

## 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**

| <u>limei</u>     | ine                                    |
|------------------|--|
|                  | a .                                    |
|                  | Creation                               |
| 4000BC           | Adam and Eve                           |
| 2500DC           | The Fall                               |
| 2500BC           | Noah                                   |
|                  | The Flood                              |
| 2000BC           | Tower of Babel<br>Abraham              |
| 2000BC           | _                                      |
| 1900BC<br>1800BC | Isaac<br>Esau and Jacob                |
| 1750BC           | Joseph                                 |
| 1750BC<br>1360BC | Moses                                  |
| 1300BC<br>1280BC | Exodus from Egypt                      |
| 1200DC           | and Journeys                           |
|                  | Joshua                                 |
| 1240BC           | Entry into and                         |
| 12 1000          | 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                                 |
| <i>540BC</i>     | Daniel taken to Babylon                |
| <i>527BC</i>     | Exile into Babylon                     |
| 457BC            | Restoration from Babylon               |
| 4BC              | Birth of Jesus                         |
| 26AD             | Baptism of Jesus                       |
|                  | Call of Disciples                      |
| 28AD             | Feeding of 5000                        |
| 20.45            | Parables                               |
| 29AD             | Miracles; Transfiguration              |
| 30AD             | Raising of Lazarus                     |
|                  | Parables                               |
|                  | Palm Sunday                            |
|                  | Jesus' Crucifixion and<br>Resurrection |
|                  | Day of Pentecost                       |
|                  | Peter's Ministry                       |
| 33AD             | Conversion of Paul                     |
| 45AD             | Paul's Missionary Journeys             |
| 60AD             | Paul as Prisoner to Rome               |
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## 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  | Student  | School                 |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|
| Level       | Age      | 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 Two Teacher Resource?

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

- the key thought or focus for the lesson;
- a suggested way to introduce the lesson;
- a summary of the relevant bible story;
- a memory verse for the lesson, together with a suggested way of teaching that verse;
- an activity which can be used in the lesson;
- a number of extra ideas involving fun, practical activities.

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

.../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

- Review the memory verse from the previous lesson with the children. Also check on the completion of the homework activity page.
- Revise the previous lesson before going on to a new story. You may like to use the timeline to help you do this.

## Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John

Numbers 6:1-8; Luke 1:5-80

## **Storyline**

The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias the priest and said that his wife Elizabeth would have a son. His name would be John and he would be great, a Nazarite who would bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord. Zacharias doubted God's word and because of his unbelief, God caused him to be unable to speak. Gabriel announced to Mary that she had been favoured by God and would give birth to a son by the Holy Spirit. His name would be Jesus and He would be called the Son of the Most High God. Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth, and when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the babe leapt in her womb for joy and she was filled with the Holy Spirit and called Mary blessed. Mary praised and magnified the Lord. John was born and eight days later, at his circumcision, Zacharias regained his speech and was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Teacher brings along an egg inside a bottle but keeps it hidden from the children. (At home, hard boil and peel an egg. Drop a lit match inside a dry milk bottle, or similar bottle with a neck narrower than the egg, and rest the hardboiled egg in the opening of the bottle. As the flame uses up the oxygen in the bottle, the egg is sucked inside.) Teacher then asks children, "Do you think it is possible to fit a whole egg inside a bottle with a narrow neck?" Wait for a response before showing them the bottle with the egg inside. You could bring a spare egg, match and bottle along to show the children how it is done. This, of course, is explainable. However, God waited until it was absolutely impossible and unexplainable, in the birth of John and Jesus (miraculous births). Tell the story by using finger puppets (Activity A) and if possible in the first person.

## **Theme One**

## "With God, nothing will be impossible"

What the angel said to Zacharias and to Mary seemed absolutely impossible. It seemed so impossible that Zacharias was not able to believe what the angel said. Mary believed the angel, but she asked how it could happen. Just as God performed a miracle for Zacharias and Mary, so He is able to do wonderful things in our lives. He asks that we trust Him and believe that nothing is too hard for Him.

### **Key Thought**

God can do anything He wants to - even things we think are impossible.

### Aim

To have the children understand they need to believe when God promises to do something that seems impossible.

### **Memory Verse**

"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." (Luke 18:27).

## Theme Two

## "Born for a purpose"

God pre-determined long before their birth how and when John and Jesus would be born and what their special work would be. God chose their parents, and even chose their names, which had significant meanings. We know that God created each one of us for a special purpose, and we should continually ask God to reveal this purpose.

## **Key Thought**

Even before we were born, God knew who we were going to be and what His will was for our life. He even chose our parents especially for us.

### Aim

That the children learn to respond to the calling of God on their lives as He has a special purpose for them.

## **Memory Verse**

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." (Jeremiah 1:5).

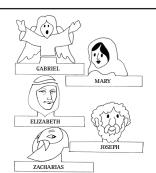
## **Activity A – Finger Puppets**

## **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, mounted or photocopied onto light cardboard.
- · Scissors.
- Colouring pencils.
- · Sticky tape.

## **Steps**

- The children colour and cut out the finger puppets.
- Wrap them around the children's fingers with sticky tape.



## Activity B - Display "Science Experiment." Can you explain?

## Aim

This demonstration shows the fascinating acid-base colour reactions using household substances. There is a scientific explanation for these chemical reactions. However, to achieve His purposes, God sometimes uses miracles, i.e. happenings for which there are no scientific explanations.

### **Materials**

• 7 medium sized glass jars or clear plastic disposable cups, 7 spoons, fresh red cabbage, all or some of the household substances listed below:

Strongly acidic – powdered Harpic toilet cleaner. (Caution: poisonous and strongly corrosive).

Acidic – vinegar or lemon juice.

Weakly acidic – cream of tartar.

Neutral – shampoo (clear colour) or alka seltza.

Slightly basic - bicarbonate of soda.

Basic – Handy Andy, (or other floor cleaner).

Strongly basic – dishwasher liquid or powder. (Caution: poisonous and strongly corrosive).

## **Steps**

## At Home

• The red cabbage solution will need to be prepared in advance. Use a fresh red cabbage (the tinned variety contains vinegar). Finely slice 3-4 leaves and soak in about 200 ml of boiling water for 10-15 minutes. The water should be a deep purple colour. Strain the solution. Add sufficient water to the solution to make roughly one litre.

## In Class

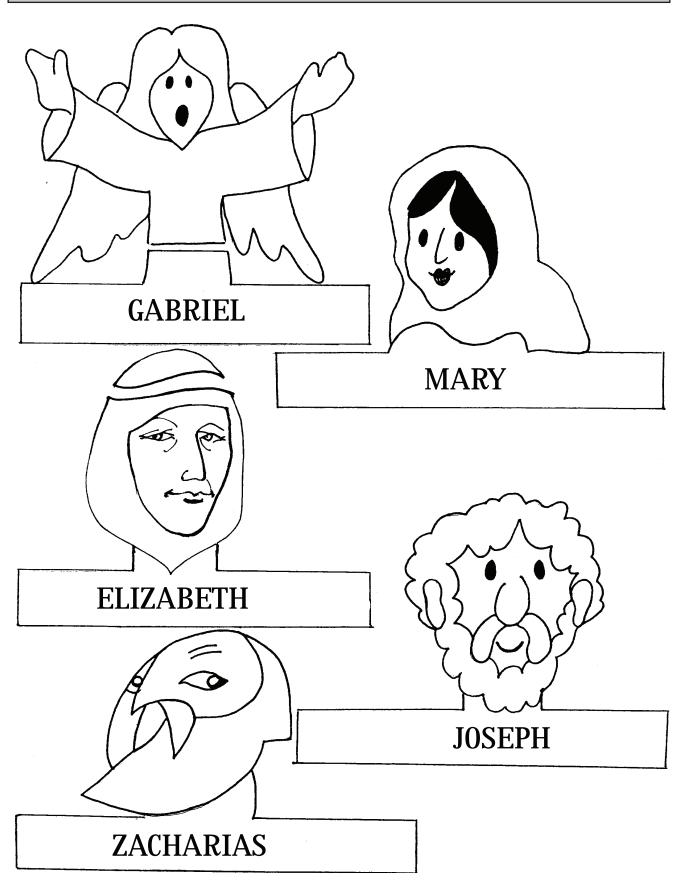
- It is intended that the teacher do the demonstration in front of the class. The children may be called out in turn to add one of the substances to the solution and stir.
- Set up the number of jars needed and quarter fill each with the cabbage solution. Add a small amount of each of the substances being tested to separate jars. Stir each solution with a spoon. You need a different spoon for each jar.
- If arranged in order as above 1-7, the jars should display a spectrum of colours from cherry red (strongly acidic), pink-red (acidic), lilac (slightly acidic), purple (neutral), blue (slightly basic), green (basic), yellow (strongly basic).

## **Explanation**

- Acids are a very common group of chemical compounds, many of which occur naturally. An example of a naturally occurring acid is citric acid which is found in lemons.
- Bases are another group of chemical compounds that have chemical properties that differ from acids. Bases are often called alkalis. When a base is added to an acid it will neutralise the acid's properties and vice versa.
- This demonstration looks at a simple reaction that allows acids to be distinguished from bases, using another group of compounds called acid-base indicators (in this case chemicals found in the plant pigment of the red cabbage).

## Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John

Activity A – Finger Puppets



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Matthew 1:18-25;

2:1-23;

Isaiah 7:14;

Luke 2:1-40

## The birth of Jesus

## **Storyline**

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary and Joseph, they were living in Nazareth. Because they were required to be counted in a census, they had to travel to Bethlehem, the place where Joseph was born. There Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Angels appeared to shepherds and told them of the Saviour's birth and they visited the baby. Jesus' parents took Him to the temple. Simeon, a righteous old man, being filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied of Jesus bringing salvation and light to the world. An old prophetess named Anna praised God and said He was the redemption of Israel. Wise men from the east came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts. King Herod tried to have Jesus killed, but Joseph, being warned by God, took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. When it was safe, they returned to Nazareth.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Divide the class into four. Have four cards prepared with the following passages - one on each card:

Matthew 1:18-25.

Luke 2:1-7.

Luke 2:8-20.

Luke 2:22-40.

Hand a card to each group. The children read their passage of scripture so that they can tell their part of the story to the others. The children come together, tell their part of the story and the teacher sums up, bringing out the chosen theme.

## Theme One

## "Rejoice and be glad"

When Jesus was born, the angels and a great heavenly host were all rejoicing and praising God. The shepherds, too, rejoiced. Later, the wise men worshipped the child Jesus. We, too, should rejoice and be glad because Jesus was born to be our Saviour.

## **Key Thought**

We should join the angels and the heavenly host, the shepherds and the wise men in rejoicing that the Father sent Jesus to be our Saviour.

### Aim

For the children to understand that Christ's birth was very special, because He came to save us from our sins and to give us the right to be children of God.

### **Memory Verse**

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

## Theme Two

## "God is with us in our trials"

No-one is free from difficulties in their life. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was forced to travel at the worst possible time for her. There was only a stable for Joseph and Mary to stay in. Then Jesus' life was threatened. God saw them through all their troubles as He will see us through ours.

### **Key Thought**

Look to the Lord and He will be our help in time of trouble.

### Aim

To let the children know that everything in life will not always go well, but the Lord is always with us to help us.

### **Memory Verse**

"I will fear no evil; for You are with me." (Psalm 23:4).

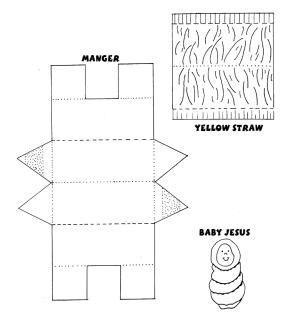
## Activity A – Jesus in the Manger

## **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child (you may like to enlarge it and copy or mount it onto light cardboard).
- Yellow crepe paper.
- · Scissors.
- · Colouring pencils.
- Glue.
- · Cotton wool.

## **Steps**

- Colour in the manger.
- Glue yellow crepe paper onto the 'straw'.
- Cut the fringe edges of the 'straw'.
- Fold the dashed lines down, and the dotted lines up.
- Glue together the overlapping triangles at each end of the manger.
- Glue cotton wool on the baby Jesus as swaddling clothes.
- Place the straw and then the baby in the manger.



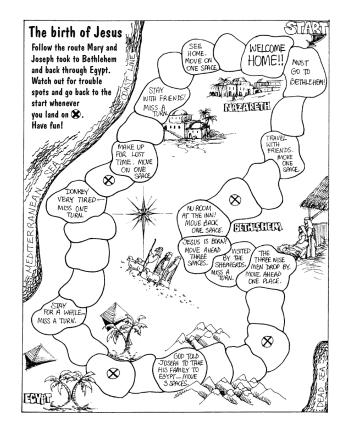
## Activity B - Board Game

## **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet enlarged to A3 and mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- Dice.
- Counters.

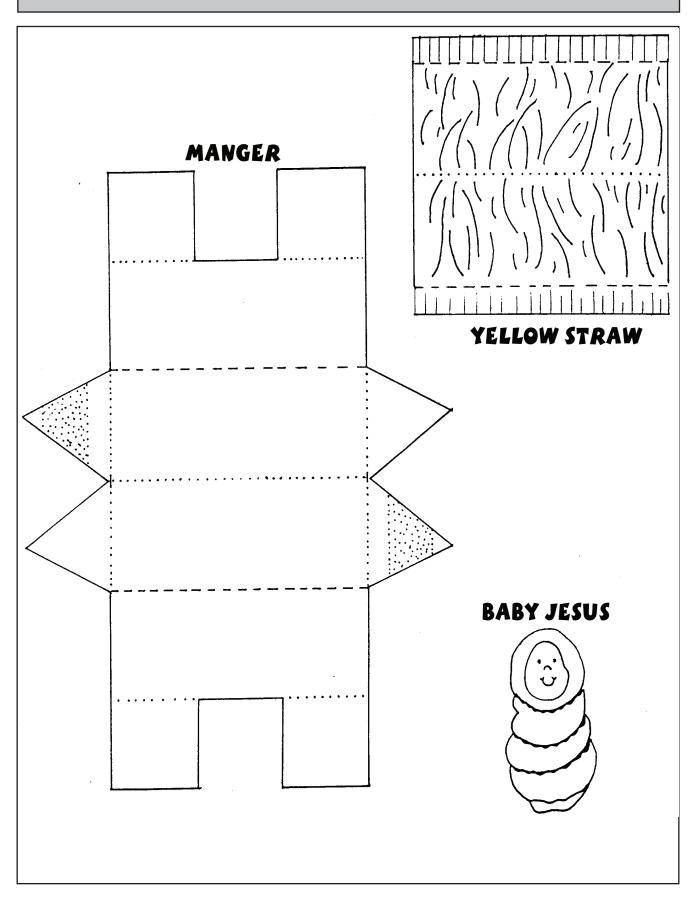
## Steps

- Start from Nazareth and roll the dice to move, following the instructions along the path.
- If a child lands on a space that has the crossed circle in it, they have to go right back to the beginning.



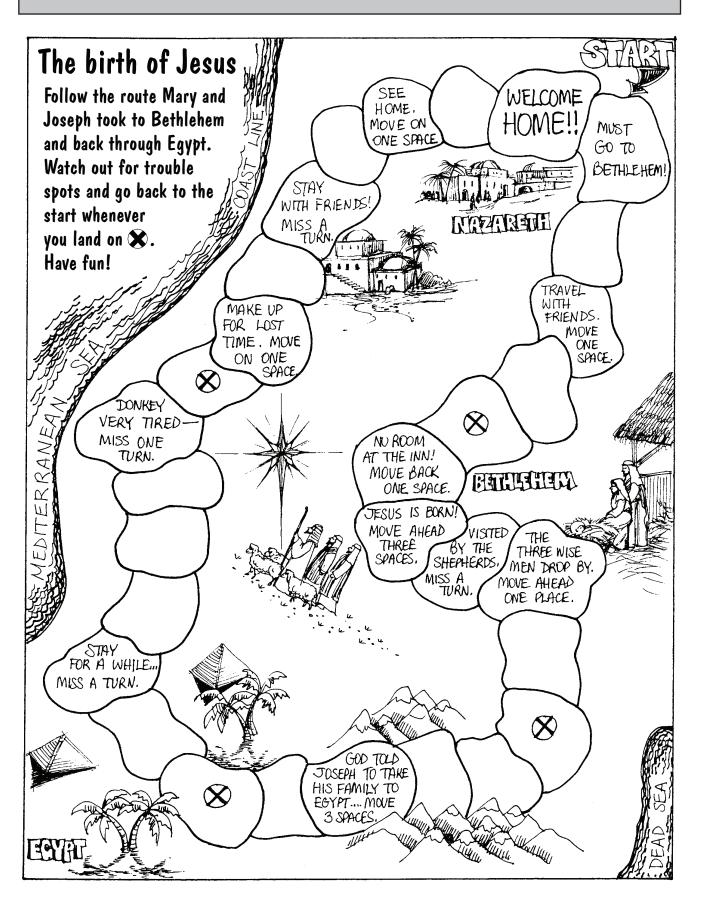
## The birth of Jesus

Activity A – Jesus in the Manger



## The birth of Jesus

Activity B - Board Game



## Jesus in the temple

Luke 2:41-52

## **Storyline**

Every year, all Israelites were required by God's law to go to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover. When Jesus was 12 years old, He also went with His family. After a day's travel returning home to Nazareth, Joseph and Mary realised that Jesus was missing from amongst their group. They returned to Jerusalem and after three days, they found Him in the temple courts. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone was amazed at His wisdom. Mary asked Him why He did not leave when they did, as it had caused them to be anxious. Jesus responded "I must be about My Father's business", but they didn't understand. He went back to Nazareth with them. He grew in wisdom and stature.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Ask the children the following questions:

Do they read the Bible?

Do they pray to the heavenly Father?

Do they ask questions of their parents about God?

Do they love coming to church?

Emphasise with enthusiasm what joy it can be to do these things. Lead into the story of Jesus in the temple.

## Theme One

### "About our Father's business"

Even though we are children, as God's children we can and should be doing the Father's business. Some people won't understand us, but we must still show a good attitude towards them.

## **Key Thought**

Jesus' example shows that even children can share and discuss the word of God with others.

### Aim

To encourage the children to love the Scriptures and to find answers from the word of God concerning them.

## **Memory Verse**

"He who does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:17).

## Theme Two

## "Fellowship in the word"

Jesus knew the Scriptures, even at an early age, and so He was able to share them with people who were much older than Himself. These older people respected Him and were amazed at how much He knew. We, too, can share what we have learnt with our family and with members of God's family.

## **Key Thought**

Children should not be afraid to share what they have learnt with others.

### Aim

To help the children to understand that though they are young, they can participate.

## **Memory Verse**

"Those who feared the Lord spoke to one another." (Malachi 3:16).

## **Activity A - Quiz**

## **Materials**

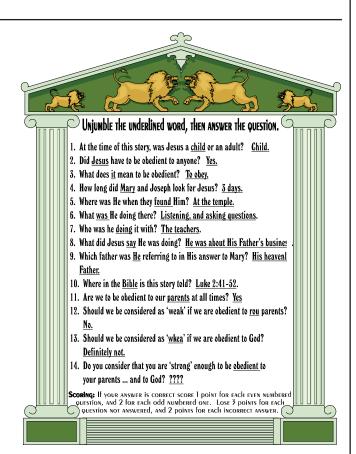
· Picture Bible.

## **Steps**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- · Pens/pencils.
- Bibles.
- Prizes (if desired).

## **Stories**

- The children unjumble the underlined word, then answer the question.
- Help them then to work out the scoring as on the bottom of the sheet and see who is the winner.



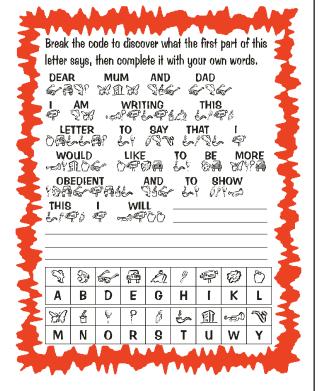
## Activity B - Mystery Code

## **Materials**

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

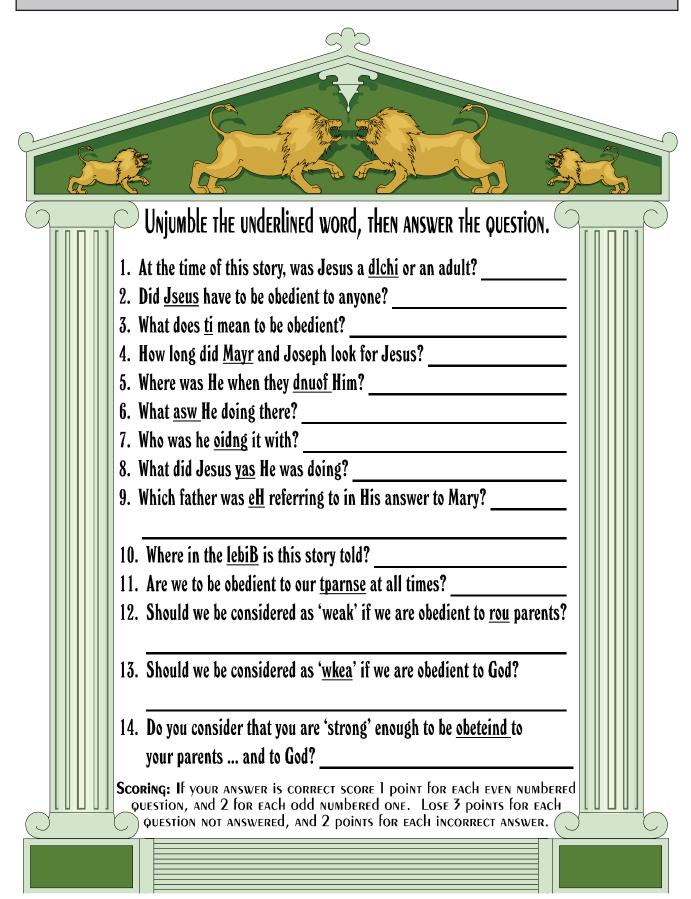
## **Steps**

• The children use the code to find out what the letter says, then they complete the letter in their own words.



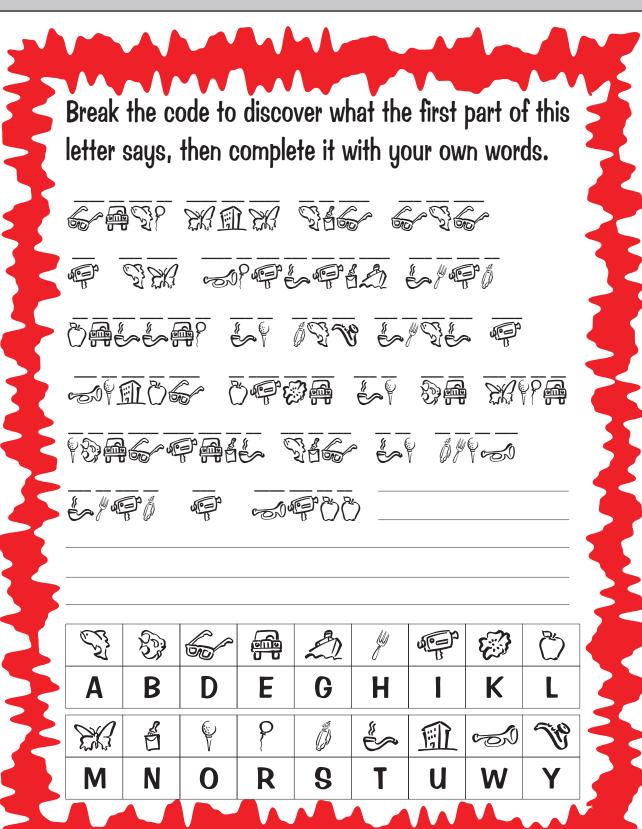
## Jesus in the temple

Activity A - Quiz



## Jesus in the temple

Activity B - Mystery Code



Matthew 3:1-12; 14:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-20;

John 1:19-28

## John the Baptist

## **Storyline**

John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin and was born 6 months before Jesus. The word of the Lord came to John to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy as "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord'." Many people - Jews, tax collectors, soldiers, etc. came out to him at the Jordan River seeking to be baptised. When the Pharisees and Sadducees came, John rebuked them and challenged them to "bear fruits worthy of repentance". They thought he was the Christ but he assured them he wasn't, but that One mightier than he was to come who would baptise them with the Holy Spirit and fire. Because John had boldly challenged Herod and his family, he was thrown into prison and later beheaded.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

This is a good opportunity to discuss with the children the significance of true repentance - in contrast to just being sorry. What should we do when, after hurting someone, we repent?

- 1. Go to that person, confess your sin and be accountable (with no excuses).
- 2. Ask that person to forgive you; (if possible, try to put right what you have done).
- 3. Having done no. 1 and 2, you must then pray and ask God to forgive you, believing He will change your heart, as you don't want to be like that anymore.

This is totally different to 'being sorry'.

## Theme One

## "Repentance"

Sin is a block that comes between God and people. God had told His people Israel that their sins came between Him and them. John the Baptist understood this and he called on the people to repent, turn from their sin, and receive God's forgiveness. Our sin is a block between us and God and we, too, need to repent and turn from our sin so God can forgive us.

## **Key Thought**

By being sorry for our sins and asking the Lord to forgive us, we are preparing the way for the Lord to do things in our lives.

### Aim

For the children to know it is important for them to repent.

## **Memory Verse**

"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation." (2 Corinthians 7:10).

## Theme Two

## "Introducing people to Jesus"

John knew Jesus very well. He knew all about Jesus and who He was. His whole life was spent proclaiming the coming of Jesus and what the people needed to do to be saved from death. Even though we are still quite young, we can know Jesus and we learn more about Him as we come to church. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him. Our friends may never know Jesus unless someone tells them. Jesus wants us to do this for Him.

## **Key Thought**

Those who do not know Jesus may never know Him or about Him unless someone tells them. Part of God's plan for us is that we should tell others about Jesus.

### Aim

To encourage the children to begin to share their faith in Jesus with their friends and those who do not know Him.

## **Memory Verse**

"We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us." (2 Corinthians 5:20).

## Activity A - Picture Puzzle

## **Materials**

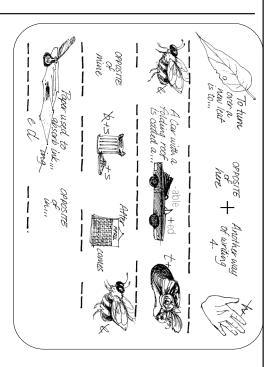
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- · Pens/pencils.

## **Steps**

• The children try and work out the words from the picture clues given.

## **Answer**

 Change therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out.



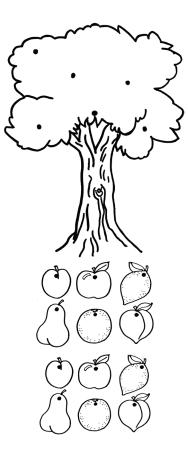
## Activity B – Fruit of Repentance

### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet of the tree per child (mounted or photocopied onto cardboard).
- 1 set of the 6 pieces of fruit from the second Activity Sheet per child.
- 6 pieces of wool, or string (about 75 mm long) per child.
- · Pens/pencils.
- Colouring pencils.

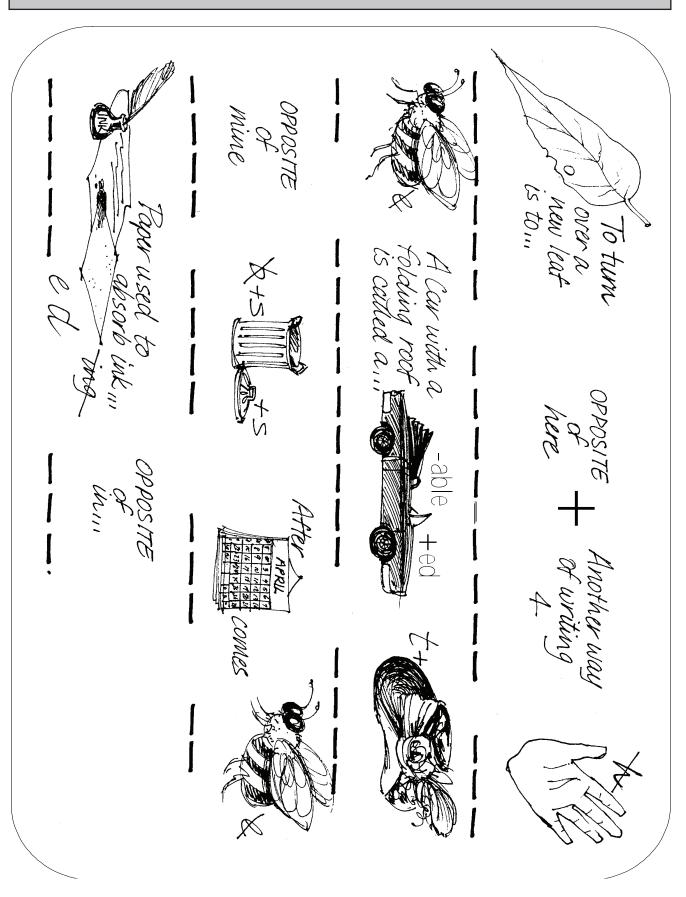
## **Steps**

- Turn the page with the fruit on it over, and draw around each piece of fruit, so that when reversed, the picture will be on both sides of the paper.
- Make holes in the fruit where the black dot is.
- Make holes in the tree where the black dots are.
- Cut out the tree and the fruit.
- The children can colour the fruit if time permits.
- The children print on one side of each piece of fruit a word which would represent 'fruit of repentance', then on the other side, print its opposite, e.g. obey disobey; soft heart hard heart.
- Thread the wool/string through the fruit and use sticky tape to fasten it to the other side, without hiding the printed word.
- Push the wool or string through the holes in the tree and tape it to the back of the picture.
- The fruit should be easy to turn over.



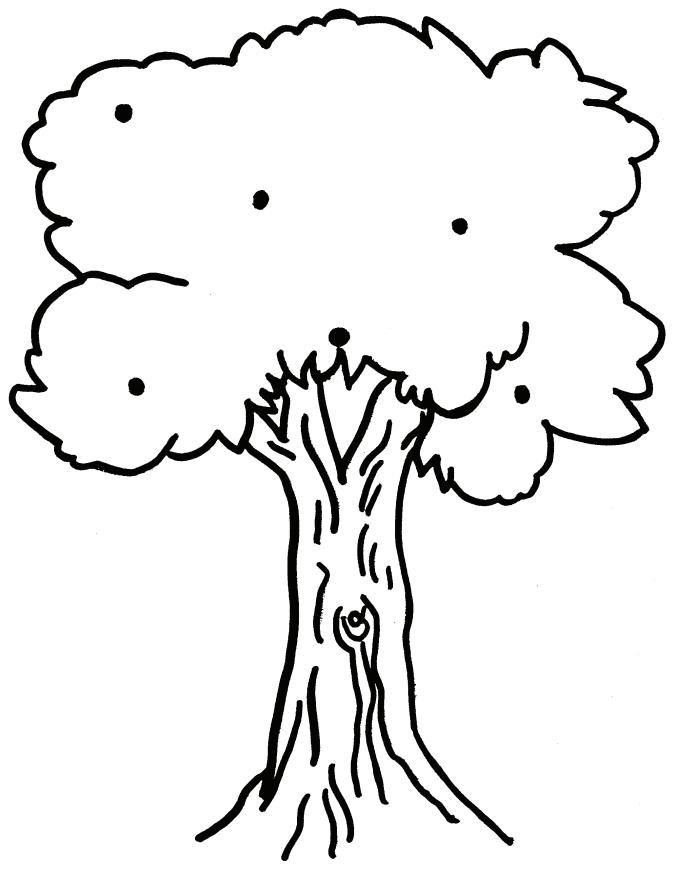
## John the Baptist

Activity A – Picture Puzzle



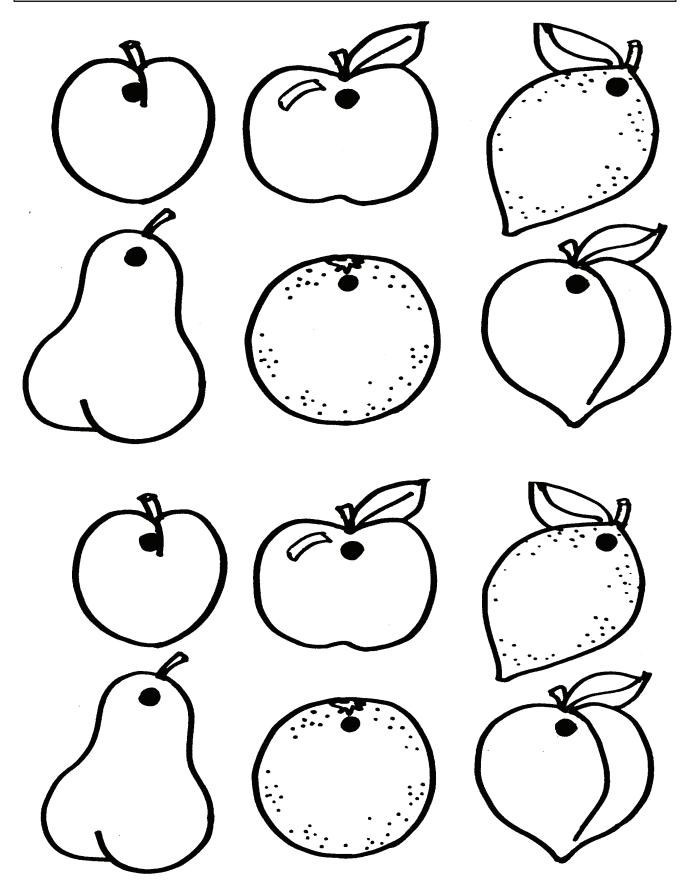
## John the Baptist

Activity B – Fruit of Repentance



## John the Baptist

Activity B – Fruit of Repentance



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# Jesus baptised and tempted

Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-11; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13; John 1:29-34

## **Storyline**

John had told the people that he would baptise with water, but One would come after him who would baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. The next day John saw Jesus coming and knew He was the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". John baptised Jesus in the River Jordan to fulfil what was written of Him. As Jesus came out of the water, the Spirit descended upon Him from heaven in the form of a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". Then the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness and, after 40 days, He was tempted in all manner of ways by the devil, but He was not overcome.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Discuss with the children that if Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to overcome temptations, how much more do we need the Holy Spirit. Ask the children to share how they feel when, no matter how hard they try, somehow temptations seem to be too strong, eg. disobeying parents, not sharing, talking back to parents, not doing work. It is good to realise that in ourselves we are weak and that we fail, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to overcome these temptations.

## Theme One

## "We have a Helper"

When Jesus, the Son of God, was baptised, the Father spoke from heaven and the Holy Spirit came upon Him like a dove. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the Helper. He stayed with Jesus as His Helper. Jesus has sent Him to be our Helper too. We should allow the Holy Spirit to be our Helper, and do what He wants to do in us and through us.

## **Key Thought**

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, was sent to teach us and guide us and to enable us to please the Father.

### Aim

For the children to know we can only walk God's way with help from the Holy Spirit.

### **Memory Verse**

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper." (John 14:16).

## Theme Two

## "Overcoming temptation"

Satan tried to make Jesus disobey God just like he made the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, disobey God. His trickiness was answered by the Scriptures. Jesus had the capacity to overcome Satan's temptations because He knew and loved God and understood His word in His heart. From an early age, He had heard and responded to the word of God. As we, too, devote ourselves to responding to His word, we find strength to overcome temptation and self-centredness.

### **Key Thought**

When God's word is hidden in our heart and meditated upon, we cannot help but be God-centred. From this place, we have authority and power to overcome temptation.

### Aim

To encourage the children that through their love of God's word and personally knowing Him, they can overcome the temptations they face.

## **Memory Verse**

"The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations." (2 Peter 2:9).

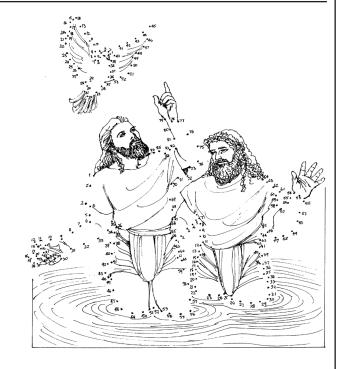
## Activity A – Dot to Dot

## Materials

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

## Steps

- Children join the dots and colour the picture.
- Children to re-tell the story using their completed pictures as an aid.



## Activity B - "Presenting our bodies holy to the Lord"

## **Materials**

- 1 activity sheet per child
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colouring pencils/felts

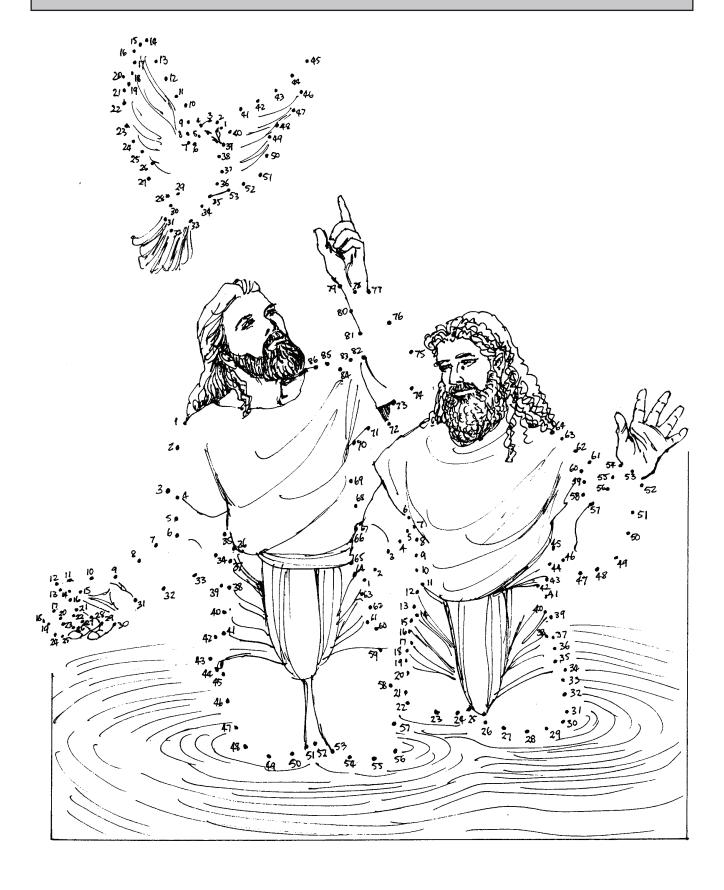
## **Steps**

## In Class

- Discuss with the children how God would like us to present ourselves to Him. There are certain things we must do.
- Discuss the kind of heart the Lord desires us to have.
- Consider ears, eyes, mouth etc.
- Have the children complete the activity sheet by cutting and pasting the correct labels to each picture.

## Jesus baptised and tempted

Activity A – Dot to Dot



## Jesus baptised and tempted

Activity B – "Presenting our bodies holy to the Lord"

## How do we present our bodies a holy, sacrifice to God?













| A heart that is soft and full of | Hands that are prepared to do |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| God's love.                      | the work of the Lord.         |
| Ears that are open to hear       | Eyes that are open to see how |
| from the Lord and others.        | to give and serve.            |
| Feet that will walk in the ways  | Mouths that speak kindness    |
| of the Lord.                     | and truth.                    |

# The call of the disciples

John 1:35-51; Matthew 10:1-4; Luke 10:1-12

## **Storyline**

Some time after Jesus had recovered from 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, He began to speak to the people. Two of John's disciples followed Him. One was Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother. They followed Jesus and stayed with Him overnight. Andrew sought his brother Simon to tell him of Jesus. Jesus travelled to Galilee and found Philip and said to him "Follow Me" and he did. Philip found Nathanael and told him that Jesus was the Christ, but Nathanael doubted saving. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?". Nathanael went to Jesus to see for himself and after speaking with Him, he believed and confessed his faith. Jesus told Nathanael that he would see the heavens open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Blindfold one child and ask the remaining children to each read a passage of Scripture - the teacher reading as well. See if the blindfolded person can recognise the teacher's voice (he/she should be able to). Remove the blindfold. Ask the class why he/she was able to recognise the teacher's voice - what was distinctive or what made it sound different to the other voices? Lead into what then was distinctive about Jesus when He spoke that made people want to follow Him. What was so different in what He said?

## Theme One

## "Disciples of Jesus"

All these men knew about Jesus but as they followed Him and spent time with Him, they became true disciples. Each disciple was told of Jesus by another. Even so, knowing about Jesus was not sufficient. To become a true disciple, they had to meet Him personally and follow Him. In the same way, it is not sufficient for us to know about Jesus. We need to know Him personally and become His disciple.

## **Key Thought**

To become a true disciple of Jesus, we need to meet Him personally and follow Him as He leads us through our life.

### Aim

To encourage the children to be true disciples of Jesus, who know Him personally.

## **Memory Verse**

"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." (John 8:31).

## Theme Two

## "He knows each one of us"

As Nathanael came to Jesus he was amazed that Jesus knew him already. This secured him immediately. We can feel very secure to know that Jesus knew us before we had even heard of Him. Once we have this reassurance, like Nathanael, we can have a response of "You are the Son of God"!

## **Key Thought**

Knowing that we are known of Him comforts, secures, reassures and sets us free.

### Aim

For the children to be thankful and secure in the knowledge that they are known and loved of Him.

## Memory Verse

"But You, O Lord, know me; You have seen me." (Jeremiah 12:3).

## Activity A - "Who are Jesus' Disciples?"

## **Materials**

- Balloons (the number will depend on the size of your class).
- Paper
- Bibles.

## **Steps**

## At Home

- Choose a number of Bible references and write them down. You may wish to choose ones with relevance to the story, or other stories this term.
- Write out the names of all 12 disciples on small pieces of paper (they are listed in Luke 6:14-16) On separate pieces of paper write the names of all the children in the class.
- Blow up balloons and put a piece of named paper in each.

### In Class

- Read out a Bible reference and see who is first to find the verse in their Bible. The child then reads out the verse. Have that child choose a balloon and burst it. Have the child read out the name on the paper. Continue doing this until all the balloons have been burst.
- Highlight to the children that we are all called by Jesus to be His disciples and that is why their names were inside the balloons along with the names of the 12 disciples.

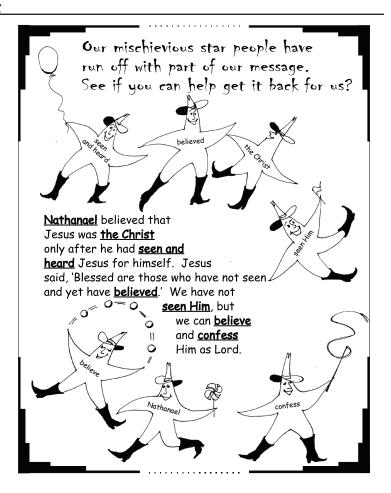
## Activity B - Missing Message

## **Materials**

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

## **Steps**

• The children fill in the gaps in the sentences from the words on the star people.



## The call of the disciples

Activity B – Missing Message

| Our mischievious star people have  |
|--|
|  |
| run off with part of our message.  |
| See if you can help get it back for us?  |
|  |
|  |
| 12:  |
| on see believed  |
| ond seen believed had consisted the consisted believed   |
|  |
|  |
|  |
| haliawad that  |
| believed that  |
| Jesus was only after he had  |
| only after he had  |
| Jesus for himself. Jesus   |
| said, 'Blessed are those who have not seen   |
| and yet have' We have not  |
| did yet have but   |
| we can   |
|  |
| O Him as Lord.   |
| be/ <sub>leve</sub>  |
| ele de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la  |
|  |
| Nathanael confess  |
| The state of the s |
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## Water turned to wine

John 2:1-11

## **Storyline**

Jesus, His mother and His disciples went to a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee. The wine ran out, and after having told Jesus of this, Mary instructed the servants to do whatever Jesus told them. Jesus said to fill six waterpots with water and take it to the master of the feast. When the master tasted the water Jesus had turned it into wine. He told the bridegroom that usually the good wine was drunk first, but, this time, the good wine had been kept until last. This was the first of the miracles Jesus performed and resulted in His disciples believing in Him.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Have water in a jug. Colour with cochineal (or red cordial). Explain that although what we did caused it to look different, it is still just water - but flavoured. Jesus performed a miracle (changed substance) - WATER TO WINE. Then lead into the story.

## Theme One

## "Cast your cares upon the Lord"

When they ran out of wine at the wedding feast, Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew that Jesus could do something about it. She told Him the trouble and she told the servants to do whatever He told them to do. When we have problems, we need never fear that it is too small to tell to Jesus. Jesus is our friend and we can tell Him all about our troubles.

## **Key Thought**

The Lord knows all about our troubles, but He wants us to talk to Him about them. We can be sure that He cares and that He will find an answer for us.

### Aim

To have the children understand that God is interested in the problems they have in their lives and wants to help them.

## **Memory Verse**

"Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you." (Psalm 55:22).

## Theme Two

## "Obey the Lord"

All the servants had to do with their problem was to obey the instructions given by Jesus. They were encouraged by His mother, who knew He had been sent by God for a special reason, to listen to Him and do as He said. In the same way, we must do what He tells us to do. Then we can trust Him to work things out for us.

## **Key Thought**

In God's word we can find guidance and help in all our problems. We must hear it and obey it.

### Aim

For the children to realise that they need to turn to the Lord, trusting in Him, not themselves. Then He will help them work through their difficulties.

## **Memory Verse**

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

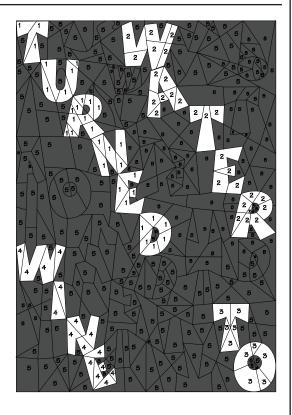
## Activity A - Colour Coded Message

## **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.

## Steps

• The children colour the spaces according to the code to discover the message.



## Activity B – Decode the Message

## **Materials**

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

## Steps

• The children re-write the words in the glasses into the right order at the bottom of the page. The children re-write the words in the glasses into the right order at the bottom of the page.

## **Answer**

• "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then that which is inferior; but you have kept the good wine until now!" (John 2:10).

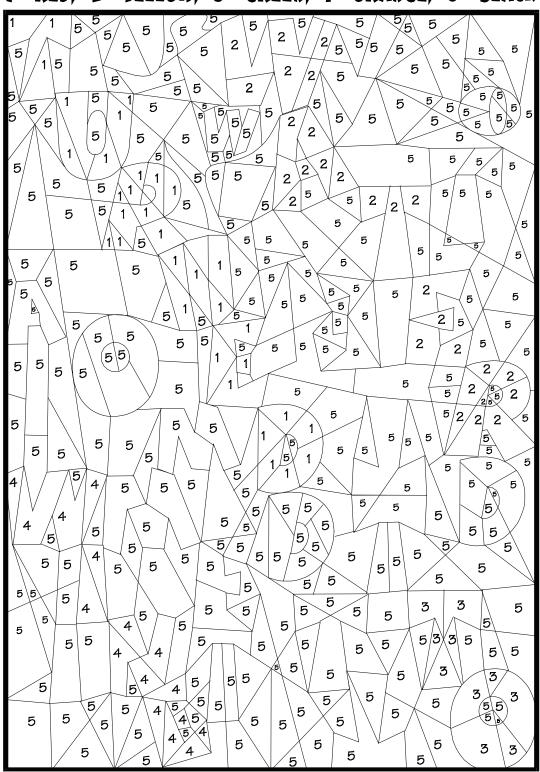
# 

## Water turned to wine

Activity A – Colour Coded Message

## TO FIND THE MESSAGE HIDDEN IN THIS SQUARE, COLOUR THE SPACES AS FOLLOWS:

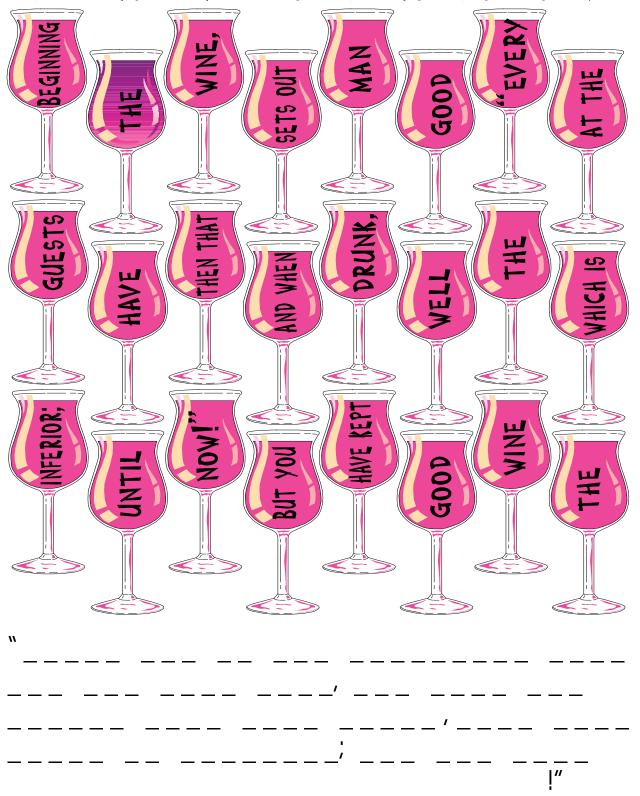
1-RED; 2-YELLOW, 3-GREEN, 4-ORANGE, 5-BLACK



## Water turned to wine

Activity B – Decode the Message

CAN YOU PUT THE WORDS IN THE WINE GLASSES INTO THE RIGHT ORDER ON THE LINES BELOW?



## The temple cleansed, Nicodemus

John 2:13-22; 3:1-21

## **Storyline**

After His first miracle, at Passover time, Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem. He found people had turned God's temple into a place of business - selling oxen, sheep, doves and even exchanging money. Jesus was angry and chased them out, overturning their tables. Jesus said, "Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" The Jews asked for a sign and Jesus said "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He was speaking of His body. A teacher called Nicodemus came secretly to Jesus. Jesus said, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus could not understand, but Jesus said we must be "born of water and the Spirit." He who believes in the Son of Man shall have eternal life.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Read the story to the children and pose the following question - "What connection is there between Nicodemus the teacher, and the temple of God?" (Answer: Both need to be cleansed and purified from worldly ways).

## Theme One

### "Born from above"

Nicodemus was a teacher and knew a lot about the Old Testament. He would probably have enjoyed a discussion with Jesus. He did not know it, but what he really needed was a new life; he needed to be born again. In fact, unless he was born again - born of water and the Spirit - he could not see or enter the kingdom of God.

## **Key Thought**

Those who are born from above - Father, Son and Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts - belong in God's kingdom.

### Aim

For the children to understand when a person is born again.

### **Memory Verse**

"That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:6).

## Theme Two

## "You are the temple of God"

Jesus cleansed the world's ways out of the temple which was a place for prayer and worship. When challenged, He saidthat if they destroy this temple - that is, His body - He would raise it up in three days. He was speaking prophetically about His death and resurrection. Our bodies are His temple and we should be careful that we do not defile His temple by bringing worldly ways into our lives.

## **Key Thought**

We are now the temple of God where His Holy Spirit dwells. Our bodies are a place of worship and prayer, and we are holy unto God.

### Aim

For the children to understand that God's temple is not a building, but that we are His temple. Jesus cleanses and purifies us.

## **Memory Verse**

"Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you." (1 Corinthians 6:19).

## Activity A – Word Search

## **Materials**

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

## **Steps**

 The children find and circle the words hidden in the word search.



## Activity B - Picture Circle

## **Materials**

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- 1 split-pin per child.

## **Steps**

- Explain to the children what the three pictures are depicting: 1. Animals being bought and sold in the temple, 2. Jesus upsetting the tables of the moneychangers, and 3. The temple restored to being a place of prayer.
- The children colour the three pictures.
- · Cut out both circles.
- Cut out the dotted lines on the blank circle.
- Make a hole through the centre of both circles.
- Fasten both circles together with the split-pin, the blank circle on top of the picture circle.



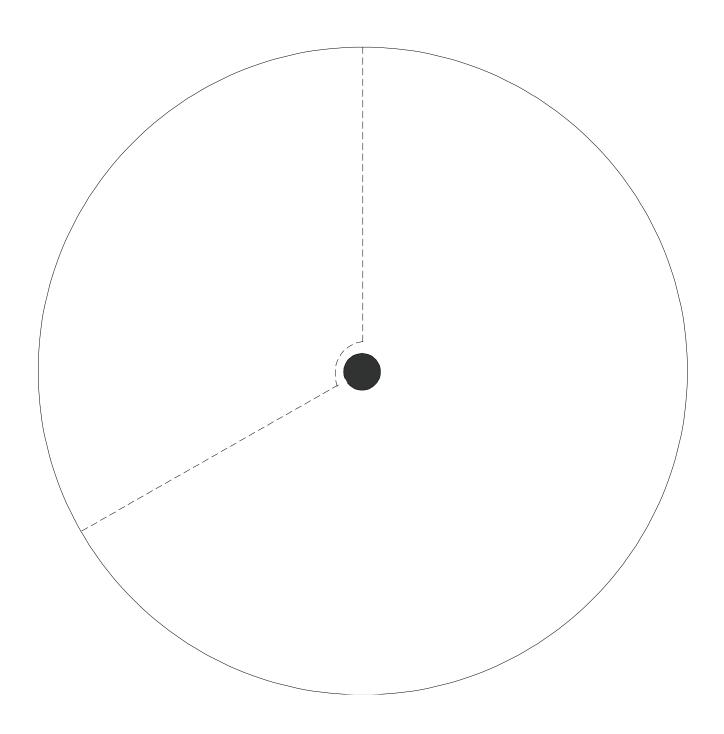
# The temple cleansed, Nicodemus

Activity A – Word Search



# The temple cleansed, Nicodemus

Activity B – Picture Circle



# The temple cleansed, Nicodemus

Activity B – Picture Circle



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John 4:3-42

## **Storyline**

The disciples went to the city to get food and while Jesus sat at Jacob's well, a Samaritan woman came to draw water. He asked her for water and she was astounded that a Jew would ask such a thing of a Samaritan, with whom Jews had no dealings. Jesus astounded her further by explaining that He had 'living water' and those who drank it would never thirst again. He revealed to the woman many things about her past and said that the day had come when true worshippers of God will worship in spirit and truth. Jesus told her that He was the Messiah they were expecting. When the disciples returned, the Samaritan woman returned to her city calling all to come and see Jesus. Many of them, after hearing Jesus speak, also believed. The disciples asked Jesus to eat but He said that He had other food - to do His Father's will. He then spoke to them of the fields ready for harvest and how they were to sow and reap and enter the labours of others.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Talk with the class about the Old Testament attitude to worship, where God's presence was in a place - a mountain, tabernacle, temple.

Then tell the story bringing out Theme 1. The children could think of differences

between old and new ways of worship:

#### Old:

Must go to the right place;

Must have the ceremony, right sacrifices, etc; Have the priests talk to God.

#### New:

Must have a heart open to the Lord;

Must sacrifice our hearts to the Lord;

Anyone can talk to the Father – any time, at any place.

## Theme One

#### "True worshippers"

Jesus said that true worshippers are those who worship God in Spirit and in truth. He also indicated that God is spirit and that He is the Father. He was saying that those who worship God must be in a spiritual relationship with the Father. True worship does not happen because a person attends a particular place or does certain things, as the Jews and Samaritans believed. It happens in the midst of a spiritual relationship involving the Father and those who are His children.

#### **Key Thought**

True worship takes place in the context of a relationship, spirit to spirit with the Father.

#### Aim

To help the children understand that true worship is a matter of relationship with God.

#### **Memory Verse**

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth." (John 4:24).

#### Theme Two

#### "The Lord knows you"

When we meet someone for the first time, for instance, someone new at school, we find out about them by asking them questions. Sometimes we may ask other people who know them. Jesus doesn't have to ask us questions, neither does He have to ask other people about us. He knows us through and through, and nothing is hidden from Him.

#### **Key Thought**

It is a great comfort to know that Jesus knows all about us and understands our circumstances. But He also knows our sin.

#### Aim

To have the children understand that Jesus knows each one of them inside out!

#### **Memory Verse**

"He knows the secrets of the heart." (Psalm 44:21).

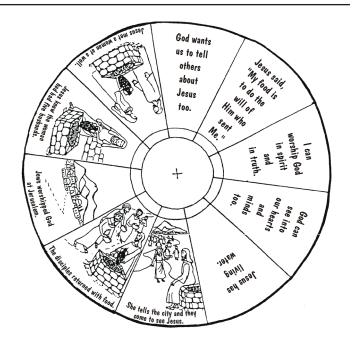
## **Activity A – Story Wheel**

#### **Materials**

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- · Colouring pencils.
- Scissors.
- 1 split-pin per child.

#### **Steps**

- The children cut out the two circles.
- Colour the pictures on the first circle.
- Place the blank circle over the picture circle and join them together with a split-pin in the centre.
- The children can read the story as they turn the wheel.



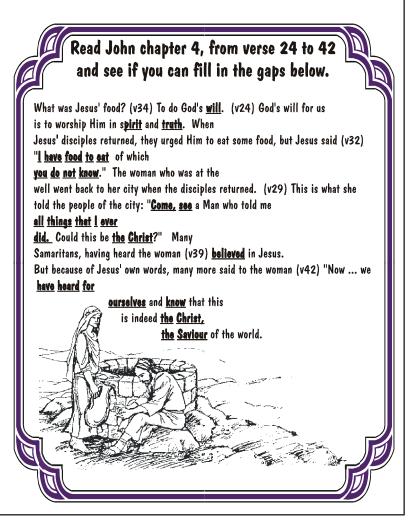
## <u>Activity B – Bible Search</u>

#### **Materials**

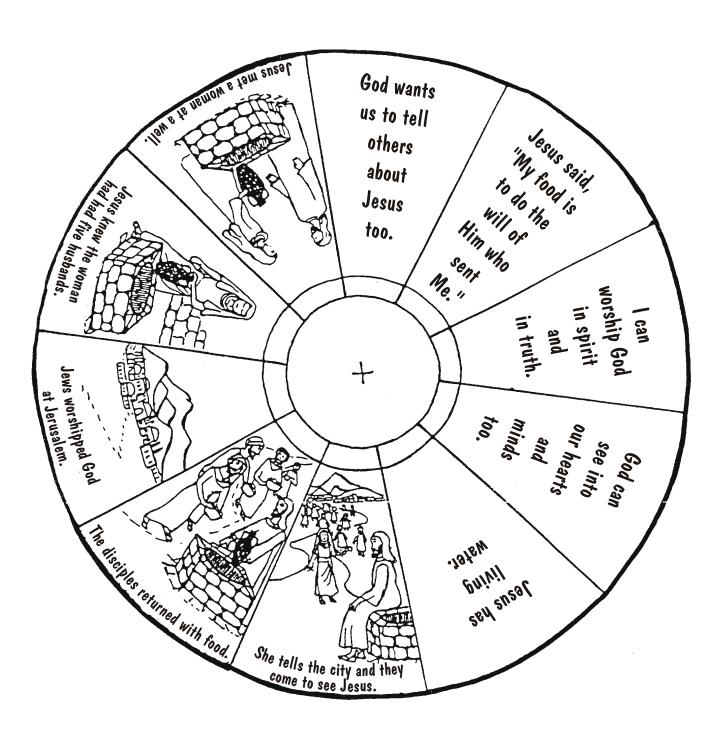
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Bibles.
- · Pens.

#### **Steps**

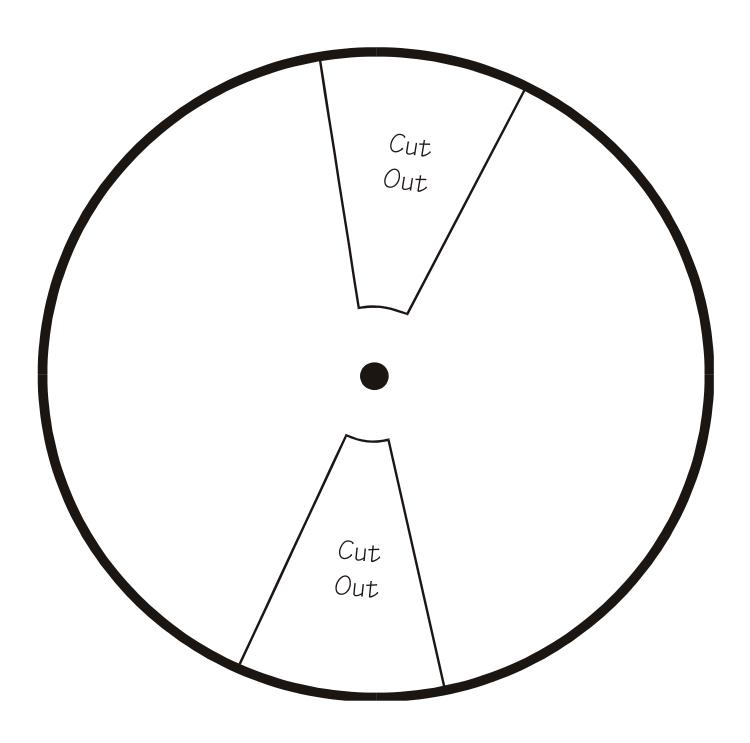
• The children read John 4:24-42 and fill in the missing words.



**Activity A – Story Wheel** 



Activity A – Story Wheel



Activity B – Bible Search

| What was Jesus' food? (v34) To do God's                     | 1024               | God's will for no |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| s to worship Him in =                                       |                    |                   |
| lesus' disciples returned, they urged Him to                |                    |                   |
|   | " The won          | nan who was at th |
| vell went back to her city when the disciples               | returned. (v29) Th | is is what she    |
| old the people of the city: ",                              | a Mar              | ı who told me     |
|   |                    | 2" Many           |
| Could this be<br>Samaritans, having heard the woman (v39) _ |                    |                   |
| But because of Jesus' own words, many more                  |                    |                   |
|   | (                  |                   |
|   | and                | that this         |
| is indeed   |                    |                   |
|   |                    | of the world      |
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# Healing of the paralysed man

Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26

## **Storyline**

One day Jesus was teaching and there were Pharisees and teachers of the law present. They had come from nearby cities. The room was crowded with people, even around the doorway and outside. Four friends were carrying their paralysed friend on a bed to Jesus for healing, but they could not get through. They climbed onto the roof and after removing tiles, lowered him into the room where Jesus was. Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven". The Scribes and Pharisees thought this was blasphemy because only God could forgive sins. But Jesus said to them, "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you' or to say, 'Rise up and walk?"" Then He told the man to take up his bed and go to his house. He departed, glorifying God. Everyone was amazed and glorified God.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Make a box model of a house, with a hole in the roof. Lower a hessian stretcher with a playdough man into the room using dental floss for ropes. Use the model and tell the story while lowering the stretcher through the roof.

#### **Theme One**

#### "Power to make whole"

Because of the faith of the paralysed man and his four friends, Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven. Then He healed his body, so that he was able to get up and take his bed and go home. Where there is faith, Jesus can forgive us our sins and He can also heal our bodies.

#### **Key Thought**

If we believe, we can trust the power of God to forgive us our sins and heal our bodies.

#### Aim

For the children to understand that Jesus has been given power to do anything.

#### **Memory Verse**

"The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." (Mark 2:10).

#### Theme Two

#### "Care for one another"

The love of the paralysed man's friends was a positive example of faith in the Lord. They did not leave him when there was hope of healing, but went to great lengths to bring him to Jesus. Even though we cannot take our friends to Jesus as these people did, we can take them to Him in prayer, believing He will heal them.

#### **Key Thought**

One good way to help and care for our friends is to pray for them in faith that the Lord will hear our prayers for them.

#### Aim

For the children to realise the importance of praying for our friends.

#### **Memory Verse**

"These things I command you, that you love one another." (John 15:17).

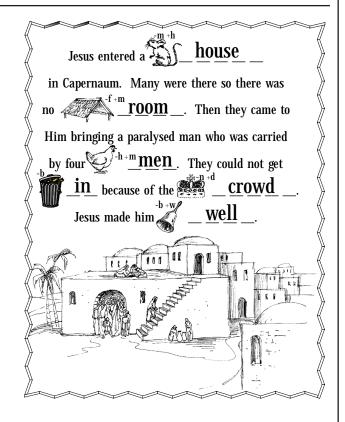
## Activity A - Word Puzzle

#### **Materials**

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

#### **Steps**

• Children solve the puzzle and colour the picture.



## Activity B - Word Puzzle

#### **Materials**

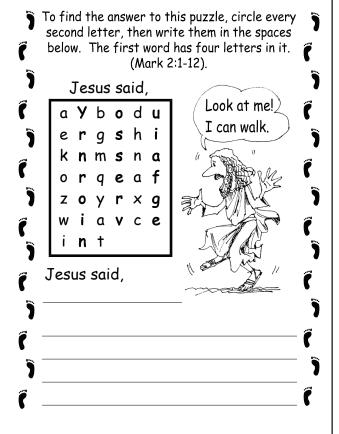
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Bibles.
- Pens/pencils.

#### Steps

• The children circle every second letter then write the letter in the spaces provided to interpret the message.

#### Answer

• Your sins are forgiven.



# Healing of the paralysed man

**Activity A – Picture Puzzle** 

| Jesus entered a                              |
|--|
| in Capernaum. Many were there so there was   |
| no $\frac{-f+m}{m}$ Then they came to        |
| Him bringing a paralysed man who was carried |
| by four They could not get                   |
| because of the                               |
| Jesus made him                               |
|  |
|  |
|  |

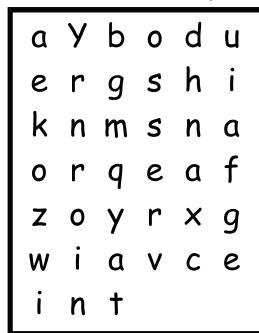
# Healing of the paralysed man

Activity B - Word Puzzle

To find the answer to this puzzle, circle every second letter, then write them in the spaces below. The first word has four letters in it.

(Mark 2:1-12).

Jesus said,



Jesus said,



# The house built on the rock

Matthew 7:24-29; Luke 6:46-49

## **Storyline**

Jesus said, "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught with authority.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Have a tray of moist sand, mounded like a hill in the centre. Build a structure with building blocks on the hill. Pour a jug or glass of water over the building and hill of sand, showing how unstable the sand is.

Pour a glass of water over a rock and note the effect.

### **Theme One**

#### "Hearers and doers"

Jesus spoke of two different types of men and compared these two types with two types of builders. Jesus said that a man who hears His word and does what He says is like a wise builder who builds his house on a rock foundation. But a man who hears His word and does not do what He says is like a foolish builder who builds his house on sand. Whether we are wise or foolish, there are spiritual activities which come against us. Jesus likened these to natural elements – wind (various teachings and philosophies), rain (steady trial of our faith) and flood (torrent of strong events that could sweep us away from God's purposes). The wise man, who hears and obeys the Lord's words, can withstand these forces.

#### **Key Thought**

Just a verbal assent to the truth and reality of Jesus' words does not prepare us for the difficulties that our lives bring. Actually putting His words into practice does.

#### Aim

For the children to realise they can't just let 'things' happen. They must stand firm and be active in God's spiritual life.

#### **Memory Verse**

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only." (James 1:22).

### Theme Two

#### "Make your foundations secure"

A house needs to be built well, but even more importantly, it needs good foundations. If you watch builders, you will see they spend a lot of time on foundations. The Lord Jesus is the Rock and we need to make sure our lives are built on Him. Many people seem to lead good lives and seem to have it all together, but when crises come, they fall apart because they don't have a good foundation.

#### **Key Thought**

Jesus said that a man who builds his house on the rock is a wise man. He said anyone who hears His words and does them is like this wise man.

#### Aim

To make the children aware that they need Jesus as the foundation of their lives.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation." (Psalm 95:1).

## Activity A - Drawing

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Match sticks heads removed.
- PVA glue.

#### Steps

- Students draw a house on the sand on the activity sheet.
- Students use matchsticks and glue to construct a house.
- Colour the picture.
- Children may paint their model houses at home.



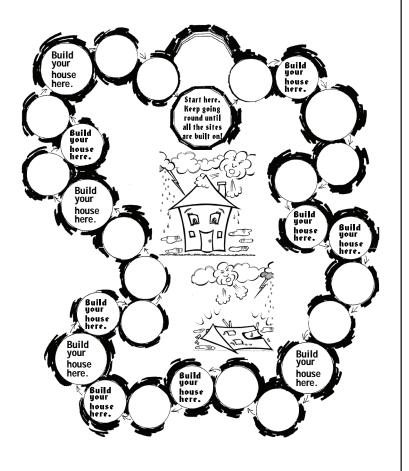
## **Activity B - Board Game**

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet enlarged to A3 and mounted on cardboard.
- A dice, some markers, and small pieces of cardboard to represent houses. Each child must have a few sand 'houses' and a few 'rock' houses, but they must look different for each child so they can distinguish their own.

#### **Steps**

- The children throw the dice in turn and move the number of spaces.
- When a child lands on a building site he/she must build a house on it, and no one else can build on that site unless a storm clears it (a storm comes every time a player lands on 'start' [not passes over it]).
- If you throw a 1, 3 or 5 and land on a building site, your house is built on sand. If you throw a 2, 4 or 6, your house is built on the rock.
- Every time a storm comes over, all the houses built on the sand must be removed. This leaves that site empty again.
- When all the building sites have 'rock houses' on them, the child with the most 'rock houses' wins.



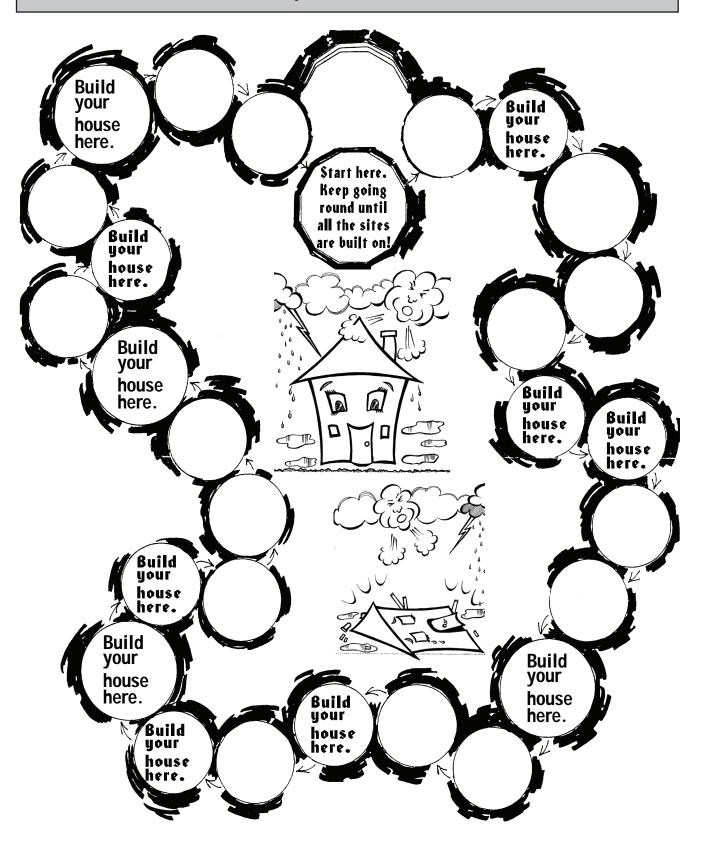
# The house built on the rock

**Activity A - Drawing** 



# The house built on the rock

Activity B - Board Game



# Jesus stills the storm

Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 8:18, 23-27; Luke 8:22-25

## **Storyline**

One day, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had had a very busy day and was tired, so He fell asleep. Suddenly, there was a great wind that started to blow. The waves began to break over the boat. Although some of the disciples had been fishermen and were used to the storms on the Sea of Galilee, they were scared at this storm. They woke up Jesus and said, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He rebuked them for having such little faith and then He rebuked the wind and waves and told them to be still. Immediately there was calm. The disciples marvelled and wondered just who Jesus could be, that even the winds and sea obey Him.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Talk to the children about boats, from big supertankers down to small rowing boats. Ask if any of them have been in a boat. Then ask them:

- Has any one been in a boat in a storm?
- Who's seen the sea when it is very rough and the wind is blowing a gale?
- What do you think it would be like to be in a boat, a bit bigger than a rowing boat with a small sail, in a storm?

#### Theme One

#### "The Lord always cares for His people"

Because Jesus was asleep, the disciples thought He did not care what was happening to the boat. He knew exactly what was happening, and He had allowed it to happen to test their faith. If they had really had faith in Him, they would not have been afraid. Now Jesus has gone back to the Father and He never sleeps. He always watches over us. He knows everything that is happening to us. He wants us to learn to trust in Him and not fear the things that happen around us.

#### **Key Thought**

Those who really trust the Lord do not need to fear, no matter what happens. The Lord knows all about us and He cares for us.

#### Aim

For the children to understand that those who really have faith in the Lord do not need to fear.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you." (Psalm 55:22).

## Theme Two

#### "Obey the Lord"

The Lord demonstrated His authority over the elements of creation during His life as a man on earth. When He told the wind and sea to be calm, they obeyed Him. This amazed the disciples, but they should have expected this to happen. All things were created through Him and for Him, and the creation obeys Him. Of course, He expects us to obey Him too. This is how we demonstrate our faith in God.

#### **Key Thought**

The Lord has the right to order every part of creation to obey His commands. He expects us, also, to obey Him.

#### Aim

To help the children to realise how important it is to obey the Lord.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." (Luke 11:28).

## Activity A - Make a Boat

#### **Materials**

- · Paddlepop sticks.
- · Bamboo skewers.
- · Cardboard.
- · Glue.
- · Scissors.
- · Sticky tape.
- · Paper for sails.
- · Pipe cleaners.

#### **Steps**

#### At Home

- Cut the shape of a boat (as per diagram) out of the cardboard, one for each child.
- Cut the paper into shapes suitable for the sails of the boats.

#### In Class

- Glue paddlepop sticks over the cardboard to form the base of the boat, then glue the sticks flat on top of each other to make the sides. Cut some paddlepop sticks in half to form the shape of the front and back of the boat.
- Use the bamboo skewers to form uprights for the sails, holding them in place on the bottom of the boat with sticky tape.
- Tape the paper 'sails' to them.
- Make people out of the pipe cleaners to put in the boat to represent Jesus and the disciples.

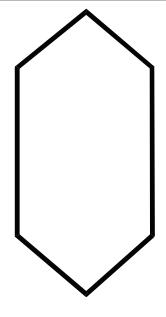
## Activity B – Make a Boat and Re-enact the Story

#### **Materials**

- Large cardboard box or boxes.
- Broom.
- White material (a sheet could be used).
- String or rope.
- A blue sheet or blue material or paper.
- An electric fan.
- · Dress-up clothes.
- Morning tea provisions.

#### **Steps**

- Make a very large boat out of the cardboard box or boxes.
- Use the broom for the mast and white material for the sails. Make sure the mast is quite secure.
- Put the blue material on the ground to be the sea.
- The children can all climb into the boat, one of them pretending to be Jesus and falling asleep.
- The children can pretend to do things that sailors would do: hoist up the sail, scrub the decks,
- look out for land or for pirates, etc.
- Some children can just rock the box gently to give the sailing motion.
- The teacher turns the electric fan on and the children rock the boat violently like there is a storm.
- They wake 'Jesus' and he calms the storm.
- You could then all have morning tea in the boat. If you felt like being creative with the morning tea, you could make patty cakes, scoop out some of the cake in the middle to make boats out of them, put jelly babies inside for the people, a musk stick for the mast, and cut triangles shapes out of fruit roll-ups for the sails.



# The feeding of the 5000

John 6:1-14; Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:10-17

## **Storyline**

A great multitude followed Jesus. It was late in the day and the people needed to be fed. Jesus tested Philip by asking where they could buy enough bread to feed them. Philip answered even if they had 200 denarii (a denarius was a working man's wage for one day), it was not possible to feed such a large number of people. Andrew told Jesus that one small boy had five barley loaves and two fish. The multitude which numbered about 5000, sat down on the grass and after Jesus gave thanks, the disciples distributed the loaves and fish to the people. The people ate until they were no longer hungry. Jesus told the disciples to gather up every fragment of food. There were twelve baskets completely full.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Discuss the crowd and help the children get a concept of just how large it really was. Perhaps you could think of a crowd you have seen on television that would equate. Discuss also how one little boy had something which could be used by Jesus to provide for such a great need. Help the children realise that from an early age they can contribute and participate with just as much impact as an older, more experienced person may do.

#### Theme One

#### "The Lord supplies all our needs"

Because the people followed Jesus willingly into the desert, He not only took care of their needs to be healed and to hear His word, but He also took care of their need for food. It seemed to the disciples that it was impossible to find food for that huge crowd in the desert. They did not know His plan and they did not understand His power. He provided enough food and to spare. We can trust God for all our needs too.

#### **Key Thought**

God has said that He will supply our needs if we look to Him and follow Him with our whole heart.

#### Aim

For the children to see the importance of seeking the Lord first in their lives and trusting Him to provide their needs.

#### **Memory Verse**

"God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory." (Philippians 4:19).

#### Theme Two

### "God can multiply the things that we give"

Can you imagine how the boy with the loaves and fish would have felt? There was just enough for himself. If he gave the food to Jesus, it could only feed one other person. He soon discovered that the Lord could take the little that he had and make it sufficient for the whole crowd. We may think we do not have anything worthy to offer God. If we willingly give God what we have, He is able to multiply what we give so that it will be a blessing to many people.

#### **Key Thought**

God can multiply both our abilities and possessions but only if we first give them all to Him.

#### Aim

To explain to the children that all we have has been given to us by God in the first place. If we share that with others, then others are blessed and God is glorified.

#### **Memory Verse**

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart." (2 Corinthians 9:7).

## Activity A - Find the Hidden Letters Puzzle

#### **Materials**

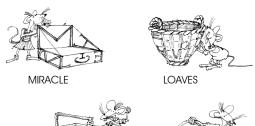
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- · Pens/pencils.

#### **Steps**

- The children find the hidden letters in the baskets and complete the word below each one.
- The children can then colour the picture.

In and on the different baskets on this page are hidden letters which make up a word.

See if you can find them and then unjumble them to make that word, which has something to do with the story. When you have finished, colour the picture.





SKETS FISH

## Activity B – Act out Breaking and Distributing the Loaves and Fishes

#### **Materials**

- French bread, or other small loaf of unsliced bread.
- 2 sardines.
- · A small basket.

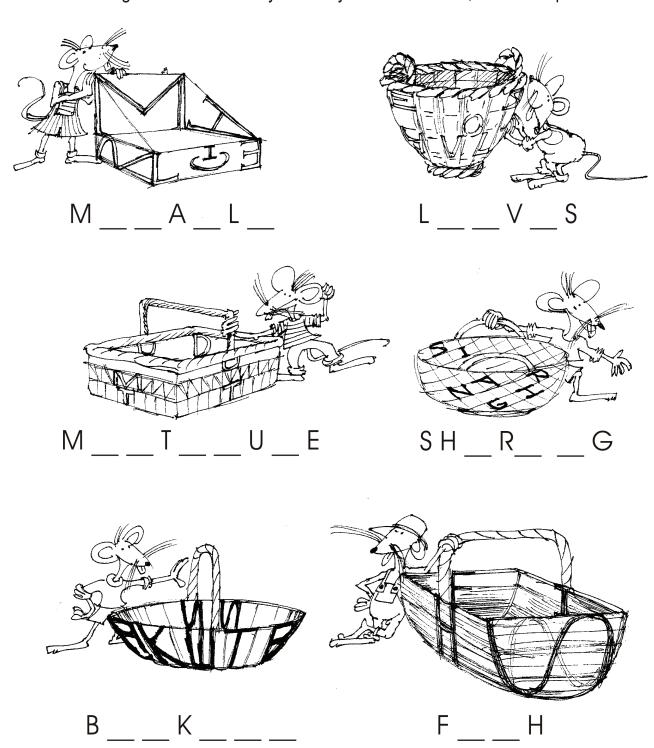
#### **Steps**

- To give everyone the idea of how far the food would have to go without a miracle happening, break the bread and fish up to see how far they go.
- Count the number of people in the class and divide it into 5000 so that the children know just how far the 5 loaves and 2 fish had to stretch.
- Ask them whether the bread and fish they had would have been enough for the whole Sunday School class.
- Expand a bit further and find out whether they think that there would have been enough for our whole church.
- To give them another idea of how many 5000 is, you could compare the number of people at the church with the 5000.
- Gather up the crumbs and see if they would fill even one small basket.
- Impress upon the children how these things were only possible by the miracle working power of God.

# Feeding of the 5000

# **Activity A – Hidden Letters**

In and on the different baskets on this page are hidden letters which make up a word. See if you can find them and then unjumble them to make that word, which has something to do with the story. When you have finished, colour the picture.



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# The centurion's servant

Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 8:1-13

## **Storyline**

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him. He pleaded with Jesus to heal his servant who was paralysed and dreadfully tormented. Jesus said He would go to him and heal him. The centurion said that he was not worthy that Jesus should come under his roof. He asked Jesus to speak a word and his servant would be healed, Jesus said He had not found such great faith, not even in Israel. He said that as the centurion had believed, so it would be done. His servant was healed that very hour.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

- 1. Theme 1: Tell the story. Then ask the children why Jesus was pleased with the Centurion. How had the centurion shown that he believed in Jesus' healing power?
- **2. Theme 2:** Talk about being proud and being humble. Tell the children the story. How did the centurion show his humility?

### **Theme One**

#### "Faith for healing"

God has promised that He will heal His people. All He requires is that we have faith in Him and believe that He can and will heal us and others for whom we have faith to believe. The centurion, who was a Roman, had faith and believed that Jesus could heal his servant even without Jesus going to see him. We cannot see Jesus, but He is able to heal us, if we believe.

#### **Key Thought**

God desires the best for us and He wants to heal our sickness, but we need to have faith for this.

#### Aim

To teach the children the importance of faith, so that we can ask and receive what we need, whether healing or other things.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." (Hebrews 10:22).

## **Theme Two**

#### "Grace to the humble"

A centurion was quite an important man in the Roman army. He was able to give orders to other men and they had to obey him. But the centurion in this story realised that he had no power to help his sick servant. He believed that Jesus had that power and he went humbly, asking Jesus to heal the servant. He did not even feel that he was worthy to have Jesus go to his house. When we realise that we have no power to do something, we need to be humble and to confess our helplessness. We need to go to the Lord and ask Him to do what we cannot do.

#### **Key Thought**

Pride will stop us from asking the Lord to help. We need to humble ourselves and trust Him to help us.

#### Aim

To show the children their need to rely on the Lord and to not try to be independent or too proud to ask God for help.

#### **Memory Verse**

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6).

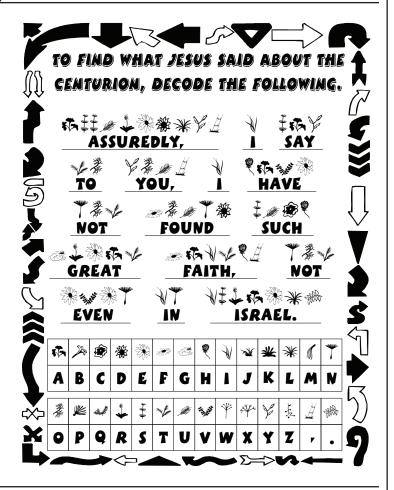
## Activity A - Message in Code

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils

#### Steps

• The children use the code to decipher the message.



# Activity B - Picture Puzzle

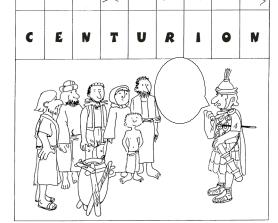
#### **Materials**

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

#### Steps

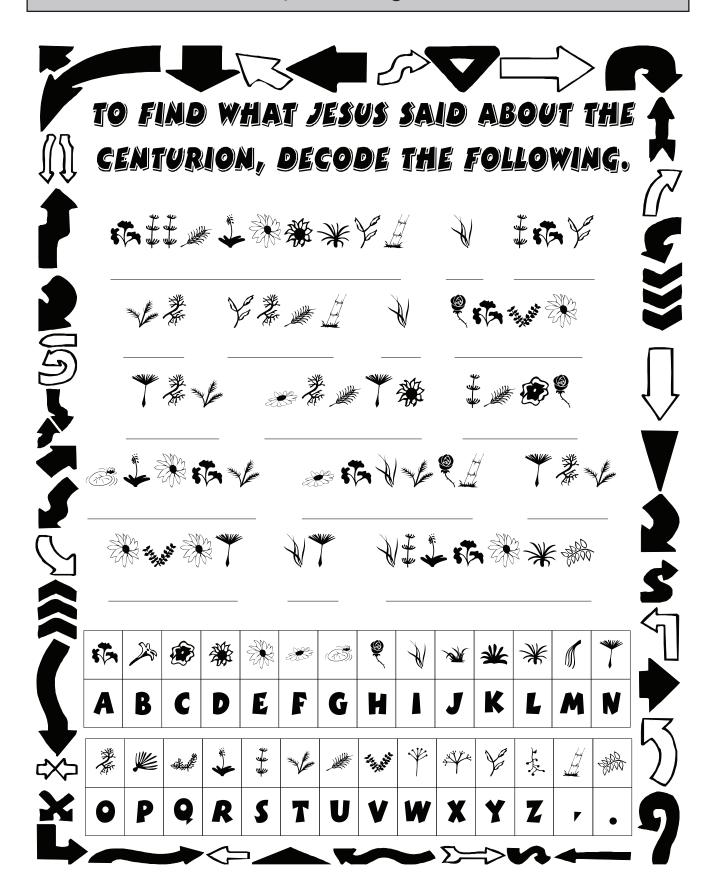
- The children write the first letter of each picture in the spaces provided to find out who asked Jesus to heal his servant.
- The children can then colour the picture.





# The centurion's servant

Activity A – Message in Code

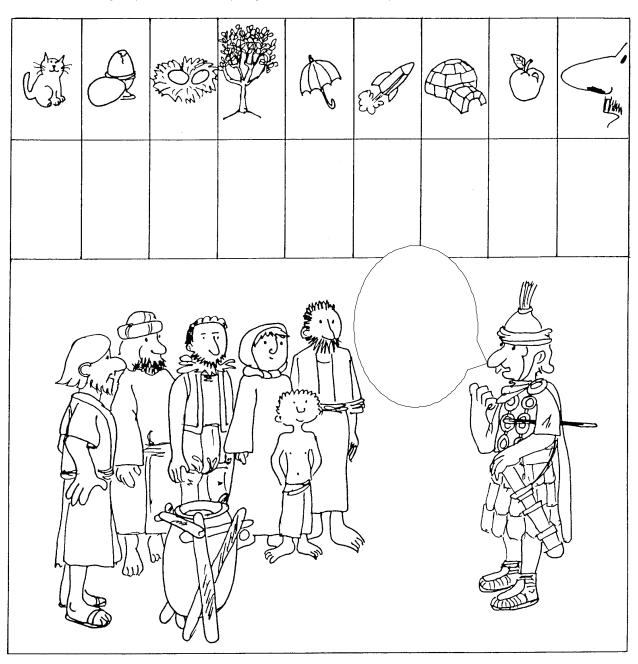


# The centurion's servant

**Activity B – Picture Puzzle** 



TO FIND OUT WHO ASKED JESUS TO HEAL HIS SERVANT, PUT THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH PICTURE IN THE BOX BELOW IT.



Luke 7:36-50

## **Storyline**

Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to eat at his house. A sinful woman, hearing of this, brought a flask of fragrant oil, came to Jesus and began crying. Her tears washed Jesus' feet. She dried His feet with her hair. She poured oil over His feet. Simon was disturbed and thought, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." But Jesus told him a story about a man to whom two men owed money - one much, the other, little. The man forgave both their debts. Jesus said, "Which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." Jesus agreed. Jesus then drew Simon's attention to all the things the woman had done, which he had overlooked doing. Then Jesus forgave her sins and said that because she was forgiven much she loved much. He told her to go in peace for her faith had saved her.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

The children could do Activity B. Then discuss the changes brought about by the forgiveness Jesus gives.

Stress to the children that Jesus can only forgive those things we ask to be forgiven.

#### Theme One

#### "A heart of compassion"

The woman who anointed the feet of Jesus was known to be a sinner. Simon, the Pharisee, was amazed that Jesus even allowed the woman to touch Him. Jesus did not judge the woman by her appearance or her past actions. He knew all about her and could make a righteous judgement. We must not judge people by their appearances. Only God can judge because only He can see the inside of man. Often those who judge others are guilty of the same things that they judge in others.

#### **Key Thought**

It is easy to think that we are better than other people because we do not do some of the things they do. We don't know what others are really like inside and so we must not judge them. Only God is qualified to judge, because He knows what people are like inside.

#### Aim

To encourage the children to accept people as they are. We should not judge others by appearances or what we have heard about them.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother." (Zechariah 7:9).

#### Theme Two

#### "Forgiven much"

The woman had lived a bad life and she knew this very well. But she had faith to believe that Jesus could forgive her. Because of this she loved Him very much. Simon had lived what he thought was a good life. He knew that God forgives sin but he felt he only had a few sins to be forgiven, so he did not love God very much. When we think we are mostly good and have only a few small faults, we will not love Jesus very much for forgiving us. If we know that our sin is very serious, we will love Him very much for forgiving us.

#### **Key Thought**

When we think that we are mostly good, we do not feel that we have much need of Jesus and His forgiveness. In this case, we are inclined not to love Him much.

#### Aim

To help the children begin to realise that all sin is serious and needs to be forgiven.

#### **Memory Verse**

"To whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." (Luke 7:47).

## Activity A - Making Balancing Scales

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- 1 split-pin per child.
- 2 paper clips per child.
- 2 x 20c and 2 x 5c coins per child.
- Sticky tape.
- Glue.

#### **Steps**

- The children cut out all pieces of the scales.
- Cut out slit "A" and "B" where indicated and slide together at the slits, so the pieces can stand up.
- Make a hole in "A" where indicated.
- Make a hole in "C" where the cross is.
- Match the holes and use a split-pin to hold together.
- Punch two more holes in "C" where indicated.
- Fold each thin strip in half along the dotted line. Put a hole through the dots. Fold the bottom tabs

inwards along the dotted lines. Attach the bottom tabs to the bottom of the circles to form baskets for the scales.

- Stretch out the two paper clips a little, and attach them through the holes in the thin strips and the holes at each end of "C" so the baskets hand off each end of "C".
- Fold the "FORGIVEN MUCH, LOVES LITTLE" AND "FORGIVEN LITTLE, LOVES MUCH" labels in half and attach one on each side of "C".
- Use 20c and 5c coins to balance the scales.

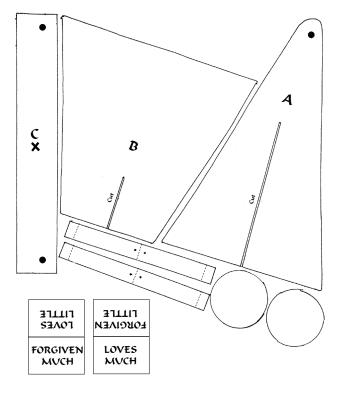
## Activity B - Key of Forgiveness

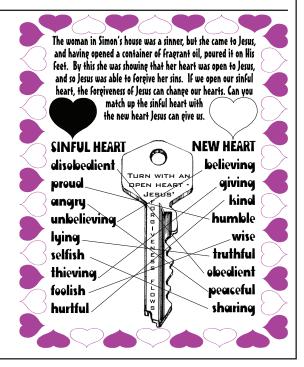
#### **Materials**

- 1 'hearts' Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 key from the second Activity Sheet per child.
- · Colouring pencils.
- · Glue.
- Scissors.

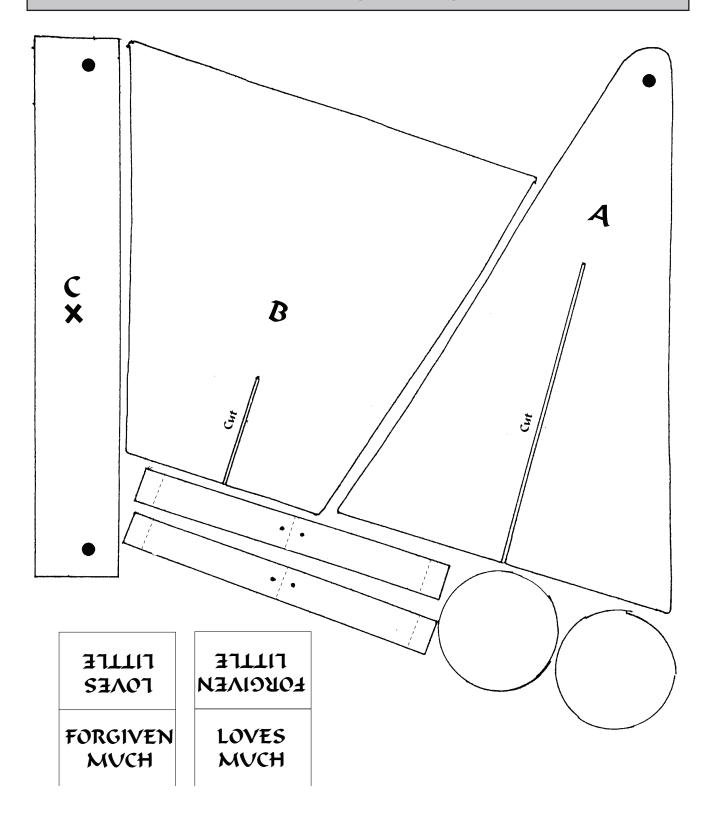
#### **Steps**

- The children cut out and colour their key.
- They then complete the matching lists on the Activity Sheet.
- The key can then be glued in between the lists.





Activity A – Making Balancing Scales



Activity B – Turning to Jesus

The woman in Simon's house was a sinner, but she came to Jesus, and having opened a container of fragrant oil, poured it on His feet. By this she was showing that her heart was open to Jesus, and so Jesus was able to forgive her sins. If we open our sinful heart, the forgiveness of Jesus can change our hearts. Can you



match up the sinful heart with the new heart Jesus can give us.

SINFUL HEART

disobedient

proud

angry

unbelieving

lying

greedy

thieving

foolish

hurtful

**NEW HEART** 

believing

giving

kind

humble

wise

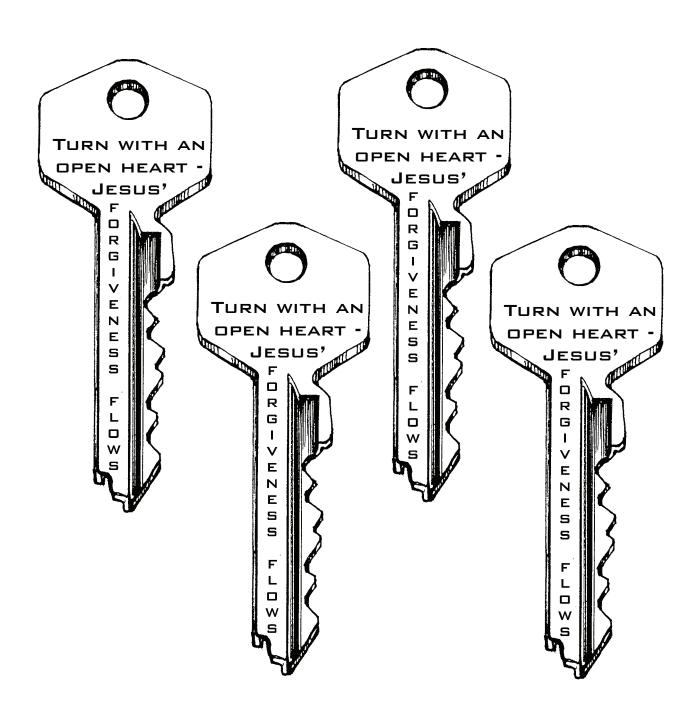
truthful

obedient

peaceful

honest

**Activity B – Turning to Jesus** 



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# The sower and the seed

Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

## **Storyline**

Jesus spoke many parables to the crowds concerning the kingdom of heaven and interpretation was given to the disciples. He related to their life experiences. He spoke of a farmer who sowed seed.

- Some fell by the wayside and the birds came and devoured them. This means when anyone hears the word of the kingdom and doesn't understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.
- 2. Some seed fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth but when the sun was up, they were scorched and because they had no root, they withered away. This means the one who hears the word, responds with great joy, but because there is no depth in himself, he only endures a short while and stumbles when persecution arises.
- 3. Some seed fell among the thorns which sprang up and choked them. This means those who hear the word and allow the cares of the world, or riches, or pleasures to choke the word become unfruitful.
- 4. But some seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundred, some sixty and some thirty fold. This means the one who hears the word and understands it produces fruit some a hundred, some sixty and some thirty fold.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Teacher pre-grows alfalfa seed by sprinkling a small amount on a moistened cotton ball and sprinkling daily for 3 days (to coincide with Sunday morning). This simple illustration will help the teacher to present the story in a visual way, adding a selection of neglected seed (unwatered). Provide each child with a lid, cotton ball and seed and instructions to take home and do the same and see the fruitfulness when it's 'done right'.

#### Theme One

#### "Ears to hear God's word"

Jesus made it very clear in relating this parable that being able to truly hear the word of God is an issue of the heart. Not everyone who hears God's word will receive or understand it. Yet His word is able to bring salvation and healing. It is our responsibility to ensure that our hearts are prepared to fully receive and act upon His word as it comes - that we truly have ears to hear.

#### **Key Thought**

God's word can have its desired effect in our lives, only when our hearts are ready to embrace and obey it.

#### Aim

For the children to understand their responsibility in God's working in their lives - to adjust their hearts to be able to receive and obey His word, both directly and through their parents and others.

#### **Memory Verse**

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 13:9).

#### Theme Two

#### "Treasure God's word"

The seed that fell among thorns sprang up, but then the thorns choked the seed and it did not produce any fruit. Jesus said that this is like a man who hears the word, but the word is choked by riches, cares of this world, pleasures, and desire for other things. We can easily be distracted from God's word by other things. If this happens, we will not produce any fruit for God. We need to keep God's word in our heart and to resist things that would distract us.

#### **Key Thought**

We have to hold God's word as precious and not allow life's pressures or activities, e.g. studies, sports, jobs, friendships to take first place and choke our love for the word of God.

#### Aim

To encourage the children to always put the Lord first and to lead a balanced life.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Your word I have hidden in my heart." (Psalm 119:11).

## Activity A – The Grounds of the Heart

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colouring pens/pencils.

#### **Steps**

- Children read through the list of words and discuss the ground each word describes.
- Children cut and glue each word onto the appropriate ground.
- Children may like to colour their picture.
- If children finish the task quickly, they can add extra words of their own.

#### Answers

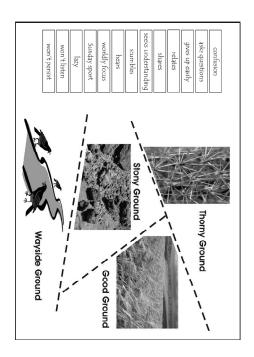
Thorny Ground: worldly focus, Sunday sport

Stony Ground: stumbles, gives up easily, won't persist

Wayside Ground: confusion, lazy, won't listen

Good Ground: seeks understanding, asks questions, relates, shares,

hears



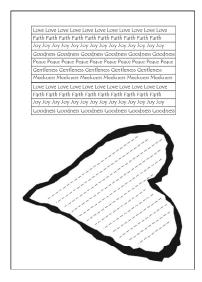
## Activity B – Good Fruit in our Heart

#### **Materials**

- 1 "Heart" sheet per child photocopied onto red card (pre-cut dotted lines with Stanley knife or sharp scissors).
- 1 "Word Strips" sheet per child.
- · Scissors
- Glue
- Colouring pencils/pens

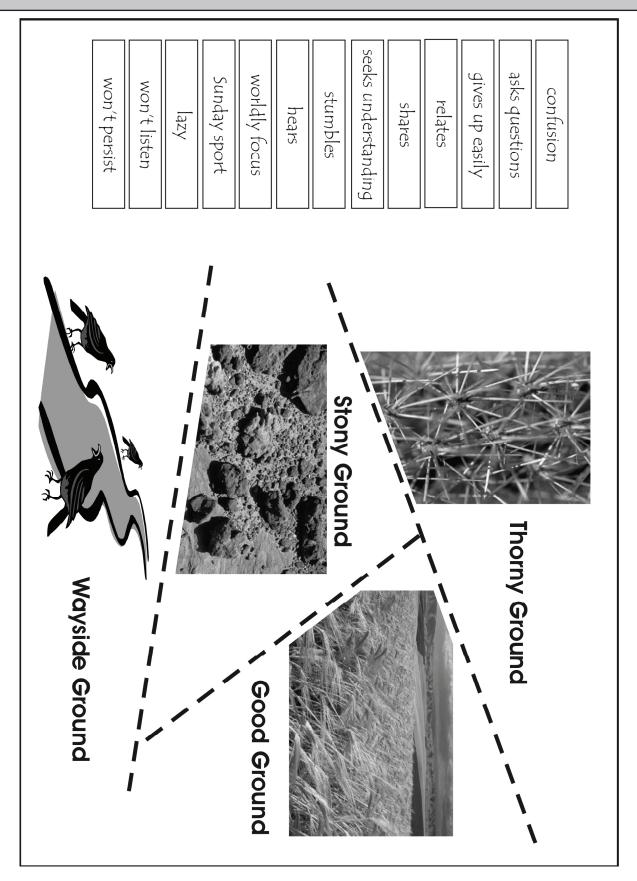
#### Steps

- Children colour each work strip lightly so that the words can still be seen. Children cut out 7 different word strips describing the fruits of the Spirit
- Children weave these neatly into the heart. Make sure each word strip is alternated (ie. over, under, over etc).
- Children cut off any excess paper on the strips and glue each end onto the heart.
- Children may like to cut out the completed heart.
- The memory verse may be written on the top of the heart.
- Children discuss again the need for God's word to be sown on the good ground of our hearts. When this is the case, we will know the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace etc).



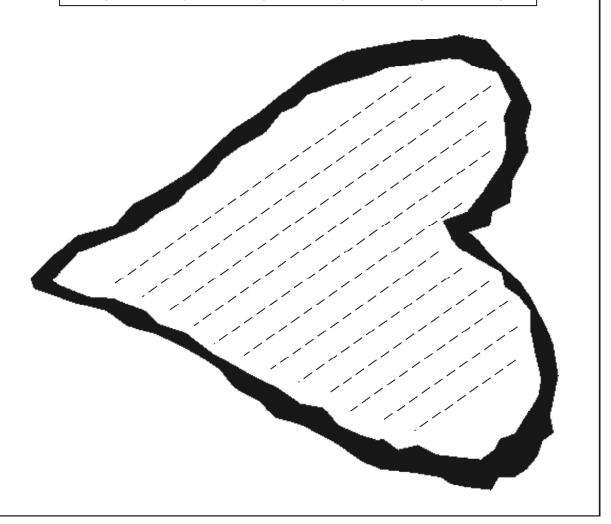
# The sower and the seed

Activity A – The Grounds of the Heart



# The sower and the seed

Activity B – Good Fruit in Our Heart









# **Sonseekers Curriculum**

### **Unit One**

- 1. Creation 1
- 2. Creation 2
- 3. Adam and Eve
- 4. The fall
- 5. Cain and Abel
- 6. Noah builds an ark
- 7. The flood, Noah and his sons
- 8. The tower of Babel
- 9. Abram called, Abram and Lot
- 10. The covenant with Abraham
- 11. Ishmael and Isaac
- 12. Sodom and Gomorrah
- 13. The sacrifice of Isaac
- 14. Rebekah, Isaac's bride
- 15. Jacob and Esau
- 16. Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

#### **Unit Two**

- 17. Jacob becomes Israel
- 18. Joseph, the favourite son
- 19. Joseph goes to Egypt
- 20. Joseph interprets the dreams
- 21. Joseph's brothers
- 22. Israel in Egypt
- 23. Israelite slaves, Moses born
- 24. Moses flees and returns to Egypt
- 25. "Let My people go"
- 26. The first passover, Israel delivered
- 27. Crossing the Red Sea
- 28. Manna, water from the rock
- 29. Sinai and the ten commandments
- 30. Moses and the tabernacle
- 31. The golden calf
- 32. Twelve spies, 40 years of wandering

### **Unit Three**

- 33. Aaron's rod
- 34. Moses hits the rock
- 35. The bronze serpent
- 36. Balaam and his donkey
- 37. Joshua and Rahab
- 38. Crossing the Jordan, Jericho
- 39. The sin of Achan
- 40. The sun stands still
- 41. Gideon's fleece
- 42. Gideon and his army
- 43. Samson
- 44. Samson and Delilah
- 45. Ruth, Naomi and Boaz
- 46. Hannah
- 47. Samuel hears God speak
- 48. Eli, Hophni and Phinehas

## **Unit Four**

- 49. Saul chosen
- 50. Saul and the Amalekites
- 51. David chosen
- 52. David and Goliath
- 53. David and Jonathan
- 54. David and Saul
- 55. David crowned
- 56. David and the ark
- 57. Absalom
- 58. Solomon becomes king
- 59. Solomon's temple
- 60. Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam
- 61. Elijah and the widow
- 62. Elijah on Mount Carmel
- 63. Good King Jehoshaphat
- 64. Elisha and the double portion

### **Unit Five**

- 65. The widow's oil, a boy raised
- 66. Naaman
- 67. Famine in Samaria
- 68. Jonah
- 69. The captivity of Israel (the northern kingdom)
- 70. Hezekiah and Sennacherib
- 71. Isaiah
- 72. Josiah
- 73. Jeremiah
- 74. The captivity of Judah (the southern kingdom)
- 75. Daniel interprets the king's dream
- 76. The fiery furnace
- 77. The writing on the wall
- 78. Daniel in the lions' den
- 79. Esther
- 80. Restoration

### **Unit Six**

- 81. Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John
- 82. The birth of Jesus
- 83. Jesus in the temple
- 84. John the Baptist
- 85. Jesus baptised and tempted
- 86. The call of the disciples
- 87. Water turned to wine
- 88. The temple cleansed, Nicodemus
- 89. The woman at the well
- 90. Healing of the paralysed
- 91. The house built on the
- 92. Jesus stills the storm
- 93. The feeding of the 5000
- 94. The centurion's servant
- 95. Forgiveness in Simon's house
- 96. The sower and the seed

### **Unit Seven**

- 97. Jairus' daughter, a woman touches Jesus
- 98. Jesus walks on the water
- 99. Miracles of healing
- 100. The transfiguration
- 101. A boy is healed
- 102. The unmerciful servant
- 103. A man born blind
- 104. The good Samaritan
- 105. Prayer
- 106. The raising of Lazarus
- 107. The lost sheep, coin and
- 108. Attitudes of a servant
- 109. The marriage of the king's son
- 110. The ten lepers
- 111. The ten virgins
- 112. The talents

## Unit Eight

- 113. Palm Sunday
- 114. The last supper and Gethsemane
- 115. The crucifixion
- 116. The resurrection
- 117. Peter restored
- 118. The risen Christ and His ascension
- 119. The day of Pentecost
- 120. Peter and John
- 121. Peter and the Gentiles
- 122. Stephen
- 123. Philip
- 124. Paul's conversion
- 125. Paul's first missionary journey
- 126. Paul's second and third missionary journeys
- 127. Paul's capture and imprisonment
- 128. Paul's final journey

