to let my father know that you are here." Then she turned quickly and ran toward home.

An excited Rachel told her father about Jacob. Laban was amazed that Jacob had come so far. He hurried back to the well with her. "How wonderful to meet you, Jacob!" he exclaimed. He hugged his nephew and kissed him. "We're so glad you're here! Come, let's go home so we can visit!"

Laban led the way. Soon they reached Laban's home. There Jacob told his uncle about the family he had left behind. He talked about his mother, Rebekah, and how she had sent Jacob to Laban. And Uncle Laban welcomed his nephew Jacob into his home. Soon Jacob became a part of Laban's family.

Yes, Jacob helped Rachel by removing the heavy stone from the well. And he helped her by watering the sheep. No one had to ask him to help. He showed courtesy and kindness to Rachel. Can you help others without being asked? By being kind to your own family, you learn to serve others. What will you do to serve others this week?

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**Daily Activities**

**Sabbath**
- With your family, go to a place where sheep are kept. If possible, count the sheep. Ask your family: What do sheep need most? Or look at a book about sheep. What kind of care do they need? Thank God for the animals you enjoy.
- Share the lesson story with your family. Teach them the memory verse. (Use the motions learned in Sabbath School.)

**Sunday**
- Read and discuss Genesis 29:1-3 during family worship today. Talk about the end of Jacob's journey. What did he see? Why do you think the well was covered?
- Look at the house drawing or floor plan made in Sabbath School (or draw one). Use it to remind you to show kindness to your family this week. Be sure to surprise them!

**Monday**
- During worship today, read and discuss Genesis 29:4-6. What did Jacob call the shepherds? What did he ask them? How did they reply? Did the shepherds know Jacob? Why do you think they talked with him?
- Make a paper with columns for "home," "school," and "neighborhood." For one week, keep track of times someone did something kind for you at each of those places. Thank Jesus for people who are kind.

**Tuesday**
- For worship today, read and discuss Genesis 29:7 and 8. What did Jacob think the shepherds should do? Why didn’t they do it? Do you always have to do things the way others do them? Why? Give an example.
- Ask Jesus to help you accept differences in others. Think of someone who is different from you in some way and pray for them.

**Wednesday**
- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 29:9-12. How did Jacob serve Rachel? How did Rachel serve Jacob?
- How were Jacob and Rachel related? How are you related to your aunt's or uncle's children? Think of some way you can show kindness to one of them this week.
- Sing "A Happy Home" (Sing for Joy, no. 136) or "Love at Home" (Sing for Joy, no. 137). Then thank Jesus for your relatives and ask Him to help you serve them with kindness.

**Thursday**
- Read and discuss Genesis 29:13 and 14 for worship today. Why do you think Laban hurried to meet Jacob? What did he do when they met? What do you think Jacob and Laban talked about? Read verse 14 again. What did Laban mean?
- Trace around your foot on a piece of paper. Cut it out. Write on it one thing you can do using your feet to help someone. (Take out the trash; walk the dog; play with someone who doesn’t have many friends; etc.) Do it tomorrow. Put the footprint by your bed so you will step on it to remind you in the morning.

**Friday**
- For worship tonight, act out the lesson story. Who will be Jacob and Rachel? Ask everyone who they would like to be. Review the memory verse together before prayer.
- Think of someone who needs Jesus' help and pray for them. Tell Jesus what you think they need. (to know He loves them; to get well; to trust in Him if worried; etc.) Ask Jesus to do what is best. Then thank Him for hearing and answering your prayers.
Who Cheated?

**Monthly Theme**
Our families help us learn how to serve others.

**The Bible Lesson at a Glance**
Jacob and Laban enter into an agreement about Rachel: Jacob will work for Laban for seven years, and Laban will then give Rachel to Jacob to be his wife. The seven years go by quickly because of Jacob’s love for Rachel. But after the seven years pass, Laban gives Jacob Leah instead of Rachel. Jacob is angry about this deception, but agrees to work seven more years for Rachel. Laban agrees, and finally Jacob and Rachel are married.

**This is a lesson about service.**
We learn two principles of service from this passage. The first is the principle of perseverance. Many things worth working for take time, even many years, as in Jacob’s case. We learn to be patient and keep working toward our goal. The second principle is that when we are motivated by love, the persevering service is pleasant to us (Genesis 29:20).

**Teacher Enrichment**
“In early times custom required the bridegroom . . . to pay a sum of money or its equivalent in other property, according to his circumstances, to the father of his wife. . . . But provision was made to test those who had nothing to pay for a wife. They were permitted to labor for the father . . . , the length of time being regulated by the value of the dowry required” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 188, 189).

“Jacob’s proposal was based partly on the fact that he was not in a position to pay the usual dowry and partly on his knowledge that the situation at home would make necessary a rather prolonged stay with Laban. Laban’s assent is to be explained solely on the ground of greed, which became more apparent as time went on” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 386).

“Wedding feasts customarily lasted one week (see Judges 14:12), and Jacob was to have Rachel also at the close of Leah’s marital festivities (Gen. 28:28-30). Laban was no doubt anxious to preserve his good name by keeping his fraud from the public eye, in view of the fact that all the men of the city were his guests at the celebration (see v. 22). . . .

“It is plain that Jacob did not serve another seven years before Rachel became his wife. This occurred at the close of Leah’s festal week” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 388).
*Leah’s consent was necessary to the success of this base proposal. . . .
“Laban’s duplicity resulted in lifelong rivalry between the two sisters (see [Genesis] 30:14-16)” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 388).

### Room Decorations
See Lesson 1.

### Program Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Section</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Materials Needed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Readiness Options</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>A. Ask a Married Couple; B. Trick Gift</td>
<td>guest speakers, corsage and boutonniere (optional), small rocks, small boxes (optional), gift wrap, stickers or other small gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Time Prayer and Praise*</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>Fellowship; Songbook; Mission; Offering; Prayer</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Bible Lesson</td>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>Experiencing the Story; Memory Verse; Bible Study</td>
<td>bedsheets or large tissue paper or roll of toilet paper, chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker, books, box from a large appliance, such as a refrigerator; scissors or box cutter; marker (optional); Bibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Applying the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
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<td>4. Sharing the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>Savings Banks</td>
<td>small margarine tubs or other disposable containers, scissors, colored tissue paper, glue sticks, coins of equal value, poster paper (optional), markers (optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1. Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

1. Ask a Married Couple

Invite a couple in the church who have been married for a long time to come in and share the story of how they met and fell in love. If possible, have them bring in wedding pictures. Invite the children to ask questions. Potential questions for the couple: How did you know that this was the person for you to marry? How long did you wait before you got married? Was that good or bad? Did it seem like a long or short time? What was the hardest and easiest thing about joining another family? What advice would you give to kids this age today? If possible, give a corsage and boutonniere (flowers) to the couple to thank them for sharing.

Debriefing

Say: This week our Bible story is about Jacob’s wedding. He served his uncle Laban for a long time so he could marry Laban’s daughter. He did it because he loved Rachel, and the Bible says the time went very quickly for him because he was in love. The Bible tells about the kind of love Jacob had. “Love is patient, love is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4). God helped Jacob to serve faithfully and patiently for all those years. And our message tells us that . . .

GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.

Say that with me.

2. Trick Gift

Place a rock in a small box (optional) for each child and wrap it to make a gift. Say: Today our Bible story is about Jacob’s wedding. Since gifts are given at weddings, I have a gift for each of you. Please wait until everyone has a gift before you open yours. After you have debriefed, give each child a sticker or other small gift as a replacement for their rock.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: What did you think when you saw the rock? (I was disappointed, confused, thought I had been tricked.) How do you feel when someone tricks you? It’s not a very good feeling, is it? Today we’ll learn how Jacob was deceived by Laban after Jacob had served Laban a long time. But the time he served Laban did seem to pass quickly, because Jacob loved Rachel. Our memory verse tells about the kind of love Jacob had. “Love is patient, love is
kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4). And our message tells us that . . .

**GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.**

Say that with me.

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**Prayer and Praise**

**Fellowship**
Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

**Suggested Songs**
- “I Want to Be” *(Sing for Joy, no. 124)*
- “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” *(Sing for Joy, no. 126)*
- “I Have the Joy” *(Sing for Joy, no. 109)*
- “Seek Ye First” *(Sing for Joy, no. 67)*
- “We Are His Hands” *(Sing for Joy, no. 129)*

**Mission**
Talk about how missionaries must keep working to tell others about Jesus even when they don’t see immediate results. Share a story from *Children’s Mission*.

**Offering**
Challenge the children to save money for a mission project. (See *Children’s Mission* for ideas.) Your Sabbath School may want to take on a project of their own. Talk about how it takes a long time to save money to build new churches.

**You Need:**
- offering container

**Prayer**
Ask for volunteers. Remind them to pray for Jesus’ help to keep on serving others even when we feel like giving up.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Ask for one volunteer groom and two brides. Have the girls dress the “brides” and have the boys dress the “groom.” Supply pieces of fabric such as bed sheets, or large pieces of tissue paper, or a roll of toilet paper. Give them a few minutes to complete their task and then have the “brides” and “groom” sit on chairs at the front of the room.

Read or tell the story.

Jacob had been at Laban’s house for a month when Laban said, “Jacob, you’re my relative, but it’s not right for you to keep working for me without any pay. Tell me, what wages would you like?”

Jacob was glad to be at his uncle’s house. He had been enjoying the work. And he had also been admiring Uncle Laban’s youngest daughter, Rachel!

“Uncle Laban, what I’d really like is to marry Rachel! I’ll be happy to work for you for seven years if you will give Rachel to me as my wife!”

Laban responded, “I would rather have her marry you than someone else! That sounds like a fine arrangement to me. Yes, stay here and work for me.”

In those days it was customary for a man to give the father of the woman he wanted to marry some money before the father would agree to the marriage. At the time of the wedding, the father was to give the money to his daughter to have for her own. But if a man didn’t have money to pay the bride price or dowry (as it was called), he could work for the woman’s father for an agreed-upon amount of time.

So Jacob began seven years of hard work to make Rachel his wife. Day after day he faithfully did all that Laban asked.

And the time seemed to pass quickly because of his love for Rachel. Finally the seven years were up! It was time to make Rachel his bride! It would be a wonderful wedding!

But Laban was not honest or fair with Jacob. He liked having Jacob work without pay. He knew that Jacob worked hard and did everything Laban asked of him without complaining. Yes, Jacob was a good servant—and he didn’t cost Laban anything! So Laban decided on a plan. He would trick Jacob to get more free labor from him.

In those days the bride wore a heavy veil during the wedding festivities so her face couldn’t be seen. That night Jacob took his veiled bride to his tent in the darkness. He couldn’t see that it was Leah, not Rachel. In the morning Jacob made a terrible discovery. He had married the wrong sister! He was shocked and angry. How could his uncle have done such a thing?

“Uncle Laban, why have you done this?” Jacob pleaded. “I worked hard for you so I could marry Rachel. Why did you trick me?”

“It is our custom,” Laban lied, “for the older sister to marry before the younger.” [The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 388, states that Laban probably made up this custom; it was not the usual practice.] “But I’ll tell you what,” Laban spoke slowly. “You may also marry Rachel if you will work for me for another seven years.”

In those days in that country, many men had more than one wife. So at the end of the week of Leah’s wedding celebration, Jacob and Rachel were also married. Then Jacob began to work seven more years for Laban.

Jacob patiently worked without pay for 14 years—a long time—to make Rachel his wife. But his love for her made the hard work seem pleasant!
Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: How do you think Jacob felt when he found that Leah had been given to him and not Rachel?

Do you remember how Jacob earlier had tricked his own father, Isaac, into thinking he was his brother, Esau? Do you think Jacob thought about this? How do you think he felt about what he'd done, now that it had been done to him? Do you think he was more forgiving to Laban, knowing that he had committed the same sin?

How do you think Jacob felt about working another seven years for the one he loved? (It was probably hard, but God gave him the strength.) Do you remember our message? Let’s say it together:

GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse where all may see. Ask: What does it mean to be patient? Let’s see how patient you are.

Have the class make a single-file line. Balance a book on the head of the first person in line. They are to walk (without touching the book) to a point across the room and return to you while saying the memory verse aloud. If the book falls off, they must stop and put it back on their head, then complete the walk. The children take turns until all have participated.

Or use the following motions to teach the verse. Repeat until the children know it.

Love is patient. Cross arms over chest. With fingers facing left, touch right fist to the lips, then move down to the chin.

Love is kind. With palms facing inward, rotate hands in a circle.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Palms together, then open.

Bible Study

Say: For our Bible study today, we are going to read about someone who was in a very difficult situation but who served faithfully. Then you are going to tell me how this person's story is like Jacob's story. Then read or have the children take turns reading Genesis 40:1-15, 23; 41:1, 8, 9-14.

Debriefing

Why was Joseph in prison? (see Genesis 40:14, 15—He had been put there unfairly; he had done nothing wrong.) How did Joseph feel about being in prison? (see verse 14—He wanted to get out.) Even though Joseph didn't deserve to be in prison and wanted to get out, what was he doing while there? (see Genesis 40:4—He was serving, helping others) After the cupbearer was released, how much longer did Joseph stay in prison? (see Genesis 41:1—two years) During the time that Joseph was in prison, he served faithfully and patiently while waiting for his freedom.

How is this story about Joseph and today’s story about Jacob alike? (Both Jacob and Joseph had to wait a long time for something they wanted; they were both in a difficult situation; they served in the meantime.)

When we have to serve a long time or wait a long time for something, let’s remember our message for today . . .

GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.
Applying the Lesson

Scenarios

Read the following scenarios (or others appropriate in your situation) to the students and ask them to answer the question at the end of each:

1. Your mom has been sick for two weeks. You have to entertain your younger brother while she rests, and help your dad make supper every night. You’re getting tired of doing this every day. What should you do?

2. Your family has just moved into a house, and your dad is excited about planting a vegetable garden. There is a plot of ground with lots of weeds in it. He asks you to help him pull weeds one afternoon. It looks as if it’s going to take hours and hours to finish. What should you do?

3. You have a good friend at school whose family doesn’t have much money. You would like to buy her a birthday gift. But you’ve been saving your money to buy a new hat you saw at the store, and you’ve almost got enough saved. If you buy the hat, you won’t have enough money to buy your friend a gift. What should you do?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**Why do you serve others?** (That was what Jesus did; that pleases God.)

In what ways do you serve people in your family?

Does it take patience to serve people who are unpleasant or unkind? Give an example.

What makes it easier to serve people you like? Does your love for some people help you serve them more cheerfully and/or more patiently? Why?

How can you patiently serve others even though it’s not fun or pleasant? (Ask God to help us.)

When you do an act of service for someone else, whose love are you showing to them? Let’s say our message together again:

GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.
Sharing the Lesson

Savings Banks

Have each child make a bank by using a small margarine tub or other type of container with a pre-cut slit in the lid. They can decorate the container by gluing and overlapping small squares of colored tissue paper onto it. Supply one coin for each child to put into their bank.

Discuss and select a mission project your class can participate in by saving money in their banks, or suggest they save some money this quarter and turn it in on Thirteenth Sabbath.

If you have a class project, decorate a colorful poster describing with words and drawings what the project is and display it in the room.

Set a goal of how much money is needed by a certain time. Set a good example; be the first to donate to the fund. When the goal is reached, celebrate! Include the children in implementing the project, if possible.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: It’s good to have a savings goal for things you want. What do you think about saving for our mission project? It takes a lot of money that people have saved for a long time to _________. (Describe the project your class has chosen.)

It takes patience to save for something. What will you do to help reach our goal? Talk it over with your family.

Because we love Jesus and want others to learn to know and love Him too, it will be easier to save.

What can you do to earn some money? What are you willing to give up so you can save to help with our mission project? Remember our message? Say it with me:

GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.

Closing

Ask God to help the children do the best job they can in every situation and to serve others because of the love God gives to us.

You Need:
• scissors
• colored tissue paper
• glue sticks
• coins of equal value
• poster paper (optional)
• markers (optional)
• small margarine tubs or other small sealable plastic containers
Who Cheated?

Have you ever worked hard and long for someone you love? Maybe it was helping your dad stack wood or repair the house. Or maybe you helped your mom in the garden all day. You were glad when it was over, but because you love that person, it was worth it!

Jacob had been at Laban’s house for a month. One day Laban said, “Jacob, you’re my relative. It doesn’t seem right for you to keep working for me without pay. Tell me, what wages would you like?”

Jacob was glad to be at his uncle’s house. He didn’t mind the work. And he had also been admiring Uncle Laban’s youngest daughter, Rachel!

“Uncle Laban, what I’d really like is to marry Rachel! I’ll work seven years for you if you will let Rachel become my wife.”

Laban agreed. “That sounds like a fine arrangement to me. Yes, stay here and work for me.”

In those days a man gave money to the father of the woman he wanted to marry. After the wedding, the father was to give the money to his daughter. It became her own to keep. But some men didn’t have money for the bride price or dowry, as it was called. So if the father agreed, the man could work for him for a certain amount of time. That’s what Jacob had to do.

So Jacob began seven years of work to make Rachel his wife. Day after day he faithfully and patiently did all that Laban asked. And the time seemed to pass quickly because of his love for Rachel. Finally the seven years were up! It was time to make Rachel his bride!

But Laban was not honest or fair with Jacob. He liked having Jacob work without pay. He knew that Jacob worked hard without complaining. It was clear that God was helping Jacob to be a faithful worker. And he didn’t cost Laban anything! So Laban decided to do something wrong. He would trick Jacob to get more free labor from him.

In those days the bride wore a heavy veil during the wedding celebration. No one was to see her face. That night Jacob took his veiled bride to his tent. He couldn’t see that it was Leah, not Rachel. In the morning Jacob made a terrible discovery. He had married the wrong sister!

He was shocked and angry. How could his uncle have done such a thing?

“Uncle Laban, why have you done this?” Jacob asked. “I worked hard for you so I could marry Rachel. Why did you trick me?”

“It is our custom,” Laban lied, “for the older sister to marry before the younger.” “But I’ll make a bargain with you. You may also marry Rachel if you will work for me for another seven years.”

In those days in that country, many men had more than one wife. So at the end of the week of Leah’s wedding celebration, Jacob and Rachel were also married. Then Jacob began to work seven more years for Laban.

Jacob worked without pay for 14...
years—a long time—to marry Rachel. Patiently, he served Laban all that time. He truly believed that hav- ing Rachel for his wife was worth it! And God helped him to serve faithfully even when the work was hard. When we really love someone, we will serve faithfully and with patience too.

*The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 388, states that Laban probably made up this custom. It was not the usual practice.

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### Daily Activities

#### Sabbath
- Ask your parents or another married couple to tell you about their wedding. Compare their wedding to Jacob’s wedding. How are they alike? How are they different?
- Use the motions learned in Sabbath School to teach your family the memory verse. Talk about what it means to be patient.

#### Sunday
- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 29:15. Why should people be paid for work they do for others? In your family, who gets paid for working? Who doesn’t get paid? Why? Should you be paid for work you do to help at home? Why?
- Show your family the savings bank you made in Sabbath School. (Or make a bank from a plastic disposable container.) Talk about saving money for your Sabbath School mission project.

#### Monday
- Read and discuss Genesis 29:16, 17 for worship today. Describe Leah and Rachel. Who was more beautiful? Are beautiful people always kind and loving? Which is best: to be beautiful on the outside or on the inside? Why?
- Look through old magazines for pictures of people doing kind deeds. Cut them out and glue them to a piece of paper. Are they all beautiful?
- Thank Jesus for people who are patient and kind. Ask Him to help you to be patient and kind too.

#### Tuesday
- During worship today, read and discuss Genesis 29:18-20. What agreement did Jacob and Laban make? What kind of work would Jacob do? What do you think about their agreement?
- Ask an older couple about how they met and married. How long have they been married? Did they wait a long or short time to get married? If they waited, how long did it seem? Ask how their love helps them to be kind and patient.

#### Wednesday
- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 29:21-23. When Jacob reminded Laban of their agreement, what did Laban do? Who came to the wedding? Do you think Leah knew what Laban planned? Why did she do it?
- Draw a picture of the mission project you want to save money for. Share it with your family. Then hang it in your room to help you remember.
- Thank Jesus that you can give money to help others know Him.

#### Thursday
- Read and discuss Genesis 29:25-28 with your family. Why did Laban trick Jacob? Did Laban tell the truth when he said the older daughter had to marry first? How long did Jacob wait before Rachel became his wife? How long did he work for Laban after that? Did Jacob’s love for Rachel help him to be patient with Laban?
- Think of a time someone in your family was patient with you. Did they encourage you with kindness? Thank Jesus for that person. Then go thank that person too.

#### Friday
- For family worship, read Patriarchs and Prophets, pages 188-190,* to learn more about Jacob. Then act out the lesson story. Who will be Jacob? Rachel? Leah? Laban?
- If possible, look at your parents’ wedding pictures. How are they different or the same as in Jacob’s time?
- Say the memory verse together. Tell who has been patient and kind to you this week. Thank Jesus for those people.

*Chapter 17, paragraphs 9-16.
Running Away Again

Monthly Theme

Our families help us learn how to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God tells Jacob to leave Laban and return to his homeland. Jacob leaves without telling Laban. When he catches up to Jacob, Laban is angry. They quarrel about the terms of their separation. Laban insists that all that Jacob owns really belongs to him. Jacob counters by reminding Laban what a good employee he has been for the past 20 years. Jacob reminds Laban of his faithful service in harsh conditions, unfair wages, etc. Finally they agree to part on good terms and together build an altar to testify to their agreement.

This is a lesson about service.

In Jacob’s long service to Laban we see the principle of taking responsibility for our work. Jacob gave Laban faithful, dependable service for a long time. Jacob trusted that his reward would come from God for a job well done, not from the person he worked for here on earth. So we are to serve others, leaving the reward to God, not humans.

Teacher Enrichment

“Jacob would have left his crafty kinsman long before but for the fear of encountering Esau. Now he felt that he was in danger from the sons of Laban. . . . He was in great perplexity and distress, not knowing which way to turn. But . . . he carried his case to God. . . . In a dream his prayer was answered: ‘Return unto the land of thy fathers, and . . . I will be with thee’ ” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 193).

“Laban had withheld the marriage dowry of his daughters and had ever treated Jacob with craft and harshness. . . .

“Jacob plainly set forth Laban’s selfish and grasping policy. . . . Laban could not deny the facts . . . , and he now proposed to enter into a covenant of peace. . . .

“The night was spent in friendly communing; and at the dawn of day, Laban and his company departed” (Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 193, 194).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Section</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Materials Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Readiness Options</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>A. Trash Pickup</td>
<td>small trash cans, crumpled paper stickers (or other small gifts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Rewarded</td>
<td>plastic spoons, colored napkins, yarn or rubber bands, markers</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Puppets</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Prayer and Praise*</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Songbook</td>
<td>Sing for Joy</td>
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<td>Mission</td>
<td>Children’s Mission</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bible Lesson</td>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>Experiencing the Story</td>
<td>puppets made during Readiness C (optional), Bible-times costumes (optional),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Memory Verse</td>
<td>stones or rocks (optional), chalkboard or whiteboard; chalk or marker; broom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>(optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Applying the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>Charades</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sharing the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>With All My Heart Coupon</td>
<td>heart coupon pattern (see p. 33), paper, colored markers or crayons, scissors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Review last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Trash Pickup

Form two teams and have each line up single file. Assign each team a small trash can that is placed on the other side of the room. Place a larger trash can between the two smaller ones. Place a pile of crumpled paper at the front of each line.

When you give the signal to start, the first person from each team is to pick up a piece of crumpled paper from a pile on the floor next to them, run to their small trash can, dump their paper in, and run back. The next person in line will repeat the action. When all have had a turn, the last person picks up the small trash can and empties it into the larger trash can. The faster team wins hugs and high-fives from the other team.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: Did you enjoy our game? What is your least favorite chore to do at home? Today we’re going to be talking about doing our very best job in whatever we are asked to do, even if we don’t like it very much. Our Bible story tells us more about Jacob and his work for Laban. The Bible says: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” (Colossians 3:23). We won’t always be rewarded by people, but God sees our work. Our message today says:

LOVING SERVICE IS DONE WELL, EVEN WITHOUT A REWARD.

Say that with me.

B. Rewarded

Have ready three separate stickers for each child. Ask children to clap their hands four times, stand up and sit down two times, and repeat the alphabet. Reward each child with a sticker after each activity. Next, ask them to sing “Jesus Loves Me.” Do not give a sticker when completed.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: Why didn’t I give you a sticker the last time I asked you to do something? How is that like Jacob working hard and well for Laban and still not being treated fairly? Is it easier to do a good job when you know you are going to be rewarded? Why? Our Bible story tells more about Jacob and his work for Laban. The Bible says: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” (Colossians 3:23). We can’t always expect to be rewarded by people, but God sees our work. Our message today is:

You Need:
• small trash cans
• crumpled paper

You Need:
• stickers (or other small gifts)
LOVING SERVICE IS DONE WELL, EVEN WITHOUT A REWARD.

Say that with me.

C. Puppets
Give each child a plastic spoon and either a blue or white napkin to place over the top of it (you can use any two colors you choose, divided up evenly among the children). Twist the napkin and tie the yarn, or put a rubber band at the top of the handle to make a puppet head. Have them draw a face on it.

(Adapted from Anita Reith Stohs, Look What I Made! [St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1998], pp. 10, 11.)

Debriefing
Say: If you have a white puppet, you have made Jacob. If your puppet is blue, you made Laban. We will use our puppets when we tell today’s Bible story. Our Bible story tells more about Jacob working for Laban. The Bible says: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” (Colossians 3:23). We can’t always expect to be rewarded by people, but God sees our hard work. Our message today is:

LOVING SERVICE IS DONE WELL, EVEN WITHOUT A REWARD.

Say that with me.

NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 36.

You Need:
• plastic spoons
• colored napkins
• yarn or rubber bands
• markers

I promise to ____________________________________________ because I love you with all my heart.
____________________________________________________
signed

I promise to ____________________________________________ because I love you with all my heart.
____________________________________________________
signed

Heart is for use with Sharing the Lesson on page 37.
**Bible Lesson**

**Experiencing the Story**

If you are using the puppets, have children pair up so one partner has a Jacob puppet and the other partner has a Laban puppet. Otherwise, have students volunteer to be Jacob and Laban. Dress them in Bible-times costumes and have them act out the story as you read or tell it.

**Read or tell the story.**

Twenty years had gone by since Jacob had left home. Twenty years he had worked for his uncle Laban. By this time Jacob had 10 sons and at least one daughter.

After Joseph’s birth, Jacob had asked Laban to let him take his family and return to Canaan. But Laban had begged him not to go. “Please stay,” Laban had said. “I know that the Lord has blessed me because of you.”

So Jacob had agreed to stay. And Laban had agreed to pay Jacob. He would give Jacob all the spotted, speckled, and dark-colored lambs or goats in the flocks. That way, Jacob could have his own flocks. Since that time, many spotted, speckled, and dark-colored animals had been born and added to Jacob’s flocks! Jacob was now a wealthy man.

Laban’s sons were not happy about this. Jacob soon learned what they were saying. He knew that they believed he had flocks that should belong to them. And Jacob also noticed that “Laban’s attitude toward him was not what it had been” (Genesis 31:2).

So when the Lord said to Jacob, “Go back to the land of your fathers,” Jacob knew it was time to leave. Without a word to Laban, Jacob gathered his wives, his children, and his flocks, and started for Canaan.

After three days Laban learned that Jacob was gone. Quickly Laban gathered his family and started after Jacob. Seven days later Laban caught up to the large group traveling with Jacob. That night God spoke to Laban in a dream and told him to be careful of what he would say to Jacob.

Jacob could see Laban’s men. He wrinkled his forehead with concern as they drew nearer. Jacob knew that Laban would not be happy with him. Soon they would meet.

“Why did you run away without telling me?” Laban shouted as he came near the next day. “You didn’t even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters goodbye.” Then he added, “It is in my power to harm you, but last night God told me not to say anything to you that was good or bad.”

Jacob answered, “I left without telling you because I thought you would try to take my wives away to keep me from leaving.”

“Uncle Laban,” Jacob said, “I have been a faithful worker for you for 20 years. During that time I was careful to take good care of your animals. I didn’t complain about my work even if it was blistering hot or freezing cold. I worked 14 years to pay my debt to you for your daughters. And these last six years I have worked to earn my animals. During that time, you changed my pay 10 times! But God was with me. You would have even sent me away empty-handed, but God saw how hard I’ve worked for you, and that is why He talked to you last night.”

“Jacob, in a way, everything you have is from me,” Laban spoke sharply. “These are my daughters and my grandchildren. The animals you have come from my
flocks. But it wouldn’t be right to keep my daughters and their children.” Laban’s voice was kinder now. “Let’s make a peaceful agreement,” he offered. And Jacob agreed.

So they piled some stones into a big heap. “These stones are a witness between us,” said Laban. “I will not go past this pile of stones to harm you, and you will not pass it to harm me.”

Jacob repeated the promise. “I will not harm you, and you will not harm me.” Then the two men and their families fixed food and shared a meal together.

Early the next morning Laban kissed his daughters, Leah and Rachel, and his grandchildren and returned home. Jacob and his family traveled on toward Canaan, glad that they could part in a peaceful way.

For years people called that place Mizpah, a place of blessing, because it was there Laban said to Jacob, “May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other” (Genesis 31:49).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What kind of worker was Jacob?

Why hadn’t Laban treated Jacob fairly? Why did Jacob have so many animals? (The Lord blessed Jacob.)

Why did Laban follow Jacob?

How do you think Jacob felt after Laban offered to part peacefully?

Remember...

LOVING SERVICE IS DONE WELL, EVEN WITHOUT A REWARD.

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse on the board. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” (Colossians 3:23).

Ask for volunteers to do something for one minute that is helpful or encouraging. They should do it as fast as they can (to tire them out quickly), and repeat the memory verse while doing it. Time them and encourage them to keep going even when they get tired. For example, have several children sweep the floor, stack chairs, bend over to pretend to pick up trash, etc.

Allow response time as you ask:

What were you thinking at the end of the time? What does our memory verse tell us to do? (“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” [Colossians 3:23]).

Bible Study

Help the children find Genesis 31:49 and read it aloud. (“May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.”)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Have you ever heard this said as a prayer? It’s known as the Mizpah because that’s what the place was called where Jacob and Laban built an altar before they went their own way. This is what Laban said to Jacob as they parted ways. Did they part peacefully, or were they still upset with each other?

Even though Jacob felt that Laban had been unfair and unthankful for his work, they parted as friends. Jacob had to remember that...

LOVING SERVICE IS DONE WELL, EVEN WITHOUT A REWARD.
Prayer and Praise

Fellowship
Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

“Amigos de Cristo” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 69)
“Redeemed!” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 68)
“Seek Ye First” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 67)
“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 108)
“God Made Our Hands” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 57)

Mission
Talk about the influence our actions have on others. When people notice how helpful, obedient, and kind we are, they will want to know what makes us that way. Share a story from *Children’s Mission*.

Offering
Remind the children that giving to others without expecting something in return is living how Jesus lived.

Prayer
Ask Jesus to help the children do whatever He asks them to do with a cheerful heart and without expecting anyone to notice or reward them.

You Need:
- offering container

www.gracelink.net/primary
Sharing the Lesson

With All My Heart Coupon
In advance, make copies of the heart coupon for each child (see page 33). Ask the children to think of something nice or helpful they can do for one of their parents for which they wouldn’t usually be paid or rewarded. Then distribute the heart coupons and have the children cut them out, color them, and fill in the blanks.

Debriefing
Say: Share with us some of your ideas for doing something to say thank you to your parents without getting a reward.

These hearts can help you remember to put your whole effort and heart into what you do, even when you didn’t get something in return. Take your heart home and share it with your family.

Let’s say our message together one last time:

LOVING SERVICE IS DONE WELL, EVEN WITHOUT A REWARD.

You Need:
• heart coupon pattern (see p. 33)
• paper
• colored markers or crayons
• scissors

Closing
Together, say the Mizpah prayer (Genesis 31:49): “May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.”
Running Away Again

Have you ever eaten in a restaurant with your family? If the service was good, did your family leave a reward for the person who waited on you? Did that person expect a reward? When you help someone, do you think about getting a reward?

Twenty years had gone by since Jacob had left his home and family. Twenty years he had worked for his uncle Laban. By this time Jacob had 10 sons and at least one daughter.

After Joseph had been born, Jacob had asked Laban to let him return to Canaan. But Laban had begged him to stay. “Please stay,” Laban had pleaded. “I know that the Lord has blessed me because of you.”

So Jacob had agreed to stay. And Laban had agreed to pay Jacob for his work. All the spotted, speckled, and dark-colored sheep or goats would belong to Jacob. Since that time, many animals had been added to Jacob’s flocks. Jacob was now a wealthy man!

Laban’s sons were not happy about this. Jacob knew that they believed his flocks should belong to them. And Jacob also knew that “Laban’s attitude toward him was not what it had been” (Genesis 31:2).

So when the Lord told Jacob, “Go back to the land of your fathers,” Jacob knew it was time to leave. Without a word to Laban, he gathered his wives, his children, and his flocks and started for Canaan.

After three days Laban learned that Jacob was gone. Laban started after him. Seven days later Laban caught up with Jacob. That night God spoke to Laban: “Be careful! Do not say anything to Jacob, good or bad.”

The next day Jacob watched Laban and his men. He wrinkled his forehead with concern as they drew nearer. He knew that Laban would not be happy with him.

“Why did you run away without telling me?” shouted Laban. “You didn’t even even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters goodbye. You know, it is in my power to harm you! But last night God told me not to say anything to you that was good or bad.”

Jacob answered, “I left without telling you because I thought you might try to take my wives and children away.”

“Uncle Laban,” Jacob said, “I have been a faithful worker for you for 20 years. During that time I was careful to take good care of your animals. I didn’t complain about my work whether it was blistering hot or freezing cold. I worked 14 years to pay my debt to you for your daughters. And these past six years, I have worked to earn my animals. During that time, you changed my pay 10 times! But God was with me. You would have sent me away empty-handed. But God knows how hard I’ve worked for you. That is why He talked to you last night.”

“Jacob, in a way, everything you have is from me,” Laban spoke sharply. “These are my daughters and my grandchildren. The animals you have came from my flocks. But it wouldn’t be right for me to keep my daughters and their children.” Laban’s voice was kinder now. “Let’s make a peaceful agreement,” he offered. Jacob agreed.

So both families gathered some stones into a big heap. “These stones are a witness between us,” said Laban. “I will not go past this pile of stones to harm you. And you will not pass it to harm me.”

Jacob repeated the promise. “I will not harm you, and you will not harm me.” Then the two men and their families shared a meal together.
Early the next morning Laban kissed his daughters and his grandchildren. Then Laban returned home. And Jacob and his family traveled on toward Canaan.

For years people called that place Mizpah, a place of blessing. For it was there that Laban said to Jacob, “May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other” (Genesis 31:49).

### Daily Activities

**Sabbath**
- If possible, go with your family to see some sheep or goats. Count the spotted, speckled, or dark-brown animals. Did Jacob have more or fewer animals? How do you know?
- Share the heart coupon you made in Sabbath School with an adult in your house. (Or make a paper heart and write on it one thing you will do without expecting a reward.)

**Sunday**
- For worship today, read and discuss Genesis 30:25-36. What agreement did Jacob and Laban make? Now read verses 40-43. What did Jacob do? Why?
- Say your memory verse over and over while doing a chore (sweeping, cleaning up, washing dishes, etc.).
- If possible, look at your baby pictures. Then thank the people who took care of you when you were a baby. Thank Jesus, too.

**Monday**
- For family worship today, read and discuss Genesis 31:1-13. What did God tell Jacob to do? Who really caused the animals to be streaked? Why?
- Make a picture of a spotted animal and write the memory verse on it. Use this to teach the verse to your family. Thank God for animals.

**Tuesday**
- Think of something good to do for someone without them knowing. Do it this week and see if they notice. But don’t expect to be rewarded!

**Wednesday**
- For family worship, read and discuss Genesis 31:22-43. What did Laban say to Jacob? How did Jacob answer? What do you think about Rachel’s actions? Who served without expecting a reward? To whom did Jacob give credit for caring for him? What did Laban suggest they should do?
- Have you quarreled with someone recently? Or treated someone unfairly? Has someone treated you wrongly? Ask Jesus to help you make things right with that person. Don’t wait. Do it today. Pray for that person today.

**Thursday**
- Read and discuss Genesis 31:44-55 for worship today. What covenant did Jacob and Laban make? What did they make to witness to their covenant? Why was that place called Mizpah? What do you think about the way Laban and Jacob parted?
- Read Genesis 31:49 again. Ask your family to say the Mizpah together.
- Sing some praise songs. Then thank Jesus for caring for all of you.

**Friday**
- For family worship, act out the Bible story. Who will be Jacob? Rachel? Laban? Review the memory verse. Ask each person: What have you done to help someone this week?
- Find the word *covenant* in a dictionary. Tell your family what it means. Make a covenant with your family. Write a sentence that tells about the covenant.
- Read Matthew 6:3, 4 together. What can your family do to help someone in need? Make a plan and do it together this weekend. Ask Jesus to help you do it cheerfully, without expecting a reward.
Home at Last

Monthly Theme
Our families help us learn how to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Jacob is on his way to Canaan where he knows he will meet Esau. He is unsure of Esau’s feelings about the past. Jacob remembers God’s promise and moves forward. He recognizes that he has done wrong and wants to make things right with his brother. After so many years apart, Jacob and Esau are finally reunited. Jacob presents his brother with many gifts, which Esau at first tries to refuse, but Jacob insists. Esau then tries to return the favor by offering to accompany Jacob and his family, or at least to have his men guard them on their journey. But Jacob is satisfied to have made peace and sends Esau on his way. Then Jacob proceeds at a slow pace to his new home.

This is a lesson about service.
Jacob exercised three principles of effective service. First, he recognized the full extent of God’s blessing to him (Genesis 32:10). Giving to Esau would not diminish his own abundance, for God had been so generous to him (Genesis 33:8-11). Second, Jacob treated Esau with much respect. There was no demand for equal treatment, no insistence that he receive something in return (Genesis 33:12-15). And finally, Jacob had learned to move at the speed of those for whom he was responsible. He kept to a pace that was considerate of the youngest and most tender (Genesis 33:13, 14). We want to do the same as we serve others.

Teacher Enrichment
“He [Jacob] sent from his vast flocks generous presents to Esau, with a friendly message. He did all in his power to atone for the wrong to his brother and to avert the threatened danger, and then in humiliation and repentance he pleaded for divine protection” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 196).

“In a dream, Esau beheld his brother . . . he witnessed his grief at finding his mother dead; he saw him encompassed by the hosts of God. This dream was related by Esau to his soldiers, with the charge not to harm Jacob, for the God of his father was with him.

“The two companies at last approached each other, the desert chief leading his men of war, and Jacob with his wives and children, attended by shepherds and handmaidens, and followed by long lines of flocks and herds. Leaning upon his staff, the patriarch went forward to meet the band of soldiers. . . . His countenance
was lighted up with joy and peace.

“. . . ’Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept’”  
(Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 198).

Jacob bowed seven times before Esau, a sign of total humility and submission. He also embraced him and kissed him. (See The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 409.)

**Room Decorations**

See Lesson 1.

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### Program Overview

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| **Readiness Options** | up to 10 | **A. Greetings!**  
**B. Please Forgive Me**  
**C. What Forgiveness Looks Like** | none  
modeling dough or clay (see recipe)  
none |
| **Prayer and Praise** | up to 10 | Fellowship  
Songbook  
Mission  
Offering  
Prayer | none  
*Sing for Joy*  
*Children’s Mission*  
offering container  
none |
| **Bible Lesson** | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story  
Memory Verse  
Bible Study | Bible-times costumes  
none  
Bibles, chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker |
| **Applying the Lesson** | up to 15 | **Knowing Your Blessings** | paper (optional), pencils (optional) |
| **Sharing the Lesson** | up to 15 | **Blessings Box** | small boxes, art supplies, paper, marker |

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Review last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Greetings!

Talk about how people greet one another in your country and how people in other countries greet others (people in the United States shake hands, people in India and Japan bow slightly and smile). Discuss other greetings you know.

Form groups of three or four. With the help of a teacher, have each group create their own unique greeting. Bring the groups together and have each demonstrate their greeting to the rest of the children.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: How do you greet a good friend or relative whom you haven’t seen in a long time? How do you think you will greet Jesus when you see Him face to face? Our Bible story today is about Jacob meeting his brother Esau after not seeing him for many years. His greeting included our memory verse for today: “God has been gracious to me and I have all I need” (Genesis 33:11). Listen carefully to learn about today’s message, which is:

WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

B. Please Forgive Me

Give each child some modeling dough or clay (see recipe for dough) and ask them to make something that they would give to someone they had hurt or made sad.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: What did you make with your clay? Who would you give your gift to? Why? Why do we sometimes give gifts to someone we have hurt? Our Bible story today is about Jacob meeting his brother after many years. Jacob’s greeting included today’s memory verse: “God has been gracious to me and I have all I need” (Genesis 33:11). Jacob learned something important. Our message tells us about it.

WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

C. What Forgiveness Looks Like

Ask the children to make their face show what someone would look like if they were:

Recipe for Modeling Dough

1 cup flour
1 cup water
1/2 cup salt
1 tablespoon oil
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
food coloring (optional)

Mix all ingredients together in a saucepan. Heat on medium-high heat, stirring constantly until thick like mashed potatoes. Remove from pan. Let cool just until able to knead smooth. Store in airtight container.

You Need:
• modeling dough or clay

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1. needing forgiveness.
2. forgiving someone.
3. asking for forgiveness.
4. forgiven.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **When is it easy to ask for forgiveness?**

*When is it hard? When is it easy to forgive someone? When is it hard? Our story today is about Jacob meeting his brother Esau after many years. Our memory verse is a part of that greeting. It says: “God has been gracious to me and I have all I need” (Genesis 33:11). Jacob learned an important lesson. Today’s message tells us what he learned:*

**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.**

*Say that with me.*

---

**Prayer and Praise**

**Fellowship**

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

**Suggested Songs**

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 126)

“Give Me Oil in My Lamp” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 132)

“God Bless Families” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 138)

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 140)

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 108)

**Mission**

Talk about things we must have to live (air, water, food, love), and then about the things God has given us beyond those necessities just to make us happy. Do we share those blessings with others? Share a story from *Children’s Mission*.

**Offering**

Emphasize that God blesses us so we can share with others. And the more we share and serve, the more He blesses us!

**Prayer**

Ask each child to help you pray by naming one blessing for which they want to thank God.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Jacob, Esau. The other children can be soldiers or Jacob’s family.

Setting the scene:
Choose two children to mime the parts. Remind the others to notice the greeting Jacob gives Esau and the gifts he offers him.

Read or tell the story.
Jacob was returning to his homeland as God had instructed him, but he was a little nervous. Jacob remembered how he had tricked Esau into selling him his birthright, and how he had tricked their father into giving him the special blessing. He believed that Esau was still very angry with him.

Jacob turned to God for help. Jacob remembered God’s past promises to be with him, and he reminded God of those promises. And God was with him. As he traveled, two hosts of heavenly angels, one before and one behind, traveled with him and his family.

Jacob sent messengers to take greetings to Esau. “This is what you are to say to my master Esau,” he directed. “Your servant Jacob says . . .” And they were to address Esau as “my lord Esau.” This would tell Esau that Jacob was not coming back to claim any inheritance or position.

But the messengers returned with the news that Esau was approaching with 400 men. Would Esau attack? Jacob wondered. What would happen to his wives and children? Again, Jacob turned to God and reminded Him of His promises.

Then Jacob sent word to Esau that he was coming home. He also sent many animals as gifts and a message: “Be sure to say, ‘Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.’” Jacob hoped that Esau would be willing to forgive him for the past.

That night Jacob sent his family and all his possessions across the Jabbok stream. But he stayed behind by himself, and there he wrestled with an angel. After a night of anguish, he begged for a blessing and received it. Then he was ready to meet his brother.

“While Jacob was wrestling with the Angel, another heavenly messenger was sent to Esau. In a dream, Esau beheld his brother . . . [surrounded] by the hosts of God. This dream was related by Esau to his soldiers, with the charge not to harm Jacob” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 198).

The next day as Jacob looked off in the distance, he saw Esau coming with his 400 men! It looked as if Esau was still angry! Quickly Jacob divided his family, putting the children with their mothers. Then he went to the front of the group. While he was still a long way from Esau, Jacob bowed low to the ground. Then he walked on toward his brother and bowed again. Jacob did this seven times.

But when Esau met Jacob, he ran to him and threw his arms around him! He hugged and kissed his brother, and they both began to cry! Jacob must have felt such relief! After a little while, Esau asked, “Who are all of these people with you?”

“This is the family God has given me!” Jacob told him. “Let me introduce them to you.”

After the introductions, Esau asked, “What about all the herds of animals that you sent before you; what does that mean?”

Jacob replied, “These are my presents to you, my brother. I want you to know...
that I need your mercy and forgiveness.”

“I already have plenty, Jacob. Keep what is yours,” Esau responded graciously.

But Jacob said, “No, please! Accept these gifts! It will show me that you have truly forgiven me! Please, take them! God has been good to me and I have all I need!”

Esau finally accepted the gifts. Then he said, “Let’s be on our way. I’ll travel with you!”

“Thank you, Esau!” Jacob replied. “But we really need to travel much slower than you do. We have so many children and young animals. You go on ahead of us, and we’ll follow.”

“Then let me leave some of my men with you,” Esau responded.

“There is no need, Esau,” Jacob answered. “God has shown me that He’ll protect us, just as He has protected me all these years.”

Finally, Esau was persuaded to go on ahead. Jacob, with his large family and flocks, followed slowly toward his father’s land. There in Shechem in the land of Canaan, Jacob purchased land and made his home.

Jacob was considerate of his family. Even though he was anxious to reach Canaan, he put the needs of others first. When we truly serve others, we will be considerate of their needs too.

Jacob knew that everything he had came from God. He could be generous because God had blessed him. In the same way, because of all that Jesus has given us, we can generously share what we have without expecting anything in return.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask:

What feelings do you think Jacob had about meeting Esau?

What feelings may Esau have had?

Why did Jacob call himself Esau’s servant? (He wanted Esau to know that he wasn’t trying to be his master.)

How did Esau greet Jacob? How did Jacob share God’s blessings with Esau?

How did Esau try to repay Jacob’s kindness?

That reminds me of today’s message. Let’s say it together:

**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.**

**Memory Verse**

Have the children do the actions and repeat the verse until they know it.

```
God Point upward.
has been gracious With palms facing inward, rotate hand in a circle.
to me and to self.
I have all I need. Right hand at waist level, with index finger pointing, “tap” downward from the wrist.
```

*Genesis 33:11* Palms together, then open.

www.gracelink.net/primary  LESSON FOUR  45
Bible Study
Say: Let’s find out how many animals Jacob gave to Esau as a gift. I need someone to write the numbers on the board while three people each read a verse from Genesis 32:13-15. Allow time.

Now let’s add them up (220 goats, 220 sheep, 30 + 30 camels; 40 cows + 10 bulls, 30 donkeys = 580 animals according to the New International Version).

That’s a lot of animals! And if those were gifts to Esau, how many more animals do you think Jacob had left? We don’t know, but he must have had a lot!

Now let’s look at Genesis 32:22-31. Assign verses and have adults assist as necessary. With whom did Jacob wrestle?

What new name did Jacob receive?
What did his new name mean? (overcomer) And that is how Jacob’s descendants came to be called Israelites.

Debriefing
Allow responses as you ask: Do you think Jacob had more than he needed?

Why did he share with his brother? (Esau was family; Jacob wanted to be kind; he was afraid Esau would hurt him.)

Why should we share with others?
Let’s say our message together:

WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Applying the Lesson

Knowing Your Blessings
Say: To share your blessings with someone, you first have to know how God has blessed you. Ask the children to think of something they are really good at and ask them to either act it out or draw it and share with the class (riding a bike, singing, drawing pictures, telling funny jokes, cooking, identifying birds, being friendly).

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask:

What is the difference between sharing your talents and sharing your things?

Why has God blessed you with talents? How is sharing our talents serving God?

How can your attitude (your outlook on life) be a blessing to others?

How can you share your talent this week with someone who needs encouragement or help?

Discuss each child’s blessing (gift from God) and how they can use it.

Ask: Is it easier or harder to share when we have been given more things and/or talents? (could be both)

Let’s remember our message this week:

WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

You Need:
• paper (optional)
• pencils (optional)

You Need:
• Bibles
• chalkboard or whiteboard
• chalk or marker
Sharing the Lesson

Blessings Box
Have the children each make a small “Blessings Box.” They can decorate the box by overlapping and gluing on 2” x 2” squares of colored tissue paper, by drawing a happy face or other cheerful design, or by gluing on uncooked macaroni shapes.

Have the children write the memory verse and some blessings they enjoy on strips of paper (or write some yourself and make copies for each child) to place inside the box.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: Do you know someone with whom you can share this Blessings Box?
Be sure to have them look inside the box and read the memory verse and blessings. Tell them about the blessings God has given you. Encourage them to share their blessings with others. Then try to share some of your blessings with others this week.

Let’s say our message together one last time:

WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Closing
Thank God for giving us the necessities of life, and so many other things as well. Ask Him to help us always to be thankful and to have a willing heart to share with others.

You Need:
• small boxes
• art supplies
• slips of paper
• marker

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LESSON FOUR  47
Home at Last

Henrique offered Andy half of his sandwich. Earlier that morning, Andy had laughed at the way Henrique had pronounced a certain word. Henrique’s feelings had been hurt but he wanted to show Andy that he forgave him and still wanted them to be friends. Sharing is a way to show someone how we feel about them. In the story today, Jacob shared with Esau.

Jacob was returning to his homeland. God had told him to. But he was a little nervous. Jacob remembered how he had tricked Esau into selling him his birthright. He remembered how he had tricked their father into giving him the special blessing that should have been Esau’s. Would Esau still be angry with him?

Jacob turned to God for help. And God sent angels to be with him.

Jacob sent messengers to greet Esau. “This is what you are to say to my master Esau,” he directed. “Your servant Jacob says . . .” and then he told them the rest of the message. He also told them that they were to call Esau “my lord Esau.” This would tell Esau that Jacob did not claim any inheritance.

But the messengers returned with frightening news. Esau was approaching with 400 men! Would Esau attack? Jacob wondered.

Again, Jacob turned to God.

Then Jacob sent Esau a message and many animals as gifts. He directed his messenger to say, “Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.”

That night Jacob sent his family and all his possessions across a stream called Jabbok. But he stayed behind by himself, and there he met God. All night he wrestled with an angel. Then he begged for a blessing and received it.

The next day Jacob saw Esau and his 400 men coming! Quickly Jacob divided his family. He put the children with their mothers. Then he went to the front of the group. While still a long way from Esau, Jacob bowed low to the ground. Then he walked on and bowed again. Jacob did this seven times, until they were very close.

But when Esau saw Jacob, he ran to him. He threw his arms around him! And they both began to cry! Jacob must have felt such relief!

After a little while Esau asked, “Who are all of these people with you?”

“This is the family God has given me!” Jacob told him.

After the introductions, Esau asked, “What about all that you sent before you? What does that mean?”

Jacob replied, “These are my presents to you, my brother. I want you to know that I need your mercy and forgiveness.” “I already have plenty, Jacob. Keep what is yours,” Esau responded graciously.

But Jacob said, “No, please! Accept these gifts! It will show me that you have truly forgiven me! God has been good to me and I have all I need!”

Esau finally accepted the gifts. Then he said, “Let’s be on our way. I’ll travel with you!”

“Thank you, Esau!” Jacob replied gratefully. “But we really need to travel much slower than you do. We have so many children and young animals.” “Then let me leave some of my men with you,” Esau responded.
"No, thank you," said Jacob. "I only want to please you, my master."

Esau left then and went on ahead. Jacob, with his large family and flocks, followed slowly. Finally they reached Shechem in the land of Canaan, Jacob’s homeland. There Jacob purchased land. After 20 years he would finally have a home, a place for his family and his flocks.

Even though he was anxious to reach Canaan, Jacob put his family’s needs first. When we truly serve others, we will be considerate of their needs too.

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### Daily Activities

#### Sabbath
- If possible, go for a long walk with your family. Imagine that you are traveling with Jacob. What would you see? What would you hear? How long would you walk each day of your journey? Find a quiet place and read the lesson story together.
- Teach your family the memory verse.
- Share the “Blessings Box” that you made in Sabbath School with someone. (Or write the memory verse and as many of your blessings as you can think of on paper and put it inside a decorated box.) Tell your family about some of the blessings that are on the paper in the box.

#### Sunday
- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 32:1-12. What did Jacob fear? What did he do about it? What do you fear? What can you do about it? Ask an adult to tell about a fear they had as a child. How did they overcome it?
- Find Psalm 91:11. Draw a picture that shows what it says. Show the picture to your family.
- Sing about God’s care, then thank Him.

#### Monday
- Read and discuss Genesis 32:13-21 with your family. Why did Jacob send gifts to his brother? How were Jacob’s servants to address Esau? How do you show respect for people you meet?
- If you wanted to give your brother or sister a gift, what would it be? Why would you give them something? Thank God for them today.

#### Tuesday
- Read and discuss Genesis 32:22-31. If possible, read about this in Patriarchs and Prophets, pages 196, 197 (chapter 18, paragraph 7). Who came to Jacob in the night? What new name did Jacob receive? What did it mean? What blessing did God give Jacob that night? (Hint: See Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 198.)
- List some blessings and talents God has given you. How can you share those with others? With your family, make a plan. Then do it.
- Thank God for His blessings and ask Him to help you share them.

#### Wednesday
- For family worship, read and discuss Genesis 33:1-11. How did Jacob and Esau greet each other? Why did Jacob’s family bow down before Esau? Did Esau forgive Jacob? How do you know?
- Think of a time you quarreled with someone in your family. What did you do to make things right? What did the other person do? With an adult, act out the way you would ask someone in your family for forgiveness. Ask God to help you.

#### Thursday
- During worship today, read and discuss Genesis 33:12-20. How did Esau treat Jacob? Why did Jacob have to travel slowly? Why didn’t Jacob need Esau’s protection?
- Imagine that your family is taking a long trip. Where would you like to go? What would you like to do there? Whose protection would you need as you travel?
- Sing some praise songs, then thank God for being with you wherever you go.

#### Friday
- For worship tonight, act out the meeting of Jacob and Esau. Who will be Jacob? Esau? Leah? Rachel? Have others make the animal sounds that were heard.
- Say the memory verse together. Then ask each person to tell how God has been gracious to them this week.
- Before prayer, sing some praise songs. Thank God for the blessing of the Sabbath.
Together Again

Monthly Theme
We learn Christian values.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Pharaoh hears about the arrival of Joseph’s brothers and joins Joseph in inviting the whole family to come to Egypt to live. The brothers return home with food, clothes, animals, and carts to carry them all back to Egypt. Seventy members of Joseph’s family come to live in the land of Goshen. Joseph meets his father and takes members of his family to meet Pharaoh. After Jacob dies, Joseph reassures his brothers that he will not hurt them. God had sent him on ahead to be able to take care of the whole family.

This is a lesson about service.
God made us to be part of a family. He wants us to serve in our home and church families by caring for others. He will help us find ways to do that.

Teacher Enrichment
‘Parents should awaken to the fact that the most important lesson for their children to learn is that they must act their part in bearing the burdens of the home. . . . Parents should teach their children to take a common-sense view of life, to realize that they are to be useful in the world. . . .
‘Help your children, parents, to do the will of God by being faithful in the performance of the duties which really belong to them as members of the family. . . . Patiently educate them to act their part in the family circle, to make a success of their efforts to share the burdens of father and mother and brothers and sisters. Thus they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are really useful’ (The Adventist Home, pp. 285, 286).

Room Decorations
For the bulletin board under a caption "Serve One Another," place pictures or felts of families helping each other. You may also place pictures of other people in our community who serve. For example, firefighters, doctors, police, repair persons, teachers, taxi drivers, etc. Include any or all who are applicable to your area. Set up a small section of the room to be Pharaoh’s throne room by decorating a large chair and placing some special fabric on the floor. You may also put a crown on the chair.
### Program Overview

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*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome
Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they’re pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Who Does What?
Beforehand, arrange a variety of objects such as a dust cloth, can of oil, dishwashing soap, small trash can, cooking pot, checkbook, etc., on a table. Number the objects on the table by writing the number (big enough to be seen easily) on a sheet of paper and placing it beside each object.

Distribute paper and pencils. Say: Look at each object. On your paper, write down the number of the object and who in your house uses that object.

Debriefing
When the children have finished, pick up each object and ask: Who in your home uses this object? (Allow responses.) Does everyone in your family help each other with chores? Why? Is it fair for one or two people to do all the work? How is working around the house helping your family? Let’s find and read Galatians 6:10. Read aloud together. God is happy when we serve our family. Today we’re going to learn that:

GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.

Say that with me.

B. Occupations Help
Beforehand, prepare cards with either a picture representing an occupation or the occupation written on the card (secretary, farmer, doctor, teacher, preacher, tailor, gardener, auto mechanic, etc.).

Give one card to each child and ask them to act out how they would help their home or church family if they held the job on their card. Have other students guess what the occupation is.

Debriefing
Ask: What occupation or job do you really want to have when you grow up? (Accept responses.) How would you be helpful to your family if you had that job? (Accept responses.) How can you be helpful to your family now? (Accept responses.) Let’s read Galatians 6:10. Read aloud together. God is happy when we serve our family. And that brings us to today’s message:

GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.

Say that with me.

You Need:
• variety of household objects
• paper
• pencil
• Bibles

You Need:
• occupation cards
• Bibles
Prayer and Praise

Fellowship
Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
‘Love at Home’ (Sing for Joy, no. 137)
‘God Bless Families’ (Sing for Joy, no. 138)
‘We Are the Church, Everyone’ (Sing for Joy, no. 143)
‘The Family of God’ (Sing for Joy, no. 139)

Mission
Share a story from Children’s Mission.

Offering
Say: God used Joseph to help meet the needs of many people. God can use your gifts to help care for your church family.

Prayer
Distribute paper and pencil to the class. Include visitors.
Have the children write or draw one way they can care for their home family, and one way they can care for their church family.
Make a prayer circle. Invite volunteers to pray that God will help them to do the things they wrote or drew. End the activity with prayer by an adult.

Any Time

You Need:
• offering device

You Need:
• paper
• pencils
Bible Lesson

Choose children to play Joseph, five of his brothers, Jacob, and Pharaoh. At the appropriate place in the story have them act out those roles.

Experiencing the Story

Introduce the story by writing the names of Joseph’s 11 brothers where all can see. Allow response time as you ask: How many of you have brothers or sisters? How many do you have? Joseph grew up in a family with 11 brothers. Joseph was second to the youngest and his father’s favorite. This caused the 10 older brothers to be jealous of and hate Joseph. One day they decided to sell him to slave traders going to Egypt. Joseph easily could have been very angry with his brothers, but let’s find out how Joseph treated his brothers years later. I’m going to read the Bible story. When I say “Joseph,” I want you to put your palms together, touching your chest with your thumbs, and nod your head.

Read or tell the story.

Soon after their reunion with Joseph (palms together, nod head), his brothers began the long trip home to Canaan. And what a grand trip it was! They had carts loaded with food. They had new clothes and money that Joseph (palms together, nod head) had given them. They had many donkeys loaded with presents for their father. Plus, they had Pharaoh’s special invitation to come and live in Egypt where they and their families would have food to eat during the rest of the famine.

When they got home, their father, Jacob, could not believe the news at first! His favorite son, Joseph (palms together, nod head), was alive! Joseph (palms together, nod head) was not dead, as he had believed all these years. “Are you sure?” he asked his sons over and over. “Are you sure Joseph (palms together, nod head) is alive? And you say he is the governor of Egypt? Tell me again! Tell me again!”

Finally Jacob and his family set out for Egypt. Jacob, and his daughter, and his sons’ wives, and his little grandchildren rode comfortably in the carts that Pharaoh had provided for them. His sons rode beside them on Pharaoh’s plump donkeys. It was a long journey, but they had plenty of food for the trip. Jacob’s heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son Joseph (palms together, nod head) once again!

In Joseph’s home, his (palms together, nod head) servants brought him the good news. “Your family is almost here,” they announced.

“Hurry! Get my chariot ready!” Joseph (palms together, nod head) ordered. He drove as fast as his horses could gallop to meet his father. When he got to where he was, Joseph ran to Jacob and hugged him, and cried for joy.

Soon after, Joseph (palms together, nod head) took five of his brothers to the palace to meet Pharaoh. (Have the children you’ve chosen come forward and act out the part of the five brothers, Joseph, and Pharaoh as you continue telling the story. Have them repeat the dialogue after you say it. Or you may wish to write out the parts ahead of time and have the children read them.) “What is your occupation?” Pharaoh asked them.

“We are shepherds,” the brothers answered. “Your brothers may live in Goshen,” Pharaoh told Joseph (palms together, nod head), “It is the best of my land. And I will also hire your brothers to take care of my cattle if they are able.”

Joseph (palms together, nod head) took his father to meet Pharaoh too. (Have “Joseph” get the child that you have chosen to play Jacob.) And Jacob, the great man of God, blessed Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt.

Seventeen years after he and his family had moved to Egypt, father Jacob died. He was 147 years old. His sons began to worry. Now that their father was dead, maybe Joseph

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(palms together, nod head) would finally get even with them for the terrible thing they had done. They decided to send Joseph (palms together, nod head) a message. “Before our father died, he said he wanted you to forgive us for the evil thing we did to you.”

“You meant to harm me,” Joseph (palms together, nod head) replied, “but God meant it for good. He made it possible for me to help all of you.”

You may never be an officer in your country’s government. Or you may never have to save your family from starvation. But you are part of a family. What can you do now to protect, help, and show love to the people you live with?

Debriefing
Ask: How would you feel toward your brothers if you were Joseph? (Accept responses.) How did Joseph feel when he saw his brothers again? (He was glad to see them, but wanted to find out if they had changed for the better; he was happy about the way God had brought good out of a bad situation; he loved them in spite of what they had done.) Why did he feel that way? (He let God control his feelings.)

How can God help you have loving feelings, thoughts, and actions for your family members? (Give my life to Jesus. Pray every day that He will control me and put His love in my heart.) Let’s remember:

GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.

Memory Verse
Beforehand, make two sets (piles) of containers. Write each word of the memory verse on separate slips of paper. Include the reference. Tape each word onto one of the flat sides of the containers in one set. Do the same for the other set of containers. Mix up the containers within each pile.

Read the memory verse aloud from the Bible. Have the children repeat the verse several times. Be sure they understand the words.

Divide the class into two teams. At your signal, each team is to go to one of the piles of containers and stack them so that the words of the memory verse are in order from bottom to top. Repeat the activity until the children can say the verse from memory.

Bible Study
Say: The Bible tells of two other brothers—Jacob (Joseph’s father) and Esau—who met after being apart for many years. When they parted, Esau was angry with Jacob for tricking him out of his birthright. So Jacob was afraid to see Esau because he thought Esau would want revenge. Let’s find out what happened when they met again. Help the children find Genesis 33:4-11. Allow volunteers to take turns reading the verses. Adults assist as needed.

Debriefing
Ask: How was Esau like Joseph? Read Genesis 50:15-21 together. (He forgave his brother even after his brother had done something mean to him. He tried to serve his brother by giving him company for his journey [Genesis 33:15]) How do you treat your brothers or sisters or friends after they’ve done something that upsets you? (Allow time for each child to think about his/her answer to this and the following questions.)

Have you ever thought about the fact that you will know your brother or sister all your life? How can we serve these people whom God has given us? Let’s say our message again:

GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.
Applying the Lesson

Scenario
Read the following scenario to the children:

Bradley isn’t always the nicest big brother. He loves to tease his two younger sisters. He isn’t very sorry when he does something to make them upset or angry. But one day the three children are playing with some neighbors their age. A neighbor intentionally pushes one of Bradley’s little sisters from behind, making her fall and scrape her knees.

Debriefing
Ask: What should Bradley do to care for his little sister? (help her up, clean her wounds, encourage her, etc.) What could he do to be a better brother? (not tease, be a better friend to them, etc.)

Have you ever thought that God gave you the ability to serve your family? (Accept responses.) What are some ways that you can serve them? Allow response time.

Give each child a small piece of fabric representing a towel or a washcloth. Ask: How can we use a towel to serve others? (clean face, clean hands or feet; clean an area in your house; dry dishes; help to wash the car; make a cool cloth for someone with a fever.) Look for ways to serve your family this week using a towel or look for any other way you can serve. God will help you.

Let’s say today’s message together.

GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.

You Need:
• washcloths or six-square-inch (15-square-centimeter) pieces of fabric to represent a washcloth (one for each child)
Sharing the Lesson

Caring for My Family

Ask the children to draw a picture of all the people (and pets) in their family (including themselves). Help them write above the picture, “I can serve my family.”

Below the picture, have them write the memory verse. Or if you prefer, write it on each paper before distributing the papers to the children.

Optional: If there is time, suggest that they draw another picture of their church family—at least a few of the members.

Debriefing

Say: Take this picture home and share it with your family. When you think of your family, how do you feel? Accept responses.

Tell me how you are going to serve your family this week. Accept responses. Let’s say our memory verse together again. Let’s say the message one more time:

GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.

Closing

Close with prayer, asking God to help the children know their family’s needs and their own abilities to help.

You Need:
• paper
• colored markers

NOTE: PLAN AHEAD FOR READINESS ACTIVITY B IN NEXT WEEK’S LESSON BY ASKING THE CHILDREN TO BRING A BABY PICTURE OF THEMSELVES TO CLASS NEXT WEEK.
Together Again

When his parents were sick, Ethan stepped up and took care of his little brother so his parents could rest awhile. Ethan served meals to his little brother and helped him clean up. Do you help to serve others in your family? Today’s story is about what Joseph did for his family.

After being away for many years, Father Jacob had returned to Canaan with his wives and 12 sons. Joseph was the second-youngest and his father’s favorite. Because of this, his older brothers hated him and decided to sell him to slave traders going to Egypt.

In Egypt, Joseph had remained faithful to God even when bad things had happened to him. Eventually, God had helped him to become the governor. When a famine came on all the land, Jacob sent his 10 sons to Egypt for food. Joseph was in charge of the food. Joseph’s brothers did not know who he was, but Joseph knew them, and finally he made himself known. He told them that he had forgiven them for selling him into slavery. He promised to take care of the entire family, and now the brothers were on their way back to Canaan with the good news.

And what a grand trip it was! They had carts loaded with food. They had new clothes and money that Joseph had given them. They had many donkeys loaded with presents for their father. And they had Pharaoh’s special invitation to come and live in Egypt. He had promised that their families would have food to eat during the rest of the famine.

When they got home, their father, Jacob, could not believe the news! His favorite son Joseph was alive! Joseph was not dead, as he had believed all those years. “Are you sure?” he asked his sons over and over. “Are you sure Joseph is alive? And you say he is the governor of Egypt? Tell me again! Tell me again!”

Finally Jacob and his family set out for Egypt. Jacob, his children, his in-laws, and his grandchildren—everybody went! Some rode comfortably in the carts that Pharaoh had provided for them. Jacob’s sons rode beside the carts on Pharaoh’s plump donkeys. It was a long journey, but they had plenty of food for the trip. Jacob’s heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son Joseph once again!

In Joseph’s home his servants brought him the good news. “Your family is almost here,” they announced.

“Hurry! Get my chariot ready!” Joseph ordered. He drove as fast as his horses could gallop to meet his father. When he got to where he was, Joseph ran to Jacob and hugged him. Together they cried for joy.

Soon after, Joseph took five of his brothers to the palace to meet Pharaoh. “What is your occupation?” Pharaoh asked them.

“We are shepherds,” the brothers answered.

“Your brothers may live in Goshen,” Pharaoh told Joseph. “It is the best of my land. And I will also hire your brothers to take care of my cattle, if they wish.”

Joseph took his father to meet Pharaoh too. And Jacob, the great man of God, blessed Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt.

After that, Jacob lived with his family in Egypt for 17 years, and then he died. He was 147 years old.

References
Genesis 45:16-47:12; 50:15-21; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 231-240

Memory Verse
“Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).

The Message
God helps me serve my family.

58 LESSON FIVE

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Joseph’s brothers began to worry. Now that their father was dead, what would Joseph do? Would he finally get even with them for the terrible thing they had done? They decided to send Joseph a message. “Before our father died, he said he wanted you to forgive us for the evil thing we did to you.”

“You meant to harm me,” Joseph replied. “But God meant it for good. He made it possible for me to help all of you.”

How has God made it possible for you to serve your family? You may never be an officer in your country’s government. You may never have to save your family from starvation. But you are part of a family. What can you do now to help and show love to the people you live with? What can you do to serve your church family also?

Daily Activities

Sabbath
• With your family, take a walk near a field of grain or grass. Think about how some creatures need grain or grass to live.
• Find a place to sit and read the Bible lesson story. Read Galatians 6:10 and tell what it means.
• Sing “A Happy Home” (Sing for Joy, no. 136). Then thank God for your family.

Sunday
• During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 45:16-28. Draw a picture of Joseph’s brothers showing their father the carts, donkeys, food, and other gifts.
• Why do you think Joseph gave his brother Benjamin more clothes than he gave his other brothers? Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to quarrel on the way? What kinds of gifts do you give your family?
• Write your memory verse on gift wrap paper. Cut out each word, mix them up, then put the verse in the right order.
• Thank God for the greatest gift of all—Jesus.

Monday
• Together with your family, read Genesis 46. Draw a picture of Joseph meeting his father. How do you think Jacob and Joseph felt when they saw each other again? How would you have felt?
• Look on a Bible map and find Canaan, Egypt, and Goshen. About how far did Joseph’s family travel to move to Egypt? If you could travel that far from home, where would you go?
• Pray for people who are traveling today.

Tuesday
• For family worship, read and discuss Genesis 47:1-12. Draw a picture of Joseph’s father meeting Pharoah. Have you ever met a government officer or anyone with a job in government or a member of the royal family?
• Write your memory verse on paper. Attach it to a cereal box or other food container you use often. (Don’t forget the reference.) Each time you see it this week, say the verse.

Wednesday
• During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 50:15-21. Why were Joseph’s brothers worried when their father died? Why do you think Joseph cried?
• What kind of grain did you eat today? Was it bread? cereal? Look at your memory verse food container and say the verse. Look in your food cupboard. How many things are made of grain or corn? Thank God for food.
• Think about how you really care for your family as you sing together “Love at Home” (Sing for Joy, no. 137).

Thursday
• With your family, read Genesis 47:1-12 again. How did Joseph serve his family?
• List the five most important things you would do to care for a pet. Now think how much more your family does for you. Thank them for it.

Friday
• Read Romans 12:13 together. If possible, plan to invite someone to Sabbath dinner tomorrow.
• Say your memory verse for your family, then have them say it with you. Sing happy family songs before prayer. Then thank God for a new Sabbath.
The Nighttime Visitor

**Monthly Theme**

God’s love is a gift; we don’t earn or buy it.

**The Bible Lesson at a Glance**

Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council, has seen Jesus cleanse the temple and heal people. He comes to Jesus late one night and acknowledges Jesus as one who has come from God. Jesus tells him plainly that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born again. This puzzles Nicodemus. Jesus explains that spiritual things are born of the Spirit, then points out what makes us want to listen to the Spirit—that God loves us all so much that He sent His only Son to die for us and to assure our eternal life.

**This is a lesson about grace.**

Apparently Nicodemus did not understand the spiritual rebirth process. Humanly speaking, new physical birth is impossible. But it is the work of the Holy Spirit to seek us, pursue us, blow like the wind wherever it pleases, lift up Jesus and share the message of God’s immense love, and give us a new spiritual birth with the promise of eternal life. That gift is ours—freely given by a loving God.

**Teacher Enrichment**

“Nicodemus held a high position of trust in the Jewish nation. He was highly educated, and possessed talents of no ordinary character, and he was an honored member of the national council. With others, he had been stirred by the teaching of Jesus. Though rich, learned, and honored, he had been strangely attracted by the humble Nazarene. The lessons that had fallen from the Savior’s lips had greatly impressed him, and he desired to learn more of these wonderful truths” (**The Desire of Ages**, p. 167).

“There are thousands today who need to learn the same truth that was taught to Nicodemus by the uplifted serpent. They depend on their obedience to the law of God to commend them to His favor. When they are bidden to look to Jesus, and believe that He saves them solely through His grace, they exclaim, ‘How can these things be?’” (**The Desire of Ages**, p. 175).

**Room Decorations**

Use outdoor scenery with trees, bushes, flowers, etc., like a garden.
# Program Overview

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<td></td>
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<td>B. Changing Babies</td>
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<td>4 Sharing the</td>
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<td>A. Butterfly</td>
<td>butterfly pattern (see p. 150), heavy paper, crayons or colored</td>
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<td>Lesson</td>
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<td>B. Changed Heart</td>
<td>markers, scissors</td>
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<td>black and white paper, scissors, stapler or tape, white and black</td>
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<td>crayons, heart pattern (see p. 150)</td>
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*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Butterfly Life Cycle
Study the life cycle of a butterfly from caterpillar to cocoon to butterfly. Bring in a book that shows the stages and, if possible, some mounted butterflies. Live caterpillars, chrysalises, cocoons, and butterflies would be helpful too.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: Wow—the change from a caterpillar to a butterfly is a big one, isn’t it? How can a caterpillar do that? (God gave it the power to become something completely different than it was before.) Can other things change as dramatically as a caterpillar? Can people change like that?

Today we’ll find that Nicodemus learned something we want to learn too. The Bible tells us what it is: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1). That means that God loves us so much that when we love Him in return, His love changes us to be like Jesus. That reminds me of today’s message:

GOD’S LOVE CHANGES US.
Say that with me.

B. Changing Babies
If you planned for children to bring their baby pictures, collect the pictures and lay them out without identifying each. Let the children look at them. Then hold up each picture while the children guess who it is. Once they’ve guessed, tell them who it is.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: What did your Sabbath School classmates look like when they were young? (Accept any answer, but don’t let them be unkind.) Who has a baby at home right now? What do you or others do for the baby? In our Bible story today, Jesus tells a man named Nicodemus something important, and God wants us to know it too. Our memory verse tells us what it is: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1). How can we become children of God? Today’s message tells us.

GOD’S LOVE CHANGES US.
Say that with me.
Prayer and Praise

Fellowship
Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
“More About Jesus” *Sing for Joy, no. 38*
“I’m So Happy” *Sing for Joy, no. 65*
“ Redeemed!” *Sing for Joy, no. 68*
“Into My Heart” *Sing for Joy, no. 125*
“You Must Open the Door” *Sing for Joy, no. 128*

Mission
Use a story from *Children’s Mission*. Emphasize someone in the story who changed because of Jesus.

Offering
Collect the offering each week this month in a gift box to tie in with the idea that grace is God’s gift to us. Express the idea that we can help share God’s gift of grace around the world by giving offerings.

You Need:
- gift box

Prayer
Say a short prayer, thanking God for His gift of love and grace to us.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Say: While I tell this story, I want you to copy any actions I make.
Include motions such as sneaking (looking around as if you don’t want to be seen), questioning, holding baby, shaking head for no, etc.

Read or tell the story.

Crickets chirped in the grass. Night birds sang. Quietly, Nicodemus walked toward the place where he had been told that he could find Jesus.

When he found Jesus, Nicodemus said, “Teacher, we know You came from God! Your miracles tell everybody that You are from Him!”

Jesus smiled in the darkness. He knew that Nicodemus really wanted to believe in Him. But Nicodemus was an important Pharisee, and he was having a hard time believing that Jesus could really be God’s Son. So Jesus looked steadily at him and said, “Nicodemus, miracles are not the most important thing! Unless you are born again, you will not see God’s kingdom.”

“Born again? What does that mean? How can I go back inside of my mother? I’m a grown man!” Nicodemus exclaimed.

“You’re right, my friend,” Jesus replied. “But I’m not talking about being born physically. I’m talking about being born spiritually. Truthfully, Nicodemus, unless you are reborn by God’s Holy Spirit, you can’t be part of God’s kingdom.”

“I’m not sure I understand,” Nicodemus said thoughtfully.

“Think about the wind for a moment,” Jesus replied. “You can’t see the wind itself, but you can see what happens when the wind blows. You can see the treetops sway and hear the rustling of the leaves. When the Holy Spirit comes into a person’s life, it’s like that. You can’t see the time when a person’s life is changed, but you see what happens in their life because their heart—their mind—is new and clean.”

It was quiet while Nicodemus thought about what Jesus was saying.

“Nicodemus, your physical life came from your parents, but a person’s spiritual life comes from the Holy Spirit,” Jesus continued. “When a person chooses to let God come into his or her life, God helps them change their ugly, sinful mind, and gives the person a brand-new one. That’s being born again.

“Nicodemus, I have good news for you! God loves the world so much that He sent His only Son here, so that whenever someone believes in Him, God can give them that brand-new life! And that new life means they are born again! They will have the gift of eternal life!”

Nicodemus learned something that night that everyone must learn. Jesus loves us so much! He is ready right now to take our ugly, sinful minds and lives and give us brand-new ones! Will you let Him give you that new, clean life today? Will you be God’s child? Will you be born again and take the present of eternal life that He wants to give you?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What did Jesus mean when He told Nicodemus that only those who have been born again will see the kingdom of God? (Only those people who allow God’s love to change them to be kind, loving, caring, forgiving, etc., will go to heaven when Jesus comes back for us.)

What is the difference between
being born as a baby and being born again in God’s sight? How are people born again? (People change inside, in their lives and minds.)

Whom does God send to help people change? (God sends His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to work on a person’s mind.)

How is the Holy Spirit like the wind? (We can feel it, but we can’t see it. We can see the results, the actions.)

How will a person who has been changed by the Holy Spirit act? (They will show love and kindness, they will be happy, joyful, etc.)

How much does God’s gift of salvation cost us?

Does God want to condemn the people in the world or save them? Remember:

GOD’S LOVE CHANGES US.

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse on the board. “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1).

Form three groups and have them stand in a triangle. Have them become a voice choir as follows:

Group 1: See what great love the Father has lavished on us,

Group 2: That we should be called children of God!

Group 3: And that is what we are!

All: 1 John 3:1

Change parts and repeat until all know each part.

Bible Study

Steps to Jesus

In advance, copy the steps listed below on paper for each child.

Distribute the papers and say: These are texts that give us steps to accepting Jesus as our Savior. Let’s study each one.

Large class, divide into groups of seven and have an adult lead the study in each group.

1. God sent Jesus to save me (John 3:17).
2. God loves me and wants me to be part of His family forever (1 John 4:9).
3. All people have sinned and fallen short of God’s perfect character (Romans 3:23).
4. Jesus never sinned, so He was the only one who could take the punishment for my sins (2 Corinthians 5:21).
5. God sent Jesus to be my Savior (1 John 4:14).
6. God makes me His child when I believe in Jesus and am sorry for my sins (John 1:12).
7. As God’s child, I receive the gift of everlasting life, and God is with me now and forever (John 3:16).

Be alert. You may have some students who have not yet accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. If possible, review the above steps with each student (or alert your pastor or the child’s parents), making sure the child understands and accepts each one. Help him or her to ask forgiveness for sins and to tell God they accept Jesus as their Savior and ask God to help them follow Jesus.

You Need:

• Bibles
• texts on paper for each child
Applying the Lesson

Scenarios
Ask the children to answer the question at the end of each scenario. (Add or use other scenarios that are more appropriate to your situation.)

1. Antoinette has cheated in the past, but she has accepted Jesus, and He has changed her life. She didn’t study for the spelling test today. She’s not sure how to spell the second word, and the student next to her has written the word where she can see it. What will Antoinette do?

2. Oliver doesn’t like it when his friend’s younger brother tags along with them. The little brother is annoying, and he wants to play soccer with the older boys. If Oliver has been changed by Jesus, what will he do?

3. Grant used to love to tease his sister, Claire. Claire made dinner tonight. She burned the vegetables, and the rice isn’t cooked enough. Grant is tempted to say something mean about her cooking. But he’s been changed by Jesus. What will he do?

4. Adria wants to go to her friend’s house. Adria knows her friend is home alone. Adria really wants to see her friend’s newly painted room. If Adria has been changed by Jesus, what will she say when her mom says she may go if her friend’s mother is home?

Debriefing
Allow responses as you ask: How does Jesus change us when we ask Him to?

Think of one thing that you would like to ask Jesus to help you change. Give students time to think.

Jesus wants to help you with tough decisions, to give you a new attitude, to help with problems that tempt you to sin. You can ask Jesus anytime and anywhere to make your heart (attitude) clean and pure. Your life can never be so dirty that He can’t get it clean.

And even though we don’t stay perfectly clean, when we sin we can always ask Him to clean our lives again.

Just keep on asking Jesus to help you to be more like Him. Remember, GOD’S LOVE CHANGES US.
Sharing the Lesson

A. Butterfly

Copy the butterfly pattern (see page 150) onto heavy paper. Have the children color the butterfly and cut it out. They should also cut out the memory verse square and glue it to the back of the butterfly. As they work, ask them to think of someone they want to share their butterfly with, someone to whom they can tell today’s story.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

With whom will you share your butterfly this week?

Tell them about Nicodemus talking to Jesus. You can also tell them that you love Jesus and want Him to change you just like butterflies change from caterpillars.

Let’s say our message together one more time:

GOD’S LOVE CHANGES US.

You Need:

• butterfly pattern (see p. 150)
• heavy paper
• crayons or colored markers
• scissors

B. Changed Heart

Ask the children to cut out two hearts the same size—one of black paper and one of white. (See page 150.) Have them cut the paper together to make the hearts the same size. Then have them use a white crayon to write “GOD’S LOVE” on the black heart, and use a black crayon to write “CHANGES US” on the white heart. Have them staple or tape the hearts together at the top so the black heart can be lifted up to see the white heart underneath it.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: With whom will you share your heart this week? Tell them about Nicodemus’ visit with Jesus and how Jesus can change hearts and lives from sinful to clean.

Let’s say our message together one more time:

GOD’S LOVE CHANGES US.

You Need:

• black and white paper
• scissors
• stapler or tape
• white and black crayons
• heart pattern (see p. 150)

Closing

Offer a prayer similar to the following: Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us! Give us new, clean hearts and minds. Thank You for a clean heart and for Your gift of eternal life. We love You, Jesus! Amen.
The Nighttime Visitor

When a mother says she’s going to “change the baby,” what does she mean? How is she going to change it? Into what? You know what she means. But what did Jesus mean when He said, “You must be born again”?

Crickets chirped in the grass. Night birds sang. Quietly Nicodemus walked toward the place where he had heard he could find Jesus. He didn’t want anyone else to see him talking to Jesus.

When he found Jesus, Nicodemus said, “Teacher, we know You came from God! Your miracles tell everybody so!”

Jesus may have smiled in the darkness. He knew that Nicodemus really wanted to believe in Him. But Nicodemus was an important Pharisee, a member of the Jewish council. He came to Jesus late at night because he didn’t want the other Pharisees to know.

Nicodemus knew that Jesus was a teacher sent from God. But he wasn’t sure that Jesus could really be God’s Son.

Jesus looked steadily at him. “Nicodemus,” He said, “miracles are not the most important thing! Unless you are born again, you will not see God’s kingdom.”

“Born again? What does that mean? I can’t go back inside of my mother!” Nicodemus exclaimed. “You’re right, my friend,” Jesus answered. “But I’m not talking about being born physically. I’m talking about being born spiritually. Truthfully, Nicodemus, unless you are reborn by God’s Holy Spirit, you can’t be part of God’s kingdom.”

“I don’t understand,” Nicodemus said thoughtfully.

“Think about the wind for a moment,” Jesus replied. “You can’t see the wind itself. But you can see what happens when the wind blows. You can see the treetops sway and hear the rustling of the leaves. When the Holy Spirit comes into a person’s life, it’s like that. You can’t see inside a person’s heart, their mind. But you see what happens in their life, because their life is new and clean. Their life is changed.”

It was quiet as Nicodemus thought about what Jesus was saying.

“Nicodemus, your physical life came from your parents,” Jesus continued. “But a person’s spiritual life comes from the Holy Spirit. When a person chooses to let God come into his or her life, God helps them change their sinful mind, and gives the person a brand-new one. That’s being born again.

“Nicodemus, I have good news for you! God loves the world so much that He sent His only Son here to save the world. When someone believes in Him, God can give them that brand-new life! And that new life means you are born again! And those born again will receive the gift of eternal life!”

Nicodemus learned something that night that everyone must learn. Jesus loves us so much! He is ready right now to take our sinful hearts and lives and give us new ones! Will you let Him give you that new, clean heart today? Will you be born again? Will you take the gift of eternal life that He wants to give you?

You might want to say something like this to Jesus: “Dear Jesus, thank You for

References
John 3:1-21; The Desire of Ages, pp. 167-177

Memory Verse
“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1).

The Message
God’s love changes us.

I’m a grown man!” Nicodemus exclaimed.

“I don’t understand,” Nicodemus said thoughtfully.

“Think about the wind for a moment,” Jesus replied. “You can’t see the wind itself. But you can see what happens when the wind blows. You can see the treetops sway and hear the rustling of the leaves. When the Holy Spirit comes into a person’s life, it’s like that. You can’t see inside a person’s heart, their mind. But you see what happens in their life, because their life is new and clean. Their life is changed.”

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You might want to say something like this to Jesus: “Dear Jesus, thank You for
Daily Activities

Sabbath
- If possible, go for a walk with your family to a windy place. While there, read your lesson story together. Ask everyone to close their eyes and listen to the wind. Then talk about what each person has heard and felt. How does this remind you of the Holy Spirit?
- Thank Jesus for the wind. Thank Him for the Holy Spirit too.
- Make three large hearts. Write a part of your memory verse on each. Mix them up and ask your family to put them in the right order. Ask: What does it mean to be a child of God?

Sunday
- Ask your family to go with you to a dark place. While there, read John 3:1, 2 together. Ask: Why did Nicodemus go to Jesus at night? How did he know Jesus was sent from God? How do you know that Jesus was sent from God?
- Share the butterfly or heart made in Sabbath School with someone. (Or draw a heart and write the memory verse on it.) Tell them about Nicodemus and his visit with Jesus. Talk about how God’s love changes people.

Monday
- With your family, read and discuss John 3:3, 4. What is the difference between being born as a baby and being born again? How would you answer Nicodemus’ question?
- Ask to see your baby pictures. Talk about how you are different from when you were a baby. Are you growing in Jesus too? How can that happen?
- Sing some praise songs, then thank Jesus for loving you. Is His love changing your life?

Tuesday
- For worship today, share John 3:5-9 with your family. How did Jesus explain the work of the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus? How do you know when it is windy? How do you know when the Holy Spirit comes into your life?
- Find out how caterpillars turn into butterflies. (Hint: Look in an encyclopedia, or with your parents’ permission, look on the Internet.) Draw a picture of the life cycle of a butterfly that lives in your country. How does that remind you of being born again?
- Thank Jesus for beautiful butterflies.

Wednesday
- For worship today, read and discuss John 3:10-15 together. Then read Numbers 21:4-9 to learn more about Moses and the snake. How is Moses’ experience with the snake like Jesus’ experience years later? Did the snake save those who looked at it? When and how was Jesus “lifted up”? (Read Mark 15:32.) Who was saved then?
- Look at a picture of a human heart. Is it really “heart” shaped? Does Jesus really “change” your heart? What does He change when people accept Him into their life? (Read Philippians 2:5.)

Thursday
- Read and discuss John 3:16, 17 with your family today. Ask your family to close their eyes and say these verses together. What gift has God given to the world? Why?
- Make and give someone a present (it can be small) just because you love them. How does it make you feel? How do you think God feels about His gift of Jesus to the world? How do you feel about it?
- Say your memory verse together, then thank God for giving us Jesus.

Friday
- For worship tonight, find out what happened to Nicodemus after that nighttime visit. Read together The Desire of Ages, pages 176, 177 (the last four paragraphs of chapter 17). What do you think Nicodemus remembered about his secret meeting with Jesus?
- Ask family members when and why they chose to accept Jesus’ love. Were they baptized? What was their life like before knowing Jesus? after? Do you want to be baptized too?
- Sing about Jesus and how His love changes people. Praise Him for His love that changes lives.
References
Matthew 14:22-32; Mark 6:45-51; John 6:16-21; The Desire of Ages, pp. 377-382

Memory Verse
“What is impossible with man is possible with God” (Luke 18:27).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that Jesus can do what it is impossible for us to do for ourselves.
Feel rescued from sin by Jesus.
Respond by trusting that Jesus has the power to save us.

The Message
By keeping our eyes on Jesus, we are saved.

Walking on Water

Monthly Theme
God’s love is a gift; we don’t earn or buy it.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
After feeding the 5,000, Jesus sends His disciples across the lake ahead of Him while He dismisses the crowd. Into the evening the disciples struggle to make headway against strong winds and heavy waves. Jesus walks out to them on the surface of the lake, which frightens the disciples. He reassures them. Peter says, “If it’s you, . . . tell me to come to you” (Matthew 14:28). Jesus says, “Come,” and Peter gets out of the boat to walk to Jesus. But he soon becomes afraid and begins to sink. Jesus reaches down and saves him.

This is a lesson about grace.
Here is an essential lesson of grace: It is impossible for humans to accomplish their own salvation. The wind, the waves, the very nature of gravity-bound humanity, all work against the possibility of saving ourselves. But Jesus reaches us through the very elements that make being saved seem impossible, and accomplishes our salvation. Our part is to admit that we are drowning without Him and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Teacher Enrichment
Peter’s “eagerness, earnestness, courage, vigor, and organizing ability apparently earned him a place of leadership among the disciples from the very beginning. He was preeminently a man of action, and his enthusiastic disposition was his outstanding character trait. He was also a man of pronounced extremes, possessing marked virtues and serious defects—seemingly contradictory traits of character that existed side by side. He was usually warm-hearted, generous, bold, and daring, but again he might be selfish, boastful, impulsive, or reckless. In a moment of crisis he might prove to be weak, cowardly, and vacillating, and no one could ever be sure which side of his character and personality would prevail” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 8, p. 868.)

Fully converted after Jesus’ resurrection, Peter became one of the pillars of the early Christian church, working mostly for his fellow Jews. Tradition says that he was crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to die in the manner of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark, written by John Mark, whom Peter refers to as “my son,” records Peter’s eyewitness account of Jesus’ life. (See The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 8, pp. 869, 870).

“When trouble comes upon us, how often we are like Peter!
We look upon the waves, instead of keeping our eyes fixed upon the Savior. Our footsteps slide, and the proud waters go over our souls. Jesus did not bid Peter come to Him that he should perish; He does not call us to follow Him, and then forsake us” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 382).

**Room Decorations**
See Lesson 5. Add to the floor a blue sheet in a corner as water and an outline shape of a boat made with masking tape.

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*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1 Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Lakes and Seas
Have the children look at a map or globe. Ask them where different lakes or oceans are and see who can find them first. Have them find the Sea of Galilee. Then tell them these facts about it:

It is a fresh water lake, fed and drained by the Jordan River. It is 12 miles long and seven miles wide. It lies about 685 feet below the level of the Mediterranean Sea, and is 130 to 148 feet deep. The low altitude of this lake is responsible for its semitropical climate. It is surrounded by high hills, and is subject to sudden and extremely violent storms. (Summarized from The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 8, p. 401.)

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: Have you ever been swimming in a lake? in a sea or ocean? Which ones? What would happen if you went into the water without knowing how to swim? Today our Bible story is about Peter and the Sea of Galilee. Jesus did something that is impossible for us to do, and Peter had to learn to trust Jesus or drown. The memory verse is “What is impossible with man is possible with God” (Luke 18:27). The message is:

BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, WE ARE SAVED.

Say that with me.

B. Obstacle Course
Arrange chairs around the room as an obstacle course. Divide the children into pairs. Have one of each pair put on a blindfold. Have the other child lead the blindfolded child around the room, with the blindfolded child holding on to the seeing child’s arm. Instruct the seeing child to reassure the blindfolded child all the time they are walking that they will be OK because the seeing child is going to take care of them. Some of the phrases to use are “Don’t worry.” “Everything’s fine.” “We’re coming up to an obstacle, but I’ll get you around it.”

Call time and switch the blindfolds. This time the seeing partner will say things like “Oh, no, we’re going to hit that chair”; “I don’t think I’m going to be able to get you around the room without you falling; etc.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: When you were blindfolded, were you afraid
you were going to get hurt? Why? What made the difference? When your partner said they were going to take care of you, did you believe it? When your partner sounded scared and unsure, did you believe that?

When we believe our partner is going to take care of us, we have trust in them. Have you ever known someone you couldn’t trust? How did that feel? Who are some people you can trust? Who can everyone trust no matter what happens?

Today our Bible story is about Peter learning to trust Jesus. We have to do that too. The memory verse is “What is impossible with man is possible with God” (Luke 18:27). The message is:

BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, WE ARE SAVED.

Say that with me.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Jesus, 12 disciples

Have an adult dress in a Bible-times costume to act as Jesus. Select children to be Peter, John, and Andrew (other children can be the other disciples), and help them dress in Bible-times costumes.

Have the children listen carefully and act out the disciples’ trip across the Sea of Galilee. Wave the piece of blue fabric (see Room Decorations) between the “boat” and the person playing Jesus.

Read or tell the story.

Say: The disciples are sailing on the Sea of Galilee in a boat after a day with Jesus. Let’s imagine what their conversation might have been like.

“I still can’t believe what happened today!” Peter shook his head, remembering how Jesus had fed the huge crowd with just a few loaves and some fish.

“Neither can I,” John added.

The disciples kept talking as the boat quietly sailed along. They spoke of the miracles of the day, and how they wished Jesus would let the people crown Him king. At the end of the day, Jesus had sent the disciples on ahead in the boat. Then He had sent the people home, and had gone to find a quiet place to pray.

Out on the lake, dark clouds began to gather. The wind whipped angry waves against the fishing boat. Before long, all talk was swallowed up in the noise of the storm. The experienced fishermen strained at the oars, but the storm was stronger than they were.

Looking across the water, the disciples saw someone coming toward them, walking on top of the water!

The disciples were scared to see a person coming toward them walking over the waves as if they were on solid ground!

“Don’t be afraid!” a familiar voice called, “It is I, Jesus!”

The disciples were so shocked that no one spoke for a moment. Then Peter called out, “If it’s really You, Lord, let me walk on the water to You!”

“Come!” Jesus beckoned toward His eager and sometimes-reckless disciple. He smiled encouragement as Peter swung his leg over the side of the boat.

Looking at Jesus, Peter began walking along on top of the water. He had gone several steps when he turned his eyes away from Jesus to look back at the disciples in the boat. Hey! Look at me! Can you believe it? he probably have thought.* When Peter turned back toward Jesus, a huge wave came between them. Instantly Peter’s courage was gone.

“Jesus!” he yelled, “Save me!” As Peter began to sink, the strong arm of Jesus reached out and grasped his outstretched hand.

“Why did you lose your faith, Peter?” asked Jesus. “You need only to keep your eyes on Me.” He put His arm around the now-quiet disciple, and they climbed into the boat. The wind calmed, the waves relaxed, and the little fishing boat sailed to the other side of the lake.

Today, Jesus says to us, “Just keep your eyes on Me! I’m here to rescue you! You can’t do it by yourself, but don’t worry: I can save you! Just keep trusting Me.”

*See The Desire of Ages, p. 381 (chapter 40, paragraph 16).
Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus? How about when they watched Peter go down in the water? What do you think Peter was thinking about when he started to sink?

Why do you think Peter wanted to walk on the water? Would you? Why didn’t Peter keep his eyes on Jesus?

Jesus rescued Peter even though Peter got into trouble all on his own. Why did Jesus do that? What did Jesus mean when He told Peter, ‘Keep your eyes on Me’? How can we keep our eyes on Jesus? (See Applying the Lesson.)

Do you remember our message? Let’s say it together:

**BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, WE ARE SAVED.**

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse on the board. “What is impossible with man is possible with God” (Luke 18:27).

Have the children sit in a circle. Have one person start the memory verse by saying the first word, then toss the beanbag or paper ball to another person. That person says the next word as they toss the beanbag or ball to someone else. Continue until the verse has been repeated at least three times. Then ask for volunteers to say the verse. Repeat as necessary until all know the verse.

Bible Study

Say: Let’s read about another terrible storm on the Sea of Galilee in Matthew 8:23-27.

Adults assist as needed. Ask for volunteers to read one verse each. Explain that this storm took place earlier in Jesus’ ministry.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Why were the disciples afraid? How do you think Jesus could have slept through such a storm? (He had complete faith in His Father to save Him; He had complete peace of mind.)

What did Jesus say to calm the storm?

What did the disciples say then? Had they been keeping their eyes on Jesus or on the storm?

How can we keep our eyes upon Jesus? Let’s say our message again:

**BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, WE ARE SAVED.**
Applying the Lesson

Seeing Jesus

Say: In our lesson today we have talked about keeping our eyes on Jesus. How do we do that? Let’s think of at least three ways, three things we can do, that will help us keep our eyes on Jesus.

Hold up your Bible and ask: How can this help us to keep our eyes on Jesus? (Read and study it every day; look for God’s messages to us as we read it; talk with others about what we read. The Bible helps us know what Jesus wants us to do, how He wants us to live each day.)

Ask: What is another way that we can keep our eyes on Jesus? (observing and learning from other people) Who are some people who will help us keep our eyes on Jesus? (Christian parents, pastor, teachers, Christian friends, friends) How do they help us? (their examples or the way they act)

Fold your hands as if ready to pray and ask: How does prayer help us to keep our eyes on Jesus? (Prayer helps us think about Jesus. We can tell Him when we need His help to keep from doing wrong, or from doing things that keep us from thinking about Him and how He wants us to live. And sometimes we can hear God speaking to us when we pray.)

Debriefing

Ask: Did you know there were so many ways to help us keep our eyes on Jesus? What do we really mean when we say we want to keep our eyes on Jesus? (We want to be more like Him; we want to give our lives to Him, to do what He wants us to do; we want to know what He wants us to do; we want to know how to serve Him and the people around us, etc.)

Which of the three ways we just talked about is easiest for you? Which is hardest? Which do you do every day?

Why is it important to keep our eyes on Jesus? (So we will be God’s children; so we can help others know Him; so we will be ready when He comes; so we can live with Him forever.) Remember our message? Let’s say it together:

BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, WE ARE SAVED.
Sharing the Lesson

String Reminder
Give students two lengths of yarn or string. Help each tie a string around a finger. Say: Have you ever heard of someone tying a string around their finger to help them remember something? This string is going to help you remember to keep your eyes on Jesus and also remember to tell someone about our lesson today.

Say: When someone asks you about the string around your finger, tell them it is to help you remember to keep your eyes on Jesus. Tie your extra string around their finger as you tell them about Peter walking on water to meet Jesus. Tell them: This string will help you remember that by keeping our eyes on Jesus, we can be saved.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask:
What if no one asks about your string? Can you find someone to share your other piece of string with? What are you going to tell them?
Remember, our message is:

BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, WE ARE SAVED.

Let’s say that together again.

Closing
In a brief prayer, ask God to help the children remember to keep their eyes on Jesus. Thank God for doing for us what is impossible for us to do—save ourselves.

You Need:
• yarn or string
• scissors
Walking on Water

Do you know how to swim? Can you stay on top of the water? A long time ago Jesus and Peter were both on top of the water, but they weren’t swimming! Let’s read on to find out what happened.

The disciples were in a boat together sailing along the sea of Galilee. They had spent the day with Jesus and had seen him do something amazing. He had taken five loaves and two fish and used it to feed more than 5,000 people! How they wished Jesus would let the people crown Him king! But at the end of the day, Jesus had sent the people home and to the disciples said, “Go ahead. Go across the lake in the boat.” Then Jesus had gone to a quiet place to pray.

Out on the lake, dark clouds began to gather. The wind whipped angry waves against the fishing boat. The experienced fishermen strained at the oars. They pulled harder and harder, but the storm was very strong.

The storm continued raging through the night. The wind pushed the waves higher and higher. By now the disciples were a considerable distance from the shore. Shortly before morning, but while it was still dark, Jesus saw them way out on the lake and decided to go to them.

Suddenly the disciples saw someone coming across the water toward them. They cried out in fear. “It’s a ghost!” they shouted. It frightened them to see a person coming toward them walking over the waves as if they were on solid ground!

“Don’t be afraid!” a familiar voice called. “It is I, Jesus!”

Then Peter called out, “If it’s really You, Lord, tell me to come to You on the water!”

“Come!” Jesus beckoned toward His eager and sometimes-reckless disciple.

Looking at Jesus, Peter climbed out of the boat and began walking along on top of the water. He took several steps. Then he turned his eyes away from Jesus and looked back at the disciples. He may have been thinking, Hey! Look at me! Can you believe it?

As he started to turn back toward Jesus, he saw the huge waves. He felt the strong winds. He became afraid, and he started to sink. Instantly Peter’s courage was gone. “Lord!” he shouted, “Save me!”

Even as Peter began to sink, the strong arm of Jesus reached out to him. Jesus grasped hold of his outstretched hand and lifted him up.

“’You of little faith,’” Jesus said, “’Why did you doubt?’” Jesus meant that Peter needed only to keep his eyes on Him. Peter needed to keep believing that Jesus had the power to save him. Jesus put His arm around Peter, and they climbed into the boat. Once Jesus was in the boat, the wind calmed and the waves relaxed. And the little fishing boat sailed quietly to the other side of the lake.

Today Jesus says to us, “Just keep your eyes on Me! I’m here to rescue you! You can’t do it by yourself, but don’t worry. I can save you! Just keep trusting Me.”

References Matthew 14:22-32; Mark 6:45-51; John 6:16-21; The Desire of Ages, pp. 377-382

Memory Verse “What is impossible with man is possible with God” (Luke 18:27).

The Message By keeping our eyes on Jesus, we are saved.

Their eyes on Jesus...
Daily Activities

Sabbath
• If possible, go with your family to a place where you can see boats in the water. Find a quiet place and share your lesson story. Ask: Why did Jesus walk on water? Why should we keep our eyes on Jesus?
• Tell someone about the string on your finger. Tie your extra string around their finger. Then tell them why Peter needed to keep his eyes on Jesus. Say: Let this string remind you that Jesus can save you, too.
• Thank Jesus for being willing to save you.

Sunday
• Read Mark 6:45-51 during family worship. What is different about this record of the Bible lesson? Who needed to trust Jesus? What happened when Jesus got into the boat?
• Make a simple eye chart like one in a doctor’s office. Take turns standing a good distance away, covering one eye at a time, and reading the letters. Do you need good eyesight to keep your eyes on Jesus? What does that really mean?
• Sing some praise songs, then thank Jesus for your eyes.

Monday
• Ask an adult about a time they (or someone they know) were in a boat in a storm. What happened?
• Find the Sea of Galilee on a Bible map. Is it bigger or smaller than the lake nearest your home?
• Make a picture of a sailboat. On the sails, write the memory verse. Use this to teach the verse to your family. Thank God for His protection.

Tuesday
• With your family, read the third record of our Bible story in John 6:16-21. How is this different from Matthew 14:22-32? Ask: Why does the Bible record this story three times? What lessons do these three texts teach us?
• Have a family member look at something on the other side of the room. Ask them to walk straight to it without taking their eyes from it. Wave your arms as they walk. What happens? What might stop you from keeping your eyes on Jesus? What will help you? Ask Jesus to help you keep your eyes on Him.

Wednesday
• For worship, set up an obstacle course for your family. Blindfold them one at a time and lead them through it. Do they trust you? Read the following texts together: Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 37:3-5; Psalm 62:8; Proverbs 3:5. Talk about why trust is so important. Whom do you trust to guide you?
• Sing songs about trusting God; then thank Him that you can do so.

Thursday
• For worship with your family, read Psalm 91 together. What does God promise us? Ask an adult to tell about a time they couldn’t do something for themselves. Whom did they ask for help? How does God feel about helping us?
• Name five things that are impossible for you to do, but not for God. Ask your family to help you write a letter to Jesus. Have each person add a sentence to thank Him for doing something they cannot do.
• Who can save us? Thank Jesus for that.

Friday
• If possible, read together The Desire of Ages, pages 380-382 (chapter 40, paragraphs 10-17 and 22). Then act out the story with your family.
• Play “God’s Power Helps Me.” The first person says, “God’s power helps me [choose something God helps you do, such as be unselfish].” The next person says, “God’s power helps me to be unselfish and do my chores well.” The next person says, “God’s power helps me to be unselfish, and do my chores well, and to be rescued like Peter.” See how many times you can go around the circle and repeat all that has been said.
• Sing songs about God’s power; then thank Him for it.
From Sorrow to Joy

Monthly Theme
God’s love is a gift; we don’t earn or buy it.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
As they approach the small town of Nain, Jesus and His disciples encounter a funeral procession for the only son of a widow who lives in the town. Jesus feels compassion for the woman and tells her not to cry. He then goes to the coffin, touches it, and tells the lifeless young man to get up. Immediately the boy hears, sits up, and begins to talk. Jesus then gives the young man to his mother, and there is a joyous reunion. Those who see it are “filled with awe” and call Jesus a prophet sent from God to help His people. This is the first recorded incident of resurrection during Jesus’ time on earth.

This is a lesson about grace.
The widow did not ask for Jesus’ help. He was filled with compassion and freely, without reservation or claim, acted to restore the son, who was the only source of support the widow had. The good news is that Jesus “has come to help His people,” and we are filled with awe and praise for this manifestation of His power.

Teacher Enrichment
Jewish people hired mourners to wail when someone died. They also hired flute players. A person in mourning tore his or her clothes. There were 39 rules to tell how mourners were to tear their clothes! The widow’s son was probably in a long wicker basket such as those used in New Testament times to carry the dead to the burial site. A son was important to women, especially to widows, since it was the son’s responsibility to care for his mother. This is the first time Jesus raises someone from the dead. (Sources: The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 757; The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 8, p. 767.)

“The touch of Jesus on the coffin was a signal to the pallbearers to halt. According to the law of Moses, contact with the dead in any way, such as even touching the bier, brought ceremonial defilement for seven days. . . . But to Jesus, who knew neither sin nor defilement, and who was the Source of life, there could be no defilement from contact with death” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 757).

“It was a sight to awaken sympathy. The deceased was the only son of his mother, and she a widow. The lonely mourner was following to the grave her sole earthly support and comfort.
‘When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her.’ As she moved on blindly, weeping, noting not His presence, He came close beside her, and gently said, ‘Weep not.’ Jesus was about to change her grief to joy, yet He could not forbear this expression of tender sympathy” ([The Desire of Ages], p. 318).

**Room Decorations**
See Lesson 6.

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### Program Overview

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<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readiness Options</strong></td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>A. Body Fuel B. God’s Love</td>
<td>paper, pencils none</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prayer and Praise</strong></td>
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<td>Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Lesson</strong></td>
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<td>Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study</td>
<td>large basket or box none Bibles</td>
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<td><strong>Applying the Lesson</strong></td>
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<td>Tombstone</td>
<td>gray or white paper, tombstone pattern (see p. 151), gray crayons (optional), scissors, memory verse where all can see</td>
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*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what
they are pleased/troubled about. Ask them to follow the directions on the
board (if there are any), or get ready to participate in the readiness activity
you have selected.

1. Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Body Fuel
Ask the children to draw a lamp or a car and think about what will give it power.

Debriefing
Have the children share their drawings with the class. Allow response time as you
ask: What would you need to make a lamp or car work? That’s right, power.
What powers a lamp or car? (electricity, kerosene, butane gas, gasoline, etc.) What
happens when the fuel is gone? How is God’s power like electricity or gasoline?
We are just like an unplugged lamp or a car out of gas without God’s power.

Today’s story is about a young man whose body ran out of “fuel.” He died,
but Jesus’ love and power brought joy to his mother. Our memory verse is “I will
turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of
sorrow” (Jeremiah 31:13). Today’s message is:

JESUS GIVES HIS LOVE AND GRACE FREELY.

Say that with me.

B. God’s Love
Write this sentence where it can be seen by everyone: “I show compassion
when I ______.” Say: Does anyone know what compassion means? That’s right.
Compassion is feeling sorry for someone and wanting to help someone who is
suffering in some way. So how do you show compassion? Think about that as
you form groups of two. Then finish this sentence: “I show compassion when I
______.” Tell each other your ending to the sentence. When we are done work-
ing in pairs, we will share our answers with the class.

Debriefing
You did a really good job finishing that sentence! So how do you show com-
passion? (Allow time for responses.)

In our story today we’ll see how Jesus was filled with compassion and
love when He saw a funeral procession. Our memory verse is “I will turn their
mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow”
(Jeremiah 31:13). Today’s message is:

JESUS GIVES HIS LOVE AND GRACE FREELY.

Say that with me.

You Need:
• paper
• pencils
Prayer and Praise  Any Time

Fellowship
Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
“Amigos de Cristo” (Sing For Joy, no. 69)
“More About Jesus” (Sing for Joy, no. 38)
“Wonderful, Wonderful” (Sing for Joy, no. 39)
“He’s Able” (Sing for Joy, no. 40)
“O, How I Love Jesus” (Sing for Joy, no. 114)

Mission
Share a story from Children’s Mission.

Offering
Continue collecting the offering in a gift box.

Prayer
Thank God for His gift to us—Jesus—and for Jesus’ love so freely given to us. Thank Him that we can tell others of His love.

You Need:
• gift box
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Characters: several “pallbearers”

Have several children acting as pallbearers carry a large, long basket to the front of the room.

Say: Every time in the story I say something sad, I want you to wipe your eyes as if you are crying. Then every time I say something happy in the story, I want you to wave your hands in the air.

Read or tell the story.

Walking along the dusty road, Jesus and His friends talked and laughed together. Nain lay before them, and the road was rough and rocky in places as it led to the little mountain village. Along the way, Jesus had been telling the people the good news of God’s love for them. And He had been healing the sick that were brought His way.

Nearing Nain, the happy group stopped, silenced by a sad sight leaving the city gate. As the procession came closer, Jesus and His friends were told that a widow woman had lost her only son. Jesus looked at the heartbroken mother. He knew that she was so sad that her son had died. He also knew that since her husband was dead, her son had been the only one who would take care of his mother. But now she would probably be left penniless and homeless.

Walking over to her, Jesus gently said, “Don’t cry.” Then He turned toward the open coffin holding her son. The men carrying the coffin stopped when Jesus put His hand on it. Everyone waited expectantly to see what Jesus would do.

Looking at the still body, Jesus said, “Young man, I tell you, get up!” The strong voice of Jesus silenced the crying crowd. And suddenly the widow’s son sat up and began to talk!

“Here is your son!” Jesus said to the amazed mother. The woman and her son hugged each other tightly, while the sad tears of a few minutes earlier were changed to tears of joy!

Those who saw what happened were amazed and began to praise God. And the news of Jesus breaking up a funeral traveled far and wide! People had never heard of such a thing. But those who were there saw it happen and were quick to tell others.

This was the first time that Jesus while on earth brought a dead person back to life. Jesus has the same kind of love for us that He showed to the widow and her son. She didn’t ask for help from Jesus. Jesus saw her tears and her hurting heart. His love for her and concern for her suffering caused Him to perform a miracle of life. Jesus turned her sorrow into joy.

Jesus can turn our sorrow into joy too. He loves every one of us and wants us to be happy. And He will turn many sorrows into joy when He comes again. At that time He will bring many from the grave who gave their hearts to Him before they died. What a day of joy that will be! Mothers, fathers, boys, and girls will be together again to live with Jesus forever!

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: In our story today, did the widow ask
Jesus for help? Why did Jesus help her? Allow response time. That's right, because He loves to help people and to give them gifts.

Why does Jesus help us? (Because He loves us and wants us to have happy lives.)

Have any of you ever seen someone brought back to life?

When will we see Jesus’ power bring people back to life? Why will He do that? Remember our message . . .

JESUS GIVES HIS LOVE AND GRACE FREELY.

Memory Verse
Repeat the memory verse several times using the following actions.

I will turn Point upward.

their mourning Make sad face and rub eyes as if crying.

into gladness; Smile.

I will Point upward.

give them Point to others.

comfort Wrap arms around self as if hugging.

and joy Reach above head and smile.

instead of sorrow. Make sad face and rub eyes as if crying.

Jeremiah 31:13 Palms together, then open.

Bible Study
Say: The Bible tells about other times when Jesus restored someone to life. Let’s find out about two of these times. As you read the two texts think about what happened. How did Jesus turn sorrow into joy? Be ready to tell about it.

Ask for volunteers to read the texts below. Have adults assist as needed.

Matthew 9:18, 19, 23-25 (the ruler’s daughter)
John 11:38-44 (Lazarus)

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask:

Who was raised to life?

How do you think their families felt?

Who only has the power to bring life back? I’m so glad that He is all powerful, aren’t you?

When will Jesus bring people back to life again? (When He comes again, He will resurrect those who have died believing in Him.) Will sorrows be turned into joy then?

Jesus gives us His love today just as He gave it to people in Bible times. He wants to save us and turn our sorrows into joy.

Let’s say our message again:

JESUS GIVES HIS LOVE AND GRACE FREELY.
Applying the Lesson

Scenarios
Say: Please answer the questions as I read each scenario. Use the following scenarios or others more appropriate to your situation.

1. Chrissie’s parents are getting a divorce. You see her in school and know that she is sad. What can you do to help Chrissie’s sorrow? What can God do?

2. Garrett’s dad lost his job. He’s looking for another one, but jobs are hard to find. Meanwhile, the family has to be careful with money so Garrett can’t join you on a trip to the fair. What can you do to help Garrett’s sorrow? What can God do?

3. Todd’s grandfather died a few days ago. Todd is in Sabbath School today. What can you do to help Todd’s sorrow? What can God do?

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: Did Jesus feel the widow’s pain? (yes)
Do you feel others’ pain when they are hurting or sad or lonely? Is it easy or hard to do that?

How can you help bring joy to others’ sorrow? When you do that, you are showing empathy. Empathy means knowing how someone else feels.

Jesus has empathy for us. Because He loves us, He cares when we are sad. He wants to turn our sorrows into joy.

Let’s say our message together again:

JESUS GIVES HIS LOVE AND GRACE FREELY.
Sharing the Lesson

Tombstone

Use the tombstone pattern (see page 151) to make a copy for each child on gray paper, or on white paper and have them color it gray.

Say: **Let's make a tombstone to remind us of this lesson about the widow of Nain's son! What do you think our tombstones should say?** (Raised from the dead by Jesus; waiting to see Him again, etc.)

Write the memory verse where all may see and have the children copy the verse on the back of the tombstone, then color the letters on the front and cut out the tombstone.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
**What does the tombstone say on the front?** (God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense)
**What does that mean?** (That God gives us many blessings; God gives eternal life because Jesus died for us; Jesus paid the price for our sins; God’s grace gives us what we don’t deserve; Jesus’ expense was dying on the cross so we wouldn’t have to, etc.)

Because of God’s great love for us, He wants to bring us joy instead of sorrow, just as Jesus did for the widow of Nain.

God’s grace means we don’t deserve it, we can’t earn it or buy it, but God gives it free to everyone who loves and accepts Him as their Savior. Do you love Him? Do you want others to know about His love and grace?

Sometime this week, share your tombstone with someone you think is sad. Tell them about the widow of Nain and her son. Be sure to tell them that Jesus wants to turn their sorrow into joy too.

Let’s say our message together one last time:

**JESUS GIVES HIS LOVE AND GRACE FREELY.**

Closing

Say a short prayer, such as: **Thank You, God, for giving Your love and grace to us so freely. We know You feel our sorrows and care about us. We love You. Amen.**

You Need:

• gray or white paper
• tombstone pattern (see p. 151)
• gray crayons (optional)
• scissors
• memory verse
From Sorrow to Joy

Tyla was at the store and saw some candy on the counter. She took it without paying for it because she thought it was free. Her dad saw what had happened and asked her to do the right thing and pay for the candy. We’d all like something good for free. Well, did you know that Jesus gives us His love and grace free? And those are better than candy!

Jesus and His friends talked and laughed together as they walked along a dusty road. The little mountain village of Nain lay before them. The road was rough and rocky in places as it led up to the village. Along the way, Jesus had been telling people about God’s love for them. And He had been healing the sick that were brought His way.

Nearing Nain, the happy group were met by a sad sight leaving the city gate. As the procession came closer, Jesus and His friends learned that a widow woman had lost her only son. Jesus looked at the heartbroken mother. He felt her sadness and sorrow as she wept for her son. He knew that she had lost her husband to death sometime before. Her son had been the only one to take care of his mother. But now she had no one. She would probably be left penniless and homeless.

The woman walked on, weeping, and did not notice Jesus. He came close to her and spoke gently. “Don’t cry,” He said. Then He turned to the open coffin carrying her son. The men carrying the coffin stopped when Jesus put His hand on it. Everyone waited to see what would happen next.

Jesus’ friends gathered around.

Those in the funeral procession stood quietly nearby. What would Jesus do? They probably wondered.

Jesus looked at the still body. Then He said, ‘Young man, I tell you, get up!’ Suddenly the widow’s son sat up and began to talk!

Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up. Then He gave the son to his mother. The woman probably gave her son a big hug. And her sad tears were changed to tears of joy!

Those who watched were amazed! They began to praise God saying, “A great prophet has risen among us.”

The news about Jesus breaking up a funeral traveled far and wide! People had never heard of such a thing. (This was the first time that Jesus while on earth brought someone back to life.) But those who were there and saw it happen were quick to tell others.

Jesus has the same love for us that He showed the widow and her son. She didn’t ask for help from Jesus. Jesus saw her tears and her sorrow. His love for her and concern for her suffering caused Him...
to perform this miracle. Truly, Jesus turned her sorrow into joy.

Jesus can turn our sorrow into joy too. He loves every one of us and wants us to be happy. And He will turn many sorrows into joy when He comes again. At that time He will bring those from the grave who gave their hearts to Him before they died. What a day of joy that will be! Mothers, fathers, boys, and girls will be together again to live with Jesus forever!

Daily Activities

Sabbath
• If possible, go with your family after lunch to a cemetery and look at the tombstones. Which is oldest? Which is the most recent? Find a quiet place nearby and read your lesson story together. Ask: What will the cemetery be like when Jesus comes?
• Use the motions you learned in Sabbath School to teach the memory verse to your family.

Sunday
• Share the tombstone you made in Sabbath School with someone who is sad or lonely or hurting. (If you didn’t make one, draw a tombstone and write your memory verse on it.) Tell them about the widow of Nain and her son.
• Draw a tombstone and write these words on it, one under the other: God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense. (Make the first letter of each word dark.) What word do the first letters spell? What does that mean? (God’s grace gives us what we don’t deserve; Jesus died in our place to save us, so we could have eternal life, etc.)

Monday
• During worship today, read Luke 7:11, 12. Who was walking with Jesus? Who was walking with the widow? What did you learn about the boy? Why was a son important to a woman in Jesus’ time?
• Sing songs about Jesus’ death and resurrection. Why did Jesus die? Why did He come back to life? Where is He now? Thank Him for dying for you and your family.

Tuesday
• With your family, read Luke 7:13. How did Jesus feel when He saw the crying woman? What did Jesus say to the widow? How do you feel when someone else is sad?
• Do something kind for someone who is sad or needs your help. (Write a note, make a phone call, take some food, share your memory verse.) Tell your family about it during worship.
• Thank Jesus that you can help others.

Wednesday
• Read Luke 7:14, 15 for worship today. What did Jesus do? What did He say? What happened?
• Ask the adults in your family to tell about praying for you. What did they say? What happened? Ask them about a time God did not heal someone they prayed for. Did they keep loving and trusting God? Why?
• Sing about God’s love for your family, then thank Him for it.

Thursday
• During worship today, read Luke 7:16, 17. How did the people feel when they saw Jesus give the son to his mother? What did they say? What did they do? Who will you tell about Jesus?
• Ask each family member to write an ending to this sentence: “God’s love is as big as ________.” Put the sentences together on one paper. Ask an adult to help you write a note to go with it. Then send the paper to the family of someone who died or to someone who is sick. Pray for that person during worship.

Friday
• If possible, read for family worship The Desire of Ages, pages 318, 319 (chapter 32, paragraphs 10-15). Then act out the story together. Who will be the widow? her son? Jesus?
• The Bible says that Jesus’ heart went out to the widow. What does that mean? When does Jesus’ heart go out to you?
• Sing some praise songs together. Then thank Jesus for feeling for us when we hurt and when we’re happy. Ask each person to tell Jesus about one of those times.
The Parable of the Great Feast

Memory Verse
“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” (Luke 14:15).

Objectives
The children will:
- Know that Jesus invites everyone to His “banquet,” His gift of salvation.
- Feel grateful for the invitation to Jesus’ banquet.
- Respond by saying yes to Jesus, and accepting His invitation.

The Message
Jesus invites us to be with Him in heaven.

Monthly Theme
God’s love is a gift; we don’t earn or buy it.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Jesus tells a story about a rich man who prepares a banquet. The man sends his servant to bring the invited guests, but many make excuses and say they can’t come. So the man invites poor and crippled people to come. These people accept. When told there is still room, the man has his servants go into the streets and bring more people to the banquet.

This is a lesson about grace.
The banquet represents the free gift of salvation, made available to all. The invitation to the banquet is for all people on earth. But many make excuses. People don’t accept God’s gift, because money, responsibilities, and relationships often stand in the way. Jesus wants us to know that while the invitation is for everyone, we have to accept the invitation to be with Him at the banquet.

Teacher Enrichment
“In Oriental lands even today it is customary to dispatch a messenger a short time before the feast actually begins to remind the guests of their invitation” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 808).

“Those who declined the invitation to the gospel feast placed more value on temporal interests than on eternal things” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 808).

“Some feel that this man [recently married] was probably basing his refusal on the fact that certain exemptions from some of the ordinary military and civil duties were accorded a man during the first year of his married life (see on Deut. 24:5). . . . But this law did not exempt him from normal social relationships” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 809).

“The highways and hedges” refers primarily to the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles following the Jews’ final rejection, as a nation, of the gospel invitation” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 810).

“Jesus does not teach by this parable that earthly possessions are necessarily incompatible with the kingdom of heaven, but rather that inordinate affection for the things of earth disqualifies a person from entering heaven—in fact, it leaves him with no desire
for heavenly things” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 811).

“By the great supper, Christ represents the blessings offered through the gospel. The provision is nothing less than Christ Himself. . . . In the feast He had provided, God offered to them the greatest gift that Heaven can bestow—a gift that is beyond computation. The love of God had furnished the costly banquet, and had provided inexhaustible resources. ‘If any man eat of this bread,’ Christ said, ‘he shall live for ever.’ John 6:51.

“But in order to accept the invitation to the gospel feast, they must make their worldly interests subordinate to the one purpose of receiving Christ and His righteousness. . . . The heart that is absorbed in earthly affections cannot be given up to God” (Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 222, 223).

**Room Decorations**

See Lesson 6. Add a long table set as a banquet table.

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<td>up to 10</td>
<td>A. Heavenly Party</td>
<td>party decorations, fresh fruit, paper plates, napkins, small wrapped gifts</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>B. Excuse, Excuse, Yes</td>
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<td>Prayer</td>
<td>* none</td>
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<td>Bible Lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharing the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>* God’s Invitation</td>
<td>invitation pattern (see p. 97), paper, art supplies, scissors</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1. Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Heavenly Party
When the children come into the room, have it decorated for a party: balloons, streamers, flowers, fresh fruit to eat (if appropriate in your Sabbath School). You will compare this feast to a feast in heaven.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: What do you think is going to happen here today? Do you think it will be fun? What do you think about having a party at church? Why? Can you imagine Jesus coming to a party like this and having a good time?

Tell me about some parties Jesus attended when He lived here on earth. (wedding at Cana, Simon’s feast) What do you think would happen if we could invite Jesus to eat at our homes?

The Bible story today is a parable Jesus told about a big feast. Do you know that we’re going to have a great big feast in heaven when we get there? The Bible says “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” (Luke 14:15). The message today is:

JESUS INVITES US TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.

Say that with me.

B. Excuse, Excuse, Yes
Ahead of time prepare some cards or pieces of paper with “yes” or an excuse written on them. Examples: “I have to walk the dog.” “I have to practice my instrument.” “I think I’m getting sick,” “I don’t think my mom/dad will let me,” “I have to watch my baby brother/baby sister,” etc. Give some children an “excuse” card and some of them a “yes” card. Give only a few “yes” cards.

Have the children sit or stand in a circle and choose one child to be “it.” “It” stands in the center of the circle, spins around with one arm outstretched then stops. He or she then says to the person to whom they are pointing, “Will you come to my picnic?” The person being pointed to will read what is on his or her card. If it is an excuse, the student will read it and then sit down or leave the circle. If the card was a “yes” then the student will go stand in a special spot for people who said yes. “It” continues calling until no one is left in the circle.

You Need:
• party decorations
• fresh fruit
• paper plates
• napkins
• small wrapped gifts

You Need:
• index cards or pieces of paper with an “excuse” or “yes” written on them (see activity)
Debriefing

Ask: **What is an excuse?** (a reason you give for doing something or not doing something that many times is not true or not the real reason) **Why do people come up with excuses?** What are some things that we should try never to make excuses for?

The Bible story today is a parable that Jesus told about a man having a feast. When the feast was ready, the man sent a servant to remind those who had been invited but they all had excuses! They missed out on a great feast. The Bible says: *'Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God'* (Luke 14:15). Today’s message tells us that . . .

**JESUS INVITES US TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.**

Say that with me.

---

**Prayer and Praise**

**Fellowship**

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

**Suggested Songs**

*‘Amigos de Cristo*’ (*Sing for Joy*, no. 69)
*‘Seek Ye First*’ (*Sing for Joy*, no. 67)
*‘His Banner Over Me Is Love*’ (*Sing for Joy*, no. 25)
*‘God Is So Good*’ (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13)
*‘I Want to Be Ready*’ (*Sing for Joy*, no. 127)

**Mission**

Share a story from *Children’s Mission*. Emphasize that God invites everyone to join Him in heaven.

**Offering**

Continue collecting the offering in a gift box. Talk about how God gives us the wonderful gift of salvation for free, and how when we give our offerings, we help tell others about His gift.

**Prayer**

Thank God for His gift to us—Jesus. Thank Him that we can help tell others of His love.

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*www.gracelink.net/primary*  
*LESSON NINE 93*
just bought five yoke of oxen. I need to try them out! Please ask your master to excuse me!"

A third time the servant knocked on a door. This time a man stuck his head outside and listened to the servant. "I just got married!" he announced. "I can’t come!"

The servant went to house after house, with the same result. Everyone who had been invited to the banquet seemed to have a reason for not attending! He finally returned to his master’s home and explained how each of the guests had responded with excuses.

For a moment a look of sadness crossed the face of the host. "That’s certainly too bad," he said, "but we can invite others! Go out to the streets and alleys and bring in anyone who looks like they could use a good meal! Hurry!"

After inviting everyone he could find, the servant went home, exhausted. Soon the dinner party guests arrived and were welcomed. The faithful servant watched as they came in. A good group, but there was still room at the banquet table.

"Master, we still have room for more," the servant reported.

"Quick, my friend! Go out to the country roads! Go everywhere you can think of! Let’s fill this place! Everyone who accepts my invitation will enjoy the feast with me!"

The man in the story had a wonderful party planned, but many people in the story had excuses for not coming. They let other things become more important than being with their friend. And because they were too busy with things, they turned down the invitation and missed the great feast!

Jesus is giving us an invitation, just as the man who planned the banquet invited many people. But Jesus’ invita-
tion is not to a banquet or a feast. Jesus invites us to accept salvation. Accepting salvation means that we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and choose to do the things He wants us to do. We have a choice. We can decide to accept His invitation or to let other things become more important to us. How will you choose?

**Debriefing**

Say: Jesus told this story to help us understand His invitation to be saved and live with Him in heaven.

Can you imagine the joy of being with Jesus for eternity? Would you like to experience that?*

*Teachers, take note of children who raise their hand or who show interest. Talk with them about this after Sabbath School and notify their parents.

Remember our message. Let’s say it together:

**JESUS INVITES US TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.**

**Memory Verse**

In advance, write each word of the memory verse on a different paper plate. Mix up the plates and place them on a table. In groups of three or four, have the children come to the table and put the words in order. (Large group: use several sets of plates.) Repeat the memory verse several times.

The memory verse is: “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” (Luke 14:15).

**Bible Study**

Say: Let’s open our Bibles to Luke 14. This is where today’s story is found. Let’s take turns reading verses 15 to 24. Have adults assist as needed.

**Debriefing**

Say: Jesus was speaking to some Pharisees in this parable. The Pharisees were Jewish leaders who thought they were more righteous than everybody else. Jesus wanted them to know that He had come to offer them salvation, but they had not accepted Him. Who is like Jesus in the story? (the man who prepared the banquet) Jesus also told the Pharisees this parable so they would know that God wanted everyone to be saved. Let’s look at John 3:16. Who does God want to be saved? (the whole world) The people in the parable made excuses for not attending the banquet. What kinds of excuses do people make these days for not accepting Jesus’ invitation of salvation? (too busy; I don’t know what to believe; more interested in other people; too interested in worldly things) How can we accept Jesus’ offer of salvation? (read our Bibles; pray; listen to parents, preachers, and teachers; tell others about Jesus) Jesus wants us to accept Him while here on earth so that we can spend eternity with Him. Let’s say our memory verse again:

“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” (Luke 14:15).

Now let’s say our message:

**JESUS INVITES US TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.**
Applying the Lesson

Charades
Ask the children to take turns acting out things that could get in their way of accepting Jesus’ invitation to heaven, while the other children guess what it is.

Ideas: school or learning, sports, earning money, becoming popular or famous, negative influence of friends, seeking only fun and entertainment, accumulating things, etc.

Now ask them to take turns telling about things that could help them understand and accept Jesus’ invitation to come to Him and live with Him in heaven.

Ideas: praying; reading the Bible; listening to pastor, teachers, parents; reading about Jesus in storybooks; studying the Sabbath School lesson; accepting Jesus as their Savior; sharing Jesus’ love with others, etc.

If the children talk about doing good deeds or obeying rules and laws, remind them that obedience is not the root of our salvation, it is the fruit (or result) of our salvation. We obey and do good works in response to God’s love for us. Avoid emphasis on works as a way of earning salvation.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask:

What will you do this week to help you understand Jesus’ invitation to be with Him in heaven?

Our story today helps us understand how to accept the salvation that Jesus offers. Jesus is coming to take to heaven those who have accepted His salvation and have chosen to follow His way. In heaven there will actually be a great feast! Who will be there? (whoever accepts Jesus as their Savior; whoever accepts His invitation to be saved; those who put Jesus first in every part of their lives, etc.)

How much do you have to pay to attend Jesus’ party? (nothing—it’s free)

Raise your hand if you are glad that God has given us such a wonderful gift, and if you accept His invitation to live and eat with Him in heaven. (Do not take these indications lightly. Talk with and encourage individual children as they respond.)

Let’s say our memory verse together again: ‘Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God’ (Luke 14:15).

Remember today’s message? Let’s say it together:

JESUS INVITES US TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.
Sharing the Lesson

God’s Invitation

Make a copy of the invitation pattern (below) for each child. Have the children decorate them. On the inside they can write “Let’s plan to meet there” and sign it. Then they can cut it out.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
What does the front of the invitation say? With whom will you share it this week? Be sure to help them know that Jesus’ invitation to be with Him in heaven is for them.

Tell them about the Bible story of the banquet, and also about the banquet God has prepared for them in heaven.

Tell them that God wants everyone to accept His invitation and be there with Him. Let’s remember . . .

JESUS INVITES US TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.

Closing

In a short prayer, thank God for His gift of salvation and His promise that if we accept Jesus as our Savior, we will live with Him in heaven one day.

You Need:
• invitation pattern (below)
• paper
• art supplies
• scissors

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The Parable of the Great Feast

Jesus told a story once about someone who had prepared a great feast. When the feast was ready, he sent to call the guests. Read on to find out what happened and what it could mean for us.

Once Jesus and His disciples were having a meal at someone’s house, and Jesus told this story.

“A man gave a big banquet and invited many people,” Jesus began. “When it was time to eat, the man sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come! Everything is ready!’

“But all the guests said they could not come. Each man made an excuse. The first one said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go look at it. Please excuse me.’

“Another man said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen; I must go try them. Please excuse me.’

“A third man said, ‘I just got married; I can’t come.’

“So the servant returned. He told his master what had happened.

“Then the master became angry and said, ‘Go at once into the streets and alleys of the town. Bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ Later the servant said to him, ‘Master, I did what you told me to do, but we still have places for more people.’

“The master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes. Tell the people there to come. I want my house to be full! None of those men that I invited first will ever eat with me!’

Jesus was talking about Himself in this parable. He is like the man who planned the party and invited many people. Jesus has invited everyone to accept His salvation, which leads to eternal life. And He’s giving you an invitation! Many people in the story had excuses for not coming to the party. They let other things become more important than being with their friend. They weren’t really true friends at all. Because they were too busy with things, they turned down the invitation and missed the great feast!

In this parable the invitation to the banquet is Jesus’ invitation for us to accept His salvation. Accepting salvation means that we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and choose to do the things He wants us to do. We have a choice. We can decide to accept His invitation or to let other things become more important in our lives. How about you? Right now, will you say yes to the invitation Jesus has given you? Do you want to be with Him in heaven and experience the joy of being in His presence forever?

References
Luke 14:15-24; Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 219-237

Memory Verse
“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” (Luke 14:15).

The Message
Jesus invites us to be with Him in heaven.
**Daily Activities**

**Sabbath**
- If possible, go with your family to a place where fruit grows. Find a quiet spot and read your lesson story together. Then read Revelation 22:1, 2 to find out about a special fruit tree in heaven. Who will enjoy the great feast in heaven? Who will eat from the special tree?
- Teach your family the memory verse.

**Sunday**
- Give the invitation you made in Sabbath School to someone and tell them the Bible story. Let them know that God’s invitation is for them too. (Or make an invitation now. Write the memory verse and message on the front. Inside, write, “Let’s plan to meet at the party.”)
- Write your memory verse on a paper plate. Use it to review the verse with your family this week.

**Monday**
- With your family, read and discuss Luke 14:1-15. Where was Jesus at this time? What was He doing there? Why do you think He talked about inviting people to dinner?
- Luke 14:1-15 tells what happened before Jesus told the parable of the great feast. Have someone help you find the word *parable* in a dictionary. Talk about its meaning. Why did Jesus use parables to teach lessons?
- Thank Jesus for His parables that help us understand His Word.

**Tuesday**
- During worship, read and discuss Luke 14:15-24. Whom does the servant represent? Whom does the master represent? Who are the people who refuse to come to the feast? Who are those who come? How is the invitation to the great feast like Jesus’ invitation to us today?
- Sing about Jesus’ coming to earth again. Then thank Him for His promise to do so. Ask Him to help you and your family to be ready when He comes.

**Wednesday**
- For worship today, read Matthew 22:1-14 with your family. How is this story similar to the one in your lesson this week? Now read Revelation 19:6-9. Who is the Lamb? Who is the Lamb’s bride? When will this wedding supper take place?
- Draw a picture of the Lamb’s wedding supper. Put yourself and your family at the table. Show it to your family. Keep the picture to remind you to pray for your family.

**Thursday**
- With your family, read Revelation 19:6-9. Ask your parents or grandparents about their wedding. Did they have a wedding feast? If possible, look at their wedding pictures. Compare their wedding to the wedding feast of the Lamb in heaven. What might keep you from the Lamb’s wedding supper? How can you get ready to be there?
- Sing songs about heaven, then thank God for His promises. Ask Jesus to help you and your family be ready to live with Him forever.

**Friday**
- Share some fruit as you act out your lesson story with your family. Be the servant who invites and then reminds people to come to the great feast.
- Ask someone to read Revelation 21 and Revelation 22:1-5. How is heaven different from where you live? What will you eat at Jesus’ great feast in heaven?
- Before prayer, sing “I Want to Be Ready” (Sing for Joy, no. 127). Ask Jesus to help you and your family to be ready when He comes.
Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Monthly Theme
God’s love is a gift; we don’t earn or buy it.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Jesus is in Jerusalem and is walking alone near a pool called Bethesda. A man, crippled for 38 years, lies on a mat near the pool. He believes that he can be healed if he can be first into the water when it stirs. But because he is crippled, he is never the first. Jesus asks him if he wants to be healed. The discouraged man tells Jesus that he has no one to help him into the pool. Jesus tells him to get up, pick up his mat, and walk. The man’s hope is kindled. In faith, he obeys and is healed.

This is a lesson about grace.
Jesus sees a need, has compassion, and heals the crippled man. Today He sees our needs, has pity on us, and helps us. His wonderful grace heals our hearts and minds and bodies. We don’t deserve it; we can’t earn it or buy it; but God showers us with His love anyway.

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God sees their needs.
Feel loved and cared for by God’s grace.
Respond by thanking Him for giving His love freely.

The Message
Jesus sees our needs and helps us.

Teacher Enrichment
“At certain seasons the waters of this pool were agitated, and it was commonly believed that this was the result of supernatural power, and that whoever first after the troubling of the pool stepped into the waters, would be healed of whatever disease he had” (The Desire of Ages, p. 201).

“Important textual evidence may be cited . . . for omitting the words ‘waiting for the moving of the water,’ and the whole of [verse] 4. Thus the story of an angel’s bestowing supernatural healing powers upon the water of the pool appears not to have been part of the original gospel text, but was probably added in an attempt to explain [verse] 7 . . . . This passage evidently preserves what was a popular opinion regarding the waters of the pool (see DA 201).

“The rippling of the water was real (DA 202), but there is evidence implicit in the account . . . that this popular belief had no further basis in fact . . . .”

“Jesus apparently made no attempt to refute the superstition regarding the pool, nor did He question the causes of the man’s disease. Rather, by a positive approach He enjoined the man to
program Overview

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*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Room Decorations
See Lesson 6. Add a blue sheet (from Lesson 7) to represent the pool.

demonstrate his faith” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 948, 949).

“His disease was in a great degree the result of his own sin. . . . Alone and friendless, feeling that he was shut out from God’s mercy, the sufferer had passed long years of misery” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 202).

“Jesus does not ask this sufferer to exercise faith in Him. He simply says, ‘Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.’ But the man’s faith takes hold upon that word” (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 202, 203).
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1
Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Diagnose the Disease
In advance, think of some diseases that are common in your area. Tell the children they are going to pretend they are doctors and need to diagnose their patient’s signs and symptoms. For example, say: **Your first patient has red spots that itch a lot. What disease do you think he has?** Allow the children to guess. (chickenpox) Repeat with different diseases.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to know what disease I was describing?** Which disease have you or someone in your family had? Our Bible story today is about a man who had been crippled for 38 years. Our story tells us what Jesus did for him.

Jesus is always ready to help people. He wants to save all of us. The Bible says: ’For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith . . . it is the gift of God’ (Ephesians 2:8). Jesus did more than help that man; He saved him. Grace means that Jesus loves us so much that He died in our place and will save us if we will accept Him as our Savior. Our message tells us that:

**JESUS SEES OUR NEEDS AND HELPS US.**

Say that with me.

B. Crutch Walk
Have the children do a relay race or obstacle course while using the crutches or canes, or “walking” sticks.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to use the crutches or cane as you walked?** Do you know someone who has had to use crutches, or uses a cane? How fast do they get around? Our Bible story today is about a crippled man who couldn’t walk at all. We will learn how Jesus helped him.

Jesus did more than help the man; He saved him. The Bible says: ”For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith . . . it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). Grace means that Jesus loves us so much that He died in our place, and He will save us if we accept Him as our Savior.

You Need:
- crutches or canes, or “walking” sticks
Today’s message tells us that:

JESUS SEES OUR NEEDS AND HELPS US.
Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship
Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
“Wide, Wide as the Ocean” (Sing for Joy, no. 32)
“Wonderful, Wonderful” (Sing for Joy, no. 39)
“He’s Able” (Sing for Joy, no. 40)
“O, How I Love Jesus” (Sing for Joy, no. 114)
“I’m So Happy” (Sing for Joy, no. 65)

Mission
Share a story from Children’s Mission. Emphasize that Jesus’ grace saves us.

Offering
Continue to use the gift box to collect the offering. Say: Our offerings will go to help others know about God’s grace and healing.

You Need:
- gift box

Prayer
Ask the children to get in a circle, hold hands, and close their eyes. Start the prayer by saying one thing you are thankful God has done for you (saved me, forgives my sins, loves me, cares for me, etc.). The person next to you says one thing, and so on around the circle. If someone doesn’t want to speak, they squeeze the hand of the person next to them, and that person will continue the prayer.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Jesus, crippled man, two children to shake sheet to represent stirring of water; all other children can be other sick people lying or sitting around the “pool”

Setting the scene:
Have all but “Jesus” sit or lie beside the blue sheet.

Read or tell the story.
Jesus has come to Jerusalem to attend a feast. As He walks by Himself on a Sabbath morning, He is deep in thought. Soon He finds Himself near a place called the Pool of Bethesda. There are five beautiful covered porches around the pool. This is the kind of place that should be peaceful and be decorated with lush green plants and colorful flowers. Instead, it is a place of moaning and smells of sickness. All around the pool, lying in all angles and sitting hunched over are a great number of sick people.

Jesus stops. As He looks around, He sees blind, deaf, and crippled people. He sees people with stomach problems, skin diseases—all kinds of sickness. There are old people and children, and people of all ages in between.

All are here hoping for a miracle. But this is a place of disappointment. The people are waiting for the water in the pool to move. Some believe it will be stirred by an angel. And whoever is first in the water when it stirs will be healed. Jesus knows that this is not so. But the people wait and watch. When the water does move, the eager people, desperate for healing, rush forward and trample those in front of them who are smaller or weaker.

Instead of a place of healing, this is a place of death.

As Jesus looks over these crowds of sick people, He has compassion on them. He wants to heal all of them! He knows if He heals them all today, the Sabbath, it would cause a great commotion among the Jewish leaders. They are looking for reasons to harm Him. They would kill Him if they could.

Jesus knows each person’s name and their sickness, but He especially notices one man who has been crippled for 38 years. Jesus knows that this man is crippled mainly because of sin in his life. Jesus also knows that this man is sad because he has no one to help him reach the water. He is lonely and discouraged, and feels that he is shut out of God’s mercy.

Jesus quietly kneels beside him. He bends over to see his face and gently asks, “Do you want to be healed?”

Hope jumps in the man’s heart. Of course he wants to be healed! Doesn’t everyone here? He doesn’t know who Jesus is. He doesn’t know Jesus can heal him in an instant. The man thinks that his only hope of being healed is to get into that water. So he tells Jesus, “Sir, I don’t have anyone to help me get into the pool. Whenever I try, someone always gets in before me.”

Jesus doesn’t ask the man to believe in Him, or even to know who He is. Even though the man doesn’t feel worthy of God’s love, Jesus wants to pour His grace out on this man. So Jesus says, “Get up! Pick up your bed and walk.”

The man doesn’t hesitate. He obeys immediately. He wants to be made well. Nerves and muscles that haven’t been useful for years spring to life! The man

You Need:
• blue sheet (see Room Decorations)

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jumps up! He rolls up his rug and blanket. Then he looks around for the One who just healed him. But Jesus has slipped away into the crowd.

Later the man and Jesus meet in the temple. The man is overjoyed to know Him and tells people all around the good news. Jesus has healed him!

That day Jesus healed a man’s body. And Jesus’ healing and loving grace brought the man into harmony with God. Jesus says to us with such love and pity, “Will you be healed?” He wants us to be healthy in body and spirit too. His grace is a gift of love for all of us.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
What was the name of the pool?
How long had the crippled man been unable to walk?
Why didn’t Jesus heal all the people at the pool?
How do you think the man felt when Jesus talked to him? How do you think he felt when Jesus told him to get up? How did the man show faith in Jesus?

Our lesson says the man was brought into harmony with God. What does that mean?
Does Jesus heal people today? How do you know?
Do you want Jesus to “heal” you from your sins? Do you have faith to know that He will do that for you, that He wants you to live with Him forever?

Let’s say today’s message:

JESUS SEES OUR NEEDS AND HELPS US.

Memory Verse

In advance, write the memory verse on adhesive bandages, one word on each, or cut out paper in the shape of adhesive bandages. Have the children arrange them on a table or the floor in the correct order and then all say it together. Repeat several times. The memory verse is: ‘For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith… it is the gift of God’ (Ephesians 2:8).

Be sure the children understand that grace is unmerited favor—getting something we don’t deserve or not getting a negative consequence that we do deserve.

Bible Study

Say: Let’s find out what happened after Jesus healed the crippled man. Find John 5:8-15. Ask volunteers to read the text. Adults assist as needed.

Debriefing

On what day did Jesus heal the man? (Sabbath) The Pharisees had made up many rules for keeping Sabbath. These were not God’s rules. What rule of theirs did they say the man was breaking? (He was carrying a burden on the Sabbath.) What did the Jewish leaders want to do to Jesus? Why?

Now let’s look at verses 17-24. What do these verses tell us about Jesus? (He is the Son of God; He has the same power God has; He has the authority to heal; He will do greater things than heal the crippled man; etc.)

Let’s read verse 24 again. What promise does Jesus make? (Whoever hears Jesus’ words and believes the God who sent Him has eternal life.) Is that promise for us today? (Yes!) When we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we trust Him to help us and to save us so we may live with Him forever when He comes again. Let’s say our message together:

JESUS SEES OUR NEEDS AND HELPS US.

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LESSON TEN 105
Applying the Lesson

Scenarios

Ask the children to answer your question at the end of each scenario, or form four groups and have each discuss one scenario and then report to the class.

1. Tara has a bad sore throat and fever. She aches all over. Her mother takes her to the doctor. The doctor examines her and says she has strep throat. So the doctor gives her antibiotics to make her well. How has God shown Tara His grace? (By giving her a mom who cares, medical care, antibiotics, etc.)

2. Justin’s dad died. Justin is very sad and misses doing things with his dad. Justin’s uncle Bill spends time with Justin, playing catch and talking with him. Even though Justin still misses his dad, Uncle Bill’s love has helped him. How has God shown Justin His grace? (By giving him an uncle who cares and can spend time with him.)

3. Jamal was born with Down syndrome. This means he has difficulty learning and looks a little different. Jamal’s mom spends a lot of time with him, has found a good, special school for him, and gives him a lot of love. Jamal’s older sisters spend time playing with him. Jamal’s dad spends time wrestling with him and teaching him about Jesus. Jamal is very affectionate and loves his family. How has God shown Jamal His grace? (By giving him a family who loves him, providing a school for him, helping his family teach him about Jesus, helping him to be thankful for his family and express love to them, etc.)

4. Isabella is in a store looking at stuffed animals. She really wants one but has no money, so she hides one under her coat and takes it home. Later her mother sees it and asks where she got it. Isabella knows she has done wrong and tells the truth. Her dad talks to her and reminds her that Jesus will always forgive our sins if we ask. She prays and asks Jesus to forgive her. Then she and her parents return the toy to the store. She is embarrassed, but feels much better afterward. She decides she will never steal again. How has God shown her His grace? (By forgiving her, giving her His peace, giving her loving parents, helping her learn a lesson she can use later in life, etc.)

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: How does Jesus heal our bodies? How does He heal our minds? How does He heal our hearts?

What does “Jesus sees our needs and helps us” really mean? Our memory verse tells us the answer. Let’s say it again.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith . . . it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Let’s say our message again:

JESUS SEES OUR NEEDS AND HELPS US.
**Sharing the Lesson**

**Bedroll or Mat**

In advance, cut the foam or cloth into strips about 4" x 6" (10 cm x 15 cm) in size. Cut pieces of string, ribbon, or yarn about seven inches (18 cm) long.

Have the children write the memory verse or message on the foam or cloth with a marker. Then have them roll it up like the mat or bedroll the cripple man carried and tie it with a piece of string, ribbon, or yarn. The memory verse is:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

**Debriefing**

Say: Think of someone with whom you might share the mat or bedroll you just made. Sometime this week, take it to them and have them unroll it and read it. Tell them about the faith of the cripple man and how Jesus healed him. Remind them that because Jesus loves us, He will save everyone who has faith in Him. And remember to share our message with them:

**JESUS SEES OUR NEEDS AND HELPS US.**

**Closing**

In a short prayer, thank God for showering us with His grace and love. Ask Him to help the children see God’s grace in their lives this week.

**You Need:**

- light-colored craft foam or cloth
- scissors
- markers
- string, ribbon, or yarn

[www.gracelink.net/primary](http://www.gracelink.net/primary)
Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Have you ever wanted something very much and had to wait a long time for it? Maybe you wanted a new toy or a watch, or maybe you were sick for a long time and wanted to get well quickly. The man in our story today knew what it was to want something very badly and have to wait a long time for it.

Jesus has come to Jerusalem to attend a feast. Soon He finds Himself near a pool, the Pool of Bethesda. Five beautiful covered porches surround the pool. This is the kind of place that should be peaceful. It should be surrounded with lush green plants and colorful flowers. But it is a place of sickness and misery. All around the pool, people are struggling. Sick people lie in all angles or sit hunched over. So many people! Jesus stops. He looks around. He sees the blind, the deaf, the crippled. He sees some with stomach problems and skin diseases. Some suffer from mental health problems. His heart goes out to the elderly, the children, and those of all ages in between.

All are here hoping for a miracle. The people wait for the water in the pool to move. Many believe it will be stirred by an angel. And whoever is first in the water afterward will be healed. Jesus knows this isn’t true. It is a false hope, but the people wait and watch. And when ripples appear, the eager people rush forward. Desperate for healing, they trample the smaller or weaker.

Jesus looks over this crowd of sick people, and He has compassion on them. He wants to heal all of them! He knows some of the Jewish leaders would be angry if He healed the sick today, because it is the Sabbath. They would even try to kill Him. But His time has not come. His work on earth is not yet finished.

Jesus knows each person’s name and their sickness. He especially notices one man who has been crippled for 38 years. Jesus also knows that the man is sad. He is lonely, and feels that he is not worthy of God’s mercy. Quietly Jesus kneels beside him and bends over to see his face. Tenderly He asks, “Do you want to be healed?”

Hope jumps in the man’s heart. Of course he wants to be healed! Doesn’t everyone want to be healed! He doesn’t know who Jesus is. He doesn’t know that Jesus can heal him. He believes his only hope is to get into that water. So He tells Jesus, “Sir, I don’t have anyone to help me. I can’t get into the pool fast enough. When I try, someone always gets in before me.”

Jesus doesn’t ask the man to believe in Him. He doesn’t even tell the man who He is. He knows the man doesn’t feel worthy of God’s love. But Jesus wants to pour His grace out on this man. So He says to the man, “Get up! Pick up your bed and walk.”

The man doesn’t hesitate. He obeys. He has faith. He wants to be made well. Nerves and muscles that haven’t been useful for years are brought to life!
man jumps up! He rolls up his rug and blanket. Then he looks around for the One who
just healed him. But Jesus has slipped away into the crowd.

Later Jesus meets the man in the temple. The man is overjoyed. And he tells every-
one he meets the good news about Jesus.

That day Jesus healed a man’s body. Jesus’ healing grace also brought him back
to God. With love Jesus says to us, “Will you be healed?” He wants us to be healthy in
body and spirit. He wants to pour out His grace on us too. Will you accept Him today
and let Him be your Savior too?

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**Daily Activities**

**Sabbath**

- Go with your family to a place where you can enjoy flowing water or a fountain. What do you see around the water? Find a quiet place and read your lesson story together.
- Study your memory verse together. Ask: What does it mean to be “saved by grace”? (See John 3:16; 1 John 1:9.) Sing “Amazing Grace” together; then thank God for His wonderful grace in your life.

**Sunday**

- Share the bedroll you made in Sabbath School with someone today. Tell them about Jesus and the crippled man. (Or make a bedroll by cutting a strip of cloth or paper to represent a blanket. Write the memory verse and message on it. Roll it up and tie it with a ribbon, string, or yarn.)
- Draw a picture of the Pool of Bethesda. Write your memory verse on the water part. Use this to teach the verse to your family.

**Monday**

- With your family, read and discuss John 5:1-9. Why couldn’t the man get into the water before others? Imagine that you are that man. What would it be like to have no friend to help you? Name some friends you can count on when you need help.
- Think of someone you know who needs a friend. How can you be their friend today? Ask Jesus to help you.

**Tuesday**

- For worship today, read John 5:10-16. Why didn’t the man know who had healed him? How can sin make people sick?
- Sing praise songs such as “He’s Able” (Sing for Joy, no. 40). Then thank Jesus for His healing power. Ask Him to help you to have faith in Him too.

**Wednesday**

- With your family, read John 5:1-9 again. How long had the crippled man been sick? Talk about sickness in your family. Who has been sick for a long time? What happened to them? What is the longest time you’ve been sick? Who took care of you? Thank the people who take care of you.
- Try walking around your house with crutches or a cane. How would these help people who use them all the time? Count while you do as many jumping jacks as you can. Thank God for your health.

**Thursday**


**Friday**

- For worship tonight, read from *The Desire of Ages*, pages 201-203 (chapter 21, paragraphs 1-7). Then act out the lesson story.
- Ask to use a cup and 18 raisins or nuts. Pretend the raisins or nuts are pills. Drop one “pill” into the cup for each word as you say the memory verse. Repeat. Then eat the “pills.”
- Sing a “thank-You” song before prayer.

*It was not true. For more on this, see *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 948.
Angel Heralds

Memory Verse
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10).

Objectives
The children will:

Know that because He loves us, God sent Jesus to be our Saviour.
Feel the joy of worshiping Jesus and sharing His love as the angels did.
Respond by finding new ways to “sing” the angels’ song.

The Message
We worship God when we sing joyful songs of praise.

References
Luke 2:8-15; The Desire of Ages, pp. 43-49

Monthly Theme
We praise God for the gift of Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
The familiar story of the angels’ visit to the shepherds is told from the angels’ point of view. The angel Gabriel comes to the shepherds who are watching their sheep on the hills around Bethlehem. The shepherds are frightened at the sight. The angel calms their fears and tells them of Jesus’ birth and where to find Him. Then a multitude of angels join Gabriel in singing “Glory to God in the highest.” The shepherds decide to go to find the baby.

This is a lesson about worship.
The angels have experienced the joy of worshipping God in heaven. Now they have the joy of inviting humans to join in the worship, to praise God for the gift of His Son. They describe the good news that makes us want to worship: Our Savior has come to earth to save us.

Teacher Enrichment
“With amazement the heavenly messengers beheld the indifference of that people whom God had called to communicate to the world the light of sacred truth. . . . The priests and teachers of the nation knew not that the greatest event of the ages was about to take place. . . . Only a few were longing to behold the Unseen. To these heaven’s embassy was sent” (The Desire of Ages, p. 44).

“Above the hills of Bethlehem are gathered an innumerable throng of angels. They wait the signal to declare the glad news to the world. Had the leaders in Israel been true to their trust, they might have shared the joy of heralding the birth of Jesus. . . .

“In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. Through the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour, and prayed for the coming of the King” (The Desire of Ages, p. 47).

“This messenger is he who fills the position from which Satan fell. It is he who on the hills of Bethlehem proclaimed Christ’s birth” (The Desire of Ages, p. 780).

Room Decorations
Continue to use outdoor scenery. Have a manger scene with straw, and a doll wrapped in a blanket lying in a box. Add stuffed toy animals (sheep, cow, donkey, etc.). Hang a large star shape outlined with white lights to represent the “angel” star. If possible,
set up a plain tree on which the children may place handmade ornaments from Lessons 10-12 (readiness activities).

### Program Overview

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<th>Activities</th>
<th>Materials Needed</th>
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<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Readiness Options</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>A. Angel Ornament</td>
<td>angel pattern (see p. 151); paper; scissors; glue sticks or tape; art supplies; hole punch; thread, yarn, string, or ribbon</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Gloria in Excelsis Deo</td>
<td><em>The SDA Hymnal</em> (optional)</td>
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<td>C. Be a Herald</td>
<td><em>The SDA Hymnal</em>, picture of a herald (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer and Praise*</td>
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<td>Fellowship</td>
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<td>2 Bible Lesson</td>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>Experiencing the Story</td>
<td>Bible-times and angel costumes, blanket, sticks, crumpled colored paper</td>
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<td>Memory Verse</td>
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<td>Bible Study</td>
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<td>3 Applying the Lesson</td>
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<td>Guess the Title</td>
<td>paper, pencils or markers</td>
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<td>4 Sharing the Lesson</td>
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<td>A. Share an Angel</td>
<td>angel pattern (see p. 151), scissors, art supplies</td>
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<td>B. Doorknob Hanger</td>
<td>doorknob hanger pattern (see p. 152), heavy paper, scissors, art supplies, colored pencils or pens</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Special Project</td>
<td>note to send home (see activity)</td>
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*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Angel Ornament
In advance, copy an angel pattern for each child (see page 151) and punch a hole at the top.

Distribute the supplies. Have the children decorate the angels and cut them out. The pocket can be cut out and either glued or taped to the front of the angel. Invite the children to place an offering in them. When finished, loop thread, yarn, string, or ribbon through the hole and hang the angels on the tree (or other appropriate place).

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: Don’t our angels look pretty? What do these angels make you think of at Christmas time? (The angels who visited the shepherds when Jesus was born.) Our Bible story today is about just that, the good news and joy some angels brought to the shepherds. The memory verse today is “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). Do you like to worship by singing? Our message today is:

WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.
Say that with me.

B. Gloria in Excelsis Deo
If possible, have the music for “Angels We Have Heard on High” (The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, no. 142). Ask: Do you know the song “Angels We Have Heard on High”? The chorus of that song says “Gloria in excelsis Deo.” Write “Gloria in excelsis Deo” where all may see. Then help the children sing the chorus several times until they know the words.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: Do you know what “Gloria in excelsis Deo” means? These are Latin words. It sounds like “Gloria-in-egg-shell-sees-day-oh.” Latin is an old language that no one speaks anymore. “Gloria” means glory. “Excelsis” means in the highest. “Deo” means God. So “Gloria in excelsis Deo” means “glory to God in the highest.”

When Baby Jesus was born, the angels were so happy and full of praise they just had to sing! Today we will learn about the song the angels sang. Do you like to worship by singing?

The memory verse today is “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will
cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). Our message today is:

**WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.**

Say that with me.

C. Be a Herald

If possible, show the students a picture of an ancient herald. Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know what a herald is? A herald is an official messenger. In ancient times a king’s herald would blow a trumpet to announce the arrival of the king when the king entered a special place. Do you know that some heralds announced Jesus' birth? Today we will learn more about those heralds.**

Sing together “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 122). If they don’t know it, help the children learn the first verse.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **Who are the heralds in the song we sang?** (the angels) **Did you know that you are a herald when you sing Christmas carols? Who do they tell about?** (Jesus) **What are some ways we can be heralds for Jesus?** (Sing carols; tell others about Him and why we love Him; give away books or magazines about Jesus; invite friends to Sabbath School, etc.) **If you want to be a herald for Jesus, raise your hand.**

Today’s memory verse tells about good news the angels shared. It says: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). Our message today is:

**WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.**

Say that with me.

**NOTE:** Prayer and Praise appears on page 116.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Characters: angels, Gabriel,* shepherds

Setting the scene:

Darken the room and turn on the angel star made for room decorations. Assign parts and dress the children in appropriate costumes. One angel should wear gold on his or her costume as the angel who first appears in the story. Dress some children as shepherds and have them lie on a blanket on the floor as they pretend to be asleep. Crumple colored paper on some sticks to make a campfire and place it in the center of the blanket. Scatter toy sheep nearby or let some children pretend to be the sheep, “baaing” at the appropriate times.

Have the angels “talk” in the dark at first, then when the first angel starts talking, turn on the lights. After the first angel has spoken, have the other angels start singing the chorus to “Angels We Have Heard on High” (The SDA Hymnal, no. 142). At the end, have all join in.

*See The Desire of Ages, p. 780.

Read or tell the story.

(Three or four angels stand in a group and appear to be talking together.)

“It’s time! We have waited so long! The time has finally come! Jesus is born! Oh, His incredible love for these people is amazing!” one excited angel bubbled with joy.

“But do you see? Hardly anyone is paying attention,” added another.

“The priests in the temple continue to sacrifice the lambs,” said another, “but they don’t seem to know what that means.”

“Soon we can tell them that Jesus has been born,” added another. “I just want to shout: ‘We have GOOD NEWS for you! Your Savior has been born!’ ”

The angel choir knew what they would sing. They were ready to tell the world about Jesus. It was almost time for their special concert. Tonight! Tonight they would sing their song of praise. And all the world would remember it for years to come.

Angels had watched the people who were supposed to know about the Savior’s birth. The very ones who had been given the good news through their prophets didn’t even seem to care about it. The greatest event that would ever happen on earth had taken place. Yet only a few people were even looking for it. At that very time a few shepherds who were gathered on a hillside were studying the prophecies. They were among the few who knew a Savior would come soon.

(Have all the “angels” group together and move toward the “shepherds” on the blanket. Only “Gabriel” approaches the blanket at this time.)

The command rang out, and the angels hurried to take their places. In the middle of the night Gabriel led them to the skies above Bethlehem. There they waited while Gabriel spoke to some shepherds who were watching their sheep. Suddenly God’s glory lit up the night. The shepherds in the field were terrified!

[Turn on the lights.]

(Gabriel speaks to the shepherds.)

“Don’t be afraid,” Gabriel announced. “I have good news, joyful news. News to gladden the entire world. This very day, your Savior has been born. You’ll find Him in Bethlehem wrapped in soft cloths and lying in a manger.”

You Need:

• Bible-times and angel costumes
• blanket
• sticks
• crumpled colored paper
(All the angels gather around the shepherds.) Suddenly the sky was filled with shining angels. The angel choir joined Gabriel, filling the night with the most glorious music ever heard. “Glory to our God. The highest glory to Him. Peace has come to earth. God has sent His best gift to humanity.” [Angels all sing the chorus to “Angels We Have Heard on High” as they move away from the shepherds.]

On and on they sang, as they slowly went back toward the heavens. The astonished shepherds were stunned.

Filled with awe, one shepherd finally found his voice. “What are we waiting for?” he asked. “Let’s go to Bethlehem to see this babe the Lord has sent.”

Did you know that the angels are still singing the glory song today? Joy, praise, and thankfulness for God’s love-gift of Jesus still fills the hearts of the angels until they overflow. Our hearts can overflow with that joy of worshiping Jesus too. Like the angels, we can be full of gladness and good news. We can worship God in song.

Debriefing

Ask: Why were the angels so excited? Why did the angel say to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid”? If you had been there, what would you have thought when the angel appeared? What would you have done when the angel choir filled the sky?

How can you make your worship be as joyful as the angels? Remember our message . . .

WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.

Memory Verse

In advance, cut out large music notes from the paper and write the memory verse on them, one word per note. Have the children take turns putting them in order as the whole class says the memory verse together. Repeat until the children know the verse.

The memory verse is: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10).

Bible Study

In advance, write the texts below where all may see. Form five groups and assign each one a text. Or give a text to each of five students.

Say: Let’s learn more about angels and the messages they brought to people. As you read the texts, find out who the angel was (if the text mentions a name) and what their special duty was. Have adults assist as needed. Allow time for reporting to the class.

1. Genesis 28:10-15 (angels going up and down on Jacob’s ladder)
2. Numbers 22:21-35 (angel with sword seen by Balaam’s donkey)
3. Matthew 1:18-21 (angel that visited Joseph to tell him to marry Mary)
4. Luke 1:8-20 (Gabriel visited Zechariah to tell him his wife would have a son and to name him John.)
5. Luke 1:26-38 (Gabriel visited Mary to tell her about Baby Jesus.)

Debriefing

Allow time for reporting. Then ask: Which of these angels would you like to have been or seen? Why?

These angels had important jobs and missions from God, just like the angels who sang to the shepherds.

Say the memory verse together. That reminds me of our message:

WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.
Applying the Lesson

**Guess the Title**

Have each child draw something to represent a sacred Christmas carol. Let the children show their pictures and have the class guess the song title. Large group: form small groups and have each group picture a song title.

Say: **While we work, let’s sing some songs that tell the good news of Jesus’ birth.** Let the children choose the songs. Sing them as time allows.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to guess the Christmas song titles?**

- How do you feel when you sing?
- What does Christmas music make you think of?
- How can we use music to spread the good news about Jesus’ birth? Our message says:

  WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.

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**Prayer and Praise**

**Fellowship**

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

**Suggested Songs**

- “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 71 or 72, both verses)
- “Silent Night, Holy Night” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 76, verses 1 and 3)
- “Joy to the World” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 81)
- “There’s a Song in the Air” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 82)

**Mission**

Share a story from *Children’s Mission*.

**Offering**

Say: **We worship Jesus when we give our offerings so others can know the good news about Him.** If the children made angel ornaments (Readiness A), point them out with their offerings in them. If not, collect the offering in a Christmas-theme offering device.

**Prayer**

Ask the children to name something for which they are thankful at Christmastime. Then thank God for the privilege of worshipping Him as the angels did.
Sharing the Lesson

A. Share an Angel

In advance, make copies of the angel pattern. (See page 151. Use the angel only.)

Distribute the supplies. Have the children write the memory verse on their angel, then decorate it and cut it out. As they work, say: Think of someone with whom you would like to share your angel this week. Maybe you would like to sing a Christmas song for them too.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: Have you thought of someone you want to share your angel with? Tell us about it. When you give them the angel, tell them about the song the angels sang for the shepherds, and you will be a herald for Jesus.

When we tell others the good news of Jesus, and we do it with joy, it makes Jesus very happy. Let’s say our message together again.

WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.

B. Doorknob Hanger

In advance, photocopy a doorknob hanger for each child (see page 152) and write the name and address of your church on the board for the children to copy onto the back of it. Have them decorate the front side and cut it out.

Debriefing

Say: Take this home with you and give it to someone to hang on their door. When you do that you will be a herald for Jesus. When we tell others the good news of Jesus, and we do it with joy, it makes Jesus very happy. Remember:

WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.

C. Special Project

Say: One way we can bring joy to others is to give them a present. Children usually make a list of things they want for Christmas. But some children don’t because they know they won’t get anything. Their parents can’t work, or don’t have jobs.

Let’s make a list of things that children like best. Next week, try to bring a gift for a child your same age, and we will give them to children who otherwise wouldn’t get anything for Christmas.

Take all suggestions, then narrow the list down to a few things the children in your class can afford. Send a note home, asking parents to send a wrapped gift next week for a child the same gender and age as theirs. Be sensitive to children who may not be able to purchase gifts. Have some extras for them to give, or take them shopping yourself.

Closing

Close with a simple prayer, thanking God for His Son, Jesus, and that we can worship Him with songs of joy as the angels did. Ask God to help the children tell others the good news of His coming.
Do you know why many people celebrate Christmas? What do you think it was like when Jesus was born? We don’t know what it was like, but we know heaven rejoiced. So much so that the angels came to sing. Perhaps it happened like this . . .

“It’s time! The time has finally come! Jesus is born!” one excited angel bubbled with joy.

“But do you see? Hardly anyone is paying attention,” added another.

“The priests in the temple continue to sacrifice the lambs,” said another. “But I don’t think they know what that means.”

“I wish we could tell them that Jesus has been born,” added another angel. “I just want to shout: ‘We have GOOD NEWS for you! Your Savior has been born!’”

The angel choir knew what they would sing. They were ready to tell the world about Jesus. It was almost time for their special concert. Tonight! Tonight they would sing. And all the world would remember it for years to come. Jesus, the Son of God, had come to this sin-filled planet to be born as a baby. They would tell the world.

Angels had been watching people on earth. They saw the priests in the temple. Those men were supposed to know about the Savior’s birth. Prophets had told about it for years. But those who had studied their prophecies weren’t even thinking about it. The greatest event that would ever happen on earth had taken place. Yet only a few people were even looking for it.

No, most people in the temple didn’t remember. Or maybe they just didn’t care. But a few people who lived near Bethlehem cared. At that very time a few shepherds were gathered on a hillside watching their sheep. They were among the few who knew it was time for the Savior to come.

Soon the command rang out, and the angels hurried to take their places. In the middle of the night Gabriel led them to the skies above Bethlehem. There they waited while Gabriel spoke to the shepherds. Then the angel choir would sing.

Suddenly God’s glory lit up the night. The shepherds in the field were terrified!

“Don’t be afraid,” Gabriel announced. “I have good news. This very day, your Savior has been born. You’ll find Him in Bethlehem wrapped in soft cloths and lying in a manger.”

Immediately the sky was filled with shining angels. The angel choir joined Gabriel, filling the night with the most glorious music ever heard. “Glory to our God. The highest glory to Him. Peace has come to earth. God has sent His best gift to humanity.” On and on they sang, as they

References
Luke 2:8-15; The Desire of Ages, pp. 43-49

Memory Verse
“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10).

The Message
We worship God when we sing joyful songs of praise.
slowly went back toward the heavens. Still stunned, the astonished shepherds watched.

Filled with awe, one shepherd finally found his voice. "What are we waiting for?" he asked. "Let's go to Bethlehem to see this babe the Lord has sent."

And they soon left that hillside to go in search of the Savior of the world—a baby, lying in a manger.

Did you know that the angels are still singing the glory song today? Our hearts can overflow with that joy of worshipping Jesus too. Like the angels, we can worship God in song.

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*See The Desire of Ages, p. 780.

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**Daily Activities**

**Sabbath**

- Sit with your family and read your lesson story together. Talk about the meaning of Christmas. Tell about your Sabbath School class project to give gifts to children. Make plans to get a gift.
- Sing some Christmas carols. Talk about ways you can share them with others. If possible, make plans to go caroling around your neighborhood sometime soon.

**Sunday**

- For worship today, sing "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing." Ask someone to help you find the word *herald* in a dictionary. What does it mean? Ask: How can we be heralds for Jesus?
- Teach the memory verse to your family. Ask: What was the good news for the shepherds? What is the good news for us today? Thank God for His promises.
- Put the doorknob hanger you made in Sabbath School on someone's doorknob this afternoon. Or cut one out of heavy paper and write "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "Jesus is coming again!" on the front and color it. On the back, write your church's name and address.

**Monday**

- During worship today, read Luke 2:8-15 together. Ask: Why were the shepherds afraid? What were the angels singing? What do angels do today?
- Ask each person to draw a picture of an angel and cut it out. If you have a Christmas tree, hang your angels on it. If not, put yours where you will see it often to remind you of the memory verse.
- Listen to some sacred Christmas music before prayer. Thank Jesus for angels.

**Tuesday**

- Ask a family member, or friend, to help you find a book about sheep and shepherds in the library. Or with your parents' permission, check the Internet for information about sheep or shepherds. During worship today, share what you learned with your family. Say your memory verse together. Ask each person to tell about the best 'good news' they have ever heard. Then thank God for good news and happy times.

**Wednesday**

- For worship today, act out or draw the title of a sacred Christmas song. Have your family guess what it is. How many songs about angels can you think of?
- Let each person pick a song to sing before prayer. Thank Jesus for beautiful Christmas music.
- With a family member, go outside after dark and look at the night sky. Find the brightest star. Is it as bright as the star over the place where Jesus was born?

**Thursday**

- For worship, act out the Bible story with your family. Sing the chorus of "Angels We Have Heard on High" when you come to the part about the angels singing.
- Ask if you can help make angel- and sheep-shaped cookies. Sing or listen to your favorite Christmas songs while you work. Save some cookies for tomorrow night.
- Invite some friends to your house to sing Christmas carols Friday night.

**Friday**

- Before your guests arrive, plan the Christmas carols you will sing together.
- Be a good herald. Be ready to share your lesson story with them. After singing, serve your cookies and a drink. Invite your guests to be heralds too. Plan to go caroling together sometime soon. Thank Jesus for friends.
The Shepherds Worship Jesus

Monthly Theme
We praise God for the gift of Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
In this lesson the “Christmas story” is told from the shepherd’s point of view. The shepherds are in the fields on a hillside near Bethlehem. In the evening, probably around a campfire, they talk about the promised Messiah. They are frightened when an angel appears, but they pay attention, and suddenly a host of angels are there to praise God. The shepherds find Jesus and worship Him. As they leave the stable, they tell everyone they meet about their experience. Then they return to their flocks, “glorifying and praising God for all . . . they had heard and seen” (Luke 2:20).

This is a lesson about worship.
The shepherds join in the worship of Jesus in four ways: 1. They cease being afraid and find joy in worship. 2. They follow the angel’s instructions. They search for Jesus until they find Him. 3. They tell others about their experience, sharing the invitation to worship Jesus. 4. They return to carry on their work, all the while praising God for what they have seen and heard. Let us go and do likewise!

Teacher Enrichment
“In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. Through the silent hours they talked together of the promised Savior, and prayed for the coming of the King to David’s throne. . . .

“At these words, visions of glory fill the minds of the listening shepherds. The Deliverer has come to Israel! Power, exaltation, triumph, are associated with His coming. But the angel must prepare them to recognize their Savior in poverty and humiliation. ‘This shall be a sign unto you,’ he says; ‘Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger’ (The Desire of Ages, p. 47).

“But the brightest picture ever beheld by human eyes remained in the memory of the shepherds. . . .

“Departing with great joy, they made known the things they had seen and heard” (The Desire of Ages, p. 48).
“To meet a bitterer conflict and a more fearful risk, God gave His only-begotten Son, that the path of life might be made sure for our little ones. ‘Herein is love.’ Wonder, O heavens! and be astonished, O earth!” (The Desire of Ages, p. 49).

**Room Decorations**
See Lesson 11.

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### Program Overview

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<th><strong>Lesson Section</strong></th>
<th><strong>Minutes</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Materials Needed</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readiness Options</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td><strong>A. Sheep Ornament</strong></td>
<td>sheep pattern (see p. 152); white and/or brown paper; scissors; hole punch; glue sticks or tape; art supplies; ribbon, yarn, or string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>B. Telephone</strong></td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer and Praise*</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Songbook</td>
<td><em>Sing for Joy</em></td>
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<td>Mission</td>
<td><em>Children’s Mission</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>sheep ornaments or Christmas-theme offering device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Lesson</td>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>Experiencing the Story</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Memory Verse</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Bibles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applying the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td><strong>Sights and Sounds</strong></td>
<td>chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker, paper, pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td><strong>A. Gift Bags</strong></td>
<td>small paper bags, art supplies, small pictures of Jesus or paper and pens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>B. “J” is for Jesus</strong></td>
<td>J-shaped pattern (see p. 153), heavy paper, art supplies, scissors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome

As you welcome students at the door, accept the gift packages they bring to share with children in your community who may not have gifts for Christmas (if you have chosen to do that project). Thank each child and place their gift on a table where all may see. Take note of those who bring no gift. You may need to furnish one for them to add to the gift table.

Ask each child how their week has been—what they are pleased/toutroubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Sheep Ornament

In advance, copy a sheep pattern for each child (see page 152). Punch a hole at the top. Have the children decorate the sheep, cut it out, and draw thread, string, ribbon, or yarn through the hole so it will hang from the class Christmas tree or wherever you choose to use it. The pocket should be cut out and glued or taped on front so the children can place their offering inside.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: Show us the sheep you made. Put your offering in the pocket and hang it on our Christmas tree now.

Our Bible story today is about the shepherds and Baby Jesus. Last week we learned about the angels’ song. That’s our memory verse this week. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).

The shepherds were so excited to see prophecy fulfilled before their very eyes. They probably weren’t expecting their Savior to be a baby or to be born in a place where animals were kept. But that is the message God’s angel had brought to guide them to Jesus. And they went where God sent them. God will guide us today too. Today’s message tells us about that.

WE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO GUIDES US.

Say that with me.

B. Telephone

Have the children sit in a circle. Tell them they are going to play a game about spreading news. Whisper a phrase such as “Jesus is born” or “The Messiah is here” into the first person’s ear. They have to whisper your phrase to the next person sitting beside them. Repeat until the phrase gets all around the circle. The last person will say the phrase out loud. The phrase will usually be mixed up and wrong by the time it gets to the end. Repeat several times.
**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: Did our phrase ever come out right? Why did it get mixed up? (Because we whispered; we spoke quietly; we tried to keep others from hearing; etc.) How does God want us to speak when we tell others about Jesus? (boldly and clearly) How softly do you think the shepherds spoke when they talked about Jesus? Our Bible story today tells more about the shepherds. Remember the angels’ song? That’s our memory verse this week. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).

The message the shepherds heard from the angels didn’t get mixed up. They heard it loud and clear, and passed it on that way. They knew who was guiding them to Jesus. And Jesus will guide us too. Our message says:

WE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO GUIDES US.

Say that with me.

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**Prayer and Praise**

**Fellowship**

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

**Suggested Songs**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 70)

“Away in a Manger” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 73 or 74)

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 75)

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 76)

**Mission**

Share a story from *Children’s Mission*.

**Offering**

Say: We worship God when we thank Him for His wonderful gift of Jesus. And we worship God when we give our gifts back to Him so that others may know of His love. If the children made sheep ornaments (Readiness A), point them out on the tree. If not, collect the offering in a Christmas-theme offering device.

**Prayer**

Pray, thanking Jesus for being willing to come to earth to save us. Thank God for loving us so much that He sent us His only Son.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Darken the room as much as possible and turn on the angel star.

When you say: shepherds, shepherds, or sheep

The children say: baa, baa

angel or angels Glory to God!

Read or tell the story.

Still amazed at what they had seen in the middle of the night, the wide-awake shepherds chattered among themselves. The angel choir that had come to them in the night was gone now. They had watched as the angels moved farther away into the dark sky.

What a message the angel had delivered to the shepherds! "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11, 12).

Could it be true? Would they find the Messiah, their Savior, in the nearby city? Bethlehem was known as the City of David. And it was a short distance from the hillside where the shepherds watched their sheep. But why would the Messiah be lying in a manger? That's what the angel had said. A manger! How could that be? Could the Messiah, the Savior of the world, have come to them as a baby?

They knew that newborn babies were wrapped in soft pieces of cloth to keep them warm and dry. But babies were kept at home—in a house, not in a barn with animals. It seemed so strange.

"Let's go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves," said one of the shepherds.

"The Lord has sent this message to us," said another.

"These were angels! I'm sure of it," called out another. "I believe we should go too."

So it was that in the middle of the night, the shepherds rushed off to Bethlehem. Once there, they searched until they found the place the angel had described. There in the place that sheltered animals, they found what they were looking for—a baby wrapped in soft cloths, lying in a manger.

How did they find the place where the baby had been born? Surely God guided them there. And once there, they told the baby's parents of the angel's visit and the beautiful angel choir who sang those words of praise:

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to men."

Together, in silence and awe, the shepherds knelt around the manger and worshiped their Savior as the baby's parents looked on.

All too soon, the shepherds had to return to care for their sheep. Filled with joy, they had to tell others. As they left the city, they could not keep the good news to themselves. And they spread the word to all they met. Glorifying and praising God, they spoke in awe of the angels' visit, of the babe in the manger, and of the God who sent the message to them.

Joseph and Mary were pleased that the shepherds had come. They had gladly invited them in and listened to their story. They, too, were amazed at all that had happened. Surely God had guided the shepherds. And He would guide the infant's parents as they cared for the precious gift God had given them.

The shepherds would never forget that night. They had seen the fulfillment of...
the prophecies they had studied for years. God had guided them to their Savior, and they had worshipped Him. And neither would Mary forget. The Bible tells us that she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. She had become the mother of the Messiah—the Savior of the world. Whatever happened in the future, truly she was blessed among women.

**Debriefing**
Allow response time as you ask: What did the shepherds think about the angel’s message? Why did they decide to go to Bethlehem and see for themselves?
Do you think Joseph and Mary expected Baby Jesus to be born in such a place? How do you think they felt when they saw the shepherds?
What did the shepherds do when they saw Jesus? What did they do as they left the city? Who was guiding them all this time?
Do you remember today’s message? Let’s say it together:

WE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO GUIDES US.

**Memory Verse**
Have the children learn the memory verse by using the following motions:

- **Glory to God in the highest heaven,** with palms open facing up, raise arms upward.
- **and on earth**, point downward.
- **peace**, with palms facing in, hands at chest, twist palms to face downward as you move hands outward to waist level.
- **to those on whom his favor rests**, forehead, move right hand straight forward while closing fingers to thumb.

**Luke 2:14** Palms together, then open.

**Bible Study**
Say: The people of Jesus’ day didn’t have the Bible as we know it today. They had scrolls with books of what we call the Old Testament. The shepherds probably couldn’t read, but they had heard the prophecies about the promised Messiah at the synagogue, which was like a church. Let’s look at some of the texts about the Messiah that they probably studied. Help the students find and read the following texts:

- Isaiah 40:10, 11
- Ezekiel 34:11, 12
- Psalm 23

Read Psalm 23 together (adults assist as needed).

**Debriefing**
Allow response time as you ask:
How do you think the shepherds felt when they heard that the Savior called Himself a shepherd? (It meant a lot to them because it was something they understood very well. They felt that Jesus understood their lives.)
What did the shepherds do to show that they were happy that Jesus understood them? (worshipped Him; told others about Him)

They were thankful for God’s gift of Jesus, and they were glad He had sent angels to guide them to Baby Jesus. That brings us to our message:

WE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO GUIDES US.
Applying the Lesson

Sights and Sounds

Say: Think about all the things the shepherds saw and heard that night in Bethlehem. Let’s name some. Write responses on the board.

Now let’s think about the many sights and sounds of Christmas today. What are some sights and sounds that remind you of the first Christmas? Allow time for responses and write them on the board.

Think of something about Christmas for which you want to thank and praise God. Now draw it for us. It can be from the Bible story or from Christmas at your house.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: Let’s see what you drew. Have the children show their drawings and explain them, if necessary.

Our senses, such as hearing and seeing and smelling, help us to remember things better. For the rest of their lives, the shepherds remembered what they had seen and heard. They praised God for it.

Do you thank and praise God for the things that you like about Christmas, especially about God’s most precious and beloved gift to us?

What does God’s gift of Jesus mean to you?

God gave His very best to us. Let’s always remember to be thankful for the real reason of Christmas. Let’s say our message together.

WE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO GUIDES US.
Sharing the Lesson

NOTE: At this time, talk about the gifts the children brought to share with other children in your community (if you did that project). Decide how they will be delivered. Make necessary arrangements to see that the gifts are delivered in the next few days.

A. Gift Bags

Have the children turn the plain paper bags into gift bags by decorating them with art supplies. Help them place a picture of Jesus or a piece of paper with JESUS written on it inside the bag.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: Show us your gift bags. Oh, you’ve done a great job! Now you can take them home with you. Give them to someone this week and tell them about the shepherds and Baby Jesus. Then you can ask them to look in the bag to see the greatest gift they’ve ever been given. And you can tell them how God sent angels to guide the shepherds to Baby Jesus. Remember,

WE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO GUIDES US.

B. “J” Is for Jesus

In advance, make a copy of the J-shaped pattern (see page 153) for each child on heavy paper. Have the children cut them out and decorate them.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: What does the ‘J’ you made say on it? If you turn it upside down, what does it look like and remind you of? (a shepherd’s staff; the shepherds who worshipped Jesus) What else does it remind you of—something you see on a tree at Christmas time? (candy cane)

Take your “J” home and give it to someone this week. Tell them about the shepherds and Baby Jesus. Remind them that Jesus is the greatest Christmas gift our world has ever been given.

And don’t forget, just as God guided the shepherds, He guides us to know more about Jesus today. Let’s remember to worship Him and thank Him for that. Remember our message? Let’s say it again.

WE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO GUIDES US.

Closing

As you pray, thank God for giving us Jesus, His most precious gift, and for guiding us to know Jesus better each day. Ask Him to help us remember the real meaning of Christmas during the holidays.

You Need:

- small paper bags
- art supplies
- small pictures of Jesus or paper and pens

You Need:

- J-shaped pattern (see p. 153)
- heavy paper
- art supplies
- scissors
The Shepherds Worship Jesus

When you receive a gift, do you thank the person who gave it to you? I hope you do! Thanking people for their gifts is very important.

Still amazed at what they had seen in the middle of the night, the wide-awake shepherds chattered among themselves. The angel choir that had come to them in the night was gone now.

What a message the angel had delivered! “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:11, 12).

Could it be true? Would they find the Messiah, their Savior, in the nearby city? Bethlehem was known as the City of David. And it was a short distance from the hillside where the shepherds watched their sheep. But why would the Messiah be lying in a manger? That’s what the angel had said. A manger! How could that be? Could the Messiah, the Savior of the world, have come to them as a baby?

They knew that newborn babies were wrapped in soft pieces of cloth to keep them warm and dry. But babies were kept at home—in a house, not in a place with animals. It seemed so strange.

“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves,” said one of the shepherds.

“The Lord has sent this message to us,” said another.

“These were angels! I’m sure of it,” called out another. “I believe we should go too.”

So it was that deep in the night, the shepherds rushed off to Bethlehem. There in a stable near an inn where people slept the night away, they found what they were looking for—a baby wrapped in soft cloths, lying in a manger.

How did they find the stable where the baby had been born? Surely God guided them to that place. And once there, they told the baby’s parents of the angel’s visit and the beautiful angel choir who sang those words of praise:

“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace to men.”

Together, in silence and awe, the shepherds knelt around the manger. There, they worshipped their Savior as the baby’s parents looked on.

All too soon, the shepherds had to return to their sheep. Filled with joy, they just had to tell others. As they left the city, they could not keep the good news to themselves. And they spread the word to all they met. Glorifying and praising God, they spoke in awe of the angels’ visit. They told of the babe in the manger, and of the God who sent the message to them.

References
Luke 2:15-20; The Desire of Ages, pp. 47, 48

Memory Verse
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).

The Message
We worship the God who guides us.

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Joseph and Mary were pleased that the shepherds had come. They had gladly invited them inside and listened to their story. They too were amazed at all that had happened. Surely God had guided the shepherds. And He would guide the infant’s parents as they cared for the precious gift God had given them.

The shepherds would never forget that night. They had seen the fulfillment of the prophecies they had studied for years. And neither would Mary forget. The Bible tells us that she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.

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<td><strong>Sabbath</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• If possible, go with your family and sit on a hillside. Or sit in front of a campfire or fireplace. Imagine that it is night and sheep are all around you. What sounds do you hear?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Read your lesson story together. Then teach the memory verse to your family. Make up a tune and sing the memory verse together. Sing some other songs too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Share the gift bag or “J” is for Jesus’ shepherd’s staff you made in Sabbath School with someone today. (Or cut out a large J shape and write “J” is for Jesus” on it. Turn it upside down. Does it look like a shepherd’s staff?) Tell the person about the shepherds and Baby Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• During worship today, ask your family to tell about the best gift they ever received. Ask: How does that compare to God’s gift of Jesus? Sing some carols; then thank Jesus for coming to be your Savior.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td>• With your family, read and discuss Luke 2:15-20. What do you think Mary and Joseph thought when the shepherds came in the night? Whom do you think the shepherds told about seeing Jesus? Whom can you tell?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Practice some Christmas carols with your family. Make a plan to sing carols in your neighborhood sometime soon. Thank God for music that tells about Jesus and His love.</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• During worship today, read Luke 2:8-16. Talk about the sights, sounds, and smells Mary and Joseph lived with in the stable. What sights and sounds and smells remind you most of Christmas? Thank God for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ask your family to tell you about a Nativity scene. Go someplace to see one, or look at pictures. Could you make a Nativity scene for your family? Ask permission. If it is all right, collect some things you will need. Invite your family to help.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• With your family, work on your Nativity scene. Add a baby doll and some straw to the manger. When you finish, sing “Away in a Manger” together. Then thank Jesus for coming.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sit in a circle together. Whisper “Jesus is born” to the person next to you. Then they are to whisper it to the one next to them. Go around the circle. Have the last person tell what they heard. Is this the way you want to tell others the good news? How did the shepherds spread the good news? Ask God to help you tell others.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• For worship, read Genesis 22:1-12 together. What does Abraham’s experience make you think of? Think about a time you gave someone something very special to you. Why did you do it? Was it easy or hard? Was it easy or hard for God to give His only Son to save us?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ask your family to help you finish your Nativity scene. Sing some carols as you work together.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Invite your neighbors and friends to see your Nativity scene this evening. Read Luke 2:1-20 with them, then sing some carols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ask them to tell about the time they first knew Jesus is their Savior. What did they do? Thank God for sending Jesus to save us all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is this the night you will sing carols in your neighborhood? If so, invite your guests to go with you. Thank God for the gift of music.</td>
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</table>
Gifts for Baby Jesus

Monthly Theme
We praise God for the gift of Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Somewhere in the east a small group of Wise Men have been studying the prophets, and they realize that soon the Messiah is to be born. When they see an unusual star, they follow it to Jerusalem and ask about the Messiah. King Herod hears about their mission, interviews them, and pretends to want to join in their worship. He consults with the Jewish leaders, then sends the Wise Men to Bethlehem. After the Magi visit Jesus, worship Him, and give gifts to the family, God warns them in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they return to their country by another route.

This is a lesson about worship.
Even though the Wise Men were of a different culture, their hearts were drawn in worship to Jesus. At considerable effort, they followed the star to find Jesus and give Him costly gifts. We don’t bring gold, incense, and myrrh to Jesus, but we do give Him our best gifts, including our time, talents, and our heart.

Teacher Enrichment
The Wise Men “were of noble birth, educated, wealthy, and influential. They were the philosophers, the counselors of the realm. . . .”

“They were instructed in dreams to go in search of the Messiah. . . .”

“The tradition that there were but three Wise Men arose from the fact that there were three gifts (Matt. 2:11), and is without support in Scripture. . . .”

“Some have thought that the Wise Men were from the same section of the ‘east country’ as was Balaam. . . . If such was the case, their journey to Bethlehem would be some 400 miles in length and would require two or three weeks of steady travel if they rode, perhaps a month if they walked. . . .”

“By this time Jesus was at least 40 days old, perhaps older. . . .”

“The gifts presented by the Wise Men provided the necessary means for the journey [to Egypt]” (The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, pp. 288-291).

“As these magi studied the starry heavens, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, they beheld the glory of the Creator. Seeking clearer knowledge, they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures. In their own land were treasured prophetic
writings that predicted the coming of a divine teacher. . . . In the Old Testament the Savior's advent was more clearly revealed. The magi learned with joy that His coming was near, and that the whole world was to be filled with a knowledge of the glory of the Lord" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 59, 60).

**Room Decorations**
See Lesson 11. Add three things to represent the Magi's three gifts—wrapped boxes or pretty jars.

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<td><strong>1 Readiness Options</strong></td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td><em>A. Star Ornament</em></td>
<td>star pattern (see p. 154); paper; scissors; hole punch; glue sticks or tape; art supplies; ribbon, yarn, or string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>B. Make a Human Star</em></td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>C. Smells Good</em></td>
<td>perfume and/or spices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any Time</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prayer and Praise</strong>*</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Songbook</td>
<td><em>Sing for Joy; The SDA Hymnal</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mission Story</td>
<td><em>Children's Mission</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>star ornaments or Christmas-theme offering device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Bible Lesson</strong></td>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>Experiencing the Story</td>
<td>star, pens (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Memory Verse</td>
<td>star shapes (see p. 154), scissors, marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Bibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Applying the</strong></td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td><em>What Shall I Give?</em></td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesson</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 Sharing the</strong></td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td><em>I'll Give My Heart</em></td>
<td>heart pattern (see p. 137), red paper, scissors, art supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesson</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Star Ornament

In advance, copy a star pattern for each child (see page 154) and punch a hole at the top. Have the children color and decorate them, cut them out, and thread string, ribbon, or yarn through the hole. The pocket can be cut out and either glued or taped to the star. Let the children place their offering in the pocket and hang the stars on the tree or other appropriate place.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: Show me your stars. You have done a good job! Our Bible story today is about some men who followed a star they saw in the sky. They were looking for someone special. When they found Him, they worshiped Him and gave Him gifts.

Our memory verse is “They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him” (Matthew 2:11). We worship Jesus when we bring our offerings to Him, too. Today’s message is:

WE WORSHIP JESUS WHEN WE GIVE GIFTS TO HIM.

Say that with me.

B. Make a Human Star

Ask the children to think of a way to form a human star. Then have them stand in such a way to form a five-pointed star. (Large class: form groups of eight or 10 children.) Have helpers assist as needed. When finished, have the children sit in those same positions.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: Did you have fun trying to figure out how to form a star together? Why do you think we made a star today? (Our story is about a star. We will learn something about stars.) That’s right. Today’s story is about a special star, one that was made of angels. Those angels helped some men deliver gifts to Jesus. Our memory verse says: “They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him” (Matthew 2:11). We are worshipping Jesus when we give our gifts to Him too. Our message is:

WE WORSHIP JESUS WHEN WE GIVE GIFTS TO HIM.

Say that with me.
Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Sing for Joy, no. 71 or no. 72)
“Away in a Manger” (Sing for Joy, no. 73 or no. 74)
“Silent Night, Holy Night” (Sing for Joy, no. 76)
“Some Children See Him” (Sing for Joy, no. 77)
“Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child” (Sing for Joy, no. 78)
“We Three Kings” (The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, no. 137)

Mission

Share a story from Children’s Mission. Emphasize how those in the story gave their gifts (money, talents, time, etc.) to Jesus.

Offering

Say: We worship Jesus when we give Him our gifts of money to be used to help others know about Him. If the children made star ornaments (Readiness A), point to them now. If not, collect the offering in a Christmas-theme offering device.

Prayer

In a short prayer, thank God for accepting our gifts of love.

You Need:

- perfume and/or spices
- star ornaments or Christmas-theme offering device

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LESSON THIRTEEN 133
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Darken the room and turn on the angel star (part of room decorations). As you read or tell the story, have the children interact by doing the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you say:</th>
<th>They do:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wise Men/Man</td>
<td>Press index finger to temple in a thinking motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>star, stars</td>
<td>Point to star in room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baby or Jesus</td>
<td>Pretend to hold and rock baby in arms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or have the children make simple faces with markers or pens (use washable ink) on the tips of their fingers to represent the Wise Men. When they are mentioned in the story, have the children hold up their fingers.

Read or tell the story.

"I see it, I see it!" The Wise Man looking into the night sky was suddenly very excited. "What do you think?" he asked the Wise Man with him.

"It could be the sign we’ve been looking for," answered his friend. Together, they discussed the new "star" they had been observing.

These men were part of the Magi, a group of men who were known in their country to be intelligent, honest, and wise.

As they had been studying the stars in the heavens, they also began to study the Hebrew Scriptures and had learned that it was time for the Messiah to be born. When the beautiful new star appeared, they were sure it was the sign of His coming.

After much discussion, some of the Wise Men decided to follow the star, to see if it would lead them to the promised one. Traveling at night to keep the star in sight, the Wise Men journeyed over mountains and across deserts. They kept studying the Scriptures as they went, and God’s Holy Spirit was with them, helping them to know God was guiding them.

After weeks of travel, the star stopped over the city of Jerusalem. The Wise Men expected everyone there to be talking about the birth of their new King, but strangely, no one seemed to know anything about it. Before long, King Herod heard about the strangers and their questions, and he invited them to come talk to him.

"Sir, can you direct us to the King of the Jews who has been born so that we may worship Him?" asked one.

Now, Herod was not a bit pleased at the thought that there could be a new king. He was not well-liked by his Hebrew subjects, and the idea of a new king made him angry and jealous. But he pretended to be interested so he could find out more. Herod asked the priests and scribes what they knew about a Jewish king. They soon reported that Scripture said that the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem.

"Let’s be on our way then," the Wise Men said to each other, glad that it seemed their search would soon end.

Arriving in Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. At first it didn’t seem possible that this could be the king they had traveled so far to worship. There was no royal guard or anything at all to show the world that He was a King. But when the Wise Men saw the baby, they knew that Jesus truly was their Savior, and they worshipped Him. They gave their costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Mary and Joseph.

Soon it was time to return home, and the Wise Men planned to go back to...
Jerusalem to share their good news with King Herod. But God gave them a dream, telling them that Herod really wanted to harm the baby, rather than worship Him. So they went home another way.

We can bring our best to Jesus, to worship Him just as the Wise Men did. We can give Him our time and our talents. We can give gifts of money or other things. But best of all, we can give Him our hearts. What will your gift of worship be for Jesus?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Why did Herod want to kill Jesus? (He was jealous; he knew the people did not like him and they might try to make someone else their ruler.)

How do you think the Wise Men felt when they finally found Baby Jesus? Why did the Wise Men bring Jesus gifts? (It was the custom to do that for royalty, and they believed He was King of the Jews.)

In what ways did the Wise Men worship Jesus? (by telling what they knew of God’s story; by searching for Jesus; by bringing gifts to Jesus; by obeying the warning in the dream, thus saving the baby’s life)

How do you think Joseph and Mary felt when the Wise Men gave Baby Jesus gifts and bowed down before Him? What do you think Joseph and Mary did with the gifts? (used them to buy food, helped them when they fled to Egypt)

Remember our message? Let’s say it:

WE WORSHIP JESUS WHEN WE GIVE GIFTS TO HIM.

Memory Verse

In advance, copy and cut out 16 paper star shapes (see p. 154) and write one word of the memory verse on each star. Mix them and have the children take turns putting them in order. Repeat until children know the verse. Be sure the children know who “they” are. The memory verse is: “They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him” (Matthew 2:11).

Bible Study

Say: The Wise Men studied the Hebrew Scriptures, the same ones that the shepherds studied. Let’s look at two of those verses.

Help the students find Numbers 24:17 and read the first phrase of the second sentence only. Say: What did this verse tell the Wise Men? What do you think they thought when they saw the bright angel star in the sky many years later?

Now let’s look at Micah 5:2. The book of Micah was written 700 years before the Wise Men read it. People waited a long time to worship Jesus!

Have the children find Matthew 2:13, 14 and have someone read the text aloud. Then read the following statement from The Desire of Ages, page 65:

“Through the gifts of the magi from a heathen country, the Lord supplied the means for the journey into Egypt and the sojourn in a land of strangers.”

Debriefing

Ask: What do you think about those gifts now? How important were they? How are our gifts to Jesus used today? (to tell others about Him; to support missionaries who tell people about Jesus; etc.)

The Wise Men knew something we know too:

WE WORSHIP JESUS WHEN WE GIVE GIFTS TO HIM.
Applying the Lesson

What Shall I Give?
Say: The magi were wealthy men. They brought expensive gifts to Jesus. But all that they brought wasn’t enough.
The shepherds were very poor. They thought they didn’t have anything to bring to Jesus, but they did. It’s something that everyone can give no matter how rich or poor they are. Do you know what that is? Listen to this poem:

What shall I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I’d give Him a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I’d do my part.
Yet what can I give Him? I’ll give Him my heart.

Debriefing
Say: We give our hearts to Jesus each time we worship Him. A few minutes ago we said that the Wise Men worshipped Jesus in a lot of ways. What are some ways we worship Jesus? (by telling others about Jesus; by reading about Him in the Bible; by bringing our money gifts; by being obedient to our parents and teachers; by using our time and talents to help others; etc.)

Do you want to give Jesus the gift of your heart? He would love your worship in that way. Allow response time, then ask the children who want to give themselves to Jesus to raise their hand while you offer a short prayer of dedication.
Close this activity by saying the message together, then go immediately into the next activity. Say: Let’s say today’s message together again:

WE WORSHIP JESUS WHEN WE GIVE GIFTS TO HIM.

Sharing the Lesson

I’ll Give My Heart
In advance, copy the heart pattern (see page 137), one for each child, on red paper.
Distribute supplies and have each child cut out and decorate a paper heart.
While they work, sing “Into My Heart” (Sing for Joy, no. 125) or a similar song of dedication.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: Can you read what the heart says? Yes, it’s the poem we just learned. Show us the hearts you just decorated. They’re very nice.
Think of someone to share your heart with this week. As you show them, tell them about the Wise Men giving Baby Jesus their gifts. And remember:

WE WORSHIP JESUS WHEN WE GIVE GIFTS TO HIM.

Closing
Pray that the students will always want to worship Jesus with their gifts of money, time, talents, and their hearts.

You Need:
• heart pattern (see p. 137)
• red paper
• scissors
• art supplies
What can I give Him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring Him a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him?
I’ll give Him my
heart.

I'll give Him my
heart.
Yet what can I give Him?
I would do my part.
If I were a wise man,
I would bring Him a lamb.
If I were a shepherd,
poor as I am?
What can I give Him?
Gifts for Baby Jesus

Do you like to get presents? Most people do. A long time ago some men gave special gifts to Jesus. Maybe it was like this:

“I see it, I see it!” The man looking into the night sky was suddenly very excited. “What do you think?” he asked the men with him.

“It could be the sign we’ve been looking for,” answered one of his friends. Together the men talked about the new “star” they had been studying.

These men were Magi, men known in their country as honest and wise. Although they were not Jews, they had studied the Hebrew Scriptures and learned about a special star. That star meant it was time for the Messiah to be born. So when the bright new star appeared in the night sky, they rejoiced. They were sure it was the sign of the Messiah, the Savior.

After much discussion, some of these Wise Men decided to follow the star. Traveling at night to keep the star in sight, the men journeyed for many days. They kept studying the Scriptures as they went. And God’s Holy Spirit guided them.

After many weeks of travel, the star stopped over Jerusalem.

The Wise Men expected to find everyone talking about the birth of their new King. “Where is He who is born King of the Jews?” they asked. “We have seen His star and have come to worship Him.” But strangely, no one seemed to know anything about it.

Before long, King Herod heard about the strangers and their questions. He wanted to know more, so he sent for them. “Sir, can you direct us to the Jewish king who has been born?” asked one of the men. “We have come to worship Him.”

Now, Herod knew that he was not well liked by his subjects. The idea of a new king made him angry and jealous. But he pretended to be interested, so he could find out more. Before answering the men from the east, Herod questioned the Jewish priests and scribes. They reported that Scripture said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Herod then told the Wise Men: “Go to Bethlehem and search for the child. And when you find Him, come and tell me. I want to worship Him too.”

Soon the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem. There, they found the place where the little family was staying. But no royal guard stood nearby. There was nothing at all to show the world that this child was special. They wondered, Can this be the Messiah we have looked for? At first it didn’t seem possible. But when the Wise Men saw the baby, they knew! This Jesus truly was the Savior! And they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they gave their costly gifts to Mary and Joseph—gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Soon it was time to leave. The Magi planned to go back to Jerusalem to share their good news with King Herod. But in a dream, God told them not to go there. Wicked King Herod really wanted to harm the baby, not worship Him. So they went home another way.

We can worship Jesus just as the Wise Men did. We can give Him our time...
and our talents. We can give gifts of money or other things. But most of all, we can give Him our hearts. What will your special gift of worship be for Jesus?

**Daily Activities**

**Sabbath**
- For sundown worship today, sing some Christmas carols. Then read your lesson story together. When it is dark, go outside and find the brightest star in the eastern sky. Is this the star the Wise Men saw? How do you know? (Or look for the brightest light you can find. Is it as bright as the star the Wise Men saw?)
- Teach the memory verse to your family. Talk about gifts your family might give to Jesus. Then thank Jesus for His gifts to you.

**Sunday**
- For worship, read Matthew 2:1-12. Find Bethlehem on a map of Israel as it is today. Then look north and east of Israel and find the Euphrates River. The Wise Men probably came from a place near that river. Ask: About how far did the Wise Men travel? How long do you think it took? Sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem” before prayer. Pray for people traveling.
- Ask if you can help make some star-shaped cookies. Wrap some as a gift to share with neighbors. As you share, sing some carols, then tell about the gifts of the Wise Men. (Save some cookies for Friday night.)

**Monday**
- With your family, read and discuss the lesson story. Talk about the gifts the Wise Men brought. Ask your family to help you find the words *magi*, *frankincense*, and *myrrh* in a dictionary. Tell what each word means. What gift can you give Jesus today?
- Share the heart you made in Sabbath School with someone. (Or make a heart and write the memory verse on it.) Tell them about the Wise Men. Talk about how you will give your heart to Jesus. Pray for that person today.

**Tuesday**
- Ask an adult to bring some perfume or spices to worship. Review your lesson story, then have a smelling test. Ask each person to close their eyes. Hold one thing at a time under each person’s nose. Have them guess what they smell. Ask: What do you think frankincense and myrrh smelled like?
- Make some paper star-shaped ornaments. Hang them on your Christmas tree or in your windows. Sing about the Wise Men, then thank Jesus for stars in the night sky.

**Wednesday**
- During worship, read Matthew 2:1-12 again today. Say your memory verse together. Make a list of gifts Jesus gave us by coming to earth. Then make a list of gifts we give to Jesus when we worship Him.
- Talk about giving gifts to others at Christmastime. Think of something your family can give to help children who might not receive any gifts. Make a plan to do it. Ask Jesus to help you.

**Thursday**
- Use a white or yellow crayon on dark paper to draw a picture of the Wise Men following the star. Show your family as you tell them the lesson story. Say your memory verse together before prayer. Thank God for wisdom.

**Friday**
- Ask someone to help you make finger puppets. Or draw a simple face on your fingers to represent the Magi. For worship, act out the story with your puppets or fingers. At the end, sing the song “We Three Kings” using the finger puppets. Thank Jesus for coming to earth.
- Go outside and look at stars. Imagine what the angel star must have looked like. What would it be like to follow a star night after night? Why were the Wise Men so determined to worship the King?
- When you go back inside, share a hot drink and some cookies.
When Jesus Comes Again

**Memory Verse**

“The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20).

**Objectives**

The children will:

- **Know** that God has given Jesus to us for eternity.
- **Feel** eager to accept God’s invitation to worship Jesus forever.
- **Respond** by choosing to accept God’s invitation.

**The Message**

When Jesus comes again, we will live with Him and worship Him forever.

**References**

Revelation 7:9-17; 21; 22; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 645-652

**Monthly Theme**

We praise God for the gift of Jesus.

**The Bible Lesson at a Glance**

At the end of earth’s history the redeemed sing the song the angels love to sing. But this time the song isn’t about Jesus coming to earth, it is about all of us going to be with Jesus forever. Based on Revelation 7, 21, and 22, the lesson describes the praise that God’s remnant offers to the Lamb and the beauties of heaven and the new earth.

**This is a lesson about worship.**

When we accept Jesus’ invitation to take the free gift of “the water of life,” we join in the worship that will be our theme throughout all eternity. Notice how all the worship in this passage (like all true worship) centers on Jesus. We won’t need places of worship in heaven, because Jesus IS our temple.

**Teacher Enrichment**

“Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own ‘new name’ (Revelation 2:17), and the inscription, ‘Holiness to the Lord.’ In every hand are placed the victor’s palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awakening sweet music in rich, melodious strains . . . each voice is raised in grateful praise” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 646).

“As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts, when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus’ feet and praise Him through the endless cycles of eternity” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 647).

“Amid the waving of palm branches they pour forth a song of praise, clear, sweet, and harmonious: . . . ‘Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.’ And all the inhabitants of heaven respond in the ascription: ‘Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever.’ Revelation 7:10, 12” (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 650, 651).
Room Decorations

Make a “heaven” scene. Set a “throne” at the front of the room. (Drape a white sheet over a chair.) Add glitter, a gold crown, and a harp. Add greenery, flowers, animals, baskets of fruit, etc.

**Program Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Section</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Materials Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Readiness Options</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>A. Starry, Starry Crowns</td>
<td>heavy yellow or gold paper, crown pattern (see p. 154), scissors, star stickers, tape or stapler strips of cloth, dowels or sticks, glue or tape, palm branches (optional) modeling clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Festal Banners Wave</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Heaven Is a Gift</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer and Praise*</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Songbook</td>
<td>Sing for Joy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Children’s Mission</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>gold-covered offering container</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Lesson</td>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>Experiencing the Story</td>
<td>white “robes,” crowns (see Readiness A), palm branches or festal banners (see Readiness B), rhythm musical instruments, picture of heaven crown pattern (see p. 154), paper, marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Memory Verse</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Bibles, chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applying the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>How We Worship</td>
<td>Bibles, pictures of or real musical instruments (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing the Lesson</td>
<td>up to 15</td>
<td>What Worship Looks Like</td>
<td>paper, art supplies, praise music recorded music and audio player (optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.*
Welcome
Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Starry, Starry Crowns
In advance, make a copy of the crown pattern on heavy yellow or gold paper for each child (see page 154).
Distribute supplies and have the children cut out the crowns, tape or staple the headband to fit, and add star stickers. Save these to be worn during Experiencing the Story. Tell the students they will be given a new name in heaven (see Revelation 2:17). It won’t be based on our character on earth, but will reflect God’s character. (Explain the meaning of character.) Have them choose a name they want to be called, one that reflects God’s character (Mercy, Grace, Love, Forgiveness, Truth, Faith, etc).

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: What names did you think of? What do you think about God giving you a new name? What name do you think will show that you now reflect God’s character? Our Bible story today tells us what will happen when Jesus comes again. The memory verse also tells us: “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20). Our message is:

WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

B. Festal Banners Wave
Have the students make festal banners by gluing or taping a strip of cloth to a dowel or stick, or distribute real or paper palm branches. Wave the palm branches or banners while singing a favorite praise song. Save them for Experiencing the Story.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: What do you think worship will be like in heaven? Today we will learn about living with Jesus when He comes again. The memory verse is: “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20). Our message is:

WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.
C. Heaven Is a Gift
   Give each child some modeling clay. Ask them to make something they will see in heaven that will be a gift from God.

Debriefing
   Allow response time as you ask: **What will you see in heaven that will be a gift from God to you?** Show us what you made. The Bible story today is about heaven and how we will thank God for the wonderful gifts He has for us when Jesus comes again. The memory verse is: “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20). Our message is:

   **WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.**

   Say that with me.

---

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship
   Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
   “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 1)
   “Clap Your Hands” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 4)
   “Come and Praise the Lord Our King” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 5; all verses)
   “Bless His Holy Name” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 9)
   “Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 78)
   “Joy to the World” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 81)

Mission
   Share a story from *Children’s Mission*. Emphasize people praising God.

Offering
   Cover a container with gold material. Say: **One of the ways we can show Jesus that we love Him is to give Him our gift of money.**

You Need:
   • gold-covered offering container

Prayer
   Pray that everyone in the class will be in heaven with Jesus to praise Him.

You Need:
   • modeling clay

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Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

NOTE: The presentation of this lesson will be different from the usual story. Take time to study it before you present it to the class. As an alternative, have a man dress as John the revelator and read the text as indicated.

Read or tell the following:
Say: These past few weeks we have been learning about the birth of Baby Jesus. We know that Jesus lived and died on earth so we might be saved. This week we will learn how things will be different when Jesus comes again.

Jesus will take us to live with Him in the new earth. He will give us white robes and crowns. Have the children put on their white robes (men’s white T-shirts or dress shirts), then walk by as you place crowns on their heads.

Jesus is going to give us palm branches to worship with Him. Distribute them or use the festal banners. Let’s wave our palm branches. He’s going to give us harps and other instruments to praise Him with. Distribute the instruments. Let’s hear how those instruments sound. Allow the students to play them for a few minutes.

Jesus will give us beautiful places to live, wonderful food to eat, and pure, sweet water to drink. The animals will all get along together and so will people. Show a picture of heaven.

We will have a lot to praise God for. Let’s practice our praise right now. Say the following in a rhythmical way. Practice it a few times until the children can say it smoothly.

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks!
And honor and power and strength!
Be to our God forever and ever!
Amen! Amen! Amen!

Explain that the Bible says that God gave John a vision of heaven and that you (or “John the revelator”) will read it as the Bible records it in Revelation 7:9-17. Encourage the children to follow along in their Bibles as the text is read aloud.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
What are some of the things that Jesus is planning for us when we go to heaven?
What do you think will be best about heaven? What are some ways we will praise Jesus in heaven?
What do you think will be the best part of worshipping Jesus in heaven?
Do you remember our message?
Let’s say it together:

WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Make six copies of the crown pattern (used for Readiness A) and write one phrase of the memory verse on each. Mix the crowns and have the children take turns in small groups putting them on their heads.

You Need:
• crown pattern (used for Readiness A)
• paper
• marker

You Need:
• white “robes”
• crowns (see Readiness A)
• palm branches or festal banners (see Readiness B)
• musical instruments (toy or rhythm instruments)
• picture of heaven
in the correct order. Repeat until the children know the verse. The memory verse is:

"The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord" (Isaiah 38:20).

Have the children name some stringed instruments they know. Ask which they would like to play when they get to heaven.

**Bible Study**

Say: *We know we are going to praise God in heaven. There will be other things we will do also. Let's look at Isaiah 65:17-25 to read about them. We will make a list as we read.*

Ask volunteers each to read one verse. Adults will assist as necessary. Make the list where all may see.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask:

*What did you find out?*

*What do you think will be your favorite thing in heaven?*

*There will be so many things for us to see and do. Which will be the most important and the one we will do most? (worship Jesus)*

Let's say our memory verse and our message again:

"The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord" (Isaiah 38:20).

**WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.**
How We Worship

Say: We know we’ll spend eternity worshipping Jesus, but it’s also good to worship Him while we’re on earth. The Bible gives us some instructions about how to worship God. Let’s look at them.

Help the children find and read Psalm 150. If possible, show the instruments (or pictures of them). This psalm tells one way to worship God, but we can praise and worship Him in many different ways.

Where can we worship God each day? (We can worship God wherever we are.)

Do we worship only at church? (We worship God by the way we live our lives, by what we do, by singing and giving our offerings, etc.)

Let’s divide into pairs and take turns acting out a way to worship God. Large class: form several small groups. Each group should have an adult to help them.

Suggestions: enjoying nature, thanking God for food, obeying and respecting parents and teachers, singing hymns, playing special music in Sabbath School, praying, telling someone about what Jesus has done for you, giving money or food to help the homeless, reading the Bible, etc.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What are some other ways to praise God?

What will be your favorite praise instrument in heaven?

What is your favorite praise song?

What do you think is Jesus’ favorite praise song?

How will our worship in heaven be different from here?

How can we make our worship here more like it will be in heaven?

Since it is almost the new year, have you heard people talking about making a New Year’s resolution? It’s usually something they want to change or do better, such as exercise more, read their Bible more, not eat so many sweets, etc. What will be your New Year’s resolution about your worship?

Let’s say our message together again:

WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.
Sharing the Lesson

What Worship Looks Like
Distribute the paper and art supplies.
Say: I’d like you to make a picture of yourself worshipping God in your favorite way now, or how you want to worship God in heaven. If desired, play praise music while they work.

Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask:
Who will share your picture with the class?
What do you want to thank God for when you see Him in heaven?
Do you think you will ever run out of things to thank Him for?
How will we worship God and Jesus in heaven?

Share your picture with someone this week and tell them what it will be like when Jesus comes again and how you are going to worship and praise Him forever. Remind them that Jesus is our special gift from God.
Let’s say our message together one more time:

WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Closing
In a short prayer, thank Jesus for His promise to come again, for eternal life with Him, and the opportunity to praise and worship Him forever. Ask Him to help the children to be ready to go to heaven with Jesus.

You Need:
- paper
- art supplies
- praise music recorded music and audio player (optional)
When Jesus Comes Again

Can you imagine worshipping God for ever and ever? Forever means never ending! Maybe it is hard to imagine it now. But that is what we will do in heaven! Let’s look in on a family who is eager for Jesus to come.

Benjamin smiled as he watched the clouds move while he ate his picnic lunch. He turned to his father. “Wow, Dad,” he said. “Those clouds make me think of Jesus’ coming!”

“Me too!” Dad agreed. The family had been hiking in the mountains. Now they were sitting on a huge rock by the river eating lunch.

“I want Jesus to come and take us to heaven right now!” little sister Benita shouted.

“Me too!” Mom replied with a smile.

Later, during worship, they read from Revelation 7, 21, and 22. “The Bible says that Jesus will make a new heaven and a new earth,” Dad began. “And when Jesus comes again, we will live with Him and praise Him forever!”

“And there won’t be any tears or death or pain either,” Mom added.

“Just imagine it!” Dad continued. “The New Jerusalem will be like a big square. It will have 12 gates and 12 foundations.”

“WOW! Look at all the jewels that make up the foundations!” Benjamin exclaimed. “Green jasper, blue sapphire, yellow chrysolite . . . “ He read on through the 12 different stones. “And every huge gate will be made of a single pearl!”

“Think how beautiful it will be,” said Mom. “There won’t be a temple, or church, there. Jesus IS the temple. Jesus will always be with us. Nothing can keep us from being with Him.”

“I like this part,” Dad added. “We won’t need any lamps or lights. The glory of God’s presence is the light. And there will never be night again!”

“No more naps for me!” little Benita chimed in.

Mother smiled. She knew Benita didn’t like to take naps.

“People from every nation on earth will be there,” Benjamin added. “Those who loved and obeyed Jesus.”

Dad read more in Revelation 7. There they learned what John tells about the people in heaven. They will wear white robes and wave palm branches as they sing to praise God. Everyone will thank Him. As they bow down before His throne they will say:

“Amen!
Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

“Oh,” Mom added, “chapter 22 says the river of life flows from God’s throne and runs right through the city. The tree of life is in the very middle of the city. Part of its trunk is on both sides of the river! The tree gives 12 different kinds of fruit, a different one each month of the year. Mmmmm, I can’t wait!”

Dad continued, “There won’t be any more sin. We’ll see God’s face, and have His name. And we will live with Jesus always!”

“I want Jesus to come!” Benjamin shouted.

“That’s just what John said,” Dad pointed out. “Yes, Jesus, come!”

“Yes, Jesus, come!” little Benita echoed.

How about you? Jesus says to you,
"Come! Come drink of the water of life! Come live with Me forever." God offers us the gift of heaven and a life with Jesus forever. It will be more wonderful than we can even imagine. And we will want to thank God and Jesus for it often. Yes, we will worship and praise them forever. We will never get tired of doing that!

**Daily Activities**

**Sabbath**
- If possible, go to a beautiful outdoor place with your family. Sit in a quiet place and read your lesson together. How will heaven be different from this earth? In what ways will we worship God? For how long?
- Sing some favorite praise songs. Then teach the memory verse to your family. Ask: Who wants to be there? Ask Jesus to make you ready.

**Sunday**
- During family worship, read and discuss Revelation 7:9-17. What will be your favorite part of the city? What will people who worship God today say to Him in heaven? What will never happen again?
- Sing praise songs to Jesus while you wave scarves or palm branches. Thank Jesus for His promise to come again.
- Share the picture of yourself you made in Sabbath School with someone. (Or draw a picture of yourself worshipping in heaven.) Tell them about heaven and the new earth and what you will do there. Pray for them today.

**Monday**
- For worship today, read and discuss Revelation 7:9. Who is the Lamb? How many people will be in heaven? Where will they come from? Name as many countries as you can. Then look at a world map. How many countries can you count? Will people from every country be in heaven?
- Sing "Amazing Grace" together, especially the first and last verses. Then thank Jesus for giving His life so you and your family can live with Him forever.

**Tuesday**
- Read and discuss Revelation 21 during family worship. Tell how heaven will be different from life here on earth. Which change will you like best? Why is there no temple, or church, in the city? In what book do you want your name to be written? Why? Describe the New Jerusalem.
- Find out more about the precious stones mentioned in verses 19 and 20. (Hint: Get a book from the library or with your parents' permission, check the Internet.)
- Thank Jesus for His promise of heaven and the new earth. Tell Him why you want to be there.

**Wednesday**
- With your family, read and discuss Revelation 22. Describe the river and the special tree. Why won't we need lights anymore? When does Jesus say He is coming? Ask each person to act out something they want to do in heaven. Guess what they want to do. Which can't you do here on earth now?
- Draw a picture of the tree with 12 different kinds of fruit. Show it to your family. Then thank Jesus for the heavenly fruit He promises to give and the fruit you enjoy now.

**Thursday**
- With your family, read Revelation 2:17 and 21:7. Who will go to heaven when Jesus comes? Ask each person to think of a new name God might give them and tell why. (The name will reflect God's character.) Make a list of questions you would like to ask Jesus when you get to heaven.
- Think of five people you want to go to heaven with you. Make five paper stars and give one to each person. Tell them you want them to go to heaven with you when Jesus comes. Pray for each person today and every day.

**Friday**
- For worship today, read and discuss together *The Great Controversy*, pages 645-647 (paragraphs 22-26 of chapter 40). Do you want to be there?
- Say your memory verse together, then listen to some string instrument music. Ask your family: What instrument would you like to play now? in heaven? What musical talent do you want to have in heaven?
- Sing some praise songs, then thank God for the gift of heaven and the promise of eternal life.
How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are” (1 John 3:1, NIV).
For Lesson 11, page 117. Sharing the Lesson B.

Cut on the dotted lines.

For Lesson 12, page 122. Readiness Activity A.
“J” is for JESUS
For Lesson 13, pages 132 and 135. Readiness Activity A and Memory Verse.

For Lesson 14, pages 142 and 144. Readiness Activity A and Memory Verse.
My Memory Verses

1. “We show that we are servants of God . . . by our kindness” (2 Corinthians 6:6, ICB).
2. “Love is patient, love is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4).
3. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” (Colossians 3:23).
4. “God has been gracious to me and I have all I need” (Genesis 33:11).
5. “Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).
6. “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1).
7. “What is impossible with man is possible with God” (Luke 18:27).
8. “I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow” (Jeremiah 31:13).
10. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith . . . it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).
11. “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10).
12. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).
13. “They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him” (Matthew 2:11).
14. “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20).