

TEACHER
RESOURCE

UNIT 1

From Creation to Jacob's Ladder

LEVEL ONE

SON SEEKERS

AGES 5-6

Creation
In the beginning
God created ...

**NOAH
AND THE
FLOOD**

Name:

Learning to serve ...

REBEKAH

Teacher Resource

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Teaching Sonseekers ...

Dear Teacher

Teaching young people about God's Word is a great honour and privilege. We note God chose Abraham, a man of faith because he "would teach his children and his household after him, to know the Way of The Lord" (Gen 18:19)

One who undertakes such a task will understand they have accepted a responsibility to become a witness of God's great love and faithfulness. As an example of Christian faith and integrity they have a wonderful opportunity to share their love for God's Word. The tremendous blessing for those who commit themselves to this task is that the Holy Spirit will strengthen and equip you to shine as a light to your class.

Recent trends away from Sunday School structures towards child minding activities have, we believe, been unfortunate as they fail to recognise the impact and effect the message of God's love through Christ has on young people.

Children are the Church's future. As such they are precious and well worth any investment in quality resources and dedicated teachers.

The 'Sonseekers' curriculum offers children Sunday School material that gives them a sound background in Biblical events, people and places. Secondly it offers a pastoral approach for the children to know God is able to help them and change their lives.

Structurally, any program will operate effectively if those teaching are faithful, zealous and committed to a team approach that might include:

- regular prayer and discussion in relation to curriculum issues, student needs and upcoming events and presentations;
- organisation and management of resources;
- training and development needs of teaching staff.

Teaching Sunday School is a rich and rewarding task. May God bless and guide you as you serve in this way.

Yours in Christ

The Sonseekers Team

A teacher's guide to using the Sonseekers materials . . .

Timeline

4000BC	Creation Adam and Eve The Fall
2500BC	Noah The Flood Tower of Babel
2000BC	Abraham
1900BC	Isaac
1800BC	Esau and Jacob
1750BC	Joseph
1360BC	Moses
1280BC	Exodus from Egypt and Journeys Joshua
1240BC	Entry into and Conquest of Land
1220BC	Judges
1100BC	Gideon
1070BC	Samson
1063BC	Samuel
1020BC	Saul as King
980BC	David as King
940BC	Solomon as King
900BC	Kingdom Divided
839BC	Elijah Emerges; Mt Carmel Jehoshaphat
814BC	Elisha's Ministry
749BC	Jonah
662BC	Hezekiah; Isaiah
576BC	Josiah
540BC	Daniel taken to Babylon
527BC	Exile into Babylon
457BC	Restoration from Babylon
4BC	Birth of Jesus
26AD	Baptism of Jesus Call of Disciples
28AD	Feeding of 5000 Parables
29AD	Miracles; Transfiguration
30AD	Raising of Lazarus Parables Palm Sunday Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection Day of Pentecost Peter's Ministry
33AD	Conversion of Paul
45AD	Paul's Missionary Journeys
60AD	Paul as Prisoner to Rome

What are the Sonseekers materials?

The Sonseekers Sunday School materials are a four year course of 128 Bible lessons. The lessons are written with the twin aims of teaching the students an accurate chronology of Biblical events and also drawing from each lesson pastoral points relevant to the age and stage of each child. They are written at four levels to cover from Prep to Year 6 age groups. The 128 lessons are organised into 8 units, each of sixteen lessons. The table below indicates the suitable age group for each level:

Sonseekers Level	Student Age	School Level
Level One	5 - 6	Prep, Year 1
Level Two	7 - 10	Year 2, Year 3, Year 4
Level Three	11 - 12+	Year 5, Year 6

The Sonseekers materials comprise two related elements:

- **Teacher Resource** – including lesson plans & activity masters which can be photocopied;
- **Student Handbooks** – including homework activities;

There is also a Bible timeline showing chronology of major events, with the dates of the current unit's lessons highlighted, included in each Teacher Resource.

What's in my Sonseekers Level One Teacher Resource?

Each Level One Teacher Resource contains sixteen lesson plans for the relevant age of your students. Each lesson plan comprises:

- a summary of the Bible passage for the lesson;
- two alternative pastoral messages to be drawn out of each lesson; each pastoral message includes a theme, key thought, aim and a memory verse;
- a suggested teaching approach, which although only a guide, outlines a possible way of putting the lesson together;
- two alternative class activities - the first activity (A) is written in a more practical hands-on style and the second activity (B) is of a written nature.

Note: The photocopy masters for each activity are included with the lessons in the Teacher Resource.

.../cont'd

... teacher's guide ...

How do I best use my Teacher Resource?

The art of serving as an effective Sunday School teacher is linked to the degree of diligence in preparing for each lesson. The Sonseekers materials are only designed to assist the teacher in this process. They do not take away from the teacher his or her responsibility to prayerfully consider the needs of the children in the class and to seek God's revelation and wisdom in presenting each Bible lesson. The following suggestions are then made with regard to using this resource.

Prior to the lesson

- ◆ Prayerfully read the Bible passage for the lesson. The reference is provided in the header on the first page of the lesson plan. All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version (1983 edition).
- ◆ Read through the lesson plan and decide which activities will be most appropriate for the students in your class. Generally, aim for a variety of activities over a unit.
- ◆ Think about how you will combine the various elements of your lesson. Refer to the suggested teaching approach for ideas if necessary. Link the activity to the story so that the significance of the activity is clear to the students.
- ◆ Prepare all activities thoroughly prior to the lesson. Rehearse any planned activity at home to make sure:
 - that you know how to do it yourself;
 - that you have all the relevant materials in the quantities you will need;
 - that you know the length of time that the children will need for the activity.

During the lesson

- ◆ Hear the students' memory verses from the previous lesson. Also check on the completion of the homework activity page.
- ◆ Make sure all students clearly indicate in their Student's Handbook which memory verse they are to learn.
- ◆ Revise the previous lesson before going on to a new story. You may like to use the timeline to help you do this.
- ◆ Encourage students to go over the story themselves during the week and to read ahead for the next lesson.

Creation 1

Genesis 1& 2

Storyline

God created the heavens and the earth and made day and night. He created all of the living plants and creatures on the earth and in the sea and the birds of the air. God also created the sun, the moon and the stars in the sky. It took six days for God to create all things and He was pleased with His work because it was very good. On the seventh day God rested. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy because He rested from all His work.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Explain the sequence of God's creation. Have a large chart in the shape of a wheel showing each day of creation. As each day is discussed, stick appropriate pictures for each day onto the chart.
2. Present the activity.

Theme One

"God's purpose in creation"

God had a plan in creating the heavens and the earth. That plan is still being worked out today and we are part of that plan. Out of His love and desire for relationship, He created man and woman. God provided everything that they would need for life.

Key Thought

God's plan in creation was to provide a people with whom He could fellowship and to provide an environment in which they would live.

Aim

To show God's love for all people everywhere and His desire for relationship with them.

Memory Verse

"You created all things." (Revelation 4:11).

Theme Two

"God created all things by His word"

Before the world began there was only God. He spoke and the world was created from nothing. When men make something they require either raw materials or previously made components. God is able to call things into being which do not already have existence.

Key Thought

God's word is living and powerful.

Aim

To show the children that God made everything by His word.

Memory Verse

"He spoke, and it was done." (Psalm 33:9).

Activity A - The Days of Creation

Materials

- 2 Activity Sheets per child.
- Glue, scissors, felt pens/coloured pencils.

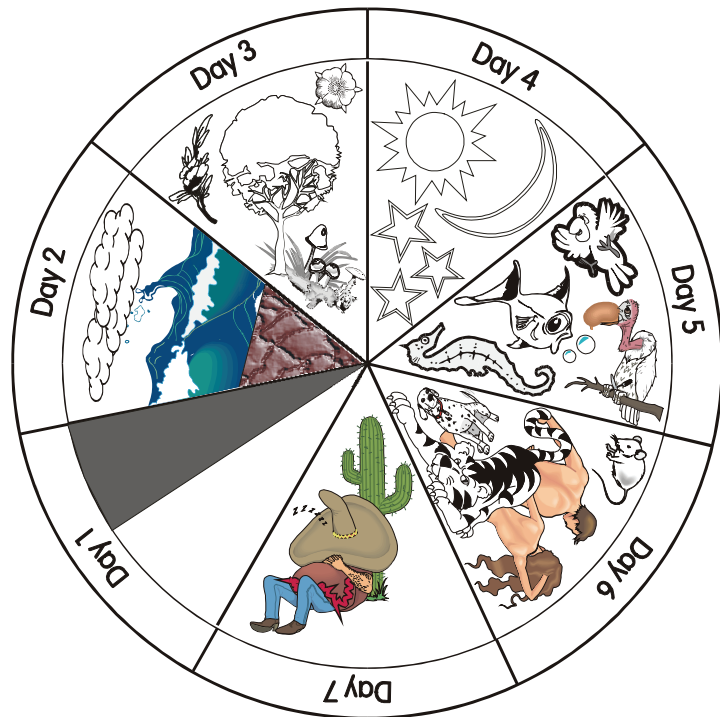
Steps

At Home

- Cut out the circles with the pictures of creation.

In Class

- Children colour the six days of creation.
- Cut out wedges, and glue corresponding days on blank circle sheets (see Activity Master).



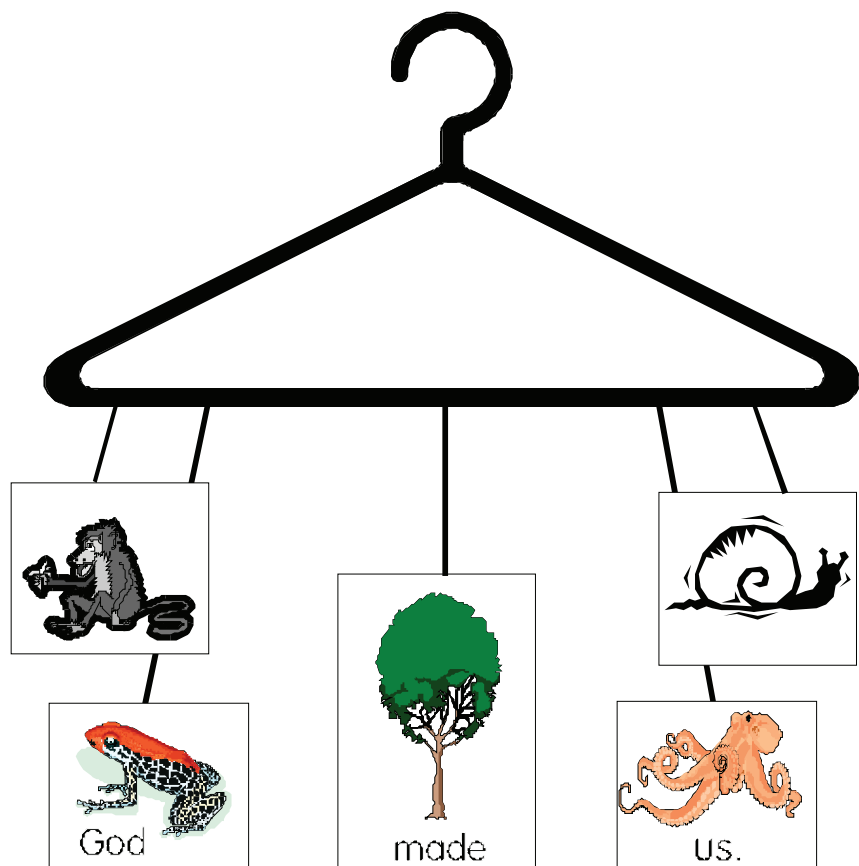
Activity B - Creation Mobile

Materials

- 1 wire coat hanger with 5 lengths of wool pre-tied, for each child.
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Safety scissors.
- Felt pens or coloured pencils.

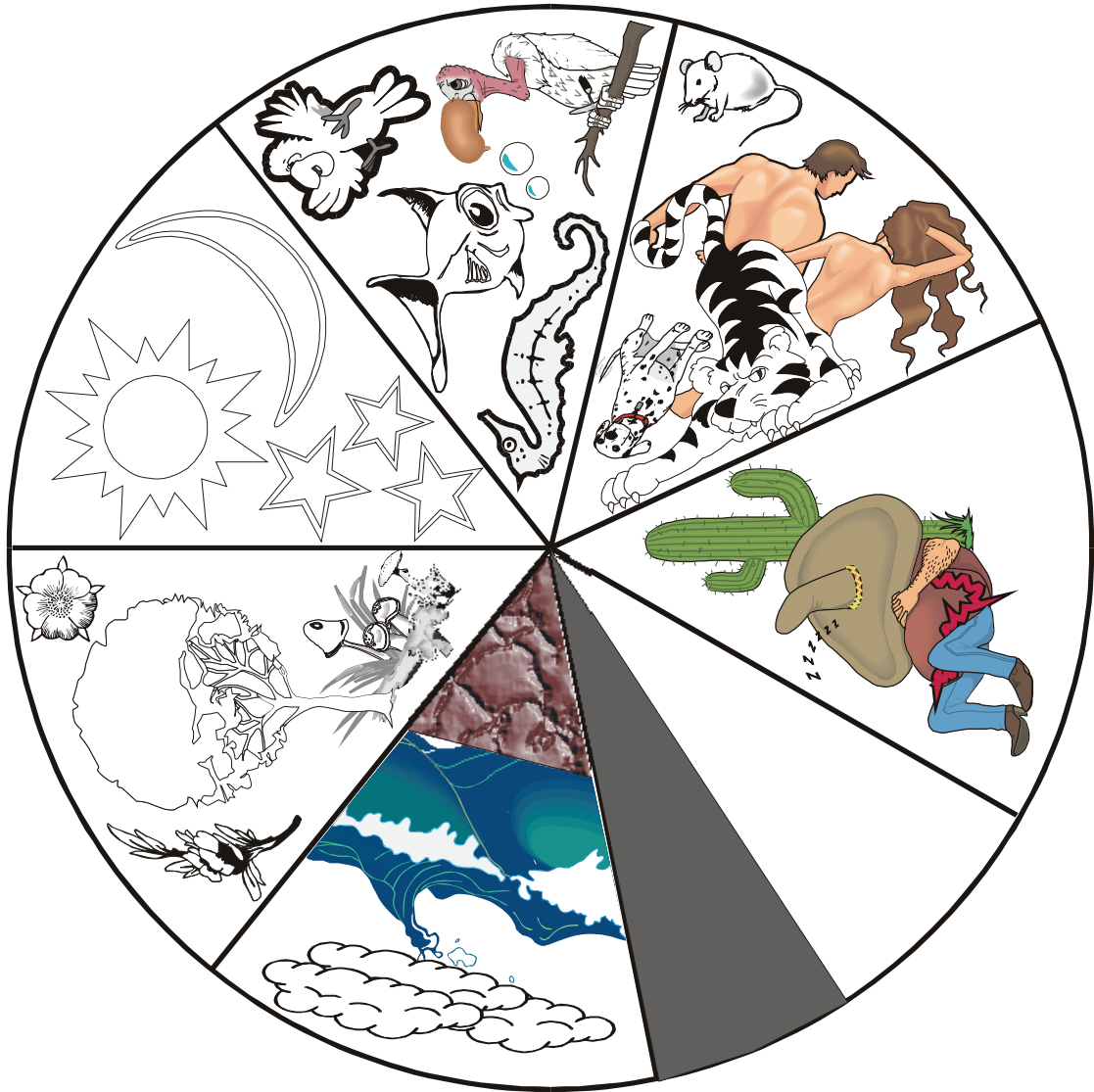
Steps

- Children write over dotted words ("God", "made" and "us").
- Colour and cut out pictures.
- Staple cut-outs to the wool on the hanger, putting the three words on the bottom, as per diagram.



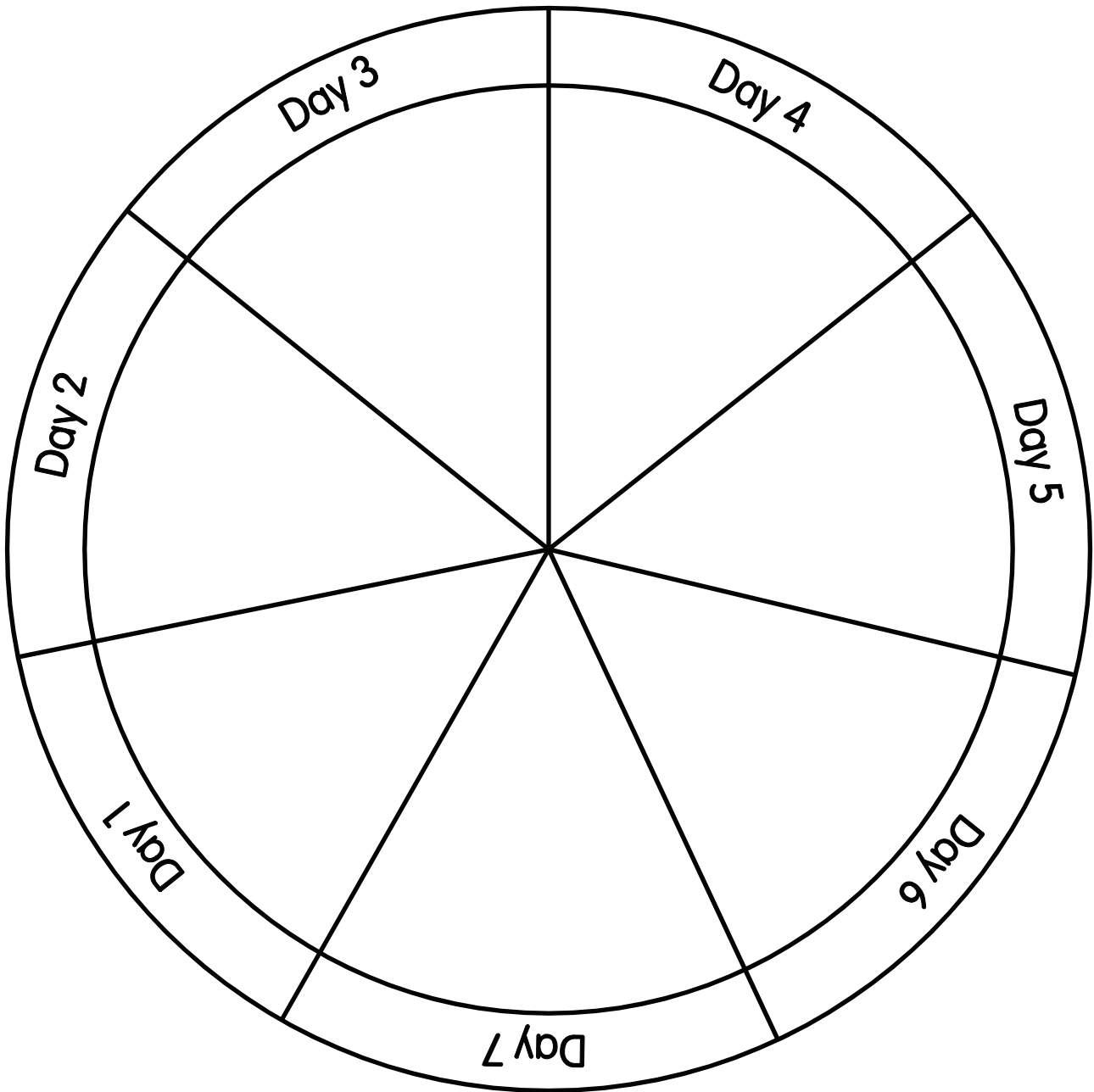
Creation 1

Activity A - The Days of Creation



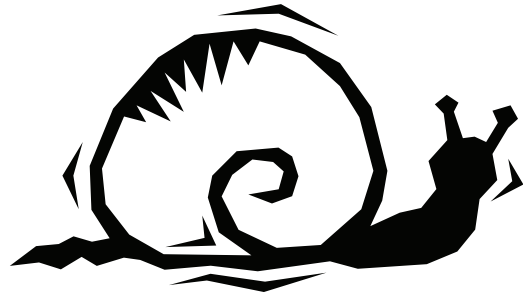
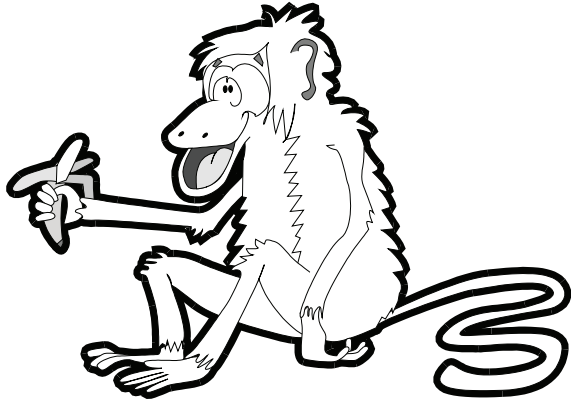
Creation 1

Activity A - The Days of Creation



Creation 1

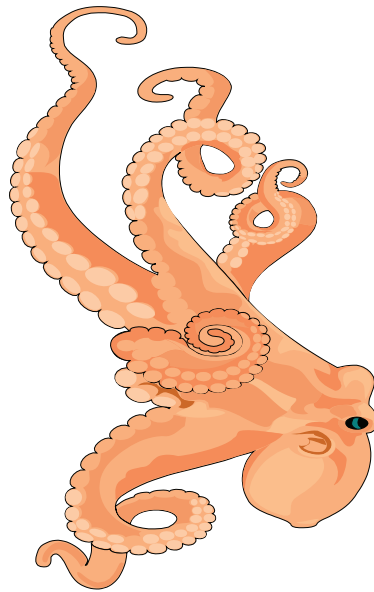
Activity B - Creation Mobile



Good



us.



mode



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Creation 2

Genesis 1& 2

Storyline

God blessed His creation, allowing the creatures to have families so that the seas and the land would be filled with His creatures. He gave green herbs for every animal, bird and creeping creature to eat. God also made man and created a special garden in which he could live. The man's job was to look after the garden. In this garden, God placed every tree which was lovely to look at and which was good for food. God also provided a river to water the garden. There were also two very special trees that God placed in the garden. They were called the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Have picture books available (borrowed from a library, if necessary) which depict various animals and birds with their babies - include pictures of human families also. Pictures of different types of fruit would also be helpful. Use these pictures when discussing families and God's provision for them.
2. Plant a seed in a flower pot or in a garden and discuss how it will have to be tended, in order for it to grow. Discuss how Adam had to care for the garden of Eden.

Theme One

"God cares for His creation"

When we think about how well God planned creation, we realise that He took great care to look after every creature He made. There is no need for us to ever worry about anything. We know that God never changes and He will look after us very lovingly and carefully as we trust Him as our Heavenly Father.

Key Thought

God blessed His creatures with all they needed to live, so that they would never be hungry, lonely or without a place to live.

Aim

For the children to be secure in the knowledge that God cares for us.

Memory Verse

"He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7).

Theme Two

"God gave man responsibility"

God cares for children by putting them in families where they can be loved and helped. Our parents show us how to be helpful at home, so that we become thoughtful, caring and helpful people. We learn how to be responsible by doing the work that our parents and teachers give us in the best way we can.

Key Thought

God gave Adam work to do caring for the garden of Eden.

Aim

To show that God gives us responsibilities so that we learn to be thoughtful and caring towards one another.

Memory Verse

"Be rich in good works." (1 Timothy 6:18).

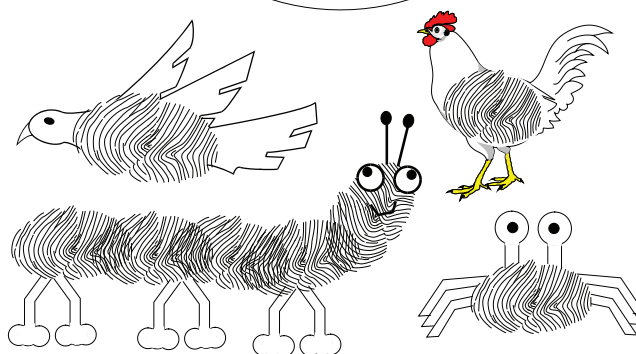
Activity A - Fingerprint Creations

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet.
- Stamp pads and ink (sponge and paint will probably be too wet to give the desired result).
- Sheet of paper for each child, or paper plate (not plastic or plastic coated).
- Felt pens/pencils/crayons.
- Aprons, or other protective gear.
- Clean up equipment for fingers, eg. plastic bowl, soap and towels.

Steps

- Show children examples given.
- Print with fingers, onto paper plate/sheet of paper.
- Wash hands.
- Add legs/whatever to make your special picture.
- Print underneath, or around edge of plate, "No one else is like me" or "God made me special." (Teacher may have to complete writing for most. Those who can, could copy themselves.



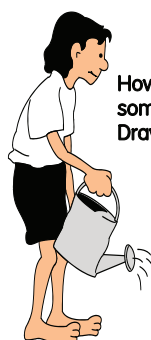
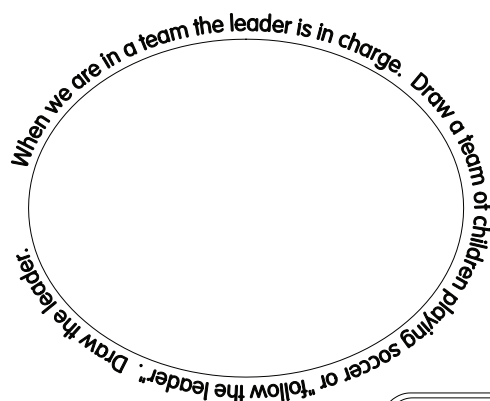
Activity B - Drawing Activity - "God is in Charge"

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Felt pens/pencils.

Steps

- Children draw picture in circle, fill in missing word from speech balloon, and draw pictures of flowers and plants beside watering can.



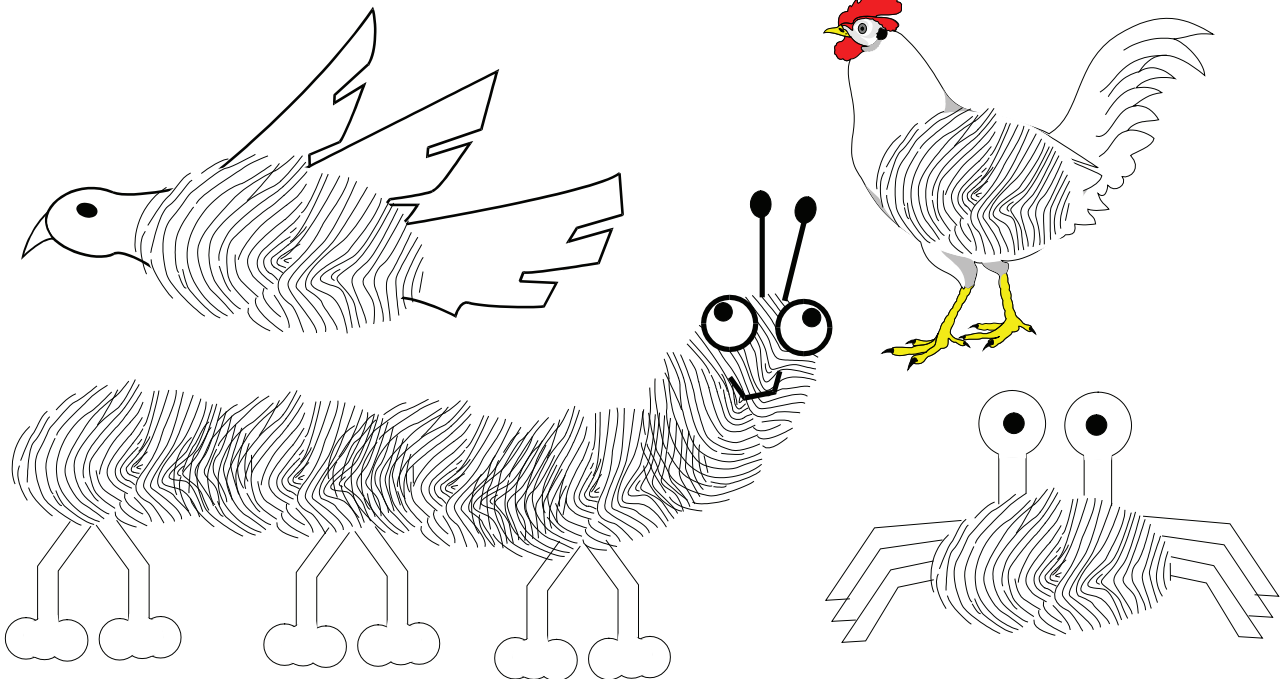
How can we care for something God has made?
Draw some flowers and plants.

I'm glad that
_____ is in charge of
His creation.



Creation 2

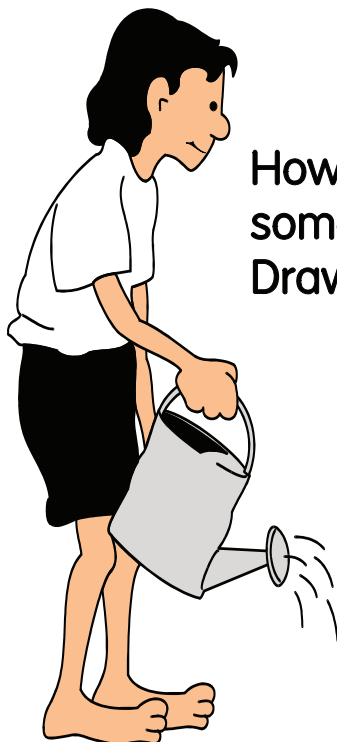
Activity A - Fingerprint Creations



Creation 2

Activity B - Drawing Activity - "God is in Charge"

When we are in a team the leader is in charge. Draw a team of children playing soccer or "follow the leader". Draw the leader.



How can we care for something God has made?
Draw some flowers and plants.

I'm glad that

is in charge of
His creation.



Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26 - 2:25

Storyline

God created man in His own image. He put the man in the garden and told him he could eat the fruit from every tree there except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned Adam that he would die if he did eat from this tree. God then said that He would make a helper for Adam. The Lord God then caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and He took one of Adam's ribs from his body. God made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam to be his helper.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the way God created man and the animals, emphasising how God made man in a special way, for a special reason.
2. Relate the events of Genesis 1:26 - 2:25 and complete the relevant sections of Activity B as they are discussed. Then complete any unfinished sections of the Activity.
3. Make face masks.

Theme One

"God created man in a special way"

God loves us just as much as He loved Adam and Eve. He took great care to make them in a special way, different from the animals, because He wanted them to be like God Himself. He wants us to be like Him too and so He sent Jesus and the Holy Spirit to change us so that we become more and more like God.

Key Thought

God has a special plan for man that He doesn't have for the animals.

Aim

To show that we are wonderfully made and that God's plan is still taking place.

Memory Verse

"So God created man in His own image." (Genesis 1:27).

Theme Two

"God created man and woman"

God created man to be like Him and to have fellowship with Him. Man looked at the animals, but there was none that could be a helper to him. He needed a helper who was comparable to him. God created the woman out of Adam's side to be a suitable helper for him.

Key Thought

God made everyone according to His purpose so we could become like Him. We are to have fellowship with God and with other people.

Aim

To have the children understand that God thought of everything needful for us to become like Him.

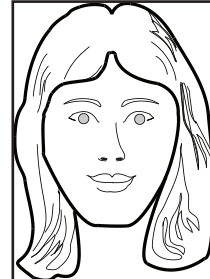
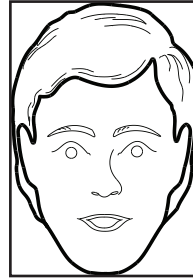
Memory Verse

"He created them male and female." (Genesis 5:2).

Activity A - Face Masks

Materials

- 1 face mask drawing per child (some may need to be enlarged on photocopier).
- A hole punch.
- Elastic or ribbon.
- Sheets of cardboard onto which the drawings can be glued.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Glue.
- Wool for hair or whiskers.



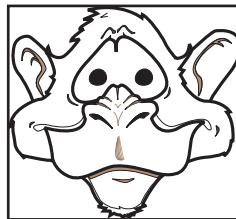
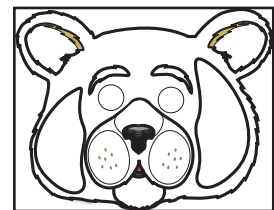
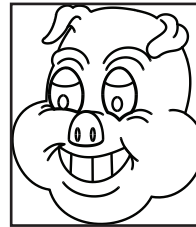
Steps

At Home

- Determine the lengths required for elastic or ribbon and have these lengths prepared. If there is a large number of children in your class, it may be helpful to have the cardboard and the outlines of the drawings already cut to shape.

In Class

- Colour the drawing.
- Glue the drawing onto a sheet of cardboard.
- Help children to cut out the eyes and the outline.
- Punch holes in the sides of the mask.
- Attach pieces of elastic or ribbon to the mask.
- Glue on pieces of wool.
- Children can wear their masks.



Activity B - Colouring/Word Matching

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

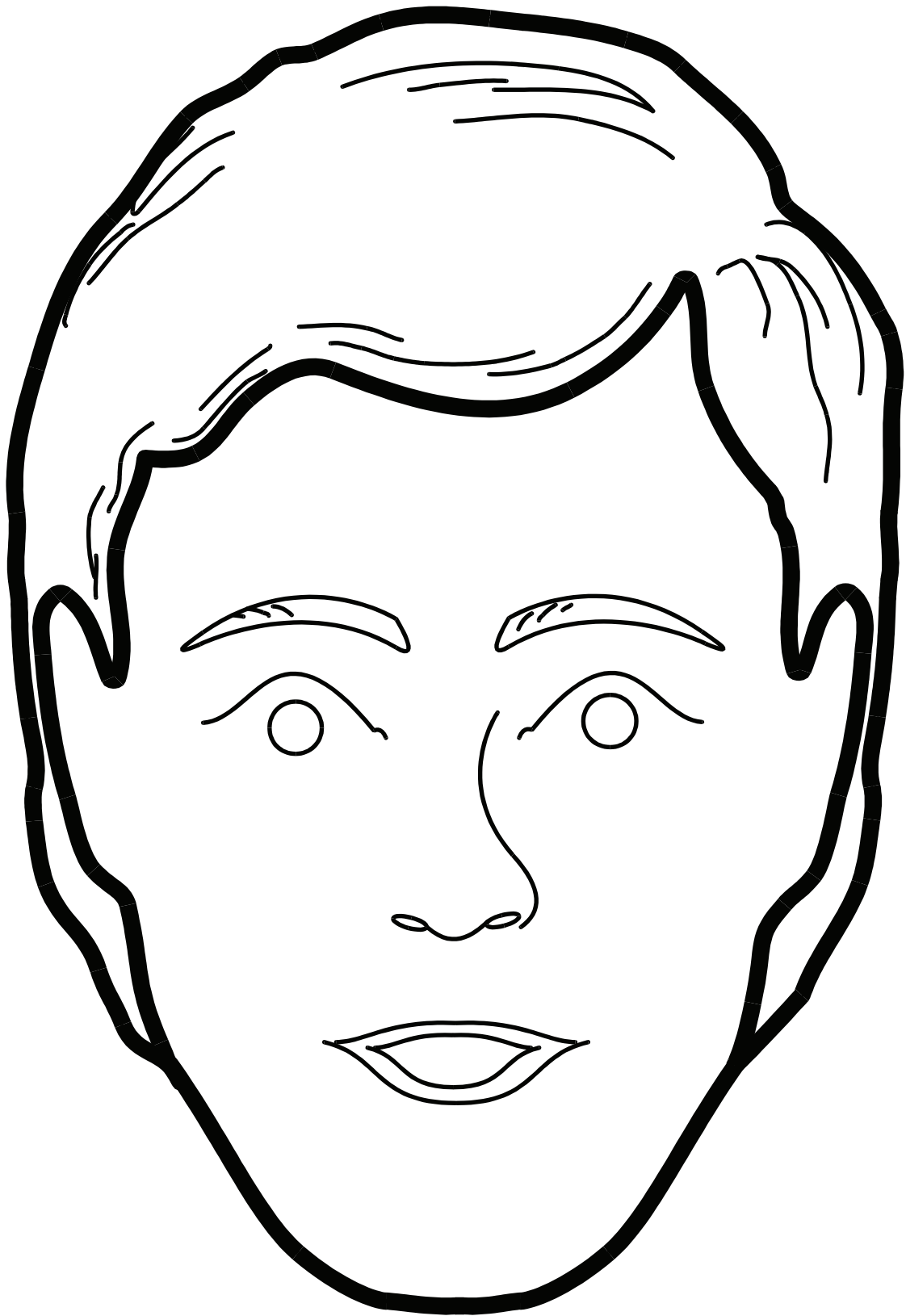
Steps

- Complete Activity Sheet as per instructions.

God Made People	
What is your name?	
Draw a picture of yourself in the box. →	
	<p>Here is the garden. These are the first people God made. Write their names on the dotted lines. Colour the picture.</p>
<p>Adam named the animals. Draw a line from each animal to its name. Colour each animal. →</p>	
	<p>snake fish pig bird mouse</p>

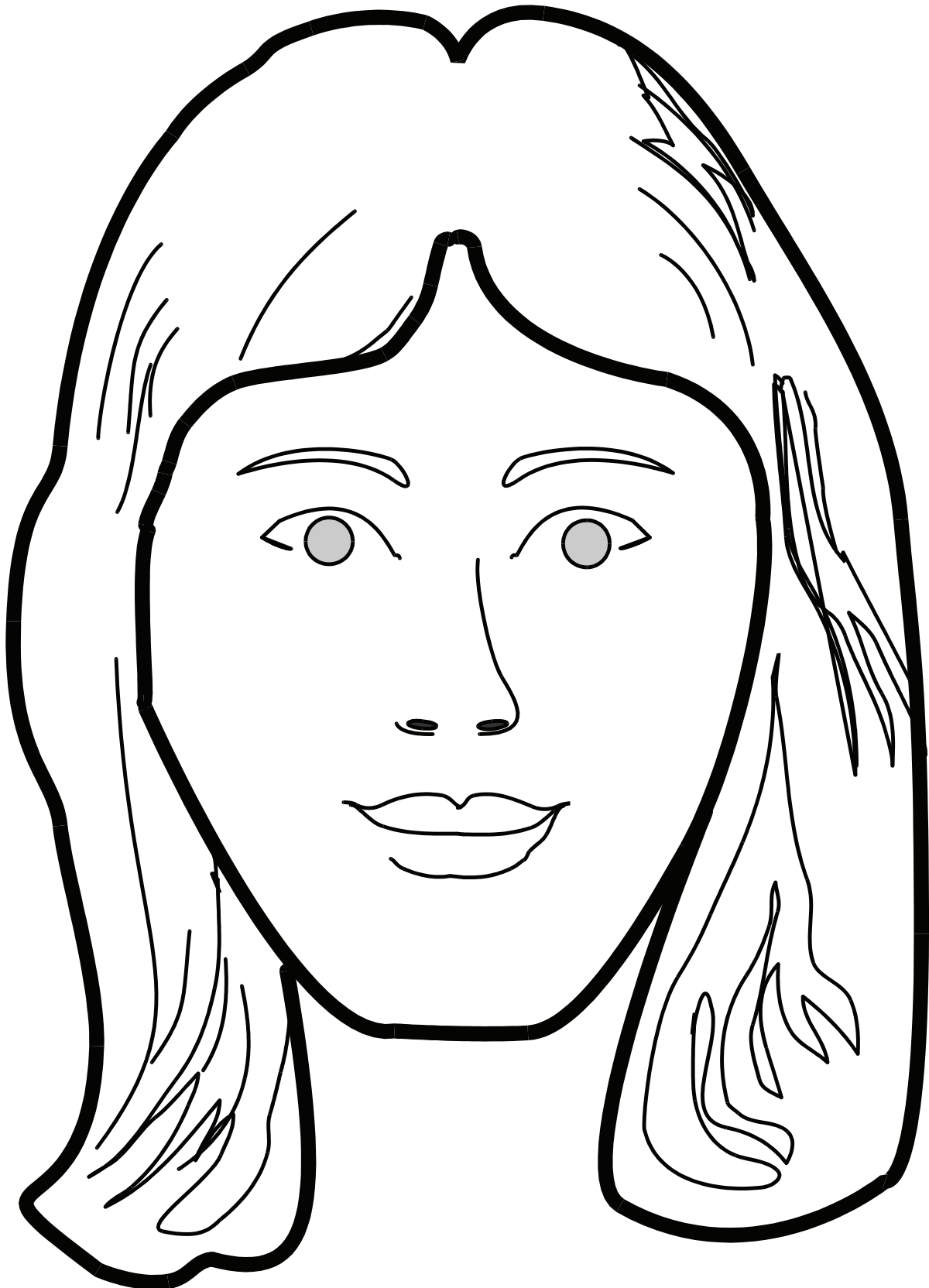
Adam and Eve

Activity A - Face Masks



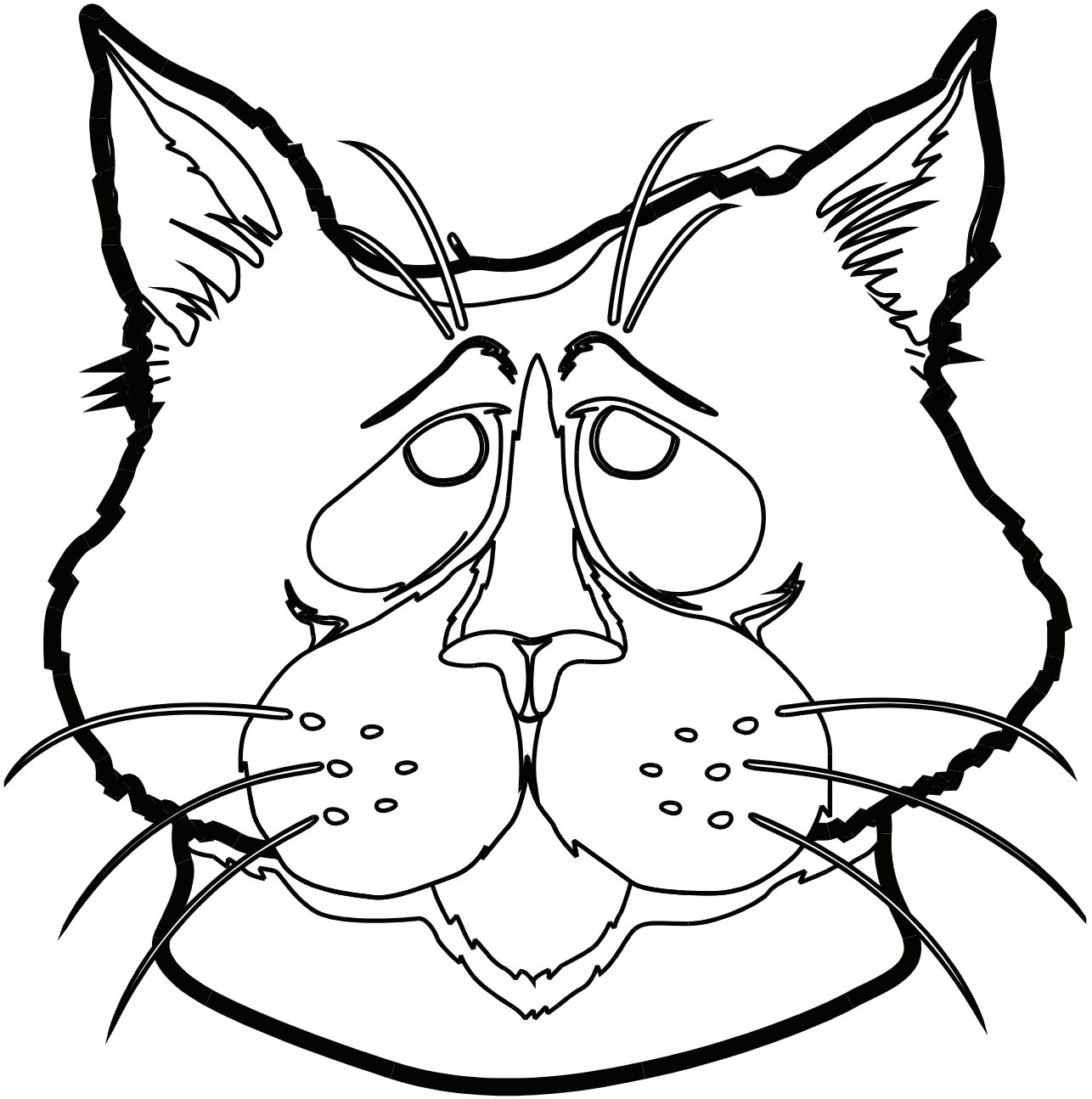
Adam and Eve

Activity A - Face Masks



Adam and Eve

Activity A - Face Masks



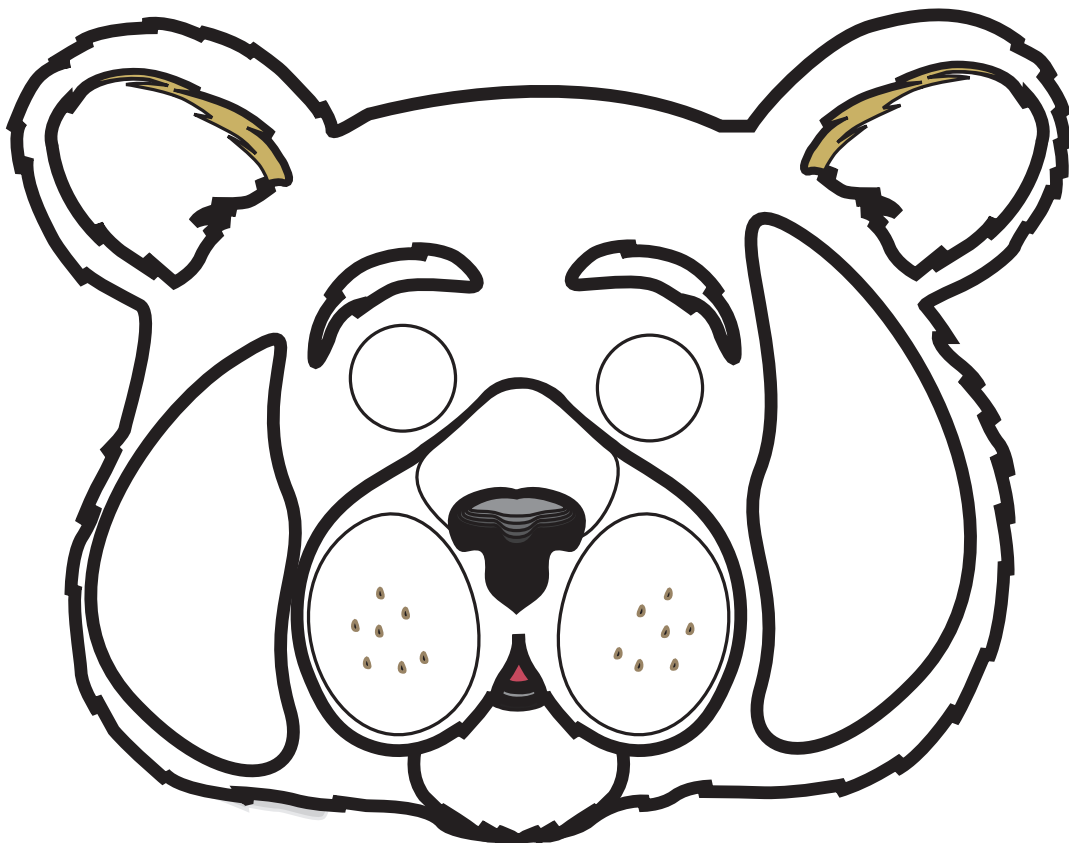
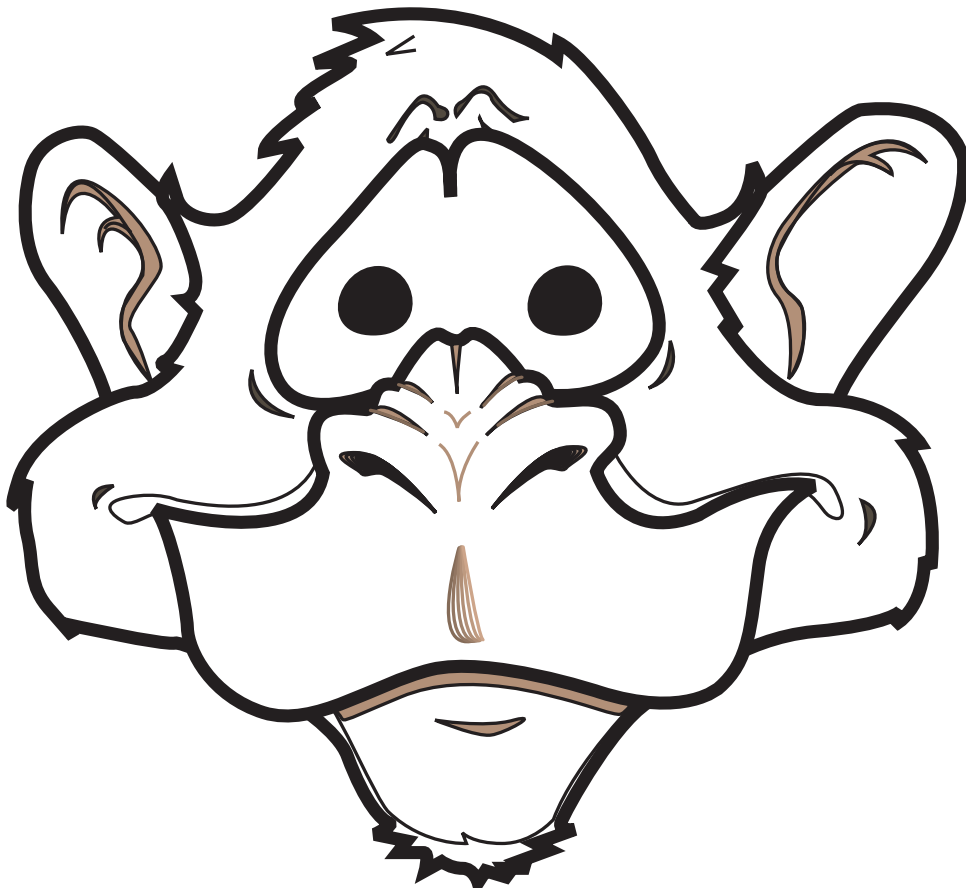
Adam and Eve

Activity A - Face Masks



Adam and Eve

Activity A - Face Masks



Adam and Eve

Activity B - Colouring/Word Matching

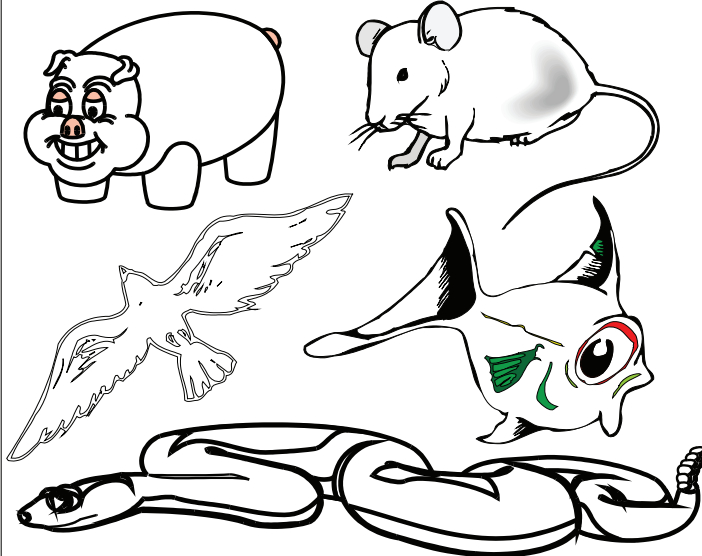
God Made People

What is your name?

Draw a picture
of yourself
in the box. →



Adam named
the animals.
Draw a line
from each
animal to its
name.
Colour each
animal. →



snake

fish

pig

bird

mouse

The fall

Genesis 3

Storyline

God had told Adam that he was to look after the garden and could eat the fruit of any trees except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Of all the creatures that God had created, the serpent was the most cunning. The serpent spoke to Eve and tricked her into thinking that God did not really mean what He had said. Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit God had told them not to eat. Then she shared it with Adam. Once they had eaten, they felt ashamed and wanted to cover themselves. They felt afraid to face God when He came looking for them, and hid themselves. God knew what they had done. He was very sad and disappointed at their disobedience, and punished them, sending them out of the garden.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Use a possible situation from the children's lives to introduce the concepts of temptation and disobedience. Tell the story of the Fall, and the consequences of disobedience.

Theme 2

Have children close their eyes and imagine:

- You are supposed to be having an afternoon sleep. You decide to try out your sister's new bike instead. You have a fall, break a spoke and buckle the wheel. You decide to try to hide what you have done, push the bike back into the garage and creep back to the bedroom before anyone wakes up. How do you feel? What will you do now?

Discuss possible options with children:

Lead into story of the fall.

Theme One

"Temptation comes to us all"

When Eve was tempted by the serpent she did not need to give in to temptation. We will all be tempted at different times in our lives. However we can turn away from the temptation and look to the Lord who gives us victory over every temptation as He Himself has known temptation and resisted it.

Key Thought

Though temptations come our way, we have the power to overcome them by obedience to God's word. This was the way that Jesus overcame temptations.

Aim

To show the children how we need to avoid temptation and turn to the Lord.

Memory Verse

"Watch and pray." (Matthew 26:41).

Theme Two

"Sin and death entered the world"

When Adam and Eve fell, their first response was to hide from God in shame and to pass the blame for their actions onto someone else. Their relationship with God was cut off, and as a consequence of their sin, God judged the world He had created. From that time, creation has suffered the effects of the fall, and we see the signs of that today - pollution, death, conflict, etc. However, for those who would become God's chosen people, He has always had a plan - eternal life and a new heaven and a new earth.

Key Thought

We see the effects of the fall all around us and we need to accept responsibility for our own fallen nature in order for God to be able to work out His plan for us.

Aim

To help the children understand the terrible consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience and rebellion against God, and likewise our own. We need to accept responsibility for our actions and repent of our sins, before we can accept God's gift of eternal life through Jesus our Lord.

Memory Verse

"Through one man sin entered the world." (Romans 5:12).

Activity A - Serpent and Tree

Materials

- Playdough or plasticine.
- Small branches from trees (one for each child).
- Plastic knife.
- Pencil.

Steps

- Roll shape of snake.
- Make markings on snake with scissors or knife.
- Make eye imprints with pencil.
- Place snake in branch.

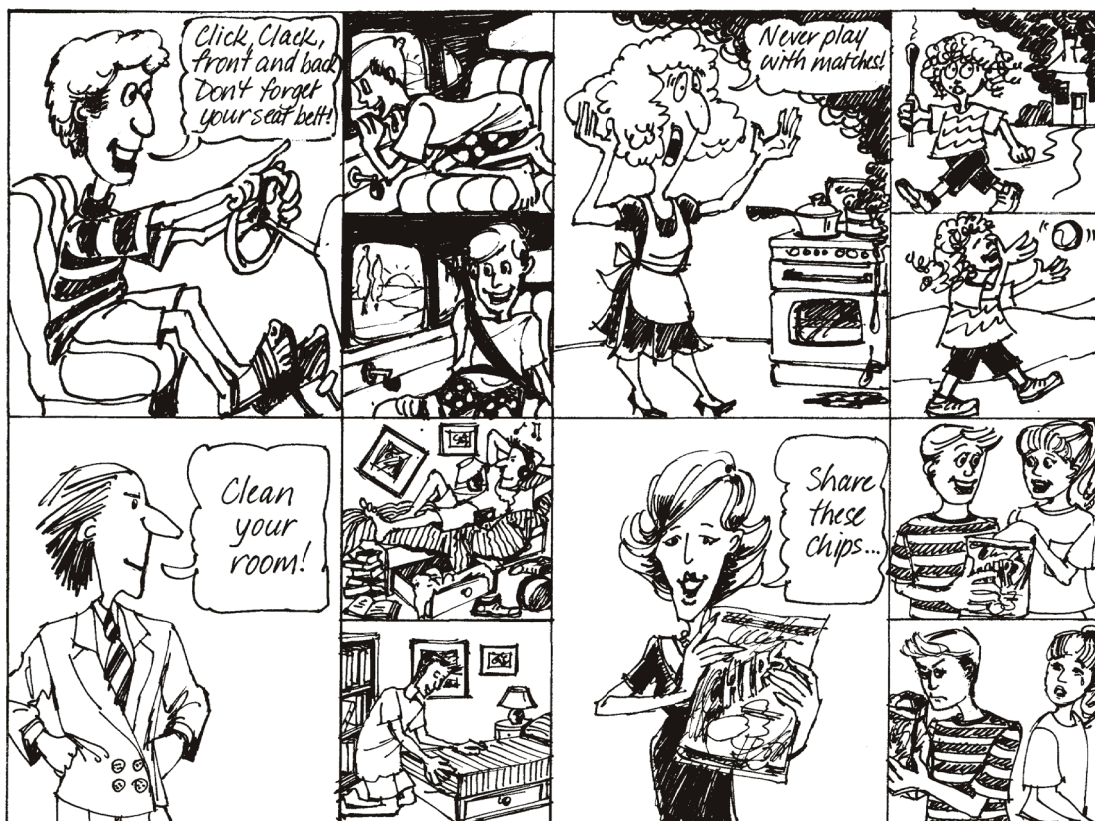
Activity B - Choices

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Crayons/coloured pencils.

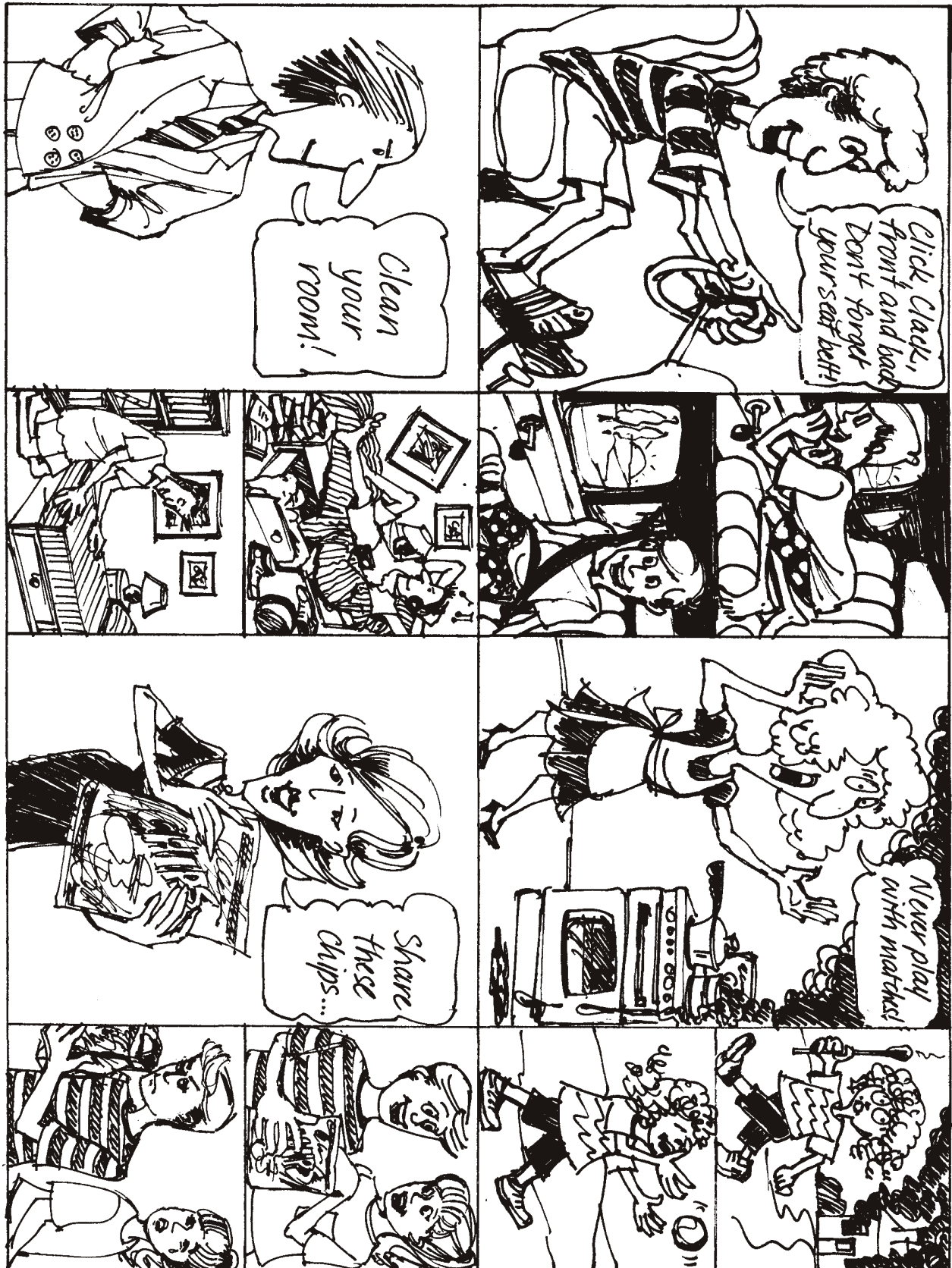
Steps

- Discuss the cartoons and the different responses.
- Children can then put a tick on the obedient response and a cross on the disobedient response.
- Colour the obedient responses.



The fall

Activity B - Cartoon: Choices



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Cain and Abel

Genesis 4

Storyline

Some time after God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden, they had two sons who were called Cain and Abel. Cain grew up to be a farmer, and Abel was a keeper of sheep. The time came when both men brought an offering to the Lord. God accepted Abel's offering, but He was not pleased with Cain or his offering. Cain was very angry at this, so God explained to him how he needed to change. But Cain did not change. He remained angry and was so jealous of his brother Abel that he killed him. God punished Cain for this, and although He promised to protect him, He sent him away from his home and from God's presence. After this, Adam and Eve had another son, called Seth.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Begin with a brief discussion with the children about how they feel when someone begins to correct them. Do we then refuse to accept the correction, simply because we don't like it? What is the goal of correction? Proceed to the story of Cain and Abel, highlighting God's desire to bring change in Cain and the consequences of his refusing to respond to God's correction.

Theme 2

Discuss with the children what it means to be jealous or envious. Suggest/ask them to suggest situations where they might feel envious. Tell the story of Cain and Abel, showing what Cain's jealousy led to. How could things have been different?

Theme One

"Respond to correction"

God spoke to Cain to show him how he needed to change. But Cain refused to change his attitude. God's word comes to us, too, usually through our parents. When our parents speak to us to correct us, it is because they are helping us to change to be the way God wants us to be. If we soften our hearts and respond to what our parents are saying, God is able to change us. If we are stubborn, like Cain, and refuse to respond properly, sin will get a stronger and stronger hold over us.

Key Thought

Responding to correction will bring godly change. Refusing to respond will entrench us in sin.

Aim

For the children to recognise the importance of responding to correction, as an opportunity to change to be more like the Lord.

Memory Verse

"Whom the Lord loves He corrects." (Proverbs 3:12).

Theme Two

"Repenting of our sin"

Cain murdered Abel but when challenged by God, he lied and said he didn't know where Abel was. Cain thought he could avoid the consequences of his action by lying, for he knew what he had done was wrong. But the Father knew what had happened and because of Cain's unrepentant heart, he was cast out of the Father's presence. How many times have we done similar things like breaking something, and when questioned by our parents, we deny all knowledge? Our Father wants us to come before Him when we have done something wrong and repent, so that our sin may be forgiven and so that we may continue in relationship with Him.

Key Thought

God wants us to repent of our sins.

Aim

To show the children that with the Lord nothing done in secret remains secret.

Memory Verse

"Godly sorrow produces repentance." (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Activity A - Jigsaw Puzzle

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Coloured pencils/felt pens.

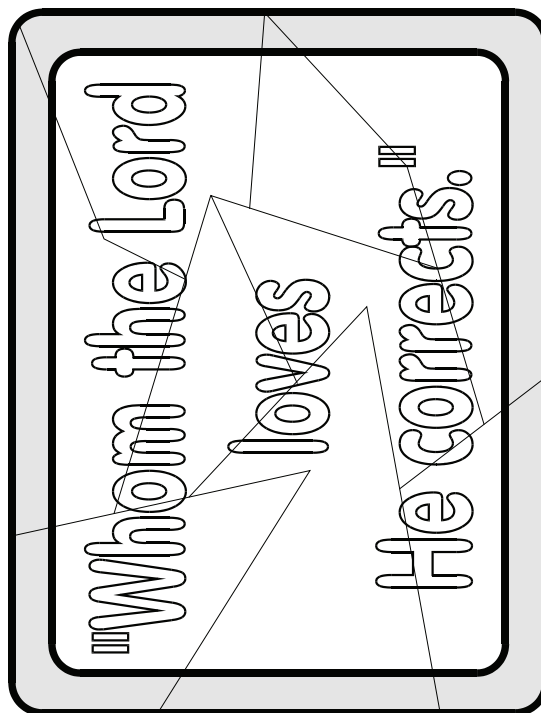
Steps

At Home

- Glue Activity Sheet to cardboard backing.

In Class

- Children colour in the letters and background of the sheet.
- Teacher (or children if able) cut along the lines to make the jigsaw.
- Pieces of jigsaw are jumbled, and children reassemble.



Activity B - Heart Attitudes

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 3 ice-cream containers - 1 labelled "Pleasing to God",
- 1 labelled "Not Pleasing to God" and 1 not labelled.

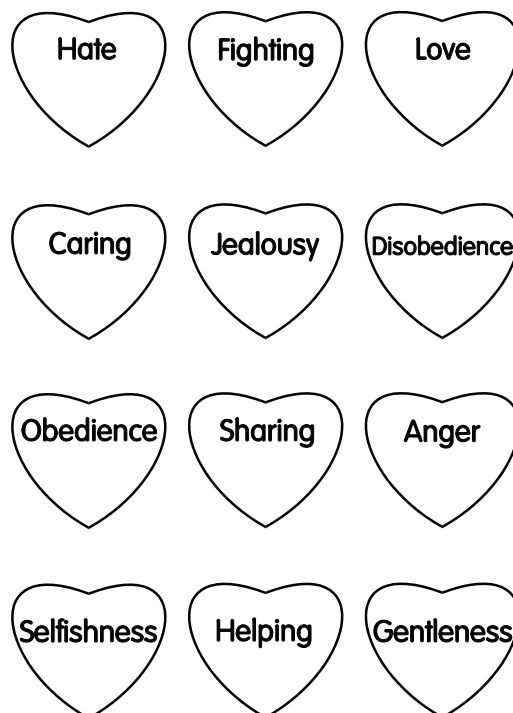
Steps

At Home

- Cut out hearts and put in unlabelled ice-cream container.

In Class

- Allow each child to have a "lucky dip", (one at a time) and after discussion, decide if the attitude written on the heart is pleasing or not pleasing to God and place it in the appropriate container.



Cain and Abel

Activity A - Jigsaw Puzzle

"Whom the Lord
loves
He corrects."

Cain and Abel

Activity B - Heart Attitudes

Hate

Fighting

Love

Caring

Jealousy

Disobedience

Obedience

Sharing

Anger

Selfishness

Helping

Gentleness

Noah builds an ark

Genesis 6:1 - 7:16

Storyline

The number of people in the world multiplied. These people were very wicked and were only thinking evil thoughts. God saw that violence was everywhere and was sorry He had ever made man. He decided to destroy man as well as the animals. However, Noah walked with God and pleased God. Noah's three sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth. God told Noah that He planned to destroy all the wicked people. God told Noah exactly how he should build an ark. IN the ark, God would keep Noah and his family and a male and female of every kind of bird, animal and creeping thing safe from the flood. God shut the door of the ark and after seven days the flood came.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Tell the story using a children's picture Bible book as a visual aid. Check the text for accuracy. Tell the story in your own words if necessary.
2. At home, make a large number of simple paper people cut-outs naming only the eight who were saved in the ark. In class, scatter the cut-outs over the floor. Ask the children to find the eight people who were saved and put them in the ark, (perhaps a shoe box), illustrating the stark division between the saved and unsaved.
3. Continue with your selected activity.
4. If planning to do the painting activity next week, send a note home asking parents to dress the children appropriately.

Theme One

"Obedience to God makes us different"

Noah was described as a preacher of righteousness and one of only eight people who were saved from the flood. Only Noah and his family obeyed the word from God that Noah preached. Maybe people laughed at the boat Noah was building. People may laugh at us when we are obedient to God. People may reject us if we talk about the Lord. It is all right to be different to other people when obeying God.

Key Thought

Noah walked with God even when everyone else around him was wicked.

Aim

For the children to understand that we must be obedient to God even if it makes us different to everyone else.

Memory Verse

"Noah was a just man." (Genesis 6:9).

Theme Two

"There is only one way to be saved"

The only people who were saved from the flood were those inside the ark. The only people who will be saved from eternal judgement will be those in Christ. There was only one way to enter the ark and that was through the door. Jesus is the door to our salvation and we have eternal life through Him. Like Noah, we are protected as we continue to abide in Christ.

Key Thought

The only way of salvation is by faith in, and obedience to, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Aim

For the children to understand the importance of continuing to abide in Christ.

Memory Verse

"Abide in Me." (John 15:4).

Activity A - Colour the Animal Parade

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Coloured pencils/crayons/felt pens.
- Sticky tape.

Steps

At Home

- Photocopy one ark for each child either directly onto light card or photocopy onto paper, then glue on to cardboard (see Activity Master). Allow drying time.
- Cut the two slits in each ark with a craft knife.

In Class

- Ask the children to colour their ark and animals.
- The teacher may need to help thread each strip of paper in one slit and out the other so the line of animals is showing.
- Turn the ark over and sticky tape the ends of the strip of paper to form a circle.
- Carefully slide the animals around the parade past the door of the ark.



Activity B - Find the Hidden Word

Materials

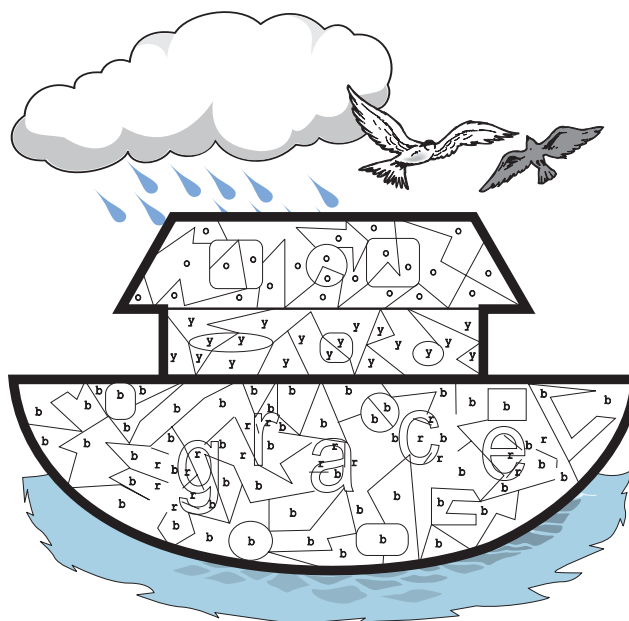
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- Children colour in picture according to instructions to find the hidden word.

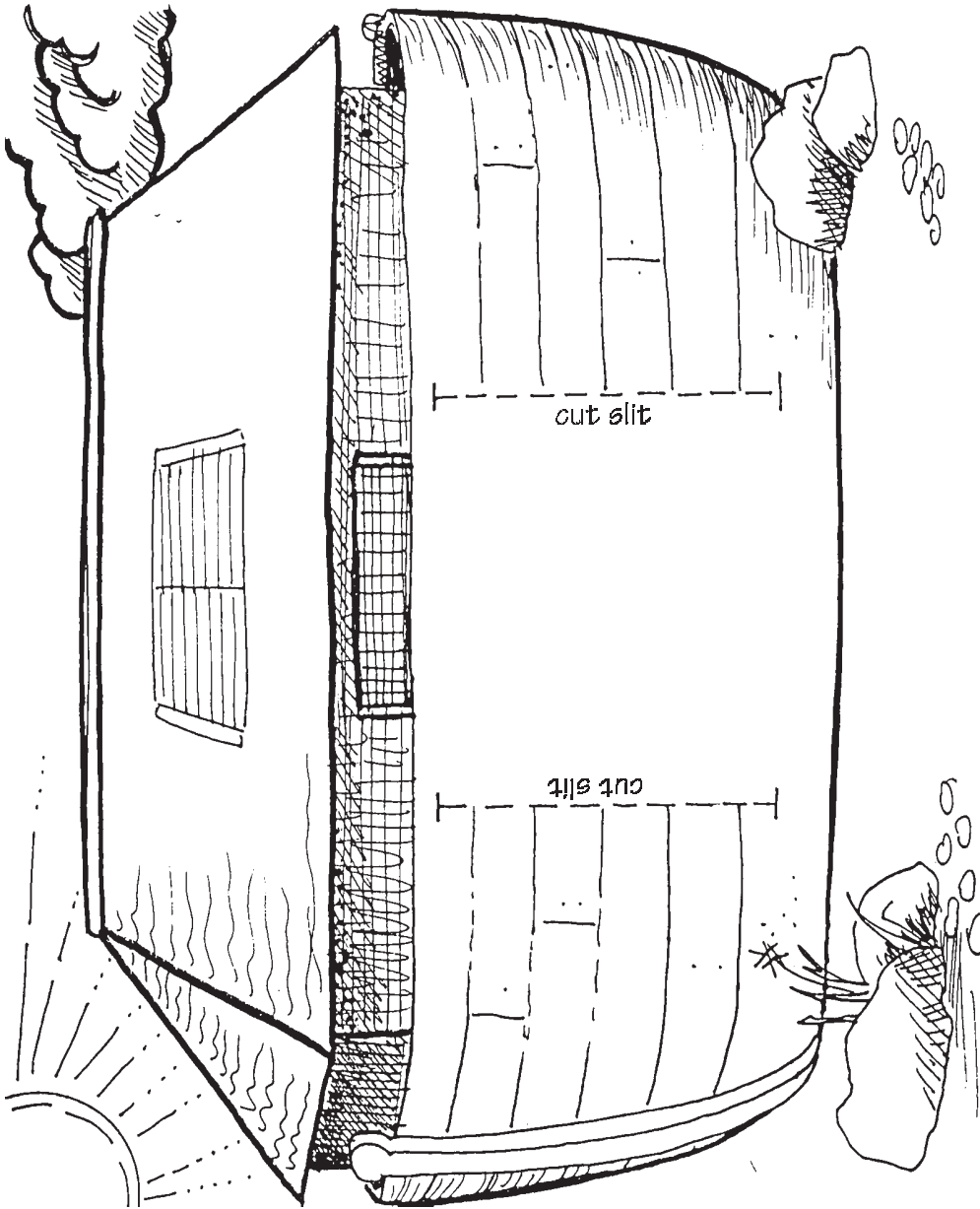
Answer

- Grace.



Noah builds an ark

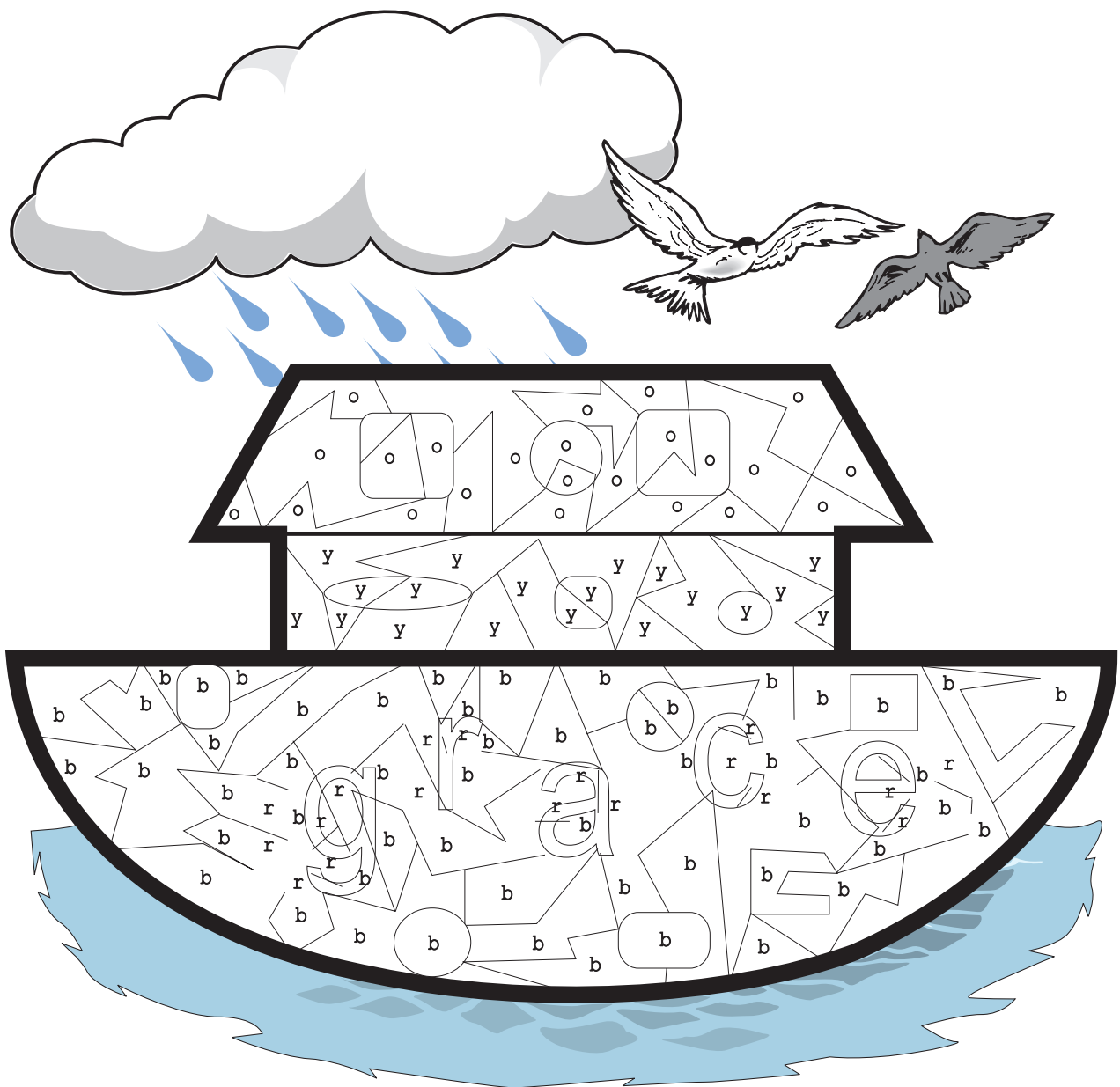
Activity A - Colour the Animal Parade



Noah builds an ark

Activity B - Hidden Word

What did Noah find in the eyes of the Lord?
To find the answer, colour each shape with a
'b' in it brown, shapes with 'r' red, 'y' yellow, and 'o' orange.



The flood, Noah and his sons

Genesis 7:17 - 9:29

Storyline

It rained for forty days. The whole earth was flooded. Every living thing on the earth died except Noah, his family and the animals inside the ark. When the rain stopped and the water subsided, the ark came to rest on a mountain. Noah sent out a raven and a dove to see if the ground was dry. God told Noah to leave the ark and take his family and the animals with him. Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed some of the animals. God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again. God gave the rainbow as the sign of His promise.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Review last week's lesson using the same picture book and then continue with this week's story.
2. Count out aloud with the children to forty, the number of days it rained. Compare this to time spans the children can understand.
3. Discuss how Noah gave thanks and sacrificed some animals. Relate this back to lesson five where Abel pleased God by offering the firstborn of his flock.
4. Ask the children what things they are thankful for and discuss how important it is to say thank you to God.
5. Have a time of prayer where the children can say thank you to God for something.

Theme One

"A place of salvation"

The first part of the story of the flood is one of judgment by God for man's wickedness. The ark was God's place of safety from judgment, for those He counted righteous. Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them. The body of Christ, His church, is our place of safety, our refuge, in the same way the ark was to Noah.

Key Thought

Our salvation is assured as we abide in the body of Christ, our place of safety.

Aim

To impress on the children that God's judgement will again come upon earth and its people, and we must continue in our salvation.

Memory Verse

"We are members of His body." (Ephesians 5:30).

Theme Two

"A new life in Christ"

In Noah's day, God's judgement came to the wicked people on earth and they were killed in the flood. Noah started a new life with his family in a very different world. Jesus has made a way for us to have a new life in Christ, even though we deserve to die because we have all sinned.

Key Thought

As Christians, we have access to a new life in Christ.

Aim

For the children to understand that in Christ we are a new creation, with a new life in Christ.

Memory Verse

"I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5).

Activity A - Rainbow Painting

Materials

- Groundsheet.
- Large piece of white butcher's paper.
- Water based paint in rainbow colours.
- Brushes.
- Protective clothing.

Steps

At Home

- Prepare white butcher's paper by writing on top: "You must be born again", but the words "born again" should be dotted.

In Class

- Place ground sheet on floor and butcher's paper on top of it.
- Have children take turns at filling in dotted letters, then paint a large rainbow.

Activity B - Make a Dove

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet.
- White cardboard.
- One half page of white A4 paper per child.
- Pencils/crayons/pens.
- One length of string for each child.
- Hole punch.
- Craft knife.

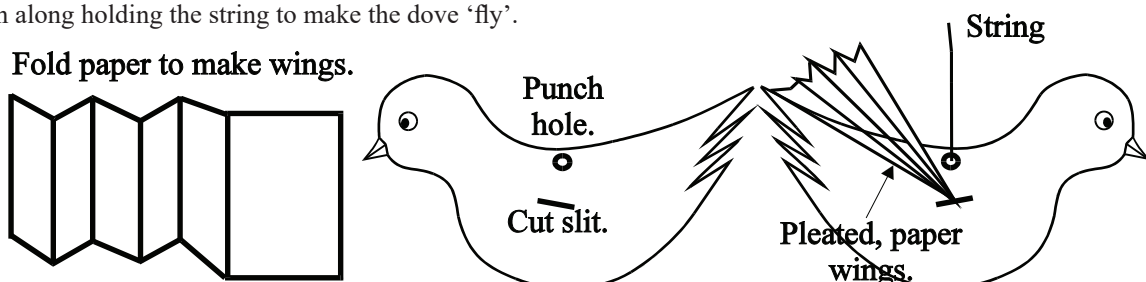
Steps

At Home

- Cut out dove body from Activity Master Sheet. Make a template of it on thick cardboard and trace around it onto white cardboard to make enough for each child, or alternatively, photocopy the dove body onto white cardboard. Cut out the doves. Using a craft knife, cut 1-1/4cm slit for the wings.

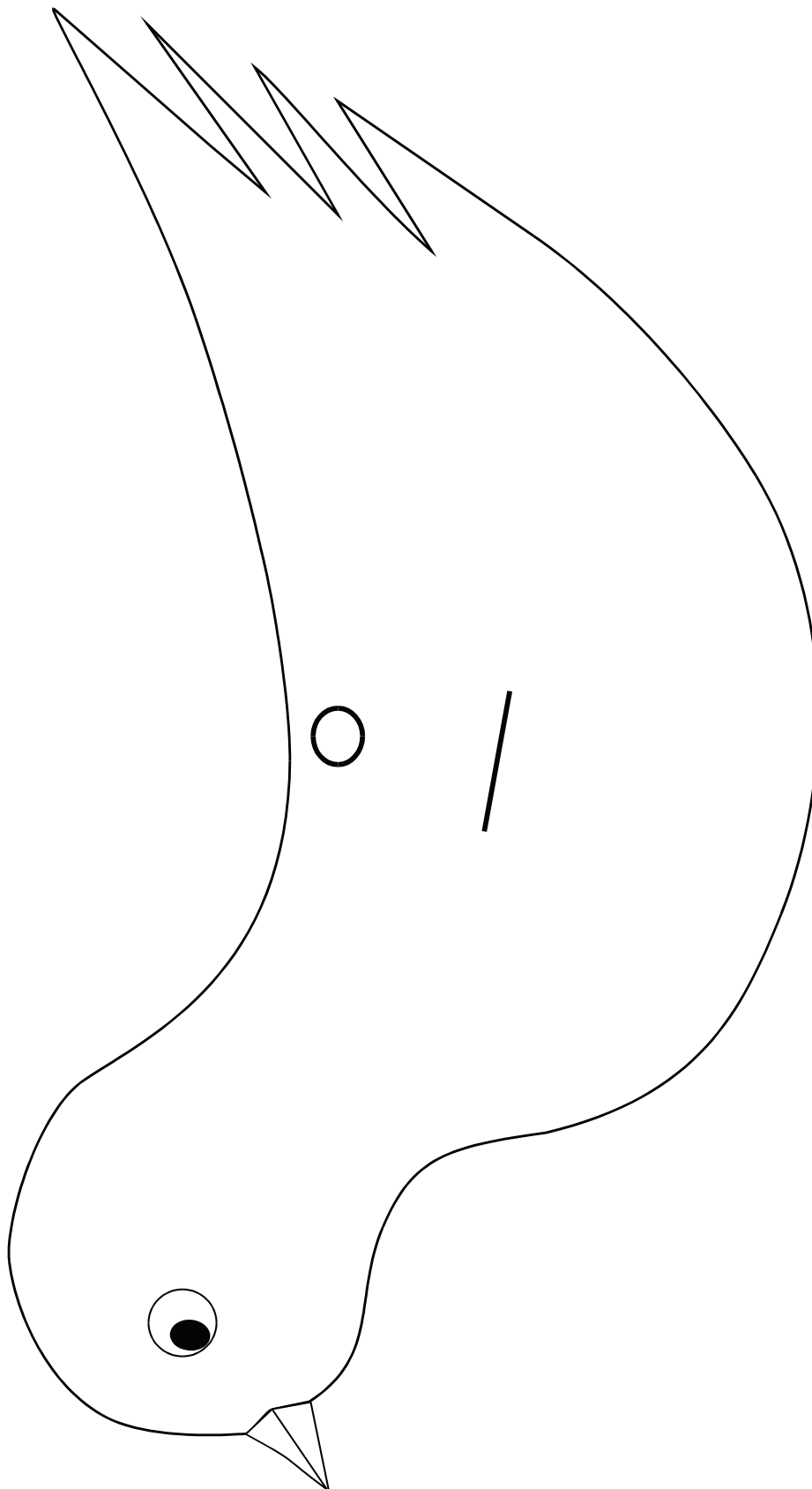
In Class

- Using a hole punch, make a hole for the string.
- Colour the eyes and the beak on both sides.
- Pleat the half sheet of A4 white paper backwards and forwards (concertina) to make the wings.
- Slot the wings through the slit so that there is an equal length of paper on each side of the body.
- Fan out the wings.
- Tie a length of string through the punched hole.
- Run along holding the string to make the dove 'fly'.



The flood, Noah and his sons

Activity B - Make a Dove



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The tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

Storyline

After the flood, Noah's sons had families, and soon there were many people on the earth again. Everybody spoke the same language. But the people began to forget about God. They stopped trusting in Him and wanted to live without Him. They decided to build a big city for themselves, with a high tower that would reach right up into heaven. They thought this would prove how strong and important they were. But God did not want them living in this proud way. He knew it would lead them further and further away from Him. He confused their language so that they could not understand one another any more. They had to stop building. God scattered the people across the whole earth. The place where this happened was named Babel, which means 'confusion'.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Begin by role playing a parent-child scene, where child resists holding parent's hand to cross the road. (Teacher can play the part of the child.) Why does child not want to hold hand? (Independence.) Why does parent want to hold hand? (Caring, protection.) Explain that some people are like this with God - resisting His hand. Proceed to story of people of Babel, focussing on their desire to be independent of God. Discuss implications of 'independence' for children, in relation to parents/God.

Theme 2

Wearing a crown or some other symbol of 'kingship', teacher takes on role of a king. Discuss what this means, explaining words like 'reigning' and 'ruling'. Who is the greatest King of all? Tell story of Babel, focussing on God's sovereignty and ability to intervene in the affairs of men. This means the children can have great confidence in Him.

Theme One

"Man's self-centredness"

After the flood, the whole human race attempted to take destiny into its own hands and make a name for itself apart from God – to establish a kingdom built by man at the exclusion of God's kingdom. God dispersed the people because of their rebellious pride. Even the greatest of human endeavours cannot defy God and long survive. The fact that the Lord had to descend to see the pinnacle of man's endeavours far below Him, makes a mockery of the tower-builders.

Key Thought

We need to seek God's will before we act, and not rely on our own self-centred efforts.

Aim

To impress on the children that man's actions against the will of God will fail, and rebellion and pride will always ultimately end in destruction.

Memory Verse

"God resists the proud." (1 Peter 5:5).

Theme Two

"God rules over all"

The people of Babel united together to build a place of safety and power for themselves without God. Despite all their strength and capability, God came down and with one swift action, put an end to all their plans. Still today, people try to be more important than God, and some even fight against Him. But God is stronger than all the power of people. We can trust Him to have His way in our lives and to work out His plan for all people.

Key Thought

Despite the power of the systems of the world, it is God who is in charge.

Aim

For the children to be assured that God is in control in their lives, and to actively trust Him.

Memory Verse

"The Most High rules." (Daniel 4:17).

Activity A - Model of Tower of Babel

Materials

- Lego or other building blocks.
- Stiff cardboard/ply to form a firm base.

Steps

At Home

- Make a tower so as an example.

In Class

- Have children to work individually or in pairs to build the tower.

Activity B - Kingly Crown

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 long piece of cardboard per child.
- Glue.
- Scissors.
- Coloured pencils/felt pens.
- Stapler.
- Other materials for decorating crown, eg. buttons, sequins, glitter, beads, coloured paper, etc.

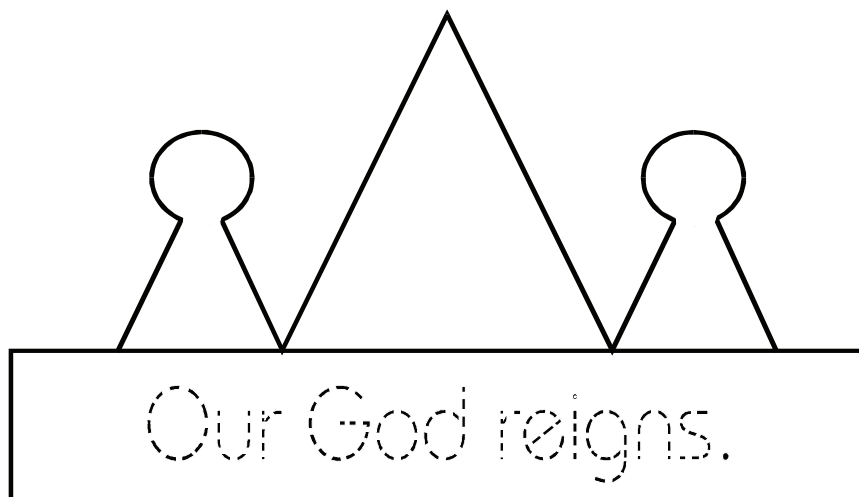
Steps

At Home

- Glue Activity Sheets to cardboard backing. To fit around the children's heads, the cardboard will need to be longer than the Activity Sheet.
- Cut out crowns if children are not up to doing so during the lesson.

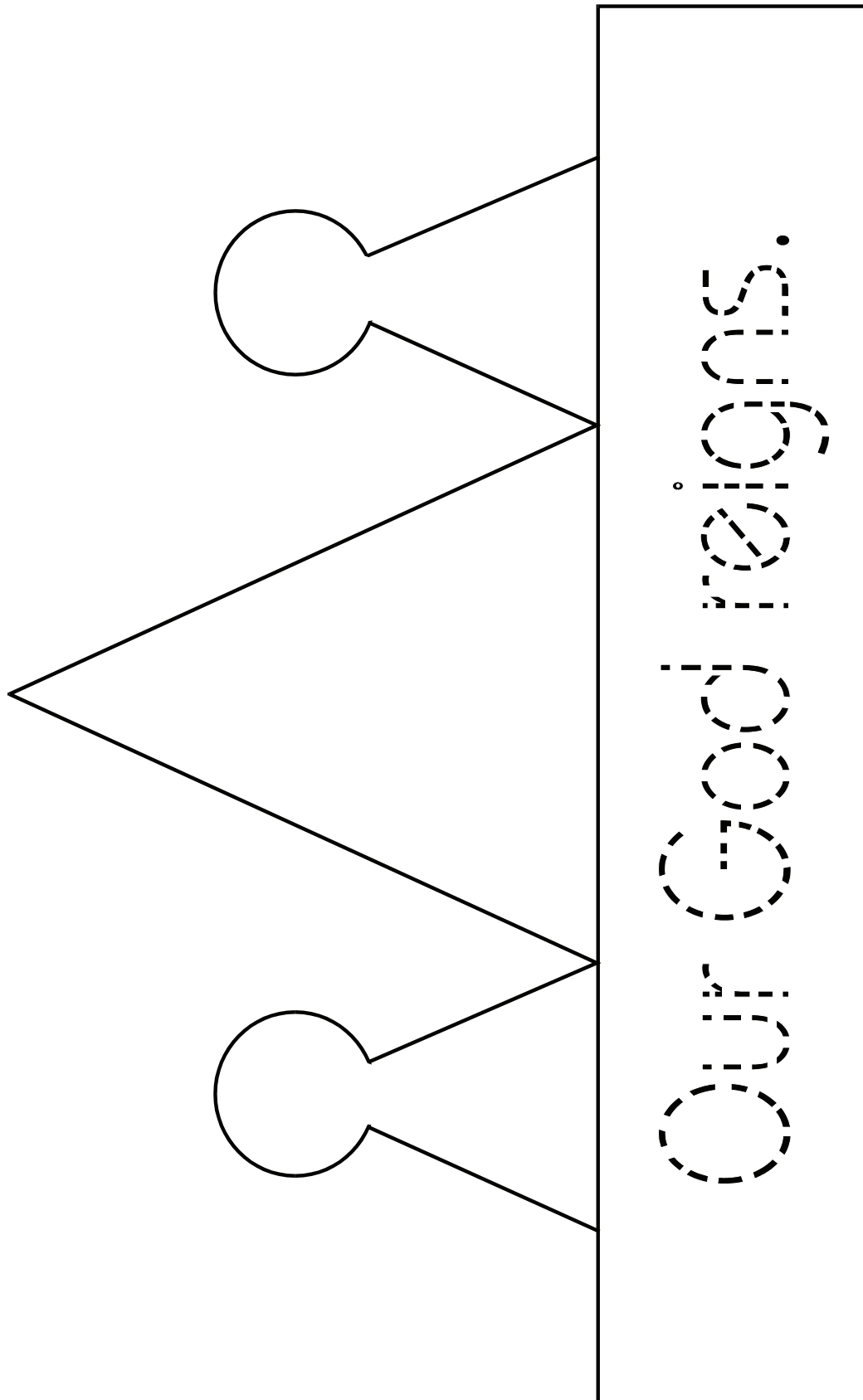
In Class

- Children complete dotted words, "Our God reigns."
- Children colour/decorate their crown.
- Teacher measures decorated crown around each child's head and staples to appropriate size.



The tower of Babel

Activity B - Kingly Crown



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Abram called, Abram and Lot

Genesis 12 - 14

Storyline

Abram was called by God to leave his country and go to the land God showed him. God promised Abram that He would make a great nation out of him, and that if he obeyed, He would always bless and protect him. When there was a famine in Canaan, they moved to Egypt for food. Abram was afraid of Pharaoh, so he said Sarai was his sister. God protected Sarai from Pharaoh. Abram and Lot travelled together, both men with their own families, animals and servants. God blessed them and the herds became too large for one place. Fights broke out between Abram's men and Lot's men so Abram let Lot choose where he wanted to live. They separated, with Lot taking the best land. Lot and his family later moved into one of the wicked cities. Again God promised to bless Abram. Lot was captured by bad kings and Abram rescued him and all his possessions.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Discuss some of the things that can be a bad influence on children.
2. Discuss how a good friend can encourage us to do right. Are we good friends or bad friends?
3. Discuss the difficulties of moving schools, town, or country. We may have a lovely place to live and friends, but have to shift. At the new place, we have to ask God to help us to find and choose the right new friends.
4. For the dramatically inclined teacher, an Arabian style head dress, (made from a bath towel) and a sports bag containing the basics of a nomadic life, eg. bed roll, cup, plate, etc, could transform the teacher into Abram. He/she could journey around the room, from Ur to Canaan, telling the story as he/she goes.

Theme One

"Trust and obey"

God asks us to trust Him because He is worthy to be trusted. We may safely trust Him. However it is not enough to just say we trust God. We need to show that trust by obeying Him. There will be times when it will be hard to trust God, and even harder to obey Him. If we don't trust Him, we will just get into a big mess. If we don't obey Him, we will also get into a big mess.

Key Thought

Just like Abram, we must learn to trust the Lord so that we obey His word even when we don't understand.

Aim

To encourage the children's confidence in the Lord.

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord." (Poverbs 3:5).

Theme Two

"Don't be led astray"

All sorts of things look good and interesting and attractive. If we pursue these things, we may find they lead us into danger and trouble. Only the things God wants for us will prove to be truly good for all of our life. If we make choices for selfish reasons, we will find ourselves needing to be rescued.

Key Thought

Watch out that we are not drawn away from God by things that look good, like Lot was. If we are, we must quickly repent.

Aim

To have the children understand that bad friends can lead us astray.

Memory Verse

"Set your mind on the things above." (Colossians 3:2).

Activity A - Pack up a Picnic

Materials

- Picnic rugs, plates, cups, food, etc.
- Carry bags, boxes, baskets, or anything you have that the children can carry.

Steps

- Have all the picnic gear out on a table or even spread on the floor.
- Get the children to pack all the gear into the bags, boxes, baskets, or whatever you have supplied.
- Walk from the class area to a picnic spot, with the children carrying all of the gear. (Finding or choosing the picnic spot can either lead to the story, or refer back to the story, depending on whether you have the lesson at the picnic spot, or before you go.)
- Have your picnic.
- Children can now clean up and repack all the gear, under specific directions, eg. “Tommy, would you gather the scraps and put them in the rubbish tin?”, “Mary, would you fold the rugs with Jimmy?”, etc. Make opportunity to talk about the hard work involved in Abram’s packing up and going where God sent him.
- NB: If rain or circumstances restrict, the whole exercise can be done within the room, by packing in one spot, and simply walking round the room a couple of times, then picnicking on the other side of the room. If you have another room available, you could picnic in there.



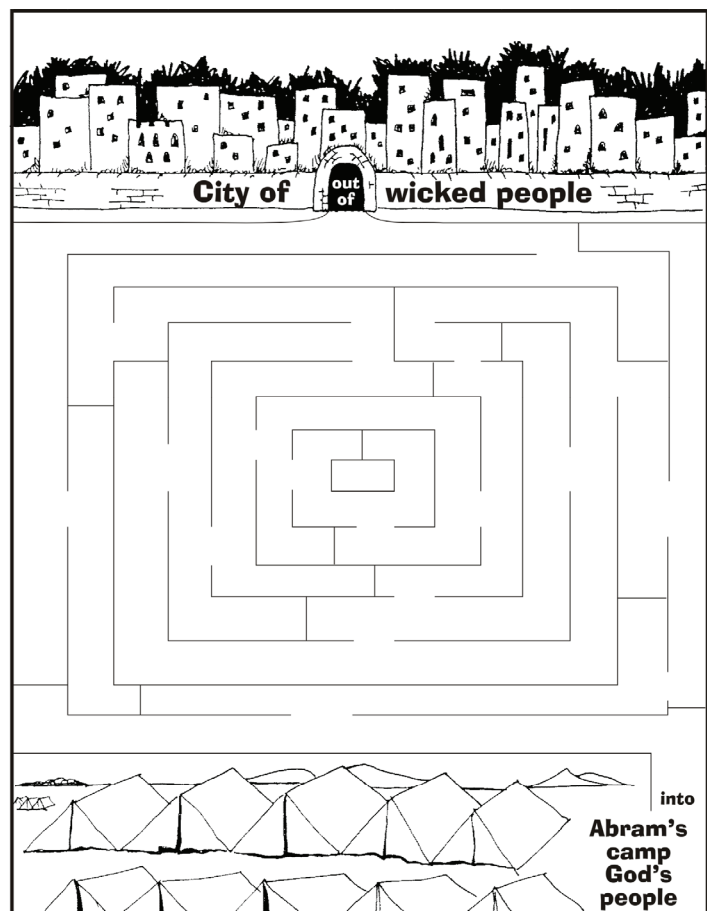
Activity B - Maze

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils/crayons/felt pens.

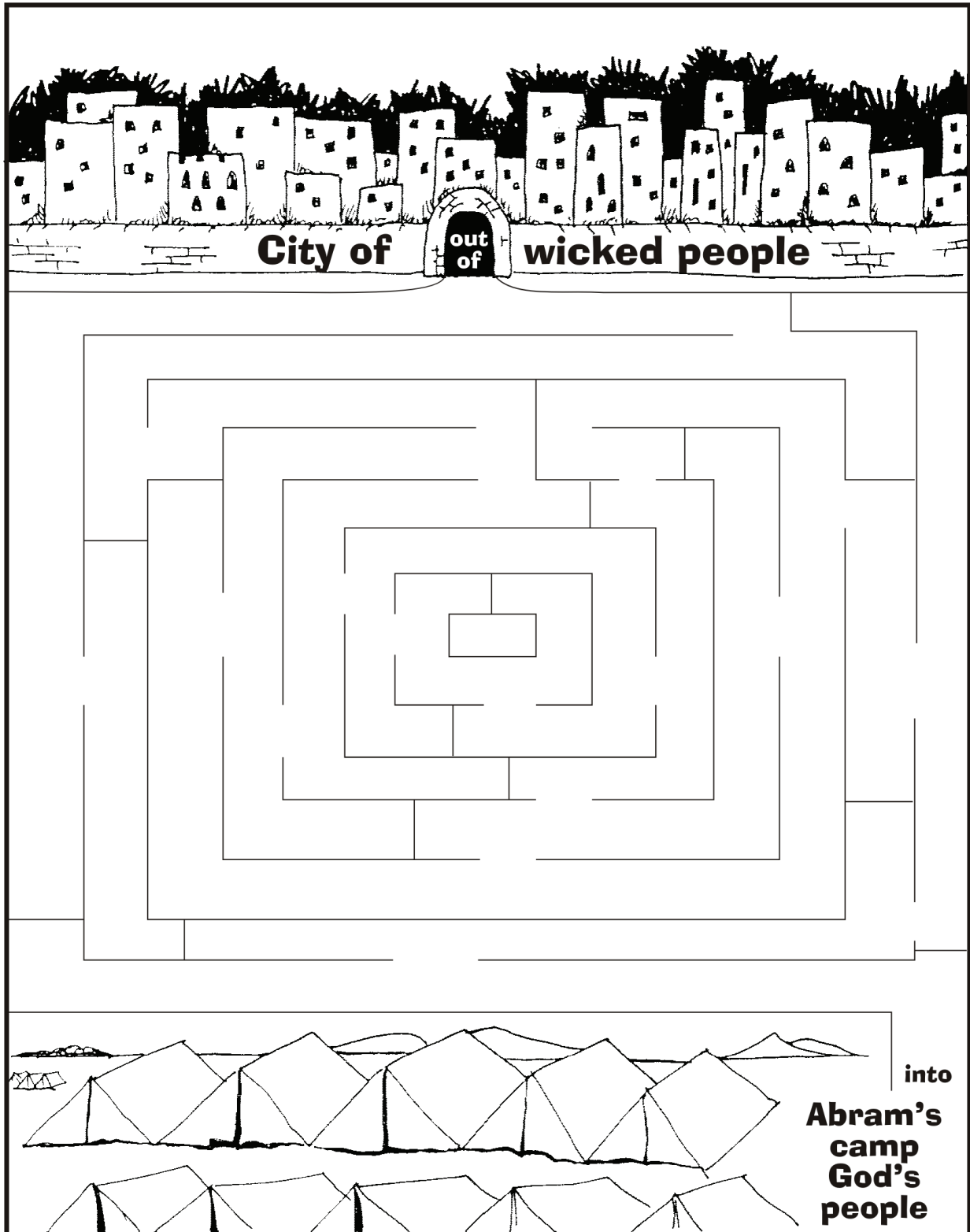
Steps

- The children find the route from the wicked city to God’s people by pencil.
- They can then colour in the wicked city and Abram’s camp.
- Then draw themselves in Abram’s camp.



Abram called, Abram and Lot

Activity B - Maze



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The covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15 - 17

Storyline

Years passed and Abram and Sarai had no children. Abram talked with God about it and God told him He would give him lots of descendants, and Abram believed God. The Lord told Abram to bring a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon to God. When Abram had the animals and birds ready, (he had to cut the animals in half) it had become dark. Abram fell into a deep sleep, and God sent fire to pass between the pieces of animals and the birds. God now talked to Abram about his descendants. Sarai decided she was too old to have children and told Abram he should have a baby with her maid, Hagar. Abram did this and Ishmael was born. This ended up causing much trouble. God made a covenant with Abram and changed his name to Abraham and also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Abraham was 99 years old now and God still said He was going to give him and Sarah a son.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Bring a small bucket of sand to class. Discuss how many grains of sand there are on the beach, and have the children try to count the grains in a spoonful of sand. How many stars are there in the night sky? Stress how Abram's descendants were to be uncountable.
2. Talk about promises people make to us. Some are kept, some are not. Discuss feelings here. Discuss why we are sure some people will keep their promises to us. Do we keep our word?
3. Abram could believe God's promises because he had seen Him do so much for him and because he had a close friendship with Him.
4. Relate fear of the dark to the tunnel activity and how Abram had to respond.

Theme One

"God keeps His promises"

God shows His love to us in many ways. One of the ways He shows His love is by making promises to us. His promises are sure and certain. God will always do what He says He will do. Even when we cannot see the proof of His promises, He keeps repeating them to remind us that He will keep them.

Key Thought

It seemed that God's promise would never come to Abram and Sarai, but they had to keep believing that the promised son would come.

Aim

For the children to understand that when God gives a promise, He keeps it.

Memory Verse

"He who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23).

Theme Two

"The grace of God comes through faith"

Abram had responded in faith to the Lord's call, by leaving his father's home and taking his family on a pilgrimage as God directed. There was obviously a deepening relationship between Abram and God. This culminated in God establishing the everlasting covenant with Abraham. It was Abraham's simple but sure faith in his God, that enabled the blessing of the covenant to be given.

Key Thought

As we believe the promises of God, and make obedient responses, we become partakers of the covenant life of Gods.

Aim

As we believe the promises of God, and make obedient responses, we become partakers of the covenant life of God.

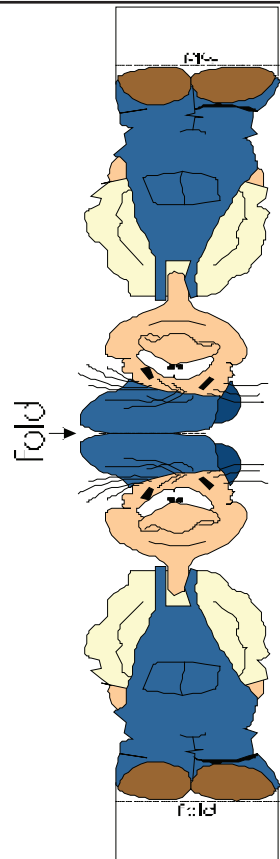
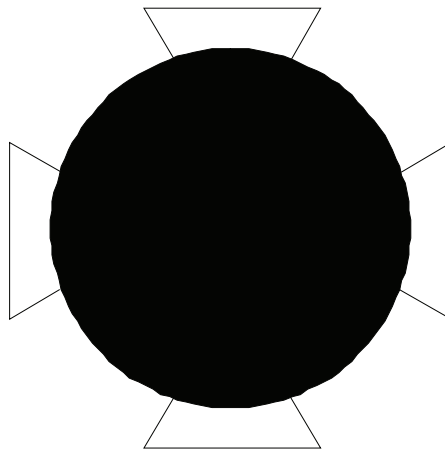
Memory Verse

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him." (Hebrews 11:6).

Activity A - Tunnel

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 piece of black cardboard per child, 24cm x approx. 15-17cm (make the most of the large sheet you will have to buy).
- Hole punch.
- Stapler.
- Sticky tape.



Steps

- Make a tunnel by joining the two short sides of the black cardboard with stick tape, overlapping the edges by 1½ cm.
- Cut out the black circle with the tabs from the Activity Sheet, punch a hole in the centre of approximately ½cm in diameter and attach it with sticky tape or glue it to one end of the tunnel. Make sure that the black side is facing into the tunnel, and the hole is just big enough to see through when held up to the eye.
- Cut out the figure from the Activity Sheet, fold it according to the instructions and attach it by sticky tape or staple to the other end of the tunnel.
- Discuss the concept of faith, by relating it to the idea of going into a dark tunnel and being afraid when we don't have faith in God. (Look at the figure going into the tunnel and only seeing black at the end). But when we do have faith in God it is like coming out of the end of a tunnel into the light. (Look through the tiny hole at the covered end of the tunnel.)

Activity B - Crossword

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Felt pens/pencils.

Steps

- Teacher reads out clues.
- Children fill in missing letters to complete the crossword.

Clues

Across

1. Another word for trust.

5. The Bible is whose word?

Down

2. The name Abraham had in the beginning.

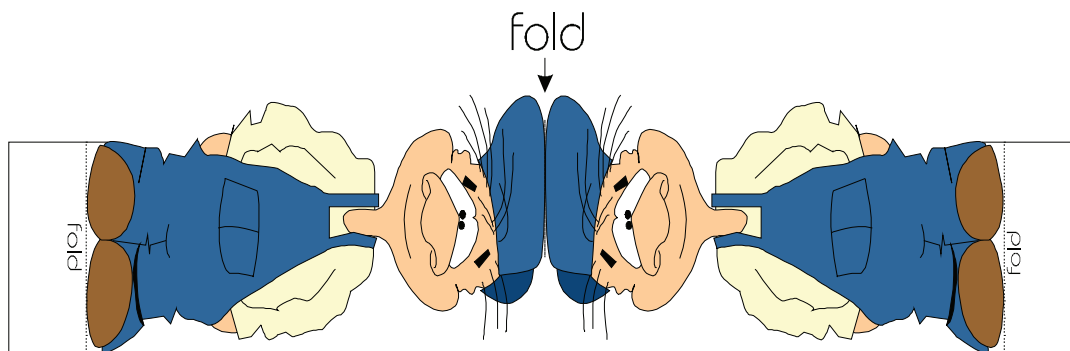
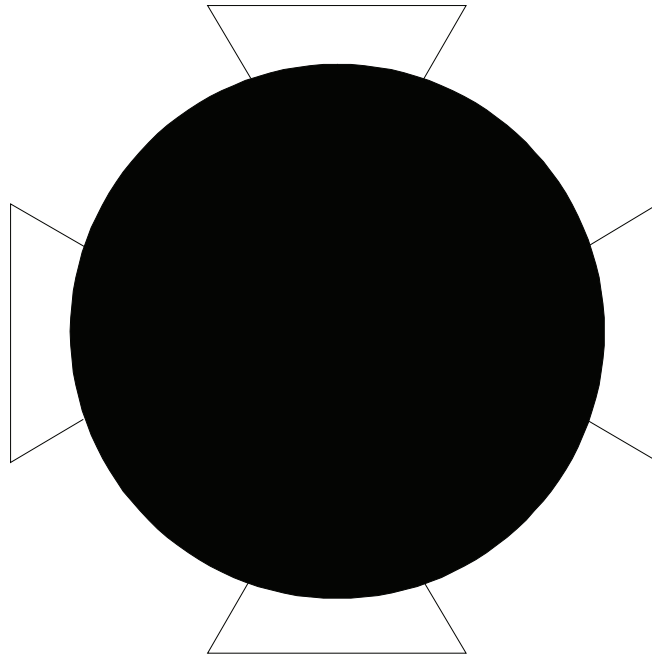
3. Something we do when we're given a promise.

4. The Bible is God's _____?



The covenant with Abraham

Activity A - Tunnel



The covenant with Abraham

Activity B - Crossword



Ishmael and Isaac

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-21

Storyline

Abraham was 100 years old when Sarah gave birth to their son Isaac. When Isaac was weaned, Abraham gave a great feast and it was at this feast that Sarah saw Ishmael making fun of them in a way that was not very nice. Sarah told Abraham he should send Hagar and Ishmael away, because she wanted Isaac to be his only son. This upset Abraham because he loved both of his sons, but the Lord told Abraham to listen to his wife. So the next day Abraham gave Hagar a water bag, some bread and Ishmael, and sent them away into the desert. Hagar wandered around for a long time, and when all the water was gone, she thought they would both die. Hagar put the boy under a bush for some shade and went a little way away because she did not want to watch him die. But God heard Ishmael's voice and an angel called out from heaven to tell Hagar God was going to make a great nation out of Ishmael. When God opened Hagar's eyes, she saw a well of water and she filled the water bag and gave Ishmael a drink. They lived in the wilderness and Ishmael grew up to be an archer. When he was old enough, Hagar got him a wife from the land of Egypt.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Talk about how excited people get when babies come.
2. Do old people usually have babies?
3. What was special about Isaac? What did his name mean?
4. How hard would it have been for Ishmael and his mother when Isaac was born and he really was the promised son?
5. Incorporate Activity A into the Teaching Approach.

Theme One

"Nothing is too hard for God"

God is able to do all things. Nothing is too hard for Him; all things are possible to God. Often we look at the problems and they look like huge mountains. Rather, we should look to God and know that He can help us in all the difficulties. As we remind ourselves of God's power we will keep on trusting Him.

Key Thought

Because Abraham and Sarah were so old it was hard for them to wait and believe that God would give them children.

Aim

For the children to think about God's power in creation and realise that He is using this same love and power in looking after us.

Memory Verse

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14).

Theme Two

"God keeps His promises"

Sometimes God's promises seem to us to be a long time coming. We often become impatient and try to do things in our own strength. Chaos results. God never fails and we must be patient and wait for His timing.

Key Thought

We need to trust God's word and be patient until God fulfils His promise in His own time.

Aim

To show the children that if we do things in our own strength, we will make a mess of them.

Memory Verse

"You also be patient." (James 5:8).

Activity A - Picture of God's Creation

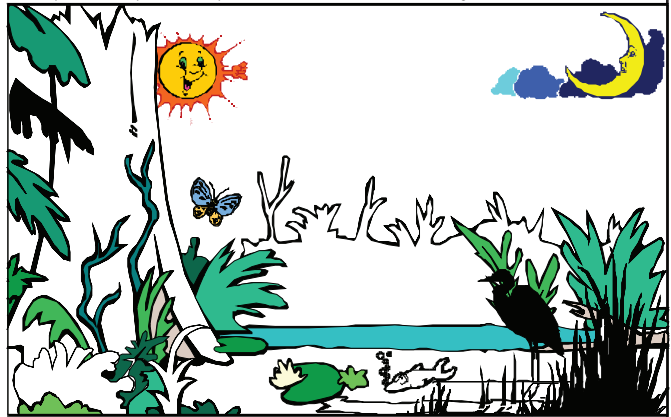
Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Glue.
- Felt pens.

Steps

- Take children for a walk outside, to look at the things that only God can make, eg. seeds, grass, leaves, feathers, small stones, flowers, clouds, sun, water, insects, lizards, vines, trees, snails, etc.
- Allow the children to collect some things that could be glued to the Activity Sheet.
- Children glue their collection onto the Activity Sheet.
- If time permits, the children could draw themselves on the Activity Sheet as well.

God can do the things we can't. He gave Abraham and Sarah a promised baby when they were very old. He also made these things, that we cannot make.



Activity B - Weaving to a Pattern

Materials

- 1 of each Activity Sheet per child, No 1 copied onto white paper, No. 2 copied onto coloured paper.
- Stanley knife.

Steps

At Home

- Using a Stanley knife, cut along all the dotted lines on Activity Sheet No. 1.
- Cut Activity Sheet No. 2 into strips along the dotted lines.

In Class

- Explain to the children, that when we work to a plan, we will always see an end result. This is especially true of working to God's plan.
- Give each child an Activity Sheet and a set of weaving strips.
- Show them how to start with the first one so that the letters are all visible, then move onto the second one, etc. until the whole message is readable. When finished it should read "Show me Your way Lord".

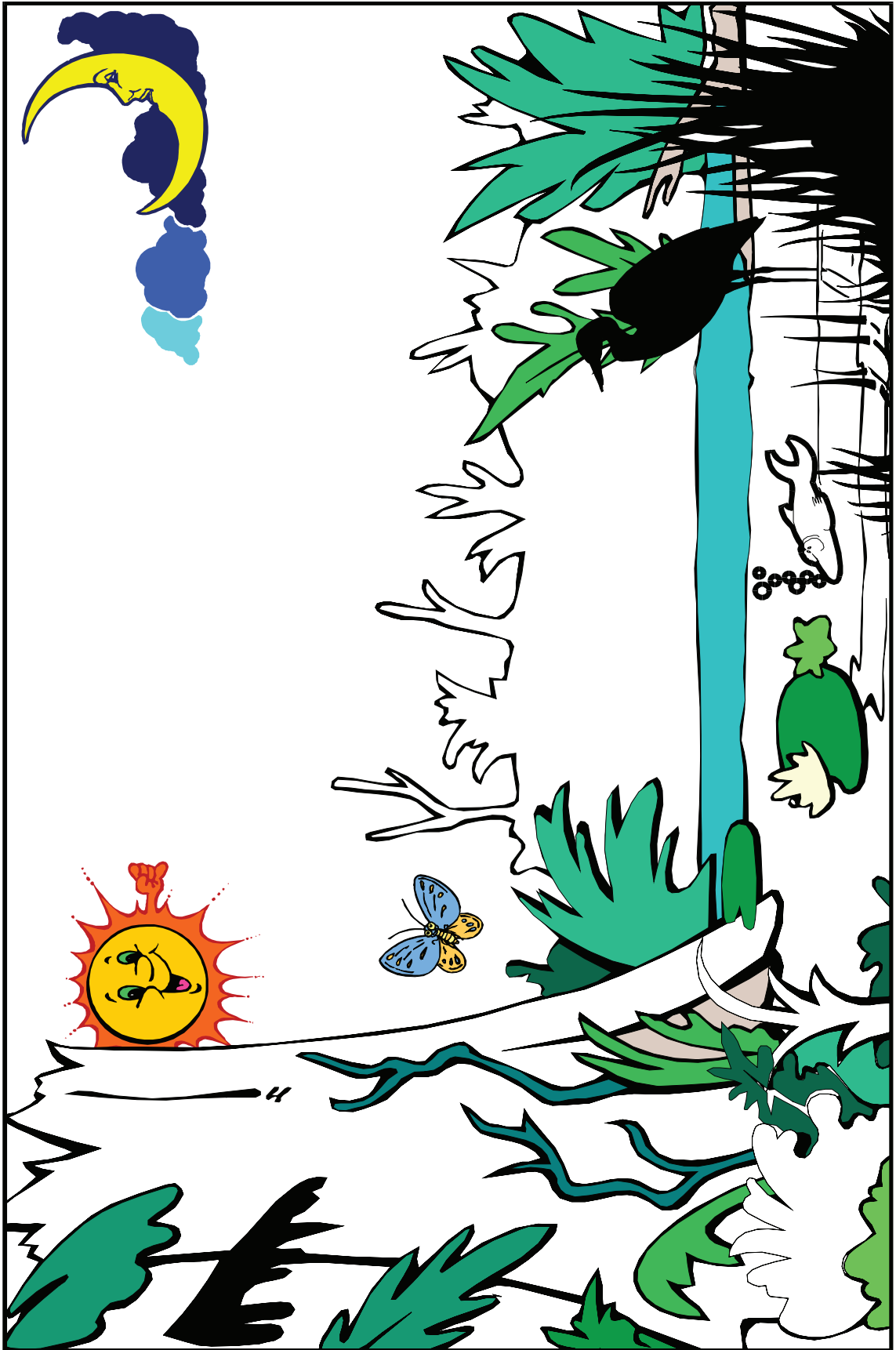
The shaded areas represent the coloured woven strips.

S	h	o	w
m	e		
y	o	u	r
w	a	y	
L	o	r	d

Ishmael and Isaac

Activity A - Picture of God's Creation

God can do the things we can't. He gave Abraham and Sarah a promised baby when they were very old. He also made these things, that we cannot make.



Ishmael and Isaac

Activity B - Weaving to a Plan

Activity Sheet No. 1

	h		w
m			
	o		r
w		y	
	o		d

Ishmael and Isaac

Activity B - Weaving to a Plan

Activity Sheet No. 2

1.

s

c

2.

e

3.

y

u

4.

a

5.

l

r

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Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19

Storyline

There were two wicked cities called Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot lived in Sodom. God said that He must destroy these cities because the wicked people were a danger to all around. God sent two angels to warn Lot. Wicked men tried to capture the angels and attacked Lot's house but the angels blinded the wicked men. The angels helped Lot, his wife and his two daughters leave Sodom. They were told to hurry and not to look behind. Lot's wife looked back at the city and was turned into a pillar of salt. God sent fire and brimstone out of heaven to destroy the cities and Abraham looked from where he lived and could see the smoke in the distance. Everyone in the two cities was killed except Lot and his two daughters. The whole area became a wilderness and is now the Dead Sea.

Suggested Teaching Approach

You could use Activity A as a teaching approach, or talk to the children about choosing, which is sometimes hard. When other kids at school are being mean to someone, do I choose to be mean as well? When others are being naughty, do I choose to be naughty, or do I go and play by myself?

Theme One

"The danger of compromise"

Lot must have been aware of the sinfulness of the people of Sodom. However, he still placed his family in the midst of the moral and physical danger in this city, at the chance of increasing his worldly wealth. The environment and lifestyle he chose for his family, had a disastrous effect on all of their lives.

Key Thought

If we choose to live in darkness, that darkness will overtake us.

Aim

For the children to realise the importance of separating themselves from tempting and immoral situations and people.

Memory Verse

"Do not love the world." (1 John 2:15).

Theme Two

"God is merciful"

Although God is just, He is also merciful. Even before the time of the flood, when men were extremely evil, God gave them many years in which to repent before He finally sent the flood. Even in Sodom, Lot was a preacher of righteousness. At last, God destroyed Sodom, but He rescued Lot and his wife and two daughters. God's mercy endures for ever.

Key Thought

God is merciful, but we must not assume that we can live carelessly and not be judged.

Aim

To show that we have a merciful Father. We must obey His word and walk with Him.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is merciful and gracious." (Psalm 103:8).

Activity A - Retell the story

Materials

- One or two empty egg cartons.
- Black marker pen.
- Four pipe cleaner figures.
- Some shredded red cellophane.
- Some gravel size pebbles, painted yellow (students could also make pebbles out of yellow playdough).
- Enough salt to cover one of the pipecleaner figures.
- Some newspaper.



Steps

At Home

- Make a cardboard city out of the egg cartons, by breaking up the bottom halves into various shapes and painting windows and doors on them with the black marker.
- Make four pipe cleaner figures.
- Shred some red cellophane.
- Dip the gravel in some non-toxic yellow paint.

In Class

- Give one child the container of salt.
- Give each of the other children some cellophane or some yellow pebbles.
- Set up the cardboard city, and have the children tell you the story, raining down the fire and brimstone on the city, and covering Lot's wife with salt.
- Note: Brimstone is a yellow crystalline solid which burns easily in air (sulphur).

Activity B - Statue Tiggy

Materials

- Open space, preferably outdoors.

Rules

- One child is chosen to be "up". As each child is tagged, he/she turns into a 'pillar of salt' and must remain frozen until all children are frozen. The last child to be tagged, is then "up" and must tag all the children.
- If restricted to indoors, choose one child to be "up". This child stands with his/her face to the wall. The rest of the children begin at the other end of the room, and try to creep up on the child who is "up". At any time, he/she may call out "freeze" and turn around quickly. If he/she spots anyone moving, they may be sent back to the start. The first child to reach the other end of the room without being spotted moving is then "up".



The sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22

Storyline

God tested Abraham many times but the hardest came when his son Isaac was growing up. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son as a burnt offering. Abraham loved his son dearly, but he put God's command first. He took Isaac, two servants and some wood for the offering on a three day journey to the mountain. He told the servants to wait while he and the boy went to worship. Isaac asked where the animal was for the offering and his father said that God would provide. Abraham built the altar, put wood on it and tied up Isaac. He was ready to plunge a knife into Isaac when God called his name and said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad ... for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Abraham and Isaac then saw a ram, caught by its horns in some bushes. This was the sacrifice instead of Isaac. Because of his obedience, God told Abraham He would make his descendants as numerous as the sand on the seashore.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Have children role play the story of Abraham taking Isaac up Mount Moriah. Divide the children into pairs of Isaacs and Abrahams. Supply for each pair, a few large sticks, a soft belt/skipping rope/dressing gown cord, or similar, for tying sticks onto backs. Remember at this age, the children are not into a lot of dialogue, so just the act of tying the sticks on, and walking up the mountain should be enough to introduce the story.

Theme One

"Obey God"

Sometimes our parents may ask us to do things we don't want to do. Sometimes God, too, asks us to do difficult things we don't want to do. God wants us to know Him, and our parents, so well that we can trust Him and them and obey them. If we really trust God and our parents, we shall obey them when we are asked to do very hard things. We need to know that God and our parents love us, and because of this, we can obey them without hesitation.

Key Thought

God asked Abraham to do something very hard and strange. Abraham was able to do this because he knew and trusted God.

Aim

To encourage obedience, even if they don't understand why they have to do something.

Memory Verse

"Obey My voice." (Jeremiah 11:4).

Theme Two

"Trust God"

We may safely trust God. He will fulfil His promises and He will never ask us to do something that is impossible. When He asks us to do something, He will help us to do it, but we must trust Him. Abraham believed God when He said he would be the father of many nations. He was willing to sacrifice his son, trusting God to raise him again from the dead. If we trust God completely, we shall be willing to do whatever He asks us to do.

Key Thought

God never lies and never changes His mind. We can always believe God's word.

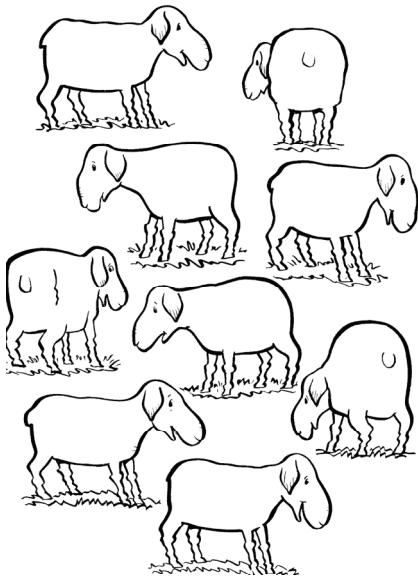
Aim

To impress on the children that God keeps His promises.

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord." (Psalm 37:3).

Activity A - Ram in the Thicket



Materials

- Photocopy Activity Sheet enough times to give each child one sheep.
- 1 cotton wool ball for each sheep.
- Glue.
- 1 dry twig (small branch), about twice the size of the sheep, for each child.
- Playdough, stones, twigs, red cellophane (cut into strips).

Steps

At Home

- Mount Activity Sheet/s on cardboard.
- Cut out sheep.

In Class

- Glue cotton wool ball onto the body of sheep.
- Place sheep in thicket.
- Give each child a lump of playdough and some stones.
- Children press stones into outside of playdough to make an altar.
- Place strips of cellophane and twigs on top.
- Place ram on altar.

Activity B - Happy/Sad Faces

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Safety Scissors.
- Glue.

Steps

- Children cut out squares faces.
- Teacher reads first situation and children glue appropriate face in the space.
- Teacher continues reading down through situations until activity is completed.

Happy/Sad Faces

This is Abraham's face when God told him to sacrifice Isaac.



This is Isaac's face when his father, Abraham, asked him to come on a trip.



This is Abraham's face as he takes Isaac up Mt Moriah.



Isaac's face as Abraham binds him to the altar.

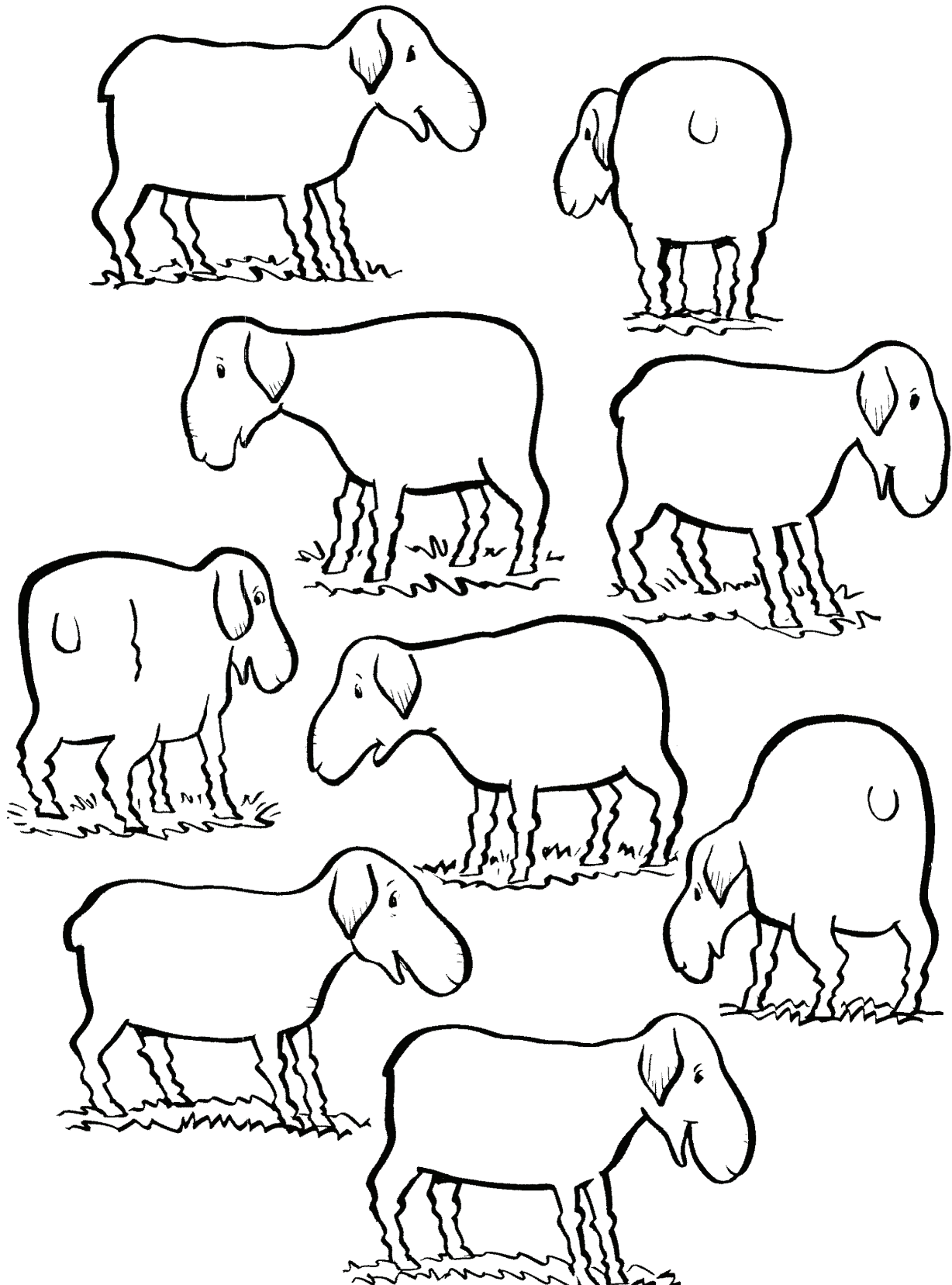


Abraham and Isaac's faces when God sends a lamb for an offering.



The sacrifice of Isaac

Activity A - Ram in the Thicket



The sacrifice of Isaac

Activity B - Happy/Sad Faces

Happy/Sad Faces

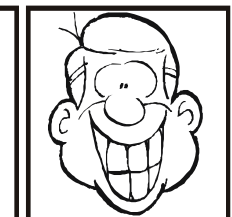
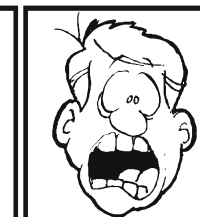
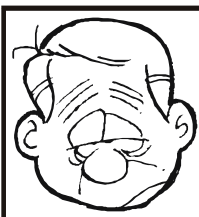
This is Abraham's face when
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This is Isaac's face when his father,
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This is Abraham's face as he takes
Isaac up Mt Moriah.

Isaac's face as Abraham binds
him to the altar.

Abraham and Isaac's
faces when God sends
a lamb for an offering.



Rebekah, Isaac's bride

Genesis 24

Storyline

Abraham wanted Isaac to marry, but not to marry a Canaanite who worshipped idols. His servant, Eliezer, was given the job of going back to Mesopotamia and finding a wife for Isaac from Abraham's relatives. Eliezer prayed for help in choosing the right woman. He asked that when he asked for a drink, the woman would offer to draw water for his camels also. He wanted someone who was kind and thoughtful and his prayers were answered in Rebekah. Eliezer gave her gifts from his master, discovered that she was related to Abraham, and thanked the Lord. When he was invited, he went to stay with the family. They knew that the Lord had led Eliezer to find Rebekah for Isaac, and Rebekah was willing to go straight away to marry Isaac. The family was sad to lose Rebekah, but knew it was God's will. Isaac loved Rebekah and they married.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Give the children a practical example of trusting, and doing what is asked of us, even when we don't understand.
2. Blindfold one child, and have them walk according to your instructions. Make it very simple, and be sure not to allow any accidents to happen. Keep it short too, just long enough for them to get the idea of trusting and being obedient, then lead into the story.

Theme One

"God gives wisdom"

There are times, even each day, when we do not know what choices to make or which direction to follow. Sometimes the jobs we have to do, or the problems we have to face, cannot be worked out by ourselves. However, we can expect God to show us His wisdom as we ask Him to guide us.

Key Thought

Just like Eliezer, who was not disappointed, we have to rely on God's wisdom, and trust in His leading.

Aim

To help the children to understand that the Lord is waiting to lead and guide them if they will ask.

Memory Verse

"God gives wisdom." (Ecclesiastes 2:26).

Theme Two

"Ready and willing"

God wants us to be trained in ordinary and not so ordinary things. He also wants us to be quick to use our skills to help others. We need to keep saying, "Yes," to the Lord when we are asked to do something, or to help others. Being ready and willing to help others will bring blessing to them and to ourselves.

Key Thought

Just like Rebekah, we must be willing to quickly do whatever is asked of us by God or our parents.

Aim

For the children to develop an attitude of willingness.

Memory Verse

"Be ready." (2 Timothy 4:2).

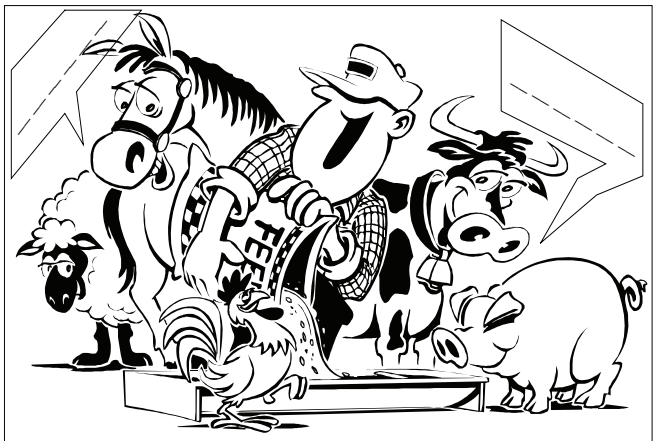
Activity A - 'Serving' Cartoons

Materials

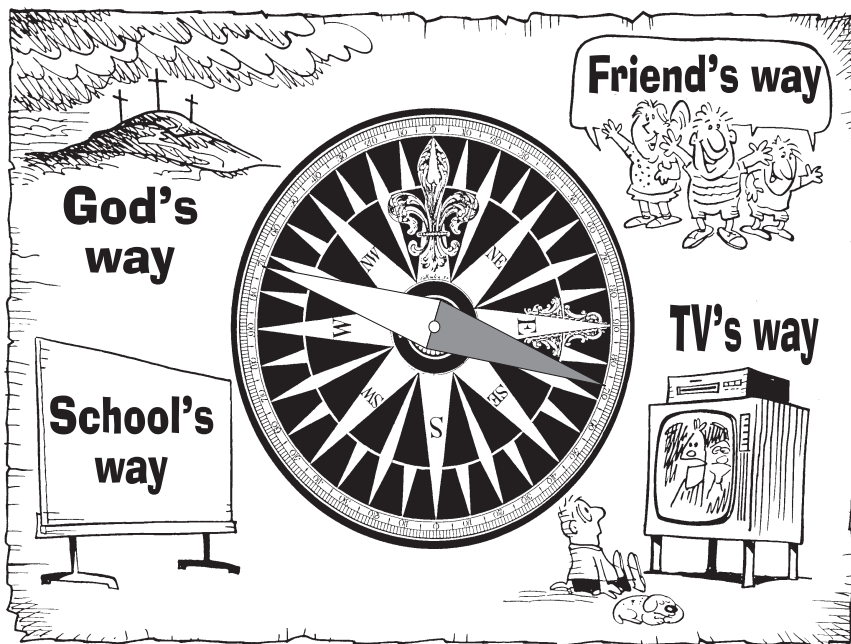
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

Steps

- Discuss how, in each cartoon, someone is serving by doing a chore.
- Children can then colour the cartoons and write the word 'thanks' in the spaces.



Activity B - God's Way' Compass



Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 paper binder per child (this is a two piece fastener, consisting of a split pin and a washer, and is available at newsagents).
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

At Home

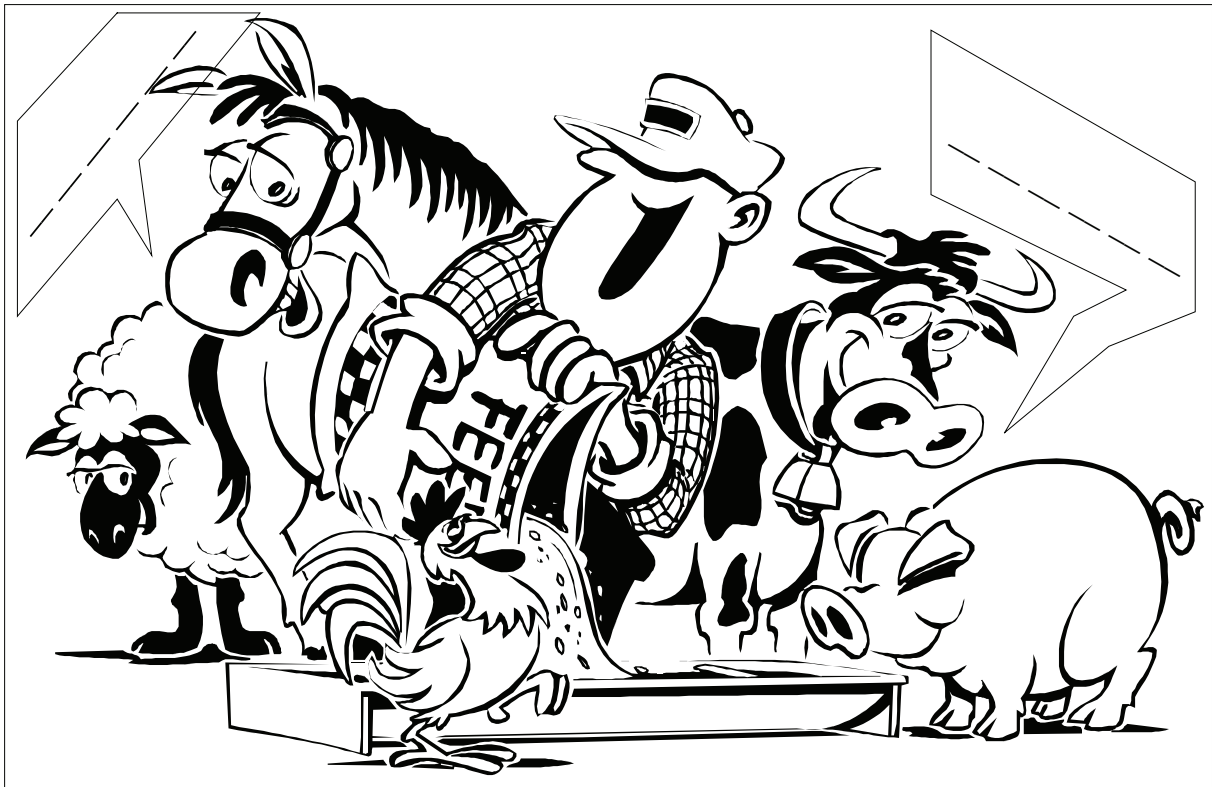
- Cut out arrow pointers.

In Class

- Children colour compass pictures.
- Talk about choosing God's way with children, during colouring time.
- Help children attach pointer to compass using paper binders

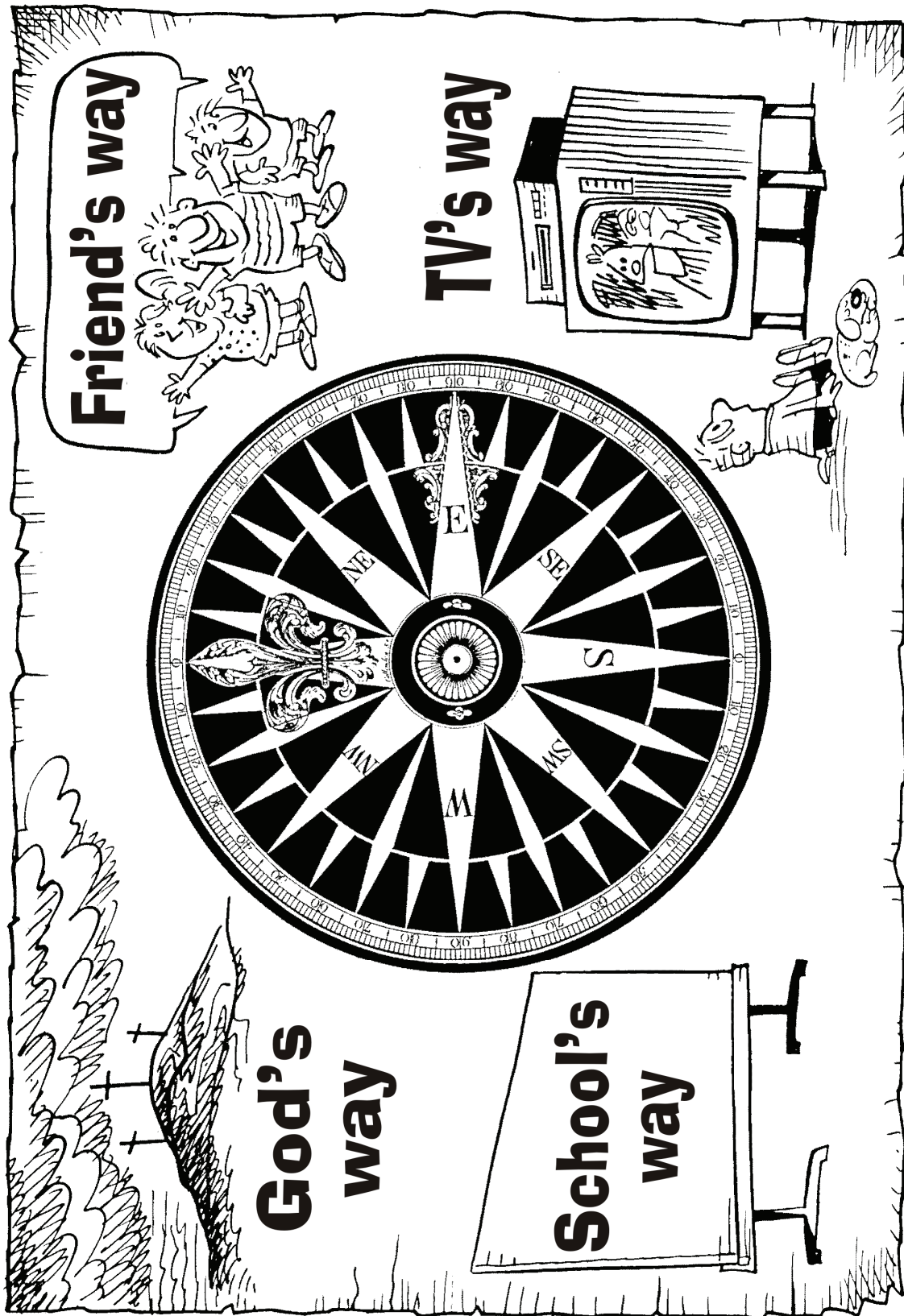
Rebekah, Isaac's bride

Activity A - 'Serving' Cartoons



Rebekah, Isaac's bride

Activity B - 'God's Way' Compass



Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-34; 27

Storyline

Isaac and Rebekah had no children for a long time. Isaac asked the Lord with all his heart, for Rebekah to have a child and the Lord said yes. The Lord gave Rebekah twins, and before they were born, He told her that the baby that was born second, would be the more important. The first baby born was called Esau and the second baby born was called Jacob. Esau was very hairy and grew up to be a very good hunter. Jacob had smooth skin and stayed around home. Esau came home one day from hunting and he was very hungry. Jacob had just made a stew and Esau wanted to eat it, so Jacob got Esau to trade his birthright for the stew. Because Esau didn't care about the birthright, he gave it up for Jacob's stew. When Isaac was very old and almost blind, he wanted to give a special blessing to his eldest son. Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into giving the blessing to Jacob instead. Esau wanted to kill Jacob because he now had the birthright and the best blessing as well. Isaac sent Jacob away to Rebekah's brother Laban's place which was a long way away.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Using two Lego figures (or similar) name one Esau and one Jacob. Take along to class quite a few things that the children would recognise as precious, eg. jewellery, some money, etc. Explain to the children that, as the firstborn, Esau should have received a double portion of Isaac's treasures. This was his birthright. (Divide the goods up so Esau has twice as much as Jacob.) Then show how it was reversed when Esau gave up his birthright to Jacob. (Now push the larger portion over to Jacob.) Explain to the children, that once we are born again into God's household, we have a birthright too. Not money or jewels, but being able to live forever with God, and we must guard that treasure and not give it away like Esau.

Theme One

"Treasure what God has chosen for us"

Sometimes we can take for granted the things God has given us. Our families, our church life, the special way He has made each one of us and His plan for us. If we don't really get to know the Lord and stay close to Him, we can become unthankful, unhappy, and lose everything He has set aside for us.

Key Thought

As we guard the treasure God has given us now, we are making sure that we will receive everything God has for us in the end.

Aim

To help the children understand what their 'birthright' in God is and how important it is that we not be robbed of it.

Memory Verse

"Hold fast what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Theme Two

"Cheating hurts others"

God has a plan for each of our lives. God will bring that plan to pass at the right time and in the right way. Even if we are sure what that plan is, it is best to let Him work it out. If we try to use clever tricks to get what we want, we shall hurt ourselves and others.

Key Thought

If we try to work out God's plan for us by cheating, we will lose our friends and will always be afraid of being found out.

Aim

For the children to understand that God will work things out His way and His way will keep us loving each other.

Memory Verse

"Do not lie to one another." (Colossians 3:9).

Activity A - Blind Man's Bluff or "Who Am I?"

Materials

- 1 Blindfold.

Steps

- For Blind Man's Bluff, one child is blindfolded, turned around three times and has to find and identify someone else.
- For "Who Am I?", one child is blindfolded, while another from the group sneaks up behind the blindfolded child and says, "Father, father, who am I?". The blindfolded child has to try and guess who is behind him/her.

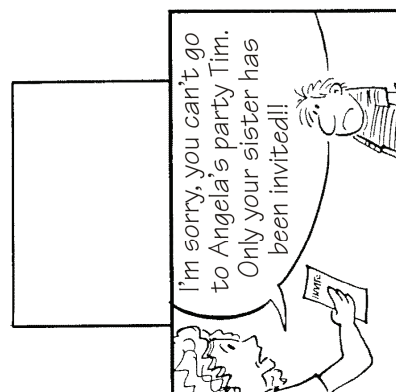
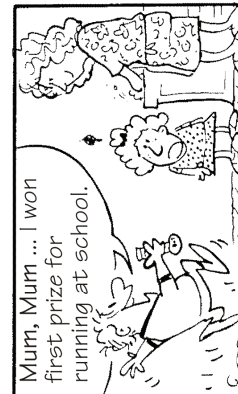
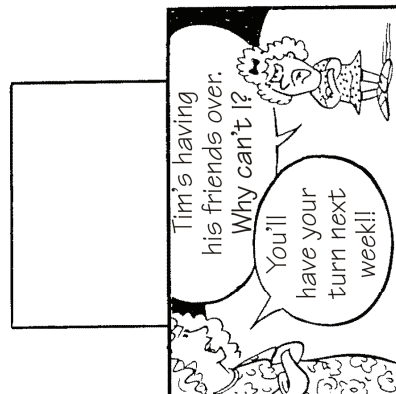
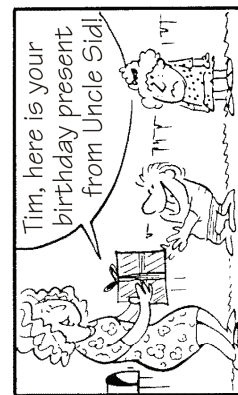
Activity B - How does Jesus want me to feel?

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pencils.

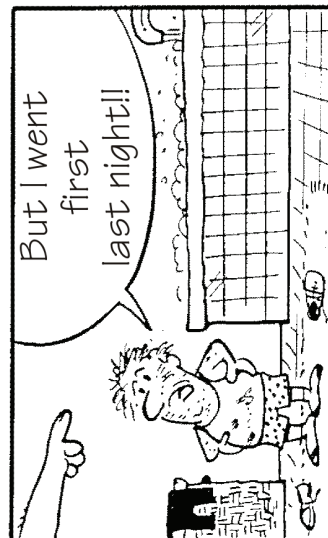
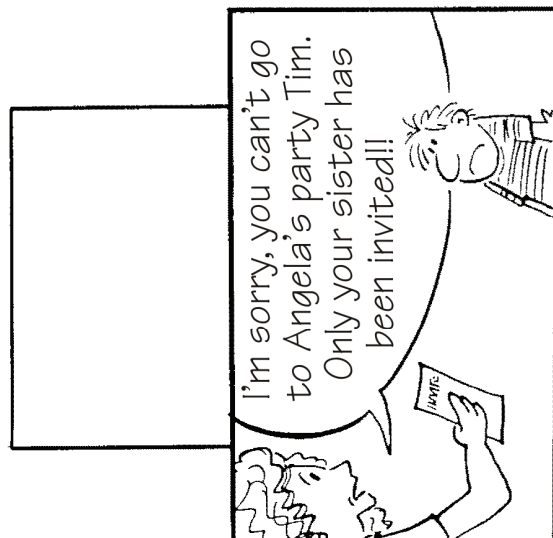
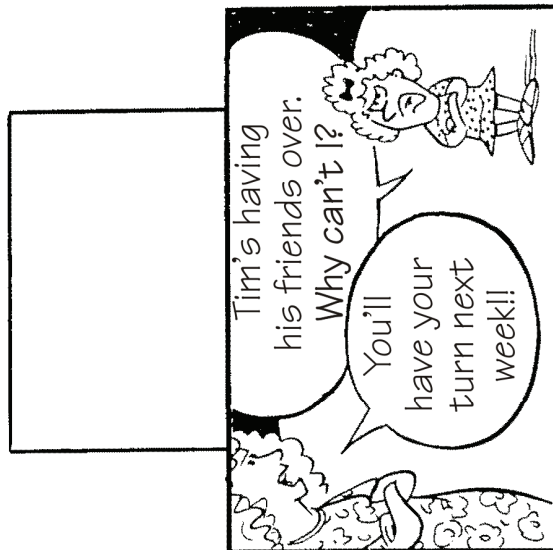
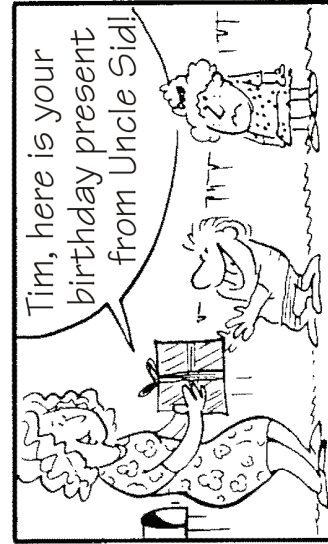
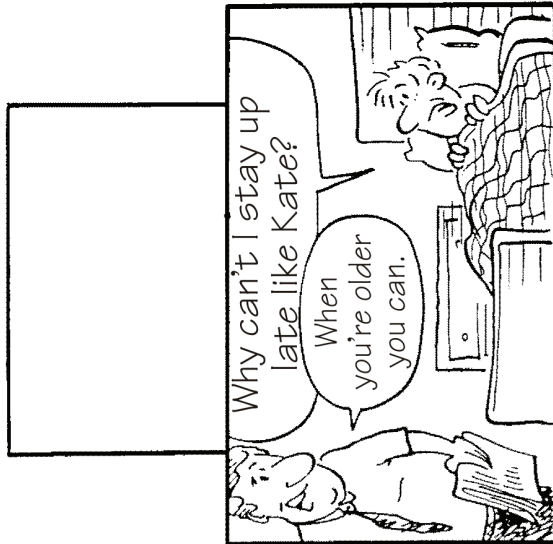
Steps

- Teacher reads out captions, one by one, and discusses how the children feel about each situation, and then how Jesus wants us to feel.
- The children then draw a happy or angry face beside the pictures, depicting how Jesus would like us to respond to our brothers and sisters.



Jacob and Esau

Activity B - How does Jesus want you to feel?



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Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Genesis 28 - 30

Storyline

Because of Esau's anger, Jacob had to leave home. Isaac told him to get a wife from his relatives far away and he blessed him again before he left. Jacob felt alone and unhappy and because of the trouble he had caused, he felt far from God. But God was with him. He lay down on the ground to sleep that night with a stone for his pillow, and had a dream of a ladder reaching right up to heaven, with angels going up and down. The Lord stood above it and told Jacob that He would give him many children and grandchildren and great grandchildren until they could not be counted, like the sand. This was the same promise God had given Abraham, Jacob's grandfather. Jacob made his first promise to God here. He promised to keep the Lord as his God and to give the Lord a tenth of everything God gave him. His uncle, Laban, had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel and said he would work seven years so he could marry her. Laban tricked Jacob and he ended up married to Leah, so he had to work another seven years to marry Rachel. Jacob learned what it was like to be cheated. Jacob wanted to take his family back to Canaan, but Laban stopped him many times. One night the Lord spoke to Jacob and reminded him of their promises to each other and told him to return to his land and his brother Esau. Jacob then knew it was time to go.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. To tell the story, prepare a flannel graph or some cut out characters you can Bluetack to a board.
2. Show the children how God stayed close to Jacob, through the "Ladder" experience and how Jacob worshipped God there.
3. Remind the children of Jacob's trickery. Discuss how Jacob must have felt when his uncle tricked him.

Theme One

"God helps us to change"

Even though it was the Lord's plan to prosper and multiply Jacob, he had to know and trust God, to receive those blessings. Jacob had to learn patience, obedience, and endurance over many years of dealings with his father-in-law. The Lord did bless Jacob through his trials, labours and faithfulness.

Key Thought

The Lord leads us through circumstances that will help us to change.

Aim

To have children realise that whatever the Lord allows in our lives, is for the fulfilling of His plan to bring us to perfection.

Memory Verse

"You have need of endurance." (Hebrews 10:36).

Theme Two

"Patient and steadfast in trials"

Sometimes God tests us, sometimes Satan tries to trip us up or hinder us. Sometimes God has to discipline us. Jacob must have known that God was disciplining him through his uncle Laban. He bore it patiently and worked hard. Eventually, he gained the wife he wanted. God does not give us everything we want immediately. We have to learn to be patient and diligent.

Key Thought

We are all impatient at times and sometimes we get tired of waiting for things to happen. God requires us to be patient and steadfast.

Aim

To show the children that, if we prize something, we must be willing to work hard towards it and wait patiently for it.

Memory Verse

"You also be patient." (James 5:8).

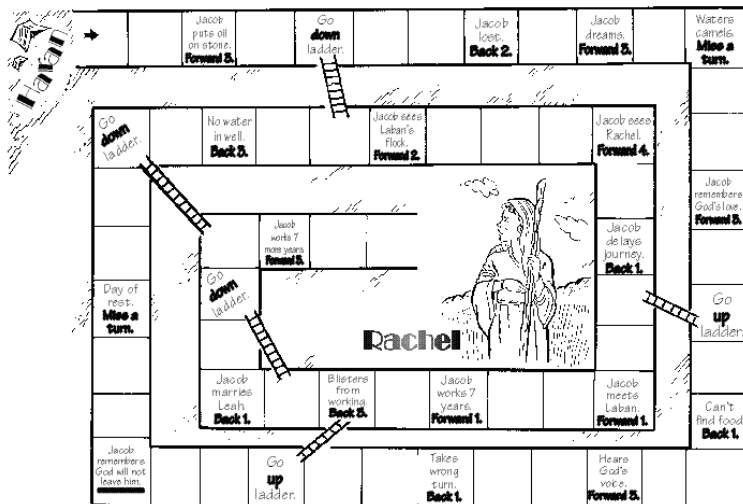
Activity A - Board Game

Materials

- Enlarge 1 copy of Activity Sheet and either laminate or mount on cardboard. (If you have plenty of time, you could colour game before laminating.)
- 1 normal size copy of game for each child to take home.
- 1 dice and button.

Steps

- It is suggested that this game be played in a non-competitive way, eg. children take turns throwing dice and teacher moves 1 button. Thus the children are all participating, by throwing dice and counting spaces, but no one wins or loses.



Activity B - Telephone to Jesus

Materials

- 1 x 1 litre milk carton for each child.
- Glue (Aquadhere), or sticky tape.
- 1 Activity Sheet for each child (cut header and footer off Activity Sheet and photocopy onto centre of plain A4 paper so it can wrap around milk carton).
- Colouring pencils.
- 1 red heart sticker for centre of telephone per child (optional).

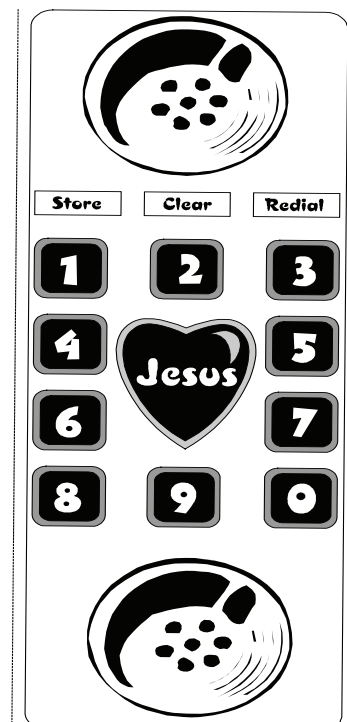
Steps

At Home

- Collect and clean milk cartons (clean with vinegar, bleach, or antiseptic to kill bacteria and smell).
- Fold pattern along dotted lines.
- Tape top of carton flat.

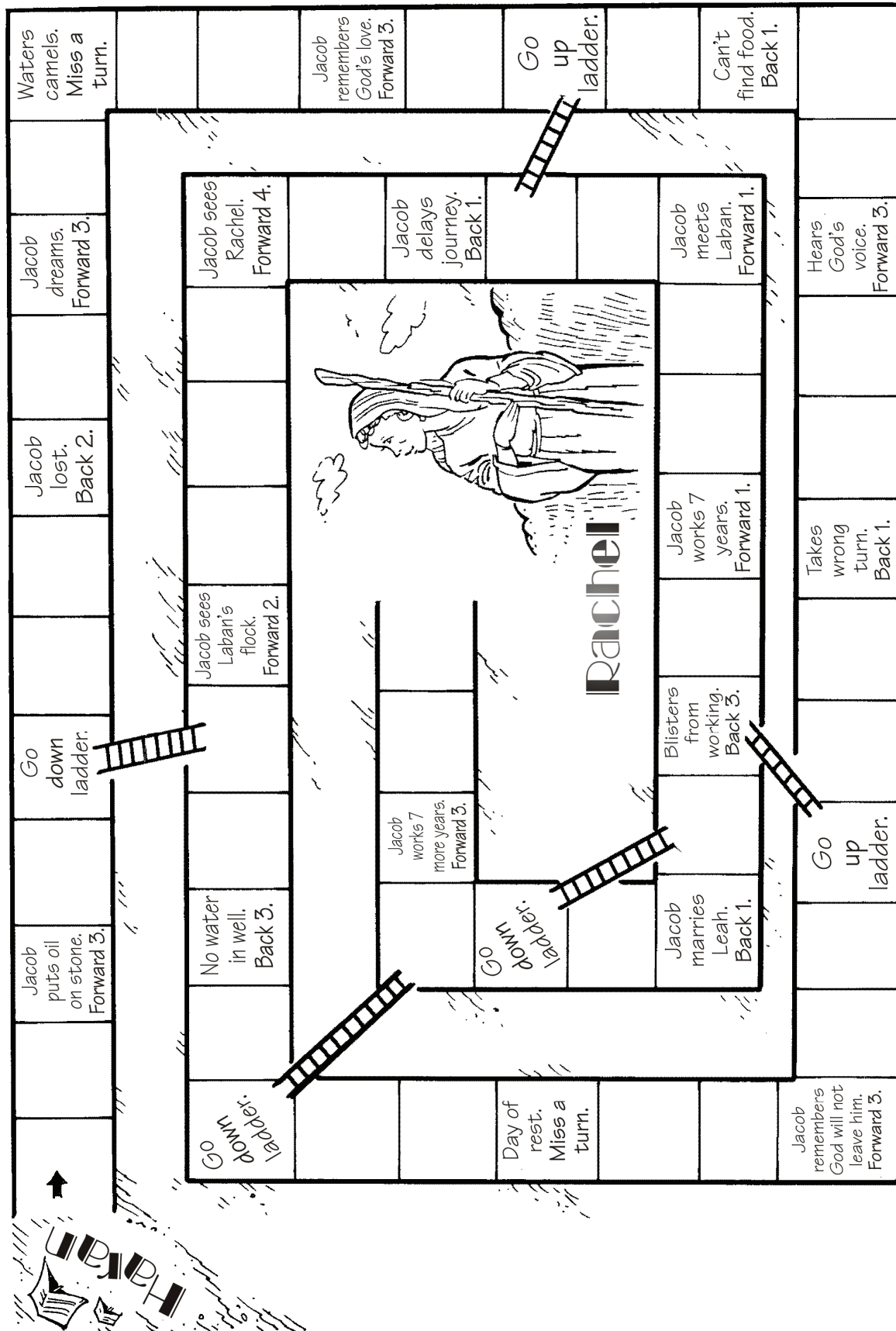
In Class

- Children colour telephone. (If using heart stickers, put them in place now.)
- Tape or glue pattern to milk carton.
- At this point, emphasise that this is a game - Jesus can't really be talked to on the telephone, but is closer to us than a phone call.



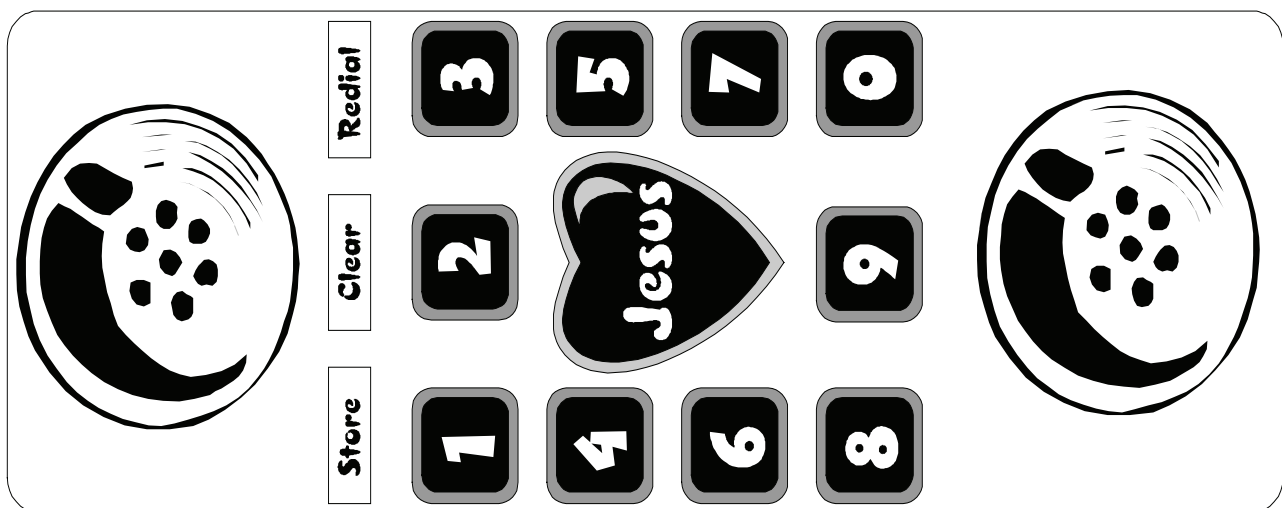
Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Activity A - Board Game



Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

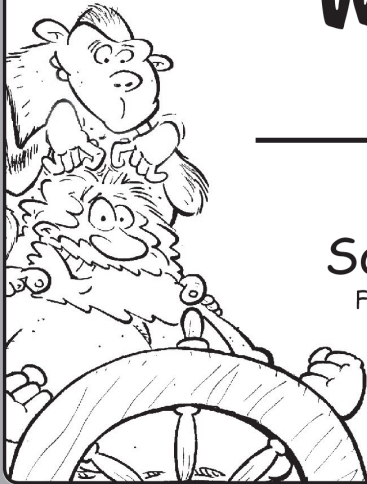
Activity B - Telephone to Jesus



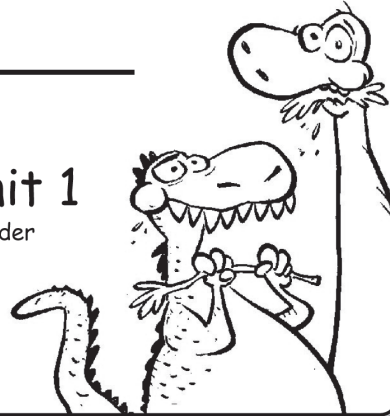
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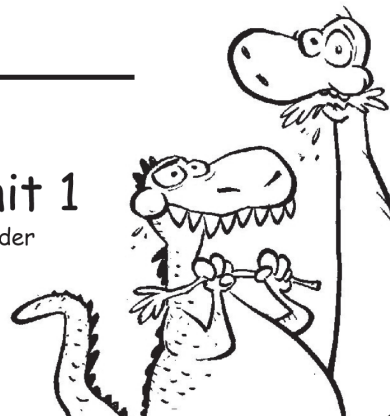
for completing
SonSeekers Unit 1
From Creation to Jacob's Ladder



Well Done!



for completing
SonSeekers Unit 1
From Creation to Jacob's Ladder



Sonseekers Curriculum

Unit One	Unit Two	Unit Three	Unit Four
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creation 1 Creation 2 Adam and Eve The fall Cain and Abel Noah builds an ark The flood, Noah and his sons The tower of Babel Abram called, Abram and Lot The covenant with Abraham Ishmael and Isaac Sodom and Gomorrah The sacrifice of Isaac Rebekah, Isaac's bride Jacob and Esau Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob becomes Israel Joseph, the favourite son Joseph goes to Egypt Joseph interprets the dreams Joseph's brothers Israel in Egypt Israelite slaves, Moses born Moses flees and returns to Egypt "Let My people go" The first passover, Israel delivered Crossing the Red Sea Manna, water from the rock Sinai and the ten commandments Moses and the tabernacle The golden calf Twelve spies, 40 years of wandering 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron's rod Moses hits the rock The bronze serpent Balaam and his donkey Joshua and Rahab Crossing the Jordan, Jericho The sin of Achan The sun stands still Gideon's fleece Gideon and his army Samson Samson and Delilah Ruth, Naomi and Boaz Hannah Samuel hears God speak Eli, Hophni and Phinehas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saul chosen Saul and the Amalekites David chosen David and Goliath David and Jonathan David and Saul David crowned David and the ark Absalom Solomon becomes king Solomon's temple Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam Elijah and the widow Elijah on Mount Carmel Good King Jehoshaphat Elisha and the double portion
Unit Five	Unit Six	Unit Seven	Unit Eight
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The widow's oil, a boy raised Naaman Famine in Samaria Jonah The captivity of Israel (the northern kingdom) Hezekiah and Sennacherib Isaiah Josiah Jeremiah The captivity of Judah (the southern kingdom) Daniel interprets the king's dream The fiery furnace The writing on the wall Daniel in the lions' den Esther Restoration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John The birth of Jesus Jesus in the temple John the Baptist Jesus baptised and tempted The call of the disciples Water turned to wine The temple cleansed, Nicodemus The woman at the well Healing of the paralysed man The house built on the rock Jesus stills the storm The feeding of the 5000 The centurion's servant Forgiveness in Simon's house The sower and the seed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jairus' daughter, a woman touches Jesus Jesus walks on the water Miracles of healing The transfiguration A boy is healed The unmerciful servant A man born blind The good Samaritan Prayer The raising of Lazarus The lost sheep, coin and son Attitudes of a servant The marriage of the king's son The ten lepers The ten virgins The talents 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday The last supper and Gethsemane The crucifixion The resurrection Peter restored The risen Christ and His ascension The day of Pentecost Peter and John Peter and the Gentiles Stephen Philip Paul's conversion Paul's first missionary journey Paul's second and third missionary journeys Paul's capture and imprisonment Paul's final journey

